

**(vi) Need to set up a unit of Institute of Fashion Technology at Bellary, Karnataka***[English]*

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (Bellary) : Sir, Bellary in Karnataka State has earned a name in foreign countries for its jeans garments. The jeans pants and other garments stitched in Bellary are being exported to Dubai, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and to other countries. About 20-30 crores of business are being carried on every month in Bellary. There is no facilities for the jeans manufacturers at Bellary. They should be provided with the latest fashion technology and other inputs.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Textiles to set up a unit of the Institute of Fashion Technology at Bellary to boost export of jeans garments.

**(vii) Need to include Beta Community of Orissa in the List of Scheduled Caste**

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : A large number of people belonging to Beta community are living in Athamalik belt in Angul district of Orissa. The people of Beta community are very poor, backward and economically weaker section of the society. They have not matrimonial alliance as well as relations with Scheduled Caste (sub caste Hadi) community residing in Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulabani, Cuttack, Balasore and other districts of Orissa. Their main profession is to make baskets and other materials from bamboo.

The Beta community has appealed to the State Government of Orissa for their inclusion as Scheduled Caste. The State Government of Orissa has strongly recommended their case to the Central Government for their early inclusion in the list of Scheduled Caste.

As the case of Beta community is genuine and the matter is pending since long, it is urgently necessary on the part of the Central Government to consider their demand. As such, I demand that Beta community living in Athamalik belt of Orissa be included in the Scheduled Caste list without any further delay.

**(viii) Need to Ensure Payment of dues to Sugar cane growers in U.P. particularly in Bulandshahar District***[Translation]*

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane growers of Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh are not getting payment of their outstanding dues from the sugar mills and as a result of this the farmers are facing lot of hardships. Rs. 9.50 crore is outstanding against Ajanta Sugar Mill but the State Government is neither paying attention towards this matter nor any action is being taken against the defaulting sugar mills as a result of which there is great resentment among the farmers. In spite of Prime Minister's assurance payment of outstanding dues is not being made to the farmers.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to issue instruction to ensure payment of outstanding dues to the sugarcane growers of U.P., particularly of Bulandshahar district as early as possible.

14.30 hrs.

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.***[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

I would like to tell that the time allotted for this discussion was nine hours. Nine hours and fifty two minutes have already been taken.

*[Translation]*

Still some parties are there to speak. The other speaker have taken more time, therefore now I am calling those who have yet to speak...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to me first.  
*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Reply is not going to be given today. So, we have plenty of time and we should also be allowed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : From our party, nobody has spoken so far...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is already there in the list. I hope, you are satisfied.

I am saying that I am calling those members whose turn has not come I will see to that later.

*[English]*

Shri Ramanathan may please continue his speech...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Sir, you please allot five minutes to each to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allot time to everyone to speak. Now Shri Ramanathan.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI M. RAMANATHAN (Coimbatore) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, today we have taken up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. As I rise to support the motion I wish to thank you for providing me with an opportunity to speak

\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri M. Ramanathan]

and share my views on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Our country India won its freedom in 1947. After fifty years of independence, at the historic moment when we are celebrating the golden Jubilee of our independence, we find a great change in our political system. In the last general elections, people gave a district verdict and as a result of which we have a coalition Government at the Centre consisting of about 14 parties. United Front Government led by Hon'ble Shri H.D. Deve Gowda has assumed office at the Centre. At a time when United Front Government's policy statements are pronounced through the President of India, I have been given an opportunity to welcome and support the Motion of Thanks to the President. I am proud and happy to have this honour.

What we witness today is an important phase in our political life. After a gap of about 50 years the mandate of the masses of India is very clear and they no longer favour a single party Government at the Centre. They have put an end to it. Instead the people of India have favoured a multi party Government, a federation of several regional and smaller parties. People have decided in favour of the coming together of several State-level parties to get united under a common minimum programme and form a United Front Government. I would like to point out today in this august forum that the verdict of the people in favour of a multi-party Government augurs well for ushering in a federal set up in the near future. I wish to emphasize that an era of federation is unfolding and I want this House to take note of it.

India is a vast country with a wide diversity. There are several languages, national races, castes and creeds. Plural culture with several forms of arts pervade the length and breadth of this country. Several cultural entities co-exist here. I would like to remind this House that there are several kinds of people with different life style and tradition. Ours is a very big country with a population of about 100 crores of people living in the vast stretch between Kashmir and Kanyakumari. Its vastness itself would emphasize the need to preserve the unity and integrity of the country through secularism. We must bear this in our minds with an utmost sense of responsibility. If we do not follow secularism, narrow mindedness could dismember the country. I would like to place this as a word of caution. We cannot afford to forget this, we must free ourselves from the clutches of religious fundamentalism. The basic objective of this United Front Government will be to secure and safeguard the unity and integrity of this vast country with ethnic multiplicity. This sole aim and objective alone must prevail and this is our foremost duty. We have heard and read about many countries of the world. I would like to point out to this House that we refer to America as United States of America. We do not all it 'All America'. Likewise China is never referred to as 'All China'. For that reason Japan is not 'All Japan'. Britain is not 'All Britain' but it is United Kingdom. Only when we refer to India we use the expression 'All India'. Why? Why do we call it that way? Great ancient kingdom

like Vangam, Kalingam, Koorjaram were there in the vast stretches of this great land between the Himalayas and the Cape Coumarin. If we are to put it in the words of great poet Rabindra Nath Tagore whose song we have adopted as our National Anthem, "Punjaba Sindhu Gujaratha Maratha, Dravida Utkala Vanga" are there. This country is comprised of Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Maratha, Kannadam, Telugu, Malayalam, etc. It is only the Britishers who came to trade with India through the East India Company, evolved this united country. We cannot forget this historical fact easily and it is a reality. India did not remain as one country. It was a country that was made to be one. It was not there before. It was made one thereafter. If we are to preserve the unity and integrity of this country, this 'All India', secularism alone can bind us all together. We can ensure stability only through the principles of secularism. I would like to lay stress on this point at this juncture and I wish all of us to keep this in mind with the utmost sense of responsibility.

Deputy Speaker Sir, we have been raising slogans like 'Garibi Hatao' to alleviate poverty. We have been chalking out several schemes, plans and programmes all these years. We have heard of all kinds of socialism, right from Avadi socialism to Democratic socialism. I may be a new member to this House. But I was a member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for six years from 1970 to 1976. I was also a two time member of the legislative council. The point I would like to highlight is the fact that members like me from the DMK are keeping abreast of the current affairs and political developments. But I seek to express myself only now. Let me come to it.

I find in this policy statement made by the President of India an action plan to alleviate poverty. It is taking shape under the aegis of this United Front Government. Rs. 8000 crores has been allocated as food subsidy to benefit the poorest of the poor to get at least one meal a day. There are about 32 crores of people who live below poverty line and they find it difficult to get even one meal a day. I would like to thank our Prime Minister for giving shape to this arrangement and for having it pronounced through the President in his address.

Likewise, 'Right to work' - employment opportunity to all is addressed to. This is our goal and we want to reach that target. When our principle and policy remain the same, we also focus our attention to provide jobs to lakhs of educated unemployed youth found all over the country. Their number would run to several millions. I would like to thank this United Front Government for coming out with a scheme to meet the needs of the educated unemployed youth. I would like the Government to take note of the plight of the large number of the unskilled labour force in this country. Those who can do nothing but manual labour mostly in the unorganised sector are there. Their problems should also be attended to. In a vast country like India, we find crores of skilled labour. I wish the United Front Government to evolve a comprehensive plan to make use of their services productively. I want to put it emphatically.

I would next come to the principle of federalism. This is one of the basic objectives of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. We say 'Autonomy to States; Federal set up at the Centre'. More power to the State Governments to ensure a strong Federal Government at the Centre. Our late lamented leader Anna advocated State autonomy and convened an All India Conference. We are proud of that. I would like to bring to your notice that our leader and the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu takes the message of State autonomy to all the States of this country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. He gives voice to the concern born of needs as felt in all the States. He is making ceaseless efforts to get this message across. He continues to strive treading the path our leader Anna. It is heartening to note that our Prime Minister convenes the meetings of the Chief Ministers frequently. He gets the view points of the Chief Ministers in the forums like National Development Council. I fervently hope that the Sarkaria Commission recommendations on Centre-State relations will take a positive shape through this inter active role of the Centre. I also hope that more powers would be given to the States. I feel the President's Address indicates the approach of the Union Government.

Deputy Speaker Sir, DMK has got its own identity and cherished ideals. Likewise all the constituent parties of this United Front Government have got their own individualities, ideals and aspirations. We hail from the tradition of the Dravidian Movement. We come from the great Thanthari Periyar who served the masses till he was 96 to bring about a casteless and creedless society. DMK was founded by our leader Anna who was a member of the other House of this Parliament. We have in our leader, Dr. Kalaignar a true heir to Anna. He rules Tamil Nadu now as a fourth time Chief Minister. We are the followers of Anna and now Kalaignar. We take to the masses ideals, cherished philosophies and principles of DMK to bring about an egalitarian society ensuring equality and equality with social justice.

DMK's fundamental and foremost aim and objective is to establish a casteless, creedless society; ushering in a free society with equality where there is no unequal classes clashing with each other; there will not be any trace of imperialistic or feudalistic tendencies; uplifting the downtrodden and the backward classes of the society ensuring social justice; protecting the rights of the minorities; providing rights to women and establishing gender equality; taking up the cause of women's rights; striving to obtain official language status to our ancient, classic and living language Tamil in the Government of India; getting due recognition to our cherished language Tamil which is rich and profound with a long history and vast literature.

Great poet Bharathi Dasan said,

"Let the conch shells proclaim  
That Tamil is our life sublime,  
Our prosperity and our lifeline."

We hail from a glorious tradition. So we stand for State autonomy and a federal Centre.

I feel that President's Address gives expression to our cherished ideas.

Deputy Speaker Sir, this is my maiden speech in this House. I may be allowed to continue for few more minutes.

All of us talk about women's rights. Almost all the lady members, our sisters speak of it. They are asking us as to when will they get one third reservation in all the legislative bodies. I would like to state here that Tamil Nadu is the forerunner in enacting a law to provide property rights to women equal to that of men. It was our leader Dr. Kalaignar who is the present Chief Minister who enacted this welcome social law. I am proud to bring it to the notice of this House. So we have a long tradition of upholding women's rights. As part of the United Front, we will not shy away from providing reservation to women in Legislative Assemblies and Parliament. DMK will be supportive of this move to accord equal status to women. Mothers and sisters, lady colleagues who are in this House must note. Our ancient scriptures provide for various kinds of alms called Dhanam. Various Dhanams like Dhanam of cows, food, dress, gold, flowers, nine kinds of grains are there. There is also a Dhanam called 'Kannika Dhanam'. Unmarried women are treated like a material given away as alms. Women are considered to be commodities gifted away. Our Vedas refer to this and it is very much in our Shastras. I would like to ask those who uphold Shastras in the line of Rig, Yajur, Sama and Adharvana Vedas. Do you consider women are commodities to be distributed at will. Women are not to be treated like animals. They are neither sheep nor cows. Women are our mothers and sisters. That is why I would like to appeal to my colleagues in this House whether we should perpetuate this system of Kannika Dhanam.

Deputy Speaker Sir, Thank you, I would like to appeal to all the right thinking people, scholars, well educated men and the champions of women's cause to give thought to this. We must change the condition of women without which how can we give protection to women and how can we accord them equal status.

It is after a long struggle for 18 years from 1812 to 1929. Raja Ram Mohan Roy could convince Britishers to abolish Sati. Even after that victory of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, to give security to women, Sati continues and Roop Kanwars are celebrated even today. I would like to ask you a question, whether we are really a freed society. Are we free from this social evil? Roop Kanwars are still burnt in the pyres of their husbands.

I would like to refer to untouchability. Even seeing a low caste man is considered a sin in some places among some men. This I would like to call unseeability. A down trodden man cannot go near an upper caste man. Unapproachability is also there. Can we allow this untouchability to continue?

The great Tamil saint poet Thiruvalluvar who wrote 1330 couplets said, "All of us are equal by birth and it is only our occupation and deeds that can be judged and make us different from one another."

[Shri M. Ramanathan]

All of us are born of our mothers equally ten months after we were conceived. Nobody is there who was in his mother's womb for thirty months. So how can there be a difference like high born and low born. With utmost sense of responsibility and social concern we must ask ourselves this question.

I would like to remind you of an incident. Late Sampoorananda was a great leader of Uttar Pradesh. He was a Chief Minister of that State. His statue was unveiled in the seventies. Late Jagjivan Ram who was a Minister in the Cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru unveiled the statue of Sampoorananda. We have heard of that unpleasant things that followed the unveiling of Sampoorananda's statue in Uttar Pradesh. We have read from the newspapers with dismay and disbelief. Jagjivan Ram was fondly called as 'Babuji'. Just because Babuji unveiled the statue of Sampoorananda, some people went to the venue of the statue the next day and washed it with the Ganga water. They said it was like cleansing to bring in sanctity. Can we lift our head instead we can only hang it in shame. How can we face the world and claim that we have put an end to untouchability? I wish to raise a question in this House as to whether we are clear and clean in our hearts.

I wish to state one more thing. I have spent about 6 years in prison for political reasons in my public life. I have opposed the imposition of Hindi and the imperialistic motif behind it. I would like to make it very clear in this House. I do not hate Hindi language or the people who speak Hindi or those who have Hindi as their mother tongue. We do not hate that language or those people but we oppose the advocacy of Hindi, the imposition of Hindi. If you think everything should be carried out only through Hindi then you may not have this united India as one India for every. If you want India then you should shed the thought that Hindi alone must rule. You must give up that notion that everything can be carried out through Hindi and Hindi alone can do that. We know about article 343. We know the history of that enactment. I am not going into its detail for want of time.

Many may feel like asking me as to where is the imposition. I would like to give an example. There are Central Government offices in Tamil Nadu and most of them are in Chennai. I happened to see the name board of an office. It has been written as 'Videsh Sanchar Bhawan'. It is alright if it is written so in Hindi. But in English also the same is written which in fact is its transliteration but not the translation. We do not get to know the meaning which may enable us to know as to what is the function that takes place in that office. We cannot get the meaning in Tamil, our mother tongue also. Though the name of the office is written in Tamil it is only the transliteration of 'Videsh Sanchar Bhawan'. You could have written it as 'Overseas Communication Centre' or 'Overseas Communication Corporation'. Why should you deprive us from knowing about that Central Government office and its function. Is it not Hindi imposition? We do not object to your having it written

in Hindi. But why don't you give its Tamil and English equivalent. I express the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu in this august forum. I wish the Government and its officials take note of it. I would like to know about the attitude of the ministries and officials. I ask of you this with great concern. Let me cite another example.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How many papers are there in your hands?

SHRI M. RAMANATHAN : This House must know this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI M. RAMANATHAN : The Tamil version of the preamble of the Constitution of India was sent to Tamil Nadu. 'Sovereign Democratic Republic' can be meaningfully translated into Tamil. Equivalent words are there in the Tamil language which is ancient & rich. But what have they provided as its translation? "Sampoorna Sampanna Prabhuthuva Loka Thanthramakama Gana Rajya". It is not Tamil translation but Tamil transliteration of the Hindi translation. Is it what you call Tamil translation? Is it Tamil?

Let me conclude now. Just before that I appeal to you. This includes the Chair too. In Tamil Nadu, we had enacted a law to enable all Hindus irrespective of caste to become temple priests. We had sent it to Delhi to get Presidential assent, citing Ahimsa shastras, Brahmins have prevailed upon it. They said that non-Brahmins will not have access to Karuvarai (Karpa Griha), Artha Mandapam (worship hall), Maha Mandapam (place for rassembly). Due to this that law is yet to see the light of the day. I appeal to this House that we must pass that law again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude. Leave some points for your other friends.

SHRI M. RAMANATHAN : Sir, let me conclude with this. There are people raising questions as to how long this Government will last? Whether it is for a day or 10 days or 10 months, this United Government will do whatever it can do to safeguard the rights of the minorities, downtrodden and the poorest of the poor. This Government will strive to uplift the millions of poor who live below poverty line. DMK is a party which accepted late Jaya Prakash Narain. During emergency when all leaders alongwith Jaya Prakash Narain were in jail, DMK Government was the only Government that convened the Legislative Assembly to pass a resolution seeking to revoke emergency and to release all the political leaders and to restore the freedom of the press. The leader who took that bold step was none other than our leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar. Sharing that concern for preserving the democracy in this country, I wish to point out that the President's Address elucidate these sentiments. While concluding, I welcome and support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for the



opportunity given to me to express our views on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. On behalf of my party (RSP) I rise to extend my support to the Motion of Thanks proposed by our hon. friend Shri Sharad Yadav.

I have the highest regards for the President and I do appreciate his Address given before both the Houses. While appreciating the Address given by the President, I have some reservations also which I will explain in my speech.

We have come to judge the three areas of top priority to be taken care of by the United Front. It was announced by the United Front that there are three areas of top priority to be taken care of in the interests of the people of India. These three areas are : (1) cleanliness in high offices, (2) restructuring Centre-State relations, and (3) the economic promises of the Common Minimum Programme.

The success or failure of the Government can be judged only in respect of these three areas of top priority as announced by the United Front at the time of assuming power. This Government has assumed power just eight months back and this short tenure of eight months is too little to critically estimate the achievements or failure of the Government. Only the motives of the Government, the mode and principles of planning of the Government can be judged, and can be critically estimated.

It is also a fact that this Government has assumed the power only to pay respects for the unusual complex mandate of the people. And the mandate of the people was to just form a coalition Government and to form a secular Government on the basis of social justice and equity. So, the judgement should and can easily be estimated by seeing the performance of the Government in this respect alone.

Secularism and federalism are the two key words of this Government. So far as I can understand from their promises, secularism and federalism are the two key words on which this Government stands. We can judge it when we see that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have come, without any fear, to cast their votes according to their own choice. There was a secessionist force and they are now taking part in the political process of the whole India.

Holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is a good sign of federalism. We have seen that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have come forward to take part in the political process of the Indian mainstream. The bright beautiful and people and young men of Jammu and Kashmir were entirely misguided during the last decade. Today, we see that they are coming forward to take part in the political process and in the developmental process of the State and they are taking part in the various developmental activities of the State. This is the one good side of the coin.

There is also another side of the coin. We see that the stability is being established in the economic field of Jammu and Kashmir or in the political and social

fields of Jammu and Kashmir. But the stability in Jammu and Kashmir or its attempt to restore the stability in Jammu and Kashmir does not imply the satisfactory stability in the case of North-Eastern States of India.

If you look at the serious conditions and subversive activities going on in the entire North-Eastern Region, you will be puzzled. There are subversive activities; there are foreign mercenaries; there are the ISI activities. There are some people in North-Eastern States who think that they are not the citizens of India. They are always trying to get themselves alienated from the mainstream of the Indian society and that is the reason why subversive activities are also going on. The North-Eastern States are in such a horrible state in the social field.

We have just seen that the Prime Minister has made an announcement for the restoration of normalcy in this State in the economic and social fields. He has already announced a revival package to the tune of Rs. 9000 crore for the restoration of economic and social life of the North-Eastern States. More things are necessary for this purpose.

Economy is the backbone of a particular area and for the people living in a particular area. That economic backbone has been broken down and the whole situation stands on the break down of the economic situation. The reason behind the subversive activities and the reason behind the secessionism in the North-Eastern Region is only the frustration of the people in the economic life. So, a simple announcement cannot solve this problem. Let us hope for the best that they are brought back to restore the economic life; to rejuvenate the economic life and to restore the political process of this area.

Economic frustration has not been touched by the President's Address. It is very painful that there is poverty; there is hunger; there is unemployment; but there is no positive attempt on the part of the Government to solve these basic problems.

15.00 hrs.

We can see that the Employment Assurance Scheme is being implemented in different districts of the country. But this Employment Assurance Scheme is not enough. It cannot solve the problems of unemployment of educated youth. It is the agro-industry which can only solve this problem. There is a good attempt made for the continuation of agro-industries. Our country is based on agriculture but agro industry is not possible unless the scientific way of land reforms is made therein. Land reforms is a State Subject. There is no positive attempt on the part of the Central Government to ensure that land reforms are done in a scientific process, in a modern way, and within a target period. This is the basic problem.

We have heard many things from our Government and from the hon. Finance Minister that foreign investment is coming, and multinational corporations who are coming will solve the basic problems. I want to know from the Government where is the foreign investment. So far as foreign investment is concerned,

[Shri Pramothas Mukherjee]

it has been recorded in the table that there is a foreign investment but more than 60 per cent of the foreign investment had been intended to be employed in the heavy industries. But the heavy industries in India cannot solve the problem of unemployment. It is only the agro-industries and the small scale industries which can solve the basic problem of unemployment in the rural areas of our country. But there is no effort made in this direction. What else can we do with the help of foreign investment which has not been utilised for infrastructure building but which has been utilised only for the heavy industries? What else can we do with the help of multinational corporations? The heavy industries cannot solve our basic problems. So, the whole country tends to be bankrupt in economy. This bankruptcy in the economic life of the country is leading to the failure of the foreign policy of this Government. I may seek your permission to remind India's defeat in the election to the non-permanent seat in the Security Council. India's defeat against Japan indicates the failure of diplomacy and foreign policy of the Government of India.

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

We have a heritage that we took the leadership of the Non-aligned Movement. There is a heritage of Nehru, Nasser and Tito. So, who took the lead? India took the lead. We took the leadership. But, today, it indicates that we have lost our credibility. We have lost our prestige. We have lost our leadership. In the election to a non-permanent seat in the Security Council against Japan, India could not secure the votes of the Non-aligned countries. All the non-aligned countries did not come forward to cast their votes in favour of India although at one time, we took the leadership of the Non-aligned Movement. Today the scenario of the world has been changed. The whole world was a bipolar world. But, today, the whole world has become a unipolar world. We know the evils of transition from bipolar world to unipolar world. This unipolar world is governed by the Euro-American imperialist forces. We know all these things. But till today, there is a historical necessity of the Non-aligned Movement. India could take up the leadership of this Non-aligned Movement but India could not attract non-aligned countries to cast their votes in favour of India. This is the failure of the Government of India in respect of its diplomacy and foreign policy.

Sir, I have heard from the Ministry of External Affairs that Pakistan had influenced a good number of countries. The countries that were influenced by Pakistan did not cast their votes in favour of India. What does it indicate? Our Government had absolutely failed to the diplomacy of Pakistan. Pakistan could not do anything at the time of Pandit Nehru or for that matter even at the time of Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Why today we have to kiss the failure because of Pakistan? We cannot do that. It was not expected to be

done. You would be astonished and we were astonished when we heard that though Russia had cast its vote in favour of India, France cast its vote in favour of India, Cuba, Egypt and Iran had also cast their votes in favour of India, yet India could not secure votes from the Non-aligned countries for opposition from Pakistan. It is astonishing that India could not utilise its friendship with Russia, France, Cuba, Egypt and Iran. This is the failure of the diplomacy and the foreign policy of the Government of India. There is no mention of this failure in the President's Address. That is why, though we appreciate it and we have the highest regard for the President, we cannot absolutely support the President's Address. We give our support with some reservation.

Lastly, I have something to say on the Non-Aligned Movement. India even today can take the leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement. That Movement has been carried on with some historical importance in spite of the division of the world. Today, the Third World countries, the hungry generations, the unemployed youth and the innumerable suffering people are fighting against Euro-American Imperialism. India today can take the leadership of those hungry people of the Third World countries to fight against imperialistic forces.

Sir, we welcome the recently concluded Ganga Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India. We also appreciate the efforts of the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu for having played a significant role in the making of this Agreement. But Sir, with a broken heart, I beg to remind here that this area, that is, Farraka, Malda, Murshidabad, the territorial districts of West Bengal have suffered on account of recurrence of floods.

Hon. Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Dewe Gowda had visited this area and he announced that something positive would be done for the people in order to rescue them from the recurrence of floods. But no positive action has been taken so far. This cannot be accepted as a good gesture on the part of a democratic and sovereign Government. Commitment to the people must be fulfilled within a reasonable period.

Sir, anti-erosion schemes in the interest of people of these territorial districts should be adopted immediately. This is my suggestion. I would like to say something about safe drinking water and education. I have been given to understand that you have also spoken on that. Safe drinking water should be supplied to the people in rural areas. Free and compulsory education upto the age of 14 years be given to every one. It was the commitment of the Constitution makers and this should be immediately fulfilled. Otherwise, the country cannot progress.

Progress and sovereignty depend upon the good wishes and sincere efforts of the Government. We expect that Government will cooperate and will go forward in this direction. With these few words, I conclude my speech giving our support to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : I rise to oppose this matter. I will concentrate my speech on the Kashmir issue. Hon'ble President has said in his address that

[English]

"The successful conduct of Assembly elections and the installation of a popular Government in Jammu and Kashmir have been major steps in the process of restoration of normalcy."

[Translation]

Hon'ble President has said that after elections complete normalcy has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir. Today Farookh Abdullah had to attend a meeting in Doda, however two bomb blasts took place there yesterday wherein nine ladies were injured. I apprehend that someone of them might have succumbed to injuries by now. In Doda district itself one bomb blast took place at Kishtwar in which our one youngman lost his life.

I would like to place some figures before you. During the post election period 141 young men were killed in the month of August, 103 were killed in September, 88 in October, 89 in November, 116 in December, 90 in January and 49 as on 15.2.97. Now you can assess as to how much normalcy has been restored there so far. My colleagues could not venture to contest the elections there. The same Farookh Abdullah and his party, who had once boycotted the Parliamentary elections, has been voted to power by the people with two third majority. Among those all who have emerged victorious in election, not even a single MLA ventured to visit his constituency for thanks giving to voters. You claim that you have restored normalcy there. About 30 thousand people were killed in the state during the last 18 years. Four hundred people have been rendered destitute. I have a 'Hindustan Times' report with me which suggests that earlier only Pandits were forced to seek exodus but as on date more than 600 muslim families have been ousted from the state. 600 families have come down to Jammu from Kashmir. Just because they had cast their votes, bombs were hurled at their homes. They are being shot, modesty of their daughters and daughters-in-law is being outraged. They are ultimately deserting their ancestral property and migrating to Jammu.

I want to tell you that the spree of violence which we have witnessed there during the last eight years, have rendered four lakh people destitutes, about five thousand school and college buildings were torched and two thousand bridges were blown out. We have to deploy two lakh military personnel to ensure safety of Amarnath bound pilgrims. Modesty of a number of women were outraged, a number of children were rendered orphans, number of aged parents were rendered helpless as their sons and daughters had been killed. There is no end to the list of such persons. It is a long story. It was necessary that after installation

of the new Government, it should have come forward with a blue print on the strategy to combat the problems which have cropped up due to insurgency. The whole country would have supported them, but what happened. The first thing that Farookh Abdullah's Government demanded was autonomy. They set up a committee for autonomy. One committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. Karan Singh and another under the chairmanship of an agent of foreign countries. Nobody is demanding autonomy. No militant organisation is asking for autonomy. None of those who have taken up arms ever made a mention of autonomy but he is asserting his claim for autonomy. Our Prime Minister and Home Minister also say that J & K would be given greater autonomy. How much autonomy the Government want to give to the J & K state. Today the laws being passed in the Parliament are not being enforced on J & K. If one wants to purchase a 10 yard patch of land in the state, that is not allowed there. Our youth from Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Assam and Bihar can shed their blood, lay their life there on the border but they are not allowed to purchase a small patch of land there. Panchayati Raj has been introduced throughout the country but in J & K they are running this institution in their own way. We have already accorded such a status to Kashmir that we are bound to pay early for it. Even then today we are talking of giving greater autonomy to Kashmir. Instead of resolving the problems and complexities which have cropped up there as a result of insurgency and proxy war launched by Pakistan, we have started making fictitious announcements. Every third day Dr. Abdullah comes out with a statement. On the one hand our Parliament has passed resolution and both the Houses have taken solemn pledge to annexe Pak occupied Kashmir on the other hand Farookh Abdullah suggests us that we should treat the Actual line of control as our boundary. I fail to understand whether there is any Government at the centre or not. A Chief Minister of such a small state is giving dictates to the country. Yesterday in Mumbai, in reply to a query he admitted having said that and had further asked for any other better solution.

Our country taught a good lesson to Pakistan in 1971 war. About 93,000 Pakistani soldiers were made prisoners by us and one third of Pakistani Territory had been seized by us. But see the irony of our fate that whose policies have led the country to face all this, at their instance, we returned their soldiers and their land and also offered our Chhamb sector to them. I would like to know as to who has made this Chief Minister a Super Prime Minister? What kind of speeches he is making? I want to warn the nation through this house that this conspiracy is going on since 1947. America and its allies are in a bid some how or other to create disturbances of long continuance in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently Mr. Wisner had visited J & K and made a speech there! As I have already said, when an ambassador visits a foreign country, his tour programme is dully chalked out by Home Ministry of the host country. But how strange that the American Ambassador called on our General and had talks with our army personnel. How do we allow all this. Name out any nation which

[Shri Chaman Lal Gupta]

allows a foreign ambassador to meet any General of its army. But it is happening so in India. A well hatched conspiracy is being carried out by America whereunder support is being extended to Taliban Forces. America and ISI are determined to disintegrate Kashmir from India and some of our own people are also in league with them.

Yesterday, he made the point. First, the Kashmiri Pandits had migrated from there and it is not their job to facilitate their return to the State. They should return on their own and in case they failed to return their services would be terminated. What an irony that on the one hand you have failed to protect their lives, and honour of their women folk, on the other hand if somehow they have managed to flee from there, now you are asking them to return on their own. Now a days the Muslim families are also perhaps seeking exodus from there on their own.

I want to say that such irresponsible statements are detrimental to the interests of the nation. We should try to see that the Chief Minister does not make such statements. We should persuade him not to make such statements. Recently the Prime Minister announced packages and allocation of funds for the State. It is a good thing. The State is in need of such packages and funds as it has suffered a lot. Besides it is our duty to take care of it. But earlier whatever funds used to be released to the State were going in the coffers of militants. Even now our Government does not have any authority there, rather than militants are exercising their authority there. They can call a strike or close down the Secretariat there whenever they desire so. After the sunset D.C. takes instructions from the leaders of militants. In view of such a state of affairs prevalent there a monitoring Committee should be formed to ensure that the public funds allocated for the development of Kashmir are not being deviated. This is all the more needed considering that 32 crore people in this country are living below the poverty line who can't afford even two square meals a day. This is not the first package. Earlier also many packages have been announced. According to the State Government and General Krishna Rao, one lakh crore rupees have already been given to the State. Besides that we have fought three wars against Pakistan in 1947, 1965 and 1971. Now the fourth war is being fought. Despite all this the streets of the state are lighted on the 14th August but black out creeps in on the 15th August. When our soldiers pass through the streets, they say "see, the Indian dogs are going." It is a sorrowful tale that I am narrating to you. We should try to see that the money released to the State is spent on the development of the nation.

Just now it was told that the Government has taken up the barbed fencing of the border there. Arms are being received there from Pakistan and militants are going across the border for training and returning to the State. All these activities are going on. Ultimately the Government thought that if barbed fencing is done there, as was done in Punjab, we might succeed in checking

such movements across the border. In reply to my Question No. 557 regarding the progress made so far in barbed wire fencing of the border there it was replied that.

[English]

"The scheme for financing floodlighting of the international border in the Jammu sector was sanctioned on the 28th March, 1995 and an expenditure of Rs. 17.22 crore was incurred. But the work had to be stopped in July, 1995 due to heavy firing from Pakistan side."

[Translation]

Now tell me how reasonable it sounds that after already having incurred an expenditure of approximately 17.50 crore we abandoned the work of border fencing. This happened two years ago, i.e. in 1995. During the intervening period of two years people pilfered the whole material. This is how Rs. 17 crore were wasted just because fire was opened from Pakistani side. Where stands Pakistan if compared with us! What a shame that a tiny country like Pakistan succeeded in compelling our country of 95 crore people to stop this work. After these incidents of bomb blasts in Doda and Kashmir valley in the aftermath of elections the security forces have ceased their operations there. They say the Government should declare Doda as a disturbed area, and their hands should be strengthened, otherwise they would not carry on their operations there.

The Afghans and Sudanese staying here have not come here on an excursion. They carry guns with them. What alternative has been left for silencing their guns. If the hands of security forces are tied and you do not allow them to operate on their own, how insurgency can be checked there. Therefore, I request you to let them do their job. I had an opportunity to meet our army personnel there. They told me that if the Central Government directs us to stop this work then what can we do. I asked them who refrains you from retaliatory firing in case they open fire against you. In reply they told me that they were of course asked to refrain from firing. That is why I say that we should formulate a clear cut policy in this regard. This money belongs to the nation. Therefore, we must be very considerate while deciding as to how this should be spent.

We have failed so far in restoring normalcy in Kashmir for a distinct reason. A popular Government has been installed there which is something commendable indeed. It is better that elections have been held there. But after elections...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : You had said that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I have just given an indication. I would not like to go into its detail further. However, I had put a question that the person who could not dare to contest the election just two months back, won the election by two-third majority after two months. This should be analysed.



MR. CHAIRMAN : Please make your point why are you replying to his points when he is speaking while sitting in his seat.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : No, now you are deviating from your point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell about it when you are given a chance to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can make your point after him. Chaman Lalji several other Members from your party also want to speak on it.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I would make my points in brief. I would like to say that even today the situation there is quite grave. This resolution says that Kashmir is an integral part of India and it will remain so. Such an environment should be created there so that no power of the world could disintegrate it. But since 1947, we have not formulated any effective policy on Kashmir. Our approach has not been positive about Kashmir and we continued to target one family or the other and the outcome is before us. At one time Sheikh Abdullah was arrested and imprisoned. At another time, Bakshi Saheb was arrested and sent to jail. Then Farooq Abdullah was made a target and he was removed from power. Later on his brother in law was also given similar treatment. If we deal with Kashmir in this manner we will never be able to solve the Kashmir problem and it would rather get complicated further. I would like to say that this Resolution should be viewed comprehensively. It is really a strange situation that at one moment, Farooq Abdullah says that this is our actual line of control and that should be made as border line. On the other hand Deve Gowdaji gave a statement that-

*[English]*

"We can have a minor adjustment"

*[Translation]*

At first such statements are made but later on, these are contradicted. What is the truth? The truth is that Frank Wisnor discussed this matter with the General of the Army as well as with the Leader of Huriyat Party. Who are these Huriyat people? They have never considered Kashmir as an integral part of India. Now, when these people will come to Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs will make proper arrangements for them. Their offices will be set up in Jammu and Delhi. I would like to ask as to whether we have got any Government or administration there or not? It should be established that we have a Government there. We should have a clear-cut policy on this matter. How can a person enjoy a right to live in this country when he does not consider Kashmir as an integral part of India and speaks against India. We should pay attention towards creating normalcy in the State. Tourism is an important means of employment there, but it has ruined to a great extent. In this regard, nothing has been mentioned either by Shri Deve Gowda or from the side of the Government or in the President's Address. In the package announced by the hon. Prime Minister, Rs. 3000 crore have been

given from Dulhasti Project and Rs. 2500 crore for a railway line. Along with this an assurance was also given for construction of Moughal Road. Moughal Road is a project which has been rejected by the defence forces four times. According to Defence persons, it is a dangerous project. Despite this the Government has given an assurance for its construction. I feel that the Government should think in the national interest and promote tourism in the State which can be done only when normalcy is restored. We should create such a situation in the State so that Hindu and Muslim migrants of the State could return to their homes safely.

I would also like to say that the forces and army personnel deployed there for restoring peace should be given a free-hand. So far as question of holding elections in the State is concerned and which is being talked widely. I would like to say that elections were not held there because of Farooq Abdullah or the Prime Minister. At that time, Farooq Abdullah was in London and no one could dare to visit the State. These elections have been held with the help of security forces but not a single word has been mentioned about it in the President's Address. Nothing has been said about their betterment and welfare. Moreover, no credit has been given to the security forces which earned fame for this country. It is necessary to trust them.

I would also like to say a few words more. There is a proposal for generation of 15000 MW power from a project on a river in Jammu and Kashmir. We will be able to meet the requirement of power from Delhi to Jammu if it is implemented. In this regard, I had tried to raise a question yesterday. We are making a payment of Rs. 968 crore during 1997 to a French Company which had given up this project five years ago. I would like to know as to why this payment is being made now. This matter should be inquired into by a Parliamentary Committee because public money is involved in it. The Committee should look into whether proper utilization of the allocated funds is done or not. Due to militancy no developmental work has been taken up therefor the last few years. But an expenditure worth crores of rupees has been shown. It should also be inquired into. The Railway Minister has come to the House. I would like to draw his attention towards an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Guptaji, please think about the colleagues of your party. I have no objection because some more time is still left for your party. Please try to conclude at the earliest.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I would like to raise one more point regarding Railways and then conclude. Last year, it was stated that Udhampur railway line would be completed by December 1997 but now it has been said that it would be completed by 1999. I would like the hon. Minister to apply his mind in this regard. The Government should also pay attention towards the welfare of those migrants living in various parts of the country and willing to return to their State. Favourable circumstances should be created there so that these people could go back home. Barnalaji had mentioned regarding construction of Thein Dam. As a result of it about 30 thousand people are being displaced. The

[Shri Chaman Lal Gupta]

Government should think about their rehabilitation. A demand for the construction of a bridge between Basauli and Kathua over river Ravi is being raised for the last ten years. It should be constructed by including it in any of the projects.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that Kashmir can remain an integral part of the country only when a clear-cut policy is formulated for the State. The whole country should give a befitting reply to the sinister designs of the ISI of Pakistan. The statements of political leader including that of Shri Farooq Abdullah should be appropriate so that the morale of the country and the security forces who are sacrificing their lives never goes down. We should pay utmost attention towards it.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say once again that I strongly oppose the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Beni Prasad Varma will make a statement regarding village public telephones.

15.37 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[Translation]

#### Re: Village Public Telephones

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Sir, I discussed the subject relating to Village Public Telephones with senior officers of my Ministry and following decisions were taken :

(a) A thorough inquiry into the veracity of the reports of the field units regarding functioning of Village Public Telephones be got conducted by an independent agency such as the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad or any of the Indian Institutes of Management. A decision regarding appointment of a specific agency will be taken soon.

(b) The CBI will be asked to investigate as to whether all norms of administrative, technical and financial suitability were observed while ordering and procuring the equipment for the Village Public Telephones during the last seven years when the MARR System was introduced by the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that your efforts for improvement in the functioning of telephones in rural areas will continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : This will also help in that case...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This effort should have been continued.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It is our endeavour...(Interruptions) That is why, we were constrained to take such a decision today.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Half-an-Hour discussion was raised in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a separate issue. Inquiry is a different matter. I had said that required measures for improvement in it should continue...

(Interruptions)

SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI (Srinagar) : Please reply to my question in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You might have heard the reply given by the hon. Minister.

15.39 hrs.

#### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. President's Address has been placed before Parliament as a document of the Government. At present, the country is facing an acute problem of unemployment and this document reveals that the Government has not paid any attention towards it. Not only this but the policy of this Government has been against the educated unemployed youth of the country. Now-a-days, every Minister and even the Prime Minister mentions privatization in his speech. More and more privatization will hamper the momentum of cooperative movement which has been going on in the country for the last many decades. The Central Government is trying to go in for privatization of Railways, Airways, Power, Transportation and roads etc. Under such circumstance, what will remain with the Government? It is at the behest of a political party that they are conspiring to invite multinational companies in the country which will render the youth of the country unemployed.

At present, computerization and mechanisation is in vogue. India is the most populous country in the world. I request you to pay attention towards the welfare of educated youth by following the path of Mahatma Gandhi. When we encourage cottage industry in the country, only then we will be able to provide employment to the youth. Unemployed youth of the country will get few opportunities of employment if multinational companies are invited and big industries are set up by the ruling party to run its Government and to seek support of other political parties. More mechanisation will breed more unemployment. Instead of encouraging privatisation more industries should be set up in the cooperative sector.

What is the position of power sector today? Not only the Chief Minister of Northern India but the Chief Ministers of all the States favour privatization of power

sector. Why did the need of privatisation arise? Ten years ago these very leaders used to say that cooperative movement would be encouraged but now, attempts are being made to discourage it. Some political leaders are trying to play with the lives of the youth of the country. In every case, be it social, political and unemployment, they are bearing the brunt. It is a grave injustice to them.

My second point relates to the farmers of the country. The hon. Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda proclaims to be a humble farmer but I am sorry to say that the farmers have suffered more during the last months of his regime. India produces largest quantity of wheat. Last time when a discussion was going on wheat, I had stated that wheat was exported before, but now wheat is being imported and that is also at a time when wheat is likely to reach the market. At that time it could have been procured at a rate of Rs. 415 per quintal but now it is being imported at a rate of Rs. 630 to Rs. 635 per quintal. Is this step not anti-farmers? The Government should announced its policy and bonus should have been given to farmers for producing more wheat. But, this Government acted just contrary to it. It is making attempts to weaken the financial position of farmers. This import of wheat will weaken the economic condition of farmers further. When the crop of wheat is ready for harvesting and it will be reaching the market within a month, it is being imported and thus farmers will not get remunerative price for their produce. Same is the case of Cotton. I would like to say that in Haryana 'Narma' cotton was purchased at a rate of just Rs. 800 to Rs. 1100 per quintal...*(Interruptions)* It is like resorting to export and also ruining the condition of farmers. Cotton produced by farmers is being brought at lower rate, whereas the rate of clothes are rising day by day but no attention has been paid towards it even by the hon. Prime Minister. Sugarcane was purchased at a rate of Rs. 15-Rs. 20-Rs. Rs.30 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh. This issue was also debated in Haryana and it was decided that sugarcane should not be procured at the rate of Rs. 80 per quintal there. However, a trader of Uttar Pradesh obtained a stay from Allahabad High Court and pleaded that farmers of Uttar Pradesh should be given the same price of sugarcane as prescribed by the Government in Delhi. Is it not a gross injustice to the farmer of U.P.? The Union Government has fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs. 48 per quintal. The farmers will not be able to get even the cost price of their produce unless the rate of sugarcane is fixed at Rs. 80 or 85 per quintal. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to show some sympathy towards farmers. This Government talks of welfare of farmers but it is instead making attempts to ruin them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now, one of our colleagues was saying that wheat will be procured and it will again be exported. Likewise, cotton has been produced in a large quantity and it has been procured deliberately by the Government so that farmers are not able to get remunerative prices for their produce. In the same way, sugarcane and rice are produced in large quantity here. FCI godowns are full of rice stock, but after sometimes

the Government will say that it would be imported. The intention of the Government seems to be mala-fide and it want to earn by exporting foodgrains. It is an anti-farmers Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come to the issue of law and order situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you have objection if the Government earns by export?

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : This money is being earned by the representatives of public and not by the Government. If the Government earns it could be used for developmental works. It will be a loss to the country and the people if this money is grabbed by such persons. A scam involving Rs. 200 crore has been unearthed in the FCI in Haryana. We have been raising an issue time and again that wheat is being looted and taken out from FCI godowns in Haryana through landlords. But the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies stated that he would look into the matter. The SRN of FCI, Haryana has been absconding for the last one month. He is a proclaimed offender. In this way, the Government is playing with the people of this country and is trying to remain in power. What was the need to oppose Congress Party in the elections of 1996 if the policies and programmes of the former Government were to be implemented?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, several hon. Members are present here and they know that the law and order situation prevailing in various parts of the country is not satisfactory. Crores of rupees are being grabbed forcefully as ransom. Traders and rich people are being kidnapped in broad daylight in Delhi the capital of the country. People are being murdered publically. A few days back, I had read a statement of the Governor of U.P. in a newspaper stating therein that the incidents of murder had declined by 30. It means 900 murders are committed during one and a half month and someone says that it is 30 less than the last time. Such statements reveal that the Government and particularly, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is not worried about the law and order situation. I admit that some such incidents have also taken place in Haryana but the miscreants of U.P. would not have shifted to Haryana or Delhi if a popular Government had been formed there. There is a saying that rider of two hordes at a time cannot go far but our hon. Prime Minister is riding 13 horses. This alliance will not last long but it would ruin the people of the State before its collapse...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAY (Patna) : Please say something about the free and fair elections held in Kashmir.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : I would like to say that in Kashmir, elections have been held with the help of security forces. In 1991, Congress Party had also held tried to hold such elections in Punjab. But what had been it outcome. The MLAs of Congress party won the election by securing just 500 votes each. You know Congress party's plight in 1997 elections there I will consider the elections of Kashmir free and fair and formation of a duly elected Government in the State

[Shri Jai Prakash]

only when security forces stay in their camps. Elections conducted at the point of guns cannot be called elections. In Punjab, we had seen that in trucks ballot boxes were taken to people and they were forced to cast their votes. After five years, Congress party was completely routed in Punjab. Raireddyji you will also meet the same fate. I cannot say what will happen after six months or ten months. This President's Address lacks direction and purpose. This Government is anti-youth, anti-farmer and anti-trader. Today, the traders of the country are a disgruntled lot...*(Interruptions)* After few days, you will also be in opposition...*(Interruptions)*. Therefore, I would like to say that the President's Address is a baseless and directionless document and I strongly oppose it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, will BSP be given a chance to speak or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Members from BSP had spoken for quite a long time. Yesterday BSP's turn in second round is yet to come. Please sit down.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Five Members of a single party have spoken here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. It is not your turn. You will be given a chance in the second round in accordance with the number of parties in the House. Not a single Member from AGP has spoken so far.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Sir, I have not got a chance to speak even for one minute during the last one year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not get disappointed. Have some patience.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : I have already given a notice. Please allow me to speak for just five minutes. Let my people know that I speak here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Patience is an important quality in Parliamentary career.

Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma.

[English]

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (Guwahati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to take part in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address. I have taken the stand on my behalf and on behalf of my Party colleagues to support the Motion. I have seen and I have gone through the Presidential Address, and this Presidential Address is based on the basic tenets of the Constitution of India and on the premise of sovereignty, secularism, socialism, justice and equality.

In this connection, I congratulate the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues that they have taken in real pursuit of resolving the various issues of the country. During the last eight months, I have seen that they have made a good stride and they have been successful on many fronts. It is, of course, sure that the task before

them is stupendous and it will become very much arduous to translate these realities enshrined in this Presidential Address.

The Presidential Address is basically on the premise of the Common Minimum Programme. This Common Minimum Programme was, by and large, accepted in this Parliament by all the Members cutting across party affiliations. But then I have seen in this Parliament that there have been certain passionate views and these passionate views have been expressed by some of the Members, probably not without reasons.

But then the personal views have been expressed by only a very few political parties. You can very well understand without naming them also that they have given a suggestion that this is a Government which is constituted by as many as 13 political parties and 13 is considered to be an unlucky number for many. But for the United Front, this number 13 is the most lucky number and I consider that with this unlucky number 13, this United Front Government is going to rule for not less than five years and during these five years, the personal view that have been expressed here by some of the members of political parties — I have got great respect for them — are concerned, I am not in conformity with them. It is simply because the demands which they have made could not be fulfilled during the last 50 years and now they have asked this Government to perform and fulfil those demands within eight months which is impossible and, therefore, this United Front Government cannot be expected to perform a miracle and they are not definitely going to perform a miracle. But I am confident that the United Front Government will have to accept this challenge and this challenge must be accepted with fortitude, courage and conviction.

I have gone through the main issues that have been incorporated in the President's Address. These are the happy beginnings and I believe that this Government will be in a position to discharge the onerous responsibility that has been bestowed upon them.

Ours is definitely an agricultural country. We are grateful to Shri Chaturanan Mishra that he has created a new dynamism in making improvement in agriculture.

Similarly, so far as drinking water is concerned, there is a positive commitment on the part of this Government that this drinking water facility will be provided to a large number of people of this country.

Primary health care has been assured and the present lapses will be definitely eradicated.

Removal of illiteracy is a very big problem. It is a very big task and I believe this Government, by their own efforts and also by involving all people including the NGOs, will remove illiteracy. It is a slur on the part of India that we are still having more than 30 per cent of illiterates. This should be wiped out and all measures should be taken towards this end. This has been mentioned in the President's Address.

The Employment Insurance Scheme may go probably a long way in resolving the present unemployment problem.



[English]

As regards enhancement of the road and rail transport, we are very much thankful to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that he has taken really a positive attitude towards making rail communication the common man's mode of transport and I believe that within the coming two, three or four years, many of the areas to which the rail has not reached will be in a position to have rail connection enabling people to travel through taking advantage of railways.

The new industrial policy may also help in strengthening the internal industrial sector and also in having a liberalised economy so far as the industry is concerned. In this connection, I am in full agreement with Shri Pramotes Mukherjee that only big industries may not solve the unemployment problem of the country and I, therefore, urge upon the Government that the minor and medium-scale industries should also be given utmost importance.

16.00 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Some of my party colleagues belonging to different political parties have said that the Government is not likely to continue for long. In this connection, Shri Nitish Kumar, who is in the Chair now, has also expressed doubt about this. While he was taking part in the debate, he said that some of our Ministers are only sleeping. I have not seen my Ministers sleeping. What I have seen is that they are pondering over what these Members of Parliament are speaking; how they are behaving inside the Parliament. At the time of taking the Oath, we have said that we shall definitely uphold the very Constitution of India. If we are to uphold the very premises of the Constitution of India, then all the Members of the different political parties must know that India is a country having a Union of States. If India is a Union of States, then, definitely, each and State has its own peculiar custom, its social heritage, its different problems. Therefore, we have admitted that India is a country where unity in diversity is practised. If these are the premises of the very Constitution of India, then, all the Members must know that though we may have difference of opinion, we may have different ideologies and we may have different cultures and cultural heritage, yet so far as the country is concerned, the country is one. But there are different people living in this country.

From 1947, this country was ruled by only a single party. That era is over. This country is not likely to be ruled by only one single party. If my opposition friends of the BJP are thinking that they will be in a position to rule the country when the next elections will be held - according to them, if it is held as early as possible, it is better - then, I must tell them that the United Front Government will definitely come with a much bigger strength. It is simply because the centre of governance is just like an atom of an element. I do not know whether it will be parliamentary or unparliamentary. But I believe it will be parliamentary. The atom is the nucleus of an element. Like that, Parliament is also the nucleus of the

Government. In this nucleus of the Government, there are different orbitals and the orbitals are occupied by the electrons. Those States which are far away from this nucleus are so far given a scanty respect and scanty attention. Sometimes, they have been neglected and sometimes they have even been deprived. That is the basic logic based on which there is an emergence of these different regional political parties. These regional political parties will ever grow and they will be more strengthened. The next election which is going to be held in 2001 A.D. will show to this very House - it is my prediction - that these regional political parties and also other political parties having regionalism in mind but nationality in outlook will come with a thumping majority to give the actual pattern of governance of this nation. And the governance of this nation is just the beginning towards federalism and federalism will be translated into action only by 2001 A.D. We are all for federalism because we have given all importance to the Sarkaria Commission. We have already mentioned, on various occasions, that the Sarkaria Commission is the *summum bonum* of the present day context of politics. And if it is so, then some of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission have already been accepted and some are yet to be accepted. We are debating it and I believe that the real federalism will start by the end of this century and we begin the next century with the real federalism in the country of India.

Now I have got some more points to make. On foreign affairs, our relations have improved. I am thankful to Shri I.K. Gujral that he has been able to improve the relations with the international community. The effort must continue. We want to see much more and much better results in this regard. We are hopeful that he will be in a position to do it.

I am also thankful to Shri P. Chidambaram as he has brought a new dimension to the Indian economic sector. Yesterday while participating in this debate, some of the Members had mentioned that it has presented only a gloomy picture. But to me, the picture is not that gloomy one. It is because the rate of GDP from 7.1 per cent in 1995-96 is maintained in 1996-97. The economic growth in 1996-97 as estimated by the CSO is estimated to be around 6.6 per cent and the GDP at actual cost. As far as performance is concerned, India is considered among the ten top performers, yet the debt burden is decidedly of a great concern. I believe that the United Front Government in the coming four years will be in a position to relieve the people of this country from this debt burden by taking more stringent measures on the front of economy and on the front of finance.

Fiscal budget and the budgetary developments are also quite satisfactory. The budget for 1996-97 has continued the process of fiscal adjustment within the framework of the CMP and the correction of 0.8 per cent through reduction of fiscal deficit as a proportion of GDP from 5.8 per cent in 1995-96 is achieved. Therefore, I thank Shri P. Chidambaram also. Definitely the Presidential Address that has been presented to us is not gloomy; definitely there is still scope for

[Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma]

improvement. The Presidential Address is only a booklet which can be read in fifteen to twenty minutes. It cannot incorporate all the suggestions that have been made by all the Members in this Parliament. Therefore, it is only a document where the philosophy is laid down. That philosophy is now to be translated into action and I believe this Government will be in a position to do it.

There has been certain anxiety and this anxiety has been expressed so far as Punjab is concerned, so far as Kashmir is concerned and so far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned. These anxieties are not without reasons. I think the Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta that he has been very careful in taking stock of the whole internal law and order situation and the governance at the Centre. He is posted with every happening, every incident of the country. He has made a statement which has been reported in today's papers saying that he has made a statement in the Parliament House which has gone against the interests of the Government. I do not believe so. It is a statement based on the reality he has seen. But then it is not the failure of the Government. It cannot be said that it is a failure of the Government because there is President's rule in Uttar Pradesh. There are many different factors and the statement made by the hon. Home Minister has been contradicted by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Therefore, I believe that there are causes of anxiety and these causes must be removed. These anxieties must be removed by our joint participation, collective participation, and by cutting across party lines. Then only these problems can be resolved.

Now, there is anxiety in Assam and there is anxiety in the North-Eastern region. There is insurgency and for this insurgency it cannot be said that there is no genesis behind it. There is definitely some genesis behind it and that genesis has been mentioned by Shri Promotes Mukherjee that 'the economy is the main factor' and some of the provisions of the Constitution itself have also added to this prevailing insurgency or the turmoil or the misgivings. That is why, the North-eastern region requires special care. It has been in the minds of the people of the North-east region that the North-eastern region has been neglected for nearly five decades. I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues that they have given a package for North-east. But as Shri Promotes Mukherjee has said that this package is of Rs. 9,000 crore, it is not so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Sarma, please conclude.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, I may kindly be given two or three minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, this package is of Rs. 6,100 crore.

So, a beginning has been made. But I believe that the Government takes adequate care that these misgivings that are looming large are assuaged to the satisfaction of the people of the North-eastern region.

Here, two very important points have not been taken care of but I believe that these will be taken care of while taking the overall thing into account. The infiltration into Assam is a contentious issue and it has changed the demography of the entire State of Assam and to some extent the North-eastern States. The very identity of Assam and its nationality. Assam's nationality is a composite culture. Assam is not a community only by those who speak Assamese. It is a nationality composing very many different languages, as many as 216. And, there are different religious and linguistic groups and that is for this reason, this infiltration problem — which is mounting gradually and the demography is likely to be destroyed completely, having the fear of even losing its identity — should be taken care of.

One more important point that has not been taken care of — probably, I may be wrong — is that the education in higher sector has not been given due thrust. At the moment, in the country, we have 164 universities; 36 deemed universities; 8,600 colleges; 66 lakh of enrolments; and the country is of agrarian region. This agrarian country has only 1.1 per cent enrollments in agricultural colleges and 40.5 per cent in the Humanities Department.

Therefore, I believe that education in the higher level has not been given due care. So, this should be taken care for which a new thrust is required. Though I have not seen the hon. Minister of Human Resources Development sitting here, I draw his pointed attention, through you, that there should be a new direction to education because annually we are producing more than nine lakh of graduates and those nine lakh of graduates have not been in a position to be given the opportunity to enter into the world of work. There should be a new direction to education so as to give them the opportunity to enter into the world of work.

One of our friends from the DMK has rightly pointed out that this Right to Work should also be made a Fundamental Right and towards this direction, we must make some endeavour.

Shri Nitish Kumar yesterday made a very important point that drug trafficking in the Northeastern region is a serious threat. It should be taken care of. There is another problem which should be addressed to. It was Shri K.P. Singh Deo who said that the Defence and the Defence personnel are not properly attended to. This also should be taken care of.

I say that this Parliament is the sanctum sanctorum. It has its own sanctity. This Parliament is to produce not only politicians, but statesmen also. Politicians have an attribute and you may call that attribute as a vice also. That is, they are hypocrites. But these hypocrites cannot run a country of India's magnitude. This country can be run only by the statesmen and statesmen are produced from among the Parliamentarians. It is for this reason that I sincerely hope that this Parliament will be in a position to produce not only very big politicians, but statesmen also so as to take care of India. I believe that this Parliament is just like the soul of the human being. I am a part and parcel of that. When that being the

case, I must conclude with this saying :

'ETADAYAM EDAM SARVAM  
SARVA ATMA TATTAVMASI'

With these few words, I conclude my speech. I whole heartedly support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : Mr. Chairman Sir, on behalf of Telugu Desam party we express our hearty thanks to the President for addressing both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 20, 1997. We appreciate the gesture of the President in mentioning about the stable condition of our coalition Government which is doing its job nicely in promoting socio-economic development and in finalising the Ninth Plan.

The President, in his Address has renewed India's offer of dialogue to the new Pakistan Government. This is a welcome gesture for establishing peace in the region. The President, speaking about the Armed Forces, said that it is in a state of constant preparedness to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can take the help of your notes, do not read them out, please.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : I am not reading, Sir.

The President, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, said that they are ever ready. He was mentioning about Agni, Prithvi and other achievements. He has not mentioned about Vikrant and that in spite of our best efforts we could not replace it which is a aircraft carrier to strengthen the navy.

We have not made any enough provision for the Armed Forces. Even in the Fifth Pay Commission Report, it is mentioned that there are 14000 vacancies of officers. They have not made any special gesture to tap the sources and to increase their strength by recruiting the personnel to fill these posts.

Speaking about corruption, the President said that it should be tackled by consulting all the political parties. I appreciate the gesture of the Government for initiating a national debate on the issue of corruption and transparency.

Speaking about internal security, the President has said that inside the country there is Naxalism and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and in the North-Eastern States. We have not taken any concrete steps to tackle this. Though the Prime Minister has promised funds to the North-Eastern States, in practice, the funds have not been given. Unless the funds flow there, industrialisation takes place, railways lines and roads are built and development activities which will give employment to the unemployment youth, take place, terrorism cannot be curbed.

Regarding family planning, which is the priority area, it has been not mentioned in our President's address whatever development has to take place would be directly proportional to the population. Unless we curb the population growth, nothing could be achieved.

For example, let us take our neighbouring country, China, where they have a restriction on child birth - one child in a family in urban areas and two in rural areas. I do not want that we should go to such an extent. But there should be such a type of legislation for the restriction of child birth. Then only would the country develop.

Regarding the usage of oil, it is said that eighty per cent of the oil is being used by the Government. Sometimes, I see that when a VIP goes abroad, a convoy of cars goes along with him and there is a wastage of fuel. Instead, if only the protocol persons go along to see off the VIP, it would save a lot of oil. Also, in the case of bureaucrats who stay away from their places, a vehicle has to go in the morning to pick them up, again come back in the evening and drop them. This is a mere wastage of fuel. Instead, if facilities for loaning or purchase of vehicles and fuel, and maintenance allowances are given, such types of wastage can be curtailed.

About the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a passing remark has been made by the President. It is not going to make any difference. It is not going to help. A concrete step should be taken. A law should be passed to punish the guilty who do not implement the reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Regarding the new PDS, I would say that it is a welcome gesture. But the assessment of people below the poverty line is objectionable. For example, in States like Andhra Pradesh, we are already having a scheme of subsidies. They have taken it that the purchasing capacity of the people of Andhra Pradesh is more. This is very wrong. So, this system has to be changed and reassessment had to be done in Andhra Pradesh.

With these words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while fully supporting the motion of thanks on President's address, I, on behalf of the people, want to bring this fact into the knowledge of the Government that the President's address contained a lot of things but it lacked a mention about the provisions made for the minorities, especially the Muslim community.

This Government has come to power with the support of Muslim Voters, but so far as the welfare of Muslims is concerned, nothing has been said about it. Neither your Common Minimum Programme contains anything for us nor we have been given any representation in your Steering Committee...*(Interruptions)* We have understood you very well...*(Interruptions)* Only after having understood you, I joined this side. Now what can one do if one deliberately does not want to understand the situation. All that I want to say to you is that you do all these things for us, otherwise you note it that such things can not continue for long. You can't pacify anybody by mere assurances. You yourself surmise as to what is the definition of Article 30 A and what does it mean. This has been referred to the



[Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi]

Supreme Court and today the judges are going to give their opinion on it. It would have been more convenient if you could pass a resolution in this regard in the Parliament itself. But I am sorry to say that even the Muslim Members sitting here are doing nothing in this regard, instead they are tight lipped on this issue. All that I would say is that you had announced a clear cut policy in this regard. You say that people of particular communities should be provided reservation. I am not opposed to that. In the entire world, reservation is given to down troddens of minority communities. But here the reservation is being provided by beaurocracy in the name of *Dalits* or backwards. You tell us where the people of minorities should go. They should also be given reservation in services. In the similar manner when you are going to provide reservation to women in the Assemblies, seats should be reserved in the Parliament and Assemblies for Muslims women. You want to pacify us only with talks. I don't think any problem can be solved in this manner.

Now I want to raise an another important issue. The then Home Minister Mr. Chavhan had made an observation that while the Babri Masjid was being demolished, the then Prime Minister Shri Narsimha Rao was watching the incident on T.V. There is a famous saying that Nero was fiddling while the Rome was burning. How strange it is that our 'Nero' was also fiddling while the edifice of Babri Mosque was being demolished. Even the Home Minister says that Shri Narsimha Rao is responsible for this incident, as despite being persuaded again and again he simply continued watching the T.V. and issued no orders. I would like to Government to investigage this aspect of the incident and prosecute Mr. Narsimha Rao and bring him to book. If you don't do so, I will think that you simply talk of the welfare of Muslims and other minorities and you can't do anything else for them. If you are actually sympathetic toward them, then prosecute him. But if you merely go on saying that you want to do something for them, that will be termed simply as an eye wash. The right thing would be to prosecute and hang Mr. Narsimha Rao, so that a message may go to the people that they should take lesson from it and eschew such things. I would like to urge upon the Members, specially the Muslim Members of the Janta Dal to vigorously pursue this issue within their party and they should not focus their attention to votes only.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Our Prime Minister had made an announcement from the ramparts of Red Fort that he would give us Uttarakhand. But unfortunately it finds no place in the President's Address. Should I construe from it that he has also got two teeth-one for show off and another for eating purpose. In another words he is applying double standards. Whenever a Prime Minister delivers his speech from rampart of the Red Fort, he is supposed to be directly addressing the nation. The audience sitting before him in the Red Fort ground becomes the witness of his speech. He is heard on T.V., and Radio also. Not only nation but international people sitting over there

also listen to him. Therefore when a Prime Minister is delivering his speech from the Red Fort or giving any assurances from there, it should be done with some credibility. That credibility is missing in the President's Address which hurts us a lot.

I hope that if the Prime Minister has missed it, he should be responding to it in his reply. Whether I shall understand that the announcement from the Red Fort was made by him in view of the forth coming Assembly election in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)? What was his idea behind making this announcement, that he would win the elections by maing such announcements? Now since he has not got the victory, whether still he would not like to give us a separate state? Whether it is a fact that mention in this regard has not been made in the Address because of the mounting ppressure on him from Mulayam Singh Yadav. And if so whether it does not loose his credibility? It does not the credibility of only our Prime Minister but also the credibility of our nation. I would request him to correct his mistake, he has made, and respond to this demand in his reply. Some people might say that since it was a Pandora Box, it found no mention in the Address. It is his public announcement. He must have made this announcement from remparts of the Red Fort after considering all the pros and cons and all the aspects properly. It is, therefore, wrong to say that it does not open the Pandora Box. Pandora Box was opened when Kangra was included in Himachal. It was opened when the state's Reorganization Commission had requested not to do so. It was opened when the state of Assam was divided into many parts. But the Pandora Box does not open today when the people are demanding a separate Uttarakhand and an announcement in this regard has already been made by our Prime Minister that.

[English]

Uttarkhand district' is not a commencement of smaller States. It is the culmination of States being created in the Himachal Region,. This is a culmination.

[Translation]

He said that Kangra was the beginning point and Uttarakhand is the culmination point in the Himachal region. But so far it has not been matterialised therefore, it would be wrong to say that Pandora Box opens today. It would be the culmination point of a particular movement. Apart from this, it is different from one more point of view and that is, the demand for separate statehood is coming from the local people and it has also been endorsed by the Lucknow Government not only once but twice. Once it was endorsed by the B.J.P. Government and another time it was endorsed by the Mulayam Singh Government. They said that they have sent the proposal unanimously to the Centre and not it is upto the Central Government to take action on formation of Uttarakhand. Such was not the case in other states and in other demands. It is different from one more point of view. Many people do say that wherefrom the process should start? It should start at the State level or Central Level. The proposal has been



initiated at the State level. They have prepared not only bills but also have given their powers to the Centre. Not only one Government, but two Governments have given you the powers and asked you that whenever the formation process is completed, send the same to us for ratification. You must initiate the action, It was originated at the State level and now it is at the Central level. The Centre has to complete the process and send the same to Lucknow for ratification. Therefore, it has also been answered now as to wherefrom it was initiated. In view of all these things I would like to request you to keep your credibility intact. He must refer to this issue while replying to the debate.

Apart from this, there is no mention about the hilly and backward regions in the Address. I can not take much time as the bell is likely to ring, which otherwise would waste the time of my colleagues. I would like to place two instances before you.

Now I want to draw your attention towards the para 26 of the President's Address. It has been said in the Address that-

[English]

"A major priority of the Government is to initiate and implement a set of concrete measures for providing basic minimum services to improve the quality of life of the poor..."

[Translation]

This includes seven issues out of which none is applicable to my hilly region for example, in part-2 of this paragraph, it has been written that -

[English]

"Provision of efficient Primary Health-Care for every group of 5,000 persons:"

They do not realise that these hills have sparsely located population. They do not realise that the population of 5,000 will be spread over a much larger area than it is in the plains. It will not be applicable to the hills.

Similarly, there is also a mention about 'provision of Safe Drinking Water in every habitation'.

[Translation]

In reality, it would be a different definition of habitation. If the above habitation of five thousand people is to be taken into account, it will not be applicable to the hills. Even after fifty years of our independence, we have not been able to provide drinking water in every village. When such a situation is there, how can we provide drinking water to every house. Therefore, whatever he has said, is something beyond reality. There is an ulterior motive behind this scheme and the scheme has been divided into two parts-Non-backward hilly region and backward hilly region. Likewise if you read para 29, it has been said in that para that-

[English]

"The Government is committed to bringing the gap in the levels of development of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minorities and to bring them on par with the rest of the society."

[Translation]

In my view, this also does not hold any water. This is also not applicable to my region. Our hilly backward region is inhabited only by the backward castes. There are backward castes, minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in backward areas. If you compare these non-prosperous lots with the prosperous ones, you will have to give priority assistance to backward castes, you will have to give more emphasis on this. Probably then only you would be able to bridge this gap. Even after this efforts, probably there will exist this gap between minorities and other backward castes in the hilly regions- and this is likely to increase in the future.

Sir, I have only three demands. A separate arrangements should be made for our hilly areas and we should be given a separate Uttarakhand state. With these words I conclude and extend my thanks to you.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given me this opportunity after a gap of four days for which I express my thanks to you. I wanted to dwell on many subjects but as the situation demands, I would like to confine myself only to the Jammu-Kashmir issue.

A mention has been made in the President's Address about the elections held in the state of Jammu-Kashmir. These elections were conducted by the U.F. Government for which I want to congratulate them. In my view, more than this U.F. Government the then Congress Government deserved our congratulations for they had decided to conduct the elections in an entirely different situations. Apart from the Congress party, the then Governor of the state and other personal of security forces deployed there sat together and chaled out the plan to hold the elections in the state.

Lok Sabha election in Jammu-Kashmir were held after a long gap of seven years. Therefore I hold that initiative was taken by the Congress party and they deserved our congratulations the most. I also congratulate you for having conducted the assembly elections successfully.

Sir, the people of J and K have given a clear mandate to the National Conference Party and we have respected that mandate by offering our support to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and his party. Our offer is very constructive. We have decided to support him on issues pertaining to the problems of poverty and other ones. After a period of seven years of political wilderness, Farooq Saheb and his party has come back to power but we find that there is no change in his style of functioning. We were under the impression that there would have been some changes in his style, otherwise it is the same as it was earlier. I would only say that your party

[Shri P. Namgyal]

has crossed over to number 14 from the unlucky number 13 and the National Conference has become your secret sharer. Therefore, if any thing goes wrong you will be held equally responsible for that. I would only say, as I have said earlier also, that the National Conference rode to power on the basis of only one issue. They said that their party would bring back Jammu-Kashmir to the 1952 position i.e. except for Defence, External Affairs and Communications, all other subjects will be controlled by the state itself. Earlier we have opposed this move and in future also we will oppose it for its consequences will not be in the interest of our nation. People will start raising same voice from every region which may disintegrate India. Therefore, we would welcome only regional autonomies under the existing system. But if you want to go back to 1952 position, then certainly we are going to oppose it.

Sir, as far as the law and order situation is concerned, certainly it has improved quite a lot after the elections. At some places it has improved but at some other places we have seen no improvement. This is my view. Chaman Lal ji has endorsed my view already, particularly in respect of Doda. He said that situation in Doda has further worsened. He has said so very correctly which is beyond any doubt. The Government should pay much of their attention towards this problem. In view of this, I would request you to again give a free hand to the Security Forces which they were given earlier to check the terrorists in the valley.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are ringing the bell but I want to cover certain issues of my region Laddakh. You must be knowing that there is an Autonomous Hill Council in my region on the lines of Autonomus Council in Darjeeling. Our Council had demanded from the State Government to accord the Chairman of this Council the status of a Cabinet Minister, like the one given by West Bengal to the Chairman of Darjeeling Hill Council. We did not say anything as new. But an advise came from the State Government suggesting us to give the Chairmanship to a member of National Conference then they would accord him the status of Cabinet Minister. They would not give this status to any congressman. There is nobody in the Council from National Conference. They had boycotted the Lok Sabha elections...*(Interruptions)* You are ringing the bell, so far only our four people have spoken whereas we are five in number. On this issue, I would request the hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly intervene. Terrorism have reached our region Laddakh also and the incidents of Bomb blasts are taking place there. The Government should address itself to our problems. We are grateful to our Prime Minister that he has announced a financial package for J and K state but it does not include the name of Laddakh anywhere. Prime Minister had also gone to Laddakh. There also he had promised that he would be giving some special fund to the region. Ours is a very typical problem. Our region is not that much affected by terrorism as the valley is. But we have to go through the terrorist infested area in order to reach our places in Laddakh. Due to this there comes a lot of

difficulties in making special supplies to these areas and ultimately it is hindering our development. Therefore you should pay your attention towards funding us. Unless you pay your attention towards this problem you, will not be able to resolve our problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether it is your last point?

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : No, this is my real point. Farooq Saheb has given a statement on the matter of J and K that let us get the matter resolved by converting the existing Line of Actual Control (LAC) into a permanent International Border. I think that is for the first time he has talked seriously.

They have given this suggestion for the first time but the Laddakh Congress had suggested this measure in 1993 itself when Congress was in the power at centre. We had submitted this proposal even before the European delegation who were on their visit to Laddakh, the Kashmir valley and Jammu. We had submitted a memorandum to them.

*[English]*

suggesting the same thing with minor adjustment here and there.

*[Translation]*

Like there is Hazipur area. We had suggested that this area should remain with us. They discussed about Chhamb. We told them that we should get Chhamb also. Another thing is that there cannot be any compromise on the matter of Siachin. A delegation of United Nation Human Right Commission had also visited our region. We gave them the same suggestions. We told them also that this is the only solution to the J and K problem.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : What is the point of Congress Party, please tell us.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I am talking about Congress. You people sit in Delhi and talk very high but we have to face the enemy directly. This is our matter. We want some kind of solution to this problem. Today Nawaz Sharief is in the power in Pakistan. This is for the first time that a party in Pakistan has got a two-third majority...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Namgyal ji, now please conclude.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I am going to finish. Sir, what is happening in Afganistan. Taliban has occupied two-third part of Afganistan. How did Taliban came into existence? ISI, CIA and a couple of other forces had conspired for this purpose. General Zia-ul-Haq imparted training to the unemployed and jobless youths in colleges and schools. They were made fundamentalists. Recently Afganistan was invaded. You must be knowing that these forces had given Taliban a twenty days' contract by paying them 95 million dollar per day. The Talibans had assured these forces that in case they are paid 95 million dollar per day they will take Afganistan under their possession. But they could not achieve success in those twenty days. That period was extended for another five days. But even after that they failed to achieve

success. Their strategy was that after the possession of Afganistan their next move would be to march towards Kashmir and invade it. That danger is still looming large which needs the Governments' immediate attention for resolving the Kashmir problem permanently. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I extend my support to the President's Address.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Sharad Yadav. While welcoming the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I would like to make certain observations in regard to the form of Government now ruling the country.

It is a welcome feature that the United Front Government has been formed under Shri Deve Gowda in order to keep the fascist forces at bay. But I would like to make an observation here to the members of the ruling party—the United Front, as well as the main party supporting the Government — that they have come to this agreement to continue with the United Front Government with a view to having a secular Government for the country. The secular forces, both in the United Front as well as in the supporting parties, are having certain differences on certain vital points. Whatever be the differences of opinion among the parties who are in the Government and also the parties which are supporting the Government, they must always bear in mind that any difference of opinion among the secular forces would only help those who are to take over the power - the fascist forces and the communal forces.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagadh) : What is the definition of secularism, Ahamedji?

SHRI E. AHAMED : I will reply to your question after my speech.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, it is time for the Congress party to take over the responsibility to have a wider front of the secular forces in the country as it is perhaps the largest secular force in this country.

There is absolutely nothing wrong for the Congress Party to have a discussion and if necessary to agree to a new Common Minimum Programme with a view to have a stable, viable and an effective Government at the Centre and also in order to keep these fascists and communal forces away from taking over the power of this country. I am sure that it is the responsibility of the Congress Party as well as those secular forces and parties in the United Front Government. They should not forget to discharge their most important responsibility in the best interests of this country as well as for the secular and democratic polity of this country. My party, the Indian Union Muslim League had already taken a stand, despite the difference of opinion amongst the secular parties in the United Front Government and any other party in the larger interests of this nation, that the secular forces are to forge a unity for the purpose of

maintaining a secular and democratic Government at the Centre.

I may take only a few minutes to bring certain matters to the attention of the United Front Government so as to remind them of the non-implementation of the points they had mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme, the Magna Carta of the United Front Government. It is always known that many of the assurances which have been mentioned have not been implemented, of which I would like to mention certain assurances given to the minority community. Even in the President's Address, it is mentioned that the interests of the minorities would be protected. I would like to know from the hon. Ministers of the Government what are the interests that they have protected so far in the contexts of the issues raised by the minority community in the country. It is seen in the Common Minimum Programme that the United Front Government was founded on the plank of secularism and democracy.

It was sure that there was a threat to secularism at the time of the demolition of the *Babri Masjid*. After the demolition, all the parties who are now in the United Front had been propagating from the housetops that they will do justice to the minority interests in respect of the *Babri Masjid* reconstruction. Even some of the Ministers had assured the community when they were in the Opposition that as soon as they come to power, the *Babri Masjid* would be reconstructed, but it is still only a hallow promise which remains there. I am just referring to the Common Minimum Programme wherein it is mentioned: 'The contentious issue of *Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhooni* will be referred to the Supreme Court under article 138(2) of the Constitution. Stringent steps will be taken to implement the Protection of the Places of Worship Act.'

Firstly, it is mentioned that article 138(2) will be invoked in respect of the *Babri Masjid*. As soon as it has been announced, my Party has welcomed it. Even now, we ask, 'Why has it not been referred to? If there is any reason for the Government not to refer it to the Supreme Court, they are to explain the reason to the nation, especially to the community. Therefore, I would like to remind the Government that whatever commitments they have in respect of the *Babri Masjid* and to the nation at large as well as to the community, they have to keep it up.

The second promise that I would like to remind - which they have forgotten - is with respect to the 15-point Programme. In the Common Minimum Programme, it is mentioned: 'The United Front Government will review and if necessary enlarge the 15-point Programme for the minorities and ensure the implementation of the programme.'

I would like to know what steps have the Government taken so far to review the 15-point Programme and enlarge it, if it is found necessary.

17.00 hrs.

So, I would like to mention that many State Governments have not so far implemented the points

[Shri E. Ahamed]

mentioned in the 15-Point Programme. The minorities have not been given their due. Of course, we have been getting something in Delhi. Sir, in a light vein, I should say that in the month of Ramzan, there were a lot of Iftar parties. Every Minister was giving Iftar party. Are we to satisfy only with Iftar parties of the Ministers? You must also have something more. Therefore, the United Front Government should do something better, concrete and practicable for the members of the minority community.

Thirdly, I would like to mention about TADA prisoners. TADA had been allowed to lapse. It had been scrapped. The TADA prisoners are languishing in jails. I do not want that any culprit is released without trial. I would say that in a democratic polity the rule of law should prevail. Under the rule of law if a prisoner who is languishing in a jail is guilty, he should be tried by a proper court of law. If he is an innocent person, he should be released. This was what we had raised along with the members of the United Front Government. I do not know why the United Front Government have forgotten their commitments they had made to the country. I, myself, had raised this issue in the last two Sessions on the floor of the House but unfortunately I did not get any reply with respect to the policy or the decision of this Government in respect of TADA prisoners who are still languishing in jails. Therefore, I would like to remind the Government that they must come out with a statement with respect to their policy towards those prisoners who are languishing in jails. I am given to understand that even the Review Committee is not holding its meetings to review the cases of the prisoners of TADA.

Another important matter I would like to mention is about the representation of the members of the minority community in the administration. There are no higher officials representing the minority community in the Government. I do not want to say that the rights and privileges of any other section should be given to the minority community. As citizens of this country, whatever is legitimately and legally due to them, should be made available to them. It is a backward community both socially and educationally. It has twelve per cent of our population. But, subject to correction, it does even have three per cent representation in the Government services. This was the information given to me. I urge upon the United Front Government to bestow their attention to it.

Sir, with only one word, I would like to conclude my speech. There is also a welcome feature in the President's Address which I would like to quote. In Para 41, it is stated :

"With Pakistan, we are committed to ending confrontation and establishing a harmonious relationship and durable peace, as provided for in the Shimla Agreement. We believe that fostering people-to-people contacts and promoting trade and economic links will contribute to this process. We are ready for

a dialogue with the new Government of Pakistan and hope for an early resumption of talks."

I hope the new Government of Pakistan under Mr. Nawaz Sharief will positively respond to it. I will avail of this occasion to remind Leaders across the border that they must always bear in mind that the best interest of Pakistan lies in having the best relationship with a country like India. The neighbouring relationship with India is the best in the interest of Pakistan. I am sure the Leaders will also respond to the wishes of the majority of the people of Pakistan to have the best of relationship and also to normalise the relationship with the people of India. The people of India are always responsive to the positive approach in this direction.

With this hope, I support the Motion moved by Shri Sharad Yadav.

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, supporting the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I wish to mention a few points.

The Address explains the achievements of the Government in the past. It also explains the scheme of performance and the transactions that would be carried on in future. At a time, when the Government was formed, no single party was in a position to take up the responsibility and. So, by the combination of different parties or — those were the circumstances at that time — a combination of secular parties, the Government was formed under the banner of a Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, the nation would have plunged into an election if this Government had not been fomed at that time. Thus this Government has saved the nation from the strains of another election. The interested parties have created suspicion among the people that this Government is not a stable Government and have questioned the stability of the Government by making a false propaganda.

This Government is a new experiment and has proved to be a stable Government by its performance and with good achievements. The Common Minimum Programme is the harmonious blending of the ideas and ideologies and principles and policies of different parties embeded in its. The Government is committed to implement the Common Minimum Programme ... (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, it is a very important discussion, but there is no Cabinet Minister in the House

MR. CHAIRMAN : Three Ministers are there in the House and Mr. Ramoowalia will come back.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Our experience is that when there is a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, senior Ministers listen to the views of the hon. Members. That is why I am saying. If I am right, that is the practice in this House.



[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH) : Only we three people are here to listen the hon'ble members.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ramoowalia has taken permission and he will come back.

SHRI N. DENNIS : The Government is committed to implement the Common Minimum Programme and by the implementation of the CMP several problems faced by the people would be solved. Within a period of eight months the Government has proved its maturity in performance and achievements.

Regarding economy, I would say that it is in the path of growth and stability which can be seen from the fact that we have a comfortable foreign exchange reserve of 19.5 billion US dollars. Thus, international and internal confidence is created and a favourable atmosphere is achieved for the foreign investment in our country. The policies and procedures are simplified for quicker clearance of projects.

Agricultural growth has to go side by side with the industrial production for the removal of poverty and unemployment.

Though the food production has increased, we cannot be complacent on the ground that the per unit production of wheat or rice is lower than the per unit production of wheat or rice in other countries. Moreover, the per capita availability of food in our country is also lower than the per capita availability of food in other countries. The rate of population is increasing faster than that of the food production.

The condition of agricultural labourers is an area of concern and attention has to be paid for their development and progress. Agro based industries have to be established in the rural and backward areas.

Fisheries is one of the sectors in agriculture and the conditions of fishermen have to be taken care of. As the fishermen are poor, they are fully depending on sea and fishing is their only occupation. The fishermen have to be supplied with fishing materials and also equipments. Now, there is sea erosion in several parts of our sea coast. They are not in a position to operate their fishing vessels into the sea because the natural berthing places have been damaged. So, fishing harbours have to be opened wherever it is necessary.

Regarding the Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Programmes, they are strengthened with increased allotment but the banks are not helpful and are causing delay in releasing the amount sanctioned by the authorities. The purpose of these programmes is defeated because of the undue delay caused by the bank authorities. The loans sought by the applicants for opening industries and other things under this scheme have to be released in time.

I am happy to point out that in the Chief Minister's Conference held in last July, a decision has been taken for providing seven basic amenities like drinking water, food, shelter and other basic amenities to the poor people and an amount of Rs. 2,216 crore has been allotted for this purpose with an intention to implement this scheme. It is seen now that about 32 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line and they are without these basic amenities.

With the introduction of the new Public Distribution System, which is intended for the poor, about 32 crore people would be benefited by subsidised foodgrains.

Mid-Day Meals Scheme would be extended throughout the country from April 1997

The condition of physically handicapped persons deserves sympathetic consideration and they have to be helped with concrete programmes.

Regarding the achievements of this Government, it is not possible to achieve everything overnight. No Government would achieve all these things within a short time. More so in a wide country like ours with problem of huge magnitude. In the given circumstances, atmosphere and time, this Government has performed well with the tremendous achievements within a short period of eight months. To cite examples, the Inter-State Council meeting which was not held for several years was conducted by this Government. So also, the meetings of the National Development Council and the Chief Ministers' Conferences are held periodically. These would provide opportunities for discussion and solution to several problems.

The Government propose to eradicate corruption in public life and it showed its intention to solve this problem, to remove and eradicate this menace by the introduction of Lok Pal Bill.

The election in Jammu and Kashmir was conducted after several years in a sensational and anxious circumstances though troubles were fomented from across the border. Apart from this, after and before the election itself, economic packages were given to the people of Kashmir. Similarly, steps were taken for providing economic packages to the people of the North-Eastern States for their uplift and also for the uplift of educated unemployed. The illiterate unemployed people have also been helped. Elections were conducted in Punjab also.

Regarding foreign policy, our relations with foreign countries have considerably improved. The visits of foreign dignitaries and Heads of States of neighbouring and other countries to our country and the visit of our Prime Minister to foreign countries have enhanced the relations of our country with other countries. Our ties and relationship with other countries have improved and thereby trade and commerce also progressed well. In this connection, I would like to point out the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangalore to our country and the agreement arrived at for sharing of the Ganga water and similarly the conclusion of Mahakali Treaty with Nepal regarding joint utilisation of water, the recent visit of the President of the People's Republic of China and

[Shri N. Dennis]

normalisation of our relationship with Pakistan, all these approaches improved our relations with foreign countries. So also with regard to our relationship with other countries, we have considerably improved our approaches.

Regarding the promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the National Highways Act of 1955 and also the National Highways Authority of India Act 1988 would facilitate the speedy land acquisition and also enable the private participation in the road construction work, I would like to say that that is an area wherein the allocation is very low and it is not meeting the requirement. It is too inadequate. When the Ordinance is made as a law, it would make road formation, construction and maintenance in a better way which is highly essential.

Due to the increase in the vehicular traffic, the demand for oil is very high. So it is highly essential to make more allocation for exploration and production of oil.

The last point that I would like to point out is regarding the explosion of population in our country. The fruits of our developmental activities would not yield the desired result if the population is not controlled to the minimum. Death and infant mortality rates are reduced. Birth rate has to be reduced to a lower level.

The increase of production of foodgrains has its limits. The percentage of literacy in our country has increased. But at the same time the number of illiterates has gone up due to population explosion. So, zero percentage of birth-rate has to be achieved by the turn of the century. An important point would suggest is that legislation has to be enacted for the adoption of one-family-one-child norm in our country so as to enable the fruits of our developmental activities are fully enjoyed by people

Lastly, I would say that the performance of this Government during even within a short period is encouraging and I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on President's Address is almost in its final stage. The Ministers in this Government are from ten different parties. This is the United Front of 13 Parties and one party is extending support from outside. First of all, I would like to thank the Congress party for having stated that they would extend issue based support which is a very responsible statement indeed. We have seen the fate of unconditional support extended earlier in this House. Once the Congress Party had given unconditional support to the Government led by Shri Charan Singh which was withdrawn without any prior notice resulting in the fall of that Government. In 1989, once again the party sitting on the Opposition benches extended unconditional support to V.P. Singh Government. That too was unnecessarily withdrawn. They did not ever give any clarification to people regarding the issue on

which support was withdrawn. Thereafter, the Congress Party once again gave its support to Chandra Shekhar Government. That too was unconditional support. However without any intimation and without giving any notice, the Congress again played truant. Thus, the Chandra Shekhar Government also fell...*(Interruptions)* You simply stated that you were withdrawing the support. That is why you are in this position today. Now the Congress Party is caught in a trap. This is the fate of issue based support. If they try to backtrack from their commitment, the public will confront them and ask them about the issue which proved to be an impediment in the way of support. That is why, I am saying that this Government would last for a term of full five years. They have no way out to backtrack this time. This is a peculiar combination having a secular character. This Government has been formed to keep secularism alive. At the time of formation of this Government, a common programme had been evolved and the Government should always keep it in view. Even if one does not go through the entire text of the Common Minimum Programme, one must keep in mind its third para wherein it has been stated :

[English]

"The United Front Government will not be a replacement of one set of rules by another. It will mark the beginning of an alternative method of Government based on federalism decentralised accountability, equality and social justice, economic and political reforms, respect for human freedoms and openness and transparency which will ensure the dignity of both the nation and the individual citizen."

[Translation]

This para sums up the entire programme. We will have to deliberate on the President's Address in the context of this very extract in order to find out the factual position. It is all right if everything is covered within the Programme but if the Government tried to transcend, it will have to be careful. This Government has completed only eight months in power. This Government was formed with an objective to check the communal forces and it has been successful on this count. If we take into account the achievements of this Government from that point of view, it also includes setting up of Inter-State Council and holding its meeting. If we think of federalism, it is not possible without the Inter-State Council. Secondly, the meeting of National Development Council is also going to be held. Thirdly, first round discussion of the Planning Commission has already taken place. Fourthly, elections have been held in Kashmir after a gap of nine years and a Government has been formed there. Our colleagues from the Opposition benches criticise by saying that the elections were held there at gun-point and the military personnel cast their votes first. It does not behave well on your part to say like this because the representatives elected from that state are sitting right here with you. In case no B.J.P. member had been elected from Kashmir, then your allegations would have

been viewed as a credible statement. Have the B.J.P. candidates also won the elections at gun point? It is not right to say such things against those who have won on the basis of votes cast by the people.

The Government has taken a new stand regarding N.P.T.C. and C.T.B.T. which is a very big achievement. Our relations with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka have improved. The entire House should express its gratitude to this Government in this regard.

However, this Government also stands to be criticised on certain points. It has been stated in the third para of its C.M.P :

[English]

"The United Front Government will not be a replacement of one set of rulers by another".

[Translation]

How far is this statement true. We have to see as to whether this Government is running on the basis of this very principle or not. So far as the economic policy, the industrial policy and the labour policy are concerned, this Government is following the foot steps of the Congress. How long would this continue? It is the uppermost point in our minds. It is regrettable indeed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Hossain, are you yielding?

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Yes, Sir.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : During the last Congress regime, the same economic policies were pursued and during that period, my learned friend's Party has conducted at least three *bandhs* and six general strikes in the country. Will his Party think about repeating the *bandh* again because we are following the same economic policies?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I would like to inform all those who are raising these queries that my party has its own policy and we will function in accordance with the policy of the Left Front. Please do not think that I would not raise my voice against the United Front just because the Left Front is a constituent of the United Front. I have my own theory—Unity Strengthens Unity and this is the principle which we follow. If the need be, we will organise 'bandh' and our partymen will come out on the roads but you should not think that we will topple the Government. In order to strengthen the Government and to pressurise the Government whichever...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Then Why do not you join the Government?

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : We are very much a part of the Government and a part of the United Front.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Your leader Shri Jyoti Basu has stated that they have lost an opportunity to join the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the chair. Do not reply to them.

[English]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : No, I am not going to answer any question...(Interruptions) Please do not try that I lose my temper...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

My friends from Congress party are surprised on this point. Something has been said about the Industrial Sickness at page 8 of the CMP of the UF. However, we see today that the N.T.C. and the I.D.P.L. workers are on the roads. The Congress did not do anything about it, but you have made a commitment...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA (Serumpore) : It was the Congress which has initiated for the settlement of the problems of the N.T.C. workers.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue with your speech. Why are you getting distracted?

[English]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : But that has not been implemented by you. That is the trouble.

[Translation]

The Government is not acting on the point mentioned in the programme regarding Industrial Sickness and rehabilitation. N.T.C. and I.D.P.L. workers are sitting idle. What is the matter?

About L.I.C. also, you have stated at page nine:

[English]

"We have gained considerable experience in the working of the banking sector. The said experience will be applied to the restructuring of the insurance industry. But, at the same time, public sector companies like LIC, GIC etc. will be strengthened".

[Translation]

But the Government is thinking of going in for privatisation. If the Government allows the privatisation of the L.I.C., foreign capital will flow in but the money of the people of our country will flow out to foreign countries. There is no need to go in for privatisation of L.I.C. what kind of policy do you have here? The Government is considering the option of privatising the entire power sector. This was the policy of the Congress to have foreign investment upto 51 percent of the total required capital in 16 industries. Now it has been mentioned in the President's Address that there would be foreign capital investment upto level of 74 percent in heavy industries. We have been Opposing Congress policies for years together and you too have been raising voice against their policies. Nothing has been said about the privatisation of coal industry. Moreover, it has not been criticised. This Government too has been smitten with the obsession of privatisation. The Government has thrown the doors open for the entry of foreign

[Shri Syed Masudal Hossain]

companies. The Government is also thinking about making certain changes in the FERA under the pressure of big Industrial Houses.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : That has been dropped.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Similarly, the Government has issued orders regarding the import of certain items. The Government has opened its doors for all such items as cars, electronic goods, air conditions and cosmetics.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : There is Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola also.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : These companies had come during your regime. There is a big difference between your programme and your policy. We have to keep the promises made to the people. The World Trade Organisation is exerting pressure on the Government. The Congress too is against this agreement. Voices are being raised against WTO even within those parties which are part of the Government which has signed this agreement. This is the opportunity which can be used for coming out of it. Hence the Government should make such an effort despite pressure being mounted by the I.M.F. and the World Bank and heavy debt burden on the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : If you say so, I would conclude right now. I want to raise some more point. I wish to speak on Economic survey also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may raise all these points during the discussion on budget.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : The points that he has made make a lot of sense. Whatever he has said about the entry of Multinational companies in India is very much true. Please let him carry on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already spoken on that issue. Please sit down.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I express my gratitude to Shri Kalpnath Rai.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not stretch it further. A number of Members are yet to express their views.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I thank Shri Kalpnath Rai for having supported me. Shri Nitish Kumar is not present here. Whatever I have heard during the course of discussion was a mere fault finding exercise. Now of the speakers has gone into the depth to critically evaluate the contents of President's Address. He did not even spare the C.P.I. (M) for having joined hands with the Congress. He is not present in the House at this moment. He is a follower of Ram Manohar Lohia. It is under compulsion that some of his followers are sitting on this side whereas some other followers such as George Sahib and Kalpnath Rai Ji are sitting on the other side. Some of the followers are in the B.J.P. also. The 14 constituent parties of the Government will have to keep in mind that the circumstances have brought us

together. We are against some of your policies. We are against your economic policy. We have been raising our voice against this very economic policy for years together and this Government has been formed to counter the threat posed by the Communal forces. We would like to work in union throughout the five year term.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard the President's Address on 20th February very intently and for the last two days I have been hearing the speeches of my colleagues, especially from the United Front. I am amazed and surprised about the investigative abilities of our United Front friends. According to them, it is one of the very good Presidential Address. They have invented some positive points in this Presidential Address, which is otherwise dry, drab and without any direction, as they have invented a national leader in our hon. Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda. When I read through the Presidential Address...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : You are from Karnataka.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Therefore I know him very well from a very close vicinity. But there is nothing personal against him.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue with your speech or else you'll lose time.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : But they are interrupting me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am addressing the Chair.

[English]

Sir, the Presidential Address lacks direction, commitment and political will; more than anything, it lacks hope for the future which should be the basic thrust of a Presidential Address. My friends from the United Front have said in their speeches that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government has been a 13-day wonder. It has been a 13-day wonder. It will resurrect again. But unfortunately, here is a conglomeration of parties which has been a 13-party blunder. Now, one more party has joined them...*(Interruptions)* When it was formed it was a 13-party blunder. Now, one more party has joined with a new honeymoon in Srinagar.

Sir, the speciality of the United Front is, especially of the Janata Dal, that they are fighters. They fight: if they do not get anybody to fight, they fight among themselves...*(Interruptions)* In Karnataka especially, Shri Ramakrishna Hegde and Shri Deve Gowda came together twice and they parted twice. When I see this phenomenon, I feel and people jocularly say that it is a matter of love at first sight and divorce after first night. They are coming together and parting away. It reminds me of an old film 'Amar Akbar Anthony'. Shri



Ramakrishna Hegde, Shri Bommai and Shri Deve Gowda came together in 1983 in front of the people, they parted in 1988, they again came together in 1994 and they have once again parted in 1996. I hope that the people would not be excusing this any more. Now, only two people are together.

In the Presidential Address there have been tall claims, especially about Panchayati Raj. It has been said :

"Panchayati Raj institutions and Nagar Palikas provide an ideal framework for planning, formulating and executing programmes for economic development and social justice."

Sir, Karnataka has been the home of Panchayati Raj institutions. My dear friend and colleague Member of Parliament from Bangalore (North), Shri Narayanaswamy is sitting here. He recently addressed a Press Conference in Bangalore regarding the position of Panchayati Raj system in Karnataka. He said:

"I am sorry to say that Karnataka which had become a model to other States by implementing Panchayati Raj system effectively has now lost its credit."

These are his words. He says further :

"The soul of Nazir Sahib, the champion of Panchayati Raj system in Karnataka must be stirring in the grave."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you quoting from the newspaper cutting?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Yes, Sir. I am quoting from the newspaper clipping and he can deny that.

It further says :

"Without mincing words I say that if we have the commitment to decentralise, the administrative changes in the present Act have to be made. I am saying this not as a Janata Dal worker but a person who has faith in the Panchayat system."

This amendment to the Panchayati Raj Act has been brought by the very Janata Dal Government and not by the Congress Government or not by the other Government. This is the way they are telling one thing here here in the Lok Sabha but doing exactly opposite to the same thing.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH (Chitradurga) : Sir, may I give a clarification?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. When you get an opportunity, you could give clarification.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, in Karnataka, we have got 88,000 Gram Panchayat members. These 88,000 Gram Panchayat members had an opportunity to elect  
..(Interruptions)

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI (Koppal) : Sir, I would like to know whether he is speaking on the President's Address or the Governor's Address...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, these 88,000 Gram Panchayat members comprise an electoral college to elect the members of the Legislative Council and local bodies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ananth Kumar, please try to confine to the President's Address. The debate is on the Motion of Thanks.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I am only taking the analogy.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, I am on point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, is he speaking in the Indian Parliament or the Karnataka Assembly?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I would answer the hon. Member's query through you.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has some point of order. Let him raise it.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, our friend is talking only about the Karnataka Assembly. Let him talk on the Presidential Address.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is no point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have already told him to confine to the President's Address.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, this is not his mistake. The Calcutta paper has said that Deve Gowdaji is the Prime Minister of Karnataka and Chief Minister of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, in Karnataka for Legislative Council from Gram Panchayat, there were people's representation. For that representation a Constitutional amendment was moved in this very House. I am not speaking about Karnataka. When that Constitutional amendment came before this august House my friends from the Treasury Benches, who speak of the sons of the soil and who speak of humble farmers, opposed it. They wanted to block it. I should congratulate Shri Sontosh Mohan Devji as well as my friend Shri Kondaiahji who is not present here. We sent the amendment. We said that you cannot remove the Gram Panchayat members from the electoral college of the Legislative Council through the Constitutional amendment Bill in the Parliament. For, you had given a word to the people of the country that you are going to give representation to the grass-root people. But when they were betraying the whole thing we had a floor coordination here and we sent the signals that you cannot do that. They had to withdraw the Bill and had to bring it in an amended form. Now, because of Bhartiya Janata Party and Congress, 88,000 Gram Panchayat members have got their voice in the Legislative Council of Karnataka. That goes to the credit of both the parties.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : But ultimately we withdrew the Bill.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : You had to. You were forced to do that. You do not have the number. You have got only 42. You should remember that sad fact.

Sir, our hon. Prime Minister day in, day out talks of probity in public life and he also talks of bringing the Lokpal Bill. He has said that the Government is concerned about corruption in public life and is determined to take the effective steps to eradicate this evil.

Sir, the charity should begin at home. When the Prime Minister holds such a high office and when he contemplates such high ideals, he should make himself available to such scrutiny. When in a book, namely, 'King of Corruption' by Prof. Venkatagiri Gowda, an hon. Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha wrote about him concerning many allegations...(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Sir, I am on point of order. Shri Venkatagiri Gowda is not a Member of this House now. He cannot make such a reference.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not refer to that.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, he cannot give further reference of that book because the matter is sub judice...(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : The matter is pending in a court of law. The matter is sub judice.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : It is sub judice and he cannot refer to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has mentioned that he is not referring to the contents of the book.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, the court has said..

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : Sir, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding. I am not referring to the contents of the book.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Members is not yielding.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not referring to the contents of the book.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : If he is not yielding, you may kindly permit us. I am referring to a court order.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Under what rule are they raising the point of order?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule? What is your point of order?

(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, the matter is sub judice

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is not *sub judice*. I can quote from Kaul and Shakhdar's Rule of Procedure.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : The matter is pending in a court of law.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Under what rule are you raising this point of order?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am just mentioning...

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : The matter is *sub judice*.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding; they are interrupting me...(Interruptions)

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Sir, kindly permit my point of order.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Under what rule are they raising this point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him raise his point of order.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am on a point of order. The matter is *sub judice*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule are you raising this?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am coming to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you coming to the rule?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : The fact is that there was an interim order of the court in Karnataka which had prohibited any publication of the contents of the book.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you should not refer to the contents of the book.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not referring to it. Prof. K.V. Venkatagiri Gowda, who was the hon. Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha, came out with a book "The King of the Corruption and the Unmaking of India" containing many allegations against our hon. Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda. I am not going into the allegations; I am not going into the contents of the book. But our hon. Prime Minister, day in and day out, sermonises the country about corruption in public life; he says that he will bring in a comprehensive Bill, Lokpal Bill, to check corruption. I demand that the hon. Prime Minister, when he comes here to give the reply to the debate, must make himself available to scrutiny by a House Committee.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : This matter is not before the House Committee. What a wrong demand the hon. Member is placing in this House! When it is not before the House Committee, how can he go for scrutiny? The hon. Member cannot speak whatever he likes...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not referring to the contents of the book.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not referring to the

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, this is not right our Hon'ble Colleague is delivering his speech and they are interrupting him again and again.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : This is an allegation.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Due to this kind of attitude of the Janata Dal, what happened in the recent by-elections in Karnataka? What happened in Ramanagaram? Where is Ramanagaram? Ramanagaram is an Assembly segment vacated by Deve Gowda ji. It was never held by Bharatiya Janata Party. Ramanagaram Assembly segment was held by Deve Gowda ji.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You try to confine yourself to the Motion that is before you.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister always quotes the examples from Karnataka. He has gone to Bangalore twenty-one times...(Interruptions) They should listen and they can reply later. In Ramanagaram Assembly segment, they were defeated by 9,500 votes. Our hon. Prime Minister does not have the forthrightness to enter the Lok Sabha. He is a wise man; he is an intelligent man.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you may conclude now because your Party has a number of speakers.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : My friend is quoting profusely from Dr. Venkatagiri Gowda. Kindly enlighten the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has not quoted from the book.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding...(Interruptions) In the Ramanagaram Assembly segment, Janata Dal lost its by—election by 9,500 votes. In Chickanakanahalli also, they lost the by—election.

When the Prime Minister, after vacating his recently held Assembly segment, has spoken in his address...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : You should give me some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken for more than 15 minutes and your party has a number of speakers. So, please conclude.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding. I am quoting from his speech on confidence motion :

"My people of Karnataka, five crore

population of Karnataka, have given the mandate to run the State without the support of anybody. I have the courage to tell this august House I have the people's support. On the people's support, I sat in Karnataka as a Chief Minister and ran the State Government for one and a half years."

I appreciate this. He had the support of the people of Karnataka in 1994. What happened in 1997? In 1997, he did not dare to enter Lok Sabha, facing people directly. Rather, he chose Rajya Sabha. That is all right. It is another part of the same Parliament. I am not denigrating it. But the question is, he lost his Assembly seat also. The people of Karnataka told him in loud and clear voice that "We are not voting you as the Prime Minister. We are rejecting you as a MLA also. Go back." That is the clear and loud message to Shri H.D. Deve Gowda...(Interruptions) They brought a film actor. They spent crores of rupees...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Regarding employment assurance, there have been vague references...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : The hon. Member says that they have spent crores of rupees. He has to prove it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party has a number of speakers who will speak on this subject also.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Regarding employment assurance, there have been only vague references in this President's Address. In the entire country, two crore educated unemployed are there...(Interruptions) Our hon. Prime Minister always quotes from Karnataka experience. He says "There we have got an employed person for each house." But for the 20 lakh educated unemployed in Karnataka and two crore educated unemployed in the entire country and eight crore uneducated unemployed in the country, there is no concrete plan whereas in his own house, he has given two employments. He has made one son a Minister. Another son has come and occupied the seat of an hon. Member in this House...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you should not refer to such things. I told you a number of times. You try to confine yourself within the motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : He himself is indulging in hereditary rule and nepotism in Karnataka...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you referring to that? I have told you not to refer to such things. Please try to confine to the motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am referring to that because in 1977, we together fought against the hereditary rule of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Now if the same person indulges in that, it is a betrayal of the faith.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You conclude, please. There are a number of speakers.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding. What has happened to the real sons of the soil of this country? What has happened to the farmers of this country? What has the Janata Dal done? What has the United Front Government's dispensation done?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you not concluding?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding now. To complete one sentence, it requires a little time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Conclude now, please.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : For the agriculturists, this Government has not promised anything. The Government has raised the rates of electricity power, urea and all the agricultural inputs. In the light of this, I do not support the Motion. I cannot thank the President's Address. I do not support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I request our friends of the United Front to hear the criticism with patience and generosity ...*(Interruptions)* I am not alleging anything about them. I am just putting in front of the House the case of nepotism, the case of corruption and the case of non-fulfilment of the employment assurance ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : They do not have the courage to face the truth. Hon'ble member has spoken the truth...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Why can you not conclude now?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The hon. Prime Minister has assured that he would be enunciating the National River Water Policy. He has assured both the Houses of

Karnataka about this. But that National River Water Policy has not been enunciated...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chitta Basu to speak now.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called Shri Chitta Basu to speak. Shri Ananth Kumar, take your seat, please. Why can you not conclude now?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : All the assurance have been given to the people and all the assurances have been betrayed. In the light of these things, I do not support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned the names of some Members who are the Members of the other House in Karnataka. So, they should be deleted from the records...*(Interruptions)* Those names should be deleted from the records...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you cannot refer to the names of Members who are not the Members of this House. So, I will go through the records. If it is found that some expressions are unparliamentary or they cannot be mentioned here, those things will be deleted.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I did not utter a single unparliamentary word.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Take your seat, please. I have said 'if'.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion. Where is the time to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can start. Then, the House will be adjourned.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which he has delivered in brilliant words.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can continue tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 28th February, 1997 at 11.00 a.m.

18.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 28, 1997/Phalgun 9, 1918 (Saka).*