

go about it. The question is, I do not know what his engagement in the Lok Sabha is.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will communicate this to the Union Home Minister. In fact, if you can give me a little flexibility, it can be between 3 and 4.30 P.M. There are other issues which can be taken up. Between 3 and 4.30 P.M., we will have a statement from the Home Minister, after he has obtained whatever information he can from the Government of Karnataka. He will come with whatever information he is able to obtain from the Government of Karnataka, and certainly, the hon. Members can seek clarifications.

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Sir, you have given your ruling. But when the king has died just now, I can postpone my mourning till tomorrow! It is just like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As a matter of fact, hon. Members the concern has been shown by all sections of the House even just now and the concern must have reached Bangalore through the wire. There is no doubt about it. When the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition speak, all parties speak, and it means the concern of the House. Procedurally, we can express much better. Now, the right of the Member to raise a Calling Attention Motion should also be allowed. During the whole Session, we could not have many. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of mounting non-performing assets of banks

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, through this Calling Attention Notice, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to the situation arising out of the mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) of many of the public sector banks and the need for urgent steps for restoration of the health of such banks.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, asset classification and income recognition norms were initially applied to banking sector in 1992 and banks started asset

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classification and identification of NPAs on objective basis of defaults/record of recovery from 1992-93. After stabilization of identification norms and accounting of NPAs with concerted efforts over the period, the NPAs have been coming down in percentage terms. In percentage terms, gross NPAs which were 17.84 per cent of the total advances as on 31.3.1997 have fallen to 15.89 per cent of total advances as on 31.3.1999. However, in absolute terms, the net NPAs of public sector banks have increased from Rs. 20285 crore as on 31.3.1997 to Rs. 24211 crore as on 31.3.1999, while declining as a percentage of net advances from 9.18 per cent to 8.13 per cent during the same period.

There are a number of factors for an asset turning into non-performing. Some are internal, namely, wrong selection of project, deficient credit appraisal, managerial inefficiency, lack of supervision by banks/FIs, lack of adequate, timely and continued support by the lending institutions and in some cases diversion and misutilisation of funds by the borrowers. However, a number of NPAs arise on account of external factors such as changes in policies, changes in technology rendering some products obsolete and some processes relatively costly, environmental concerns leading to decisions of Courts on relocation of industrial units and industry level factors such as cyclical downturn in some sectors.

Having regard to the variety of reasons that had led to NPAs, the RBI and the Government as well as public sector banks have taken a number of steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPAs but also to ensure the recovery of NPAs. The steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India, Government of India and the public sector banks include the preparation of documents of loan recovery policy, reduction through negotiated settlement ensuring maximum recovery at minimum cost, strengthening the Debt Recovery Tribunal mechanism, setting up of settlement advisory committee and focusing on recoveries by setting up recovery cells at Head Offices.

In order to strengthen the Debt Recovery mechanism an Ordinance has been promulgated on 17.1.2000 to amend the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. I may add, as the Secretary-General has said, that this has been passed by the other House and will be coming before this House. The Ordinance provides, *inter alia*, for set-off and counter claims, measures for prevention of alienation of property, appointment of receivers and commissioners by the Tribunals, appointment of

more than one recovery officer, and empowering the Tribunals to distribute the sale proceeds among secured creditors in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. In addition to DRTs and DRATs, which have either been set up or at an advanced stage of being set up, I propose to set up 4 more DRTs in Mumbai and one each in Calcutta, Delhi and Chennai.

Sharing of credit-related information on borrowers and potential borrowers is an input to improvement in credit decisions. A Credit Information Bureau to facilitate this is being set up.

Banks as financial intermediaries are in a business activity that necessarily involves risks. The attempt has been, and must continue to be, to put in place systems that minimize risk, promote and create productive assets and increase profitability and viability of banks. Government is fully committed to providing credit support for agriculture, industry and business, while fully ensuring the soundness of financial system and good health of banks.

SHRI RAGHAVJI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)... सभापति महोदय, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है । आज राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर बहस होनी है, उसमें यह विषय भी शामिल है । इसके अलावा रिकवरी ऑफ डैट्स का आर्डिनेंस आ चुका है और लोकसभा द्वारा यह एक बिल के रूप में पारित भी हो चुका है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, this Calling Attention has been admitted. Are you questioning the right of the Chairman for admitting the question? Why are you raising it? ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please continue. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not a matter to be raised now. That you can say when your turn comes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I must profusely thank you for allowing me to raise the last Calling Attention of my Parliamentary career in Rajya Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am saying in Rajya Sabha.

Sir, the essential point is, I am constrained to say that my good friend, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, with whom I have worked in a number of Parliamentary Committees, including the last Parliamentary Committee on Securities Scam, is making an under-statement. I refrain myself from using a

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superlative term at the end of my tenure. Sir, it is an under-statement. So far as the figure that he has given regarding the NPAs, is concerned, it is completely an under-statement. I have with me a full list of the defaulters in the country, who have defaulted in the payment of the banks. I seek your kind permission to authenticate the same and place it on the Table of the House. If you kindly permit me, I will place it. I have also with me a list of a hundred leading defaulters in the country. Sir, I am in possession of the facts, indisputable facts, so far as the total NPAs (non-performing assets) of the public sector banks are concerned. The figure regarding the total NPAs of the banks in the country is Rs.58,000 crores, according to the Government's calculation. It is Rs.58,000 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*... Even that is also an under-statement, Rs.58,000 crores.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Maharashtra) : On which date?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: As on 31st March of the last year. And if we include the position of the last year, i.e. 31st December, 1999, it would be more. That is an under-statement. The figure concerning the non-performing assets of the banks in the country is in the range of one lakh crores of rupees because the Government figure does not include the interest during the period when this sum is to be recovered. The interest calculation is not made from the date when that particular amount is declared to be a bad debt. If you take into consideration the total payment on account of interest till date, then it is around one lakh crores of rupees in the country. If I go by the figure given by the Government, i.e. Rs.58,000 crores--which is the figure of the Reserve Bank, which the hon. Minister holds back from the House--I am constrained to say that out of Rs.58,000 crores, the default of the private corporate sector--Sir, please look at the crux of the matter--is Rs.35,000 crores which makes me come to the conclusion that it is precisely the big corporate sector which is responsible for the looting of public money in the country.

It is a big corporate sector. I have the names with me. I shall disclose some of the names much to the discomfort of not only Shri Yashwant Sinha, but also to the discomfort of the Governments which had been in power earlier. And I am privileged by the...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am privileged by the presence of the Leader of the Opposition who had been, at a point of time, leading the Ministry of Finance in this country. He had himself been the initiator of the new economic policy which is now being carried

forward with a greater vengeance by the present Government. Sir, the question is: what is the economic scenario? Please understand this. I wish the Members of the Government and the Members of the leading combination understand the climate. The climate is such that in one year, the NPAs have increased by Rs. 6000 crores. The hon. Minister has not shared that information. In one single year, the NPAs have increased by Rs. 6000 crores. This is the estimate given by the Reserve Bank of India. Sir, what is the economic climate? The economic policies, like the policy of liberalisation, the policy of globalisation and the policy of privatisation, have been let loose by the Government. Where will all these policies take the country to? It is for the protagonists of Swadishi, within the rank of the ruling combination, to kindly understand the severity of the crisis. It is for them to take up the battle within their party, as we are taking it up on the floor of the House. Sir, the position is such that the NPAs are on the rise. *...(Interruptions)...* No; I am not inciting you to fight any policy. I am only trying to draw the attention of the...*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): We will not fight like the CPI (M) and the CPI. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is a family affair and we can take care of it. *...(Interruptions)...* We can take care of it, without any outside intervention. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): You better join the BJP.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Do you want the people to be so opportunistic as to go to a party for a ticket? *...(Interruptions)...* Don't believe that people are of the same colour in this country. *...(Interruptions)...* Don't believe that is the greed of every individual in this country. Anyway, the question is : What is the economic scenario? The economic scenario is that the NPAs of the banks are on the rise. It is around Rs. 6000 crores a year. The provident fund default is on the rise. During the last several years, there has been an increase in the provident fund default by the big corporate companies by not less than Rs. 100 crores. That is also an underestimate because our papers, our accounting procedure and our administration is too incapable and unscientific to give us the correct information. Sir, the income-tax default is on the rise in the country. Just look at the scenario. Sir, we are confronted with increasing diversion of funds by the corporate sector

from the productive sector to the secondary market. Sir, there was a survey done by the Reserve Bank of India regarding the profitability of hundred leading companies of the country. It has shown that the profit had increased by less than one per cent, and that too because of the increase in the income of these corporates from the other sector, that is, from the secondary market speculation. Sir, therefore, the fact is that, people are diverting money from the productive sector to the speculative sector, much to the detriment of the national economic interest. Why am I raising this issue? I am not raising this issue as a routine matter, but because the national resources, the bank resources, the workers money and the Government's revenue is being looted through the route of income tax default. And the productive sector is being starved by diverting funds from the productive sector to the speculative sector.

This is the scenario, which explains the prolonged economic recession in the country. Despite the promises that the Finance Minister had to make while presenting the Budget, it is an admitted truth that the country is going through a process of prolonged recession. One of the reasons for the prolonged recession is the culture of default, the religion of default, the philosophy of default. Today, looting the public finance has become the most legitimate profession in the country. Looting the public money has become the most legitimate profession in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*..... I don't blame you singly. I blame the Governments that were in power. I blame the protagonists of liberalisation and privatisation. I blame the way in which this policy is being carried forward. The corporate sector is being given to understand that because of liberalisation they can do whatever they like, even if it is detrimental to the national interest. The position is this. The public sector banks have come under focus because of the calumny that has been unleashed after the publication of the Verma Committee report. The public sector banks have come under focus because of the report that has been published by the study team set up by the CII, which said that the four leading so-called sick banks must be liquidated. It has been subsequently found that those who had been speaking for banking norms, the authors of the report, were themselves defaulters in the payment of bank loans. The defaulters are coming forward with the remedy of closure so that the defaulters need not pay back the money. This is the tragedy of India. This is the tragedy of the policy that is being pursued. The nationalised banks are in focus because of the statement that the hon. Minister had made while

presenting the Budget. Privatisation of the nationalised banks is on the agenda. In the name of strengthening the so-called weak banks, re-organisation is the agenda. In the name of a remedy, voluntary retirement scheme is sought to be imposed on the employees. The situation is this. If anybody is to be blamed for the weakness of the banks, we have to blame the Government and its policy, its weak-kneed policy, its inability to enforce measures for the realisation of the debt. I also blame squarely the Parliament for its inability to force the Government to take measures. We have been forcing the Government on many issues to take measures. The Parliament has also to be blamed for its failure to force the Government to bring about a legislation for the realisation of the amount which has been defaulted by big corporate sector companies of the country. In view of the defaults, what is the situation? In view of the defaults, the situation is that everybody is getting away with the default which he is making.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already time.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I will take a little more time. I seek your indulgence.

Sir, the point is this. It is because of the mounting increase in the volume of non-performing assets that the capital adequacy of the banks is getting affected and it is because the capital adequacy norms are being affected by the mounting increase in the NPA that the Government seeks to take the just opposite decision. Instead of announcing a rigorous decision for realisation of the non-performing assets, the Government would like to say that the workers must go away because they belong to a bank where the non-performing assets are high. Instead of taking rigorous legislative measures for the realisation of the loan, the Government looks for virtual liquidation of the banks through the route of merger. Therefore, the crux of the issue is how to stop the loot of public money.

The Government is really shy of taking important decisions. How do I say that the Government is responsible? Not only the earlier Government but also the Government that is ruling the country now, is responsible. Why can the list of defaulters not be disclosed? I am having the list of defaulters with me. I seek your indulgence to lay it on the Table. Why can the list of defaulters not be published? Does the secrecy law stand in the way? The hon. Finance Minister- speaking of the right of depositors - will give the same right to the defaulters, as should be given to the genuine

depositors. Ingenuine defaulters take refuge under the cover of secrecy law to cover up their misappropriation. Secrecy law is there to protect the defaulters. Why can the Government not modify the law? Let there be a modification. The names of genuine clients can be kept secret. But those who default in the payment of loans; his or her name should be published. That is essentially the first and the most effective step to tear off the cover of respectability of many of the political patrons, of this group of crooks, who are ruining the economy. Let us tear off the mask of secrecy. Let the country know who are the defaulters. Why can't it be done? Dr. Manmohan Singh did not agree to my proposal. Mr. Yashwant Sinha does not agree to this proposal. There is a unique commonness in the programme and policy of the Government, although manned by divergent political parties. The corporate interests have been protected, but the interests of genuine depositors of the country, who have to suffer, have not been protected. The employees of United Bank had to suffer because somebody did not pay back the loan; because he had a patron in the corridor of power. The Indian Banks had to suffer because it is the political leaders who looted the Indian Bank in Tamil Nadu. It is the political leaders who looted the Bank. The employees of United Commercial Bank had to suffer because somebody from the ruling party suggested that this man should be given money. How can they do it? They can do it because political persons are appointed on the Board of the Bank. Chaturvedi, kindly remember, we worked together in the Parliamentary Committee on security scam. It was one of the recommendations we had made unanimously - an all-Party recommendation but it was thrown into the bin. We had recommended that the names of defaulters should be disclosed. Why could it not be done? What stands in the way? Secrecy for thieves! Let there be secrecy for genuine defaulters. Therefore, Sir, the most important thing the Government should consider is, question of tearing off the right of secrecy of a man or a group of persons who have defaulted in the repayment of a bank loan. Secondly, Sir, I would like to know why a default in the repayment of bank loans cannot be made a criminal offence? It is a civil offence now, Sir. Why can't this be treated as a case of cheating? Let it be under the Cr.PC. Let it be taken up as a case of cheating. Why is it treated as a civil offence? Since it is not treated as a criminal offence, the courts of our country are generous in giving stay orders, one after another. The defaulters have money to hire lawyers of different political brand to get a stay order one after another. I know of a case which has been

pending for the last ten years and the default still continues. Since there is a stay, he was moving about as a respectable gentleman, protected by the judicial system of the country; with the blessings of the administration and also with the connivance of political leaders. Therefore, why can't this be treated as a criminal offence? Why can't this be treated as a case of cheating? He is speaking of Loan Recovery Tribunals. What a mockery it is! Yashwant Sinhaji, what a mockery it is! How many Loan Recovery Tribunals are there in the country? How many Tribunals are working? How many are the judges? Sir, I had visited the premises of a Loan Recovery Tribunal in Bombay where the Judge even did not have a chair to sit. I also visited a Loan Recovery Tribunal at some other place where there was no room. A Tribunal has been set up but not a single room has been given to it. If a room has been given, there is no furniture. Therefore, it may be to the satisfaction of the hon. Minister, but it is of no use at all. Therefore, there must be adequate number of Loan Recovery Tribunals. But that is not the issue. There is a legal flaw. The legal flaw is this. If a Loan Recovery Tribunal gives a judgement, the judgement can again be challenged in a court of law. The generous judiciary comes to the aid of the defaulters in every part of the country. This flaw in the law must be remedied. Why can't there be a special law? Why can't there be a special court? Why can't there be a judicial, legalistic provision to ensure that the cases relating to non-payment of bank loans should be decided within a specific period of time? The Government does not have the political will. The Government does not have the administrative tenacity. The Government lacks in its commitment to recover the money that has been looted by the big corporate sector because the big corporate sector, I am constrained to say, plays a big role in politics. We need a corporate sector to fight elections. We need a corporate sector to finance the political parties. Sir, big money is playing a big role in the country. The big corporates are playing a big role even in the Parliament. Therefore, Sir, in order to create a situation where the power of big money can be curbed, it is necessary that laws are made more rigorous with regard to repayment, with regard to punishment and with regard to the process and procedure of trials.

Why can't bank loan clearance certificate be made obligatory for getting a new project cleared? We need income tax clearance. While getting a passport there is a need for clearance from the police. In the same way, why can't there be a provision for clearance from the bank on account of

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payment of loan before a new project is cleared, before a new loan is given? Why don't the political parties insist upon it? I am constrained to say so. We are having industrialists in the House. We welcome them. There may be newcomers also. Why don't the political parties make it obligatory that no defaulter will be allowed to get a ticket in the elections? Why? Why shouldn't income tax clearance and also clearance of bank accounts be insisted upon before he is given a ticket to fight elections? Why should it not be insisted upon? That will show as to what is the will of the political parties and the Government. Sir, it is essential that the system be tightened up. In order to tighten up the system, there has to be a special audit. I am demanding that there should be a special audit of banks. Let there be a special audit. The audit of bank accounts has become a mockery because auditors are appointed by the banks themselves. The Reserve Bank auditors do not look into the accounts in detail as they are called upon to do. Therefore, there are many things below the carpet. There should be a separate Audit Commission or the C&AG can take up the job. There should be an independent audit authority. -- whether CAG or something separate -- for the banks. And that will bring about timely disclosure of the irregularities that are being committed. I have reason to question the role of Directors who are there in the Board as Government nominees and as Reserve Bank nominees. It is through these Members of the Board of Directors that illegitimates are allowed to perpetrate. I demand from the Government that it must stop appointing political persons on the Board...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want the sense of the House. It is 1 o' clock...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I will just take three minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Let me take the sense of the House. Would the House like to continue this after lunch? After he completes, there are seven others.

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL (Uttar Pradesh) : This is Shri Gurudas Das Gupta's last Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We should allow him to continue. After that, we can adjourn for lunch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I have the list of the top defaulters. Sir, do you know who is the top defaulter? The top defaulter is Mr. Harshad Mehta. He has defaulted Rs. 800 crores. The trial is going on, but the man is leading a lavish life. And there are reports that Harshad Mehta, through his nominees, is playing in the Bombay stock market. The total default is Rs. 800 crores! They do not also calculate the interest. Why cannot his property be confiscated? Sir, the second biggest defaulter is Indian Chargecrome Limited, Bhubaneswar. It has defaulted Rs. 493 crores. The third defaulter is East West Travel Trade Links. I do not like to interpret it politically; we know its implications. The total default is Rs. 168 crores. The next is Mcneil Mckenzie, one of the top corporates of the country. The total default is Rs. 151 crores. The next is Maxwell Exim Food Limited. It is known everywhere where consumer interest is thriving; they are thriving in some cases, may be, at the cost of bank money. The Maxwell Exim Food Limited, Chennai, has political connections. The total default is Rs. 151 crores. The Modern Trades Limited, Jaipur, has defaulted Rs. 138 crores. The next is Dynametic Forging India Limited. Its default is Rs. 134 crores. The Madarshah India Limited has defaulted Rs. 132 crores. Messers Modi Spindall Wing Mills, Ghaziabad, -- Modi is known to you; he is known to all of us... (Interruptions)... Yes, I do not exclude myself. He is a well-known figure. In this case, the total default is Rs. 125 crores...

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Only?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is an underestimate because the interest has not been calculated for a period of time. It is a gross underestimate. Sir, I do not like to take your time. There are 100 names. I will just give one more name. The name is too familiar to Yashwant Sinha and to everybody. It is the Shaw Wallace -- Shaw Wallace, the great, which had looted the money of the workers, which closed down Dunlop and which led to committing of suicides by workers -- he is a criminal, who is also in this august list. And his default is Rs. 53 crores. It must be much more than this because it is an underestimate. Sir, there are many sensitive names; I do not like to embarrass many of their political patrons. But I have given the top names and the name of Shaw Wallace. What action have they taken? (Interruptions)... What is the remedy?... (Interruptions)... Please don't pollute the discussion ... (Interruptions)... Sir, this is wrong. Let the discussion be not polluted.

Sir, the question is about Chhabria. When the last Government was in power, all of my comrades together demanded action against Chhabria.

Sir, I only say, there was deceit. The Minister of Industry at that point of time had promised that action will be taken against Chhabria. At least the Board of Directors could be dismantled under the Company Law. That was the assurance. The great man has not come to Calcutta. He is there in an island, enjoying the protection of the loophole in the law. Government could have dismantled, Government could have dissolved the Board of Directors, under the strict provisions of Company Law. It was not done. The Chief Minister of West Bengal had to appeal to him to open Dunlop so that thousands of workers could get back their job. We have no power. Government has no power to bring him back to the country. The Central Government did not take action. Why is this softness? Why are you alarmingly soft to people who are delinquent on the one hand and hard on the other? Today morning, we discussed that the Government is taking recourse to, appealing to a court for changing a particular agreement that has been signed. Government is hard on workers and soft on people like Chhabria. Will you kindly take this into consideration while discussing *swadeshi*? Sir this, in short, is my submission. We had been fighting for this for the last fifteen years, ever since I came to Parliament. There have been a number of Parliamentary Committees, there have been a number of recommendations, there have been widespread resentment. There have been voices not in one party, but many parties. Everybody has been there. But Government did not move. May I expect most humbly, Sir, my hon. friend, Jaswantji, do a service to the nation, not by obliging -- I do not expect that -- but will he take care to do good to the country by announcing today some measures of effective nature, not announcing about a loan restructuring fund? Will he create a situation by taking some an effective, legal, measures so that the people who are looting the money of the country are brought to book? There should not be any political patronising, there should not be any political link. I demand of the Government to make its position clear. I demand of the leading political parties to say here and now that no defaulters will be allowed to come to participate in the elections. While thanking you profusely for granting me the opportunity, I thank my colleagues for enabling me to raise the last Calling Attention Motion during my Parliamentary career. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for lunch, till 2 O' clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at six minutes past two of the clock,

The Vice-Chairman (Shri Sanatan Bisi) in the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, with your consent, I would like to place an authenticated copy of the document on the Table of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Just a minute. Let me speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : Sir, today morning, the Chairman asked me to inform the Home Minister about the events in Karnataka and to report back between three and four. I have conveyed the information to the Home Minister, and he has also instructed the Karnataka Government to collect the facts. He has expressed the difficulty that it may not be possible for him to collect the facts and place it on the Table of the House today itself, and that he may be allowed to do it tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : That is all right.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, I would like to place on the Table of the House a copy of the list of defaulters of the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Are you continuing with your speech?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : He has concluded his speech.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, I have concluded my speech.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, there should not be any objection, if he is laying it on the Table of the House. The House would have the benefit of going through it, as he is authenticating it.

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : You write a formal letter, and then lay it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Okay, I will write a letter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Now, Shri Eduardo Faleiro.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa) : Sir, I just want to make a few comments. Firstly, why Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, the hon. Member from West Bengal, has to lay it on the Table of the House? Why can't the Minister disclose the names of these big borrowers? He speaks about banking secrecy, but we know of countries which are much more particular about banking secrecy. But when it comes to public interest -- of course, Switzerland comes to mind immediately -- they disclose the information. Public interest is paramount. That is one thing which I wanted to know. I would give an easier way out for the hon. Minister so that he can have a correct picture about the category of people who are really the defaulters. The Minister would be having the statistics. I want to know about the overdues, the total amount of overdues of loans, say, up to Rs. 50 lakhs, and then loans up to Rs. 1 crore, and then Rs. 5 crores and so on and so forth. It will become crystal clear that out of the huge amount of overdues, only 10 per cent has been recovered. This is what has been stated in the Economic Survey which was presented to Parliament by the hon. Minister. It is only 10 per cent! Huge amount of overdues is from the corporate sector and from big business. The reason why the banks are in this situation is because of the lack of will on the part of the Government and the captains in charge of our banks to recover this money. That is the point. What is the point in having non-performing Tribunals to recover the non-performing assets? Shri Gurudas Das Gupta said that Debt Recovery Tribunals don't even have a chair for the judge to sit; there is no room for the judge to sit. So, they are non-performing Tribunals. What is the point in having such non-performing Tribunals to look into non-performing assets?

We must have tribunals functioning very effectively. You must increase their number and you must recover this money. What bothers me about the strategy of the Finance Minister is this: Rather than going after the big borrowers, it is the small man who is being harassed and, in the process of harassing the small man, we are destroying the economy of this country; we are destroying the unity of this country. We are destroying national unity

because we are creating a distorted interpretation of the New Economic Policies. We are creating islands of prosperity amidst seas of poverty. It is not only the problem of the poor. There is also the problem of continuous instability, continuous conflict, which is creating a strong threat. The threat to national unity is not so much military, is not so much of any other sort. The threat to national unity is, first and foremost, the grave economic disparity that exists in this country between man and man, between State and State and between region and region. Therefore, Sir, my question to the Minister is: What are you going to do, at long last, to recover, on a war footing, these loans from the big borrowers.

Then, the point that bothers me the most is that you have completely ignored, the banks have completely ignored, the small man. You do not give employment through the Government. You are reducing Government employment, I agree with you to a large extent. But where are the people going to get employment from? You may say people are going to get employment through self-employment. How? Through setting up of small industries. Now, I will mention this for the record. I have gone through the records of the SLBCs, the State Level Banking Committees, in my own State. I think, my State is nothing different from the rest. It just gives a picture of the country as a whole. The SLBC meetings are taken to as a farce today. The SLBC meetings were supposed to be for looking at the performance of the banks and their disbursement of credit to the priority sector. The priority sector consists of small business, small-scale industry, agriculture and the service sector. Now, nobody, no bank, is paying attention to the SLBCs. The priority sector is completely neglected. There are banks whose credit delivery is zero per cent -- whether it is in the priority sector, whether it is in industry, agriculture or service -- and the average is far below the target. The hon. Minister of State is not in his seat but, I hope, he is in agreement because he can't be otherwise. I have checked it myself. I have looked into the records and I have sat with the bankers and I have checked it myself. Now, you are going to do something which is tragic. You are going to privatise the banks. You are going to reduce the public equity to 33%. My dear Finance Minister, you are going to reduce the Government equity to 33%. Can you tell us: Will the public character of these banks continue? How? You must tell us. When you are in a minority, how are you going to advance the agenda for which the banks were brought into the public sector to begin with. Mr. Minister, what will be the accountability of these banks to Parliament? Once you reduce the

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people's money to 33%, how are these banks going to be accountable to Parliament? The hon. Member behind me has reminded about the accountability to the CAG. How are you going to be accountable to the CAG?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): They are not accountable to the CAG.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: How are they going to be accountable to Parliament? The tragic thing is, I understand, the State Bank of India itself is going to be privatised. The equity is going to be reduced. The State Bank of India is the flagship of our economy in a substantial manner. You are going to privatise that. That is going to be privatised! That basically is the bank which does Governmental transactions and not deal with retail banking. It is disgraceful. Please restrain yourself from doing this. You are going to disinvest precisely those banks which are the strongest banks. The State Bank of India, the Punjab National Bank, the Bank of Baroda, the Oriental Bank of Commerce and one more bank? Five banks are going to be privatised in the first block. This is disgraceful! Now, this is what the economic reforms never meant - to attack the small man. The economic reforms never meant to create islands of prosperity in a sea of poverty. The economic reforms were meant to create infrastructure, human infrastructure, to make people self-reliant because it is only when the people are self-reliant and it is only when they are above the poverty line that the fruits of economic reforms really go to the country as a whole. Therefore, it is wrong to blame the economic reforms for this. Neither the liberalisation nor the globalisation was intended to do what the Government is doing now - attacking the poor. On the contrary, the liberalisation and globalisation, in substance and effect, in their entirety, were meant to increase the Government's intervention and not to decrease it in the social sector so that the people become economically strong, they become literate and they become healthy because only then the country as a whole will benefit from the reforms. The spirit of reforms is to withdraw the Government in certain areas, but at the same time, to increase Government's intervention in social sector areas such as health, employment, removal of poverty, education and so on. Therefore, this is a perversion of the economic reforms that we are seeing today. The big fish -- that is the theory of this Government and this was mentioned here in a debate that took place some days ago in a different context, the ideologue of this extended family to which the BJP belongs had this to say in his the Bunch of Thoughts - eats the small and there is no point in blaming the big fish because that is the law of nature.

This in economic terms is extreme capitalism that even the most capitalistic country like the US will not accept as mainstream opinion. This is an extreme type of capitalism and will be destructive for this country. I will just say this. As far as doing something for the poor is concerned, I will give this suggestion to the Minister. We have a country in our neighbourhood, Bangladesh, which is a very poor country. There is a bank which is an example to the world. This bank is known as the Gramin Bank. This bank deals only with the indigent and the poor. When this bank was started some couple of decades ago, people said, "This is going to be a failure." This bank has now advanced 1.5 billion US dollars in loan to poor people, to people who are below the poverty line. Do you know, Mr. Vice-Chairman, what is the rate of recovery? Sir, it is more than 98 per cent. That is what the poor people do. They pay their loans. It is the big shark, it is the big fish, to use the expression of the ideologue which I was mentioning, who do not pay back their loans. Now, will the Minister do something in the Finance Ministry and set up a task force to see what the Gramin Bank has done in Bangladesh so that similar things are done here. Let us not be anti-poor. Let us be pro-poor because if we are pro-poor only then are we pro-country. Thank you.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, many things have just been said by my friend Gurudasji and Faleiro. I am grateful to them that they have raised an issue which mostly is due to the wrong doings of the past. The NPA today is a major issue. I know that. But, what the Government has done has to be remembered. It has done considerably well to reduce the NPA. During the last five years, if we compare, Sir, NPA has gone down considerably. I would like to quote here, "...that non-performing assets in public sector banks are falling, with gross NPA down to 16 per cent from 25 per cent in five years..." This is what the situation is. This is what that has to be learnt. I would like to quote a report on the 'Trend and Progress of Banking in India - 1998-99' which has just been published by the R.B.I. What this Report says? It would have been better if Gurudas Dasji and my friend, Mr. Faleiro had read it. This is giving entirely a different picture. No doubt, NPAs are there. But, if you see the overall picture, the NPAs are going down. This is what the Report says. When they say so, creating a howly saying that the Government is permitting looting of the State finances, looting of the banks, is something which is unforeseen. Sir, the NPA is an international phenomenon. It is not unique to India. It is

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not new. Now, what should be done? When an advance is given by a bank, certain percentage - 2 per cent or 3 per cent or 4 per cent or 5 per cent or 6 per cent or 7 per cent - goes down. It is there world-wide. The Indian NPAs, which were 25 per cent earlier, during the Congress time, have been reduced. They are reducing. Now, we are reaching, approximately, to 9 per cent mark.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is the absolute figure?

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Let me complete. He is talking of absolute figure. My friend, Gurudas Dasji, is very good in statistics. But, he should know that the absolute figure has to be compared with the ratio. If our total advances have gone up, what is the percentage of the NPA? When the total advances have gone up, naturally, the NPA figure, in absolute terms, will go up marginally.

I would like to quote from a book which will give us a complete picture of NPAs. In 1997, the gross advance was Rs. 3,01,698 crores. Out of this gross advance, the gross NPA was about Rs. 47,000 crores. Now, in 1999, the business has gone up to Rs. 4,01,253 crores. I repeat. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta should know it. It is Rs. 4,01,253 crores. There is such a big boost in the total advances. What is the NPA?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I never contested the increase in credit. What I am saying is that in one year Rs. 6,000 crores of NPA has increased.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: And the gross NPA is only Rs. 58,554 crores.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Only! Sir, only Rs. 58,554 crores!

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, percentage-wise, it is only 2.9 per cent of the total assets. You have to see the performance of a bank with its complete scenario. You cannot really look at it with one single yardstick. If you look at things with a jaundice eyes, you will get distortions. If the distortions are there, you say that banks are being looted; the public money is being looted. This is too much. Sir, the Reserve Bank of India says that the NPAs gross advances are declining from 16 per cent in 1997-98 to 15.9 per cent in 1998-99, facilitated by a marginal reduction in sub-standard and doubtful assets when term commitments increase in the standard assets. There is an increase in the standard assets of the banks. What does it speaks

about? It speaks, When the standard assets of the banks are going up, this means, the banks are financially becoming sounder and sounder. This does not mean that the banks are becoming weak. Certainly, there are weak banks. There are very, very weak banks. But these weak banks are not the creation of this Government. These weak banks are there because of various other reasons. My god! Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta talks about the nexus between the politicians and bureaucrats and what not! Congratulations, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. I wish you had read the Statesman's editorial. I wish...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: I am only saying this. I am not mentioning anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am on a point of order. Sir, the House is discussing the Calling Attention on mounting Non-Performing Assets of many public sector banks in the country and I have stated therein that the banks are not able to realise the money and political patrons are there to protect the defaulters. What is there in the *Statesman*? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is there, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: But I have not said anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have only mentioned...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I did read the newspaper, Sir. I know. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is an attempt to ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, he is unnecessarily*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, no. Let me explain. I have only said that the standard and ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Sir, I am on a point of order. When he was speaking, we were all listening to him in silence.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No, no. Please do not make a mockery of point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am not yielding to Gurudas Dasji. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding to him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, this is an attempt to pollute the discussion in the House and to bring the discussion down to the level of mud-slinging. This is unfortunate, unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, he is making sweeping remarks. If somebody says something, then he is diluting and polluting and diverting. But if he makes allegations about the nexus between politicians and...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I never said. . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Then you are saying this man, that man, Modi, vodi, all these things *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, in order to maintain the standard in the House, I never referred to.... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, he has named even the industrial houses and he has been pointing his fingers... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You see, you have named ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:a present Member is in the defaulters' list... *(Interruptions)* ...a present Member from South India is in the defaulters' list. I can give his name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Why are you so agitated and perturbed about it when it is a newspaper which speaks about the nexus between a political party and an industrial House... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, no, Sir. I strongly deny. ...*(Interruptions)*... I strongly deny, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... I strongly deny this... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Let us, please, ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am not yielding.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिम बंगाल):: आप अपने घर को संभालिए पहले। अपने घर में देखिए क्या हो रहा है?...*(व्यवधान)* अपने मंत्रिमंडल को देखिए। उसमें कौन-कौन हैं? सारे चेहरे सामने आ जाएंगे ...*(व्यवधान)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No point of order, please. *(Interruptions)* Yes, wait, wait. *...(Interruptions)...* I am not accepting any point of order. Now, please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Conclude! I have not even started, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No, no. Your seven minutes are over. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: No, not at all, Sir. My time is not yet over. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): You were allotted only seven minutes. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: No, Sir, I request you to give me more time because the whole time was taken by the disturbance. I am sorry. *(Interruptions)* I am sorry; I have not even started.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No. He is the initiator. You have to seek clarifications only. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: No, Sir. If he had spoken for forty minutes, then I should be given at least twenty minutes to reply to him. He is pointing his fingers at us. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No. The point is that he is the initiator, and you have to seek clarifications only. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Anyway, Sir, I would like to *...(Interruptions)...* I am not naming anybody. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No, no. There is no question of naming. Here, the point is that he is the initiator of the Calling Attention, and you have to seek clarifications only. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: I am seeking clarifications only by quoting something *...(Interruptions)...* which is very relevant in the case of Marxists as to how the Marxists are behaving. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is very wrong. *...(Interruptions)...* This is very wrong. *...(Interruptions)...* This is very wrong. *(Interruptions)* It is extremely wrong. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Why are you going into that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Why not? He may say anything against. ...*(Interruptions)*... and we cannot say anything?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): You don't stand up. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am presiding over the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, Sir, this cannot be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am not naming anybody. I am only trying, through you, to tell the country that the clothes of the Marxist are ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS GUPTA: It is very wrong. Absolutely wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Please take your seat. You can seek clarifications.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Sir, I am only seeking clarifications. Whatever has been written in the newspaper*(Interruptions)*....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : No, no, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Sir, I am only seeking clarifications. Whatever has been written in "The Statesman" ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Shri Narendra Mohanji, you first please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : How is this related to the Call Attention ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Sir, he can hit us below the belt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, I have never ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Shri Narendra Mohanji, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. You go on speaking, nothing is going on record.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Sir, you have been very kind to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am at your mercy. Please give me five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : No, you go on speaking. Please listen to me. Sometimes you are referring to the editorial, sometimes you are referring to another book. Whenever you are referring to something, you must refer in detail. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Sir, if you permit me, I will refer ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Please take your seat and listen to me. Whenever you are referring to some document, you refer to it very clearly as to what is the page number, from which book you are referring, etc. And if you referring to some paper cutting, give the name and date of the paper. Now, here sometimes you are referring to this book, sometimes you are quoting from "The Statesman". It will not be ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : With your permission, Sir, I am referring to ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : This has nothing to do with the Calling Attention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Gurudas Dasji, please take your seat.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Sir, I would like to authenticate. If you permit me, it is "The Statesman" dated March 14, 2000 ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN : Till now, nothing is recorded. I will allow you and then you do it.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : All right, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : The other

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thing is that it is not my mercy. I am going as per the practice and procedure of the House. So far as the procedure is concerned, I will follow the procedure. And so far as the dignity of the House is concerned, let us maintain it....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL : Our rights should also be protected.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : No, no. What is the use of telling this thing? Why are you standing up and saying this thing? Your rights are being protected. I am the first man to protect the interests of the House, the dignity of the House, and again and again you all are standing up. The procedure is that you have to take permission. I will not disallow any person. In case of a point of order, in case of a clarification, in case of any doubt, I am here to protect everyone. But the procedure has to be maintained. Now, it is a question of clarification. As per the note of the Chairman, the initiator of the Calling Attention was Shri Gurudas Dasji. For the purpose of seeking clarification, you have to follow the procedure, and we are proceeding accordingly. So, now you seek your clarifications.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Sir, I was referring to "The Statesman" dated 14th March. The heading is "The Corruption Stakes". I would like to read, "Chandan Basu being ..." ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : No, no. From there you can seek clarifications ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: How many spots are there on the floor of the Marxists? I am not going into that controversy because I want to have this important debate.

What does the Economic Survey say? I will refer to that. What has been done?

"In order to strengthen the financial systems of the banks, attempts have been made to move towards full disclosure"

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No, no. You are committing a mistake. Which year's Economic Survey are you referring to?

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: This is the Economic Survey of 1999-2000.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: What page?

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Page No.49. It says:

"In order to strengthen the financial system, attempts have been made to move towards full disclosure, transparency and effective supervision of banking operations in line with the internationally best practices."

These are the comments of the RBI. This is in our Economic Survey:

"With effect from the accounting year ending March, 2000, banks have been advised to disclose in the 'note to accounts' additional information on maturity pattern, loan advances, investment and security deposits etc. etc."

They have to inform even about their NPAs.

I know what the Reserve Bank has done to reduce the NPAs. The Directors have been removed from bank after bank because they had not been able to control the NPAs. So, this is what the Government is doing. This Government is doing whatever is possible and trying to maintain the best international standards so far as NPAs go.

Sir, we all know what has happened in the South-East Asian countries. *...(Interruptions)*

Those countries are not following the norms, but we are following the norms.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): That is all. Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: We are obeying what the Narasimham Committee has recommended; we are trying to obey it. Everyday, there are fresh instructions from the RBI on how to reduce the NPAs. There is a constant supervision, and constant monitoring of the NPAs is going on. There is no laxity on any part. Still you accuse that the Government is participating in loot? To my mind, such remarks are unparliamentary.

Sir, I think those people who have dirty clothes should not show us their dirty clothes and accuse others.

Thank you very much for permitting me to speak.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बैंकों में बढ़ती हुई अनुपयोज्य आस्तियों से उत्पन्न स्थिति तथा बैंकों के वित्तीय स्वास्थ्य की बहाली के लिए माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो यहां पर बयान दिया है। उस बयान को देखकर और हमारे माननीय सांसदों की बातों को सुनकर मुझे गालिब का एक शेर याद आ रहा है।

‘तेरे वायदे पर एतबार किया तो यह जानकर छूट जाना,

खुशी से मर न जाते, अगर ऐतबार होता।’

महोदय, भाजपा सरकार की कथनी और करनी में जमीन-आसमान का अंतर है। मुंह में राम बगल में छुरी वाली कहावत शतप्रतिशत चरितार्थ करने वाली यह भाजपा सरकार जब मंदिर बनाने की बात करती है, तो मस्जिद तोड़ी जाती है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : सर, इसमें मंदिर कहां से आ गया? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : सच्चाई समझ में नहीं आती है क्या? ...(व्यवधान)...

What is this? What happened? ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Please take your seat.

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : अभी हाउस में मंदिर के बारे में चर्चा करने की क्या जरूरत है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : आप सुनिए तो सही। ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि) : आप बैठिए, आप बैठिए। प्लीज, प्लीज।

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : आप मंदिर जाइये, मस्जिद जाइये, गुरुद्वारा जाइये, चर्च में जाइये, हमको कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। मगर यहां हाउस में ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि) : आप बैठिए। प्लीज सुनिए। आप बैठिए। मैं बोल रहा हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, my request is ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Just a minute.

Before the Chair reacts to anything, you are standing up
...(Interruptions)... ..

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am on a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Madam, you know the subject very well. You know what we are discussing here. You know what clarifications you require and what information you want. You know what data you have in your mind. You can speak to the extent of policy issue that is involved.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: I am proceeding towards that. But, they do not have the patience to listen. They should have some patience. What I was going to say was...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: No Mandir, no Masjid, no Gurudwara. Discuss only on non-performing assets.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Please do not try to teach me. Who are you to do that?

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Who are you to talk on Mandir, Masjid. Discuss only on NPA ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नागेन्द्र नाथ ओझा (बिहार) : यह बैंक भी कुबेर का मंदिर होता है, आप क्यों घबरा रहे हैं ? ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि) :: आप बैठिए ना। मैडम बैठिए, प्लीज़।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी : बैंक को धन का मंदिर कहा जाता है ।
...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): आप बैठिए, आप क्यों खड़े हो रहे हैं ?
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Sir, my point of order is on law and order. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: You had taken loans to demolish the Masjid. That is why we are saying so.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Narendra Mohan ji, you should not speak without my permission.

[14 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Just one clarification, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No clarification. Narendra Mohan ji, please take your seat.

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : आपने परमिशन दी है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): मैंने परमिशन नहीं दी है । मैंने आपका नाम लेकर बोला है लेकिन मैं जनरल बात कह रहा हूँ कि जो कोई भी बोलना चाहे, पहले प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर बोलें, हाथ उठाएं । फिर अपनी बात कहें और उनके अलावा दूसरा कोई नहीं बोले । ...*(व्यवधान)*...Yes, Madam. Please confine to the subject.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am on a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): What is that?

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I will explain and I will give you the rule also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : First specify the rule.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am referring to Rule 182. It says misquotation is not permitted. The hon. Member is diverting the debate to a non-issue. It is not permitted under that rule. That is not the convention. The issue is non-performing assets. It is neither Mandir, nor Masjid. ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि) : आप क्यों खड़े हो रहे हैं ? ...*(व्यवधान)*...मैडम, आप क्यों खड़ी हो रही हैं ? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी : बैंक भी धन का मंदिर है । ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, Rule 182 is about Budget. It is at page 53.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: I am sorry. I am quoting the rule out of my memory.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I am sorry, that is not the way. You are killing the time of the House. Yes, Madam. Please speak.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगी कि मैं जिस तरह अपने विषय पर आगे बढ़ना चाहती हूँ, उसी तरह मुझे अपने विषय पर आगे बढ़ने दिया जाए और माननीय सांसद यदि थोड़े धीरज से, थोड़ी विनम्रता से ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Why are you going into all these things? आप यह सब बातें क्यों बोल रही हैं ? आप अपनी बात कहिए ।

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : सर, यह मेरे ऊपर लांछन क्यों लगा रही हैं, आप मुझे प्रोटैक्ट करिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि) : इसके लिए मैंने मैडम को पहले ही बोल दिया है ।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : सर, लांछन कौन लगा रहा है ? मैं बात कर रही थी कि भा.ज.पा. सरकार जो कहती है, वह करती नहीं है ! और आज भा.ज.पा. की सरकार है, एन.डी.ए. सरकार है । तो मैं जिस बात की ओर वित्त मंत्री का और माननीय सांसदों का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ ... आज हमारे देश की जो स्थिति है, खासकर बैंकों में एन.पी.ए. की जो स्थिति है, जिस एन.पी.ए. की बढ़ती हुई स्थिति और आंकड़ों का हवाला देते हुए सार्वजनिक बैंकों के विरुद्ध एक अभियान चलाया जा रहा है, उसकी ओर माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि क्या रिजर्व बैंक की तमाम रिपोर्टें, तमाम आर्थिक सर्वे इस बात की गवाही नहीं देते कि पिछले चन्द वर्षों में सार्वजनिक बैंकों के एन.पी.ए. का प्रतिशत घटता गया है और निजी बैंकों के एन.पी.ए. का प्रतिशत बढ़ता गया है ? मैं इनसे जानना चाहूंगी कि आखिर यह किस बात का द्योतक है ? क्या सरकार की आर्थिक नीतियाँ इसके लिए जिम्मेदार नहीं हैं ? हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी ने बैंकों की वित्तीय हालत सुधारने के लिए अभी तक कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाए हैं लेकिन आज हालत यह है, मेरे पास यह लिस्ट है देश के दो सौ से अधिक बड़े घरानों की जिन्होंने हमारे देश के बैंकों से करोड़ों रुपए लिए हैं और कितने लोग डीफॉल्टर हैं । ये बता रहे थे, राजनीतिक संरक्षण की बात कर रहे थे और बिना किसी प्रमाण के, बिना किसी ठोस सबूत के किसी भी व्यक्ति को बदनाम करने की कोशिश कर रहे थे । मैं चाहूंगी वे यह लिस्ट देखें कि इसमें किन-किन के नाम हैं ? ***... (व्यवधान)**...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[14 March, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I know that.

...(Interruptions)... I know that. ...(Interruptions)... I know that. ...(Interruptions)... Just a minute...(Interruptions)... No, no, no, no, just a minute, just a minute. ...(Interruptions)... Please, I know that. ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Please, please, please, please, Madam. Madam, just a minute. Just a minute. Which document are you referring to? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : This is a list of borrowers and defaulters from the banking industry as on 31-3-1999. I will place it on the Table of the House. This is from the Indian Bank ...(Interruptions)... Why is he afraid of it? ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): The House is adjourned till 3.00 P.M.

The House then adjourned at forty-eight minutes past two of the clock.

The House re-assembled at one minute past three of the clock.

The Vice - Chairman (Shri Sanatan Bisi), in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Hon. Members, so far as the procedure is concerned, if you want to say something on the basis of a document, in that case, you have to disclose everything. If you are speaking from your own information, then you can do so. (Interruption). Mr. Virumbi, I have not completed. Before that, you want to speak. Please wait for some time.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I have not completed my own thing. Let me complete it. Whenever you are referring to some document, if you want to lay it on the Table of the House, if it is a private document, you have to give notice. Only then you can lay it on the Table.

Yes, Mr. Virumbi, what is your point of order?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, I raise this point of order under Rule 238A.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): What is it relating to?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: It is relating to Mrs. Sarla Maheswari's observations just before the adjournment. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): These are completely premature. Please let us hear her first. Yes, Madam.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I raise this point of order. You please hear it. After that, if you feel it is inappropriate, you may discard it. But please do not object to my making the point of order. Rule 238A says, "No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any other member or a member of the House unless the member making the allegation has given previous intimation to the Chairman and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply:" This has not been followed. *(Interruptions)*. The hon. Member has not followed the condition stipulated in this rule for making any allegation against any Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I have not allowed. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: It must be expunged. She must also apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*.... She must either withdraw it or it must be expunged.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): What are the things you want to be expunged?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, kindly go through Rule 238A. It says, "No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any other member or a member of the House unless the member making the allegation has given previous intimation to the Chairman and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply:". The hon. Member has not intimated as stipulated in this rule. It is against the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States. Either she must withdraw it or it should be expunged. She must also tender an apology to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Madam, what was your statement?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: She has made a defamatory allegation which comes within the purview of rule 238A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): She has not made any allegation. She was seeking a clarification.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, what is your ruling? I would like to know whether the allegation made by the hon. Member comes within the purview of rule 238A or not.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I will look into the record.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: मैंने कोई अभियोग नहीं लगाया था। मैं सिर्फ माननीय मंत्री जी से सूचना का आदान-प्रदान कर रही थी और उसकी सत्यता के बारे में उनसे जानकारी ले रही थी।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): इसको एक्सपंज करा दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): मैं देख रहा हूँ आप उसको क्यों छेड़ रहे हैं।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: मंत्री जी देख लेंगे, बता देंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): इसीलिए मैंने प्रिमेच्योर बोला।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं गैर निष्पादक आस्तियों के बारे में बात कर रही थी और मेरी बात का बिंदु यह था कि गैर निष्पादक आस्तियों का हमारे सार्वजनिक बैंकों में प्रतिशत कम हो रहा है। जबकि यही तर्क देकर सार्वजनिक बैंकों के खिलाफ एक घृणित अभियान सा छेड़ दिया गया और उनके निजीकरण की राष्ट्रविरोधी मुहिम शुरू कर दी गई। अध्यक्ष जी, हम सभी परिचित हैं पचास और साठ के उस दशक से जब हमारे देश में बैंकों का मशरूम ग्रोथ हो रहा था, कुकुरमुते की तरह बैंक पनप रहे थे और बैंकों का दीवाला निकल रहा था। उस परिप्रेक्ष्य में, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं कुछ आंकड़े देना चाहती हूँ। 1951 में व्यापारिक बैंकों की संख्या 566 थी, जो 1956 में 423 हो गई, 1961 में 292 हो गई, 1979 में 89 हो गई। अध्यक्ष जी, यह वह काल था जब हमारे देश में बैंक और बैंकों में जमा करने वाले हमारे देश के लोग - देखा यह जा रहा था, आए दिन बैंकों का जब दीवाला निकल रहा था, लखपति खाकपति बन रहे थे और देश की गरीब जनता की खून-पसीने से कमाई हुई मेहनत की कोई सुरक्षा नहीं थी, कोई

निश्चितता नहीं थी, उस परिप्रेक्ष्य में हमारे देश की वामपंथी-जनतांत्रिक ताकतों ने यह अभियान चलाया कि हमारे यहां बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण होना चाहिए और बैंकों को एक जन आंदोलन का रूप देना चाहिए ताकि बैंक हिंदुस्तान जैसे गरीब देश में न सिर्फ उद्योगों, सार्वजनिक उद्योगों के लिए एक आधार भूमि तैयार कर सकें बल्कि देश के ग्रामीण विकास में भी एक सशक्त भूमिका अदा कर सकें। यही वह परिप्रेक्ष्य था जिसमें हमारे देश की सरकार ने यह माना कि बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण कितना जरूरी है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं याद दिलाना चाहूंगी कि उस समय, 1969 में हमारी संसद में "बैंकिंग कंपनियां अधिग्रहण व उद्यमों का हस्तांतरण विधेयक" पेश किया गया तथा सेम बैंकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के लक्ष्यों तथा उद्देश्यों को स्पष्ट रूप से रेखांकित करते हुए यह कहा गया कि बैंकिंग एक ऐसी व्यवस्था है जिसका दसियों लाख लोगों की जिंदगी से गहरा रिश्ता है इसलिए उसके मामले में कोई बेहतर लक्ष्य हो, इससे बचा नहीं जा सकता। राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं व लक्ष्यों, मसलन कृषि, लघु उद्योग, निर्यात में तेजी से बढ़ोतरी, रोजगार की दर में बढ़ोतरी के लिए जरूरी है कि पिछड़े इलाकों के नये-नये उद्योग हों, उद्यमीकरण के विकास को उत्साहित किया जाए। वर्तमान स्थिति में सरकार के लिए जरूरी हो गया है कि देश की बैंकिंग प्रणाली की जिम्मेदारियां सीधे-सीधे संभाल ले।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी.एन.चतुर्वेदी) पीठासीन हुए]

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आप यहां पर बैठे हैं और ठीक स्थिति उलटी हो गई है। जो परिप्रेक्ष्य था हमारी सोच का आज वह परिप्रेक्ष्य बिल्कुल बदल कैसे गया? क्यों हमारी प्राथमिकताएं बदल गई? क्यों हमारी चिंतन की दिशा बदल गई? इसलिए कि आज हमारा चिंतन, आज हमारी प्राथमिकताएं हम नहीं निर्धारित कर रहे हैं। आज हमारा चिंतन, आज हमारी प्राथमिकताएं बाहर से, रिमोट से संचालित हैं। वर्ल्ड बैंक के ज़रिये, आई.एम.एफ. के ज़रिये, डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. के ज़रिये, आप हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था की लूट की नकेल उनके हाथों में दे रहे हैं, जिनका सरोकार इस देश के विकास से नहीं है। सार्वजनिक बैंकों का इतिहास क्या बताता है, सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों का इतिहास क्या बताता है? इनका इतिहास यह बताता है कि इस देश के विकास में इन्होंने बहुत बड़ी भूमिका अदा की है। आज उसी विकास का फल कौन लूट रहा है? आज विकास के फल को यह बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों को लूटने की अनुमति दे रहे हैं। देश के बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपतियों, इजारेदारों को लूटने की अनुमति दे रहे हैं। आप डिफाल्टर्स की बात करते हैं। हमारे मंत्री जी के पास तथ्य होंगे। मेरे तथ्यों की प्रामाणिकता पर संदेह की सुई आ सकती है लेकिन मंत्री जी के पास तथ्य होंगे। उन तथ्यों को किस तरह से बनाया और बिगाड़ा जाता है, उस पर मैं बाद में बात करूंगी। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि हमारे बैंक जिन्होंने राष्ट्रीयकरण के काल में हमारे विकास

में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा की, बाद में इन्हीं बैंकों में जो विकृतियाँ आईं उसके कौन से कारण थे? आज उन बैंकों से कौन करोड़ों रुपये लूट रहा है? राजनीतिक संरक्षण की बात की जा रही थी। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि आखिर क्या कारण है, क्या हमारी सरकार ने कोई मेकेनिज्म बनाया है, कोई मशीनरी बनाई है, कोई व्यवस्था ऐसी बनाई गई है? देश के वे लुटेरे लोग जो देश के विकास के नाम पर हमारे सार्वजनिक बैंकों से ऋण लेते हैं, ऋण का भुगतान नहीं करते हैं और एन.पी.ए. के रूप में समस्या बढ़ती जाती है। इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है? डिफाल्टर कौन हैं? क्या किसी के खिलाफ कोई कदम आज तक उठाया गया है? क्यों उनके खिलाफ केस नहीं बनता? क्योंकि हम देखते हैं कि आपस में सांठ-गांठ है, राजनीतिक रूप में ऊपर से संरक्षण मिलता है। ऋण दिया जाता है और राजनीतिक संरक्षण के चलते, बैंकों के अधिकारियों की मिलीभगत के चलते, किसी केस का निष्पादन नहीं होता है। इसका परिणाम क्या होता है कि देश की जनता का करोड़ों रुपया उनकी पॉकेट में चला जाता है और हिन्दुस्तान जैसे गरीब देश के संसाधन जो इस देश के विकास में इस्तेमाल होने चाहिये, उनका इस्तेमाल कहां और कैसे होता है, यह मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगी। हमारे देश की तरफ से भ्रष्टाचार के मामले में एक जांच दल का गठन किया गया था जिसके अध्यक्ष भूरे लाल थे, वह स्विट्ज़रलैंड जांच करने के लिए गये थे। उन्होंने अपने भाषण में इस बात का उल्लेख किया कि हिन्दुस्तान का करोड़ों रुपया स्विट्ज़रलैंड के बैंकों में जमा है और स्विट्ज़रलैंड के अधिकारियों ने भूरलाल को बताया कि हमें आश्चर्य होता है कि अमीर हिन्दुस्तान गरीब यूरोप की मदद कर रहा है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि आखिर क्या कारण है कि अमीर हिन्दुस्तान गरीब हिन्दुस्तान की मदद नहीं कर पा रहा है? क्या इसके लिए आपने कोई मेकेनिज्म विकसित किया है? तमाम तथ्य हमारे सामने हैं। आज अगर नलकूप के लिए या छोटी सी जमीन के लिए हमारा किसान कर्ज लेता है, वह कर्ज की पूरी अदायगी करता है, डिफाल्टर गरीब जनता नहीं है, हिन्दुस्तान के छोटे-छोटे उद्योगपति नहीं हैं। डिफाल्टर्स कौन हैं?

श्री भारतेन्दु प्रकाश सिंहल : विषय क्या है?

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : यही विषय है, समझ नहीं आता, एन.पी.ए. पर बोल रही हूँ। कौन डिफाल्टर्स हैं इस देश में? बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपति, इजारेदार डिफाल्टर हैं। वहीं इजारेदार, पूंजीपति, सी.आई.आई. से जुड़े हुए लोग सिफारिश करते हैं कि हमारे बैंकों का निजीकरण कर देना चाहिये क्योंकि बैंक मुनाफे में नहीं चल रहे हैं। नरसिंहम कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को आधार बना कर, जिस कमेटी में तमाम लोग उदारीकरण के प्रवक्ता थे, जिसमें कोई भी बैंकों से जुड़ा हुआ अधिकारी नहीं था, उस कमेटी की सिफारिश के आधार पर

आपने लगातार हमारी बैंकिंग व्यवस्था को उस ओर धकेल दिया और इसके चलते हम देख रहे हैं कि लगातार वे लोग जिन्होंने हमारे बैंकों से करोड़ों रुपया लिया ...करोड़ों करोड़ रुपया लिया और जिन्होंने लौटाया नहीं, जिन्होंने बैंकों को दिवालिएपन में लाने की स्थिति पैदा कर दी, वे ही लोग आज सिफारिश कर रहे हैं कि इन सार्वजनिक बैंकों को बेच दिया जाना चाहिए। और सरकार क्या कर रही है? एक के बाद एक हमारे देश के 8 सार्वजनिक बैंकों के करोड़ों रुपए के शेयर्स को बेचा जा चुका है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि आखिर आपकी इस नीति का क्या मतलब है? क्या यह नीति हमारे देश की जनता के हित में जाती है? आप जो एन.पी.ए. की बात कर रहे हैं वह एन.पी.ए. कौन ले रहा है? आज उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एन.पी.ए. कहां जमा हो रहा है? सार्वजनिक बैंकों का एन.पी.ए. घट रहा है और निजी बैंकों का, विदेशी बैंकों का एन.पी.ए. बढ़ रहा है। क्यों? क्योंकि आज आपने हमारे सार्वजनिक बैंकों की यह स्थिति कर दी है, इनको इतना अनाकर्षक बना दिया है जैसे कि बैंकों की लघु बचत पर आपने इंटरेस्ट का रेट कम कर दिया है। हिंदुस्तान की जनता की कमाई आप नहीं चाहते हैं कि बैंकों में जमा हो। आप चाहते हैं कि शेयर बाजार में वह पैसा जाए। आपकी तमाम नीतियां आज उसी ओर संचालित हो रही हैं। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी बताएं कि उन्होंने कौन से उपाय सुझाए हैं ताकि आज हमारे जो बैंक हैं जिन बैंकों ने इस देश के विकास में महती भूमिका अदा की, उन बैंकों, विशेषकर सार्वजनिक बैंकों के खिलाफ जो डंडा घुमा रहे हैं उन सार्वजनिक बैंकों की रक्षा हो सके। वे लो जो आज भी राजनीतिक संरक्षण का लाभ उठाकर तथा तमाम बिचौलियों का लाभ उठाकर, बिचौलियों की मिलीभगत से जिस तरह की स्थिति पैदा कर रहे हैं उसमें यह जरूरी हो जाता है उपसभाध्यक्ष जी कि हमारे वित्त मंत्री वास्तव में अगर चाहते हैं कि इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को बचाना है, अगर हमारे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में, वित्तीय पूंजी के खेल को सट्टे बाजाराना पूंजी के खेल को कम करना है और इस देश की जनता के विकास के लिए कुछ काम करना है तो वे लोग जो आज करोड़ों करोड़ों रुपया लूट रहे हैं और देश की इन सार्वजनिक संस्थाओं को बरबाद कर रहे हैं, उसको रोकें। चाहे कोई उद्योग हो जैसे बीमा उद्योग को आज आप खत्म कर रहे हैं, आप बैंकिंग उद्योग को खत्म कर रहे हैं, तमाम हमारी जो राष्ट्रीय विकास की जो आधारशिला थी आज आप उस आधारशिला पर मट्टा डाल रहे हैं, और आप कह रहे हैं कि देश की अर्थव्यवस्था अच्छी है, देश की अर्थव्यवस्था मजबूत है। देश की अर्थव्यवस्था की नींव में अगर आप मट्टा डालेंगे उसको कमजोर करेंगे और आप कहेंगे कि देश की अर्थव्यवस्था अच्छी है तो यह नहीं होगा। ये तमाम तथ्य जिनका मैं हवाला दे रही थी ये इस बात की गवाही देते हैं कि वास्तव में भारत सरकार जिस रास्ते पर चल रही है

वह रास्ता बहुत ही गलत रास्ता है। सरकार की भूमिका क्या है कि अर्थव्यवस्था में सरकार की भूमिका लगातार कम होती चली जाए। अगर अर्थव्यवस्था में सरकार की भूमिका लगातार कम होती जाएगी तो इसके मायने क्या होंगे? इसके मायने ...**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी) : उनको बोलने दीजिए।

श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी : करप्शन खत्म हो रहा है? हर्षद मेहता जी क्या कर रहे थे ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Please address the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please continue addressing the Chair.

श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी : मैं आपको एड्रेस कर रही हूँ। वे मुझे क्यों कर रहे हैं। उनकी बारी आए तो बोलें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी.एन.चतुर्वेदी): मैं तो उनको रोक रहा हूँ।

श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी : धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष जी।

मैं यह कह रही थी कि जब हमने राष्ट्रीयकरण का रास्ता अपनाया तो राष्ट्रीयकरण का मतलब देश का विकास ही नहीं होता बल्कि राष्ट्रीयकरण की बहुत बड़ी भूमिका साम्राज्यवाद विरोध की भूमिका भी होती है जिसको आज हमारी सरकार भूल गयी है। इसीलिए मैं याद दिलाना चाहती हूँ उपसभाध्यक्षजी कि राष्ट्रीयकरण की विरोध में जब आप मुहिम छेड़ रहे हैं तो इन साम्राज्यवादियों को हमारे देश की धरती पर, हमारे देश की अर्थ नीति में, हमारे देश की राजनीति में, हमारे देश की संस्कृति में घुसपैठ की अनुमति दे रहे हैं और सरकार की भूमिका जब कम हो जाती है तो भ्रष्टाचार और ज्यादा फलता फूलता है, तब सरकार की जवाबदेही कम हो जाती है, जवाबदेही नहीं रहती है, संसद की जवाबदेही कम हो जाती है। इसलिए उपसभाध्यक्षजी, मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि आज भारत सरकार जिन नीतियों पर चल रही है उन आर्थिक नीतियों को बदले और हमारे सार्वजनिक बैंकों को बचाए। सार्वजनिक बैंकों के कर्मचारी जो लगातार आंदोलन चला रहे हैं उनकी बात को सुनें। आज जो तमाम वित्तीय नीतियां सरकार द्वारा अपनायी जा रही हैं उन तमाम वित्तीय नीतियों को बदलें तभी हम इस देश को विकास की ओर आगे ले जा पाएंगे और हम जनता के हित में काम कर पाएंगे। इसीलिए उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से आखिर में यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगी कि वे वास्तव में उन बड़े लोगों को पकड़ें, उनके गिरेबान में झाँकें, जो वास्तव में इस गरीब देश के संसाधनों को लूट रहे हैं और हमारी गरीब जनता को तबाह और बदहाल कर रहे हैं। इसलिए अगर वास्तव में इस देश की गरीब जनता के प्रति उनकी कोई सोच है, कोई चिंतन है और वे समझते हैं कि जन-कल्याणकारी राज्य की कोई भूमिका होती है, जो हमारे संविधान में उल्लिखित है, तो

आप उनको पकड़िये । आप अगर लुटेरों के उनके निर्देशों को मान कर चलेंगे तो इससे देश का हित नहीं होगा । इसलिए इन नीतियों को बदलिए और कृपया मुझे बताइये कि कौन वे डिफाल्टर्स हैं ? कृपया उनकी जांच करें । क्यों नहीं उनके खिलाफ कोई मुकदमा आपकी सरकार चलाती, क्यों नहीं उनके खिलाफ कोई मैकेनिज्म आपकी सरकार विकसित करती? समझ नहीं आता कि आज तक सरकार ने किसी को क्यों नहीं पकड़ा है।

इसलिए उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा निवेदन है कि इन नीतियों को बदले और इस ओर सरकार कठोर कदम उठाए। धन्यवाद ।

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, आदरणीय गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी ने बहुत ही अच्छे तरीके से एक सारगर्भित वक्तव्य इस सदन में अपने स्तर के अनुकूल दिया और अभी-अभी मेरी बहन सरला माहेश्वरी जी ने बहुत ही भावनात्मक विश्लेषण किया है । मैं आंकड़ों के जाल में नहीं फंसना चाहता । अपना वक्तव्य शुरू करने से पहले मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि,

‘जरदार मर्द नाहर, चाहे घर रहे, चाहे बाहर,

बेजर मर्द बिल्ली, चाहे घर रहे, चाहे दिल्ली’ ।

सवाल यह है कि चाहे आदमी हो या देश हो, अगर वह आर्थिक रूप से समृद्ध नहीं है तो उसके ऊपर संकट है और अगर आर्थिक रूप से सफल है तो फिर वह शेर की तरह घूमता है ।

आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी का बयान जो उन्होंने सदन के पटल पर रखा है उसको मैंने ध्यान से पढ़ा है । इसमें उन्होंने डेट रिकवरी ट्रिब्यूनल की बात कही है, क्रेडिट इन्फर्मेशन ब्यूरो की बात कही है । ये तमाम चीजें उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य में कही हैं । गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी ने कहा कि राजनीतिक दलों और संसद् की भी जिम्मेवारी है कि वे इस तरह के प्रावधान नहीं बना पाते कि एनपीए को रोका जा सके, डिफाल्टर्स को चैक किया जा सके । उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि उन्हें राजनीतिक दलों की तरफ से सांसद् का टिकट नहीं देना चाहिए, चुनाव में नहीं लाना चाहिए । मैं अपनी प्रगतिशील वामपंथी साथियों को बहुत विनय के साथ बताना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे-ऐसे उद्योगपति हैं जो बंगाल में बिजली कंपनियों की खुले-आम लूट करते हैं और राजनीतिक संरक्षण का दावा करते हैं और राज्य सभा में भी नामांकित हो जाते हैं । मैं अपने इधर बैठे हुए साथियों को बिना नाम लिए हुए, मैं किसी का नाम नहीं लेना चाहता, बताना चाहता हूँ कि वे न सिर्फ राज्य सभा में नामित हो जाते हैं, बल्कि बिजली कंपनी की लूट भी करते हैं और अपने मित्र यशवंत सिन्हा जी को मैं बताना चाहता हूँ, खुद डिफॉल्टर्स हैं लेकिन आईडीबीआई के बोर्ड

में भी बैठे हुए हैं। आईडीबीआई को और वित्तीय संस्थानों को अगर देखा जाए तो ऐसे लोगों के उपर लाखों-करोड़ों रुपये का कर्जा है, लेकिन वे निर्णायक बोर्ड में भी बैठे हैं, जहां से वे रुपया लोगों को बांटते हैं और टैक्नीकली कह दिया जाएगा कि एन.पी.ए. नहीं है। एनपीए इसलिए नहीं है कि रोल बैक हो जाता है, ये बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति करोड़ों रुपया लेते हैं। मेरा भी उद्योग से संबंध है। ये लोग बैंकिंग सिस्टम के दामाद हैं। जब रुपया बैंक के चेयरमैन से एक गरीब आदमी लेने जाएगा, एक मध्यम श्रेणी का उद्योगपति लेने जाएगा तो कहा जाएगा कि क्या को-लैटरल सैक्योरिटी है, क्या बीवी का जेवर है, क्या इन्कम टैक्स की फाइल है, बंधक रखने के लिए क्या कुछ मकान-दुकान है, नहीं तो पैसा नहीं मिलेगा। अगर बाज़ार की खराब व्यवस्था के कारण, सूखे के कारण गरीब किसान या उद्योगपति रुपया वापस नहीं दे पाएगा तो उसके ऊपर कुर्की आ जाएगी, मकान बिक जाएगा, दुकान बिक जाएगी। लेकिन इसके विपरीत करोड़ों-अरबों रुपया लेने वाला आईडीबीआई के बोर्ड में रहेगा, राज्य सभा का सदस्य होगा, बिजली कंपनियों को लूटेगा और उसको सभी का संरक्षण मिलेगा। हमको इस प्रणाली से जुझना है, इससे संघर्ष करना है। यह जो सलैक्टिव पैट्रोनेज समाज में है कि गरीब के लिए एक कानून और अमीर के लिए एक कानून, लघु उद्योग के लिए, मध्यम श्रेणी के उद्योगपति के लिए एक कानून, और बड़े आदमी के लिए एक कानून, यह नहीं होना चाहिए। खुद बैंक के चेयरमैन बताते हैं कि अगर 31 मार्च से पहले हम आपका एकाउंट रेगुलर नहीं करेंगे, री-स्ट्रक्चर नहीं करेंगे, अगर हम ब्याज़ और चक्रवृद्धि ब्याज़ मुआफ नहीं करेंगे, लोन की अवधि जो तीन साल की है, उसको बढ़ा करके दस साल तक नहीं करेंगे। आप हमारी बैलेंस शीट में एन.पी.ए. हो जाएंगे। इसलिए आप को हम एन.पी.ए. से पी.ए. बनाएंगे - नॉन परफॉर्मिंग एसेट से परफॉर्मिंग एसेट में कनवर्ट करेंगे। आज यह हो रहा है देश में। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हमारा देश अद्भुत है। यहां बड़ा हल्ला हुआ कि पूंजी-निवेश हो रहा है। मुझे इस बात की बड़ी खुशी है कि हमारे देश में हमेशा योग्य वित्त मंत्री हुए हैं। इस सदन में आदरणीय मनमोहन सिंह जी और आदरणीय यशवन्त सिन्हा जी बैठे हैं, जिन की योग्यता पर कोई टिप्पणी नहीं कर सकता। महोदय, यह सवाल पार्टी का नहीं है, यह सवाल पार्टी से ऊपर एक प्रणाली और व्यवस्था का है जिस से हम को लड़ना है, जिस का निदान करना है। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि विदेशी गोरी चमड़ी का व्यक्ति आता है तो आप उस की आरती उतारते हैं, 'लापार्ज' आकर जब पूरी सीमेंट कंपनियों का अधिग्रहण करती है तो यू.टी.आई. समर्थन करती है और जब कोई उद्यमी गुजरात अम्बुजा अगर टाटा के शेयर खरीदकर सीमेंट के क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ता है तो उस के ऊपर हमला हो जाता है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम कौन से उदारीकरण की बात कर रहे हैं? हम

'एनरॉन' का स्वागत करते हैं और जनता को पता नहीं होता कि एनरॉन क्या कर रही है । एनरॉन यहां आकर कोई पूंजी-निवेश नहीं करती, एनरॉन बी.एस.ई.एस. और टाटा से ज्यादा दाम की बिजली हमारे उपभोक्ताओं को बेचती है, लेकिन हम ताती बजाकर-बजाकर एनरॉन का स्वागत करते हैं और कहते हैं कि पूंजी-निवेश हो रहा है। तो सच्चाई क्या है, यह पता करिए वित्त मंत्री जी । सच्चाई यह है कि एनरॉन आई.डी.बी.आई. से आई.एफ.सी.आई. या आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. से धन मांग रही है । वह आप के धन से बिजली बनाएगी और आप के टाटा और बी.एस.ई.एस. से ज्यादा में बिजली बेचेगी । उस के बाद जो पैसा वह कमाएगी, उस पैसे को लेकर विदेश में चली जाएगी, लेकिन वह हम को पसंद है । यह हमारे देश की त्रासदी है । महोदय, ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी यहां व्यापार करने आई और बाद में आर्थिक गुलामी के साथ-साथ राजनीतिक और सामाजिक गुलामी के कटघरे में हम को ले गयी । उसी तरह की पुनरावृत्ति यहां हो रही है ।

हमारे साथी जो कल तक स्वदेशी जागरण मंच की बात करते थे, आज विदेशी जागरण मंच के सदस्य हो गए हैं । महोदय, मुझे समझ नहीं आता कि यह क्या है ? इसलिए अगर हम को एन.पी.ए. से बचना है तो मैं हाथ जोड़कर, बहुत विनम्रता के साथ अपने मित्र, आदरणीय यशवन्त सिन्हा जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि मेरे द्वारा उठाई गई बातों पर गौर फरमाएं । महोदय, मैं उन्हें बधाई भी देना चाहूंगा कि इस सदन में सभी लोगों ने मोहन गुरुस्वामी के कहने पर जो आरोप आप की सरकार के ऊपर लगाए थे, उस ने जिन-जिन व्यक्तियों का नाम लिया था और कहा था कि आप इन-इन व्यक्तियों को समर्थन दे रहे हैं, उन के बजाय आप ने 'सेल' के रिस्ट्रक्चरिंग का काम किया है । इस तरह एक पब्लिक सेक्टर यूनिट को बचाने का काम किया है । प्रतिपक्ष का होने का मतलब यह नहीं कि मैं आप पर हमला ही करता हूं, मैं आप के इस कार्य की सराहना भी करता हूं । साथ ही मैं आप को चेतावनी भी देना चाहता हूं कि वे तमाम लोग जो एन.पी.ए. नहीं हैं, वे स्टील सेक्टर के लोग 10-10, 20-20 हजार करोड़ रुपया ले चुके हैं, लेकिन एक भी किस्त नहीं चुकाई है, ब्याज तक नहीं दिया है और नॉन-रेजीडेंट इंडियन बन गए हैं । ऐसे लोग, मैं नाम लेकर कहना चाहता हूं, एस्सार कंपनी के लोग टैक्नीकली एन.पी.ए. नहीं हुए हैं, बल्कि ये लोग एन.पी.ए. से बदतर हैं । ऐसे लोगों को आई.डी.बी.आई. या आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. से हम 10 हजार करोड़ रुपए का लोन दे चुके हैं और अगर 10 हजार करोड़ रुपया नहीं देंगे, तो वह रुपया भी डूब जाएगा। The good money is converted into bad money and to retrieve that bad money you will have to put in more good money.

हमें इस परंपरा से भी बचना है क्योंकि जो अच्छा पैसा खराब हो जाता है, उस

खराब पैसे को और अच्छा बनाने के लिए आप और पैसा खराब मत करिए क्योंकि यह पैसा गरीब किसानों का है, मजदूरों का है, हिंदुस्तान के आम आदमी का है। अभी तक ऐसा नहीं हुआ है और मुझे उम्मीद है कि आप सिर्फ राजनेता ही नहीं कुशल प्रशासक भी हैं, इसलिए आप इस बात की संवेदनशीलता को समझ सकते हैं। आप उसे और पैसा मत दीजिए जिस ने पैसा लेकर कभी चुकाया ही नहीं। महोदय, मैं स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के बोर्ड में भी था। मुझे एक दृष्टांत मालूम है कि इस उद्योग समूह ने पैसा एक मद में लिया और उसे उठाकर दूसरे मद में डायवर्ट कर दिया। लेकिन बड़ा शोर है कि पेट्रोनाइजेशन हो रहा है। चूंकि कोई प्रमाण नहीं है, इसलिए मैं इस बात को और आगे नहीं ले जाना चाहता, लेकिन जो शोर है, वह आप के संज्ञान में ला रहा हूँ कि पॉलिटिकल पेट्रोनाइजेशन है।

महोदय, मैं इन विषयों पर आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए मैं गुरुदास गुप्त जी के वक्तव्य और सरला जी के वक्तव्य से भी बहुत हद तक अपने को जोड़ते हुए कृपा पूर्वक कहना चाहूंगा कि छोटी मछलियों को मारने से कोई फायदा नहीं है बल्कि यह जो बड़ी मछलियां हैं - जिन का बंगाल में एक रूप है और दिल्ली में दूसरा और कहीं और कोई और रूप, कहीं बिजली के सौदागर, कहीं सत्ता के दलाल, कहीं राज्य सभा के उम्मीदवार, ऐसे तमाम लोग बहुरूप लेकर, मारीच का रूप लेकर, कहीं आई.डी.बी.आई. के सदस्य के रूप में आप के सामने प्रकट होंगे ... इन सब लोगों को पकड़िए-जकड़िए। व्यवस्था में तभी आमूल-चूल परिवर्तन हो सकेगा, तभी आप एन.पी.ए. से जूझ सकेंगे और तभी एक स्वच्छ और सुन्दर रूप-स्वरूप देश का सामने आ सकेगा।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI N. THALAVI SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion. Sir, this is not the first time when we are discussing about NPAs. We have discussed this issue a number of times in this House. The system must be changed. There are ten Debt Recovery Tribunals in our country. What is the total amount pending before the DRTs? Sir, 46 per cent of the NPAs is blocked in DRTs. The total number of suits which are pending in DRTs and various other courts is 5,31,110. How are you going to revamp DRTs? There is only one appellate authority. For example, we are having a Debt Recovery Tribunal at Chennai. Then there is a Bench at Cochin. Every week the judges have to go to Cochin and there is no sitting at Chennai. How are you going to revamp DRTs? How are you going to

revamp the system? Until and unless you revamp the DRTs and strengthen the Debt Recovery Tribunal mechanism, there cannot be any remedy. The total amount which is pending before DRTs and various other courts in the country is Rs. 39,800 crores. Until and unless the system is changed, we cannot recover the NPAs. The hon. Minister has stated in para 2 of his statement that there were internal and external factors. I do not understand what these internal and external factors are. Maybe, there was shortage of power and shortage of raw-material. How are we going to solve this problem? In para 3, he has talked about settlement advisory committees and recovery cells at Head Offices. What is the use of having recovery cells at Head Offices? They have not yet settled a single paisa. They serve a notice to the parties and have an interaction with them. They have not been able to settle the amount. Once they settle the amount, the matter is referred to the Board. But the Board has never taken any action. For example, so many matters are pending before the State Bank of India in Bombay. They had an interaction with them. There was a Settlement Commission also. But till date they have not settled any amount. How are you going to solve this problem? Until and unless you revamp the Settlement Cells and Settlement Commissions, you cannot recover NPAs. As my hon. colleague, Shri Amar Singh, has said, there are a lot of defaulters. There are a number of defaulters in the country. There are industrialists, directors, politicians, etc. who are defaulters. For example, there was a case pending in the DRT, Chennai, DRT No. 679/96. One of the Cabinet Ministers was involved in it. He was the Director of a company. The suit is pending before the Tribunal for the last three years. The amount involved is Rs. 23 crores. Every time, they are asking for adjournment. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, the hon. Member cannot refer to such things. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Please take your seat.

SHRI N. THALAVI SUNDARAM: Sir, the matter is pending before the court. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Mr. Thalavai Sundaram, you are making your points. You are giving your arguments seeking information. Please don't make allegations or references

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RAJYA SABHA

which are uncalled for, and which would needlessly create a controversy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, we do not know such practices like getting huge money as gifts and depositing them elsewhere...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Please take your seat...*(Interruptions)* Please resume your seats. Mr. Thalavai Sundaram, you are making your points very well. Then, why are you straying here and there? I think, now, you are on the point of winding up...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. N. SIVA: The conscience of * is this...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): I would not like such words to be used by both sides. The word * should be removed from the record...*(Interruptions)* Now, you wind up. You have taken a lot of time.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he is going to recover this amount...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.N. SIVA: He is talking about sub judice matter ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Mr. Margabandu, you please sit down. Why are you getting up when your own party Member is speaking? *(Interruptions)* Whatever is relevant, you can refer to it, according to procedure, at the appropriate time. Mr. Sundaram, please wind up now.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Now, in the last four years, they have accumulated...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): We are not going into specific cases. Now, you have to make your suggestions as to what you want the hon. Minister to do, or, you seek clarifications from him. You have very logically argued your points. You have made a very good speech. Now, you wind up.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: My third point is that,

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

accountability on the part of the management has to increase. I request that the Minister must see to it that the managements of banks are made more accountable so that the problems regarding NPAs can be solved. Also, the number of DRTs in the country should be increased. Presently, there are only 10 DRTs and one Appellate Tribunal in the whole country. The number of DRTs should be increased to 30 or 40. The hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement, and I read: "In order to strengthen the Debt Recovery Mechanism, an ordinance has been promulgated on 17.1.2000 to amend the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993." How effective is this amendment? As Shri Gurudas Das Gupta mentioned, unless you make drastic changes in the Act, the real problem cannot be curtailed. There is also a specific case regarding pro-notes. It is a criminal offence if cheques are dishonoured, unless comes under the Criminal Procedure Code, we will not receive a single naya paisa from anybody. If the defaulters go on getting adjournment after adjournment, they will never settle the amount. I request the hon. Minister....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T. N. CHATURVEDI): Please do not intervene. Why are you prompting him? He has enough matter with him. Now you please wind up.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: I request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps and revamp the system of DRTs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Dr. P. Selvie Das. She is not there. Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, today, we are discussing about a very important issue that is actually agitating the minds of the common man in the street. Sir, we have been discussing the question of non-performing assets in this House for the last one decade without finding any concrete result. Sir, when this matter was raised by Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, while concluding, he said that this was the last Calling Attention by him. But we do not think so. We hope Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta will again come to this august House. Whether we are having the same opinion or not, he will have I hope the opportunity to make more Calling Attention Motions in the next session also. Sir, nationalisation of banks took place in 1969. It was demanded, more or less, by all forward looking people. The DMK passed a resolution in this regard and the late lamented Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi also accepted this and

nationalisation took place. You know that the abolition of *privy purse* and nationalisation of banks was accepted throughout India from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari. Sir, now, the nomenclature is not important. What we have to take into account is the functioning of the nationalised banks since 1969. In this statement regarding Calling Attention, they have given some statistics. In the statistics, what I want to know is, after 1992-93, what is the incremental advance given by the scheduled banks and what is the incremental NPA? If both had been included in this Statement, it would have been much helpful to the country as well as to the Members who argue on this subject. Sir, now, as far as the non-performing assets are concerned, even though the Government is the owner, the RBI is the regulator. The question is, how far the regulations made by the RBI realise the intention for which it had made them. Sir, I want to bifurcate and classify the non-performing assets into two. One is *bona fide* and another is *mala fide*. *Mala fide* is, where the people took loans from banks but who have no intention of repaying it. On the other hand, there are people who took loans from banks with the good intention for using that money to increase production and serve the nation. But unfortunately, due to some unexpected reason they were not able to return the loan to the financial institutions. It is *bona fide*.

Sir, I feel that the defaulters should be classified. We have one category which is of genuine defaulters and we have another category which is of wilful defaulters. Cutting across party lines, we have been speaking here against the wilful defaulters. We are all concerned about how we are going to collect the money. According to one source, it is nearly Rs.58,000 crores. But when we go through the reports published by the Reserve Bank of India, we find that the percentage of Non-Performing Assets is coming down. I don't want to get into the jugglery of statistics and so on. We know one thing, and that is the gross NPA. The other thing is the net NPA. But after that, nobody knows whether there is any interest added or not. The nomenclature doesn't matter. Now, suppose, the percentage of NPA comes down. If the advance is going to be at a much faster rate of growth, then automatically the percentage of NPA will also come down. That is why I wanted to know whether it was an incremental advance. Not only this, Sir, there is a secrecy clause. In the Reserve Bank of India Act, there is the concept of secrecy - that it should not be disclosed to anybody. For example, I can tell you that here, two or three sections are interlinked. In the case of the Income-tax Act, there is a lacuna. If they wanted to find out whether these people have

deposited the money in some other banks or they have taken some money and they have not paid it and they have actually not shown it in the accounts, they cannot ask the RBI. Section 45 of the RBI Act prevails over section 133 (6) of the Income-tax Act. The Income-tax people can only ask the RBI if it is a pending issue. If it is not a pending issue, they cannot raise the issue with the RBI. This is one example. Another is that, in the case of the narcotic drugs, if a person is convicted and he is sentenced for less than five years, his ill-gotten wealth cannot be confiscated by the Government of India. This is the weakness, Sir. The financial laws, laws related with our economic policies are very weak. I suppose, if a person is convicted for five years and above, then only his property can be confiscated. If you take, for example the Prevention of Corruption Act, the rules have not been framed so far. Until and unless the rules are framed, how can we confiscate the property made through corruption? So far as the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is concerned, you cannot confiscate the property if the man has been sentenced for less than five years. As far as the Income-tax Act is concerned, section 133 (6) will not operate if there is no pending case with the Income-tax authority. Sir, I am quoting these three Acts only to show how we are functioning.

Now, I wanted to know about the secrecy clause which is still being kept. Why do they want to retain it? Why can't they remove it? Therefore, what Shri Amar Singhji had said, that this was a systemic failure also, was true. It was not only in the case of Non-Performing Assets. But I can tell you that from July 1998 to March, 1999, public money nearly to the tune of Rs.606 crores had been lost by way of frauds in banks. More than 1,700 cases have been filed. Who committed these frauds? It could not have happened without the connivance and cooperation of some officials in banks. Some officials in the banking administration are involved. For this, you feel that a financial regulatory authority should be constituted.

This is what they think about it. I want to know from the hon. Minister about the powers the Government intends to vest with the financial regulatory authority. In case you vest the same powers with the present administration of banks, then can they do more than what they are doing now. So, I request the Finance Minister to look into this issue.

Sir, the Government has created the Credit Information Bureau. It is collecting and calling for information from banks. In case the balance of a

person is more than Rs. 1 crore and it remains pending with a bank for more than 180 days, then it has to be intimated to the Reserve Bank of India. They are calling the information from all the banks and financial institutions and then sending back to the banks for information. The information which is being given to the bank administration is a confidential one. Why can't you disclose it to the public? I suggest that you should put it in the website, and let the people know who the actual willful defaulters are. If the bank administration works in a transparent manner and put it in the website, then the people would be able to know where the banks stand, and how they are serving the public.

Sir, now I come to another point. The people are depositing their money in the nationalised banks with the feeling that though the rate of interest is less than what is available outside, their money would be secure. They are depositing in these banks with a sense of security. Sir, liberalisation is taking place. In order to maintain the confidence that the people have in these banks, it is necessary to have some sort of insurance for their deposits which would ensure that even if the bank becomes bankrupt, they would get back their deposits in full. These people who work from the dawn to the dusk have deposited their hard-earned money in these banks. These people deposit their pension, PF, etc. This is the money they have earned after putting in 30 years' service. I suggest that there should be some sort of insurance for these people. According to that insurance, they should be assured that in case the bank becomes bankrupt, they would get back their deposits in full. It should be ensured without affecting the employment opportunities of the staff, without affecting the security and surety of the employees as well as the depositors. Then, whatever reforms you carry, will be highly appreciated by the people. I think the Government should identify the willful defaulters. If you are able to identify the willful defaulters, then you can take action against them. If you take action against them, then only the people will know that the Government is really serious about implementing the provisions of the Act. The Finance Minister, in para 42 of his Budget Speech said that the Government was seized of the matter relating to NPA. If the observations made in the Budget Speech are correct, then you should take action to find out the real defaulters. Sir, our national wealth is being squandered away through so many money-laundering activities. Here, I don't want to go into the details. The actual agriculturist should be given protection against income-tax. Some people are doing some mischievous things. By utilising the

parameters of agriculture, whatever money they have earned through other means, they are showing it against agriculture. The people who have looted the public money are saying that they have earned it through agriculture. The people who have looted the public money are saying that they have got it as a gift from foreign countries. They should not be acquitted. With these words, I conclude, Sir.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. This debate should have been started a long time back. We are very fortunate that this debate has already started on the roads. Umpteen number of seminars have been conducted by this time. Even in Hyderabad, three seminars have been conducted. Thanks to Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta; at least, he has risen to the occasion to bring this issue to the notice of the nation. Sir, a lot of opinions have been expressed about the intensity of the problem. I am not going into the figures that have already been stated. Some say that it is 16 per cent and some others say it is 20 per cent. But if we have confidence in international consultancy, according to International Accounting Standards, it is estimated at 20-25% of the net advances.

Sir, however, one can't deny that the situation is very grave and alarming. As we are going in for globalisation to compete with the industry at the international level, unless you reduce this figure by initiating some corrective measures, our industry is going to collapse. Sir, the banking industry in India has played a vital role in strengthening the economy of the country. This has to be taken note of.

Sir, the NPAs have become a road-block to the growth of banks. One more thing I wanted to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister. A number of reasons have been given -- the East Asian crisis, recession, internal factors. These are all reasons which have been cited for the creation of NPAs. But one important aspect is the effect of globalisation. Sir, I am not against globalisation. We are championing the cause of globalisation. But the Indian industry is yet to gear up to the technological advancements of the western countries. So, till the transformation takes place, the products that are being produced in the country, especially after the proposed signing of the WTO, it is stupendous task for us to dispose of our goods, because the more quality goods are being imported or dumped into the country -- it is a big market - the more we will be unable to compete with the quality that is being provided by

the western countries. So, naturally, the factories or industries which are going to produce products may not be in a position to sell their products. This is going to be a grave situation. In such an eventuality, there is going to be an acute liquidity problem for the corporate sector, which results in non-payment of instalments to the banks which, in turn, increases the NPAs. Sir, this aspect has to be taken note of and precautionary measures have to be taken by the Government. Otherwise, it is going to be a very grave situation.

Sir, I analyse two factors which cause the NPAs. Sir, the basic reason is diversion of funds by the corporate sector. The recent survey which has been conducted on 800 top NPAs, in 17 public sector banks, says that the reason is diversion of funds. Sir, recently, the steel industry has been given very huge amounts as loans. They have been diverted. Institutions have served notices to the steel industry to bring back those loans for the purposes for which they had been sanctioned. But I want to know from the Finance Minister whether it has materialised. Sir, instead of using the funds for the purpose for which it was sanctioned, it was deliberately diverted to more lucrative lines like smuggling, real estate, etc. They may be confident that they could earn more money and pay off the debt, but the situation may go out of their control and they may not be able to control the situation. So, in such an eventuality, the creation of NPAs will be on the higher side.

Sir, this aspect has to be carefully taken note of. The Finance Minister has stated various factors such as inefficient management, obsolete machinery, obsolete product, strained relations, shortage of power, etc. These are the reasons which every industry will face. So, ultimately, what action has the Government to initiate? In the Budget of 1999, the Finance Minister went on record to say, "We will create the asset reconstruction companies." I do not know how many banks have created them. In 1991 itself, the Narasimham Committee had recommended the creation of ARC on the lines of other countries like Japan which have promoted it. But, no action has been initiated. Again the Verma Committee was appointed. The Verma Committee also recommended the same thing. I do not know what constraints the Government is facing in the creation of such funding system. Sir, when it has proved successful in other countries and when we do not have any other alternative, then why can't we adopt that method? I do not know the reasons. The Finance Minister has to state these things. Sir, we have adopted socialist measures. Sir, the NPAs, prior to the writing off of loans of Rs.10,000, were of the order of 60 per cent. After waiving of the loans, it

was reduced to 30 per cent. If you see the percentage of the priority sector in the NPA, the Government has to be more realistic in making advances. Thanks to these loan *melas*, the banking industry has been brought to bottom. ... (*Interruptions*).. This is my opinion. I am stating the reasons. Sir, prior to the writing off this or waiver of Rs.10,000, the percentage of the priority sector NPAs was 60 per cent. But, after writing off, it was 30 per cent. This figure alone substantiates my statement. We should strengthen the industry. We should not indulge in populist measures that destroy the system and the industry. Sir, I want to make one suggestion. The reforms have to be speeded up. This is high time that we did not brook any delay. The system has to be strengthened. A number of recommendations have been made and the Finance Minister is totally willing and a number of times on the floor of the House and outside also he has gone on record to say, "We are going to implement the reforms." But, no concrete measures have been initiated. We should make the industry to adjust itself to this new environment which requires skill for management to face new types of credit risk, market risk, risk of interest rate, risk of foreign exchange, etc. These are the reasons because of which our economy should be so resilient and our system should be so resilient that we are able to absorb these risks and our industry is able to survive and compete with the international standards. Especially this is more relevant when we are on the verge of globalisation. One of my friends has said that we should strengthen our DPS and the BIRF. The Board of Industrial Finance for Reconstruction, BIFR, itself requires reconstruction. Sir, it is one of the sickest organisations in the country. This has to be taken note of. There is one more suggestion that I want to make. Sir, there are a number of vacancies in the banks and the practice is that these banks are used as political rehabilitation centres. For God's sake, do not do it. You send those persons who have got integrity and who have some financial background so that they can contribute to the development of the industry. Otherwise, the same fate will follow as that had been following the banks earlier. There is one more suggestion that I want to make. Sir, the legal system has to be strengthened. Sir, to get a decree for realisation of a security, it takes eight years and again it is subject to appeal. Unless you strengthen the legal system, it will be very difficult to get recoveries.

One more thing I wanted to point out. It is about the secrecy clause in banks. Sir, the secrecy clause in banks has to be changed. When I borrow some amount from a bank, why should it be kept as secret? When you are

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advancing loans, you should act as a watchdog. But, while recovering loans, you should act as a bloodhound. My request to the hon. Finance Ministry is this. I am not criticising anybody. The present Government is not responsible for the accumulation of the NPAs. This is the cumulative effect of so many factors that have contributed. This is high time that the Government initiated some concrete measures to curb this. It should be brought to the international level of less than 5 per cent. Otherwise, the industry would collapse and the economy would be ruined. The Finance Minister always used to say that the fiscal deficit has become a villain. If necessary measures are not taken, the NPAs would also become the villains of the banking industry. Thank you.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL (Maharashtra): Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I am really happy to participate in this very important discussion on an important financial matter. As everybody is aware, the NPAs is a benign cancer effecting our financial system and the banking system. Unless and until we take corrective measures, there is every likelihood that it will have a malignant effect. Therefore, this is one of the single-most important factors which is affecting the profitability of banks. At present, the banking sector is very much increasing. The income of the banks is increasing from Rs. 85,000 crores to 1 lakh crores. The assets of the banks have increased from Rs. 7,00,095 crores to Rs. 9,50,000 crores. At the same time, the NPAs are also increasing. It is Rs. 58,000 crores. This is a very huge amount. I am not aware whether the NPAs of small banks are included in this. For example, the co-operative banks, the rural banks and so on. So, the first clarification I sought from the hon. Minister is, whether these NPAs of Rs. 58,000 crores include the NPAs of the co-operative central banks, the rural banks and the urban co-operative banks.

The second important clarification I sought from the Minister is, what are the important causes for the NPAs? My friend has just mentioned some causes. He has mentioned two or three causes. There were some Committees appointed to find out the causes and, according to them, eight causes were enlisted. For example, diversion of funds for expansion, modernisation and setting up of new plants; time and cost over runs; external factors like raw material shortage, raw material price escalation and so on; business failure like product failure and so on; failure of non-payment of over dues by other countries; recession in other countries and so on; the Government policies like excise, import duty changes; different regulation,

pollution control orders, etc. One important cause mentioned here is that of willful default, siphoning of funds, fraud, mis-appropriation, and promoter-management disputes. This cause, I think, is very important as has been mentioned here with various tones. There is a collaboration of the officials with the borrowers and this is one of the important causes for the NPAs. I am doubtful whether any amount of change in the laws will eliminate this cause. This factor must be looked into very carefully. Then, there are deficiencies on the part of the banks in credit appraisal monitoring and follow-up, delay in release of limits, delay in settlement of payments, subsidies, etc.

So, there are a number of cases pending in the DRTs, DSTs, and so on. According to my information, about 11,700 cases are pending in the DRTs. The funny thing is that only 1,045 cases have been decided till now, and out of Rs. 8,867 crores, which are to be recovered, only Rs. 178 crores have been recovered. And how much time it has taken. So, here, my suggestion would be that you select 100 big defaulters and appoint courts -- whatever their nature may be -- and fix the responsibility on them of deciding these matters within a time-frame. That would facilitate the recovery of debts from the people who are indulging in such things. Another very important which has been mentioned by many Members is, why this confidentiality clause, or, the secretive clause is there in the banking system. It should be done away forthwith and the law should be amended because when a small farmer takes a loan from a bank, not only his name is notified, but his property is publicly auctioned in the village. Everybody is very much concerned about this. On the other hand, in the case of a big man, defrauding hundreds of crores of rupees - the list is given here -- his name is not at all mentioned. This is something very surprising in our democratic system. Now, the CVC is releasing the names of many bureaucrats against whom the CBI has levelled charges, on the internet. Every day we read more and more names of these people. Every day the website is increasing. So, why not the names of such defaulters could go on the internet so that the whole nation knows their names?

Another amendment is also needed in the law. That is a very large issue. I think, it should be brought under the CrPC because this is an economic offence. But economic offences are so large that when you defraud hundreds and crores of rupees, you know how many children are deprived from going to schools. That money could have been used for this

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purpose. Therefore, I feel that this should be brought under the CrPC. Here also, penal punishment should be applied to such defaulters. This matter should also be looked into by the hon. Finance Minister. So, in order to avoid the shock-waves, affecting the system, the salvaging exercise should be undertaken by the Finance Minister. With these words, I conclude, Sir. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): I find that Dr. (Ms.) Selvie Das is here Dr. Selvie Das, you can rest for some time, and then you can participate. Would you like to participate?

DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS (Nominated): On which issue, Sir. I have come just now.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Mr. Bagrodia wants to make a few comments. You take some rest, and after that you can make your points.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Just one minute, Sir. Is it on record? ...*(Interruptions)*... Is it the authenticated copy...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Yes, it is on record that I had made a request. And you placed it. But, we have to get the Chairman's order because as you know that is the procedure. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: That will be known only tomorrow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Yes.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I think this subject has been discussed threadbare by different Members. I just want to make one or two points. Why these NPAs have happened during the last 50 years, or, 60 years? A number of times it has been noticed that the advances are not given always on merit. As Gurudasji has been saying, I am not saying that necessarily there is a real nexus, but definitely some undue influence is being used. In the process, wrong people get the funds and the right people do not get them. As a result, non-performing assests are created. Sometimes Government policies are also responsible for that. For example, today, what is happening in the sugar industry? Because of the Government policy, the

import duty was not put up at the right time, and as a result, a number of sugar industries have gone sick. So, like that, there are a number of reasons for these non-performing assets. When these NPAs take place, the bankers are also not really monitoring the industries properly. It is not only the question of giving the money. Once the loans are given, they have to be monitored properly. But there is no monitoring. When the bankers find the industry is going down slowly, day-by-day, they just keep quiet, and sometimes it has happened that they have tightened their belt so much that they make the industry further sick. Instead of giving them a little more assistance, they make it sick. These factors, as a policy matter, should be looked into.

My colleague is not present here at this time. He has mentioned that the percentage has gone down. It is not the question of percentage going down. The question is that today the bankers are not giving any more advances to these small-scale industries. There is no private sector in the minds of the bank any more. The money is given only to the rich people; the poor man, the man in the village, the man in the town is just not able to get the funds. I am not saying that the funds should be distributed as a charity. But there are a number of people, who deserve these small loans; and if these small loans are properly monitored, I am sure the NPAs will be much lesser. Sir, I do not want to take much of the time of the House because, I am sure, our hon. Finance Minister will take some time, and then we are all ready to go for the farewell party this evening. I will only request the Finance Minister to please see to it that not only these NPAs come down, but the small borrowers are also not made to suffer. That is the only point I wanted to make.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI) : Before I request the Finance Minister to give his reply, Shri Gandhi Azad, please.

श्री गांधी आज़ाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद महोदय।

महोदय, यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है। मैं अपने को श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त से संबद्ध करते हुए केवल इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में बैंकों से दो तरह की मानसिकता के लोग ऋण लेते हैं। एक तो उस मानसिकता के लोग, खास तौर से गरीब और मध्यम श्रेणी के लोग जो ऋण लेते समय ही ऋण अदायगी की योजना बनाते हैं और अपना ऋण समय से अदा कर भी देते हैं। लेकिन एक उस तरह के लोग होते हैं जो ऋण लेते समय ही घपला करने की योजना बनाते हैं। अंततः घपला करने में सफल हो जाते हैं और ऋण वापस नहीं देते हैं और गैर निष्पादित आस्तियों या एन.पी.ए. में बढ़ोत्तरी करने में

भागीदारी लेते हैं। एक तरह से हमारी आर्थिक व्यवस्था में घुन का काम करते हैं। मैं और आंकड़ों के चक्कर में नहीं पड़ना चाहता हूँ लेकिन मैं वित्त मंत्री से इतना अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि यह एन.पी.ए. के रूप में जो हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था में घुन लग रहा है इसके लिए कोई न कोई उपचार करने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। यह जरूरत महसूस करनी चाहिए। कोई उपचार जरूर करना चाहिए ताकि देश की आर्थिक व्यवस्था में सुधार हो सके। धन्यवाद महोदय समय के लिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी): गौतम साहब, आप तो सिर्फ दो ही मिनट लेंगे।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्षजी, मैं तो गांव और गरीब पृष्ठभूमि का व्यक्ति हूँ। यहां लोगों ने चिंता उद्योगों की की है और मुझे चिंता है गांव के गरीब किसान की। मैं यह देख रहा हूँ कि आजादी के बाद बड़े व्यापक पैमाने पर हमारे देश में औद्योगीकरण हुआ। उससे विकास हुआ। फिर बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हो गया। उससे निर्माण के काम हुए और गरीबों को पैसा मिला। फिर आर्थिक उदारीकरण आ गया। कुछ हमारे उद्यमी हैं, उनको प्रोत्साहन मिला। फिर व्यापार का भू-मंडलीकरण हो गया तो हमारे लोगों की साझेदारी विदेशी कंपनियों के साथ हो गई। इसके बाद फिर निजीकरण प्रारंभ हो गया। ये बड़े सोचने, मंथन और चिंतन के विषय हैं कि हम क्यों अपनी नीतियों को बदलते रहे और इनके क्या कारण रहे हैं? इसका सीधा अर्थ-व्यवस्था से प्रश्न है। बजट पर बहस होगी, लेकिन इस सदन में हम किसी न किसी रूप में आर्थिक विषयों पर चर्चा करते रहे हैं, और यह अर्थ व्यवस्था से जुड़ा हुआ विषय है। ये जो सारे उद्यम फेल हुए वे हमारे कारण फेल हुए और उसके तीन कारण थे। एक तो एम्प्लायमेंट एक्सैस हो गया, दूसरे जो उनके हेडज़ थे विद कंसिड्रेशन एप्वायंट हुए और किसी की एकाउंटेबिलिटी फिक्स नहीं हुई। अगर उनकी जिम्मेदारी निर्धारित कर दी जाती और अनुभवी लोग, बगैर पैसा लिए वहां पर नियुक्त किए जाते और वहां पर लोगों को सीमित उसमें राशि दी जाती तो ये सारे उद्योग फेल नहीं होते। फिर जिन्होंने ये उद्योग फेल किए उन्होंने ही निजीकरण की सिफारिश की। सीवीसी की लिस्ट में जो बेईमान आफिसर हैं, कितनों को शो काज़ नोटिस दिए गए, कितने सस्पेंड किए गए और कितनों के खिलाफ अपराध के केस पंजीकृत किए गए? और जब ये नहीं हो रहे तो फिर तो यह व्यवस्था जारी रहेगी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी): आप एन.पी.ए. पर आ जाइये।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : मैं उसी पर आ गया। बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ। मैं गरीब आदमी हूँ। इंदिरा गांधी जी ने बीस सूत्रीय कार्यक्रम चलाया और गरीबों के, गांवों

के किसानों के उत्थान के लिए पैसा मिलना शुरू हो गया । नाबॉर्ड की, ग्रामीण विकास बैंक की स्थापना हो गई तो गांवों के लोगों को कर्ज दिया जाने लगा ।

आपको याद है 42वां संविधान संशोधन, जिसमें संविधान की प्रस्तावना में संशोधन हुआ और 'लोकतांत्रिक समाजवादी' शब्द जोड़ा गया । यह जो 'समाजवादी' शब्द है, हमने उस 42वें संशोधन के पीछे से, जब जनता पार्टी सत्ता में आई, उसके संशोधन रद्द कर दिए, लेकिन यह संशोधन रद्द नहीं किया । इस समाजवादी विचार को सबने स्वीकार किया । इस समाजवादी विचार में आर्थिक समानता लाना सन्निहित है और उसमें इन बैंकों की बहुत बड़ी भूमिका थी, लेकिन आज वह सारी भूमिका समाप्त हो गई और ये सारे बैंक अब कमर्शियल बैंक हो गए । लिहाजा जो कल्याण के काम थे, वे रुक गए । कुछ लोगों ने सभी बातें बता दीं, मैं उनको तो दोहराऊंगा नहीं । मैं गांव का रहने वाला हूं । जब मैं वकालत करता था तो कुछ मुकदमें आए । गांव के किसान ने अपनी जमीन गिरवी रख करके बैंक से ट्रैक्टर लिया । उसकी फसल मारी गई, ओला पड़ गया, सूखा पड़ गया, बाढ़ आ गई और उससे ऋण अदा नहीं हुआ । उसका ट्रैक्टर भी बिक गया और जमीन की नीलामी भी हो गई । अनेकों ऐसे केस हैं । तो प्रश्न वही पैदा होता है कि ये जितने बड़े लोग हैं इनकी नीलामी क्यों नहीं होती ? अगर कहें कि कोर्ट बाधक है, तो कोर्ट साधक हो सकती है, पब्लिक इन्टरेस्ट लिटिगेशन के नाम पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट और अन्य न्यायालय 50 साल के लंबित मुकदमे को छोड़ करके एक हफ्ते वाले को ले लेते हैं । मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट का मैटर नहीं है ? अगर यह पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट का मैटर है तो पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट लिटिगेशन क्यों नहीं होना चाहिए । सुप्रीम कोर्ट कैसे इंकार कर सकती है? कोई डबल मापदंड का इस्तेमाल तो कर नहीं सकते । सही बात है, क्षमा करना, 'ऐसे ही उदई, ऐसे ही भार, इनके नाखन, इनके कान' यहां कोई पाटी ऐसी नहीं बची है जो प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से सत्ता में या सत्ता की समर्थक नहीं रही है । इसलिए दूसरे की आलोचना या दूसरे पर आरोप लगाने के बजाय समस्या के निदान में सहयोग करें । उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब संयुक्त मोर्चा की सरकार थी तो ये लेफ्टिस्ट्स उस का बाहर से समर्थन कर रहे थे, चोरी नहीं कर रहे थे, चोर का साथ दे रहे थे, वह भी इनवॉल्वड थे । तो पॉलिसी तो वही है, सब ने वही पॉलिसी एडॉप्ट की, लेकिन सही बात यह है कि नीयत खराब है और जो लोग इनवॉल्वड हैं, वह किसी-न-किसी तरह से, कहीं-न-कहीं, किसी के चाचा, ताऊ, मामा, फूफा, भाई-भतीजा, रिश्तेदार या बिरादरी के लोग रहे हैं या चुनाव में इन को पैसा देते हैं । इसलिए उन के खिलाफ एक्शन नहीं होता ।

महोदय, आखिरी बात कहूंगा, सदन के लोग इसे अदरवाइज न लें । अभी बहुत

सी बातें आई हैं। हम सभी जानते हैं कि 25 परसेंट पॉपुलेशन शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब के लोगों की है, लेकिन उन में कोई डिफॉल्टर नहीं है। उस ने आज तक किसी का ऋण नहीं मारा। उन का किसी का पैसा स्विटजरलैंड में जमा नहीं है, उन के किसी के पास काला धन नहीं है। तो यह कौन लोग हैं? इस देश को डुबोनेवाले कौन हैं? ये वह लोग हैं जो तथाकथित अगुआ लोग हैं।

महोदय, अभी कुछ लोग कह रहे थे कि फायनेंसियल बैंकग्राउंड के लोग आने चाहिए। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस व्यक्ति ने जिंदगी भर रसगुल्ले खाए हैं, वही रसगुल्ले की बेईमानी करता है। जिस ने खाया, वही बेईमानी कर रहे हैं। महोदय, इस सारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था में गरीब, और ज्यादा गरीब और अमीर और ज्यादा अमीर होता चला जा रहा है। इसलिए मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से बड़े विनम्र शब्दों में एक बात कहूंगा कि आप शब्दों के जाल में फंसने का प्रयत्न मत करिए जो कि ये सब लोग करते चले आए हैं और आप सही बात बताइए। यह जो बातें आप ने अपने वक्तव्य में बताई हैं, यह तो सब बताते आ रहे हैं कि हम ने कमेटी बिठा कमीशन बिठा दी, लेकिन कमेटी/कमीशन की रिपोर्ट कब आती है और कितनी मानी जाती है? वह तो रद्दी की टोकरी में डाल दी जाती है, यह भी हम देखते आए हैं। लेकिन मैं आप से जानना चाहूंगा कि एक टाइम-बाउंड प्रोग्राम आप किस समय तक लागू करेंगे और जितने बड़े-बड़े डिफॉल्टर्स हैं, उन के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही करेंगे? हमें इस से मतलब नहीं है कि आप क्या तरीका अपनाते हैं? आप चाहे 30 के 13 कर दें, लेकिन नाम दरोगा धर दें। हमारा तो सीधा मतलब है कि रिकवरी की कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए। (समाप्त)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Sir, I am on a point of order. The List of Business mentions here that the clarifications will be taken up before the House rises for the day. Does it stand?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): I understand that there was a discussion on that and the sense of the House is since there is a farewell function for the retiring Members, after the hon. Finance Minister has given his reply, and a formal item, a Bill to be introduced in the House by Shri Shanta Kumar, the House would adjourn.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, for his farewell Calling Attention. I am sure, notwithstanding the Statesman editorial, Mr. Das Gupta will return to Parliament. We look forward to the day when we shall have his company once again.

Sir, this is indeed a very important issue. It is an issue which concerns all the people of this country and the entire economic system. There is no denying that fact. Therefore, I entirely agree with the hon. Members, who have said that this matter should be tackled on a priority basis. I would only like to say in the beginning that the DRTA(Amendment) Bill will be coming before this House, perhaps tomorrow, if the Chairman so desires, and we will have another opportunity to discuss the same issue.

I am sure the House will spend sometime and we will discuss issues which might have been left out today. A number of other general issues have been raised. The House is already in a farewell mood and mode, I would not like to take the time of the House in replying to those general philosophical issues. Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari is smiling. I was precisely referring to some of the general issues that she has raised. I am sure, we will have enough opportunities during the Budget debate to come back to those issues. I think that will be the appropriate occasion for me also to put forth the point of view of the Government in regard to those issues.

I will only make one general comment and that general comment is let us not see the ghosts where they don't exist. For everything let us not blame the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO. I think it is time to go out of this very narrow mindset. There is no reason for a country like India to be afraid or scared of any one of these organisations or their membership. We are not under an IMF programme. Therefore, IMF is not in a position to tell us what we should do or what we should not do. Those days are gone. I hope they have gone for ever. Similarly, we all know, the World Bank does not dictate the policy. They give us some loans because we are members of the World Bank. Those are assistances that they give for specific projects. For the last two years there has been some decline in that also because of the sanctions. We are aware of that.

We have discussed about the WTO in this House. I don't have to take the time of the House. As far as the NPAs are concerned, let me make it clear that NPAs are not the result of the liberalisation policies which were started in this country in 1991. It is not because of liberalisation policy that suddenly we have Rs.58,000 crores of NPAs. NPAs have been there from before. What happened as a result of the liberalisation policies is that we became aware of this fact that we have to look at the health of our financial institutions. As I have said in my preliminary speech, the whole concept was

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brought to the forefront only in 1992. It was from 1993-94 that the banks were required to start calculating and reporting their NPAs. Before that, there could have been NPAs. But we were not even aware of how much NPA was there for each bank and what was the prudential norm. Let me say that today, we are far more aware and conscious of the need for the absolutely robust health of the financial sector because it is the experience of all the countries in the world of the global community that a problem will begin, a crisis will begin if the financial sector is not up to the mark. What has happened in East-Asia? The basic problem that took place in East Asia was the weakness of the financial sector which could not tackle the crisis, which overtook the countries of the region. Therefore, our concern is that our financial sector should be absolutely healthy, in the pink of health. It is the prime need of the hour. There is no way this country can afford to let the things drift. Therefore, we have to do the prudential norms prescribed by the Central Bank, by the Reserve Bank of India which compare with the best in the world. And we are proud of the fact that we have now norms which are much better than most developed countries also. We are continuously improving upon those prudential norms year after year so that, as I said, we can bring the financial sector to the pink of health.

Now, what has been the position? Sir, as I mentioned, it was not my intention to conceal any figure from the House. But the fact is that ever since we started on this in 1993-94, as a result of the steps taken by succeeding Governments, NPAs both in the gross and net terms, have been going down. These are the figures. In 1993-94, the NPAs were 24.78 per cent. In 1998-99, that is, end-March, 1999, they were 15.89 per cent. The net NPAs in 1993-94 were 14.46 per cent. They have come down to 8.13 per cent in 1998-99. Now, just as I am not taking the blame for the outstandings and the defaults in bank accounts for all these years, I am also not taking credit for all this decline. I am saying, it is as a result of the efforts made by succeeding Governments that it has been possible for us to make this achievement. We are aware of the fact that in our context, we have a norm of something like four per cent. It will be our endeavour to take effective steps so that we can bring the NPAs down to four per cent within a given period of time and then take it further

From all corners of the House there was a demand, there was a voice which came out, which gives the impression as if there are only a few industrial houses which are responsible for all those NPAs and that we have

to take them to the nearest lamp-post at Vijay Chowk and hang them by it. Unfortunately, there is a rule of law in this country and howsoever I wish to do this, I cannot. How do we tackle it? I referred in my speech, when we started this debate, Sir, to the extending of the DRTs. What happened to the DRTs? The DRT Act was declared *ultra vires* the Constitution, null and void by the Delhi High Court in 1995. And the Subordinate Legislation Committee of this House went into that question apart from the Expert Committees of the RBI. We took a stay order from the Supreme Court and ensured that the DRTs which had been constituted, continued to function. But, there were infirmities in the law. Why are we amending the DRTA? We are amending it in order to plug those loopholes and in order to strengthen the recovery machinery, and it will be our endeavour to do exactly that.

Sir, now, I have these figures. And I am sharing them with the House for the first time because these figures had not been arranged like this. I got them from the RBI. What is the total NPA? It is Rs.51,000-odd crores which is of the banks apart from the Rs.7000 crores which is of the financial institutions. If we look at this... (*Interruption*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Totally, it is Rs.58,000 crores.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Totally, it is Rs.58,000 crores. You are right, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. It does not include the interest of this period because once an account becomes an NPA, interest is not calculated. We do not give up our claim to the interest. Whenever we drag the account to the DRT or to any other court of law, the claim is filed for the entire amount of principal as well as the interest calculated up to that point of time. So, interest is not given up. But, according to the norms which have been adopted in this country, the interest is not calculated. So, this is the amount on the day on which they became NPAs. What do we mean by NPAs? This is a matter which we have discussed in this House with reference to questions on earlier occasions. An NPA is a sub-standard account; it is a doubtful account; it is a loss account. These are the only three categories which constitute NPAs. A sub-standard asset was an asset which had been in default, let us say, for a period of less than 24 months.

From 1st April, 2000, we are going to make it eighteen months because, we are, as I said earlier, improving upon our norms. So, what is the percentage? For all public sector banks, it is 15.89 per cent, as I said. Out of this, in the priority sector, our NPAs account for 43.71 per cent, the

non-priority sector accounts for 51.89 per cent and the public sector undertakings account for 2.89 per cent. This is the distribution. Let us take the NPAs relating to non-priority sector. The large industrial sector has an NPA of Rs. 12412 crore which constitutes 24 per cent of the NPAs; medium industry, Rs. 7,262 crore, that is, 13.84 per cent. Now, I come to the NPAs relating to the priority sector. Agriculture, Rs. 7095 crore accounting for 13.72 per cent; small-scale industry sector, Rs. 9,887 crore, accounting for 19.12 per cent, others Rs. 5,624 crores accounting for 10.87 per cent. When all this talk of NPAs started in the wake of the CII report and there was all this talk that the Government was about to close the banks, then I told the RBI to get me the figure, how much is outstanding against what category and class, all figures. These are the figures, which in all responsibility, I am sharing with this House. Let me give you another set of figures. What is the other set of figures? These figures do not relate to financial institutions. Banks, Rs. 51,710 crore; NPAs up to Rs. 25,000/-, Rs. 5,143 crores, that is, 9.95 per cent; above Rs. 25,000/- but less than Rs. 10 lakhs, Rs. 10,623 crore, accounting for 20.54 per cent. I am referring to NPAs of Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 10 lakhs because in the DRT Bill or the Act which exists, the Act which was framed in 1993, you can only take to the DRT an account which has turned into an NPA up to or more than Rs. 10 lakhs. Up to Rs. 10 lakhs, nobody will be dragged to the DRT. That is not the intention. It is only of account-holders who have borrowed more than Rs. 10 lakhs or those whose account has accumulated to more than Rs. 10 lakhs that we will drag them to the DRT.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: For the money they have advanced!

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The total amount outstanding which has turned into an NPA. Now above Rs. 25,000/- up to Rs. 10 lakhs, 24.45 per cent, from Rs. 10 lakhs up to Rs. 50 lakhs, Rs. 5,199 crore, that is, 10.06 per cent, from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. one crore, Rs. 3,534 crore, that is 6.84 per cent, from Rs. one crore to Rs. ten crore, Rs. 14013 crore, that is 27.10 per cent, from Rs. ten crore to Rs. 50 crore, Rs. 10017 crore which is 19.37 per cent, from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 100 crores, Rs. 1,777 crore which is 3.44 per cent, and above Rs. 100 crores, Rs. 1401 crore which is 2.71 per cent.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Finance Minister, according to your statement, the larger amount is because of the big advance as per your

percentage. I am saying "above one crore". From above one crore to fifteen crores, you calculate; it is more than 50 per cent.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No. I am only making the point, responding to the sentiments expressed in this House, because I was worried about it-- you also know this--that it is the small man who is paying his loans. That there are no defaults there, is not correct.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : No, no; it is true, but repayment is more in the case of small loans. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am not entering into a dispute at all. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not entering into that dispute at all. I am only making the point.....*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Faleiro, I will yield, if you want, but I am only making the point.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, I just want to make a point, that if we compare the number of people to whom loans are given, the number is very small, and the amount of loan given is also small. That is number one. Number two is, the large industrialists use the device of small- scale industries to get loans. The large industrial houses have a lot of small scale industries to corner the benefits meant for the small-scale industries, including loans.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, up to Rs.10 lakhs, it is a small amount. Even for the SSI sector, it is a small amount of loan, and from Rs.25,000/- to Rs.10 lakhs, if you take every amount up to Rs.10 lakhs, then the outstanding is over 30 per cent of the gross NPAs. So, I am just saying, let us clear our mind, our perception, about where the NPAs are outstanding, which includes the large industries, which includes the medium industries, which includes the small- scale industries, which includes the agricultural sector. Everywhere we are confronted with the problem of NPAs, and everywhere, we have to tackle the problem of NPAs.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Mr. Yashwant Sinha, please yield for just one second. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: आप बार-बार इंटरवीन करोगे तो रिप्लाय कैसे खत्म होगा?
...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, I have listened to you most

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carefully. According to your figures, the default beyond one crore of rupees constitutes more than 50 per cent of the NPAs. According to your figures--I have calculated-- it is more than 50 per cent. More than one crore is more than 50 per cent of the NPAs. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Here, I am not defending anyone.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : I know that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am just saying that we must attack the problem of NPAs, irrespective of the size of the loans. If we want to tackle it, then we must tackle it, cutting across the sectors, cutting across the quantam. Then really we will be able to solve the problem of NPAs.

Sir, responding, again, to Sarla Maheshwari's point about the public sector, nobody is condemning the public sector banks. Let us not have this in our mind that the whole lot of things are happening because we are all trying to condemn the public sector banks for their non-performing assets or for their lack of efficiency. Sir, here are some figures. It is true that the public sector banks started with a large NPA, and even in 1999, on 31st March, it was 15.9 per cent. But let me give you the comparative figures. And there, you will find that the public sector has acquitted itself creditable. When you compare these figures, in respect of public sector banks, it is 15.9 per cent; in respect of old private sector banks, it is 13 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*... It was 13 per cent on 31st March, 1999. It is not that the private sector banks have been very well run and they don't have any NPAs. And what is worse, these are increasing. It was only 10.7 per cent. It has gone up to 13 per cent in 1997-1999. I am comparing it for three years. In respect of new private sector banks, it was 2.6 per cent in 1997; it was 5.7 per cent in 1999. In respect of foreign banks, it was 4.3 per cent in 1997, and 7 per cent in 1999.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : This is the progress!

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : In private sectors banks, new private sector banks, foreign banks, everywhere, the percentage of NPAs has been going up. It is only in the public sector banks that it has been coming down. Let me make it clear.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : It is nice to hear you!

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No; because you are always looking at some imperialist, somewhere hidden, somewherehere...*(Interruptions)*...

You know ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why I am telling you that nobody is against the public sector. I am saying this, that they have put in a very creditable performance.

That is why this question about privatisation has been raised. I have said it very clearly. I had said two things in my Budget Speech. I would like to repeat them in this House. One is that, we are not going to close down any bank, including the three weak banks. This is something which I have stated, on the authority of the Government of India, in my Budget Speech. As owner of the banks, we will recapitalise the banks. We will have a restructuring plan and we are thinking also in terms of new mechanisms. We are thinking in terms of a financial restructuring authority. If need be, we will supersede the boards of these banks, in order to ensure that the restructuring plan goes through in the manner in which we want it to go through, that is, on the strength of the new authority that we shall create.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, are you referring...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, Mr. Ramachandraiah, you had referred to the Assets and Reconstruction Company. That is different. The Narasimham Committee had not talked of an Assets and Reconstruction Company. They had talked of an Asset Reconstruction Fund, which we have not accepted. We have not accepted that part of the recommendation. As far as the Assets Reconstruction Company is concerned, I had mentioned about it in my Budget Speech last year. We are in consultation with the RBI. We are working on it and if we find it feasible that an Assets Reconstruction Company will solve the problem of NPAs, then, we will create an Assets Reconstruction Company.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It will never be solved; it will only be covered up.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: That is why I am saying that I am not committing myself. I had looked at it as a possibility. We are looking at that possibility even today. There is a group of experts in the RBI, which is working on it. When we get the Report, we will decide whether we want to set up an Assets Reconstruction Company or not. But, in terms of the Verma Committee's recommendations, which we have adopted in a modified form, we are definitely thinking in terms of a financial restructuring authority.

The other thing that I had said in my Budget Speech is in regard to bringing down the Government's equity in the banks to less than 50 per cent, that is, to 33 per cent, as the Narsimham Committee had suggested. Now, there has been a point made here that we are privatising. Mr. Faleiro was saying, 'How can we keep the public sector character of the banks by reducing our equity to less than 50 per cent?' There was also a fear expressed as if we are going to disinvest our shares. Let me take this opportunity to clear the misunderstandings and the mist in regard to this. There is no question of disinvestment. That is not our plan of action. It is not that we are saying that we are holding some shares and we will go and sell them in the market. No. What we are saying is that, earlier, when the then Government thought of recapitalising the banks, we had, through a financial engineering strategy, pumped in over Rs. 20,000 crore to recapitalise these banks in 1993. But we also, simultaneously, amended the Bank Nationalisation Act to bring the equity of the Government down to 51 per cent for all public sector banks, and to 55 per cent of the RBI equity, as far as the State Bank of India was concerned. Now, there are many banks. I am not referring to only these three banks. There are other banks which are coming to us and saying, 'We are the owners and we want to recapitalize. We are in need of recapitalisation.' And I have no hesitation in admitting that I am not in a position to give them any money today because I don't have the money to give. Therefore, how do the banks recapitalise? In the given situation, either we allow the banks to go sick, or, we open a window so that they can recapitalise. And if they go to the market and recapitalise, and if they raise the money from the market, it is likely that our shareholding in those banks might come below 51 per cent. I have said, 'How can this happen?' It will happen in the same way in which bank nationalisation took place. There is an Act and I will come before Parliament with our amendments to that Act. In that Act, I will clearly say that the public sector nature of the banks will continue. Now, the public sector nature of the banks gives us certain powers. We will retain those powers because it will be through an Act of Parliament. And that is how the public sector nature of the banks will be protected, despite the fact that the shareholding will be brought down below 50 per cent, and because of this fact, the rest of the shares will not be strategically held by any other party. They will be widely dispersed and held by the people of this country.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Let us disagree with him.
...(Interruptions).....

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am only responding.
...(Interruptions).....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am not interrupting you. But let us disagree with the formulation that the public sector character can be maintained by having recapitalisation in the way in which you are suggesting. Let us disagree.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): It is a matter of opinion. That is all.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, it is a matter of opinion today. Tomorrow, it may be a matter of law. Then there will be no disagreement. This was a response to the question of privatisation. I am repeating once again, with all the emphasis at my command, that we are not thinking in terms of privatisation; we are not thinking in terms of disinvestment. What we are thinking of is only a manner to be able to help the banks to get their recapitalisation needs fulfilled.

Now, Sir, Gurudas Das Guptaji raised a point about special audit of the banks. He said that the auditors were under the influence of the Boards and, therefore, they were not doing their job. You were the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and you know how things work. We were all together in the JPC which went into it. But what is the present arrangement? The present arrangement is that the CAG, the Comptroller and Auditor General, prepares a list of eligible firms. There is a committee comprising the Comptroller and Auditor General, the RBI and the Government of India representative; all the three. They sit down and decide the objective criteria on the basis of which the selection of the audit firms can be made. Then the RBI allocates the auditors to the banks. The Bank Boards--there are Bank Boards--have to complete the formality of appointing the auditors. Therefore, the auditors have no reason to be beholden to the Bank Boards. It is wrong to say that they are acting under pressure or at the behest of the Bank Boards. They are independent and they are performing their functions quite satisfactorily.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: On how many occasions have the audit reports to be changed? You remember.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Now, Sarla Maheshwariji talked of what happened in 1951. You are talking of what happened in 1991. But let

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me say, much water has flown down the Ganges and Yamuna since then. Today, we are living in an age and time where things have altered materially. You are also aware of it, Gurudasji; so am I.

Mr. Faleiro has raised an issue in regard to the functioning of the SLBCs. I remember, the other day also he raised that point. I had assured him then that between my colleague, Mr. Vikhe-Patil, and myself, we will find time to go to the lovely place called Goa and we will hold SLBC meetings there so that we can take care of the concerns that Mr. Faleiro had expressed in this House twice. But let me assure the House, between my colleagues in the Ministry of Finance and myself, we have been making it a point to go to State capitals and attend personally the meetings of the SLBCs in order to ensure that the SLBCs function properly.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Thank you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to end by saying that as far as the problem of NPA is concerned,(Interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What about the secrecy clause?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: All right. It was coming to 5 o'clock. Therefore, I thought, maybe, I would skip it. But, all right. On the secrecy clause, let me state the position of the Government as candidly and as transparently as possible, that is, the RBI has taken legal opinion. That legal opinion says that according to the existing provisions of the laws in this country--there are various laws which are governing it--and according to the well-accepted international practice, you cannot disclose the transactions of a client. This is the present legal position. But let me also tell you that the RBI has issued instructions to all the banks in October, 1999, which is long before all this started. In October, 1999, they had issued instructions to this effect. That if somebody comes to a bank and asks for a loan, they can ask that corporate or individual to give an undertaking, in writing, to the effect that if there is a default in the repayment of that loan, they will have no objection to the account being made public, to the default being made public. Here, I would like to remind the House through you, Sir, that the list of all those cases - of all accounts which are in arrears, above Rs. one crore- has been submitted to the court, including the DRT. Every six months the whole list is published and put up in the library of Parliament. So, that is not a secret. That accounts for a bulk of the NPAs today. The only point I am making,

Sir, in all humility, is that this touching faith that we are showing, that once an NPA, an account, becomes public knowledge, then the fellow will feel so shamed that he will run and make the payment - this is something that is difficult to share. Because most of the NPAs are already in public domain... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: That is understandable. But the question is, dispensing with the secrecy clause will give a definite signal to the country. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Hanging everyone who goes to the bank asking for a loan, by the lamp post in Vijay Chowk will... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, no. You are afraid of... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, I am not. ... *(Interruptions)*... As long as I am in this responsible position, let me state my position very clearly that I will do nothing which will destroy the banking structure of this country. I will not do... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is an absolutely arbitrary assumption. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am all for taking the defaulters to task. I am all for giving them the maximum punishment. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Are you going to make it a criminal offence? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is already a criminal offence. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, it is not so. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, no. It is already a criminal offence. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is not a criminal offence. It is a civil suit. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The banks can bring them to book. If it is proved that there is a violation of the contract the bank can take them to task. *(Interruptions)*

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): It is a question of legal opinion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I quote Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. He was reading in this House the list of defaulters, without confirming what he was saying. He mentioned certain names. Do you think they are going to pay tomorrow because you have mentioned their names in the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is not the point. *(Interruptions)*. The Government must do the job of letting the people know who are the defaulters. Why should we stop... *(Interruptions)* Whether they are repaying or not, it is not the question. *(Interruptions)*

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : इससे एक फायदा होगा, बदनाम होंगे पब्लिक में और बहुत से लाभ के पद नहीं पा सकेंगे।... *(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Gautamji, the hon. Minister can himself reply to whatever. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta will kindly recall that 33 criminal cases have been filed, so far as the Indian Bank accounts are concerned. So, where does it say that these cases cannot be filed? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is selective. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is not a question of selection. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Criminal cases are selected. *(Interruptions)* Default in repayment of bank loan should be made a criminal offence. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have no objection. *(Interruptions)* I am saying that I will not go beyond the existing law. There is no way in which sub-standard, doubtful and lost assets will make all those cases a criminal offence. Was Mr. Virumbi not talking about mala fide and bona fide? Have I not, in the beginning, said that there could be a number of reasons as to why an account could not be made public? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Let the court judge whether it is a wilful default. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: There is nothing...(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI) : Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, this cannot be settled by an argument of this kind.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I agree, Sir.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the only definition of NPA, that I know of, is, substandard, doubtful and lost assets. All of it is not *mala fide*; all of it is not wilful. Let us not try and tar everything by the same brush. This is the humble request that I am making, Sir. I have talked of Credit Information Bureau, in terms of instructions issued by the CVC. Already, the banks are exchanging information about the accounts which are having a default of above Rs.25 lakhs. A lot of information is now flowing between the banks and the financial institutions. We also have the group approach, the consortium approach, and a lot of information is being shared. Let me tell you that this is a very important input in the decision making process, so far as the banks are concerned.

My last point is this. I have two former Finance Ministers sitting in this House. There has been a very healthy tradition in the Finance Ministry that we do not interfere in the day-to-day functioning of the banks. I am not concerned about to whom the bank has given loan and to whom it has not given loan. This is my stated position. There is no way this Government is going to delve into the affairs of the banks and say that you should give this loan and you should not give that loan. Banks will take this decision according to their own best commercial perception and they will also take the responsibility for that. Therefore, whether it is a willful defaulter, a defaulter who has not paid his dues, or a bank official in collusion, I am stating unambiguously on the floor of the House in all seriousness that the Government will come down heavily on both of them so that NPAs are reduced. We are going to spare nobody, whether they are from the banks or from the account holders. That is all I have to say.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the reply is very shocking. The Government does not show the will and the commitment to recover the loan as vigorously as it should do. I am extremely sorry. I must say that the reply of the hon. Minister is very shocking.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Mr. Gupta, your Calling Attention has served a very important purpose. That should give you a lot of satisfaction. The Minister has responded to you.