

- ii. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
- iii. Shri Nrlotpal Basu
- iv. Shri Prem Chand Gupta
- v. Shri K. Rahman Khan
- vi. Shri Praful Patel
- vii. Shri C. Ramachandraiah
- viii. Shri Kapil Sibal
- ix. Shri Amar Singh
- x. Shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu

to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

I. THE APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL, 2001

II. THE FINANCE BILL, 2001 (contd.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Siva has sent a note to the Chair requesting that he may be called now as he has to catch a flight.

डा. रमेन्द्र कुमार यादव रवि (बिहार): ठीक है, मैडम।

SHRI P. N. SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I take this opportunity to congratulate our Finance Minister for having presented an excellent, growth-oriented, industry-friendly and pro-people Budget. Having our foot firm on the land of heritage and culture, we are stretching our hands now to invite the modern world. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had said that the real growth of the nation lies in its villages. The Budget, basically, reflects the view of the Father of the Nation. The increase in the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund from Rs.4,500 crores to Rs.5000 crores and the reduction in the interest rate of NABARD from 11.5% to 10.5%, is, of course, a good step. This will enable the States to get more funds to lay roads, construct bridges and improve the irrigation facilities. Similarly, the innovation of Kisan Credit Cards has proved to be a success and the Government's attempt to accelerate this programme and cover all the eligible farmers within the next three years is to be lauded. Sir, I would like to say with pride that the Government of Tamil Nadu has already given around 1,65,000 Kisan Credit Cards to the

agricultural farmers. This Budget has proposed an insurance cover amounting to Rs.50,000 or Rs.25,000 to cover them against accidental deaths and permanent disability. I think it will benefit those 1,65,000 farmers who are already holding these Kisan Credit Cards. On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, I would like to thank you for having increased the import duty on tea, coffee, coconut and oil. This will, of course, help the domestic people who are growing these things and who are totally dependent on these things. The development allowance which has been increased will also help in the growth of the tea industry. The reduction in the import duty on cement will help to bring down its price. Sir, I am the Secretary of the Students' Wing of my party. I take this opportunity to specially congratulate the hon. Finance Minister who has given some special allowances to the student community, that too, with a personal touch. He said, and I quote him, "I have personally experienced poverty and faced problems in pursuing higher studies. Therefore, I feel that no deserving student in the country should be deprived of higher and technical education for want of finances". I am glad that the Indian Banks' Association has formulated a new Comprehensive Educational Loan Scheme which will cover all the courses in schools and colleges in India and abroad. Loans will be available under this Scheme up to Rs.7.5 lakhs for studies in India and Rs. 15 lakhs for studies abroad. The speciality in this is that no collateral or margin will be stipulated for loans up to Rs.4 lakhs and the interest on this will not exceed the Prime Lending Rate. The interest rate will not exceed the PLR, plus one per cent. Sir, I thank you on behalf of the whole student community in this country. We have also given some representations from the Chartered Accountants Association of India and others about filing of compulsory audit reports under section 44 (a) and (b). Earlier it was 31st October and, in the Budget, it has been advanced to 31st July. Having heard everyone, specially, the assesses, who were facing some problems, the Finance Minister understood them and the problems of the Chartered Accountants, and he has graciously agreed to maintain the *status quo ante*. I thank him for that.

I have to seek one more clarification from the Finance Minister about the corporates who are paying tax less than Rs.40 lakhs. Earlier, it was 31st August, and now you have announced in the Budget that it will be 31st July. What is the actual position? I request you to revert to the earlier date.

Madam, I have got one more point which I want to bring to the kind notice of the Finance Minister. I come from Trichy in Tamil Nadu, There

are a lot of workers engaged in the synthetic gems industry. Next to Jaipur, Trichy in Tamil Nadu has got more than one lakh workers who are engaged in the synthetic gems industry. The Finance Minister in this year's Budget has reduced the import duty on cut and polished gems from 35 per cent to 15 per cent. I think, if at all the purpose is to increase the exports, then this provision cannot carry any meaning, as there is already no import duty applicable on re-export of imported gems. Madam, this proposal will lead to more import of gems from abroad and less and less consumption of domestically processed gems. This will directly affect the livelihood of millions of artisans and other workers who are engaged in this industry, especially the more than one lakh artisans of Trichy. I would like to point out to the Finance Minister that the benefits of globalisation should not be at the cost of technological developments in the domestic sector. I want to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister that our synthetic gems export is now worth Rs. 10 crores in the world market of over Rs. 20,000 crores. If the import duty on the raw material is removed and the import duty on cut and polished gems is increased, it will help the synthetic diamond artisans as well as the synthetic gems industry. It will also promote exports and result in increase in our foreign exchange.

Madam, as I mentioned earlier, it is a growth-oriented Budget; it gives boost to the economy. Still, there are criticisms. When they did it, they called it as a part of the reforms. But when we are doing it, they are calling it as deformed. As a partner of the NDA Government, I would suggest to the Finance Minister that whoever appreciates it, let him appreciate; and whoever criticises it, let him criticise. You should consider both as one and march on our way to achieve the goal of taking this country to the highest position where we can be on par with the developed countries of the world. This Budget will really boost the economy of the country. The real strength of a country's future lies in its economy. India will prove to be a challenge to the world. On behalf of the D.M.K. Party, I once again thank the Finance Minister for presenting a Budget which will help the poor people of this country.

डा. रमेन्द्र कुमार यादव रवि (बिहार): माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैं इस वित्त विधेयक और बजट के विरोध में बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ क्योंकि यह बजट किसान विरोधी और मजदूर विरोधी है। ऐसा केवल विपक्ष में बैठे हुए लोग ही नहीं कहते, बल्कि NDA के समर्थक दल भी ऐसा ही महसूस कर रहे हैं और उनकी प्रतिक्रियाएं देश भर में जाहिर हो रही हैं और महाराष्ट्र में कल का बंद इसी बात का गवाह है। महोदया, मैं यह महसूस करता हूँ और इस देश के तमाम लोग यह महसूस करते हैं कि यह देश एक कृषि प्रधान देश है और इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था किसानों पर और कृषि पर आधारित है। कुछ कहने से पूर्व मैं यह निवेदन करना

चाहूंगा कि अपनी चाल और अपनी बोली को आर्थिक उदारीकरण के नाम पर और निजीकरण के नाम पर नहीं छोड़ना चाहिए। संस्कृत में एक श्लोक है:

जो ध्रुवाणि परित्यज्य अध्रुवाणि निवेशते।
ध्रुवाणि तस्य नस्यन्ति अध्रुवाणि नष्टमेव हि॥

जो निश्चित को छोड़कर अनिश्चित को पकड़ता है उसका निश्चित तो समाप्त हो ही जाता है और अनिश्चित तो समाप्त है ही। मैं किसान बनकर बोल रहा हूँ और किसान की आवाज में कहना चाहता हूँ। किसान पूछता है माननीय वित्त मंत्री से, इस संसद से और इस सरकार से:

गुनाहगारों में शामिल गुनाहों से वाकिफ नहीं हूँ,
सजा तो जानता हूँ खुदा जाने खता क्या है।

किसानों का अपराध क्या है? प्रेमचन्द आज झूठे हो रहे हैं, तोड़ती पत्थर वाला निराला आज झूठा हो रहा है। पूस की रात की कसक, जेठ माह की चिलचिलाती धूप में इस मुल्क को रोटी देने वाला आज कठघरे में खड़ा है - क्यों? आश्चर्य की बात तो यह है कि इस मुल्क की अर्थव्यवस्था कहां से शुरू होती है। दुखद् अध्याय यह है कि आजकल देश की माली हालत लोगों की असलियत से नहीं शेयर बाजार के उतार चढ़ाव से देखी जाती है। जिस देश में 85 करोड़ लोग अर्थव्यवस्था के हाशिए पर जी रहे हों, पोषण की दृष्टि से 75 परसेंट ग्रामीण 2400 कैलोरी से कम खाना खा रहे हों, खेतीबाड़ी में लगे हुए 63 प्रतिशत लोगों में से अधिकांश भूमिहीन मजदूरों को जीने लायक दिहाड़ी भी नहीं मिल रही हो उस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था की कसौटी क्या शेयर बाजार हो सकता है? मैडम, फिर मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वित्त मंत्री ने मध्य वर्ग और निजीकरण चाहने वाले उद्योगों की मागों को ध्यान में रखा। इसलिए उन पर फूलों की वर्षा हो रही है। यह बजट उद्योगों और पूंजी वालों का है और चूंकि हमारा मीडिया देश के प्रति अपनी जिम्मेदारी भूलकर अपने विज्ञापन दाताओं का उत्तरदायी हो गया है इसलिए बेशर्मी और बुद्धिहीनता से बजट की तारीफ हो रही है। सरकार उदारीकरण का दूसरा दौर चलाने पर तैयार बैठी है, उसे गरीबों की चिंता नहीं है क्योंकि एक ही झटके में सरकार ने गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे से 10 प्रतिशत लोगों को निकाल दिया है। नेशनल सैमभ्यल सर्वेक्षण के 1997-98 के आंकड़े साफ-साफ दिखाते हैं कि बेरोजगारों की संख्या बढ़ी है। रोजगार दफ्तरों में चार करोड़ से ज्यादा लोग अपना नाम दर्ज कराकर डाकिये की दस्तक सुनने को बेताब बैठे हैं। दूसरी तरफ कुछ सीमित क्षेत्रों में सिमटती समृद्धि तथा चकाचौंध भरी जिंदगी उद्योगों में मंदी, तालाबंदी के बावजूद निगमित क्षेत्र के मुनाफे के ग्राफों में ऊपरगामी गति जारी है। मैडम, मुम्बई स्टाक एक्सचेंज का कारोबार 10 लाख करोड़ का आंकड़ा छू रहा है मात्र 19 प्रतिशत वास्तविक शेयर हस्तान्तरण के साथ। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब सरकार एनरॉकन को उसके मुनाफे की डबल गारंटी दे सकती है तो किसान को उसके उचित मूल्य की गारंटी क्यों नहीं दे सकती? मैडम, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसान इस देश की शान हैं, जान हैं, रीढ़ हैं और वे कठघरे में खड़े हैं। मैं सरकार से बात कर रहा हूँ जैसा साल्वे जी ने, वेदप्रकाश जी ने, जीवन राय जी ने और अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए, मजदूरों की समस्या, किसानों की समस्या के बारे में और जहां तक उद्योगों की बात है हम अमेरिका, इंग्लैंड, जापान और फ्रांस की नकल नहीं कर सकते। उस मुल्क की आबादी और उसमें लोगों की जनसंख्या हमारे मुल्क की आबादी और उसकी संख्या दोनों में तुलना नहीं हो सकती। हम भी यह चाहते हैं कि हमारा देश आगे बढ़े।

जिस अमेरिका के पूंजीवाद का विरोध कभी फ्रेडरीक एलेस रूस ने किया था, साइंटिफिक सोशलिज्म का ईजाद किया था आज माक्र्स झूठे हो रहे हैं, एंजिल झूठे हो रहे हैं, उनके विचार झूठे हो रहे हैं। आज पूंजीवादी सभ्यता की गिरफ्त में इस देश को लीलने की साजिश हो रही है। हम उसके आगे घुटने टेकने पर विवश हैं और आज विचित्र स्थिति से यह देश गुजर रहा है, इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था गुजर रही है। मुझे यह कहने में कोई संकोच नहीं है कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपना जो संशोधित बजट रखा है उसमें कुछ राहत देने की कोशिश की है। सरकार को तथा वित्त मंत्री जी को यह महसूस करना चाहिए, पहल, प्रयास और प्रयत्न में जितनी संवेदना चाहिए थी, राजनीतिक इच्छा शक्ति जितनी प्रबल होनी चाहिए थी उसकी उसमें कमी है। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम बार-बार, हर बार उद्योग को बढ़ाते हैं, बढ़ाएँ। आज महज राजकोषीय वित्तीय घाटे को कम करने के लिए 9 फीसदी विकास दर पहुंचाने के लिए हम दोहरी मार किसानों पर ही क्यों कर रहे हैं? कभी हमारी नजर राशन के तेल पर चली जाती है, कभी हमारी नजर डीजल पर चली जाती है, लोग कहते हैं कि हमने 30 प्रतिशत समर्थन मूल्य बढ़ाया है। पहले ट्रेक्टर 47 हजार रुपये में, 58 हजार रुपये में आता था लेकिन आज साढ़े तीन लाख, चार लाख, पांच लाख में आ रहा है। डीजल की, खाद की, बीज की कीमत जिस अनुपात में बढ़ रही है उस अनुपात में अनाज की कीमत नहीं बढ़ रही है। डा. राम मनोहर लोहिया कहते थे कि इस देश में कारखानियां माल की कीमत जितनी बढ़ रही है, उसकी तुलना में किसानों के श्रम से जो अन्न उपजता है, जो हमारे पेट में जाता है उसकी कीमत नहीं बढ़ रही है। यही कारण है कि इस मुल्क के 85 फीसदी लोग फटेहाल हैं, बेजार हैं और हम जो सदन में बैठे हुए हैं, सदन के बाहर जो बुद्धिजीवी हैं, जो विचारक हैं, जो अर्थशास्त्री हैं, मैं बहुत नाम गिना सकता हूँ लेकिन मेरे पास वक्त नहीं, केवल सात-आठ मिनट का समय हमारी पार्टी के लिए है। मैं चेयर के माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा और उन्हें बताना चाहूंगा कि इस देश का रोता हुआ किसान आपसे कहना चाहता है, जिसे मैं महसूस करता हूँ,

शीशे की अदालत में, पत्थर की गवाही है,
कातिल ही मुहाफिज़ है, कातिल ही सिपाही है।

मैं किससे कहूँ। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी, मेरे अन्य विद्वान सदस्यों ने और अनुभवी सदस्यों ने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं, आप उन पर विचार करिए। इस सरकार की नीति अमेरिका परस्त नीति है। रूस ने साम्राज्यवाद के खिलाफ कभी नारा बुलन्द किया था, जो हमारा सच्चा मित्र और हमदर्द रहा है। आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, जनगणना के मुताबिक, सर्वेक्षण के मुताबिक हमें उन अवधारणाओं को नहीं छोड़ना चाहिए। इस मुल्क की समाज व्यवस्था, अर्थव्यवस्था, आबादी को नजर में रखते हुए हम बहुत हद तक इस देश में उद्योगों को बढ़ाएँ। हम विकसित देशों की कतार में पहुंचे इस पर किसी को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। आज हथकरघा उद्योग बंद होते जा रहे हैं। किसान उड़ीसा में आत्म हत्या कर रहे हैं, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में लोग आत्म हत्या कर रहे हैं। आपको बुनकरों और जुलाहों की समस्याओं पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। आज हम दूध बाहर से मंगा रहे हैं, हम गेहूं बाहर से मंगा रहे हैं। हमें इसका हल्का-फुल्का ज्ञान भी है। जब हम बाहर से अनाज मंगाएँगे तो इस देश के किसानों को हम वाजिब मूल्य नहीं दे सकेंगे। हम दूध बाहर से मंगाएँगे तो यहां मवेशी पालने वाले लोगों का क्या हथ्र होगा? मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ और आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया। धन्यवाद।

MISS MABEL REBELLO (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, when the hon. Finance Minister presented this year's Budget, he earned praise and encomiums from the captains of industry. The stock market went up almost, I think, by 300 points and everybody said that 'oh, this Budget is wonderful, investor-friendly, growth-oriented.' But what happened the very next day? The stock market nose-dived, stocks crashed; and, during the month of March, not only men but whole families committed suicides because they had lost so much money. This speaks volumes about the Budget. I need not say anything about it. Today, there is a widespread disillusionment and dissatisfaction all around. People are really depressed. It is really a pro-rich Budget and I would not hesitate to say that it is an anti-poor Budget. There is a cut in excise duty on items like cars, glazed tiles, which are used by the people who have a lot of money. He has reduced the excise duty on those items which are used by the rich. There is a reduction in customs duty on even gold.

I do not understand this logic. But when it comes to small things, like acrylic fabric that a poor man uses - that too, he may have just one pair for the, whole year -- the hon. Finance Minister has increased the duty on them. I do not know why the Finance Minister is trying to do this. Is he trying to help the poor to become still poorer, commit suicide and disappear from the face of mother India? He wants the rich to become richer. Is this the planning of the Finance Minister? I just do not understand all this. What is happening today? Is, the economic growth is declining, fiscal deficit is on the rise, unemployment is sky-rocketing, the stock market has crashed, people are losing money, scams after scams are coming to light. But there is no will at all on the part of the Government to fight corruption. There is not a single word about black money in the Budget. Almost 40 per cent of our GDP is black. It is a black economy. I am told that nearly eight lakh crores of rupees in India are generated in black. Not a single reference has been made to this black economy. What does the Finance Minister plan to do in this regard? Yes; he has come forward with a lot of proposals for development of infrastructure, for broadband network, for internet services, for power generation, for transmission and distribution of power, for housing, for tea industry, for knowledge-based industry, for rural electrification, for storage and distribution of food. A lot of proposals are there. I really wonder how many of these projects and proposals will be actualised, and how it will help the poor man, the lowest in the ladder. I would like to give comparative figures in regard to allocations in various areas. Two years ago, the allocation was Rs. 6,900 crores; and this year,

6.00 P.M.

the allocation is Rs. 6,846 crores, in respect of rural employment. After two years, in real terms, it is coming down. In respect of employment insurance scheme, two years ago, it was Rs. 1,700 crores, while, this year, it is only Rs. 1,600 crores. It has gone down by Rs. 100 crores. Today, we know that one-third of our nation is afflicted by drought. With all this WTO and what not - my colleagues have spoken here -- we know how the farmers, the weavers, especially the handloom weavers, the labourers, the landless labourers, are suffering. In this situation, the budgetary allocation is declining. In respect of rural housing, two years ago, it was Rs. 1,710 crores; while, now, it is Rs. 1,527 crores. So far as nutritional support to primary school children - a scheme which the Leader of the Opposition had introduced -- is concerned, I have seen in Madhya Pradesh, especially in tribal areas, the children live on that one meal alone. Two years ago the amount allocated for this purpose was Rs. 1,031 crores; while, today, it is Rs. 930 crores. I wonder how much money will really be released. I think, last year something like Rs. 1000 crores had been allocated, but only Rs. 500 crores were really released. The child workers got meals from that money. Similarly, in respect of tribal welfare, last year the amount allocated was Rs. 210 crores, but the revised estimate was Rs. 150 crores.

This year, the hon. Minister of Finance has made a provision of Rs.240 crores, and I am sure, by the end of financial year, hardly Rs.100 crores will be released. Today, the tribals constitute 7% of the population. And, last year, the amount released for them was only Rs.150 crores. How will that money be utilised? It will be utilised only for the children to stay in hostels, for their education and for nothing else. There are some schemes under which you have given money for the development of tribal areas but that money is really not used at all. There is so much of mismanagement and nobody has ever bothered. Similarly, the amount allocated last year for Social Justice and Empowerment was Rs. 1350 crores. The Revised Budget Estimate was Rs.1173 crores. This year, again, they have made a provision of Rs.1350 crores. Madam, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment looks after the Scheduled Caste people, who constitute 14% of our population. Besides, all the mentally and physically handicapped and the entire gamut of social service sector come under this Ministry. All the NGOs, whatever little grant they get, get it from this Ministry. Our population is about 100 crores; and out of this, some 4 -5% people are physically and mentally handicapped. For these people, hardly Rs. 31,350

crores have been allocated, out of which, a large chunk goes to the Scheduled Castes Department and, I think, hardly Rs. 100 or 150 crores goes to the physically and mentally challenged people, which is really a pittance. I request the hon. Minister to have a heart, just not go by head alone; and generously release amounts to help the social sector which is the most neglected sector.

Madam, now I come to the Budget. The hon. Minister of Finance has proposed a reduction of interest rates on bank deposits. I am wondering why. The small man, whatever little money he saves, deposits it in the banks. Similarly, the retired people also deposit their money in banks. A large number of people who are taking VRS these days, I think, have to pay some tax on that, and, after that whatever money remains, they deposit it in the banks. They take care of the entire family out of this interest only. And the hon. Minister of Finance has reduced the interest rate on this. Not only this; he has imposed a tax on this interest. I think, he has given exemption up to Rs.5000 only.

I am wondering why he is doing it? I think, the Minister of Finance wants the people to invest their money in mutual funds and capital market. Maybe, he is a fan of capital market. He wants to give a boost to the capital market and that is why he is encouraging people to invest their money there. But I would like to ask the hon. Minister, how many of our people really know about capital market and how many of them know to invest their funds wisely in the share market, etc. I doubt, whether they really know about it. When they see on TV, when they read in newspapers, that the market is going up, when they see that their money can become double or quadruple in one month, that is the time they go there, they invest in it. And that is the time when the so-called operators bring the market down and the small people lose their entire money. Is this the way the hon. Minister of Finance should tempt our people to invest their money and waste their money and drive their families to financial disaster? Why he is doing it, I am not able to understand at all. I need not tell you about the scams. Even yesterday, we discussed here about the scam that took place recently. Ten years ago, Shri Harshad Mehta had made a lot of our people to lose their money. I can give you my personal experience. My own neighbour, a girl, had got the insurance amount of her husband's policy after his death. She invested the entire amount in the stock market during Harshad Mehta's time and she lost all her money. She came to me in tears. She had a small child to look after. This is what happens.

Because, they see all sorts of advertisements, all sorts of temptations and all sorts of allurements in T.V and in other media. That is why, Mr. Minister, I request you to please give a realistic rate of interest. This is my first request. And, secondly, please restore the earlier limit, i.e., Rs. 10,000 ...(*Time bell*)... Why are you ringing the bell, Madam? I am the only woman Member speaking here on the Budget. ...(*interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; I have two more names.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Madam, the Finance Minister has announced that 650 blocks in the country will be known as 'Women Empowerment Blocks'. Last year, in his Budget, he had said, "We will have something like five lakhs self-help groups." And he would assist women to save money; and, after saving money, they will get loan from banks at a concessional rate of interest, and that it would help women to start gainful employment and generate money for themselves. Now, Madam, if women, through self-help groups, save money and keep it in the bank, he will tax them. So, I will call this Finance Minister "Anti-women" What shall I say? ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anti-women?

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Madam, it is because, on the one side, you are encouraging women to save; and, on the other, you are taxing them. Otherwise, let the Finance Minister give an exemption to the poor women. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I will certainly reply to the question of the hon. Member when I reply. But I must say that she has got it absolutely wrong. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Why absolutely wrong? ...(*interruptions*)... Madam, if the women of the self-help groups keep money in the bank and if they earn more than Rs. 2500 as interest, they will be taxed. I think, yesterday the Finance Minister has announced in the other House that it would be increased to Rs. 5000. Now, if they earn up to Rs. 5000 as interest, they are exempted. But, beyond that, there will be a ten per cent tax. Am I not right Mr. Finance Minister? is this not your scheme, if they keep it in FD?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: If you please permit me, let me explain it very, very briefly.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Yes; please explain it. I will permit you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, you please (*Interruptions*),...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is something called Tax Deduction at Source, TDS. Now, anyone who is liable to pay tax, we make sure that we capture a part of this revenue at the source itself.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: If you tax the rich man, we have no problems. But why are you taxing these poor women who are making a living for themselves?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Miss Mabel Rebello, please now listen to the Minister. Otherwise, how we will be able to find out as to what is wrong.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, we had a provision in the earlier Finance Act whereby we did not have any TDS up to Rs. 10,000 earned by way of interest. In the Finance Bill of this year, I reduced this amount to Rs. 2,500. Yesterday, I announced that I will raise it to Rs. 5,000, which means that Rs. 10,000 has been reduced to Rs. 5,000. Now, it does not mean, automatically, that anyone who is earning that much of interest has to pay tax. There is a very simple provision that anyone, any entity, whose income is not taxable, has merely to give a declaration to the bank that he is not assessed to income-tax, and that is the end of the matter. So, please do not get it wrong. It is only in the case of those who are liable to pay tax, who are paying tax, that they have to make sure ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will be adding to the income.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Otherwise, they merely have to tell that they are not income-tax payees, and so, they do not have to pay tax. The bank will accept that declaration from the client. That is the end of it. So, please go and advise the women groups that they are not liable to tax; please do it on my behalf and convey this to the people.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, now, Madam, do you accept that he is not 'anti-women'?

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Yes; Madam, I am satisfied.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, the allegation is withdrawn.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: But you tell me what has happened to the 650 blocks that he has announced, which will be known as the 'Women Empowerment Blocks'. What are the projects they are going to start in

these blocks? We do not know. We are Members of Parliament, I am also a member of the Women Empowerment Committee. About fifteen days ago, I believe, they have announced a policy known as 'Women's Policy'. We do not even know about it. Today, I asked Mrs. Alva, the Chairperson of the Women Empowerment Committee. I asked, "What is this policy about. Do you know about it?" She said, "I just do not know." She further said, "They have neither consulted me nor have they shown it to me. They have just announced it." This is how they are going about it. The Standing Committee on Empowerment of Women, consisting of 15-20 parliamentarians, does not even know about the policy that has been announced. Similarly, the Finance Minister has mentioned about these 650 blocks. Madam, I would say that he is a Finance Minister who only makes a lot of beautiful promises and announcements about beautiful projects.

He will announce it maybe from the pulpit, maybe, from the rooftops. But what is happening on the ground? How does it help the women to come above the poverty line? How does it help them to make a little living for themselves? God alone knows, I would like to know about that.

The other thing is about cocoa. The farmers who grow cocoa, sell their produce at Rs.30 to 40 per kg. We all know how hard our farmers work. These multinational companies, Nestle and Cadbury, make chocolates out of cocoa. They sell it at Rs.400 to Rs.450 per kg. The Finance Minister is not willing to raise the duty on it because these MNCs can still import. If the import of cocoa is stopped, then, our farmers will get a better price. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to raise the duty on that.

Similarly, there is one more item known as rubberised coir wherein we use the husk of the coconut. The Finance Minister is charging a 4 per cent excise duty on it. We all know who work with this husk. These are poor women in the unorganised sector. Most of the women work in it. It provides a lot of employment to women and illiterate men. They also work in it. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to waive this duty so that the husk which is used in the rubberised coir becomes a source of employment for these people,

The other thing that I want to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister is about a clause which he has introduced recently. All the trusts, all the NGOs, all the welfare institutions, including educational institutions, hospitals, all these people who have a turnover of more than Rs. 10 lakhs have to publish their accounts. Now, to publish their accounts in the national newspapers and local newspapers is an expensive affair. I would,

therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to waive this clause because a lot of minority institutions, a lot of poor people, are undertaking welfare activities, a lot of NGOs are undertakings these activities. Nowadays, Rs.10 lakhs is not a big sum at all. Even if you run a primary school or a middle school in a city, your expenses will be more than Rs. 10 lakhs. There will be a lot of exploitation. That is why I would request the hon. Finance Minister not to press this clause. As it is. these institutions have got to submit their audited statement of accounts to the Registrar of Societies. If they are running schools, they have to submit it to the Board of School Education, to the Department of Education. If they are NGOs, they have to submit to the Social Welfare Department, or, to the Social Welfare Board. So, all the Government agencies get these audited statements of accounts. I do not know why do they want these accounts to be published. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to drop this clause. (*Time-bet!*) I will take one or two minutes more, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him do, at least, this much. You have asked too many things.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: I have not asked anything. Madam. women represent 50 per cent of India's population. But what are we getting? I am the only woman Member who is speaking here. On finance, commerce and industry, male Members speak. It is their domain. Only they speak. They have the expertise. So, let me speak for two more minutes. If you want me to conclude. I will do so.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have hardly seen any woman Member speaking on financial matters. So, we should encourage her.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Okay, I am going to conclude.

Therefore, let us be imaginative, innovative, bold, work hard in the field of production, just and considerate in the field of distribution and treat all people on an equal footing. Rather we should be generous towards the poor, the weak, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the backward people, the farmers who need the Government's support to lead a dignified life, a happy life, a fulfilled life.

Finally, I would request the Finance Minister to considerably pay more attention to the common people of our country.

This entire Budget is oriented towards the rich, the captains of industry, to help them to make money. I would like to tell him that he needs

to shift his focus away from a handful of rich people, whom this Budget caters to, towards farmers, towards artisans, towards the working class, towards women, who have been ignored in this Budget. They were a priority of the Congress Party, Madam. The Congress Party looked after the poor, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities, the women, all these sections. I would request the Finance Minister to take a cue from the Congress Party and follow the ideals of our Party. Then only he will be a happy Finance Minister and people will praise him some day.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I will add only one thing. because they want more women to speak. In this era of globalisation, when even big industries are facing a stiff competition and are struggling to survive, the small women entrepreneurs are facing great hardships. It is very difficult for them to survive. We had a very good conference where they were talking about micro-credit. Here, we do not need just micro-credit. We need micro-financing. The Government should have some schemes for micro-financing for women to start some enterprises. They should have some exemptions for at least 5-10 years, till they establish themselves. Then you can tax them. Otherwise, women entrepreneurs who are coming into the field, who have just started it, are facing a very great hardship. I wanted to put this to you. श्री श्याम लाल संक्षेप में बोल दें तो हम जल्दी से वोटिंग करा देंगे।

श्री श्याम लाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): ठीक है माननीय उपसभापति महोदया। आपने हमें विचार रखने के लिए समय दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

आज मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी श्री सिन्हा द्वारा 2001-2002 के लिए प्रस्तुत बजट पर विचार रखने के लिए और समर्थन देने के लिए कुछ बातें रखना चाहता हूँ। बजट जो तैयार होता है वह एक वर्ष के लिए आय और व्यय का विवरण होता है, लेखा-जोखा होता है। हम लोक सभा अथवा राज्य सभा में जिस देश के बारे में यहां बजट प्रस्तुत करते हैं वह ऐसा देश है जो प्राकृतिक दृष्टिकोण से हर तरह, हर एक संसाधन से भरा हुआ है। उत्तर में हिमालय पर्वत है जो देश की सुरक्षा करता है तो दक्षिण में समुद्र इसकी सुरक्षा करता है। नीचे खनिज पदार्थों का भंडार भरा है और उत्पाद के दृष्टिकोण से 45 हजार के करीब यहां पौधे और अन्न की प्रजातियां हैं, 75 हजार पशु-पक्षी और अन्य प्रकार के जीव जन्तु हैं जो इस देश में रहते हैं और इसके बाद करीब अब एक अरब से ऊपर हम मानव रह रहे हैं।

आज हमने जो बजट प्रस्तुत किया है वह निश्चित तौर पर भारत के लिए, भारत की जनता के लिए जनप्रिय है, जनहितकारी और सर्वप्रिय है। इसकी सभी तरफ प्रशंसा हो रही है। मैं आपके माध्यम से कुछ बातें ज्यादा तो नहीं कहूंगा लेकिन एक-दो बातें कहना चाहूंगा। किसी देश की सम्पदा जो है वह उस देश की सारी की सारी ये चीजें होती हैं। जो मैंने अभी कहा है। स्वाधीनता के बाद जब हमारे देश ने अपनी सरकार बनायी उस समय हमारे देश के पास करीब 18 अरब रुपए की सम्पत्ति थी और समय बीतते बीतते सन् 1950-51 में जब हमारी जनसंख्या 36 करोड़ हुई तो हमारे देश पर 32 करोड़ रुपए का कर्ज हो गया। उस समय हमारे पास संसाधन

नहीं थे, हमारी कृषि व्यवस्था अच्छी नहीं थी, उत्पादन नहीं था, कोई उद्योग नहीं था, किसी प्रकार की टेक्नालाजी नहीं थी, उस समय एक आदमी के ऊपर मात्र 75 पैसे का कर्ज रहा होगा। आज जब हमारी जनसंख्या बढ़ गई है, टेक्नोलॉजी में हमने इतना विकास किया है, अन्नोत्पादन में हम आत्मनिर्भर हुए हैं, लेकिन इस समय हमारे ऊपर कर्ज का भार 6 खरब रुपये के करीब है, यानी एक आदमी के ऊपर करीब 6 हजार रुपये कर्ज हैं। यह देनदारी कहां से आई है और इसकी शुरुआत कहां से हुई है? दिनों दिन हमारे देश के ऊपर कर्जभार बढ़ता ही गया है। आज जिन परिस्थितियों के बीच में देश की समस्याएँ बढ़ी हैं उसके परिप्रेक्ष्य में जब हमारी सरकार इस तरह का बजट प्रस्तुत कर रही है तो उसके सामने अनेक चुनौतियाँ भी हैं। आज देश में भ्रष्टाचार की बात अभी हो रही थी। मैं एक चीज़ कहना चाहता हूँ कि भ्रष्टाचार कोई एक दिन में पैदा नहीं हो जाता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि जैसे हमारे देश में लोग चाय नहीं पीते थे, लेकिन ब्रिटिश लोग जब यहां आये तो वे मुफ्त चाय पिलाते थे और पैसा भी देते थे। उन्होंने चाय पीने की आदत डाल दी है। आज हमारे घर में बच्चे बगैर चाय के नहीं रहते। वे दूध नहीं पीते। उसी तरह से भ्रष्टाचार भी आज की देन नहीं है। यह भी उसी तरह से और कहीं न कहीं से हमारे जीवन में भर गया है। मैं इसके संबंध में अल्जेब्रा का एक फॉर्मूला बताना चाहता हूँ। ऋण गुणा ऋण बराबर धन होता है। धन गुणा ऋण बराबर ऋण होता है। जिस तरह से ऋण गुणा ऋण बराबर धन होता है, ऐसे ही मालूम पड़ता है भ्रष्टाचार गुणा भ्रष्टाचार बराबर सदाचार हो गया। जितने बड़े लोग हैं और जिनकी गिनती बड़े लोगों में होती है, उनकी तरफ हमको नज़र उठाकर देखना चाहिए कि भ्रष्टाचार की शुरुआत कहां से हुई, उसकी उत्पत्ति कहां से हुई और उसकी गंगोत्री वहां से ही निकलती है। देश के 80 फीसदी आदमी गावों में रहते हैं। वे अन्न पैदा करते हैं, कोयला खदानों में काम करके कोयला निकालते हैं, आयरन ओर निकालते हैं, इस्पात बनाते हैं और सारे मैनुफैक्चरिंग काम वे करते हैं। लेकिन हम जैसे सफेदपोश लोग, जो बड़े लोगों की गिनती में आते हैं, निश्चित तौर पर जो जितने बड़े हैं और जितनी बड़ी जगह पर है, वहीं से भ्रष्टाचार की शुरुआत होती है।

मैडम, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारे यहां जो व्यवस्था है कि विदेश में जो पैसा जमा हो रहा है उसकी जानकारी हम नहीं कर सकते, देशवासी नहीं कर सकते और बैंक, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक भी नहीं कर सकता। ऐसी व्यवस्था क्यों की गई है? मैं समझता हूँ कि भ्रष्टाचार का ओरिजन वहीं से है। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज देश की जनता की आवाज़ है कि कैसे भारत के लोगों ने विदेश में पैसा जमा किया है। अब जबकि भारत के ऊपर इतना कर्ज है तो नैतिकता के आधार पर, ऐसे लोगों को देश का पैसा, देश को ही वापस कर देना चाहिए। आर्थिक गुलामी से छुटकारा पाने के लिए यही हमारी मुख्य विचारधारा होगी।

मैडम, हमारे नेता ने भी कहा था कि समय बहुत थोड़ा लेना है, इसलिए मैं ज्यादा तो नहीं कहना चाहूंगा, लेकिन कुछ सुझाव और देना चाहता हूँ। एक तो यह है, समझ लीजिए कि पूरे भारत में अनुसूचित जाति की जनसंख्या करीब 16 फीसदी है और उसकी आधी जनसंख्या अनुसूचित जनजाति की है। अनुसूचित जाति के लिए यहां जो बजट दिया गया है वह 786 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़ा कर 966 करोड़ रुपये किया गया है, जबकि उसकी आधी जनसंख्या पर 709 करोड़ रु. से बढ़ाकर 790 करोड़ रु. किया गया है, इस को नोट किया जाए। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी इसको डबल कर दें ताकि अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों के बीच में अच्छा संदेश जाए, नहीं तो हम लोगों को कुछ कहने के लिए नहीं मिल रहा है। दूसरी चीज़ मुझे यह कहनी है कि पूरे भारत में आज एक समस्या है। अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के, चतुर्थ श्रेणी से लेकर प्रथम

श्रेणी तक के जो भी पद रिक्त हैं, कृपया उसके लिए एक विशेष भर्ती अभियान चला कर, उन्हें भर दिया जाए ताकि एक अच्छा संदेश जाए कि एनडीए की सरकार बहुत अच्छा कार्य कर रही है।

दूसरी बात, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अन्न के क्षेत्र में हम निश्चित तौर पर आत्मनिर्भर हैं, लेकिन देश के बहुत से क्षेत्रों में जहां कि नाले नदियों में गिरते हैं और ऊसर जमीन जो हैं उसका उत्पादन भी हम बढ़ा सकते हैं। प्रदेश सरकारों को केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से यह निर्देशन होना चाहिए कि नालों में बांध बनाकर उन में मछली पालन कराया जाय और उन के किनारे-किनारे मिट्टी डलवाकर फलों का उत्पादन कराया जाए ताकि राष्ट्र के खाद्य उत्पादन में वृद्धि हो।

मान्यवर, एक और बात कहनी है। पूरे उत्तर प्रदेश में नील गाय जोकि जंगली गाय कही जाती है, वह पिछले 15-20 वर्षों से पूरी सब्जी खा जाती है, गन्ना खा जाती है। इस संबंध में हमने वहां के वन सचिव, कृषि सचिव और सभी संबंधित अधिकारियों को बुलाकर यह नियम बनाया था कि उन का उन्मूलन कराया जाए क्योंकि यह नील गाय पूरे खाद्य उत्पादन को काफी नुकसान पहुंचाती है। मेरे ख्याल से भारत सरकार की ओर से भी ऐसा नियम है कि उन का उन्मूलन किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि उन से बहुत बड़ी राष्ट्रीय क्षति होती है।

मान्यवर, एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। देश में आज एक ऐसी व्यवस्था है जिस के तहत प्राथमिक विद्यालयों के छात्रों को भोजन के लिए राशन बांटा जाता है, लेकिन उस का लाभ उन को नहीं मिलता है और बच्चों में भिक्षावृत्ति पैदा करने के लिए यह एक कलंकित व्यवस्था है। इसको खत्म किया जाना चाहिए। इस के एवज में उन्हें कापी-किताब सुलभ कराई जानी चाहिए। मान्यवर, यह एक अच्छी प्रक्रिया होगी। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आप ने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया।

उपसभापति: धन्यवाद। श्री आर.पी. गोयनका।

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री(श्री प्रमोद महाजन): मैडम, वोटिंग का टाइम तय होना है।

उपसभापति: हां, वोटिंग का टाइम तय होना है। I have five more speakers before me, Mr. Goenka is not included. There are six speakers, including Mr. Goenka. Mr. Goenka, how much time will you take?

श्री आर.पी.गोयनका: मैं साढ़े तीन मिनट लूंगा।

उपसभापति: आप का समय मैं काउंट नहीं कर रही हूँ। I have the names of Mr. Rama Shankar Kaushik, Mr. Gandhi Azad, Mr. Gavai and Mr. Das before me. If you can follow Mr. Goenka, it would be good.

SHRI ABANI ROY (West Bengal) : My name is also there, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there. I don't have it. I don't have your name. I have the names of Mr. Gandhi Azad, Mr. R.S. Gavai and Mirza Abdul Rashid. Mirza Abdul Rashid is not here. (Interruptions) ... Just one minute. We have to get the people for voting

because there are two things, the Appropriation (No.2) Bill. 2001 and the Finance Bill.

श्री आर.पी.गोयनका: मैडम, आप कहें तो मैं फिर कभी बोल लूंगा।

उपसभापति: आप साढ़े 3 मिनट बोल रहे हैं तो बोल लीजिए। लोगों को शिक्षा मिलेगी। आप जरूर बोलिए।

श्री आर.पी.गोयनका: (राजस्थान): मैडम, मेरी दो विडम्बनाएं हैं। एक तो हमारे सीनियर लीडर साल्वे साहब ने शुरू-शुरू में जो स्पीच दी, वह बहुत अच्छी स्पीच थी। अब उस के बाद किसी कांग्रेसी सदस्य का कुछ कहना मेरी समझ में नहीं आता, लेकिन मुझे अवसर मिला है तो बोल रहा हूं। दूसरी बात यह है कि इन वित्त मंत्री जी के लिए मेरे मन में बहुत रेस्पेक्ट है, बहुत श्रद्धा है और उनके कुछ सजेशंस को मैं क्रिटिसाइज करूँ तो मुझे मन में दुख होता है। लेकिन मैं कुछ चीजों के लिए क्रिटिसाइज करूंगा और भारी मन से क्रिटिसाइज करूंगा। महोदया, साल्वे साहब ने कहा कि हमारा एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन कुछ कम हुआ है। मेरे पास जो फिगर्स हैं, उनके हिसाब से यह माईनस 2.7 परसेंट पर पहुंच गया है। इसी तरह मेरे पास इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोडक्शन के जो फिगर्स हैं, वे साल्वे साहब की फिगर्स से कुछ अलग हैं। वे 6 परसेंट बता रहे थे, जब कि मेरे हिसाब से यह 0.6 परसेंट है।

महोदया, डिसइन्वैस्टमेंट के लिए 12,000 करोड़ रुपए का लक्ष्य रखा गया है और उस पैसे से इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलप किया जाएगा लेकिन अगर 12,000 करोड़ रुपया नहीं मिला तो सरकार क्या करेगी, यह सोचने की बात है।

महोदया, वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा कि वे 2 प्रसेंट स्टाफ को रिटायर करेंगे लेकिन कहीं पर उन्होंने फिगर दिया कि 3.45 मिलियन से घटकर वह 3.44 मिलियन हो जाएगा। तो यह तो सरकार क्या करेगी, यह सोचने की बात है।

महोदया, वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा कि वे 2 परसेंट स्टाफ को रिटायर करेंगे लेकिन कहीं पर उन्होंने फिगर दिया कि 3.45 मिलियन से घटकर वह 3.44 मिलियन हो जाएगा। तो यह तो 2 परसेंट नहीं होता है।

आखिरी प्वाइंट मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह जो इंपोर्ट हो रहा है, इसमें कुछ चीजों पर आपने ड्यूटी बढ़ाई है लेकिन जिस तरह भारी मात्रा में इंपोर्ट हो रहा है, इससे इंडियन इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स मर जाएंगे। महोदया, मेरा 5 साल का कार्यकाल बाकी है, इसलिए मैं तो शायद यहां आ जाऊंगा लेकिन ऐसी नौबत आ सकती है कि मैं शायद उन लोगों को देख नहीं पाऊंगा। इंपोर्ट इतना हो रहा है कि लोकल प्रोड्यूसर्स मार खा रहे हैं और फैक्ट्रियों पर फैक्ट्रियां बंद होती जा रही हैं। पहले हम लोग कहते थे कि बंगाल में, हावड़ा में 11,000 यूनिट्स बंद हैं लेकिन अब उनकी संख्या 1,11,000 हो गई है। क्या किया जाए? इंपोर्ट के सामने हम ठहर नहीं सकते। इन्होंने इंपोर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ाई है, कारों पर बढ़ाई है, स्कॉच और व्हिस्की पर बढ़ाई है, यह अच्छा किया, मैं इसके खिलाफ नहीं बोल रहा हूं लेकिन इतनी सारी चीजें हैं, उनके लिए अगर आप साल, दो साल, तीन साल इंडियन इंडस्ट्री को प्लेइंग फील्ड में आने का मौका नहीं देंगे तो हम लोग खत्म हो जाएंगे।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो अच्छे काम किए हैं, उनके लिए मैं उन्हें बधाई देता हूं और जो कम अच्छा है, उसे अच्छा करने के लिए आग्रह करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

उपसभापति: गोयनका जी, जब आप जैसे उद्योगपति ऐसा बोल रहे हैं तो बेचारी महिलाओं का क्या हाल होगा?

श्री आर.पी.गोयनका: मैडम, मेरी यूनिट में 44 परसेंट महिलाएं हैं। तो मैं समझता हूं कि 100 परसेंट का जो होगा, उसी में से 44 परसेंट का भी हो जाएगा।

श्री राम शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदया, विनियोग विधेयक और वित्त विधेयक पर मैं अपनी बात रखने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैडम, बजट केवल हिसाब-किताब का गठजोड़ नहीं होता बल्कि वह हिसाब का ऐसा दस्तावेज होता है जिससे सरकार की दिशा मालूम होती है कि उसकी दिशा क्या है। हमारे देश की जो समस्याएं हैं उन समस्याओं को सुलझाने के लिए सरकार की मंशा क्या है और उसकी दिशा क्या है इसका दस्तावेज भी बजट होता है। यह बात सही है कि देश की या किसी भी देश की सारी समस्याएं किसी एक वर्ष के बजट से पूरी नहीं होती लेकिन यह भी हकीकत है कि एक साल के बजट से सरकार की दिशा जरूर मालूम होती है कि वह किधर को जाना चाहती है। मैं अब निराश हुआ हूं बजट की उस बात को देखकर जिससे इनकी दिशा का पता चलता है। दूसरे, बजट का मतलब यह भी होता रहा है कि हर व्यक्ति, हर परिवार पूरे वर्ष का अपना बजट बना लेता है और सोच लेता है कि अब साल भर तक हम अपने इस बजट से इस ढंग से गुजारा करेंगे जो हमारे घर का बजट है। लेकिन अब बजट बनाने की और रखने की प्रक्रिया तो ऐसी होगई है कि कुछ पता ही नहीं चलता है क्योंकि बजट से पहले भी कीमतें बढ़ती हैं और बजट के बाद भी बढ़ती रहती हैं। अब भी कोई गारंटी नहीं है। पहले भी बढ़ा लिया और अब दो प्रतिशत अधिभार भी बढ़ा दिया और चीजों की कीमतें बढ़ गई। उसके बाद भी कोई गारंटी नहीं है कि रेल की जो यात्रा इस समय निश्चित की गई है वैसे ही साल भर तक लोगों को किराया देना पड़ेगा, चीजों की कीमतें जैसे आज हैं, बजट के समय हैं वैसे आगे कल भी रहेंगी, साल भर तक रहेंगी इसका कोई भरोसा नहीं है? लेकिन मैं इस बजट को दिशाहीन नहीं कहता। दिशा इसमें है और वह दिशा निश्चित है और वह दिशा यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान के चन्द लाख लोगों को ऊपर बढ़ाया जाए। हिन्दुस्तान के केवल चन्द लाख लोगों को ऊपर बढ़ाने वाला यह बजट है और उदारता और उदारवादी नीतियों के चलते देश को आर्थिक गुलामी की ओर ढकेलने वाली दिशा इस बजट की है। मैडम, न तो हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों का ख्याल रखा गया है, न मजदूरों का ख्याल रखा गया है। जरा गौर फरमाइए कि दवा मंहगी है दारु सस्ती है, राशन मंहगा है आभूषण सस्ते हैं, कीटनाशक मंहगे हैं कम्प्यूटर सस्ते हैं। इस बजट के जरिए से यह सस्ते हो रहे हैं। पेयजल मंहगा है लेकिन कोका कोला और पेप्सी सस्ते हो गए हैं, सब सस्ता हो गया है। दूध मंहगा होगा लेकिन यह चीजें जो इसके पेय हैं वह सस्ते होंगे। सौंदर्य प्रसाधन सस्ते होंगे इस बजट के जरिए से और दूध पेस्ट जो आदमी के दातों के लिए आवश्यक है वह मंहगा होगा। यह स्थिति इस बजट की है और इससे साफ पता चलता है कि सरकार की नीयत क्या है। यह सरकार हिन्दुस्तान के न उन 70 प्रतिशत किसानों का ख्याल रख रही है और न मजदूरों का ख्याल रख रही है और श्रीमन्, जितने भी इनके पिछले सालों के आंकड़े रहे हैं और जो घोषणाएं माननीय मंत्री जी की रही हैं वह सारी की सारी धराशायी हो गई हैं। मैं 1999 की याद दिलाता हूं कि अपने बजट भाषण में माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि हम चार वर्ष के अंदर जो हमारा सकल घरेलू उत्पाद है उसका दो फीसदी हम वित्तीय घाटा ला देंगे और राजस्व घाटा बिल्कुल खत्म कर देंगे। इस बजट में भी जोड़-तोड़ की कोशिश की गई है कि बजट में जो घाटा है, राजस्व में जो घाटा है उसको खत्म कर देंगे। इस प्रकार से पांच हजार करोड़ रुपया तो उन्होंने उसमें डाल दिया जिसका इस्तेमाल विकास कार्यों में होना चाहिए था वह नहीं हुआ। यह कितने शर्म की बात है कि सरकार इस बात पर जवाबदेही नहीं है और बताती भी नहीं है जबकि बजट के मौके पर बताना चाहिए कि विकास के कामों के लिए जो पांच हजार

करोड़ रुपया पिछले वर्ष हस्तांतरित किया गया था उसको इस्तेमाल न कर पाने के दोषी कौन हैं। वह विकास के काम में खर्च होता तो घाटे की पूर्ति करता। घाटे की पूर्ति के लिए 12 हजार करोड़ रुपए का इन्होंने हिसाब लगाया है कि जो हमारे सार्वजनिक उपक्रम हैं उनको हम बेचेंगे। परन्तु उनको इससे इतना मिलने वाला नहीं है। पिछले साल भी दस हजार करोड़ रुपया उसमें उन्होंने रखा था कि यह हमें सार्वजनिक उपक्रम के बेचने से या शेयर्स के बेचने से जो भी होता हो उससे हमें मिलेगा। लेकिन केवल ढाई हजार करोड़ ही मिला। इस साल भी यही होने वाला है 12 हजार करोड़ रुपया नहीं मिलने वाला है। लेकिन जो घाटा कम करने की कोशिश की गई है वह होने वाला नहीं है। मैडम, हमारा जो सकल राष्ट्रीय उत्पाद है वह 1998-99 में 6.4 था उसकी बढ़ोत्तरी विकास दर 6.6 थी और 1999-2000 में वह 6.4 हुआ और इस वर्ष वह केवल 6 प्रतिशत है। माननीय मंत्री जी उम्मीद कर रहे हैं कि वह सात प्रतिशत होगा, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने तो कह दिया कि हम 9 प्रतिशत तक ले जायेंगे। लेकिन जो हिसाब —किताब दिखाया गया है वह 9 प्रतिशत का है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह सात प्रतिशत भी नहीं हो पायेगा, अगर 6 प्रतिशत भी यह पार कर ले तो बहुत बड़ी बात होगी। इस ढंग से तरक्की होने वाली नहीं है, हमने जो दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है और जो भूमंडलीकरण का नारा हम दे रहे हैं तथा उसकी तरफ अंधाधुंध हम दौड़ते चले जा रहे हैं उससे हमारे देश की तरक्की होने वाली नहीं है, उससे हमारे देश की गरीबी खत्म होने वाली नहीं है। इस बजट में बेरोजगारी की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है कि बेरोजगारी कैसे खत्म करायेंगे, बल्कि इससे बेरोजगारी और बढ़ेगी। लगभग 38 लाख हमारे केन्द्रीय सरकार में कर्मचारी हैं उसमें से दो प्रतिशत की कमी सरकार करने जा रही है जिसकी घोषणा सरकार ने कर दी है। यह ठीक है कि अनावश्यक लोगों को हटाया जाए, लेकिन रोजगार तो लोगों को देना ही पड़ेगा। जो रोजगार के दफ्तर हैं, जो कि हर जिले में खुले हुए हैं उनमें चार करोड़ छह लाख लोगों के नाम दर्ज हैं और ये सारे के सारे शिक्षित होते हैं। कितने ही शिक्षित लोग उसमें अपने नाम दर्ज नहीं कराते हैं यह हम अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं और अशिक्षित लोग तो अपने नाम उसमें दर्ज कराते ही नहीं हैं यह भी हमलोग जानते हैं। हिन्दुस्तान में दस करोड़ लोग रोजगार की चाह में बेकार बैठे हैं, लेकिन सरकार की कोई स्कीम उनके लिए नहीं है और यह जो स्कीम है इससे अब छटनी हो जायेगी। अब जो लेबर कानून है जिसको को लेकर एक्ट के जरिए से आना चाहिए था उसे माननीय मंत्री जी ने पता नहीं किन लोगों को खुश करने के लिए अपने बजट में रख दिया है। अब सौ की पाबन्दी नहीं रहेगी, अब एक हजार की पाबन्दी रहेगी। जिस उपक्रम में एक हजार लोग काम में लगे होंगे उसके लिए लेबर कानून बदल दिया जायेगा, हालांकि वह एक्ट के माध्यम से ही लागू होगा, बिना एक्ट के वह नहीं हो सकता है। फिर भी किसी को खुश करने के लिए यह कार्य किया गया है। इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी दबाव में रहते हैं और वह दबाव हमारे चंद बड़े पूंजीपतियों का रहता है। हमने देखा है कि बजट से पहले वे फिक्की से बात करते हैं, एसोचेम से बात करते हैं, सी.आई.आई. से बात करते हैं, सट्टा बाजार वालों से बात करते हैं, लेकिन किसानों से, मजदूरों से कोई बात नहीं करते हैं कि यह बजट उनकी तकलीफों को कैसे दूर करेगा, कैसे उपाय इसमें होने चाहिए। हम सट्टा बाजार के जरिए से अपने देश की अर्थ व्यवस्था को सुधारना चाहते हैं। आज सट्टा बाजार की स्थिति यह है कि उसका 10 लाख करोड़ रुपये का सालाना कारोबार है। केवल 19 प्रतिशत वास्तविक शेयरों के हस्तांतरण से एक खतरा हो गया है कि इसमें विदेशी संस्थागत निवेश सात हजार करोड़ रुपये का हो चुका है। विदेशी संस्थागत निवेश इस देश के हित में नहीं है। हम बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों की बात करते हैं, हम बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों को पूरी छूट देते चले

जा रहे हैं जिससे हमारे देश की स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज खत्म होती चली जा रही हैं। हमारे यहां 14 लाख स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज थीं और उनमें से 4 लाख स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज बंद हो चुकी हैं। यह तब से शुरू हुआ है जब से भूमंडलीकरण का नारा लगाया गया है। यह नारा चाहे कांग्रेस पार्टी ने दिया हो या किसी और ने दिया हो और चाहे ये उसका अनुपालन कर रहे हों। लेकिन हमारी चार लाख स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज बंद हो चुकी हैं।

मैडम, हमारे देश में छोटे-छोटे उद्योगों की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि हमारे यहां लोग मौजूद हैं, हमारे यहां लोगों के हाथ खाली हैं, हमारे यहां लोगों को काम चाहिए। यह भी निश्चित बात है कि स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज के जरिए से ही हम लोगों को काम मुहैया करा सकते हैं। आगे क्या होगा, कम्प्यूटर के जरिए से किया जायेगा, इससे किया जायेगा या उससे किया जायेगा यह हम नहीं जानते हैं। लेकिन आज की स्थिति में हम केवल स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज के जरिये से ही लोगों को रोजगार दे सकते हैं। वर्ष 1990 से लेकर 1998 तक 46 लाख लोगों को रोजगार हमारे छोटे उद्योगों ने दिया है, स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज ने दिया है। जो हमारे बड़े उद्योग हैं उनमें इस दौरान केवल पांच लाख लोगों को रोजगार मिला है। जरा सोचिए, सन, 1990 से लेकर 1998 तक हम स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री को नहीं देख रहे हैं बल्कि उसके ऊपर और पाबंदी लगाई जा रही है। आज ही माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने 14 आइटम जो रिजर्व थे उनको डी-रिजर्व कर दिया, चाहे बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियां बनाएं, बड़े लोग बनाएं या कोई भी बनाएं। लेकिन जो स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री के रिजर्वेशन के थे उनमें से 14 को डी-रिजर्व कर दिया, फिर हमारे लोगों को कैसे रोजगार मिलेगा। माननीय मंत्री जी और यह सरकार भी कहती है कि हम तो अपने देश के उपभोक्ताओं का भला करना चाहते हैं। विदेश से अच्छी से अच्छी चीजें यहां आएँ और उपभोक्ता उनका आनन्द लें। दूसरी बात वे यह कहते हैं कि भाई, अगर किसानी कर रहे हैं, हम अपने उद्योग बढ़ा रहे हैं, हम अपनी स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री से माल बना रहे हैं तो कम्पटीशन करो दुनिया के मुल्कों से, कम्पटीशन करो किसानों के उन मुल्कों से जहां 24 घंटे बिजली रहती है, समय से खाद मिलता है, अच्छा बीज मिलता है और जहां हमारे यहां से कई गुना अधिक सब्सिडी मिलती है। यूरोप के देशों में एक हैक्टेयर अनाज बोने पर गवर्नमेंट 40 हजार रुपए सब्सिडी देती है। हमारा किसान एक हैक्टेयर में ज्यादा से ज्यादा 50 क्विंटल ही पैदा कर सकता है। आज की कीमत के हिसाब से सरकार ने जो सब्सिडी रखी है वह 30, 31 और 32 हजार रुपए है। माननीय वित्त मंत्री ने इस वर्ष गेहूं के ऊपर 50 फीसदी, चावल के ऊपर 70 फीसदी और मक्का के ऊपर 80 फीसदी इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाई है, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। लेकिन आप जरा यह तो गौर कीजिए कि जो देश 40 हजार रुपए एक हैक्टेयर में अनाज पर अपने यहां दे रहा है, वह इस ड्यूटी को भी सह सकता है और आपके बाजार को पाट सकता है। एक किलो घी, बटर ऑयल पैदा करने वाले को 123 रुपए की सब्सिडी मिलती है। अगर उस पर इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगा दें तो वे आपके बाजार को पाट सकते हैं और आपका किसान जो 150 रुपए में घी पैदा करता है, वह उसके सामने नहीं टिक सकता। बाहर के मुल्कों में चाहे कलेक्टर हो या सैक्रेटेरी हो, उसका दरवाजा खोलने के लिए कोई चपरासी नहीं आता है। कोई उसे पानी पिलाने नहीं आता है। यदि उसको कोई काम है तो वह स्वयं बाबू के पास जाता है और पूछता है कि क्या हुआ। यह कार्य-संस्कृति आपकी नहीं है। आप कहते हैं कि कम्पीटिशन करो। स्माल स्केल वालों को बिजली नहीं मिलती है और उन्हें आप कर्ज मुहैया नहीं करा पाते हैं। उनसे अगर आप कहें कि आप बड़े टेक्नोलोजी वालों से कम्पीटिशन करो, हमारे किसान से कहें कि आप कम्पीटिशन करो तो वह कैसे कम्पीटिशन करेगा? मैडम, हमारे यहां एक कहावत है, 'घर में नहीं दाने', मैं यह नहीं कहूंगा

कि 'अम्मा चली भुनाने' बल्कि मैं यह कहूंगा कि 'घर में नहीं दाने, मंत्री जी चले भुनाने'।

उपसभापति: आप अम्मा क्यों कह रहे थे? अम्मा का नाम बिल्कुल मत लीजिए। कल से मैं इस बात पर शिकायत कर रही हूँ कि यहां महिलाओं के खिलाफ बात हो रही है।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: मैडम, मैं महिलाओं के खिलाफ नहीं कह रहा हूँ। हमारी स्थिति तो ऐसी नहीं है कि हम कम्पीटीशन कर सकें लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी हमसे कहा जा रहा है कि सब कम्पीटीशन करो।...(समय की घंटी)...

उपसभापति: आपका समय हो गया। आपका पूरा समय 16 मिनट का था। आपने पूरे के पूरे 16 मिनट ले लिए हैं।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: लेकिन मैडम, अभी मेरी बात तो रह गई है।

उपसभापति: आप बात दूसरे दिन कर लीजिए। ये तो दोबारा भी हाउस में आएंगे। कोई आखिरी बार थोड़ा ही आए हैं। अब सी.पी.आई. को बोलने दीजिए। सी.पी.आई. वाले बोलने वाले हैं...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: बस एक बात कहकर मैं अपनी बात खत्म करूंगा...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभापति: आप ही की बात को कंटीन्यू करने वाले हैं...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: मैं बस दो मिनट में अपनी बात खत्म कर रहा हूँ ...(व्यवधान)... मैडम, मैं कम्पीटीशन वाली बात कह रहा था। मैंने यह कहावत कि घर में नहीं दाने और मंत्री जी चले भुनाने इसलिए कही थी कि हम मुकाबला करने जा रहे हैं बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों से। कहते हैं कि आप उनसे मुकाबला कीजिए। आप किस ढंग से मुकाबला कर लेंगे ? आज बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों का पूरा व्यापार दस हजार अरब डॉलर तक हो चुका है। ये कहते हैं कि हम निर्यात के जरिए अपनी आमदनी बढ़ाएंगे तो इन्हें यह जानकर ताज्जुब होगा कि पूरी दुनिया के एक्सपोर्ट का चालीस फीसदी केवल चंद बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के हाथ में है। ये चाहे किसी भी देश की हों या जितने भी देश हैं इन सब में इनके निर्यात का हिस्सा चालीस फीसदी है। इस समय दुनिया में जितना भी निर्यात है उस निर्यात का चालीस फीसदी चंद बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के कब्जे में है और इन चंद बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के बारे में मैंने बताया कि इनका कारोबार दस हजार अरब डॉलर का है। ये हम से कहते हैं कि इनसे कम्पीटीशन कीजिए। स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज से कह रहे हैं, किसानों से कह रहे हैं कि उनसे कम्पीटीशन कीजिए।

अब सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों को बेचने का इरादा सरकार ने किया है। इसमें अठारह लाख कर्मचारी हैं। इनका क्या होगा ? ये कहते हैं कि हम बेरोजगारी खत्म करेंगे। हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था ऐसी हो जाएगी जिसमें बेरोजगारी नहीं रहेगी। इन उपक्रमों को जो लेगा क्या वह इन अठारह लाख कर्मचारियों को समायोजित करेगा? समायोजित मत करो लेकिन काम की कोई व्यवस्था तो हो। ये सारी स्थितियां बहुत ही निराशाजनक स्थितियां हैं और इस निराशाजनक स्थिति में यह एक निराशाजनक बजट है इसलिए मैं इसका विरोध करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I consider this Bill as one which will not help the country to go on the path of

sustained faster growth. Instead of that, it will only lead the country to a very severe crisis. This Budget is giving enormous concessions to the rich, especially to the monopolists and multinationals. At the same time, the Government has taken several steps to hit hard the toiling sections of the people and the common people.

Firstly, I would like to raise a point on a policy that has been announced in the Budget. The responsibility of maintaining the public distribution system will now be handed over to the States. Procurement of food-grains as well as its distribution at subsidised rates would be handed over to the States. Whatever may be said; in fact, it is a dismantling of the public distribution system. The State Governments would not be able to take up the responsibility. The Government is saying that the State Governments would be given the necessary financial assistance. Even when the public distribution system is run by* the Central Government, the experience with regard to the performance of the States is not good in this matter. They have decided that for the below poverty line people, subsidy would be given.

Say, for example, in Kerala, my own State, the Panchayats and Municipal Councils have made a survey and they have found that the percentage of people below the poverty line is 42. But the Central Government, sitting at Delhi, is saying that it is only 25%.

Now, for 17 per cent of people, the State Government will have to give subsidy. And tomorrow, when this system is handed over to the States, it may again be reduced because, now, a certain new methodology is being adopted by the Government to decide the number of people who are living below the poverty line or the people who are unemployed. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this decision and see that the Public Distribution System is maintained as such, without it being handed over to the States.

The second point that I would like to raise is about the labour. Madam, another policy announcement that has been made through the Budget is that two labour laws would be amended. The first one is the Industrial Disputes Act and the second one is the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act. According to the first one, those industries which are employing up to one thousand workers, are at liberty to lay off the workers partially or fully, to retrench the workers partially or fully, and also to close down the industry as and when they like. This affects more than 95 per cent of the organised sector of industry in the country. If this happens,

what would be the position of the workers tomorrow? Madam, some friends were saying that the compensation that is to be given to the workers is increased from 15 per cent to 45 per cent. Of course, you can raise it to even 60 per cent or 90 per cent but the workers will get nothing, I could cite so many examples wherein factories have been closed for long. Not only the wage arrears, but also gratuity, provident fund and other benefits, which they are legally entitled to get, are not given even to those people who have already retired. In umpteen cases, the workers have gone to courts, decrees have been obtained. But, even then, money has not been paid to them. Tomorrow, this is what is going to happen in India on a very large scale.

The third point is, the employer will have the freedom to employ contract labour even in the manufacturing units. Normally, the regular workers have to be employed in the manufacturing units. What would be the result? We have so many experiences. Now, in factories watch and ward work is given on a contract basis. Some military officer will form a unit and he would take contracts at the rate of Rs. 2,000 per head; and he would give Rs. 1,200 or Rs. 1,500 to the person who really works and will pocket the remaining amount. This is what is going to happen in all the factories. Therefore, my third request is that the Government should reconsider this.

My fourth request is this. It is with regard to peasants. Of course, the hon. Finance Minister has tried to create an impression that the Budget is in favour of the agriculturists. But, in reality, it is not so. I do not say that nothing has been done, But the real problems affecting the peasants, at the moment, are not being addressed. One of the serious problems that the farmers are facing in the country is the heavy fall in the prices of their products; the prices continue to fall. As a result of that, already, lakhs of peasants, belonging to the small and marginal sections, are very much indebted and there is a possibility that even they will have to part with their land and, tomorrow, they will join the category of unemployed. This is the position. Therefore, that problem will have to be attended to.

Madam, yesterday, I received a reply from the Ministry of Commerce saying that in the case of rubber, the Minimum Support Price could not be introduced. Why? The Minimum Support Price was there for the last several years. But it was being implemented in a haphazard manner; in such a manner that it did not benefit the agriculturists.

7.00 PM

Firstly, the minimum support price was being declared very much after the season had started. Therefore, what happens is, the businessmen gather all the raw rubber and, finally, they get the benefit out of it. Secondly, the minimum support price that was being fixed was not at all beneficial. Thirdly, there was no effective machinery to procure the rubber at the minimum support price. Same is the case with other commodities also. Therefore, the Government will have to consider how the agriculturalists are to be protected, how they can be ensured remunerative prices for their produce. This is what I have to say about that.

My next point is about disinvestment and privatisation of public sector units. It has already been announced, without any ambiguity that all the public sector industries, and also the public sector services, including the Railways, will be privatised in the near future. That policy has already been declared. What will be the benefit? The public sector had been built up in order to help in the development of our economy, for a self-reliant growth. It was found that this was necessary for this purpose. It was built up using public money, and also the hard labour of the workers and technicians. Now, the entire thing is being sold, and sold for a song, in fact. This is what is happening. But now there is a terrific resistance to that. For example, in the case of BALCO, all the unions had joined to oppose it. The State Government also supported it. All the Central Unions, including the BMS, in India had to jointly oppose this move. Bandhs are being staged in various States. If things continue to go on like this, if the Government keeps on insisting that this policy will be implemented at any cost, the resistance will intensify, the intensity of the movement will also increase. Therefore, my request is that the Government should reconsider all these things.

Then, I come to savings. The ordinary people, the workers, retired people, invest money in national savings, Indira Vikas Patra or in post office savings. It is not the rich people who go there. But, there also, the interest percentage is reduced. Other exemptions are also being taken away. Who are the people being affected? Only the people in the lower rungs of the society. And that is being done to do what? For two things. One, to reduce the interest burden of this Government. That is the first intention. The second intention is to enable the industrialists in our country to get more money for their business at lesser interest rates. For that, who is to suffer? It is the ordinary people who will suffer. Is it justified? We know

[26 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

that certain industrial organisations, two months ago, had come forward with a proposal that the number of industrialists who are defaulters in the banks, their names shall not be disclosed. Those non-performing assets will have to be written off. And they should be treated as honourable citizens of the country. This was said by the organisations. The Government has kept silent about it. Even during these weeks, what has been the behaviour of industrialists, very prestigious industrialists? They are an being blacklisted by the Reserve Bank of India. Most of them have been blacklisted, as most of them have been resorting to foul practices. Even the *Sterlite* is also declining. Our Law Ministry has said that there is no difficulty in turning the BALCO. Why? The BALCO is a different entity legally, even though it has been purchased by the *Sterlite*. is it fair? Is it a reasonable position that the Government is taking? Due to lack of time, I will not speak more. But I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the points raised by me. With these words, I conclude.

उपसभापति: श्री गांधी आजाद, जरा संक्षेप में बोल दीजिए। सवा सात बजे वोटिंग अनाउंस की है तो मंत्री जी को जवाब देने का भी टाइम होना चाहिए।

श्री गांधी आजाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद महोदया। महोदया, मैं मंत्री जी के बजट भाषण के पैरा 5 को उद्धृत करना चाहता हूँ- जहां आर्थिक सुधारों ने देश को काफी अधिक सुरक्षित और निरंतर प्रगति की राह पर पहुंचाया है वहां हमारी कुछ गंभीर चिंताएं भी हैं और हम संतुष्ट होकर नहीं बैठ सकते हैं।

मेरी राय में यह जाहिर है कि जब मंत्री जी अपने बजट से स्वयं संतुष्ट नहीं हैं तो देश की जनता के संतुष्ट होने का सवाल ही नहीं पैदा होता है। महोदया, मंत्री महोदय ने कृषि एवं ग्रामीण विकास के लिए बात कही है। खेतिहर किसानों के प्रति तो थोड़ी बहुत सहानुभूति जरूर है लेकिन खेतिहर मजदूरों के ऊपर बजट में बिल्कुल भी ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है जिनकी संख्या कृषि में लगे हुए लोगों का 30-35 प्रतिशत भाग है। ये पूरे परिवार सहित खेती पर, खेती में ही निर्भर रहते हैं। लेकिन इनके पास रंच मात्र भी खेत नहीं होता। ये सामंतवाद के शिकार होने के कारण, खेती न होने के कारण गांवों से पलायन करते हैं और शहरों में शरणार्थी जीवन जीते हैं। इनके लिए इस बजट में कोई भी ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है।

महोदया, बैंक क्षेत्र में बैंक सेवा भर्ती बोर्ड समाप्त करने का प्रस्ताव मंत्री जी द्वारा लाया गया है। मेरी राय में यह प्रस्ताव करके दलित और पिछड़े वर्ग के समाज पर कुठाराघात किया गया है क्योंकि अगर राष्ट्रीय बैंकों में दो-दो, चार-चार पोस्टें रिक्त होती थीं तो आयोग को जाती थीं। मान लीजिए सौ पोस्टें होती थीं तो उसमें आरक्षण के आधार पर एस.सी. और बैकवर्ड के लोगों को आरक्षण दिया जाता था। लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ने यह करके आरक्षण पर कुठाराघात किया है, अर्थात् यह बहुजन समाज विरोधी है और मनुवाद का पोषक है।

बैंकों में अप्रयोज्य आस्तियां, एन पी ए, की समस्या बनी हुई है। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह एन पी ए क्या भारत के किसानों के ऊपर बकाया है या दलितों के ऊपर बकाया

है? यह मेरी राय में बड़े पूंजीपतियों, दलालों और साहूकारों पर बकाया है। इसलिए इसको सख्ती से वसूल नहीं किया जाता है। अगर इसको सख्ती से वसूला जाए तो पूरा एन पी ए वसूल करके देश पर जो ब्याज का भार है उसको भी पूरा किया जा सकता है।

महोदया, शिक्षा के लिए प्रधान मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में एक राष्ट्रीय मिशन का गठन किया गया है। इस मिशन का गठन 14 वर्ष के बच्चों को मुफ्त शिक्षा के लिए किया गया है या कमीशन के बढ़ावे के लिए किया गया है, यह मेरी समझ में बात नहीं आरही है क्योंकि इस सरकार द्वारा प्रायमरी से लेकर उच्च शिक्षा तक शिक्षा शुल्क इतना बढ़ा दिया गया है जो इस बात को प्रमाणित करता है कि यह मिशन शिक्षा के लिए नहीं बल्कि कमीशन के लिए बनाया गया है।

महोदया, अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के विकास पर चिंता जरूर जतायी गयी है लेकिन उसी तरह से जतायी गयी है कि मंत्री जी ने इन वर्गों के ऊपर घड़ियाली आंसू बहाने का काम किया है। पृथक राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति वित्त एवं विकास निगम की स्थापना की गयी है और साढ़े सात प्रतिशत आबादी वाले अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों के कल्याण हेतु आवंटन इस वर्ष 786 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़ा करके अगले वर्ष के लिए 986 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया है और दूनी आबादी अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों की है, उनके कल्याण के लिए 709 करोड़ से बढ़ा करके 790 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया है, जो कि अपने आप में विरोधाभासी है। मैं मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर सचमुच अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों के प्रति आपका विकास का रवैया है तो पूरे देश में जमीनों का जितना पट्टा हुआ है, केवल उन पट्टों का ही अगर कब्जा दिला दिया जाए तो भी काफी समस्या हल हो सकती है। आज कृषि योग्य जितनी भी जमीनें परती पड़ी हुई हैं, अगर अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों के बीच में पट्टा कर दिया जाए तो भी उनका दुख कुछ दूर हो सकता है।

उपसभापति महोदया, मंत्री जी द्वारा जो दुखड़ा देशवासियों को सुनाया गया है कि ब्याज का भुगतान अब केन्द्र के कर राजस्वों का 69 परसेंट से अधिक है, और मूलधन से उसका कोई मतलब ही नहीं है, तो मैं मंत्री महोदय को सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि अगर ब्याज का भुगतान करना है और घाटे के बजट को कम करना है, तो इसे पूरा करने के लिए बैंक के एनपीए को अगर सख्ती से वसूल कर लिया जाए तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इस संकट से उबरा जा सकता है। इसके साथ ही साथ भ्रष्टाचार पर अंकुश लगाया जाए, खास तौर से सीमा शुल्क एवं आयकर विभाग पर, तो भी इस समस्या से उबरा जा सकता है। साथ ही, हमारा सुझाव यह भी है कि विदेशों में हमारे देशवासियों, खास तौर से राजघरानों और राजनेताओं की जो जमा धनराशि है, उसे यदि देश में लाया जाए तो मैं समझता हूँ कि विदेशी कर्ज से भी उद्धार हो सकते हैं और घाटे के बजट से भी छुटकारा मिल सकता है।

महोदया, आपने जो समय दिया, स इसके लिए बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. M.N. Das. I will request everybody to be brief.

DR. M.N. DAS (Orissa): Respected Madam Deputy Chairman, at this point of time, when it is quarter past 7, it will be a crime on my part to tax the patience of the hon. Members of the House and particularly to tax the time of the hon. Finance Minister of the country. So, I would better,

with your permission, entertain the House with a small story that I will narrate within three minutes. Madam, I think, you will give me the permission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes; yes.

DR. M.N. DAS: Madam, I will tell the story of a Finance Minister of another country who lived more than 200 years ago. His name was Calonne. He was the French Finance Minister before the famous French Revolution took place. I am not comparing the Finance Minister of India with Calonne. He was the Finance Minister of a King and our Finance Minister is the Finance Minister of the Republic of India, the largest democracy in the world and the Finance Minister of 101 crores of people. There is no question of comparison and any comparison is odious. But, Madam, certain laws are universal. A revolution, is not the monopoly of a monarchical State. Revolutions can take place anywhere on earth and even in democracy. Now, what I am narrating is this. The French King's Treasury was empty and the King was burdened with heavy foreign debt. Two wise Finance Ministers of the King, one after another advised him that there was no need to worry. Each one said, "Our country is a wealthy country. We can fill up the Treasury in one day. Look at the baronial class. The barons earn their unlimited wealth from feudal estates. They have amassed huge wealth."

"So, tax the barons. Money will flow in. Look at the priestly class. They receive donations from the population, and they have accumulated wealth. Secondly, there is church property and church land. So, just tax the priestly class. Third, cut down the expenditure on the court, courtiers and the palace. There is no need to appoint 500 maidservants for the queen of France. There is no need to employ thousands of attendants to serve the king and the royal family and the court. Cut down the lavish expenditure of the court. That will solve the problem. You will have enough money." But the unwise king dismissed the two wise ministers, one by one.

The third minister Calonne, came. His advice was, "Your Majesty, nothing to worry. We can fill up the treasury without any trouble. You need not tax the barons. They are the pillars of monarchy. Never displease them. You need not tax the priestly class. They pray for the king's life. Of course, you cannot tax the people because any addition to taxation will be like the last straw on the camel's back. The camel will die. So, what will we do? We have to borrow money from other kings of Europe." His famous advice was, "In order to borrow money, you have to show yourself

rich. And in order to show yourself rich, you have to spend more and more lavishly, as much as possible, on the court, the courtiers and by making the palace more glamorous." The ultimate result of such policy was the French Revolution.

I make an appeal to the hon. Finance Minister of India first to tax the barons. Is it a fact that Shivakhera has announced in the capital of Delhi to the elite, educators and principals of many colleges on April 17 that Indians have deposited US\$2,500 billion in Swiss banks? It must have come to the notice of the Finance Minister. I will repeat it. How could Shivakhera, an eminent intellectual and author, make the statement, without foundation, that US\$2,500 billion have been deposited by Indians in Swiss banks? Does it not call for an inquiry? Who are these Indians? Are they NRIs, or, are they residents of India? From what source did they make the money?

The other day, a simple-minded villager asked me, "What do you understand, or, what do you mean by a big bull?" I said. "I am not very much acquainted with that term. But they are human beings, not actual bulls." "How could one big bull rob the nation of Rs. 164 crores? Is there a Government in India?" That was the question asked by the simple-minded villager.

Mr. Finance Minister, Madam Swarajji, all other Ministers and all the ruling party Members, let us learn the lesson. Let us see the writing on the wall. What is the people's perception? What do the people think of this Government? You cannot tax the rich. You cannot control the corrupt people. Corruption has become universalised. It has become part and parcel of everybody's character, of the topmost officers, bureaucrats, civil servants and so many other categories of officials. Have you ever thought of controlling them?

To win the elections, our hon. Prime Minister began with a famous slogan, "In our Government, there would be zero tolerance to corruption." Ask the common people today, and they will say, "No question of zero tolerance, but 100 per cent tolerance to corruption and 200 per cent encouragement to corruption." This is the public perception. You have to control it somehow to save this Republic. Is it a fact that the Chief vigilance Commissioner announced last year that somewhere between Rs.60,000 and 100,000 crores of black money was operating in India?

Now, wherefrom does this money come? Have you ever tried to find out the source? Madam, before I conclude, I would say...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Dada, it looks like a memorial lecture.

DR. MX DAS : No, it is not a memorial lecture. I appeal to the Finance Minister to find out the persons who are submerged in corruption, who loot the nation, who plunder the people and accumulate assets disproportionately. Punish them; confiscate their money and save the nation from the scourge of fiscal deficit of 300,000 crores, and revenue deficit and also of other maladies. Don't forget that 35 crores of people are still below the poverty line.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But I thought you were going to tell us a story. You are making a speech.

DR. M.N. DAS: The story is over.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But, then, your speech is also over.

DR. M.N. DAS: Kindly don't forget that 27 crores of youths have no employment. I told you a story, but the story carries a lesson. The final lesson of the story is that history repeats itself through ages and through ages and generation after generation. The greatest lesson of history is that the lessons of history are never learnt by the rulers of men.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Maharashtra): Madam, because of the time constraint I assure you that my speech will be very brief.

Firstly, like my elderly friend, I do not want to enter into any controversy. In fact it is not the time for acrimony. I am amongst those who are rather very regretful that vital subject like the Budget has not been properly discussed. That is my first observation.

I feel, one of the important aspects of the Budget is being ignored. Instead of seeking any clarification from the Finance Minister, I want to get myself educated. I hope you will educate me. It is regarding capital receipts. Here, I would refer to a small booklet - Budget at a Glance. I refer to its first page. I come to its figures. In 1999-00, the Capital Receipts were Rs.1,16,571 and the Capital Expenditure -- Rs.48,975 crores. In 2000-01, the Capital Receipt is Rs. 1,29,375 crores and the Capital Expenditure is Rs.51,987 crores. Now, for the current year i.e. 2001-02, the Capital Receipts are Rs.1,42,478 crores and the Capital Expenditure is Rs.64,657 crores. Net saving in 1999-00 was Rs.67,596 crores; in 2000-01 it

was Rs.77,300 crores; and in 2001-02 it is Rs.78.821 crores. The savings in 1999-00 was 58 per cent; in 2000-01 it was 59 per cent; and in 2001-02 it is 55 per cent. Please educate me. I do not say that these savings were not utilised, but they were certainly not utilised for development purposes. What is the rationale behind it? And, if the savings are not spent for development purposes, where was this money diverted and for what purposes? Madam, I can assure you, I will be very brief.

Number two, an elaborate discussion on the Bill has taken place in the House. I am sorry to say that the Government has failed to control the economic crimes and irregularities in the economy.

Number three, despite sufficient food stocks, the Government has failed to provide foodgrains to the tribal people and to the poorer sections of the society. They are half-starved, going hungry and committing suicides. What a contrast! I would like to know from the Finance Minister, how these food stocks are going to be utilised by the Government?

Regarding the budget for the power projects, I want to get a reply, I would like to be enlightened by the Finance Minister alone. The Enron power project is a test for privatisation. The present External Affairs Minister was the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power. He had made an observation on the Enron power project in the report, I quote : "This project is uneconomical, not feasible, not practicable. And the Government of India should not give the counter-guarantee." This was the observation made by the present External Affairs Minister who happened to be the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power. In 1996, the Government of India gave the counter guarantee. Now, what is the position? This Enron power project, instead of generating power, has generated a lot of controversy and caused bankruptcy to the Government of Maharashtra and MSEB. The Enron company has plundered the Government. The Government's decision to give the power project to the Enron company was a blunder. The MSEB and the Government of Maharashtra have surrendered themselves before it. I want a clarification from the External Affairs Minister on the advice given by him in his capacity as the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

As far as the social sector is concerned, I want to know from the Finance Minister whether the outlay has been decreased or increased. The facts and figures are there. I will just mention some figures. In the case of Agriculture, it was Rs.3381 crores in 2000-2001. Now, the Revised Estimate is Rs.2980 crores. In the case of Rural Development, it was Rs.6895 crores.

At present, it is Rs.6443 crores. In the case of Irrigation, it was Rs.452 crores. Now it is Rs.402 crores. In the case of social services, it was Rs.21849 crores. Now it is Rs. 19741 crores. The irony is, instead of increasing the allocation for the social sector, it has been reduced. What is the rationale behind this? These are the basic things of the economy. Other points have been raised by my friends. I do not want to touch them. I do not want to comment on the Budget. Whatever points I have raised, I want the Finance Minister to reply to them so that I can get myself educated. If the time does not permit him to reply to the points raised by me, he can send me a written reply. Thank you.

SHRI ABANI ROY (West Bengal): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In fact, the Tehelka.com and the elections have saved the Government, from long debates, particularly, on the Budget this year. In the Preamble to the Constitution, there is the word 'socialism'. That is in the Constitution only. But, as a Member of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, I should not expect this thing from a Government which supports capitalists. It is not only this Government. The Governments that have ruled the country after Independence, till now, have been friends of the capitalists.

Before going on to the points about the Budget, actually, I would like to ask the Finance Minister one thing. That is about an incident which took place yesterday in Mumbai in which one of the allies of this Government, the Shiv Sena, launched a movement, with the leftists, against this Budget. I would request the Finance Minister to go through the words uttered by the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh Chief on the 16th April in Delhi. I do not want to utter the words that he uttered. I do not want to repeat here the way he attacked this Government, this Finance Minister.

The Government's anti-people policies, particularly in the fields of labour and employment, are a matter of serious concern. Well, it is within the knowledge of every prudent Indian that the numbers of unemployed and underemployed are swelling day by day towards an unimaginable figures. Some of the decisions of the Government are bound to affect us in the crudest and the hardest manner. The selling of PSUs is a matter of great concern. Instead of realising the true strength and collective ability of the working masses of the country, the Government has succumbed to the pressure and diktats of other countries. The actions of the Government like mass scale privatisation of PSUs, banking industry, insurance and so on and changing the labour laws to suit the convenience of employers, are nothing but lack of farsightedness on its part, which will, in turn, be ruinous for the

welfare of the masses of the country. Added to it, the reduction in the rate of interest on small savings, including the Provident Fund of employees, will not only have a negative effect on the domestic savings, but it will also severely affect the economic balance of large sections of our countrymen, particularly, the elderly people. The Government has also liberalised so many things. Things are coming from other countries to India. The Government is announcing that they are cheaper, they are good. No doubt, they may be cheaper, they may be good. But a majority of the countrymen are depending on agriculture. The Government has not realised how much agricultural products are in stock. On the one side, there will be downsizing of employment and closing of factories; on the other, the purchasing power of the people will become less and less. So, the things coming from outside may be cheaper, but there will be no purchasers. I must warn the Government that by virtue of being in power, the Government must take the responsibility for the welfare of the people of the country, and should refrain from such activities, which are detrimental to the interests of our countrymen, our nation and for the country as a whole. Lastly, the Finance Ministry has made an announcement to change the Industrial Disputes Act and the Contract Labour Act, even when these issues were pending before the National Labour Commission. This announcement was made by this Government a few days back. I do not know how you have entered into the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour. I would request the Finance Minister not to feel happy about what the industrialists are saying, what the CII is saying, what the IMF and other organizations are saying. I would like to refer to the point which has just now been raised by the hon. Member, Shri R.P. Goenka. He has stated that the Indian industrialists are in tears. You please try to understand the reality of the Indian people, and make necessary changes in the Budget accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Finance Minister. Mr. Finance Minister, the time limit applies to you also, because you are a part of the House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Madam, I will try to be very brief. Madam, as I stand up to reply to the debate which has just taken place, and the sixteen Members who have just spoken, I do so with a sense of guilt, and the hon. Members might wonder why do I have the sense of guilt. When I was listening to the speeches of many hon. Members in this House, I developed that sense of guilt, because I was criticised for the fact that my Budget was praised. I cannot be held responsible for that. When Mr. N.K.P. Salve started the debate, he said that, I, as Finance Minister, have been

pompous. I have held out hopes; that this is a Coalition Government. He has said it almost as an abuse that there is a Coalition Government. Madam, Deputy Chairman, we do not have the divine right to rule this country. Unlike us, some others presume they have. We are here certainly in a Coalition and we are in Government because the people have voted for us, and we have a majority in the Lok Sabha, which is the basis on which Governments are formed under our Constitution. And certainly, there is a Coalition, and if Coalition is a sin, then I would like to remind the Members of the main Opposition party that this is exactly what they are planning to do. Here, at least, we are the largest party in the Coalition. They are, through their electoral alliances, going into coalitions, where they are not even the second party. They are going as absolutely insignificant junior partners. So, I do not know why they should be so critical of the Coalition Government.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): What about Assam?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We are committed. We are already in a coalition. We are in a coalition at the Centre. We are in a coalition in various States. In some States we are the largest party and in some others we are the smallest party. We have accepted the coalition. But I don't know why it is hurting them when I am only telling them the truth.

Madam, as the Finance Minister of this country, I will talk of hope. I will not talk of despair. There is already so much talk of despair.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: There is all-round despair.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: There is so much talk of despair. I don't know why they talk of doom, despair, "I don't know where this country is going to", etc. What has been our sin? We have been in office for three years. In the first year, 1998-99, people were talking about the growth rate. The growth rate of the economy was 6.6 per cent. In the second year, it was 6.4 per cent; and in the third year, that is, in the year that has just ended, it is expected to be 6 per cent. Now, I have already stated that I am not happy with this growth rate. We want a higher growth rate. But, certainly, we have no reason to be ashamed of this growth rate. There is a great deal of difference that I notice. Whenever I go abroad or when I meet some foreigners here, I find that they are having full confidence about the Indian economy. But that confidence is lacking among ourselves. I would like to make this point very humbly.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: उनको लाभ हो रहा है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: उनको कोई लाभ नहीं हो रहा है पर आपने जो भाषण दिया है कौशिक जी कि दवा का दाम बढ़ रहा है, दारु का दाम घट रहा है यह वह भाषण होगा जो लोहिया जी ने पंडित नेहरू के जमाने में दिया था। किसी दवा पर टैक्स नहीं बढ़ा है अगर बढ़ा है तो दारु पर बढ़ा है। पता नहीं आपको कहां से सूचना मिली है कि दवा का दाम बढ़ रहा है, दारु का दाम घट रहा है। कौन सी भाषा, कहां की भाषा...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: पिछले छह महीने में लगातार दवा के दाम बढ़े हैं। आप इसका पता करिए।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, there is confidence in this country. There is confidence in the economy of this country. There is confidence in the Government of this country.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : Our future is very bright now.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: If, during my speech, these lights can come on, I am sure they can spread all over the country.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is generating energy in you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam Deputy Chairperson, I will touch upon two or three important issues that have been raised. You have asked me to be brief and I will be brief. Therefore, I will not be able to respond to the various issues that have been raised. As far as Mr. Gavai is concerned, he has stated that he wanted to be educated. I will go through the text of his speech and I will give him my written comments.

I would like to touch upon two or three important issues that have been raised repeatedly. The first issue is the issue of labour market reforms. It has become a very contentious issue. There are two things that I had said in my Budget Speech. One was the amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act so that we can take the threshold for Government approval -from 100 to 1,000 employees per unit. The second was regarding the amendment of the Contract Labour Act.

As far as the Contract Labour Act amendment is concerned, there was a meeting of the Inter-State Council some time ago. I think it was six or eight months ago. It was presided over by the Prime Minister. In that meeting, Chief Minister after Chief Minister, cutting across party lines, raised the issue of contract labour and they said that they wanted two kinds of amendments. One was that, according to the orders passed by the judicial authorities, the work that is of a permanent nature should necessarily lead to a permanent employment. They said that it was acting as a major

hindrance. Take, for instance, the cleaning of an office or the security of an office or the computer maintenance in an office. These are all jobs of a permanent nature.

Therefore, according to these judgements, the employees had to be made permanent. This could not be done on a contract basis. This was one part of the Contract Labour Act. Then they said that they wanted to employ people on a contract basis for a certain period of time. If they needed somebody for five years or for three years or for whatever period of time, they wanted to enter into a contract with that person so that they could give him employment only for that period. This was not possible under the present dispensation. So the Chief Ministers suggested to the Prime Minister that the Government of India should have this matter examined and should take necessary steps. Knowing the sensitivity of the whole issue, what did the Prime Minister decide? The Prime Minister set up a small Sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council. He made me the Chairman of that Sub-Committee. We had four State Governments which were represented in that Committee. Andhra Pradesh was represented in that. Madhya Pradesh was represented in that. Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were also represented in that. We had a meeting to which I invited the Union Labour Minister. We had a meeting where a consensus was evolved that the Contract Labour Act needed to be amended in order to make it labour friendly, in order to ensure that we, through contract labour, were able to generate more employment in this country, in the coming years. After that we discussed this issue in the Government of India and then I mentioned this thought in my Budget speech..*(Interruptions)*... Just a minute. Let me conclude. I will reply to your question at the end.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Unless there is a consensus between the labour and the Government..*(Interruptions)*. Unless there is a consensus ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am coming to that consensus.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen to him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: So, this is the background of the amendment to the Contract Labour Act. Now we have been discussing about the Industrial Disputes Act amendment. Over a period of time, we came to the conclusion that that also needed some amendment. I have mentioned it. I have mentioned about these two amendments in my Budget speech. What did I say? I said that my colleague, the Labour Minister

would bring the necessary legislative amendments before Parliament. This is what I said. Now nobody should say that because I had mentioned it in my speech, it should become a law the next day. It is not an excise Act. It is not a customs Act. So it has not become a law. Therefore, these amendments will be brought before Parliament. We have a system, as you know, Madam, that all such important pieces of legislations are referred to the Standing Committee. After all, didn't we have a difference of opinion on the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill? When I introduced this Bill, it was referred to the Standing Committee. We were able to evolve a consensus in the Standing Committee, after which the Bill was brought before the two Houses of Parliament and was passed. So these amendments will be brought before Parliament. This will be discussed in the Standing Committee. We will fully take into account the views of the Standing Committee as we* have been doing in the past. Then it will be brought before the House. Now, I would like to respond to what Shri Jibon Roy said. I think it is an excellent suggestion which he has made. We do not want to do anything behind the back of anyone. Therefore, we will certainly engage the trade unions in this discussion. What has happened since 28th February when I presented the Budget? We have been busy with various other things in Parliament and outside Parliament. The moment we get an opportunity - I would like to assure the House - we would engage the trade unions in a discussion. We do not want to steamrole anything. We are in favour of a consensus. We will certainly try and evolve that consensus. On behalf of the Government of India, let me make it very clear that we are convinced that this is a necessary step. This is something which will be in the interest of the labour. It will be in the interest of employment generation, That is why we have brought it forward.

Now, there is another issue which has been raised, and that is the issue relating to interest rates. Madam, the economy, whether we like it or not, is today exposed to global competition, t heard the hon. Members of this House; when they were intervening in the debate, they were talking about global competition and asked how we propose to make the Indian industry globally competitive. When hon. Member, R.P. Goenkaji, was speaking, he was also saying, "Please give some more time to the Indian industry so that the Indian industry could become competitive." We are ail aware of the very special difficulties that our industry faces in India. It is in terms of infrastructure, whether it is power, or, ports, or, roads or, transport, everywhere, there are some problems. We are trying our best to solve those problems. But there is a disadvantage which the Indian industry

faces. And one of the major disadvantages that the Indian industry, the Indian agriculture, the service sector in India, everyone, faces now is the very high unsustainable interest rates in India. This is one of the most important causes which is making everything in India uncompetitive when we compare ourselves with the rest of the world. So, while we will have to have a multi-pronged strategy to be able to make the Indian industry, the Indian agriculture, the services sector, everything, the entire Indian economy, competitive, the reduction in interest rate is very important. Now, it is not an idle fiat. It is not an indiscriminate act. I have said that while I am reducing the interest rates on Government deposits, on our contractual borrowings, by one-and-a-half per cent, in the future, I am going to set up an expert committee which is going to determine this, for the Government of India. I want to take it out of our consideration, in a manner, and put it across to this Committee. And I have already set up such a committee, under the chairmanship of one of the Deputy Governors of the Reserve Bank of India; there are other experts. There are representatives of Government and other organisations on that Committee. And that Committee, in future, will tell us what the interest rates in this country should be. Now, what is it which is being said? "Poor people, poor pensioners, poor senior citizens, who are only dependent on interest earning, are now going to become absolutely helpless after this one-and-a-half per cent reduction in the interest rate." The Government, as has been pointed out repeatedly by Members in this House, is the largest borrower in the market. According to the Budget estimates this year, I shall be borrowing in the Indian market something like Rs. 1,80,000 crores. We are the largest borrower. So, on the one hand, the Government is being compelled, for various reasons, to borrow more and more and more; we gobble up everything, and on the other hand, I am also being compelled to pay a high interest rate. I am asking you, Madam: Is it fair? Why is it today that we are paying something like Rs. 1,80,000 crores by way of interest alone. It is only because...

MISS MABEL REBELLO: ...because of your mismanagement, misgovernance...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: ...of the previous years, of your time.

Madam, Rs.11 lakh crores or Rs.12 lakh crores, which is our liability at the moment, have not been borrowed by me. So, we have borrowed large sums of money in the market. We are borrowing at high interest

rates. This is a very difficult situation and cannot be sustained. Therefore, the interest rates have to be brought down in the larger interest of the economy of this country. And, let me tell you that for every lender, for every depositor, there is a borrower. If we are depositing money, we are also borrowing money from the bank, and it is not only the large industrial houses which are borrowing. We are lending money to agriculture. After all, this year, we have ended up lending Rs.50,000 crores to agriculture. For the current year, our target is, lending Rs.64,000 crores to the agricultural sector. If we have high interest rates, how do we expect our agriculture to compete in the present scenario? We have moved from shortages to surpluses. We have to export. That is the paradigm shift which has taken place in our agricultural economy and we have come to terms with some of these problems and some of these issues. But we are not insensitive. The Reserve Bank and the Credit Policy that we have announced on the 19th of March, have clearly said that, as far as the deposit schemes for senior citizens are concerned, banks are permitted to formulate Fixed Deposit Schemes, specifically meant for senior citizens, offering them higher and fixed rates of interest, as compared to normal deposits of any size. The Reserve Bank has already mandated the banks to do this and, I hope, all the banks will come up with schemes so that senior citizens' problem is reduced. As far as the salaried class is concerned, and any loss that they might incur on their Provident Fund, etc., I have already announced yesterday in the other House that we are giving them more concessions by way of Standard Deduction in Income-tax and I am going to lose much more money than I am going to gain as a result of reduction in interest rates. So, as far as the interest rates are concerned, this is the position and I will plead very humbly with this House that we should not have the kind of impressions that the hon. Member, Miss Mabel Rebello, had about small, small self-help groups which are being persuaded to deposit their earnings in the banks; if they earn more than Rs.2,500 by way of interest, the Income-tax is going to go after them. It is nothing. I have already explained that and in response to the point, a very valid point, that you made, Madam Deputy Chairperson, about micro finance as opposed to micro-credit. I entirely agree with you, and let me tell you, that one of the major success stories of the last few years in this country -- and I am not merely referring to the last three years, during which I have been the Finance Minister; I am referring to the period before that also -- has been the functioning of the self-help groups, largely of women, in the rural areas. I raised this point in the other House and I was informed by my colleague

8.00 P.M.

from the Telegu Desam Party that 3,50,000 self-help groups of women are functioning in Andhra Pradesh itself. I am an elected Member of Parliament myself, Madam. I know this that I am doing this work and I am trying to organise this work in my own very remote and backward constituency and the kind of enthusiasm that I am seeing amongst women in the rural areas where I am going out and meeting them, is enormous; it is infectious. This is the kind of movement that we have to build up, if we want the people in the rural areas to augment their sources of income.

There were one or two points which were raised with reference to the Finance Bill. Again on the abolition of the Banking Services Recruitment Boards, let me make it very clear. It does not mean that we are going to do away with reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That is not the intention. The BSRBs will go because we had the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the public sector banks recently. Over a hundred thousand people voluntarily asked for retirement from bank service. Over a hundred thousand! 1,03,000 or thereabouts, to be precise! Now, in the light of this, we are trying to make a major shift in the banks' recruitment policy. We have said that banks must go in for highly skilled people. They must go in for people who understand the new technologies, the new financial products and, therefore, it will be the recruitment of these specialised, qualified people in the banking industry in future. And, therefore, we have said that the bank boards will formulate -- and they have already formulated -- their own plans. I had mentioned it in response to a question the other day in this House. Their policies in the manpower planning have been formulated. The policies have been framed and whatever requirement is there, the bank boards will set up adequate mechanisms to make sure that recruitment is done in the best possible manner, keeping in mind the reservation principles of the Government.

There was one last point, Madam Deputy Chairperson, or, one of the last points. I think I will take up two. One is the question of this new dispensation that I have announced in the Finance Bill about Trusts, making their accounts public and getting them published in local newspapers.

Now this has attracted a lot of attention and also criticism. I would hasten to add that I have amended the Finance Bill and raised the limit, of trusts which have to do this, from "Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs.1 crore. Now, if a trust

has an income of Rs.1 crore, then it must be a very large trust. There was a Task-Force which was set up by the Planning Commission, Madam Deputy Chairperson, for Voluntary Action Network India Group, and it was this Group which suggested that in order to bring greater transparency in the functioning of trusts, NGOs and others, this kind of a provision should be made. We have accepted their recommendation. We have mandated that they should publish their account, not the detailed account, but the abridged account in the newspaper so that the people are aware of it. As far as the apprehension that *mafia* is going to get after them, I don't think there is anything which remains a secret in this country anymore. So, if a trust has money, people will know that it is a rich trust. I don't know what difference this is going to make. But it is certainly going to add to transparency.

Madam Deputy Chairperson, one last point which has been raised by Jibonbabu is about the metallurgical coke. This is a very important issue, and I would like to take a minute of the House to explain this. When we are looking at the import duty structure, Madam Deputy Chairperson, I have reduced the total number of import duty slabs to four. In Excise, I have reduced it to two. I had inherited a very large number of slabs. But over a period of time, I have brought them down to the minimum. I have given a clear indication in my Budget Speech that we will move to the East Asian tariff levels in the next three years. I have asked the Department of Revenue to start working on this; whether we should have three rates of Customs Duty, or, whether we should have two rates of Customs Duty. In the next Budget, we will be coming out with our plan of action on this. But why I am talking about metallurgical coke is that the steel industry was and continues to be in a serious problem. They are not able to compete even on the Indian soil because of various other reasons and one of them is the high cost of input; and metallurgical coke is a very important input for the steel industry. Shri Jibonbabu has been repeatedly saying that he has been in the trade union movement from the age of 16 or whatever. So, he will be in the trade union not only for metallurgical coke workers but also for the steel workers. So, metallurgical coke being an important thing, I looked at the figures, and I found that the total requirement of the country is something like 24 lakh tonnes of metallurgical coke. What is the total production? The total production is three lakh tonnes. Now, we had a regime where in order to protect this three lakh tonnes, we had a very high rate of Customs Duty and at that high rate of Customs Duty, the steel industry was becoming unviable and uncompetitive. That is why, in the amendment which I have

moved yesterday, I have suggested that on an end-user-basis, only for the steel plants, metallurgical coke will be allowed to be imported at a lesser rate of duty. I would like to assure Jibonbabu that neither the unit in his constituency nor the units elsewhere need to close down as a result of this. I myself represent, in the other House, Madam Deputy Chairperson, a constituency which is famous for its coal mines, which is famous for the products of coal industry. Therefore, I am very acutely aware of the problems of coal industry, and I can assure the House that I will do nothing which will hurt the coal industry. In fact, last year, I raised the import duty on coal from 15 per cent to 25 per cent. So, it is only in order to help the steel industry that this has been done.

Madam Deputy Chairperson, as per the instructions given by you, I would like to end here. A very large number of points have been raised by various Members to the extent to which they relate to guidance of the Government, to the extent to which they relate to specific issues.

Let me assure the House, they will receive my most earnest consideration and we will try and do our best.

Thank you.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam ...{Interruptions}... Madam, we are not satisfied with the reply. ...interruptions)... We are walking out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the motion for consideration of the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2001. The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up motion for consideration of the Finance Bill, 2001. The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2001-2002, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 142 were added to the Bill,

*The First Schedule to the Eight Schedule were added to the Bill
Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past eight of the clock, till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 27th April, 2001.