

mitted, attempts are also being made to retrench 40,000 and 14,000 coal workers respectively. The closure of mines will have an adverse impact on the steel industry also and it will subsequently lead to closure of steel plants, where also it will lead to retrenchment of steel plants, where also it will lead to retrenchment of several thousands of employees which are dependent on these coalmines.

Sir, closing of coal-mines is not for economic reasons. But, we do not know the intention of the Government in this regard. It is a sinister move. That is why we say, on behalf of the working class, that the intention of the Government is to hand-over coal-mines to the private owners. The Indian National Mine Workers Federation, which commands the support of nearly 4,60,000 workers in the coal industry, have agitated and have submitted representation to the Government of India and the respective authorities.

Sir, with your permission and with the permission of the august House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to this sinister move, which should not take place, and demand that this sinister move should be retraced and that the retrenchment of workers be stopped forthwith and that they should not privatise it. thanks.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Sir, these 64 coal-mines of the ECL, which have been closed, are situated in Bengal and Bihar. Before closing these, the Government did not even consult the State Government. Since I was in the trade union, I know that the workers are in a very bad situation. Since the Coal Industry was nationalised, a lot of advance has been made. Now, the Government of India has to develop many other

mines. If the Government feels that by privatisation those mines will be developed, they are living in a fool's paradise. The way the Government is moving, it looks they are going to destroy the entire coal industry. Therefore, I demand that the Government should retract from its policy. I wish the concerned Minister makes a statement before the House on this subject, because it is a very important subject.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Sir, Gujarat and Maharashtra have all the thermal power projects. They are coal-based power projects. We have shortage of coal every now and then. If these mines are closed down, then what will happen to the power industry that had developed on the basis of these? As a result of it all, the thermal power projects will be in a great difficulty. As a result, the shortage of power will further increase. I would like to know whether the Government will consider this point. If they are going to liberalise and give these to the private parties, it will create a problem. Sir, I do not doubt the intention of the Government, but it is clear that the Government intends to give these to some private projects.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION Current Economic Situation and its Implications on Indian Economy—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNADES): Now, we resume the further discussion on the Short Duration Discussion.

Shri J. Chitharanjan to continue his speech. Mr. Chityharanjan, you have to conclude, because you have no time left.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Sir, our experience in India during the last seven years, since the new economic reforms have been implemented, has shown what we could not have a steady and sustained economic growth.

Firstly, we had a very serious recession. Then there was some progress, some growth. Again there was some crisis. Therefore, there is no sustained growth or steady growth. Not only that, they have not succeeded in reducing the poverty or unemployment or the problems that are being faced by the common people. In fact, unemployment and poverty have increased. The steps that are being taken on the basis of economic reforms have aggravated this problem further. Mr. Vice-Chairman, as you know, the Government have already taken a decision to close down 8 or 9 public sector undertakings retrenching 1,00,000 odd workers. In the same way, 63 or 64 coalmines in the Eastern Coalfield are going to be closed down. Instead of creating employment, what is happening is, unemployment is on the increase. Similarly, poverty is also on the increase. Similarly, poverty is also on the increase. Therefore, my point is, it is high time we reconsider our economic reforms as well as the policy of development. The main defect in the existing scheme is that the problems of the people are not being considered. Here, we depend on certain abstract statistics. But the plan and development should be aimed at improving the living conditions of the ordinary people by creating more employment opportunities and reduc-

ing the unemployment and poverty also. But that is not the aim of this Government. Despite all these experiences, I am pained to note that the people at the helm of affairs are, again and again, declaring that the reforms programme would continue. They have said that whatever may happen, economic reforms would continue. I do not know why they are saying like that. I feel that on the basis of actual experience, we should consider the whole economic development programme. This can be adopted for sustained growth and steady economic growth. This will help to reduce poverty and reduce the unemployment problem. This will also help in improving the standard of living of the common people. That should be the main task. Once again, I request the government to reconsider the economic reforms. They should develop an economic programme and adopt it.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): In a developing economy like India, where the supply of goods and services will be somewhat short of demand, at the trend rate of 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent and where the supply of money will be increasing at the trend rate of 8 to 9 per cent, there is a point of tolerance for the price, beyond which, the rise is termed as inflation. The Indian economy has presently been witnessing a huge gap between the supply and demand of essential commodities, on the one hand, and more than 20 per cent increase, in the supply of money, on the other. As a result, the rise in price during 1998-99, particularly, in respect of essential commodities has been hitting hard the family budgets. Inflation causes serious imbalances in the economy. Apart from creating social problems, high inflation upsets the external trade and aggravates trade deficits, depreciates currency, thereby increasing the burden of external debt, pushes up interest rates and discourages investment and finally

forces an economic halt. Inflation affects the poor people most than the others that too, in two ways; it erodes the real worth of whatever purchasing power this section has and still worse, it weakens the efforts to reduce poverty by escalating its cost and thereby making it unsustainable. After a year of a relatively low inflation rate of less than five per cent during 1997-98, in terms of wholesale prices, the Indian economy is heading towards a resurgence of a higher inflation rate. Sir, in this background, we have to analyse the exorbitant price hikes in regard to food items. These high prices in food items make the people who live on the poverty line and below the poverty line suffer more and more and get disgusted and agitated more and more towards the Government and they fix the responsibility on the rulers whoever they may be. These people voted this government to power and now they declare their judgment, "You have not served our cause". So, this Government have to own their responsibility and mend their approach and they must perform themselves to contain the inflation.

Many of the senior Members of this House who participated in the discussion put forth their valuable suggestions to solve these problems. I want to place before this august House my humble opinions and suggestions. Our economy is an agrarian economy. According to me, agricultural production has declined much more than the previous estimates and the growth in industrial production and services has not been enough to make it up. More than 75 per cent of population live in villages engaged in agricultural operations for their livelihood. In 1997-98, foodgrains production has declined by nearly six million tonnes. It seems we are losing the battle on the economic front. Industrial production is down; inflation is up, touching over eight

per cent; exports are down. The only way out is to augment the agricultural production. Farmers and farm labourers are responsible for our very existence. But they have remained the most exploited lot with middlemen making huge profits. Stagnation in the production of several farm products is noted. Farmers will have to be given sufficient incentives to realise a higher income from their farm land. This will also help checking rural youth migrating to urban centres for a better livelihood. Our agriculturists are not agricultural industrialists like in the USA. They are social farmers. Hence, concentration on this sector will take us a long way in the development of our economy. Thus agriculture forms the backbone of our economy. Agriculture contributed 57 per cent of the national income in 1950-51. But now it has been reduced to around 32 per cent of the national income.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Please conclude.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I will take just two more minutes.

The employment potentiality of the economy in our country is 67-69 per cent. It is the source of supply of raw material to industries also apart from catering to the basic needs of our society, that is, foodgrains and vegetables and other eatables. Cotton and jute production cater to the textile industries. Sugarcane cultivation caters to the sugar industries. Oilseeds cater to the oil industries. Vegetables and plantations cater to the food-processing industries. Agricultural products like tea, coffee, oilseeds, tobacco, and spices like pepper, etc., constitute the main items of export. Tapioca, rubber and coconut cater to the flour mill industries and oil industries. Agriculture caters to our basic needs,

that is food, and, helps in developing many industries, which are based on these products. Moreover, agriculture is the main support for the Indian transport system, the Railways, the road system, to undertake movement of agricultural products. Despite eight Five year Plans and three Annual Plans since 1951-52, our country has failed to solve its basic problem, that is, the problem of feeding its population. The present Government as well as the previous governments have to share the responsibility for this failure. Instead of accusing each other, we should jointly put our heads together to find out a solution to this problem. We must have a policy to induce improvements in the cropping pattern and we must have an effective Public Distribution System. One of the reasons for the price hike is hoarding. The hoarders, in the hope of getting high prices for food stuffs, hoard it and make a huge profit, thereby making their brethren starve. This anti-social act has to be curbed with an iron hand. All encouragement has to be given to the agriculturists because they depend on seasons, seasonal rains and seasonal foodgrains for their cultivation. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Sankaralingam, please conclude.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: In Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, has announced free electricity supply to all the pump-sets used for agriculture. He has also raised the supporting price for paddy, apart from the supporting price announced by the Central Government. In this connection, I would request the Central Government to enunciate a programme to augment agricultural production to a satisfactory level. With these words, I conclude.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Shri Narendra Mohan.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, what about me?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Vayalar Ravi, their party has nine minutes. Your party has no time. But since your name is there, I will allow you to put some questions, later on. His party has nine minutes and there are two speakers—Shri Narendra Mohan and Shri Sangh Priya Gautam.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, if it is so, then I will not speak. I withdraw my name.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): No, no. It is for you to decide. Your name is there. You continue. Mr. Gautam has also given his name.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: If the time allotted to me is four minutes, then I will withdraw my name. I should be allowed to consume the whole time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): It is for your party to decide.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, yesterday, while the hon. Member from our party was speaking, they kept interrupting for forty minutes.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I admit that there is inflation of more than eight per cent, I admit that there is price rise. I also admit that there is a sense of despondency in this country. I also admit that the consumer price index has gone up by 16 per cent and the vegetable traders have a run on the market. the corporate results are bleak, the agricultural production has gone down, the industrial production has gone down. there is a high fiscal deficit and the exports are falling. I also admit that foreign exchange crisis is there and a poor capital market exists. But it is strange that those who are sitting in the Opposition Benches, they do not wish to realise as to what the basic cause for all this is. They do not wish to see it in this backdrop. I would like to quote the

report of the Reserve Bank. This is a bulletin of October 1998. It says:

"Union budget of 1998-99 presented on 1st June, 1998, was formulated against the backdrop of slow down in the growth of real Gross Domestic Production."

in 1997-98, we were not in power. They were in power.

"The real GDP growth for 1997-98 was only five per cent. It was informed to us in this very Parliament by the earlier Government that it was going to be 7.5 per cent.

That was the promise. Exports were falling. The conditions were such that the whole crisis was created because of the continuity of a lack of initiatives on the part of the past Governments. Sir, the negative growth in agricultural sector or the fall in industrial production is not the creation of last eight or nine months. This is what we have inherited. The worse is that they are not realising how we have consolidated. the consolidation in India is amongst the rare economies of the world. What has happened to the world economies, especially the economies which are in the east of India? Those economies are shrinking. Indonesia's economy has shrunk by 15 per cent, Singapore's economy has shrunk by about 5 per cent and Thailand economy has shrunk by 8 per cent. Barring the economies of China and Australia, and, perhaps, Taiwan also, all the other economies have shrunk. Even Japan's economy is stagnating. Under these circumstances, this Government has been able to achieve a growth rate of around 4.5 per cent. This is our achievement.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: That is our achievement. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: This is the backdrop. Under this backdrop, we have been able to maintain this achievement. During the last one year when the other economies have shrunk, we are growing. We are growing, Sir, but the

Opposition is not realising. ...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Jibon roy, please don't interrupt him. Your name is there. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: that feeling won't help you, my brother. You should understand what you have done.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): You are misquoting.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: If I am misquoting anything, you can bring a privilege motion against me. Sir, again, I am going to read from the "Economic report" about the backdrop. This is the general review of the economy. This shows what happened earlier. "The overall economic growth of GDP has decelerated significantly to less than 5 per cent in 1997-98." This is the RBI Report. "The pace of industrial growth and investment has slackened markedly since the middle of 1996-97 for a variety of reasons. Some of the factors are cynical and can be expected to correct themselves, but they are not correcting. Others are the result of some of the policies followed in the past." The Reserve Bank feels that the present situation is the outcome of the past follies in the policies. It is not the result of the present policy. The initiatives which we have taken are phenomenal. We were very sure when we were presenting the Budget to the House and we had, at that time, also declared what the outcome was going to be. We never promised heaven to everybody. The policy initiatives which we have taken for agriculture rural development have shown the results. "The Budget has proposed measures to improve the growth potential of the rural economy." For the first time, we have taken steps to really, genuinely, strengthen the rural economy. I think the House knows it. For the development of small scale industries also, we have taken the initiatives. "To consider public investment of infrastructures"--this is the basic thing which we have done and it is going to bring the desired results--"the Plan outlays for the key infrastructure sectors like energy,

transport and communications have been enhanced to Rs. 61,000/- crores." What had happened earlier? They neglected the infrastructure sector. They badly neglected the infrastructure sector; that is why, there was no growth. We are going to invest heavily on infrastructure. It has never been done earlier. Sir, this is our policy initiative, but the Opposition is not realising it. It is unfortunate. It is a jaundiced eye. If you look at everything with a jaundiced eye, you are not going to see the true colour. The true colour you can get only if your sickness is removed, only if your jaundice is removed. I beg the Opposition leaders to remove their jaundice.

They should realise how the fiscal reforms are being taken up. The expenditure restructuring measures, which this Government has taken, deserve the sympathy and support the Opposition. As regards the restructuring of public expenditure, first the Government constituted a Special Task Force on devolution of powers to the States. It has happened for the first time. why was it needed? It was needed because of the financial indiscipline which was practically running the whole country, especially, the State Governments. To discipline the State Governments and to discipline them financially, it was essential to constitute a Special Task Force and it was done. Secondly, the Government has eliminated the anomalies of classifying the expenditure into Plan and non-Plan components. The third initiative which has been taken is this. I am again reading from the Report. "Another realated problem highlighted by the Budget is the proliferation of Central Sector and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes over the years. The Budget proposes to rationalise these areas with the objective of reducing overlaps and duplication." From the Report of the Standing Committee of Finance, which has just been released, you will find that in most of the Central sector programmes and projects there are cost overruns and time overruns. The cost overruns run into not Rs. 100 crores or Rs. 200 crores in total. They run into

thousand and thousands of crores of rupees. Who is responsible for the cost overruns and the time overruns? We were not in power. Certainly we were not in power. Those who were in power were responsible for all these cost overruns and time overruns. They mismanaged the economy. We didn't do anything like that. Why do they blame it on us? They should search their heart. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK (Maharashtra): It is not a question of the past economic situation which we are discussing. *(Interruptions)*... We are discussing the economic situation that is prevailing in the country. *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Adik, please let him conclude. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: for God's sake, please understand your mistake. *(Interruptions)*... Whatever is there, that is the creation of your mistake. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI (Uttar Pradesh): We are not discussing the past economic situation. We are discussing the present economic situation. *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Let him conclude. Mr. Narendra Mohan, please conclude. You have taken your time. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am reading from the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance. 1998-99. Our hon. friend, ex-finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, is a member of that Committee. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANATAN BISI (Orissa): Sir, I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): There is a point of order. What is your point of order? *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, a copy of the Report is not laid on the Table of the House so far. *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Then how did the hon. Member get a copy of it (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: It has been distributed, Sir. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)... Sir, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Bisi, what is your point of order?

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, my point of order is that the Short Duration Discussion is on the current economic situation. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: It is the current economic situation which I am discussing. (*Interruptions*)... Sir, I seek your protection. (*Interruptions*)... I am not yielding. (*Interruptions*)... Sir, I am not yielding. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANATAN BISI: My point of order is that the discussion is relating to the current economic situation. The word "current" doesn't relate to the past. The word "current" means what is happening presently. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Bisi, please take your seat. I thought that you were going to say something about the Report. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this Report has not been circulated and this has not been laid on the table of the House. So, it can't be quoted. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Then how did the hon. Member get the copy? (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it has not been laid on the Table of the House. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I got it from the counter just now. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU (Pondicherry): Sir, it is a contempt of the House. (*Interruptions*)... He is not entitled to read all that. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Narendra Mohan, what is this report?

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: this is the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance. 1998-99, Twelfth Lok Sabha, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs and Expenditure, Demand for Grants, Third Report. It is of July, 1998. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): This is a predated document. It is printed and laid on the Table of the House. Please conclude. You have taken enough time. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, now I am going to read the Report. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Now you please conclude. You taken enough time. (*Interruptions*)... Please conclude. You have taken twelve minutes. Your party has got only nine minutes. (*Interruptions*)... You have taken twelve minutes. Please conclude. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Let me expose my friends. (*Interruptions*)... Let me expose my friends. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Don't read the Report. (*Interruptions*)... You please conclude by saying from the Report. Don't read the Report. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): You have gone with all those arguments to the people and the people have rejected you. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Narendra Mohan, please conclude. Don't read the Report. (*Interruptions*)... The hon. Members know what is there in the report. It is laid on the Table of the House. Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I seek your protection. A couple of my friends have asked as to what we are going to do and what our plans are. I am

now going to read the Prime Minister's package to boost the economy. The Prime Minister on 24th October, 1998 announced several bold and important policy measures. It says:

"Buy back of shares by companies will be allowed. No need for prior approval for inter-corporate investment in Indian companies. Companies can enhance acquisition limits..."

There are many more things. Later on, the Prime Minister also outlined a 12-point medium-term economic agenda of the Government at the Indian Economic Summit.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, he is referring to the period of the previous Government.

VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Basu, he is going to conclude. Please take your seat. Mr. Narendra Mohan, please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: It is said here that we are going to achieve an annual GDP growth rate of seven to eight per cent through a strategy that ensures low inflation and high employment generation.

A couple of days ago, the finance Minister assured everybody in the country that fiscal deficit was not going to ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: He had also assured that the prices of onions would come down. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*. I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Basu, let him conclude.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The Finance Minister assured the house that the prices of onions would come down. But it did not happen.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Basu, please take your seat. Mr. Narendra Mohan, please conclude. You have taken enough time. Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: There is going to be an increase in domestic savings up to 30 per cent of the GDP. We are going to have an economic buoyancy. Ten restructuring of public sector enterprises is in our plan. We are doing it. We are not doing such things which have been done earlier. The way our finances were handled earlier, we all know it very well. *(Interruptions)*. Why is Shri Nilotpal Basu jittery? ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: We have never seen this kind of price rise.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Narendra Mohan, please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Shri Bimal Jalan, who is a non-partisan person, in his inaugural address at a Seminar on the mid-term review of the economy organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi on 9th November, 1998 said that economic fundamentals were stronger now compared to....*(Interruptions)*. It is his statement. It is not my statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Narendra Mohan, please conclude; otherwise, I am going to call the next speaker.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: According to the Reserve Bank Governor, the industrial revival is going to...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Narendra Mohan please take your seat.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, give me two minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): We have no time. Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am concluding. I beg of the Opposition: please don't look at us with a jaundiced eye. When we were in the Opposition, we never looked at you with a jaundiced eye. *(Interruptions)*. This will not help

the country. As I have already admitted, there are problems. But these problems cannot be solved by pulling one another's legs. These problems cannot be solved by such an attitude which is only critical. I was expecting that Shri Pranab Mukherjee would definitely tell us as to what should be done. Nobody has said what we should do. We are doing what is best for the country. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Kumar, what do you want to say?

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the hon. Member has repeatedly talked about jaundiced eye. My learned friend knows that jaundiced eye means yellow colour. There is not much difference between yellow and saffron.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): What is your point of order? I think there is no point of order. Please sit down.

SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of the AIADMK.

The economy of our country has been a matter of anxiety and concern for the last few years. Privatisation has paved way for large scale investment in industrial and other sectors in the country. Doing away with licence raj and quota system have given the expected encouragement to the potential investors. Indian economy is certainly under close watch by the rest of the world because of its peculiarities and the new approach. It would be totally incorrect to analyse our economy during the last eight months only, that is, since the BJP- coalition party came to power. In fact, a new dimension was given to our economy way back, in the year 1991, by the then Congress (I) Government under the leadership of Shri Narasimha Rao. Thereafter, even after change of guards a few times at the Centre, the economic policy continues. Though political parties with different ideologies came to power, they did not make any basic changes in the new economic policies. I feel that this is

the strength of our political system and democracy. But the desired economic growth and nominal inflation could not be achieved so far. Since the economic policies are a continuation, there is no point in blaming one Government or the other. We have to see whether the present Government has been genuine in its approach. Without any change in the basic policies. This Government wanted to give only a 'Swadeshi tinge' in order to preserve our originality and supremacy. There is no doubt that economic activities in our country have been positively increasing. There was some fear of recession after sanctions were imposed against India following Pokhran nuclear experiments. It was apprehended that India might not be able to mobilise the required resources to pursue its economic policies. But the present Government took effective steps and removed the fears of recession from the minds of investors. It also succeeded in international diplomacy to the surprise of some countries which wanted to isolate India. The Resurgent India-Bond floated by the SBI in the global market turned out to be a grand success. About 416 crore dollars, that is, around Rs. 17,470 crores, were mobilised from NRIs also. In the international money market, India is one of the two countries that mobilised over 400 crore dollars through sale of bonds. Agreements have been entered into for power generation to the tune of 15,000 mega watt. Last month, our hon. Prime Minister announced that forward trading will be allowed in many commodities. It has been made a part of the five-point package to boost development in the food processing and agro-based industries. The present Government is being blamed for inflation and price rise. That is why our revered leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, has asked the Centre to control prices of essential commodities effectively and save the poor man. Of all the commodities, it is the price of onion that touched an all time high of 60 rupees a kg. It remains a mystery as to how a 15 per cent shortfall in production of onions could result in

800 per cent increase in its price. The export of onion is said to be another reason for price rise. I do feel that the Government should have stopped export a little earlier. The decision to import onions really brought the prices down. But the Government should have taken preventive measures to avoid such a situation. The hon. Prime Minister had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers on 27th November, 1998, to check the price rise. A 11-point resolution was adopted by the Chief Ministers in the Conference. The decision to set up a National Crop Forecasting Centre is a welcome thing. This will help predict the likely yield of the crops and thus help planning in advance regarding export or import of products. The other decision also are in the right direction in order to check price rise. These decisions of the Government are sincere and Genuine. But I wish to say that the poor people are living in unimaginable misery without purchasing power

Majority of them depend on the PDS outlets. However, the Central Pool allocation of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, edible oils and pulses to the States is low. the quantum of allocation is not based on the current population of the State. So, I appeal to the Centre to review the allocation under the PDS and increase it considerably so as to reach it to every poor family in the rural areas. I am hopeful the Government will execute all the decisions taken recently to check price rise, with a political will. With these words, Sir, I conclude.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: AIADMK is going to participate in a *bandh* on the question of price rise.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I have called the next speaker please.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: My friend is a....(Interruptions)....

श्री गांधी आज़ाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे इस चर्चा में भाग लेने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद। महोदय, महंगाई के

संबंध में माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी का समाचारपत्रों में बयान आया कि महंगाई का कारण कुछ आसमानी है और कुछ सुलतानी है किंतु हमारा यह मानना है कि महंगाई न आसमानी की देन है, न भगवान की देन है बल्कि महंगाई सत्ता में बैठे मेहरबानों की देन है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर हम भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की पिछले और इस वर्ष की दशा की तुलना करें तो इससे स्पष्ट होता है कि महंगाई के लिए मुख्य रूप से जिम्मेदार सत्ता में बैठे हुए हमारे साथी लोग हैं। महोदय, औद्योगिक उत्पाद की स्थिति अगर देखें, अप्रैल से सितंबर 1997-98 और 1998-99 की तुलना करें तो सामान्य उत्पादन 1997-98 में 6 प्रतिशत हुआ था और 1998-99 में यह घटकर 3.6 प्रतिशत रह गया है।

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: अभी कहाँ 1999 खत्म हो गया है? कैसे तुलना कर दोगे?

श्री गांधी आज़ाद: मैं जो बोल रहा हूँ, वह तथ्य के अनुसार बोल रहा हूँ।

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: 1999 आया नहीं है, आंकड़े कहाँ से आ जाएंगे?

श्री गांधी आज़ाद: मैं यह अप्रैल से सितंबर तक की तुलनात्मक स्थिति दे रहा हूँ। महोदय, मासिक अर्थव्यवस्था रिपोर्ट नवंबर, 1998 के अनुसार... (व्यवधान)

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: 1998 कहिए, 1999 क्यों कह रहे हैं?

श्री गांधी आज़ाद: अरे, 1998-99 नहीं चल रहा है क्या? महोदय, खनन की स्थिति जो है, 1997-98 में अप्रैल से सितंबर तक उसका उत्पादन 5 प्रतिशत था जो इस साल घटकर 0.4 प्रतिशत रह गया है। विनिर्माण में उत्पादन 6 प्रतिशत था जो घटकर 3.4 प्रतिशत रह गया है। हाँ, विद्युत के क्षेत्र में इस दौरान थोड़ी बढ़ोतरी हुई है जो 7.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 7.7 प्रतिशत हो गया है। यदि आप विदेशी व्यापार की स्थिति देखें तो अप्रैल से सितंबर 1997-98 और इसी दौरान 1998-99 में आयात 19.32 अरब डालर से बढ़कर 21.26 अरब डालर हुआ है लेकिन निर्यात घटा है यानी इसी अवधि के दौरान निर्यात घटकर 16.82 अरब डालर से 16.27 अरब डालर हो गया है।

महोदय, इसी तरह से मुद्रास्फीति अप्रैल 1998 में 5.5 प्रतिशत थी जिसमें लगातार वृद्धि होती रही और यह 14 नवंबर तक 8.54 प्रतिशत तक पहुँच गई थी

जब कि देश में प्रचुर मात्रा में खाद्यान्न भी उपलब्ध रहा लेकिन यहां सत्ता में बैठे लोगों की लापरवाही की वजह से और इन कारणों से महंगाई लगातार बढ़ती गई—जैसे आवश्यक कानून में ढील दी गई और यहां तक कि व्यापारियों और जमाखोरों पर कोई अंकुश नहीं लगाया गया और व्यापारी तो यहां तक समझ गए कि “सैयां भए कोतवाल, अब डर काहे का”। इतना की नहीं, कई ऐसे उदाहरण देखने को मिले कि इस दौरान आयकर अधिकारी, व्यापार कर अधिकार और बिक्री कर अधिकारी, जिस तरह से महंगाई बढ़ी, इसी तरह से उनकी पिटाई भी बढ़ी।

3 P.M.

उनकी पिटाइयां भी व्यापारियों द्वारा की गई और सरकार द्वारा कोई भी अंकुश नहीं लगाया गया। काश सरकार अगर अंकुश लगाती तो यह महंगाई नहीं बढ़ पाती और इतना ही नहीं, हमारा तो मानना है कि विश्व व्यापार संगठन डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. के सामने हमारी सरकार घुटने टेक गई जिसके कारण अपने देश में ऐसी चीजें जिनकी हमें जरूरत नहीं थी बाध्य होकर के हमको ऊंचे दामों पर आयात करना पड़ा और जो चीज हमारे यहां कम भी है उसको सस्ते दामों पर हमको निर्यात करना पड़ा और अधिक दामों पर वही चीज हमको मंगाने की जरूरत पड़ी। यह कहां की कुशलता है या बुद्धिमता है? यहां तक कि गेहूं हमारे देश में पर्याप्त था लेकिन 465 रु० की दर से हम अपने किसानों का गेहूं नहीं खरीद सके और 700 रु० से 750 रु० की दर से बाहर से हमने गेहूं आयात किया। इसी तरह से सस्ते दामों पर हमने चीनी का निर्यात किया और महंगे दामों पर चीनी का आयात किया। इतना ही नहीं यही हथ्र प्याज का हुआ। प्याज को हमने सस्ते दामों पर निर्यात किया और महंगे दामों पर आयात किया जिसके कारण महंगाई बढ़ी। इतना ही नहीं उत्तर प्रदेश में तो मंत्रियों की भरमार लगी हुई है और मंत्रियों की कार लाल बत्ती से सजधज कर चल रही है और उसमें अनावश्यक रूप से खर्च किया जा रहा है। उत्तर प्रदेश में यहां तक स्थिति आ गई है कि कर्मचारियों को वेतन देना भी दूभर हो गया है और इस महंगाई का असर गरीब लोगों पर पड़ रहा है। गांव की जनता जो मजदूर किसान है उन पर भी महंगाई का असर पड़ रहा है। महंगाई जिस रेशो से बढ़ रही है असंगठित मजदूर की मजदूरी उस रेशो से कदापि नहीं बढ़ रही है। इतना ही नहीं अब तक बहुत सारे अखबारों में निकला है कि इस महंगाई से त्रस्त होकर कितनी माताओं ने अपने मासूम बच्चों को भी जहर दिया और खुद भी जहर खाकर आत्महत्या कर ली। यह इस देश का दुर्भाग्य है। हमारा तो मानना है कि इस देश में—

“रटी के लिए मजदूर अपना तन बेच देते हैं, उनके तन की फिक्र नहीं, यह लोग तो मुँदे का कफन बेच देते हैं।”

इस तरह से इस देश में गरीबों का क्या जीना है। गरीब दिन-रात मेहनत करके चाहे सरदी हो, चाहे गरमी हो, चाहे बरसात हो खून-पसीना एक करके लाहलहाता गेहूं पैदा करता है। कल-कारखानों में काम करके कपड़ा उत्पादन करता है लेकिन उसको तन ढकने को कपड़ा नहीं मिलता है, फेट भरने को खाना नहीं मिलता है। इस देश के गरीबों के लिए महंगाई इस तरह से क्रिएट की गई, जमाखोरों को बढ़ावा दिया, पूंजीपतियों को बढ़ावा दिया गया और यह सागर क्रिएशन किया गया जिसके कारण देश की हालत दिन-प्रतिदिन बदतर होती गई और इतना ही नहीं हमारा तो यहां तक मानना है कि—

“गरीबों का दुनिया में है कोई जीना,
हो गर्मी या सर्दी, पसीना पसीना।”

लेकिन हमारी सरकार में बैठे लोग उनके पसीने का भी मूल्य नहीं समझ पा रहे हैं। महोदय, इसलिए हम इस सदन के माध्यम से अपील करना चाहते हैं कि इन गरीबों के पसीने का ध्यान जब तक हम नहीं करेंगे तब तक देश आगे नहीं बढ़ सकता है इसलिए उनके पसीनों का ध्यान रखते हुए हमको इस महंगाई पर कंट्रोल करना चाहिए। अन्त में हमें खेद के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि सत्ता पक्ष की कुव्यवस्था के परिणामस्वरूप यह देश जो सोने की चिड़िया कहलाने वाला देश है और आज इस देश में जनता को प्याज भी खाने को मयसर नहीं हुई। यह इस देश का ही नहीं इस देश के बासियों का भी दुर्भाग्य है। धन्यवाद मान्यवर महोदय, आपने मुझे टाईम दिया।

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I wish to make only a few points. Sir, we have landed our economy in a state of man-made crisis. The rising non-Plan expenditure has been fuelling the inflation further and further. To add to that, we have had increasing reliance on deficit financing because revenues are nowhere close to our expectation. The falling growth rate of industry has been leading to widespread unemployment. The fast declining export trade is leading to a balance of payment crisis. There is a virtual failure of this Government to have any understanding of the economic

collapse that is staring at us, due to the sanctions resulting from Pokhran. The results are therefor every one to see. There is an overall fall in the real income at all levels on account of inflation. All principal markets are experiencing unprecedented levels of recession. Virtually, all businesses and industries are reeling under the economic collapse. The large-scale unemployment has led to a further fall in incomes and demand levels, leading to the closure of number of industrial plants and further unemployment. This has led to the problems of crime, law and order and what have you. If we want to repair this situation, it is going to require a total rethinking and marathor efforts. I don't think this Government is capable of comprehending the problem; let alone finding solutions. The solutions are far beyond their capability. I, therefore, have nothing further to say than to request this Government to please stop down and allow this country to survive. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Shri Yoginder K. Alagh—absent. Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia—absent. Shri Vayalar Ravi, your party has no time. But you can taken two minutes. Be very brief.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, an incompetent and inefficient Government is solely responsible for the malady or the present economic crisis. The hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, may remember that he had the same situation in 1990. At that time, the foreign exchange reserves had gone down and, at last, you had mortgaged the gold. You are having the same situation today. The question before you is very simple. What steps are you going to take to revive the economy? In your speech and whatever you say, we would not see any indication of your approach. This is the problem. When Dr. Manmohan Singh took over as the Finance Minister, he put the whole thing back on the rails.

Sir, here, I don't want to quote any figures, but you have to remember one

thing that our exports have not gone up. I know that it is not a magic. We are experiencing all this because of the fluctuating international market. Mr. Ramamurthy is sitting beside you. He saved you of 1.82 billion dollars, as far as the import bill is concerned. Yet, the trade deficit is going up. Today, you have only a reserve of 4.5 billion dollars, which means, it is only for 4 months' import. So, look at the situation and also at the economic recession. I am only saying that the situation has become very difficult. The Government has no plan to tackle the situation.

Sir, here, I am making only one point. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee raised a very serious matter. In fact, he made two points. One point he raised was about the Plan holiday. The Report of the Reserve Bank of India says that you had budgeted for Rs. 1,05,187 crores. How much was from your own financing? It was Rs. 42,264 crores and other sources, internal as well as selling the PSUs, to earn Rs. 62,723 crores. How much did you earn and pay? You paid nothing because your fiscal deficit is going up every week, and you are landing in a deficit of almost Rs. 50,000 crores. You don't have any money to pay. So, the Plan holiday has come.

Sir, I have one more point to make. There is a serious allegation about import of onions. There was a difference of 100 dollars per metric tonne between the export and import price of onion. I am making a serious charge against the Government. I have already written to the Speaker. The Delhi Government made an import. The Indian Government paid Rs. 10 crores as subsidy to the Delhi State. The then Chief Minister made a contract for import of 3000 metric tonnes of onions, at the rate of 255 dollars per metric tonne. The date is 10.10.1998. It was to be lievered within 4 days and the LC was opened. On 11.10.1998, the Chief Minister is changed and the new Chief Minister took office. What happened? The whole contract was kept in

abeyance and the LC was sent with wrong entries deliberately, even though the LC was opened and they could not send the commodity here. I am making a serious charge which the Minister has to answer because he has given ten crores of rupees from the exchequer. What happened to that money? After that, a new agreement was entered into by the new Chief Minister with another firm. What is the price? Earlier, the price was Rs. 10.71 per Kg. The price for the new agreement for 750 MT is Rs. 30 per Kg. The increase is from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30, a difference of Rs. 20! The total loss on this 750 MT contract is Rs. 13 crores, and out of this Rs. 13 crores, Rs. 10 crores is your money. Who is responsible? Sir former Minister says that the previous Chief Minister made this agreement with that firm, with some trading company in Dubai which is not in onion trade. One Minister said that this company had no capacity to supply. That means your one Chief Minister entered into a contract with a wrong firm and another Chief Minister says, "No, made an agreement with a new firm." That too had no capacity, but the price was from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30. Sir, it is a matter of corruption. I want an answer from the hon. Finance Minister. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee says that the difference between our import and export is hundred dollars per MT. Here, I am making a serious charge. I am ready to place all the papers on the Table if you permit because these documents speak of a serious charge of corruption of a small Government, the Delhi Government. The Chief Minister is charged in one month who enters into a contract which includes Rs. 10 crores of your subsidy. It is a matter of corruption. Who is involved? What happened? How it happened? I demand a CBI inquiry into the whole onion episode of this scale and corruption. Thank you.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): I have got three queries. I am not going to make a speech. Sir, the destination of the economy is well understood. You did not venture into an alternative. You could

not reach the poor. My pointed question is, what are you doing to save the non-salaried wage earner the agricultural worker and the marginal farmer? I have got disturbing figures from the Approach Paper of the Ninth Plan. It says that the percentage of salaried workers is declining and the percentage of casual workers is increasing. At the end of the 7th Plan, 49 per cent. But, Hon'ble Finance Minister have gone up to 74 per cent. Sir, 49 per cent means, still it is a Government sector. It is still in Government control. The moment you cross 51 per cent, it will be controlled by the Companies Act. Can you do it by a simple announcement? This House had sanctioned farthing by farthing for each and every company and a budgetary support was given by this House. If you are liquidating any company, you have to take sanction from this House. But, you have not taken any sanction from this House. You just cannot do it by a simple statement. Sir, at least, ruling party should maintain the democratic traditions of our parliamentary system. They should consult the people. Sir, the Industrial Policy Statement of 1991 was discussed in this House for three or four days. Present ruling party even did not bother about it. Is it the tradition of your party? That is why people say that your philosophy is dominated by fascism. You are going to fascism not only in the ideological field but in the economic field also. Thank you.

श्री रमाशंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आर्थिक स्थिति मंदी और महंगाई के जिस विषय पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं उसका संबंध करोड़ों लोगों की दो जुन की रोटी से है। उसका संबंध हमारे देश के पूरे विकास से है। अगर आज की दुनिया के हालात के परिप्रेक्ष्य में हम लोग देखें, तो हमारी सम्प्रभुता का संबंध, हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति से भी जुड़ गया है।

महोदय, जिन चार सूबों में चुनाव सम्पन्न हुए हैं, वहां पर सत्ता पक्ष की ओर से विभिन्न और अजीब-अजीब तर्क सुनने को मिले, महंगाई के संबंध में या प्याज के संबंध में। प्याज के दामों की बढ़ोतरी के संबंध में यह कहा गया कि केवल इन्हीं के दो दाम बढ़े हैं अगर और चीजों के दाम बढ़े होते तो बात ठीक थी कि हमारा

बजट ठीक नहीं था, हमारी राजनीति ठीक नहीं थी। लेकिन श्रीमन् मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह आर्थिक स्थिति का प्रश्न हमारी जिदगी के हर पहलू से जुड़ा हुआ है—हमारी राजनीति से जुड़ा हुआ है, हमारे आयात-निर्यात की नीति से जुड़ा हुआ है, हमारा दूसरे देशों से जो संबंध हैं उससे जुड़ा हुआ है और हमारी राजनीतिक सोच क्या है, इससे भी जुड़ा हुआ है। यह अलग-अलग मुद्दा नहीं है, निरपेक्ष नहीं है, सापेक्ष है। सारी जो हमारी सारी स्थितियाँ हैं, हमारी सोच हैं, उन सब से हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति का संबंध जुड़ा हुआ है। वह अलग नहीं है। श्रीमन्, कल श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी ने बड़ा अच्छा भाषण दिया। मुद्रास्फीति क्यों बढ़ रही है, महंगाई क्यों बढ़ी, यह सब उन्होंने बताया। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि केवल यही एक कारण नहीं है। हमारे बजट के प्रावधान ठीक नहीं थे, हमारी वसूलियाँ ठीक नहीं हुईं, हमारी मुद्रास्फीति की दर बढ़ गई, हमारी अकुशलता रही, यह भी बहुत बड़े कारण हैं। हमारे बजट के प्रावधान बहुत बड़ा कारण है। हमारी मुद्रास्फीति का बहुत बड़ा कारण है हमारी महंगाई, आर्थिक स्थिति और आर्थिक मंदी में। इसके अतिरिक्त कुछ चीज़ें जिनका बहुत बड़ा हाथ हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति में और हमारी राजनीतिक सोच में होता चला जा रहा है। वह स्थिति है अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा क्षेत्र, वह स्थिति है विश्व बैंक, वह स्थितियाँ हैं विश्व व्यापार संगठन। विश्व व्यापार संगठन के ज़रिये से हमारे सारे कानून बदले जाएंगे, हमारी पार्लियामेंट हमारे पेटेंट के कानून को बदलेगी, हमारी पार्लियामेंट बीमा पॉलिसी के संबंध में जो हमारे कानून हैं, उनको बदलेगी, हम विदेशी पूंजी का निवेश करेंगे, विदेशी पूंजी का निवेश करने वालों को हम राष्ट्रीय गौरव प्रदान करेंगे। उनकी सम्पत्ति को हम हाथ नहीं लगाएंगे और हमारे देश की सम्पत्ति को लूट कर ले जाएंगे तो हम ले जाने देंगे। यह सभी स्थितियाँ आज की आर्थिक स्थिति के कारण हैं। इन स्थितियों पर प्रणव मुखर्जी साहब ने पता नहीं क्यों नहीं कुछ कहा, क्यों नहीं अपने विचार रखे या वह उन्हीं के पदचिह्नों पर चल रहे हैं तो यह एक अलग बात है। लेकिन विश्व व्यापार संगठन के ज़रिये से जितनी संधियाँ हैं, वह हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति को तोड़ रही हैं, हमारे यहां आर्थिक कमज़ोरी ला रही है। हमारी संप्रभुता पर भी प्रश्नचह्न लग रहा है, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। हम को आयात करना ही पड़ेगा, हम कह रहे हैं, लोग कह रहे हैं, हमारा किसान कह रहा है कि गेहूँ का आयात क्यों कर रहे हो, हम पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार हैं, हमें गेहूँ का उचित दाम दो लेकिन उचित मूल्य उनको नहीं देंगे। किसानों को मूल्य देंगे साढ़े चार

रुपये किलो के हिसाब से और बाहर से खरीदेंगे साढ़े सात रुपये किलो के हिसाब से।(व्यवधान)

श्री रामजी (मध्य प्रदेश): हमारी सरकार ने सब से ज्यादा गेहूँ का दाम किसानों को देने की घोषणा की है।....(व्यवधान)

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: मैं इस समय की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ। मैं पिछले साल की बात कर रहा हूँ, जब पिछले साल आपने साढ़े चार रुपये प्रति किलो दाम किया, समर्थन मूल्य घोषित किया तब किसान के घर से सारा गेहूँ विचैलियों के पास चला गया। बाद में 8-9 रुपये किलो हो गया, तो उन्होंने 8-9 रुपये किलो बेचा। फसल आने के वक्त पर आप गेहूँ का आयात कर रहे हैं। यह आयात आपने कोई खुशी से नहीं किया, यह भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। आपको अगर विश्व व्यापार संगठन की शर्तों के आधार पर खाद्यान्न का आयात करना पड़ेगा और यह हर साल बढ़ता चला जाएगा, आपकी आर्थिक स्थिति कैसे सुधरेगी? आपके किसान की हालत कैसे सुधरेगी? जो आपकी 70 फीसदी जनता है, उसकी स्थिति कैसे सुधरेगी? आपके चीनी का आयात किया। चीनी का उद्योग, आपका सीमेंट आपका लोहा, सारी की सारी इंडस्ट्री ठप्प होती चली जा रही है। चीनी पर भी आपको निगाहें हैं। आपने कल ही एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा, माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हम सार्क देश के सदस्य हैं, इसलिए हमने पाकिस्तान से चीनी का आयात किया है। पाकिस्तान से चीनी का आयात किया है, अपने देश की चीनी को पहचा कर के, सार्क देश के सदस्य होने के नाते चीनी का आयात आप करेंगे, कौन सा ऐसा देश है जो ऐसा कर रहा है? कोई नहीं कर रहा है लेकिन आप कर रहे हैं। आपका जवाब यह है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि चीनी उद्योग को हमारे देश में एक विशेष दर्जा प्राप्त है। हमारे यहां पांच करोड़ किसान ऐसे हैं जिनकी हैसियत गन्ने की खेती से बढ़ती है। हमने उनको संरक्षण देने की बात कही है। पांच करोड़ का नतलब पच्चीस करोड़ इंसानों के विकास के लिए हमने एस्ता खोला था चीनी उद्योग को संरक्षण देने का और इस उद्योग में 20 लाख डायरेक्ट कर्मचारी हैं, जिनको रोज़गार मिला हुआ है। इन 20 साल के अतिरिक्त और भी बहुत से लोग काम पाते हैं। इस दृष्टि से चीनी उद्योग को हमारे देश ने हमेशा एक विशेष दर्जा दिया है। संरक्षण दिया है। 40 फीसदी चीनी हमारे देश में मिल वालों से ले लेते हैं और वह चीनी सस्ती दर से गरीबों को दी जाती है। 40 फीसदी लोग हमारे देश में गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले हैं, उनके लिए हम यह करते हैं। गन्ने की कीमत हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा दे सकें, इस

दृष्टि से किसानों का भला हो, हम अपने चीनी उद्योग को संरक्षण देते हैं इसलिए हमारे यहां चीनी का उत्पादन इस वर्ष 150 लाख टन होगा और यह हमारी जरूरत के मुताबिक काफी है। 65 लाख टन हमारे पास संग्रहित है, हमारे गोदामों में है फिर भी आप 70 लाख टन चीनी का आयात कर रहे हैं। यह कौन सी पॉलिसी है? आप गेहूं का भी आयात कर रहे हैं। इसी प्रकार से तेलों का आयात करने के लिए आप मजबूर हैं। तेल के मामले में यह तो सरकार को सोचना चाहिये, यहीं पर सरकार की कुशलता का प्रश्न भी आता है। तेल की जगह तिलहनों का आयात अगर करें तो यह सस्ता भी पड़ेगा और हमारे यहां उद्योग भी पनपेगा, हमारी बेरोजगारी भी खत्म होगी, लोगों को काम मिलेगा। सरसों के तेल के संबंध में क्या हुआ? किसानों की बुरे तरीके से लूट हुई। जिस समय यह ड्राप्पी वाला मामला चला, उन्होंने सरसों के आयल पर एक सुलतानी आदेश से पाबंदी लगा दी कि कोई भी सरसों का तेल नहीं निकालेगा। देहात में आप जानते हैं कि बहुत ही छोटे-छोटे एक्सपेलर होते हैं। किसान अपने घर से सरसों ले जाता है और अपने सामने सरसों को पिरवा कर तेल घर ले जाता है। पाबंदी लग गई, किसान के घर जो सरसों उसने अपने इस्तेमाल के लिए रखी थी, उसको उसे देखना पड़ गया। वह सरसों आधी कीमत पर बिकी। अब उसको सरसों का तेल बाजार से 70 रुपये प्रति किलो के हिसाब से खरीदना पड़ रहा है। यह आपकी पालिसी है। मैं आपसे निश्चित रूप से यह मद्दाल करना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप अपने देश की संप्रभुता को बचाने के लिए अपने पेटेंट के कानून को बचाने के लिए अपने बीमा क्षेत्र को बचाने के लिए, अपने रैलों को बचाने के लिए, अपनी कम्पनियों को बचाने के लिए विश्व व्यापार संगठन से नाता तोड़ने के लिए तैयार हैं? अगर आप उससे नाता तोड़ने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं तो निश्चित रूप से आपकी आर्थिक स्थितियां तो खराब होगी ही, हमारी लोक सभा और हमारी राज्य सभा की भी शक्तियां कम होती चली जाएंगी। पेटेंट कानून—आपके जो पेटेंट कानून हैं उन पेटेंट के कानूनों से जो आपकी व्यवस्था है उसमें हमारे यहां 7-7 साल लग जाते हैं। अगर हमारा कोई देशी आदमी, हमारे देश की किसी चीज का पेटेंट करना चाहता है तो नियंत्रक के यहां 7 साल लग जाते हैं। 24 हजार मामले लम्बित पड़े हैं और विदेशों की कंपनियों ने तुलसी पर भी पेटेंट ले लिया। अदरक पर भी पेटेंट ले लिया, हल्दी पर भी पेटेंट ले लिया, धनिया पर भी पेटेंट ले लिया। (समय की घंटी)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जान एफ. फर्नांडिस): कोशिक जी, प्लीज कंकलुड।

श्री रमाशंकर कौशिक: और ऐसी बहुत सी चीजों पर पेटेंट ले लिया और आप फिर भी अभी और भी अपने पेटेंट को करने के लिए तैयार हैं। 340 चीजों पर जिन पर आपने आयात के ऊपर कोई शुल्क नहीं लगाया है वह आपको मजबूरी में करना पड़ा है और आगे भी नहीं लगाएंगे। अभी और 2 हजार चीजों पर आपको यह शुल्क छोड़ना पड़ेगा। ये चीजें क्या हैं? आपकी आवश्यकता की नहीं है। ये सौन्दर्य प्रसाधन हैं। वे बेन्दियां हैं, सिंदूर हैं। ऐसी चीजों पर आपको आयात शुल्क हटाना पड़ेगा चूंकि आप विश्व व्यापार संगठन के सदस्य हैं और उनकी बातों को मानने के लिए मजबूर हैं। देश को स्वदेशी का एक बड़ा भारी नारा देते थे। आज भी आपके यहां एक स्वदेशी मंच बना हुआ है। अगर स्वदेशी मंच में थोड़ा सा भी सोच है तो इस बात को सोचकर इस सरकार को मजबूर करें कि विश्व बैंक संगठन से, विश्व व्यापार संगठन जैसे संगठनों से जो हमारी आजादी को बरबाद करने पर तुले हुए हैं जो हमारी आर्थिक क्षमता को तोड़ने के लिए तैयार हैं उनसे अपना रिश्ता खत्म करें।

श्रीमान, आपने मुझे समय दिया - हालांकि मुझे और भी बात करनी थी - लेकिन इसके लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Sangh Priya Gautam, would you still like to speak? Your party has no time.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आर्थिक स्थिति दयनीय है, औद्योगिक क्षरण है, कृषि उत्पाद में कमी है, गरीबी रेखा के नीचे के लोगों की संख्या बढ़ी है और रोजगार बहुत कम हो रहा है—यह हम सबकी चिंता का विषय है। इसके लिए कारण आसमानी भी हैं, सुलतानी भी हैं और दरम्यानी भी हैं। हम सब लोग इसके लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। सारी सरकारें इसके लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। कल अशोक मित्रा जी ने ... (व्यवधान) दरम्यानी में सब आ गए हैं ... (व्यवधान) उसमें आप भी शामिल हैं ... (व्यवधान) क्योंकि उस सरकार को आपने सपोर्ट किया था पिछली बार।

कल अशोक मित्रा जी ने कहा था 7 साल पहले उदाहरण की नीति को अपनाया गया था, हमारे दल ने उसका समर्थन किया। उन्होंने नीति लागू की। आपने सबने समर्थन किया और फिर उनका समर्थन करने को तैयार हैं। सब जिम्मेदार हैं इसके लिए। क्या परेशानी हुई? हम एकात्मवाद में रह नहीं सकते। वी डेंट रिमेन

इन आइसोलेशन। यह एक कारण दिया गया। इसलिए हम इसके जिम्मेदार हैं। अब हमें करना क्या है? हम सब कि चिंता यह है कि हमारी अर्थ व्यवस्था सही होनी चाहिए। अर्थ व्यवस्था सही कैसे हो? “आधी छोड़ सारी जो खाये, आधी मिले न सारी पाये”। भारतवर्ष कृषि प्रधान देश है। इस देश के सारे उद्योग कृषि पर आधारित हैं। देश में क्या, दुनिया में जो व्यापार रहा है वह चमड़ा और कपड़ा, एनीमल हसबैंडरी और कॉटन ये सब खेती पर आधारित रहे हैं। इसी से यह विश्व गुरु बना और विदेशों से धन एकत्रित किया। मैं इस सरकार को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि खेती का उत्पाद बढ़े इसलिए इस बजट में पैसे का सब से अधिक प्रावधान खेती और ग्राम विकास के लिए किया। दूसरा कारण है इस देश के लोगों में आत्म विश्वास बढ़े। एक बात मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ, निराशा न हो और बुरा असर न पड़े, यह सब कुछ होते हुए भी देश में लोग भूखे नहीं मर रहे हैं। जब पाकिस्तान में परमाणु परीक्षण हुआ तो वहां के प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा, ऐ मेरे देश के लोगों पेट से तवा बांध लो, लेकिन मेरे देश के लोगों ने कहा कि हम हर चुनौती का सामना करने के लिए तैयार हैं। मेरे देश के लोगों में आत्म-विश्वास है और इसके अलावा मेरे देश में बड़ी भारी संपदा है। इसलिए हमें करना क्या चाहिए? हमें एक राष्ट्रीय चरित्र पैदा करना चाहिए और रमा शंकर कौशिक जी, मैं आपकी बात से सहमत हूँ। मैं स्वदेशी का वफादार हूँ लेकिन आप सबके सहयोग की आवश्यकता है। इस देश के बहुत से राजनेताओं का और लोगों का विदेशी बैंकों में अशोषित धन जमा है। उस धन को निकलवा लाओ। आपके सारे रिश्तेदार या दोस्त लोगों ने, इस मामले में सारे राजनीतिक दलों ने सलाह कर ली है, ये सब एक है कि विदेशों से पैसा नहीं आने देंगे। नंबर दो, कितना कालाधन इस देश में है उसको उजागर करवाओ। आखिर पैसा तो चाहिए। योजनाएं कैसे चलेंगी, निर्माण के काम कैसे होंगे? इसलिए पैसा तो चाहिए। कालेधन को उजागर करवाओ और उत्पाद को बढ़ाओ। महोदय, एक मिनट लूंगा। लाल बहादुर शास्त्री ने कहा, “जय जवान, जय किसान, ऐ मेरे देश के नागरिकों, रसोई के पास भी जगह खाली पड़ी है तो उसमें पैदा करो। इस देश के लोगों ने अन्न उगाया। यह भी कहा कि कितलत अन्न की न आप, तो हफ्ते में एक दिन, एक समय का खाना छोड़ो। लोगों ने खाना भी छोड़ा। आज इस देश में फिजूलखर्ची बहुत है। फिजूलखर्ची व्यक्ति की, परिवार की और सरकार की, ये सारी फिजूलखर्चियां बंद करो। ... (व्यवधान)

आखिरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि निर्माण के कामों में बचाव आलोचना के, यह आज की बात नहीं है, आप देखें सन् 1942 में घी एक रुपये सेर था, आज देशी घी 130 रुपये किलो।

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Gautamji, you should conclude now.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: आखिरी बात आखिरी लाइन ... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): No, no, just one last sentence.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: बस आधे मिनट में ... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): There is no time. There is one more speaker, and the Minister will take forty minutes.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: एक उदाहरण दूंगा। ... (व्यवधान) हर साल पेट्रोल के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। दस आने लिटर से 23 रुपये लिटर पेट्रोल हो गया। हर साल डीज़ल के दाम बढ़ते हैं। हर साल बस का किराया बढ़ता है। हर साल रेल का किराया बढ़ता है, हर बार हवाई जहाज का किराया बढ़ता है। कोई भी सरकार हो, हर सरकार बढ़ाती है। आखिर महंगाई क्या अकेली इस सरकार ने बढ़ा दी? हर सरकार बढ़ाती है और फिर जब किसान के गेहूँ का खरीद मूल्य और समर्थन मूल्य बढ़ाओगे तो आगे का दाम बढ़ेगा ही।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Thank you. Please take your seat.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: यह अनर्गल बातें करना हम छोड़ दें। हर दिन महंगाई बढ़ रही है, हर साल बढ़ रही है। यह महंगाई कोई नई बढ़ी थी? इस तरह की

अनगल बातों को छोड़ दें। मैं माफ़ी चाहूंगा आप से अगर कहीं थोड़ा बहुत मिस-मैनेजमेंट हो जाए, तो उसे स्वीकार कर लेना चाहिए। प्याज कम थी...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जान एफ. फर्नांडिस): गौतम जी, बस करो।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: इसे हम स्वीकार करते हैं, लेकिन आगे के लिए...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES): Now, take your seat, please.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा। इस सरकार की आर्थिक नीतियां पूर्णतः असफल रही और परिणाम यह हुआ कि ईरान की प्याज और पाकिस्तान की चीनी हम को खानी पड़ रही है।

मान्यवर, हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है। इस देश की भूमि उर्वर है और इस देश का उत्पादन बहुत अच्छा है, लेकिन इस सरकार की आर्थिक नीतियों के कारण, इन के मिस-मैनेजमेंट के कारण महंगाई बढ़ी है। मैं इस बिंदु पर कोई बहस नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन आप के माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से और गौतम जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि महंगाई हर समय बढ़ती है, लेकिन सौ रुपए किलो प्याज कभी नहीं मिली है।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: क्षमा करेंगे, कोई गरीब आदमी प्याज नहीं खा रहा, मीठ और मुँगे खाने वाले प्याज खा रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) सलाद भी गरीब नहीं खा रहा है ... (व्यवधान) खाह-म-खाह प्याज प्याज, प्याज। कोई प्रश्न नहीं है प्याज का। ... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES): We have a constraint of time. Please don't interrupt.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हो सकता है कि उत्पादन कम हो। बरसात में प्याज सड़ गयी, आलू की कमी हो गयी, लेकिन देश के अंदर जब महंगाई बढ़ती है तो उस का एक मुख्य कारण होटिंग होता है। मैं आप के माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जब बेतहासा महंगाई बढ़ी, फिर चाहे वह आलू की हो, चाहे प्याज की हो, चाहे चीनी की हो और चाहे दूसरी आवश्यक वस्तु की हो तो आप ने और आप की सरकार ने जमाखोरी की गिरफ्तारी कराई? उन की तलाशी ली कि उन के पास कितना माल पड़ा हुआ

है? महोदय, इस देश के अंदर भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार के समय में ... (व्यवधान)

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: बंगाल में किस की सरकार थी, मध्य प्रदेश में किस की सरकार थी ... (व्यवधान)

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: ओरे सुनो भाई ... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES): Gautam Ji, please take your seat.

प्रो० रामगोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): 24 तारीख को फिर से एक्सपेंशन हो रहा है, हम सब से चाहेंगे कि इन को मंत्री बना दिया जाए ताकि ये शांति से बैठे रहें।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: सर, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। सर, जब महंगाई भयंकर बढ़ी तो क्या वित्त मंत्री जी और भारत सरकार ने जमाखोरी के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही की? अगर की तो आप आंकड़े बता दें कि कितने जमाखोरों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गयी और उन के पास से माल बरामद किया गया? नहीं साहस है, इस सरकार का क्योंकि जमाखोर लोग इस सरकार को चला रहे हैं। जो जमाखोर लोग हैं, जो होटिंग कर रहे हैं, जो महंगाई बढ़ा रहे हैं, उन का पूरा निर्वेक्षण इस सरकार के ऊपर है। इस सरकार का साहस नहीं है। इसलिए मैं अंत में आप के माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी और भारत सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप में साहस हो तो आप उन का मोह छोड़िए जिन की मदद से आप सरकार चला रहे हैं और इन जमाखोरों के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही कीजिए क्योंकि इस देश के जमाखोर लोग भारत सरकार के पैरलल अर्थ-व्यवस्था चला रहे हैं, इस देश के कालाबाजारिए पैरलल इकॉनमी चला रहे हैं। जो भारत सरकार का बजट है, उस के बराबर उन का बजट चल रहा है। इसलिए आप साहस करिए, लेकिन मुझे भरोसा नहीं है, विश्वास नहीं है क्योंकि आप की कमजोरी है, आप उन्हीं के आधार पर चुनाव लड़ते हैं, उन्हीं के आधार पर सरकार चला रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं विनम्रता-पूर्वक वित्तमंत्री जी से और भारत सरकार से प्रार्थना कर रहा हूँ कि जमाखोरी के खिलाफ, काला-बाजारियों के खिलाफ आप कार्यवाही करिए, कड़ी कार्यवाही करिए और तभी जाकर इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार लाया जा सकता है, महंगाई पर निर्वेक्षण पाया जा सकता है।

मान्यवर, आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए समय दिया, उसके लिए बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the heat and dust of the Assembly elections are behind us as are the results. Therefore, in this House, it was decided to have a discussion on the current economic situation and its implications on Indian economy, on prices as well as on recession. It was my hope that we will discuss this issue in a manner that it will not import into this House the debate, the discussion which had taken place during the elections. I am grateful to the hon. Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He is not present here. Obviously, there must be some pressing preoccupation. I am very grateful to him because while initiating the discussion he drew the attention of the Government and of the hon. Members of this House to some very pertinent questions in regard to the current economic situation. I am grateful to a large number of Members who have taken part in this discussion. Many of them have raised extremely pertinent questions which are disturbing not only whatever is humanly possible to increase the revenues as well as to keep the expenditure under check, that is what is being done by this Government, and we have a number of other ideas, which I dare say at this point of time, will, perhaps, enable us to keep the fiscal deficit under check. But suppose the fiscal deficit were to go up, and instead of 5.6 per cent, if it were to end at 6 per cent, will that be something which is so terribly unusual? Is it such a disaster that it will lead the economy to absolute perdition? What is going to happen? I have quoted the figures that this has happened in the past. Now, therefore, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, to suggest that it is the fiscal profligacy of this Government which has been responsible for the price rise, is, I think, not the complete truth. A point was made about the money supply by various Members. It is true that whenever there are receipts of foreign exchange, then there is a pressure on the money supply, especially, what is

called M-3. That goes up. When we had the Resurgent India Bonds, then, during some fortnights, the money supply had gone up to a very unsustainable level of around 20 per cent, but I am happy to say that the latest report shows that it has come down to 18.4 per cent, and I am hopeful that it will come down further as the fortnights go. Now why is it that the prices did rise, and especially of primary products? It has been pointed out repeatedly, and even in the discussion, which was held in July in this House, I had pointed out the shortages in production. I will not go into the details, but I will like to draw the attention, through you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, of the Members to one basic fact. What is that basic fact? That basic fact is this. When I came before this House in the month of March, I mentioned the growth figures. I said that the growth had declined to around 5 per cent because agricultural production had gone down. Agricultural production had declined. And what is the trend? Again, I am looking at the historical trends. Agricultural growth which was 3.45 per cent during the eighties has declined to 1.82 per cent in the nineties, and this includes food as well as non-food varieties. Now what is it? In the long-term we will discuss onions. Onions have been discussed enough. We will discuss potatoes, we will discuss tomatoes. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am trying to draw the attention of this House to these trends, that when we look at the agricultural products over the two decades almost, we find that agricultural production has declined, and this is a matter of concern. This is a matter of great concern because we will have to push up agriculture. Somebody in this House pointed out that, for the first time, the agricultural production growth rate has gone below the growth rate of population, which means, the per capita availability has declined. We are facing problems. The situation in pulses and edible oils is not the creation of the last eight months. They have stragnated over a period of time. We have had the

technology mission to suggest to the Government the ways and means of how the production of these products can be increased. Unfortunately, the kind of increase which should have taken place has not taken place, and it is this which is creating, in the long-term, a pressure on agricultural produce, especially of foodgrains, cereals, edible oils and things of that kind. Now this is what it is.

Public investment in agriculture: public investment in agriculture, all of us know, has been declining continuously even in absolute terms. I am not referring to GDP. I am not referring to it even in absolute terms. It was Rs. 1,796 crores in 1980-81. It came down to Rs. 1,132 crores in 1996-97. Inflation is going up. Public investment in agriculture is going down. These are issues which, Mr. Vice-Chairman, this House will have to consider, and we have to put all our minds together to see how we can take the country out of it. I did make a very, very feeble attempt. I confess, it was a feeble attempt. I did make feeble attempt in this year's Budget by increasing the allocation over agriculture, over rural development, over watershed management. These are issues which have to be tackled. If we do not tackle these issues, then, every year we will be sitting here in this House, debating amongst ourselves as to how we can get over some temporary mis match between prices. We have not done much by way of creating in this country storage facilities and processing facilities. We have not done it. That is one area which has been neglected. This country can claim to be one of the largest producers of fruits and vegetables, but, unfortunately, we don't have sufficient storage facilities and we don't have sufficient processing facilities. That is why we have had such a situation. Each one of us is aware that potatoes were allowed to rot in the fields not so long ago. As recently as May this year the farmers or onion-growers in Nasik were demonstrating in Nasik as a result of the

decline in onion prices. This is what has happened.

Now another point which has been made is that the Government was incompetent in managing the situation as it arose. Since the issue of onions was discussed here, it is important to make that point. As far as onions in particular are concerned, what has happened this year is that we had a very severe hot summer season. Two thousand and five hundred people were reported to have died due to sun-stroke or heat-stroke. It had its impact on the production of fruits and vegetables. The same thing happened in 1994. One onion crop was damaged as a result of natural conditions. We were hoping. I was accused here and it was said that the Finance Minister promised that the prices would start coming down in October. I did say that. But what was the basis on which I was talking about the onion and potato prices? Because, I knew that kharif crop would start coming into the market, both in the case of potatoes and onions, in the month of October and it would not be difficult for us to get over the rising trend in price. Unfortunately, what has happened? Each of us is aware again that we had unseasonal rains. We had unseasonal rains. Rarely does it rain in the country on the day of Diwali. This year, unfortunately, it rained even on the Diwali day. In Nasik in Maharashtra, where most of the onions of this season are produced, it continued to rain for two consecutive periods of four days and three days. This has caused a decline in onion production from thirteen lakh tonnes to eight lakh tonnes which had an immediate impact on the prices. Therefore, this is something which could not be clearly anticipated. A point was made why we did not stop exports and why we did not start importing early enough. The Bhartiya Janata Party, this Government, was not interested in losing the elections in Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. You accuse us of incompetence. But you cannot accuse us

of collusion because, in collusion with the black marketeers, traders and hoarders we should have created a situation which would lead to the loss of elections in these States. I mean it is only somebody who is totally out of his mind or her mind would try and attempt such a situation. (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Please don't interrupt him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have got the figures here. I will also answer the question which Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has raised about the prices. I will also answer the charge which Mr. Vayalar Ravi has made. In August this year the total export, as per the figure that has been given by my colleague, the Commerce Minister, in reply to a question, was a little less than three lakh tonnes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (In the Chair) In 1997-98, the January-December calendar year, the figure was 4.86 lakh tonnes. This was the quantity of export in terms of onion from this country. We are an onion-surplus country and, therefore, we export onions. In this year, January-October, the export was to the tune of 2.95 lakh tonnes. This figure has been shared with this House. But in August, September and October it has tapered. In August, 1998, it was only 15,000 tonnes. In September, 1998, it came down to 2,539 tonnes and in October it came down as low as 537 tonnes only and then it was stopped. Now a question was put: What was the Government doing? The Government reduced the import duty on edible oils. Edible oils are already on OGL. This is how the supply and demand management takes place. You have certain things on OGL. If there is a shortage in this country, then the importers in this country will import. That is how prices are controlled. Edible oils were already on OGL. On 10th July, 1998, in view of the shortage, we reduced the import duty from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. Then we

also decided to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil for PDS so that we could distribute it through the PDS outlets. Then the additional customs duty on import of edible oils for vanaspathi manufacturers was abolished completely on 2nd November, 1998. Then import duty of 10 per cent on pulses was abolished on 2nd November, 1998. Export of pulses was also banned. So far as export of onions is concerned, it was banned on 8th October, 1998. Then we asked NAFED to import onions from wherever they could. I would come to the import figures later on. Finally, we repeatedly requested the State Governments to take action against hoarders, black-marketeers and profiteers. This is the point which was raised here. This is the blame which can easily be put on a party. It was said that because we had the support of traders.

We did not want to take action against them and, therefore, we wanted to dilute the Essential Commodities Act and we did not take action. This is a myth. What are the facts? The fact is, the Essential Commodities Act did not stand abolished in this country. This point was also raised by some hon. Members. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 continues to rule the roost. It continues to exist. The fact is, only some amendments in that Act had been made through an Ordinance. When we met in the last Session, it was decided in the other House that these

amendments should be referred to a Joint Select Committee. The Joint Select Committee is still seized of the matter. The Joint Select Committee will give its report. So far as the attitude of the Government is concerned, my colleague, Shri S. S. Barnala, who is incharge of this Department and, therefore, incharge of this Act, stood in the other House and clearly said that this Government has absolutely no desire to protect anyone. We did not write to the State Governments to say, "Please do not take action against profiteers and hoarders". Everyone knows that under the Essential

Commodities Act, it is up to the State Governments to take action. The Government of India does not have a mechanism, does not have its own police force, does not have its own enforcement agency to implement the Essential Commodities Act. It is a responsibility which is cast squarely on the State Governments. We had repeatedly brought it to the notice of the State Governments that if there was any case where hoarding was taking place, please take action. I dare say that if no action was taken against them because we are friends of traders in BJP-ruled States, then obviously there should have been a flurry of activities in the non-BJP ruled States. How much quantity of onions was dehoarded in other States? Onion is a perishable commodity. If onions can rot in a Mumbai Port in a matter of days, then onions cannot be protected or saved by hoarding them for four months or six months or eight months. Those of us who know anything about onions, must be knowing that onions have to be kept in a very special kind of storage; otherwise they would start rotting immediately.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Why did the price shoot up?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have no answer for those who do not know whether onions grow under the soil or on a tree. I have no wisdom to share with them. As far as prices are concerned, the point which Shri Pranab Mukherjee raised, I would like to say that in July, the export price was Rs. 10,881 per tonne; in August, it went up to Rs. 14,884 per tonne; in September, it went up further to Rs. 15,947 per tonne and in October, 1998, these 537 tonnes, which were exported, were exported at a price of Rs. 22,061 per tonne. So, it almost more than doubled during the period July-October. Now, what is the price at which we imported? The sea imports, the imports which came by sea, came at a price of Rs. 11,775 per tonne. This was in November. So, if in October we were exporting it at Rs. 22,061, then,

obviously, we were importing it at half the price. It is only when some quantities of onions were imported by air that the prices went up, and quite clearly as a result of freight incidence, they were imported at a rate of Rs. 28,750 per tonnes. Now, therefore, when Shri Vayalar Ravi has made an allegation — Shri Pranab Mukherjee did not make an allegation; he said that he had those figures and asked if I could check up. I checked up and I found that these are the figures — Shri Vayalar Ravi has gone a step beyond and has accused the then Delhi Government of corruption. I would say, in all humility, Madam Deputy Chairman, that from Press reports, I found that the new Delhi Chief Minister has ordered an inquiry. The new Chief Minister of Delhi is a person belonging to your party. She heads a Government which you have constituted. Please go ahead. If she wants a CBI inquiry, please tell her, she should ask the Government of India to order a CBI inquiry. But I would, most humbly, request you, let us not spoil each other's reputation so casually, so lightly. All of us, in public life, run the risk of our reputation being destroyed in a jiffy. And my plea with you with folded hands is, if you have the facts and figures, Mr. Vayalar Ravi, you share it with the Chief Minister of Delhi; you share it with the Home Minister in charge of Delhi Administration. This Government is not interested in protecting anyone, and if there is corruption, certainly, action should be taken. But the figures, which I have with me, do not suggest that any such untoward, unusual, thing has taken place which should raise....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, I agree with the Minister. But, if you permit, I can place it on the Table of the House. I only said that from Rs. 10 per kg. to Rs. 30 per kg., 750 tonnes had been imported. That is the point which I made. If I am wrong, definitely, I owe an apology to this House. I never named anybody. I only said 'the

Delhi Administration and the Food Corporation'. If you permit, Madam, for the information of the Members, I can place it on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the document?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: These are documents regarding copies of some of the letters written by lawyers regarding the charges framed, the details of what happened, how much has been paid and everything. There is a note also...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Generally we don't allow any papers to be laid on the Table of the House until and unless they are very essential and, secondly, they have to be authenticated. Authentication means that you will have to take the responsibility that they are correct. And if they are found 'not correct', then you will be responsible. I will restrain you from laying any papers on the Table. But the Minister is answering...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: He is rarely restrained.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please, I would request the hon. Member, Chaturvediji, it is a very sensitive issue. Allegations have been made. I am trying to settle the problem amicably, properly, in the correct perspective of the problem. I would be very happy if we do not make any comment because this crisis, price rise, affects millions of people. And if we just have allegations and counter-allegations, it will not be proper. That is why I am just asking him. If he is sure to authenticate — though he has a right to do it — then I cannot restrain a Member, stop a Member, from laying anything on the Table of the House. According to the rule, he has to authenticate. I am just telling you as to what are the implications.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You know that I sent a note to the Chairperson that I may mention certain names. But I deliberately did not mention any names.

As you correctly put it, I do not want to mention some names and blackmail anybody. That is not my intention at all. But I made a charge against the Delhi Administration at that time. That is true. That is why I am suggesting that I can authenticate it. I take the responsibility, but once you restrain me I will obey the Chair.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I would like to enlighten the House further that as far as onion imports are concerned, we had imported through NAFED, which is a cooperative body. We had imported only 687 tons of onions because onions were put on the OGL. Others had imported. I have the figures. I cannot vouch for it totally, but I am told that another 480 tons was imported by the private sector, a total of 5489 tons of onions came. Therefore, NAFED was importing onions on behalf of the Government. If there are issues relating to the actions or activities of the Government of Delhi, then, I would suggest that the hon. Member who has made the allegation — as my colleague, Mr. Ramamurthy, was saying, we do not have thousand Chief Ministers of Delhi—should support it with some document.

I think the point that he was making, the allegation that he was making was very specific. I would suggest that he writes that complaint, with a supporting document, and if he wants, he can lay it on the Table of the House. You withdraw the permission, Madam, Deputy Chairman, I, also, have been a Member of this House and I know the rules. He has to first take your permission, go to your chamber, take your permission, show you the document and only when you give the permission, would he be able to lay it on the Table of the House.

This is his judgment. I cannot impose my judgment on him. But the point I am making is, to the best of our knowledge, there is not the slightest whiff of a scandal, as far as onion imports are

concerned. They were very limited in quantity, were confined to a very short period, and there was absolutely on such thing. I have mentioned the figures in regard to the prices. Now, madam Deputy Chairman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee and some other Members had raised the issue of balance of payment crisis enveloping the country in the next few months, and because I was the Finance Minister....

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): I do not want to disturb his points.

प्याज के बारे में एक सवाल है। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि कोई स्केडल नहीं है। तर्क के लिए उनकी बात मान लेते हैं। लेकिन नाफेड के जरिये से उन्हें प्याज का इम्पोर्ट किया। गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया ने इम्पोर्ट किया। यह उन्होंने कहा है। यह कार्जसिल आफ स्टेट्स है और मैं पश्चिमी बंगाल का प्रतिनिधि हूँ। प्याज के लिए पूरे देश के लोगों में परेशानी थी और सब चिन्तित थे। दिल्ली में चुंकि चुनाव था और नाफेड को गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया ने कहा कि आप दिल्ली में नाफेड के जरिये प्याज दो। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या पूरे देश के लिए वित्त मंत्री की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है, गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है। नाफेड गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया की एक एगेंसी बाड़ी है। यह कार्जसिल आफ स्टेट्स है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो सब्सिडी प्याज दिया गया, उस पर जितना रुपया खर्च किया गया, उसमें से कितना हिस्सा किस किस स्टेट को मिला था सिर्फ चुंकि दिल्ली में चुनाव था इसलिए आपने दिल्ली में यह काम किया?

श्री मंत्री महोदय: प्याज के बारे में
 एक सवाल है - मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है
 कि कौन सी एजेंसी दिल्ली में है - तर्क करने के
 लिए अन्तिम बात मान लेंगे, लेकिन नाफेड
 के जरिये से अन्त में एगेंसी बनाई, लेकिन नाफेड
 ने एगेंसी बनाई, एगेंसी ने कहा है, यह
 कार्जसिल आफ स्टेट्स है और मैं पश्चिमी
 बंगाल का प्रतिनिधि हूँ, प्याज के लिए पूरे

देश के लोगों में परेशानी थी, और
 सब एगेंसी में - देश में जो नुकसान
 हुआ और नाफेड को नुकसान हुआ, नाफेड
 प्याज के बारे में नाफेड के जरिये
 प्याज दो - मैं जानना चाहता हूँ
 कि क्या पूरे देश के लिए वित्त मंत्री
 की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है, नाफेड
 गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की जिम्मेदारी
 नहीं है। नाफेड गवर्नमेंट
 आफ इंडिया की एक एगेंसी
 बाड़ी है। यह कार्जसिल
 आफ स्टेट्स है। मैं यह
 पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो
 सब्सिडी प्याज दिया गया, उस पर
 जितना रुपया खर्च किया गया,
 उसमें से कितना हिस्सा किस
 किस स्टेट को मिला था सिर्फ
 चुंकि दिल्ली में चुनाव था
 इसलिए आपने दिल्ली में यह
 काम किया?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam Deputy Chairman, this question could have been put even at the end of the reply. But since the Member has raised this issue and you have permitted him to raise this issue I want to point out that we had told all the State Governments that within the parameters set by us, if any State Government wanted to import any essential commodity, they were most welcome to do so and just as we did in the case of Delhi, similarly, in the case of all other State Governments, we said, "We shall meet the cost of subsidy on a matching basis," which means 50 per cent will be borne by the Government of India, 50 per cent will borne by the States. So, there was no special favour that we were showing to the government

of Delhi. This was an offer which was available—and is available even today—to all the State Governments.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nobody took this offer!

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Nobody has taken the offer.

SHRI MD. SALIM: It was made only subsequently in the Chief Ministers' Conference.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No. It was much before that.

Madam, some points have been made on the Balance of Payments position, as I was saying. I must hurry up with my reply because I have taken a lot of time and there are some points to which I must refer in the course of my reply. As far as the Balance of Payments position is concerned, it is true that there has been a decline in export, an absolute decline in dollar terms. It is true that trade deficit has gone up. Nobody can deny that because these are figures which are available to each one of us. But to say that there will be a current account deficit, which will go outside our control, is not right. We had anticipated that, in view of the international problems, there could be pressure on the Balance of Payments and that is why when I came with the Budget I had suggested that we would go in for the Resurgent India Bonds and it is common knowledge that the State Bank of India did an excellent job of it and the RIBs were a resounding success and it was possible for us to raise something like \$ 4.2 billion through RIBs.

Shri Ramchandraiah made a point that we had borrowed this money at a very high cost. I suggest very, very humbly, let us not ridicule everything. Let us not try and rubbish everything. I have the information here. We had gone to the market at a time when the international situation was very difficult. The capital markets were in total doldrums. But we did not borrow. We did not go into the market to borrow from institutions. We

went to the NRIs. We went to persons of Indian origin and we suggested to them to make a contribution. What was the rate of interest? 7.75% was the rate of interest, which was only 220-basis points above LIBER. I have here figures of other five year papers which were raised by other emerging markets and they have raised at 9.12, 8.88, 8.75, 8.88 and 8%. Most of them, during this period, were raised at a much higher rate of interest than the RIBs. Therefore, to say that we are paying a very high price for the RIBs is not correct. At that point of time, in August, we kept it open only for 14 working days. I think all of us in this House should together congratulate the Non-Resident Indians, who came with absolutely open arms and decided to help the country in its hour of need. That is what happened and, therefore, it is not at all true.

So, I was saying that those four billion dollars came to us. They soared up our foreign exchange reserves. Our foreign exchange reserves are comfortable. The remittances are coming regularly. There has been some decline in foreign direct investment. We are hoping that the situation will improve. There has been some outflow, around six million dollars, of FII investment. We are also hoping that that situation will also improve. But let us not forget that there is a general disillusionment. There is a general disappointment the world over with emerging markets as a result of the East-Asian crisis. We have also been caught, in a way, in that situation and there has been some decline in that. We are hoping that, as the situation improves now globally, we will also get more and more of...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Has this money that we got through the Resurgent India Bonds, come from a particular group of countries or internationally?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, you were in the Gulf recently and I am

happy to say that they were wage-earners in the Gulf. They are not big industrialists in the Gulf.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would like you to put this point. Is it the poor people... (*interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Yes. They have contributed 50% of this 4.2 billion dollars. They were wage-earners. Then, the balance has come from Europe, the US and the East-Asian countries. But the credit certainly goes to the people who go on behalf of this country and work in the Gulf countries. They are the ones who have made the lion's contribution to these Resurgent India Bonds. Now, we are in a difficult situation. I will be the last person to say that everything is hunky-dory. As far as the economic situation is concerned, it is a difficult situation. We have pressures on the fiscal; we have pressures internationally. There are pressures on the current account. All those things are there. And, we also had inherited, Madam Deputy Chairperson, a full-blow recession. The recession is not the creation of the last eight months. The Indian economy had started slowing down from the middle of 1996. This is common knowledge. When we came to office in March, 1998, we found that there was a recession. But, the recession in the context of what? We have to understand that also. During the good days of Indian economy, we added capacity. Now unfortunately, in many areas, demand has not kept pace with the creation of additional capacities. I have figures here, but I would not like to waste the time of the House, whether it is cement or steel or commercial vehicles. We have added significant capacities during the last few years. Unfortunately, the demand has not kept pace, and therefore, even when we go back to the original capacities, we find that there has been a recession; we find that the demand has slowed down. If you take into account the latest capacities, then obviously the demand is much lesser.

Now, what is it that we have been trying to do? We have been trying to take a number of steps in order to give a boost to the economy.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee was raising the point about the internal extra budgetary resources. He asked whether it would be possible for the Government to do this. I would say that as far as the infrastructure sectors are concerned, it is not only on IEBR that we have depended. If IEBR has gone up by 32 per cent, the Budget allocations have also gone up by 26 per cent, as far as the infrastructure Ministries are concerned. Therefore, it is not true that we have increased the figures of IEBR and we have not taken care of it in the Budget.

Madam Deputy Chairperson, there are tell-tale signs. I have here the figures of motorised two and three-wheelers. Their demand has gone up in this year compared to last year. I have the figures of cement capacity and utilisation. I find that there the production has gone up compared to last year. In steel, it is only marginally down. But, we are facing competition from various sources. India is an economy which is opening up and when an economy opens up, it faces competition from various sources. I would like to respectfully differ with all those hon. Members here who said that we should close India down again. India cannot become a closed economy again. We will have to learn to live with competition, domestic competition as well as international competition. It is not merely the obligations under the WTO which demand on us that we face international competition. It is in the best interest of this country that we encourage competition in this country. It is in our best interest. If we have faced problems, if we have not been able to stand up, it is only because we built a system of economy which was protected, which was kept absolutely sheltered, and the moment, we opened it to competition, whether it was domestic competition or international competition, some of us felt

the heat of that competition. But, Indian industry, I dare say, is adjusting; Indian industry is adjusting very well. There are sectoral problems. We will take sectoral steps to ensure that Indian industry survives the onslaught of competition. But, there is no getting away from competition. Therefore, to our hon. Members like Shri Kaushik, I will say, let us not go back to the Jurassic park era; let us not go back to the ancient days; let us face the world today.

Let us face the world of the 21st century. That we can face only when we are ready to face competition, which is being created. That will come when we have become more efficient, more lean and more mean. That is how we will have to develop the Indian industry.

Madam Chairperson, we have had many problems. When we are judging the performance of this Government for the last eight months, I will again respectfully submit, let us not judge the performance of this Government only by what happened to onions, potatoes and mustard oil. There had been problems and we are sorry. We have paid the price. But, there are greater challenges. Nobody will talk after this because the prices have started decelerating. Onion prices are not going up, they are coming down; potato prices are not going up, they are coming down; the rate of inflation is not going up, it is coming down. But, the long term challenges remain for the Indian economy. When we talk of the last eight months, let us not forget even a second, when this country took courage in both hands, we went up for the nuclear tests. We faced the American challenge. The Americans imposed economic sanctions. We stood up against them. We did not bow down. We did not go back to Bill Clinton and say, "Please change your laws." We did not request the American Senate or the American Congress, "Please change your laws." They have changed. They have been compelled to change. We have not bowed down before them. They have

changed their law; they have been compelled to lift sanctions against India, however temporarily. They have lifted sanctions. I must also say that the East-Asian crisis, Madam, Deputy Chairperson, which the world had hoped would be behind us by April or May this year, as we all know from experience, further deepened. The East-Asian crisis extended itself and in its wider net, a number of other countries have collapsed. Mighty countries like Japan are facing economic crisis. Mighty countries like Russia have fallen a victim to that. Brazil, with something like 70 billion dollars in its foreign exchange kitty had to knock the doors of the IMF. It is a new kind of international situation that India has been able to keep its flag flying and that is no mean achievement. *(Interruption)* Do not disturb me, Mr. Jibon Roy. You and I have a philosophical difference of opinion. We have a difference of opinion. Let us admit it. All of you stand up here and criticise of what happened. I have all the figures here, of employment, of growth, etc. of the last seven odd years of liberalisation. If you do not like, you do not like it. You say that we will carry on with the reforms but we will not say we will not carry on with the reforms only because you are saying. There is a difference of opinion. Let us admit it. It is not the intention of this Government to destroy the public sector. It is also not the intention of the Government ... *(Interruption)* ... We are accused of allowing the fiscal deficit to rise on the one hand, on the other hand we carry on month after month, year after year, we keep on paying the units which are closed down. Why? We have taken the courage in our hands and we have decided that we will not do it. *(Interruption)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. It is not proper.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Let me make it absolutely clear. We have entered the phase of second generation reforms. The first generation of reforms

were initiated by the Leader of the Opposition. This Government has entered into the second generation of reforms. We shall carry forward the reform process and we shall make India competitive, we shall make India efficient and we shall make India great, a great economic power in the years to come. You just wait and watch. Thank you.

(Interruption)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why there is a paper to be laid at this hour? What is the urgency? I want to find out.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): It can be taken up before the House rises for the day, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me have the clarification.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Actually, it has to be taken up before the House rises for the day. It can be even at 6 o'clock. But, what is going to happen between six of the clock today evening and the next day at 12 o'clock? What is the urgency even to lay it on the Table of the House? We want to know.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I would explain it. Madam, the urgency is that we have issued a notification today. In all honesty, we want to come to the House and place that notification on the Table of the House. That is all.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: मैडम, ऐसे नोटिफिकेशन फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से हमेशा होते आए हैं और फिर अगली सुबह की लिस्ट आफ बिजनेस में पेपर ले में दिए जाते रह हैं। अब मंत्री के बाद मंत्री आकर के पेपर ले ऐसे नहीं करते हैं। यहां तक "समाधान" वाला मामला है, शुरू से ही यह विवाद का मामला है। आयकर के लिए "समाधान" मंत्री महोदय बजट में ले आए थे, लेकिन बहुत से लोग यह कहते हैं यह दिल्ली से ज्यादा चेन्नई बेस्ट समाधान है और अभी भी वहां से स्टेटमेंट आती है तो वैसी ही यहां से नोटिफिकेशन निकलती है। आज यहां नोटिफिकेशन का पेपर ले आए और वह भी बिना किसी समय सूची के।

... (व्यवधान) ... देखिए, कानून के मुताबिक, फाइनेंस बिल के मुताबिक मंत्री महोदय बाध्य हैं नोटिफिकेशन जो भी होगा उसे यहां पर ले आने के लिए, लेकिन ऐसी

बाध्यता नहीं है कि जैसे ही नोटिफिकेशन निकलेंगे वही आपका है। मैडम, आपका सवाल ठीक है ... (व्यवधान) ... नहीं करेंगे, बोलने से नहीं होगा। मंत्री महोदय को यह कहना पड़ेगा कि इसकी क्या जरूरत रही है और किसलिए यह जरूरी है।

†† اشرفی محمد سلیم: میڈم، ایسے نوٹیفیکیشن فائیننس منسٹری کی طرف سے ہمیشہ ہوتے تھے ہیں اور پھر اگلی صبح کو لیسٹ آف بزنس میں 'سپیئر' میں دے جاتے ہیں۔ اب منسٹری کے بعد منسٹری کے آکر کے 'سپیئر' ایسے نہیں کرتے ہیں۔ یہاں تک یہ 'سماधान' منسٹری کے بعد دے بحث میں لے آتے تھے، لیکن بہت سے لوگ یہ کہتے ہیں یہ پہلی صفحہ یادوں چینی بیسٹ 'سماधान' میں اور ابھی بھی جب وہاں سے اسٹیٹمنٹ آتی ہے تو وہ اسے ہی یہاں سے نوٹیفیکیشن تکلفی ہے۔ آج یہاں نوٹیفیکیشن کا نوٹس لے آئے اور وہ بھی بنا کسی سموجھی کے... "مداخلت"... دیکھئے، قوانین کے مطابق، فائیننس بیل کے مطابق منسٹری کے بعد دے ہیں نوٹیفیکیشن جو بھی ہو گا اسے یہاں پر لے آنے کے لئے، لیکن ایسی یاد دہشتا نہیں ہے کہ جیسے ہی نوٹیفیکیشن نکلتے ویسے ہی آپکو یہاں لانا پڑے گا۔ یہ ۸۰۰ ڈسمبر کا آپکا ہے۔ میڈم، آپکا سوال ٹھیک ہے۔... "مداخلت"... نہیں کریں گے، بولنے سے نہیں ہو گا۔ منسٹری

مہود سے کوئی کہنا پڑے گا کہ اس کی کیا ضرورت
 ہے اور کس سے کیا ضروری ہے

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा: मैडम कोई जरूरत नहीं है। बहुत मामूली बात है कि कुछ लोगों ने प्रतिवेदन दिया था। हम विचार कर नोटिफिकेशन निकाल रहे हैं। जैसा हमने कहा हम पूरी ईमानदारी के साथ लेकर उसको सदन की टेबल पर रखना चाहते हैं। जब आप परमीशन देंगी, हम रखेंगे। अभी आप परमीशन देंगी तो अभी रखेंगे।

उपसभापति: आपने लोक सभा में रख दिया है?

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा: वह मैं नहीं जानता क्योंकि मैं तो यहां था।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you laid it on the Table of the Lok Sabha? We do not want any discrepancy between both the Houses. If it has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha, then it should be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha also. If it is going to be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha tomorrow, then we will also do it tomorrow in the morning. ... (Interruptions)... I just want to say one thing ... (Interruptions)... When I am asking the Minister, it will be in keeping with your dignity, not to unnecessarily make comments. We are very senior people. ... (Interruptions)... Has it been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha? It is a financial matter; so it should have been done.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): Madam, it has not been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. I am laying it here ... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you going to lay it today?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, we have requested the Speaker also and we will try to lay it on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament, if you permit.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to lay it now or do you want to do it later? ... (Interruptions)... Okay, the House is not going to object to it because if it has to be laid, it has to be laid. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA : Madam, I want to seek some clarifications from the Finance Minister. ... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not a *suo motu* statement where we can allow clarifications. The statement of the Minister was in reply to a full-fledged debate ... (Interruptions)... Just a minute. ... (Interruptions)... Just one second. ... (Interruptions)... At least, let me finish my sentence. Otherwise, you will not know what I am trying to say. We had a full-fledged debate which lasted not for four hours but more than that. It spilled over today and today we have discussed it up to 4.30 P.M. Now, if you could not put your questions or seek clarifications in your speech and if the Minister did not answer them in his speech, I am quite sure by your clarifications you would not be satisfied. He is not going to answer because if he wanted to answer it, he could have done it earlier. So, let me go ahead with the other business. ... (Interruptions)... Never mind. ... (Interruptions)...

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

Notification of Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAM): Madam, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 97 of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification dated the 8th December, 1998 publishing the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 1998 seeking to remove certain difficulties in the administration of the Kar Vivad