

co-operate. Association or by one minute. That is what I did. The list is before the Chair. It is not that I have some list of my own.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I am not saying about the Chair. It is a question of procedure. Association and dissociation. I have always been saying. Association should be by way of just one sentence. The dissociation part should be clarified.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Solanki, do you want to say something? Do so briefly, very briefly because we have to take up the Business.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, so far as the question of the Finance Bill is concerned, I am not agitated about it. So far as the submission of Mr. Mukherjee is concerned, I do not have any objection to that also.

At the same time, so far as the question of the procedure is concerned, I would like to seek a clarification.

During the last session also I submitted twice a Special Mention which was not granted. Before that also I was not permitted. This Special Mention of mine was pending for the last six days. Today I got the turn to speak. Not only that, there are 17 names in the list. I am not raising the question of association. Association would be just for one minute or one-and-a-half minutes or two minutes. My name is at serial No. 7. It may come at No. 17. At least in 51 minutes it could have been finished. But we have been doing this business for the last two hours. It is a very sorry state of affairs that we could not finish it. Particularly when my turn came, I was told to wait for tomorrow.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Because it is now two o'clock and it was decided that we would start the Finance Bill at two o'clock. That was the reason. It was not because you were standing up.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: When I went to the hon. Chairman's chamber, I was told that all these Special Mentions would be finished within two days. Those which have been listed for today and those which have not been listed will be taken up tomorrow. It is not

the advice of the hon. Chairman that these Special mentions which have been listed should be kept pending.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Okay, Mr. Solanki. You please take your seat. I think that will be appropriate. The list which is here today should be continued tomorrow and then only tomorrow's Special mentions should be taken up.

Now we will go ahead with the Finance Bill.

SHRI JOYANTA ROY: I fully endorse the views expressed by our colleague.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): That issue is over now.

SHRI JOYANTA ROY: I am waiting for the last seven days for raising some issues in the House. Today my name was at serial No. 11. But it is very unfortunate that we are not getting any protection from the Chair.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): This will be carried forward tomorrow. Your name will be there. So, you please take your seat now. ... (*Interruption*)...

We are not debating this issue. The matter is over now.

THE FINANCE (NO. 2) BILL, 1998

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, The Finance (No.2) Bill, 1998 introduced by me to the Lok Sabha on 1st June, 1998 has since been passed by Lok Sabha. I am grateful to members of Parliament who have given their valuable suggestions on different provisions contained in the Bill as originally introduced. After giving a very careful consideration to these suggestions and to those received from various other quarters, I introduced certain amendments in the Bill while giving my reply to the debate in the Lok Sabha. These have since been suitably incorporated in the Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha.

Sir, the present Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1998 represents the continuation of tax reforms initiated by the previous Government and lends stability and continuity of rates of direct taxes. My thrust is mainly on widening the tax base, increasing the Tax-GDP ratio, providing

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impetus to the infrastructure and improving the quality of tax administration. As the Hon'ble Members of this House are aware, for widening the tax base the application of 'one-by-six' criteria and the compulsory quoting of PAN have been introduced. I have taken note of the apprehensions expressed by Hon'ble Members in this House and would like to inform that the proposed notification would provide suitable exemption to senior citizens, NRIs and agriculturists. Let me also dispel any misleading impression generated in certain quarters that there would be any restraint on the opening of new bank account or entering into high value transaction for a person not having PAN or GIR. The proposed notification will take care of such eventualities as if a person has neither PAN nor GIR, he will be required to file only a declaration giving his identity.

Sir, during the course of the Budget debate in the House I had referred to the proposal to declog the system by reducing the number of litigations which involved substantial tax arrears. The suggestions received on the Samadhan Scheme which has been introduced with this end in view, have been examined by me and I would like to point out to the Hon'ble members that the basic feature of the scheme implies that there is a 'KAR' and "Vivad" at the same time. Collection of tax arrears is as important as settlement of disputes. It is, therefore, not possible to extend the scheme to those cases where disputes are pending but no taxes are outstanding.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, on the recommendations of the task force set up by the Government for the development of Information technology, I have extended several concessions to this sector both under direct taxes and indirect taxes. My emphasis on the development of infrastructure has received full attention.

In the area of Indirect taxes, we have continued with the reform measures initiated some years ago. On Excise, our medium term objective will be to progressively move towards a value added system of taxation and in the transition to adopt a Central VAT structure which has, broadly speaking, a mean rate of 18% with, ideally speaking, one rate

above the mean rate and a lower rate applicable for articles of mass consumption. The current year's proposals have increased the oscillation around the mean rate which is consistent with this objective. Pending computerisation of the Excise Range offices and to plug the misuse in the utilisation of modvat credit as a purely transition measure, we have got the ceiling for availing modvat credit at 95%. Excise Laws have become cumbersome and an Expert Group is being appointed for rewriting the Excise Laws.

In the area of Customs, while our broad objective of aligning India's tariff rates to ASEAN rates remains our goal, we will sequence it in the manner which is not disruptive to the domestic industry. In order to provide a suitable abatement for the liability of local taxes and consistent with the principle of level playing field we have imposed 4% Special additional customs duty on all imports except for categories like traders, exporters where for obvious reasons this could not be applied. We are strengthening the machinery of Director General of Valuation of Customs to check invoice manipulation and minimise classification disputes. We are also setting up a Settlement Commission for Excise and Customs based on the experience gathered in the working of such Commission in the area of Direct Taxes. Similarly, an Authority for Advance Ruling is being created in the area of Indirect Taxes. Based on the experience we have gathered on setting up of such authority for Direct Taxes.

Excise and Customs procedures have been rationalised and simplified with progressive elimination of the end use consumption wherever these have outlived utility.

Sir, with these words I request that Finance Bill (No. 2) Bill 1998 as passed by the Lok Sabha may be considered by this House and returned.

The question was proposed.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE Maharashtra: Sir, soon after the proposals containing the financial package, both in the Budget and in the Finance Bill, were presented to the Parliament, there were vehement protests in the Parliament. The same were seriously criticised outside Parliament. Uniformly and

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universally they were condemned and denounced. The burdens of the duties, the taxes, the direct and indirect taxes were not only considered unimaginative and counter-productive, they were also considered harmful and hazardous in the present state of the country's perilously and precariously poised more uneven economy. The experts and analysts thought that the financial package was historically retrograde, economically catastrophic and socially obscurant.

Sir, the main apprehensions so far as the impost of the financial package is concerned, were firstly that it would further entrench the demand recessions; secondly, it was apprehended that it would impede the recovery of industrial growth. Thirdly, it would be a disincentive to accelerate which is so desperately needed for growth of export.

Finally, it would deliver a deadly blow to the capital market.

But the very heavy onslaught and denunciation of the Budget proposals from members of his own party, from Members and leaders of the coalition parties, from Members of the Opposition, from captains of trade and industry, from economists, from the Press media, from the electronic media, from the private sector, I am happy, has chastened and subdued the Finance Minister. He has started examining the pernicious impact of his proposals which had a dangerous effect on the highly depressed economy.

The Finance Minister launched a very vigorous roll back exercise of various direct and indirect taxes in deference. Right from the next day, after presentation of the Budget proposals and almost every second day, there was a climb down and more climb down until when it came to the presentation of the Finance Bill before the Lok Sabha, it was found that the aggregate relief given by him was to the tune of Rs. 264 crores, Rs. 192 crores in indirect taxes and Rs. 72 crores in direct taxes.

Sir, it is obvious that the Budget proposals for 1998-99 were first made and presented to Parliament and their thinking on the same started thereafter. Right honourable Mr. Yashwant Sinha was called Mr. Roll-Back Sinha. It is much better that you be a Roll-

Back Sinha and beyond your own, than Mr. Yashwant Sinha. The Finance Minister was led by the nose by the very, very high profile bureaucrats of his Ministry.

Anyhow, I must submit that the revised proposal, after the wisdom dawned upon him have brought about some relief to the people. All that I can say is that at any rate, it is too late and too little. What will happen in an uneven economy? When the economy is in such a grim state, what is needed is to have reduced taxation as an instrument to galvanise the economy, to stimulate the economy and not dampen it any further. In that context I do accept that harnessing of resources and revenues are very necessary for the Government to balance the Budget and for its own financial affairs. But truly this is not the best way to come out with such heavy taxation. The right thing should have been to cut down on heavy wasteful and unproductive administrative expenses.

Sir, I have worked in the Finance Commission. I can submit to you with great anguish that the bane of the State Government and the Central Government has been that they go on expanding their expenses recklessly and thoughtlessly, with the result that every time there is higher and higher revenue deficit augmenting, there is the fiscal deficit leading to a very dangerous effect on the entire economy as such. If the wasteful and unproductive expenses are not cut, they are likely to make the entire Government's working as that of an oversized, flabby and inefficient organisation, apart from nothing else.

Now we are knowing about the actual recoveries as compared to the Revised Estimates. There was some debate about the Revised Estimates and the Budget Estimates. I am going to touch the Revised Estimates. We thought by the time we get the revised Estimates, there will be some authenticity, there will be some accuracy, there will be some precision about it. Now, we have been told that even for 1997-98, the actuals are going to be less than the Revised Estimates. That means it would further distort the fiscal deficit, the revenue deficit. It has been said that collection of 1998-99 is also going to be a repeat. In 1997-98, what has happened? In 1998-99, what is

going to happen? We have already seen a very dangerous symptom that the rate of inflation in the week ending 4th July, 1998 has already reached 7.6 per cent. Considerable concern has been voiced in this House and the other House about rising prices and the impact of the inflation on those people, the less privileged, the under-privileged people. It is the highest ever since the 22nd February, 1997 when it was 7.77 per cent. Since April-July this year itself, the inflation has increased to 2.5 per cent. I submit with very great respect to the Finance Minister that if he is to think that this is seasonal, he is deceiving himself. You deceive nobody else in these matters. There had been seasons in 22 months. Several times there had been seasons. And we did not have this kind of inflation. If we are having this kind of inflation in the midst of a very depressed economy, we are in a very dangerous stage of what is known as 'stagnation'. It is a very dangerous condition in which inflation is combined with depressed economy plus a negative employment growth.

Look at the collection situation. I want to refer to it. It is very disarming. I hope he will deal with it and dispel our serious apprehensions on this matter. In 1997-98, the assumption of growth was taken at 13 per cent and your taxes are falling short. Corporation tax is falling short by three per cent; customs by seven per cent; excise by nine per cent. Only income-tax collection exceeded the target by two per cent. Now, this is on the basis of the revised estimates. When the actuals come. I do not know what they are likely to be. Now, this year, the collection of revenue is apprehended to be a repeat. Those people who are knowledgeable about it think it is going to be a repeat of 1997-98. The assumption of the growth of direct taxes is 19 per cent and that of indirect taxes is 17 per cent. It is not only ambitious but very highly illusory. Before reduction of taxes, it was Rs. 264 crores. The current position of collection being what it is, in customs, in the first two months, the growth is zero per cent. The growth of excise is eight per cent instead of 17 per cent which you have calculated. The export growth in the first two months is negative and the industrial growth is hardly four per cent. Where is the assumption of such an increase in growth, of 19 per cent and 17 per cent in direct taxes and indirect

taxes? It will only mean that the fiscal deficits, revenue deficits, which have been worked out will again be on the paper and in reality they will be very much more. And this kind of reduced collection of revenues not only distorts the Budgetary calculations but brings about a distortion in the economy. Therefore, I want to submit to the Finance Minister that it is imperative, it is absolutely necessary, at this juncture, as I have said earlier, that you must take every effort to galvanize the economy, bring about growth. And then you can assume the growths in taxation. But so far as the economy is concerned, it continues to languish in the grim situation in which it has been for quite some time.

I want to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the Keynesian theory. I am not a student of economics. My field is taxation and a little of public finance. I do not want to teach him economics. He is a brilliant student of economics. But there is some such thing as, Keynesian economists say, inflation gap. According to the inflation theory of Keynes, where investment does not exceed savings, domestic savings, then, there is this kind of slump in the economy. During the time of Dr. Manmohan what happened? It is the same people it is the same society; we have the same purchasing power, we have the same taste, in nearly the same condition. Why is it that during his time the economy was moving at seven per cent and you wanted it to be 8-9 per cent? I think he abandoned the post at a very wrong time. If he had been there, the situation would have been quite different and we could have, in ten years' time, tackled the question of poverty. The economic growth was increasing; our exports were increasing; the export growth was 19 per cent; the industrial growth was over 12 per cent, all round. And the economy, if not flushing with money, it was adequate.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal):
Only for some of the years, not for all years.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Mr. Biplab, if you would care to listen to me, you will be convinced of what I say, I am going on facts. Sir, I want to submit to you that at that time, the economy of the country, if it was not flushed, it had adequate funds to be diverted, to be deployed in the investment. At that time,

whether you take textiles industry or whether you take automotive industry or whether you take man-made fibre or whether you take steel or whether you take cement, there wasn't a slump and the entire economy was booming. I am not blaming him alone. In fact, soon after he left his post because of the uncertainty in the political situation, the economy of the country also deteriorated and the investors did not have that faith and confidence to put sufficient money for purposes of investment. Sir, speaking for myself, when I took over as the Power Minister in 1994-95 and even 1996, I used to have a queue of investors not only from India but from abroad, coming to seek guidance from us. But they wanted to invest money in the power sector. Sir, one year later, the Finance Secretary came to me and said: "Sir, where have all those people gone?" The crucial question, therefore, at this juncture is, what have you done to create confidence in the minds of the investors? You need to give them incentives, you need to give them stimulus ultimately, in the larger interests. My grievance with him is that keeping in view the present state of economy of the country, the entire financial package proposed by him was not only unimaginative but it proved counter-productive because you cannot at such a stage come out with more and more taxes. Sir, because of constraint of time, I would like to finish my speech as early as possible.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You have to make a number of points. So, you will have to hurry up.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, when I have finished 25 minutes, you ring your bell. I will be grateful because I will finish in five minutes' time. I want to put a few questions. Are we not likely to end the year 1998-99 with another bumper fiscal deficit rising higher than the estimated 5.6 per cent of the GDP? My second question is: "Is not higher fiscal deficit of the two years likely to take inflation on a higher growth path, a minimum of double digit? My third question is: "Do you think that you have maximised the economy in the Government expenditure and do you think that you have brought down the wasteful expenditure to the barest minimum or is there some scope for

improvement in that direction? Do you think the package given by you in the Budget even after the climb down will help revive economy? Will your Government's day-to-day struggle for survival ever restore the confidence of the investors? Without that, I don't expect the economy to revive in any manner, whatsoever, and whatever you may answer, I want to submit very regretfully that the nation has come to know that this Government is incapable of managing the economy of the country. Sir, this is so far as the generality is concerned. Now, may I refer to some of the specific proposals in direct and indirect taxes? Sir, two decisions taken by the Finance Minister, I must submit, are bold and courageous. One is regarding abolition of gift tax and the second is about the massive disinvestment that he has proposed. I refer to para 56 of his Budget speech where he has said: "The Government have decided that in generality of cases the Government share in public enterprises will be brought down to 26 per cent." I will have more to say about the disinvestment later. Let me first come to the gift tax. The prophet of doom have told the Finance Minister that the abolition of gift tax will open the flood gates for evasion and avoidance. I have only to refer to the explanatory statement of the Finance Bill in which you yourself said that you are getting rid of gift tax. Despite that, you are not able to control the evasion and avoidance. And even if you abolish it for ten crores, that was not worth it. I want to submit to you, on a broader scale, on a macro level, on a broader canvas, it is a much bigger purpose to serve. Sir, I will canvas all the while, for God's sake, have rational, reasonable rates of taxation and it will instil a sense of confidence into the working, into the functioning of the tax regime. If it is considered just equitable and fair, encourage people to comply with taxation, discourage the tendency to avoid and evade, not by legislation; you can never do it thereby. Do it by a procedure, by creating more and more confidence in them, and I think that is the great purpose you have achieved, Mr. Finance Minister, in abolition of gift tax. In fact, there are adequate provisions. I know the Income-Tax Act, Sir, Section 15, Section 42A(ii). Section 64 empowers clubbing of the income of a minor with that of a major. All these

provisions, are adequate to check any kind of evasion, any attempt at avoidance, and at any rate, as long as people do feel that with a reasonable rate of taxation they must not waste their energy. Sir, internally otherwise, the tax lawyers, the chartered accountants like me spend years, months and months and days and days finding ways as to how to reduce taxation because at one time of course, I don't blame him for this—the taxation was 97.75 per cent. In an international conference when I said that it was 97.75 per cent, the conference started laughing about it. Therefore, for once you have kept taxation at a reasonable rate. I think this morning, or yesterday perhaps, you were saying that you are telling your officers to take a more humane approach, a humane approach towards the assesseees and the tax payers. Nobody like to pay taxes. Sir, someone perhaps some time said, "It is difficult to pay and love taxes as it is to be in love and be wise about it. So, nobody loves the payment of taxes. But that doesn't mean that the tax officers cannot take a more sympathetic, a more rational approach which will mean creating more confidence in the system itself.

Now I want to come to a scheme he has introduced "Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme". "Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme" is a good scheme, in the sense that on the disputed income you have to pay a rational taxation, but there is one very grave, inequitable provision by making a very, very artificial definition of what is disputed income and disputed tax. Sir, you know disputed income is that income which is in appeal before an appellate authority or before a court, and disputed tax is that tax which relates to such income. That is well understood concept of disputed income and disputed tax all over the world, not only in India. But for purposes of this "Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme", disputed tax is not a tax relatable to the disputed income. If you have committed the temerity, the defiance and the gumption to pay taxes demanded by the Department on disputed income, then to that extent, you get no relief. For one who doesn't pay tax at all, such an inequitable provision is very fine. You must ensure that the people who have paid taxes in protest are not penalised for it. Sir, in fact, this is an utterly immoral and unethical provision

for keeping this taxation, and I would submit to the hon. Finance Minister that if he thinks by amending this aspect of the matter he is likely to jeopardise the interest of the revenues, he can scrap the scheme, but he shall not have this kind of inequitable provisions, immoral and unethical, in our tax law. Already it is replete with may of them: irrationality, illogic and taxation has hardly anything to do; they have no nexus. I request him not to make it so unethical, so irrational, so unjust. He penalises a man if he pays a tax on disputed income! He wants to penalise him! What kind of a scheme is this, Mr. Finance Minister?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Salve, you are left with three minutes.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I will then rush through with what I have to say. I am under severe regimentation today of my party leaders. For God's sake, raise the MODVAT credit to 100 per cent instead of 95 per cent. Kindly think over it. Mr. Finance Minister, please bring FEMA as soon as you can. I want to refer, at this juncture, to the stricures passed by the Bombay High Court in one of the FERA cases. Professionally, I have nothing to do with the family of Ashok Jain, nor do I know them much. I have met them once or twice. But the High Court to come down heavily and ask the Enforcement Directorate, "Please don't take upon yourself the responsibility of an illman; go and interrogate him in the hospital", what have we come to? Is the sanctity of life for purposes of FERA completely to be abandoned? Even if a man condemned to death, as long as he is alive, there is sanctity to his life. For God's sake, Mr. Finance Minister, do something about it and bring FEMA as soon as you can. Last time, I submitted to him not to treat gifts received by recipients as income. That would have not only been insensible, but also illegal. Fortunately, he has agreed to that. The other thing that I suggested which he has not agreed to is, don't withdraw exemption of educational institutions and hospitals. Mission institutions are likely to be affected and minority institutions are likely to be affected who do not abuse the provision.

Let me tell you, Mr. Finance Minister, if you were to read Section 10 (xxii) which

exempts income of the educational societies, it is more rigorous than Sections 11 and 12. It says:

"The exemption applies to any income of a university or an educational institution existing solely for education purpose."

It is a very strict provision. If you do feel that such institutions should invest their money only as provided in Section 11, keep exemption as intact and provide that the accumulated income shall be invested as provided in Section 11 (v). Please don't forget Section 11. Up to 25 per cent of educational institutions can carry on. They can do anything that they want to do. Don't give them relief even for one per cent. But for God's sake the genuine educational institutions which are working honestly must not be penalised by withdrawal of this exemption. Sir, I have only two more points and then I am done.

Chartered Accountants are being levied service tax. Now the Institute of Chartered Accountants invited him. I am very happy. Their request has not been acceded to. Chartered Accountants also do the same work as lawyers do. Therefore, I am not suggesting that you include lawyers. I am suggesting that you exclude Chartered Accountants. In my life, 95 per cent of the time I did nothing except pleading cases of tax payers.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): Why shouldn't the lawyers be included?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I am on par with lawyers. That is what I am trying to argue. If you are not taxing them, if there is no service tax on them, please remove the service tax from Chartered Accountants. That is the minimum I can do to my profession which I had left long ago.

DR. BILAB DASGUPTA: What about Company Secretaries?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: They are all left out.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: They are there.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Yes, Chartered Accountants are acting as Company Secretaries. There are many areas. Sir, a Chartered Accountant is basically supposed to be an auditor. But the area has been expanded so much in the modern time and the demand is

so much. For God's sake, Mr. Finance Minister, please consider it.

Now what about amending the Companies Act? When are you going to announce it? Why don't you say on the floor of the House when you reply to the debate that you will allow buy-back of shares to the companies? You can amend the Companies Act. You are bringing so many laws. You are bringing so many enactments. We are told to pass so many Bills without discussion. This is one thing which will give a boost to the economy and it will help to galvanise the economy. That is all I have to submit. I have many other things to say. But in view of the constraint of time, I conclude here.

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, वित्त विधेयक बजट अब अंतिम पड़ाव पर आया है। वास्तव में यह बिल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हुआ करता है क्योंकि जब बजट प्रस्तुत होता है तो हिन्दुस्तान भर के लोगों की आंखें टी.वी. पर और कान रेडियो पर होते हैं। उसमें से भी वे वह भाग सुनना चाहते हैं जो टैक्स से संबंधित भाग होता है, चाहे इनकम टैक्स हो, एक्ससाइज ड्यूटी हो या कस्टम्स हो, इतना महत्वपूर्ण वित्त विधेयक नं. - 2, 1998 का है। लेकिन यह बिल्कुल अंत में आया है। इससे पहले जनरल बजट हो गया, एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल हो गया और उस पर वित्त मंत्री जी के जवाब भी हो गए। इसलिए अब इसमें इतनी गर्मी नहीं बची है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रि लोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): बीस मिनट के करीब आपका समय होगा।

श्री राघवजी: थैंक यू सर। अभी मैं माननीय साल्वे जी को सुन रहा था। वे बहुत ही प्रसिद्ध चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट और अर्थशास्त्री भी हैं, बहुत कुछ कहने के बाद भी वे इस फइनेन्स बिल में आलोचना करने का मुद्दा नहीं ढूंढ पाए हैं। उन्होंने बहुत कुछ बाते कहीं हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रि लोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): ये भी चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट हैं। आपके साथी हैं।

श्री राघवजी: ये तो साहब हमारे गुरु हैं। इनकम टैक्स को इतने प्रसिद्ध वकील होने के बाद भी ये प्रत्यक्ष कर में कोई भी त्रुटि ढूंढ नहीं पाए हैं। वास्तव में यह जो वित्त विधेयक प्रस्तुत हुआ है इसकी सराहना आम लोगों द्वारा तो बहुत हुई है। साल्वे जी बड़े लोगों के वकील हैं लेकिन छोटे लोगों का वकील मैं हूँ। छोटे लोगों ने इसकी सराहना बहुत की है क्योंकि जो भी कमियाँ इसमें थी माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी

ने उनको दूर किया है। लम्बे समय से एक मांग चली आ रही थी कि कर की सीमा, एजम्पशन लिमिट को बढ़ाया जाए। इस सरकार को आए अभी थोड़ा ही समय हुआ था, अपने घोषणापत्र में किए हुए वायदे को कम समय में पूरा कर दिया। 40 हजार की सीमा को बढ़ाकर 50 हजार कर दिया। इसके साथ-साथ कर्मचारियों को और लाभ देने के लिए स्टैण्डर्ड डिडक्शन एक लाख की आय तक 20 हजार हुआ करती थी उसको बढ़ाकर 25 हजार किया। मालिकों से मैडिकल ट्रीटमेंट के लिए दस हजार तक की जो चिकित्सा सुविधा की छूट मिला करती थी उसको बढ़ाकर पन्द्रह हजार रुपए किया। को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी के लिए अभी तक जो छूट चालीस हजार रुपए की थी उसको बढ़ाकर एक लाख किया है। इनके अलावा और भी अन्य व्यवस्थाएं माननीय वित्ती मंत्री जी ने की जिनको मैं यहां दोहराना नहीं चाहूंगा लेकिन उनसे आम कर दाता को बहुत लाभ हुआ है। मकान किराए से जो आमदनी हुआ करती थी उसमें भी लाभ हुआ है। लोग अपने मकान किराए पर दें इसको प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए 1/5 की जो छूट मिलती थी, मकान की कुल आमदनी में से रिपेयर वगैरह के लिए, वह छूट बढ़ाकर 1/4 कर दी है। जो लोग मकान बनाते हैं। और जो किराए पर उठाते हैं। उनको इससे थोड़ा बहुत प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा और आवास की समस्या भी कुछ हल होगी।

हमारे सिनेमा में काम करने वाले मित्र शत्रुघ्न जी, शबाना अजमी जी और राज बब्बर जी हैं। अभी तक जितनी भी सरकारें आई हैं उन्होंने इनको कष्ट ही पहुंचाया है। इस सरकार ने पहली बार उनको भी कुछ सुविधाएं प्रदान की हैं बरना सिनेमा जगत पर छापे मारने आदि का काम होता था। सिनेमा जगत को अब उद्योग का दर्जा दिया है। इसके साथ-साथ और जो अन्य परेशानियां थी उनसे भी उनको बचाया है। पांच हजार से अधिक का भुगतान करने पर उनको पूरा विवरण देना पड़ता था। अब उसको बढ़ाकर पच्चीस हजार कर दिया है। वास्तव में उन लोगों को आधार मानना चाहिए कि वित्त मंत्री जी ने उनके लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कार्य किया है।

इस वित्त विधेयक में एक और महत्वपूर्ण कार्य है जिससे रोजगार के थोड़े बहुत अवसर बढ़ सकते हैं। वह यह है कि यदि कोई व्यक्ति अपने उद्योग में नए कर्मचारी लगाता है और जो उसकी मजदूरी उसको देनी पड़ती है उसमें 30 प्रतिशत की छूट मिलेगी। इससे नए लोगों को अपने कामों में लगाने पर प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा और इससे रोजगार के अवसर भी बढ़ सकते हैं।

एक परेशानी जो लम्बे समय से लोगों को थी कि चालीस हजार रुपए से ऊपर जिसकी भी आमदनी हो उसके लिए लेखा-पुस्तक रखना अनिवार्य था। वास्तव में

यह नियम उस समय बना था जब कि छूट की सीमा पच्चीस हजार थी।

अब छूट की सीमा 40 हजार से बढ़ गई है लेकिन उसके बाद भी यह कानून चल आ रहा था। पिछली बार मैंने इसका विरोध किया था कि इससे उन्हें अपना मुनीम रखने को बाध्य होना पड़ेगा। मुनीम का खर्चा टैक्स के खर्च से ज्यादा हुआ करता है। अब माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने बड़ी सुविधा कर दी है जो उन्होंने यह छूट की सीमा 40 हजार से बढ़ाकर 120 हजार कर दी है। इससे उन व्यापारियों को जिन की आमदनी सीमित है लेकिन जो मुनीम नहीं रख सकते हैं, एकाउंटेंट नहीं रख सकते हैं, जो इनका खर्चा बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकते हैं, उनको इससे राहत मिलेगी।

‘सरल’ और ‘समाधान’, इन दोनों योजनाओं से भी आम करदाता को लाभ मिलेगा। अब इनकम टैक्स फॉर्म बहुत सरल कर दिए गए हैं। पहले तो यही चर्चा होती रहती थी कि फॉर्म कैसे छोटे किए जाएं। मुझे याद है कि पिछली बार, जब श्री चिदम्बरम वित्त मंत्री थे तो वह कहते थे कि हमने बहुत प्रयास करके देख लिया है लेकिन छोटे फॉर्म बनाने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं बन पा रही है। इसके वह अनेक बार सुझाव भी आमंत्रित कर चुके थे। लेकिन इस बार फॉर्म बहुत सरल कर दिए गए हैं जो कि आसानी से भरे जा सकते हैं। आम करदाताओं को इससे निश्चित रूप से लाभ मिलेगा।

गिफ्ट टैक्स के बारे में साल्वे जी ने बात रखी है कि गिफ्ट टैक्स हटा दो। जिन लोगों को गिफ्ट मिलती है, प्रश्न यह था कि उनके हाथ में वह टैक्स होगा या नहीं। लेकिन अब दोनों बातें ही हटा दी गई हैं। अब न गिफ्ट देने वालों को टैक्स लगेगा और न पाने वालों को टैक्स लगेगा। अब मैं भी शंकित हूँ कि शायद बाद में इससे कुछ कठिनाइयां उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। इसमें टैक्स इवेजुन करने की गलियां निकल सकती हैं। इन गलियों को बंद करने के लिए गिफ्ट टैक्स हुआ करता था। वास्तव में गिफ्ट टैक्स से कितनी आमदनी होती है इसका कोई विशेष महत्व नहीं था। लेकिन गिफ्ट टैक्स की वजह से सम्पत्ति का बंटवारा इधर-उधर करके जिस प्रकार से टैक्स बचाने की युक्ति की जाती थी, इससे उस युक्ति को शायद बढ़ावा मिलेगा। इससे यह अच्छा होता कि गिफ्ट टैक्स की सीमा बढ़ा देते, छूट की सीमा बढ़ा देते या अन्य कोई व्यवस्था करते। लेकिन अब इसमें जो गलियां निकलेंगी उन गलियों को बंद करने के लिए आप क्या व्यवस्था करेंगे इस बात पर वित्त मंत्री जी को जरूर सोचना पड़ेगा।

इस नई व्यवस्था में मुझे कुछ आपत्तियां भी हैं। हालांकि वे छोटी मोटी हैं लेकिन उनकी तरफ मैं जरूर वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। एक बात यह है

कि अपील की फीस बढ़ा दी गई है। करदाता अपील तभी करने के लिए बाध्य होता है जब उसके साथ कोई अन्याय होता है। अपील की जो फीस है, वर्तमान में एक लाख की आमदनी पर 250 रुपये, 2 लाख वाली तक 500 रुपये और इससे ऊपर की आमदनी हो तो एक हजार रुपया है। अब यह जो फीस का स्तर रख गया है यह अधिक है। इतना ही नहीं, जो द्वितीय अपील करेंगे, सैंकड़ अपील करेंगे उसके लिए फीस और भी अधिक है। उसमें एक लाख वाली के लिए 500 रुपया, 2 लाख तक के लिए 1500 रुपया और दो लाख से ऊपर आय होगी तो एक परसेंट होगा। अब कभी कभी....

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Raghavji, would you yield for a minute? You have increased the fees on appeals which itself is not very justified. But, if you feel that it should be done to avoid frivolous appeals, at least one thing should be allowed that the expenses of the appeal should be an allowable deduction to an assessee. It is not an allowable deduction. The expenses have increased and you don't allow that deduction. He must pay out of his capital. That is very unfair. I want you to consider that.

श्री राघवजी: बिल्कुल ठीक है। आपने जो सुझाव दिया है वह बिल्कुल सही है। लेकिन यह फीस क्यों लगाई गई है? मैं समझता हूँ कि यह व्यावहारिक नहीं है और अधिक है। मुझे कई बार ऐसे अनुभव हुए हैं कि जो गरीब लोग हैं, जिन के ऊपर अनावश्यक रूप से टैक्स लगा है वे अपील करने की स्थिति में नहीं होते। अब तो और भी कठिन हो गया है। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगा कि इसे कम किया जाए। जब वर्तमान में ट्रिब्यूनल को 250 रुपये फीस भरने की, वे स्थिति में नहीं है तो वे अपील करने से महारूम हो जायेंगे। इसके कारण उनके ऊपर जो बोझ है वह और अधिक हो गया है। इससे अब उन आय-कर अधिकारियों को प्रोत्साहन मिल रहा है जो किसी भी तरह से असेसी को सताकार उनको परेशान करने की नीयत में रहते हैं। ऐसे आय कर अधिकारियों को इससे प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा। इसलिए मेरा वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि यह जो प्रथम अपील और द्वितीय अपील की फीस के बारे में जो व्यवस्था है इसको जरूर कम करें।

'पेन' के बारे में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि 'पेन' के बारे में जो प्रस्ताव वित्त मंत्री ने रखा था उसको वापस ले लिया है। लेकिन अभी भी उन व्यक्तियों को 'पेन' नंबर लेना जरूरी है जिनकी कुल वार्षिक प्राप्तियां 50 हजार रुपये हैं। अब वर्ष भर में 50 हजार रुपये की

प्राप्तियों पर पीएनएन की आवश्यकता क्यों होनी चाहिए? एक खोमचे वाले की भी 50 हजार रुपये की प्राप्ति हो जाती है, आठो वाले की भी हो जाती है, रिक्शा वाले की भी इतनी प्राप्ति हो जाती है। इन सब लोगों को अब पीएनएन लेने के लिए आवेदन करना पड़ेगा। यह पुराने नियम चले आ रहे हैं, इन नियमों को जरूर आप वापिस लें। वास्तव में टैक्स नेट बढ़ाने के लिए पीएनएन का अंकुश लगाना कोई जरूरी नहीं है पीएनएन लेने के लिए जितने भी बिंदु प्रस्तावित थे, उन बिंदुओं पर जांच करने का काम इनकम टैक्स इंस्पेक्टर का हुआ करता है। यह काम उनका होना चाहिये कि कौन सी रजिस्ट्री हुई है, कौन कार खरीद रहा है, कौन इनवेस्ट कर रहा है। इसकी जांच का काम इनकम टैक्स इंस्पेक्टर का हुआ करता है। यह जो आपने व्यवस्था शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव किया है, यह ठीक नहीं है। इसीलिए मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि इसमें संशोधन करना चाहिये।

रिटर्न न भरने के लिए जुर्माना 500 रुपये से बढ़ा कर 1000 रुपये कर दिया गया है। इस जुर्माने के इलावा यह भी प्रावधान है कि जो रिटर्न नहीं भरेगा उसको इस पर ब्याज भी देना पड़ेगा। यह ब्याज तीन तरह का होता है 234 (ए), 234 (बी) और 234 (सी) के अन्तर्गत आप एडवांस टैक्स न भरने पर या रिटर्न न देने पर टैक्स की रकम के साथ-साथ ब्याज और जुर्माना वसूल करते हैं। टैक्स की राशि पांच सौ रुपये है लेकिन कभी-कभी ब्याज और जुर्माना मिला का तीन-चार हजार रुपये तक हो जाता है। छोटे-छोटे व्यापारियों के लिए यह परेशानी का विषय है। इसलिए यह जो प्रावधान किया गया है रिटर्न न भरने पर पांच सौ रुपये से बढ़ा कर जुर्माना एक हजार रुपये होगा और ब्याज की राशि 234 (क), (ख) और (ग) के अन्तर्गत लगेगी, इस में कुछ न कुछ संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता मैं महसूस करता हूँ।

लम्बे समय से यह वायदा किया जा रहा है कि नया आय कर विधान आएगा। पिछली सरकार में पूर्व वित्त मंत्री श्री चिदम्बरम जी को मैं इस बात के लिए जरूर बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने नया आय कर विधान का प्रारूप तैयार भी कर लिया था, सर्व्लेट भी कर लिया था लेकिन यह कब से लागू होगा, कब इसको अंतिम रूप दिया जाएगा, इसके बारे में कुछ भी नहीं कहा गया है न इस बजट भाषण में और न वित्त विधेयक में। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि नये आयकर विधान को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए आप फिर से विशेषज्ञों की एक टीम नियुक्त करें जिसमें आप चाहें तो साल्वे जी जैसे और मेरे जैसे छोटे इनकम

टैक्स वकील जो संसद सदस्य हैं, उनको भी इस टीम में रख सकते हैं। जल्दी नये आयकर कानून को अंतिम रूप दीजिए क्योंकि हमारा वर्तमान आय कर विधान जटिल हो चुका है, उसमें प्रावधान बहुत अधिक हैं और बहुत किन्तु परन्तु लगे हुए हैं, समय समय पर किये गये संशोधनों के कारण उसका एक विकृत रूप हो गया है। इसलिए आय कर कानून को सरल बनाया जाना चाहिये। आप तो सरलता की बात कर रहे हैं, सरल में इस बात को जोड़ दीजिए कि जो नया आय कर कानून आप प्रस्तुत करेंगे, वह सरल होगा, जटिल नहीं होगा, छोटे छोटे कारदताओं को परेशानी नहीं होगी।

सर्विस टैक्स के बारे में जो श्रेणियां पहले थी, उसमें आपने वृद्धि की है। सर्विस टैक्स लगे, इसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। पिछली बार भी सर्विस टैक्स लगा था ट्रांसपोर्टर्ज पर, टेंट लाइट वालों पर, डेकोरेटर्ज पर लेकिन इन श्रेणियों पर लगाना वास्तव में बहुत तकलीफदेह था। इसलिए इसका ज़बरदस्त विरोध हुआ। विरोध के कारण उसको वापिस लेना पड़ा। अब जो श्रेणियां निर्धारित की गई हैं शायद उनको सर्विस टैक्स भुगतान करने में कठिनाइयां नहीं होंगी। उनका कहना यह है कि आप इस कार्य को एक्साइज को न सौंपिये, आय कर विभाग के साथ जोड़ देंगे तो ठीक होगा क्योंकि आय कर विभाग कितना भी खराब और बदनाम हो, एक्साइज विभाग से तो फिर भी ठीक है। एक्साइज विभाग से परेशानियां अनंत हैं, जिससे सारे लोग परेशान हैं। एक्साइज विभाग के हाथ में अगर थोड़ी सी बात आ जाए तो जैसे चूहों को चिंदी मिलने पर बजाज बनने वाली बात हो जाएगी। एक्साइज विभाग के लोग छोटी-छोटी बात तो करते नहीं हैं, छोटी छोटी बातों के लिए मालिकों को सामने खड़ा कर के रखना चाहते हैं, अपमानजनक व्यवहार करते हैं, रकम की मांग करते हैं और लम्बी रकम की मांग करते हैं। इसलिए इस कार्य को एक्साइज विभाग को नहीं दें तो अच्छा है। पिछले बार जब टेंट बगैरह वालों पर सर्विस टैक्स लगाया गया तो उन्होंने कहा कि हम सर्विस टैक्स देने के लिए तैयार हैं लेकिन एक्साइज विभाग वालों को यह काम मत सौंपिये या और कोई व्यवस्था कर दीजिये। इसलिए सर्विस टैक्स एक्साइज विभाग से हटा कर आय कर विभाग को दे दीजिये।

3.00 P.M.

रिफंड के मामले में आज भी परेशानियां हैं। एक छोटा सा पैराग्राफ वित्त विधेयक में जरूर रिफंड का है लेकिन उससे कोई समाधान नहीं होता है। रिफंड के मामले आज भी सेंट्रल बोर्ड आफ डायरेक्ट टैक्सेज में कई पड़े होंगे। ग्रीवांसेज सेल बना हुआ है। पत्र लिखते हैं, पत्रों का जवाब नहीं आता है। साल-साल भर कोई उत्तर नहीं, कोई सुनवाई

नहीं और कोई व्यवस्था नहीं। इसलिए रिफंड के मामले में पानी मंत्री जी से मैं जरूर अपग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर बोर्ड में ऐसा कोई आवेदन पहुँचे तो तीन महीने के अंदर उसका निपटारा होना चाहिए और मय ब्याज के पूरी राशि, जो रिफंड का पात्रता रखते हैं, उनको मिलनी चाहिए।

इसी प्रकार से जब छापे डाले जाते हैं, माल जब्त किया जाता है - सारा प्रकरण निपट जाए ट्रिब्यूनल तक भी, इसके बाद भी जब्त किया हुआ माल लौटाया नहीं जाता है। वह पड़ा ही रहता है वहां पर। लम्बे पत्र-व्यवहार होते रहते हैं। कहीं भी शिकायत कर दें, मंत्री से लेकर आयकर अधिकारी तक शिकायत करते रहें लेकिन कोई सुनवाई नहीं होती है। न तो वह माल लौटाया जाता है न बही खाते लौटाए जाते हैं। इसके बारे में जरूर कोई समयबद्ध योजना होनी चाहिए कि एक बार अंतिम निर्णय हो गया किसी प्रकरण में तो तीन महीने के अंदर जब्त माल लौटाने की पात्रता रखने वाले व्यक्ति को तुरंत लौटाना चाहिए। इसकी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

एक्साइज ड्यूटी के बारे में मैं कुछ अधिक नहीं कहना चाहूंगा क्योंकि एक्साइज ड्यूटी के मामले में काफी कुछ जो प्रावधान किए गए हैं वे बहुत ठीक हैं। छोटे उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए 30 लाख रुपए से बढ़ाकर सोमा 50 लाख रुपये कर दी है। यह भा उनके लिए हितकारी है। लेकिन जो कुछ उसमें कमियां थीं वे कमियां भी आपने बाद में संशोधन करके दूर कर दी हैं। मिठाई पर से एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटा दी, नमकीन पर से हटा दी, मसालों पर से हटा दी। ब्रांडेड चाय पर से भी शायद हटा दी, मुझे ध्यान नहीं है (व्यवधान) आम उपभोक्ताओं को जो चीजें थीं जिनके ऊपर एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगा दी गयी थी लेकिन आम उपभोक्ताओं की कठिनाइयों को समझते हुए उन चीजों पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटा दी गयी। इसके लिए मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। लेकिन माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से कभी-कभी पूछते हैं कि आखिर सभी चीजों पर हटा देंगे तो फिर टैक्स आएगा कहाँ से? मेरा उनसे निवेदन है कि कुछ और रास्ते हैं जिनसे कि धन की व्यवस्था की जा सकती है; कल-परसों एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल के बारे में जवाब देते हुए आपने स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार किया कि योजनाएं तैयार होती हैं और योजनाओं को लागू करने में जो विलम्ब होता है उस विलम्ब के कारण कई करोड़ों रुपयों की बरबादी होती है। उसके कारण से यह सारा का सारा बोझ सरकार के ऊपर आता है। मैं इसके तीन-चार उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ।

दुर्गापुर स्टील प्लैंट--इसके आधुनिकीकरण की योजना बनी जो 1993 में पूरी होनी चाहिए थी। 2667.56 करोड़ की थी और वह 1998 में तैयार हो पायी। वह भी पूरा

आधुनिकीकरण नहीं हो पाया। लेकिन खर्च हो गया 4.557.89 करोड़। इसी तरह से राउरकेला की 2461 करोड़ की योजना थी। यह विलम्बित हुई। 5112 करोड़ रुपए में पूरी हुई। बोकारो स्टील प्लांट की आधुनिकीकरण की योजना 1625.79 करोड़ की थी, यह 2235 करोड़ में जाकर पूरी हुई।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): आपके तीन मिनट रह गए हैं।

श्री राधवजी: मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूँ।

मैं सीएनजी की रिपोर्ट पढ़ रहा था। सीएनजी की रिपोर्ट में भी जो हवाले दिए गए हैं वे चौकने वाले हैं। कांडला-भटिंडा पाइप लाइन प्रोजेक्ट की था 917.55 करोड़ का था वह 2391 करोड़ में पूरा हुआ। पानीपत रिफाइनरी के निर्माण खर्च में 1749.77 करोड़ की वृद्धि हुई। सिंगल बायो मूरिंग जो हजारी में बनना था, वह बनाया गया, विलम्बित हुआ, 38.88 करोड़ खर्च हो गए। बाद में वह निरस्त कर दिया गया और उसको छोड़कर वापस कांडला में ले जाने में 285 करोड़ रुपए खर्च हुए। अभी 80 करोड़ रुपए का ठेकेदार का कलेम बाकी है इस मामले में। तो यह व्यवस्था आप ठीक करें: ये फिजूलखर्चियाँ कोई छोटी-मोटी नहीं हैं जो मैंने गिनायी हैं। हजारों करोड़ से उपर की हैं सब। 15-20 हजार करोड़ रुपए कुल मिलाकर हो जाते हैं। ऐसे ही एक-एक वर्ष में अगर जोड़ दिए जाएं तो कितने हो जाएंगे। आपने पिछली बार भी बताया था शायद वह 50 हजार करोड़ की इस तरह से विलम्बित योजनाओं पर सरकारी धन की बर्बादी हुई थी। इसको आप दूर करें। यह मानीट्रिंग करें। मेरा यह अनुरोध है कि केवल उसको मानीट्रिंग करने से काम नहीं चलेगा, बल्कि विलम्ब के लिए जो अधिकारी जिम्मेदार हैं उनका उत्तरदायित्व निर्धारित होना चाहिए और उनको सजा दी जानी चाहिए। जब तक यह सजा की व्यवस्था आप नहीं करेंगे तब तक हमेशा पैसालें में विलम्ब होते ही रहेंगे तथा इसी प्रकार से करोड़ों रुपये की बर्बादी होती रहेगी।

एक बात मैं और कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट में इंस्पेक्टर खास तौर से जो नागपुर और इंदौर सर्किल के हैं, 1982 से उनके प्रमोशन नहीं हुए हैं। अन्य स्थानों पर 1986 तक के प्रमोशन हो चुके हैं। लेकिन इन दो सर्किल के एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट के प्रमोशन 1982 से नहीं हुए हैं। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से मेरा आग्रह है कि उनके साथ जरूर न्याय किया जाए।

मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि फइन्स विभाग एक तरह से बहुत बड़ा विभाग है, एक जंगल सरीखा

समझना चाहिए, जिसमें कुछ चीजें खोजना तो बहुत मुश्किल होता है। इसलिए ऐसा लगता है कि चाहे वह सांसदों के पत्र भी हों या और कोई भी पत्र हों, उनका कोई समाधानकारक उत्तर तो कभी मिलता ही नहीं है। मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ कि 1994 में एक पत्र मैंने लिखा था, कस्टम डिपार्टमेंट के एक आभिस्तर से यह वायदा किया गया था कि उसको अवार्ड दिया जाएगा, रिवाइड दिया जाएगा, क्योंकि उसने बहुत बड़ी जन्ती की थी। 1994 में मैंने पत्र लिखा था और तब से आज तक एक दर्जन पत्र लिख चुका हूँ। वित्त मंत्री जी बदलते गए। मनमोहन सिंह जी गए, चिदम्बरम् जी आ गए। लेकिन हर पत्र में यही जवाब... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): फाइनांस मिनिस्टर साहब, यह आपके लिए है।

श्री राधवजी: हर पत्र में यही जवाब आता रहा कि मैं आपके पत्र को दिखवा रहा हूँ और मामला विचाराधीन है। लेकिन इस के बाद कभी भी अंतिम उस का निष्कर्ष नहीं आया कि इस मामले का क्या हुआ। हालाँकि उसको रिवाइड तो मिल गया, लेकिन माननीय मंत्री जी की तरफ से यह पत्र नहीं आया कि उस का निराकरण कर दिया गया है और रिवाइड दे दिया गया है। तीन साल बाद वह रिवाइड मिला।

इसी तरह से और भी कुछ पत्र मेरे वॉइस पड़े हुए हैं। चाहे वह सी.बी.डी.टी. के चेयरमैन को लिखो, चाहे कस्टम एंड एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट के चेयरमैन को लिखो, चाहे वित्त मंत्री जी को लिखो, केवल एक पत्र एक्वालेजमेंट का आ जाए तो गनीमत है। लेकिन अंतिम निराकरण कभी ठीक तरह से हो नहीं पाता। तो मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम संसद सदस्यों के पत्र जो आते हैं उनको आप गंभीरतापूर्वक लें। कई लोग बहुत परेशानी में फंसे हुए रहते हैं। कई लोगों के साथ अधिकारी लोग दुर्व्यवहार करते हैं, उनका विक्रिमाइजेशन करते हैं। मैंने तो एक पत्र ऐसा भी लिखा है कि एक अधिकारी ने व्यापारी से कुछ पैसों की मांग की। वह पैसा नहीं देने के कारण कितना उस को परेशान किया गया है, उसको दुरुस्ती करने के लिए मैंने एक पत्र लिखा था। लेकिन उसका आज तक कोई जवाब नहीं आया। साल भर उसको भी हो गया है। रिफंड के भी कुछ पत्र लिखता हूँ उन पत्रों का अंतिम जवाब कभी भी ठीक प्रकार से आता नहीं है।

इसलिए माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से मेरा निवेदन है, क्योंकि वह तो बहुत एग्जीशेंट अधिकारी हमेशा रहे हैं और अब तो वित्त मंत्री हैं, तो निश्चित रूप से इस व्यवस्था में सुधार कर के कम से कम संसद सदस्यों के पत्र जो हैं,

उन का तीन महीने के अंदर अंतिम निराकरण के रूप में वह पत्र दे दिया जाए तो बड़ी कृपा होगी।

इतना कहने के बाद और बजट का स्वागत करते हुए, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रि लोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी) : डा. बिप्लव दास गुप्त You have 26 minutes. Probably, you would like to leave some time to your colleagues.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I am quite sympathetic to the hon. Finance Minister because he has to find all kinds of sources for augmenting his revenue. Expenditure is very difficult to cut. You cannot cut interest payments. Now, you cannot cut Defence expenditure. With regard to subsidies also, I would like to say that if you cut subsidies, it leads to all kinds of problems with production and capital expenditure. One should give an effort to raise revenue as much as possible. I am happy with one or two proposals of the Finance Minister. But, I have a feeling that he has not done enough. There are many other ways of collecting revenue. He has attended to some of them and on others, he has not. So, these are the issues which I would like to raise before you. I fully endorse the replacement of 2/4 by 1/6. I think, it is a very right and correct move. Service Tax, yes. I agree with Mr. Salve on that point that in Chapter 6, Clause 66(1) where you are charging 5% of the gross amount charged for service. The list which you have given under Clause 48 is quite elaborate but not exhaustive. For example, a question will inevitably come as to why when Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Company Secretaries, Architects have to pay, why not doctors? Why are lawyers not there? If I also take into account my profession, professors, who are indulging in teaching through coaching classes, why should they also not be taken into account?

What I am saying is, the idea is right. You have gone up to a point. But, I could not understand why there is a discrimination in favour of some professions against some other professions. There should be some reason for choosing some professions and not others. Otherwise, try to make it as equitable as possible. In some case there is undeclared

income, as in the case of doctors and those who indulge in taking coaching classes. Doctors do not give full details as to how many patients they have examined or consulted. Obviously, they should be taken into this list.

I have one more serious question as to why rural wealth tax has not been imposed. It is right that a large majority of rural population would not be able to pay taxes. But, it is a very big country, with a population of about 100 crores. There are about five crore rural-rich, who are rich enough to pay taxes. But, neither are they paying income tax, nor are they paying wealth tax. There had been a wealth tax. But, that has been withdrawn a few years back. Of course, it is very difficult to measure income. A committee had been appointed under the chairmanship of Prof. T.N. Raj many years ago to see whether agricultural income could be assessed. He had pointed out many difficulties in assessing agricultural income. In any case it is a State subject. But, wealth is a Central subject, which can be more easily measured, for example, you can find out who has got land; who has got a tractor, who has got a harvester. It should be made mandatory if anybody wants to buy a harvester or a tractor, he should declare his tax account number. You can find some of the assets, which are physically located, and can take them into account for assessing rural wealth tax. I would like to know why it has not been done. Has it not been done because the people, who will be affected by this, the rural-rich, are patrons of the ruling party? If you do the exercise and if you have the political will to tax people, who have been earning a lot of money since Green Revolution, who have benefited a lot from the Government in the form of subsidies and concessions, and not paying any tax, my own estimate is, about 10,000 crores can be realised from this particular source alone. When, I raised this issue with some rural-rich, they say, "All right, if you impose rural wealth tax, what about urban land ceiling?" Why should urban land ceiling be reviewed? I think, it is wrong. Of course, I do agree that there are many problems in urban land ceiling. The urban ceiling should stay, but at the same time rural wealth should be taxed. This is a very specific proposal, which, I think, should be taken into account. I remember, I raised this issue once with Mr.

Chidambaram. He said that the Parliament would not support it. What he meant was that the rural-rich, who have been a vote-bank, have been influencing our country, and a number of political parties, including the ruling party get a lot of funds from them. So, maybe, that is the reason, why you do not want to tax the rural-rich. This is a point, which, I think, you should take into account.

Another issue raised, was in regard to voluntary disclosure of income, introduced by Mr. Chidambaram. He claimed that something like Rs. 10,000 crores have been collected. And, according to your estimates it is slightly less than Rs. 10,000 crores. Anyway, whatever is, certainly black money cannot be measured like this. It is something like a tip of the iceberg. We need a lot more. There have been many estimates of black money. If you take into account only the 'flow' per year, it is anything from 30,000 crores of rupees to 1,00,000 crores of rupees. There are different estimates. So, what I am suggesting is, if you want to tap the black money, there are two ways one is, as was done by Mr. Chidambaram, and another is, you take police action. You create a panic among those who are evading taxes. Only then can you get more taxes. If that is not done, there is nothing to be happy about Rs. 10,000 crores of rupees, or 9,000 crores of rupees, which you suggest. There is a lot of money, which has not been taxed.

Similarly, I have a feeling that you have brought the VDIS in some other form. In chapter 4 - I have read this chapter 4 very clearly there is a scheme called the *Samadhan Scheme*. This chapter 4 is very similar to the VDIS. For example, it allows people to declare their income within four months from September to December, like it was done under the VDIS. It is the same thing. Secondly, it gives under Section 88 and Section 91 - immunity to those who make the declaration. And in the declaration they do not make any false statement. Now, the question is, whether there is any difference in principle between the VDIS which was introduced by Mr. Chidambaram and this particular *Samadhan Scheme*? What is the difference between the two? Is it not the same thing? In effect, if this is so, it can be quite dangerous because those

who are evading taxes know that every year this kind of a thing is going to come on a regular basis and they will be assessing their income and decide how much to dispose of on that basis. It is also quite unfair to ask the people who have been evading taxes for many years. If they had paid their taxes at that time they would have paid at a much higher rate. Now, you are giving them a short-cut to pay the same taxes much later at a very low rate of taxation. This also should be taken into account.

Now, let us come to income tax. You have said, 'I do not want to change the rates.' Whatever rates were there before you will stick to them. My question is what is the rationale of this? There was a tendency with Mr. Chidambaram and it is there with you also to compare with East-Asia. You better not compare with East-Asia any more. Why should tax rates be compared with East-Asia? Why should excise duties and customs duties be compared? Forget about East-Asia now. East-Asia is itself in turmoil now. But, why do not you compare with England and America? In England, America and most of the Western European countries the total tax revenue between 40 to 50 per cent and sometimes more is collected from tax on income, tax on profit and tax on assets. So, why should we bother about East-Asia? If you want people to make sacrifices because of these sanctions and all that, all right, the poor people will be making sacrifices. But, what about the rich people? If you reduce the tax, what benefit will the country get out of this? Last year when Mr. Chidambaram raised this proposal he made a point, he said, "if we reduce the tax that will not necessarily reduce the proceeds because there will be better compliance". Now you have the figures. You see there are no better combines. In fact, had it not been for the VDIS, there would have been a severe trouble for the tax revenue. So, the whole argument, that lower taxes will put moral pressure on the people, that people who have no sense of morality will be more compliant with the tax rules, all that has been proved wrong by the so called dream Budget. What I am suggesting is this, why should we allow the rich to get away with high income? I agree with Mr. Salve that this 27.5 per cent which was there before is absurd and is madness. But that does not

mean that the higher rate would be 30 per cent. Why should the higher rate not be 50 per cent or why should it not be 40 per cent? Why should it not be made a forced compliance in terms of the legal machinery? If that is not done it would be unfortunate. I also find that some of the major recommendations by Mr. Nicholas Kaldor in the 1950's on taxes are gone, only capital gains remains. Wealth tax is truncated and remain only for the urban and for the rich. You have dispensed with the gift tax. And the expenditure tax you are not taking seriously. So, all the four major recommendations made by Mr. Nicholas Skander which were very seriously taken into account by the economists are not being implemented apart from the capital gains tax. I do not find any rationale for dispensing with the gift-tax.

How is it going to benefit us?

Now, coming to indirect taxes. The lowering of customs duties are linked with import liberalisation, the Export-Import Scheme which has been introduced. This lowering of customs duty has many serious economic consequences. One is that it leads to higher propensity to consume. In our country we require more savings. In our country, we should encourage more savings. Unless you have more domestic savings, there can be no investment. We cannot rely on foreign savings to help us. No country in the world had become industrialised with foreign savings. Therefore, we must encourage domestic savings.

What is happening today? If we allow untested goods to come, if we allow luxury goods to come, if we make such luxury goods accessible to the people, it is inevitable that consumption is going to go up. This is what is happening. People are only consuming. They are not saving. This is because you are bringing in luxury goods for them to consume. This is one aspect.

Another aspect is that it has led to all kinds of crises for the domestic producers. A large number of producers, particularly, in agriculture, who are making various kinds of goods, are now in difficulty because of the foreign competition. Many of them are being ruined because of the competition coming from outside. I am not going to elaborate on this. I

would only suggest to you that you should not go by the East Asian model. The East Asian economies are in ruin now. You have to work out something which would help in protecting the Indian industry. You should not allow import liberalisation, as it had been done earlier, when Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister. It resulted in disaster. We need to protect the domestic industry. This is what is being done by most of the successful countries. There is no country in the world which is not giving protection to the domestic industry. Therefore, let us not think that import liberalisation is a good theory.

As my colleague, Mr. Balanandan, would be speaking later on, I will not take much time. I will quickly put two-three questions.

One question is about disinvestment. You have said that seventy-four per cent of the earning in public sector, would be given to the private sector. The remaining twenty-six per cent would remain with the public sector. What is the objective? There are two objectives here. One would be to improve the efficiency of the public sector. The other is to raise more revenue to bridge the fiscal deficit, the fiscal gap. These two are in contradiction with one another. For example, the companies which you sell, the public sector companies which you sell—if you want to improve the efficiency of the public sector—should be those which are making losses. These are the companies which are not going to get much demand in the market. They are not going to bring in revenue to bridge the deficit. There is a tendency we find in the reports of the Disinvestment Commission and all that to sell those companies which are doing well. This is at the cost of the efficiency of the public sector. You are trying to bridge the fiscal deficit at the cost of the efficiency of the public sector. I think it is very unfortunate. It will destroy the public sector.

Moreover, the very decision about this seventy-four per cent is controversial. I do not know whether you had consulted your allies. Certainly, the country has not been consulted. It is a very basic policy. There should be a proper assessment of the various consequences of this policy. Sir, I will just quote a senior economist

who is known for his pro-market views. He is a highly respected economist, though he holds diametrically opposite views to mine. His name is Arnold Herberger. He says: 'Even people, as generally market-oriented as myself, are advising Governments to move carefully, to go slowly and to think about the prices they are getting and alternate terms, on which to achieve privatisation. Governments should, in particular, try to have a saleable asset before putting it for sale'.

Many of these companies are being sold before they are ready for sale. The prices would only go to benefit the private sector. There is a lot of corruption in the market. Prices have been rigged by the buyers. All kinds of things are happening. This is an international experience. It is happening all over the world. Whenever privatisation takes place, a lot of people make money — mainly, Government servants; may be, some politicians — because they sell the public assets cheap.

The question is: what safeguards are being proposed to ensure that such things do not happen in the case of India? Apart from this, the question of principle is there. The question is whether it is right or legitimate for a Government to sell seventy-four per cent of the assets which have been built up over a long period of time and which has given us this industrial base which does not exist, for example, in Pakistan or Bangladesh.

Lastly, I want to touch upon the question of sick industries. It is all right to say that you would close down the sick industries and have the VRS scheme. Has the Department done any arithmetic, has it worked out, as to how much money would be needed in regard to payment of VRS benefits to the employees of the sick companies which you want to close down, as you have mentioned in the Budget?

What would be the financial implications of this? Even that exercise, I doubt, has been done by the Finance Minister. If the Finance Minister does it, it would be out of his Budget. It has not been done. So, what you are suggesting is absurd and impossible.

Apart from that, it will destroy many companies. It will destroy the livelihood of many people. So, I very much ask of you to

take into account the implications and consequences of these very seriously.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I thought you were winding up.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Yes, I have finished now. I will say just one thing.

I also think that, maybe, you need to raise more revenue because of the folly you have committed by testing the bomb, making us more insecure. As a result, the arms race has started. There will be a huge diversion of the resources from development activities to defence activities. So, be ready to raise more revenue. There is also a severe risk of a high rate of inflation. Already inflation has started. It is now 8 per cent or something like that. Very soon it is likely to reach 10 per cent, a double-digit figure. So, this is a very serious situation we are facing now. The country's credit rating is very poor. There is not much of confidence in the Government. We are tagging our currency to a certain extent, not as far as the East-Asian countries have done, to international currencies with subjective speculation. That is another subject matter. I do not want to go into its details now. I would very much like the Finance Minister to look into this.

Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri K.K. Birla, 20 minutes.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: (Rajasthan): I may probably surpass that by two or three minutes, not more than that.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, at the outset, I want to mention that I am grateful to my party for having given me this opportunity of speaking on the Finance (No. 2) Bill.

Sir, I heard the Finance Minister when he presented the Budget. There were several new measures which he had introduced. I am happy that in his reply he was responsive. He accepted many suggestions that were made by Members of Parliament, business associations and various other organisations. I am glad that the Finance Minister showed an accommodative

attitude. I am also happy that he has imparted a look of *swadeshi* to the Budget. As far as the *swadeshi* industries, indigenous industries, are concerned, I fully endorse the view that they must receive the sympathy of the Government of India's. They must receive protection from the Government of India. The Finance Minister exuded confidence in all the speeches on budget that he made. Sir, in spite of that, there is a general atmosphere of depression and gloom in the country. The exports are not picking up. The industries are not reviving. The stock exchanges are in a desolate state. The rupee has very much weakened and probably might go on weakening. The foreign exchange reserves are getting depleted. The inflation is rising. The economy is at present in a bad shape. The general fear is that the fiscal deficit will be much higher than what has been forecast by the Finance Minister.

Sir, the question arises : what steps are required to be taken to revive the economy? I say that five objectives are to be achieved. At least efforts should be made to achieve them. Our agricultural production should rise by 5 per cent. The industrial production should rise by 8 to 10 per cent. Efforts should be made to revive the industries which are sick. The stock exchanges should flourish. The inflation should be controlled.

Sir, I will offer some brief observations on these points. I know there is a shortage of time.

As far as the agricultural production is concerned, we are dependent very much on rains. The forecast that we have got about the monsoon indicate that the agricultural production should rise by a minimum of 3.5 per cent. If we are fortunate, it may rise by 5 per cent.

If the agricultural production is good, that would give a good boost to the industrial revival. Another thing which will give a big boost to the industrial revival — a good thing which the Finance Minister has done — is of having provided a plenty of funds for infrastructure like roads, ports and power generation. The only doubt in the minds of the people is whether this money will be actually spent or it will just be a theoretical exercise.

A thing which has inspired the greatest confidence in the mind of the public, particularly the businessmen, is the Finance Minister's proposal for construction of two million houses in the country. That will undoubtedly give a big boost as far as the industry's revival is concerned. I have however two fears. My first fear, however, is the formality that is required; the procedure involved might delay the construction and completion of these houses. My second fear is that at the end of the day, the Government may not find themselves in a position to release funds for construction and completion of these houses in this year.

Now, I would say a few words regarding the capital markets. The capital market is in doldrums. There are four main reasons for that. The imposition of sanctions, the declining value of the Rupee, heavy losses suffered by a large number of industries and Moondy's unjustifiable manner in down grading India's sovereign ratings by two notches. This has created fear psychosis in the minds of the FIIs and had led the general public being apprehensive.

However, Sir, if the industries revive, stock exchanges will improve. If industries revive and if the news goes around that the industries in India are doing well, that will attract foreign investment. This is very necessary so far as revival of industries is concerned. I hope the Finance Minister will kindly make genuine efforts in this direction so that the industries do revive.

The loss to India as a result of sanctions will be enormous. Denial by the US of aid, aid from Japan, which we were expecting to be about one billion dollars, the World Bank funded projects, projects under consideration of both the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank all total to 5.6 billion dollars, it is an enormous amount. Side by side, Sir, I am happy that loans already approved by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank totaling eleven billion dollars will not be affected. But, we have to find alternate source of foreign exchange.

Sir, it was a very wise move on the part of the Government of India to have appointed two

companies in the United States for lobbying purposes. From the media reports that we have received both the companies, are dynamic companies. We should direct them to try to convince the US Administration, the Congressmen and the Senators that the sanctions are just not going to affect India alone. They are also, to a large extent, going to hurt the United States. My information is that 85,000 people will be thrown out of employment in the United States as a result of these sanctions. The US businessmen owing to difficult terms that they may get from their own country's financial institutions, may not be as competitive as their counterparts in other countries. The net result of that is that the businessmen in U.S. are trying to put pressure on the Administration to try to lift the sanctions as early as possible.

Sir, regarding inflation much has been said by my colleague, Hon. Mr. Salve. I do not want to repeat what he has said. I know that the Finance Minister is very confident of containing inflation. I would request him to keep a strict watch over inflation. The rise in the prices of fruits and vegetables during the last two months all over the country, particularly, in Delhi, has led to a lot of hardship amongst the people and hardship got converted into irritation. Hence, as far as inflation is concerned, I would request the Finance Minister to keep a strict watch.

Sir, I come to an important point. The Finance Minister has announced in his Budget speech that the Central Plan outlay for 1998-99 is Rs. 1,05,000 crores. This itself is over Rs. 24,000 crores in excess of 1998-99. The expectation was that as a result of such a higher amount for the Central Plan outlay, it will give a super-kick start to the economy and people felt that large governmental orders are around the corner. If we receive orders, the economy will improve. However, the estimates of the Plan outlay are based on assumptions which unfortunately have been unrealistically made. I will explain the position. This Rs. 1,05,000 crores of the Central Plan outlay is financed by two sources. One source is the budgetary support which the Finance Minister has promised in his Budget and that I would say is very generous. The amount has been

increased from Rs. 33,629 crores to Rs. 42,464 crores or an increase of Rs. 8,835 crores. The real problem is that the Finance Minister has put under the heading of IEBR, public enterprises, etc., an amount of Rs. 62,723 crores. In this amount, there is an astronomical hike of Rs. 15,319 crores over 1997-98 figures, which was Rs. 47,404 crores. Now, Sir, I would like to mention that never in the last five years the target of resources in public enterprises has been achieved. So, to me it appears that it is impossible for public sector enterprises to generate resources, as has been targeted. If the Central Plan suffers, then, the revival of industries will be delayed to that extent.

The only silver lining is when the Finance Minister said there were some hidden sources of revenue. Sir, I hope that he is correct in that statement. I know of a hidden source of revenue. The value of the rupee has declined. As a result, the value of imports will rise in rupee terms. If the value of import rises, then, our customs duty automatically rises. As far as the customs duty is concerned, there will be some increase in its criterion compared to what has been provided by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech. At any rate, my plea would be, let the Central Plan outlay not suffer.

Sir, the capital market is in a shambles. I have already offered a few comments on that I would certainly like to compliment the Finance Minister on the proposal of introducing the buy-back scheme of shares. Now, here I would like to make one suggestion and I sincerely hope that the Finance Minister will very kindly keep a flexible mind as he has kept all along and will listen to this suggestion. Sir, this suggestion is as follows.

The Companies Act permits the buy-back scheme for extinguishment only. Now, this is rather disconcerting. Both extinguishment and reissuance should really be put together. That should have been accepted by the Finance Minister. There was a working group which was appointed by the Government of India and they submitted their report some time in 1997; they approved both the steps in buy-back. It means extinguishment and re-issuance. I hope the matter will receive the attention of the Finance Minister. I would also like to say that

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in several countries, buy back is treated as a kind of treasury function. That would mean that a company which buys back its own shares is allowed to enjoy the voting rights of those shares. Even where this is not so, in most of those countries where the buy-back scheme is effective, they have permitted both extinguishment and re-issuance. I hope that the matter will receive the attention of the Finance Minister.

Sir, for improvement in the economy, the GDP should rise by 7-8 per cent; this is possible only if the savings rise to 30 per cent. And these savings are possible only if there is money in the hands of the public. In the current Budget, the minimum taxable limit has been increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 and the Standard Deduction for salaries up to Rs. One lakh has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000. This is very inadequate. I am afraid this will not lead to the savings of 30 per cent which should be really targeted.

Some brief comments regarding the foreign exchange reserves. Just prior to the nuclear explosion, or the 9th of May, our foreign exchange reserves stood at 29.19 billion dollars. In less than two months, they fell by two billion dollars and on the 3rd of July, the figure was 27.07 billion dollars. This is how a matter does not concern the Government alone. I think this is a matter which concerns the entire country and I would say that the entire country has to face this situation boldly and courageously. While on this subject, I would like to mention that the Resurgent India Bonds which have been issued by the State Bank of India for NRIs and the Millennium Bonds offered by the UTI to NRIs - I am sure, will provide some relief.

Our exports are very poor. In the month of May, the exports were particularly poor. I would plead with the Finance Minister, let him evolve some scheme of incentives in consultation with the Commerce Ministry so that as far as the exports are concerned, they may improve.

The Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has proposed the deletion of sections 10(22) and 10(22A). These are regarding medical and

educational societies. I would say that the deletion has caused a great hardship now. These sections gave complete tax free income to the medical and educational societies. The deletion has caused great hardships. Numerous representations have been made to the Finance Minister. I am aware that he has made some relaxation. But such societies have still got to seek exemptions. Bigger societies with more than Rs. one crore of income will still have to seek exemption under section 11 of the Income-Tax Act. Section 11 (5) of the Income-Tax Act provides that a society can get exemption only in case its investments are in public sector companies. My submission to the Finance Minister will be that when the Government are trying to encourage the private sector, why should there be such a discrimination that the funds cannot be invested in the private sector, even in blue-chip companies in the private sector? These societies are all established by people in the private sector. They do not get any support from the Government. They are on their own. They are self-sufficient on their own income, owing to their own resources or owing to the backing of some corporate house. So, why should there be a discrimination against them?

Sir, why are these societies self-sufficient today? The reason is that they have invested in blue chips companies during the last so many years. They got good results from these investments. One advantage of investing money in these companies is that they get high amount of dividend from these investments. Another advantage is that the price of the shares goes on increasing. I am not referring to the present situation in the market. But normally, the prices of shares are good. The value of the shares of the blue chip companies goes on increasing and this has been a matter of great relief as far as these societies are concerned. So, I plead with the Finance Minister that he should re-examine the whole matter. Either the sections which have been deleted should again be brought back of section 11(5) of the Act should be properly amended.

Sir, notes of two rupees and five rupees have become unusable. I hope something will be done by the Finance Minister about that.

With the inflation going on, five hundred rupee notes have become necessity. They are, however, not available anywhere in the market. This is causing a great hardship to the business community. I plead with the Finance Minister that as far as Rs. 500 notes are concerned, they should be printed in sufficient numbers by the Government so that they are available to the people.

The Budget is a continual exercise. I hope the matters which have been raised here will be taken care of by the Finance Minister. Although I know that the Finance Bill has already been approved by the Lok Sabha as said, budget is a continual exercise. Hence as mentioned I hope the points which have been raised here by the hon. Members and which might be raised by other Members, will receive due consideration at the hands of the Finance Minister.

Thank you.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to make some suggestions on the Finance Bill. Sir, I would like to join Mr. Gupta in his sympathy towards the Finance Minister. The targets which the hon. Finance Minister have fixed, seem to be rather unrealistic in the existing scenario. It is going to be a stupendous task for him to achieve these targets. Considering the facts that were available for the past couple of years and considering the situation that is prevailing now, that is, sluggish economy, low imports, the weakened rupee and the more important one, the political instability, if all these factors are put together, then the task of the Finance Minister is going to be stupendous. I wish that the Finance Minister had the necessary political will to do all this. I pray to the Almighty that the Minister should have a congenial atmosphere to achieve these targets. He has said that the growth rate will be 6.5 per cent and the Government will be in a position to contain inflation and bring it down to 6.5 per cent. The rate of inflation that is prevailing today is somewhere 7.5 per cent and unless the Government is capable of mobilising the resources that will cater to the developmental needs, these targets are difficult to be achieved. When you see the past figures of resource mobilisation, you will find that last

year, in the case of direct taxes, they had predicted that they were going to get Rs. 45,000 crores. However, they were able to mobilise only Rs. 38,000 crores. In the case of Customs out of Rs. 52550 crores, they could mobilise only Rs. 40,000 crores to Rs. 42,000 crores. In the case of excise, the Budgeted figure was Rs. 51915 crores and they could mobilise only Rs. 47782 crores. What I am trying to say is that the reality has to be taken into consideration while fixing the targets. It is usual—I have been seeing the speeches of five or six Finance Ministers routinely they say they will control the expenditure, they will mobilise the resources to the maximum extent. Sir, to what extent, is that possible? See the major portion of the Government expenditure is non-plan expenditure. You cannot reduce the Plan expenditure. You can keep non-Plan expenditure only; 69 to 70 per cent of the non-Plan expenditure consists of interest payments, defence and major subsidies. Can the Government reduce the interest payments in the existing scenario? After the Moody's ratings, it is not satisfactory for the Indian economy. But a message has been sent that our economy is in doldrums. Are we capable of achieving 5,000 crores through disinvestment as you have been contemplating? How you are planning to reduce the fiscal deficit? The cost of borrowing in the next couple of years, in my opinion, will be very high. Can you reduce the defence expenditure, especially after the Pokhran explosions and the Government's commitment to keep the nation self-sufficient in defence needs? It is very difficult to touch subsidies. Where are you going to cut down the expenditure? How are you going to achieve this?

Sir, capital market is very gloomy, and you are about to strangle the NRIs. Fortunately, you have reversed the non-resident policy, otherwise, you should have made all NRIs as non-residents. It is a very fortunate thing that the Finance Minister has rolled back his decision. There are certain anomalies which I want to bring to the notice of the Minister. If a capital gain with the transfer of a capital asset by a foreign institutional investor is to be exempted from capital gains tax, why do you drop the NRIs? We are actually in need of foreign funds. Whether the foreign funds are coming from FIIs or NRIs, what difference

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does it make to our country or to our economy? Why can't we extend the same logic to NRIs also? Sir, capital market has to be given impetus. The Government should reduce the demand on the capital market. He should make more funds available to the capital market. The figures show that for the past seven years, after the announcement of liberalisation, the Government has given approvals for 1,60,255 crores out of which the inflow is only 36,400 crores. There are approvals for 52 per cent of the proposals. The actual inflow is only 22 per cent. What are the reasons? While the approvals were given for 1.6 crores, the inflow is 36,000 only. Sir, I am not accusing or trying to criticise a particular person or a particular Government. The Government should have an introspection first; otherwise, it is very difficult to achieve these targets. So, he should give more importance to the capital market. The capital market is in a very bad shape, especially after the Pokhran tests. He may try to undermine the impact of the sanctions. The United States might have given the flexibility to the President of the United States not for mercy towards India. I feel it is just to salvage the sagging image of Pakistan's economy, or to remove it from out of the doldrum; they have to help it. It should not be taken for granted that they are favourable to our country. But we can say that our nation is united. We can withstand that. That is there. Everybody will contribute to that concept. Everybody is patriotic. Everybody has got national fervour. But what about the economy?

Now I come to insurance sector. We have thrown open our entire economy to market forces. We have allowed foreign investment in banking sector. Why should there be any hesitation in allowing foreign companies to enter into our insurance sector? Who does not have infrastructure? Who does not have resources or technology? After all the intention of the Government is to provide good service to customers. Why should there be any hesitation? Foreign equity of very popular companies like the Infotech, Satyam Computers and the Housing Development Finance Corporation has crossed 30 per cent. Still they are Indian companies. I appeal to the Finance Minister to have a positive look at it

so that the industry can be developed, so that the service can be rendered efficiently.

So far as banking sector is concerned, 17 per cent of the assets are non-performing assets. Somewhere in 1991 a suggestion was made for creation of Asset Reconstruction Corporation. In fact, this idea was conceived in this country. But it is being practised in other countries, whereas it is still under consideration in our country. What are the disadvantages of this concept? A lot of private companies are coming forward. Let this risk be transferred to private companies which are prepared to take this risk. One company has got 60 per cent realizable assets. Let them transfer these 60 per cent realizable assets to a company which is prepared to take this risk. It will be the problem of that company to recover that amount. Whether it recovers 40 per cent or 60 per cent or 80 per cent. There is one argument which has been made. The bankers, who are responsible for granting these advances, should alone be made accountable. You can still make them accountable. If there is any ulterior motive or any fraud or any corruption is involved in granting such loans without security or without assessing proper viability, you can still hold them responsible. That does not preclude that this concept should not be considered.

Sir, the second report of the Banking Commission has come. The first report was given in 1991. The second report was given this year. My question is: What is the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the first report. Except making some adjustments nothing has been done. What are the steps that have been taken to restructure the banking sector? The Finance Minister very eloquently mentioned about the revival of sick units. He said in this august House that no new industry will be allowed to grow on the ruins of the old industry. I fully appreciate his spirit. But what are the specifics? What mechanism is he going to devise? How is he going to do it? The Finance Minister has said a lot of things but without specifics. Unless a mechanism is devised and perfected, it is very difficult to revive the sick units. That is the need of the hour in our country.

There is one more aspect of cost overrun. It is a universal fact that throughout the country in every State not even 5 per cent of the projects which were conceived have been completed without cost overrun.

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Then, time overrun always leads to cost overrun. The Finance Minister had assured the House that in future this cost overrun would be avoided. What is the mechanism? It is not only the Central Government which executes projects but State Governments also do so. What is the mechanism? What is the machinery by which you are going to devise it? Are you going to advise the State Governments as well? The Finance Minister has to be very specific about this.

Sir, I want to say something regarding tax provisions. The Finance Minister was considerate in abolishing the gift tax. But it will lead to a lot of black money. I am cautioning the Finance Minister that this is one of the devices being practised by tax consultants to convert black money into white money. I request the Finance Minister to think once more about it. Whatever loopholes are there which help in converting black money into white money by evading tax have to be plugged. This is one of the advices I want to give him. With regard to service tax, the earlier speakers also have talked on the subject. You have taxed the services rendered by chartered accountants and tax experts. A similar service is being rendered by advocates as well. But advocates have been left out. Virtually, it will divert the clientele of chartered accountants.

Sir, with regard to the 'samadhan' Scheme, my esteemed colleague has already mentioned about this. The person, who has paid tax regularly and who has made an appeal, will not be eligible to get benefits under the scheme. It is a total discrimination. This has to be looked into. The second aspect is that the Government has given a lot of relief with regard to interest and penalty under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. But under the Samadhan scheme, if the tax arrears consist of only penalty and interest, the persons are liable to pay 50 per cent to get eligibility under this whereas if the tax arrears are real tax, they can pay only 35 per cent and then appeal under this scheme.

Look at the discrimination. When the Government was very considerate with regard to waiver of penalty and interest, the same philosophy has not been adopted under the scheme. This is a very big anomaly.

Sir, then, I want to bring to the notice of this Finance Minister certain things regarding Planning Commission. We have announced the constitution of the Eleventh Finance Commission. But till now a full-fledged Planning Commission has not been constituted. Generally, States' plans are worked out before the announcement of Budgets by the respective State Governments. But now the States have already presented their Budgets, but the plans have not been worked out and the Chief Ministers of all the States have to sit with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to ascertain the total outlay for their States. Unless the total outlay is ascertained, they cannot make sectoral allocation. I don't know the reason why the Planning Commission has not been constituted. The Ninth Plan is yet to be redrafted. We are in the second year of the Ninth Plan. The Government may have other urgent work but it cannot ignore the economy of the States.

Sir, whether the Central Government has got problems or not, the State Governments have to run. It is very unfortunate that till today the Government is not even thinking of properly constituting the planning Commission. Sir, I still pray to the Almighty to bless the Finance Minister and to provide him the political will to get the congenial atmosphere so that he can achieve the targets. The country would benefit a lot from that. With these words, I conclude, Sir.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill. Sir, I am not an expert in economics, being a medical doctor, but I am a student of economics. I am just learning economics. When I see the situation, I feel that it is very hopeful. The dust raised by the Pokharan mushroom clouds is settling down and a clearer vision is emerging. Sir, the political conditions in India as well as in the international scene are changing and a hopeful scenario is emerging. For example, the

American Administration has minimised the severity of sanctions. The Senate has taken some actions and it has given a waiver authority to its President. They have already exempted the agricultural products from the sanctions. The truth is coming out. Pakistan has benefited from this thing and it has purchased millions and millions of worth wheat within a few hour of waiver of these sanctions. Almost one billion worth wheat has been purchased by Pakistan. Therefore, what I want to say is that the situation is changing and even in our own country, the political situation is changing. The Government is very firm and stable and it will take efficient decisions to pursue its National Agenda. For the progress of an economy, a proper atmosphere is required. I thank the God which has been kind to India because the monsoon is very, very excellent this year. According to the Press reports, the rain is very good throughout the country. The farmers are very happy and this has given some good hope to traders, industrialists and others. Therefore, I believe the Finance Minister himself will also be very happy because whatever good Budget you present, the ultimate aim is more important. For example, we described the last year's Budget as a 'dream Budget'. They called it a very good Budget, but at the end, what did we see? We saw that it was not able to achieve the targets fixed by the Finance Minister. There was a failure to achieve the GDP growth rate and the general economic growth rate. It was a strange thing to find that there was a shortfall of Rs. 14,000 crores of tax realisation. This is very strange. Even the best of things can fail. Therefore, I compliment the Finance Minister because he has presented a very pragmatic Budget which reflects the continuity of the Economic Policy followed since 1991. There is some liberalisation. At the same time, there is some emphasis on our own *swadeshi* concept in the sense the Budget has given more prominence to the agriculture sector. We have increased the provisions by 56 per cent. The allocation for education has also been increased. We have seen the interest of the small sector also. So, we already have a pragmatic Budget. The important thing is the implementation of the Budget proposals. Therefore, I would suggest in general that if implemented, this Budget could be better than

any other Budget of previous years. For example, if we realise the tax proposals, then we may not find any difficulty in mobilising the resources. Therefore, the implementation factor is very important.

Some discipline and a sense of urgency, a sense of patriotism should be inculcated in the whole staff members of the departments because the country is facing a real economic disaster. Therefore, they should work with a sense of patriotism. I learnt that some of the staff organisations were going on strike. I learnt from the Press and also some of my friends told me about this. I would suggest to the Finance Minister that he should take up the demands of the Inspectors and other staff to give them some pay parity in the Fifth Pay Commission Pay Scales. Inspectors were struggling for Rs. 1640 pay scale earlier. Now it is Rs. 5,500. Now, they want that it should be Rs. 6,500. You should see that demand and there should be some parity so that they will work in such a way that our objectives are achieved.

The second thing is, as I said, we undertake so many projects. In this regard what I would suggest is that there should be better coordination in various departments of the Government. For example, the Finance Ministry, the Commerce Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry should have coordination to promote exports, to promote growth and they should promote realisation of taxes. We launched so many schemes. Just now a mention was made about construction of twenty lakh housing units. It is a very big scheme.

Sir, in South Africa, they have taken up only one million housing units. What is the difference between South Africa and India? The President of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela, himself monitors projects every day. He comes to his office almost at seven o'clock and afterwards, he greets his Secretary and then come officials. Every day, the first question he asks is, what happened to this project? On a national level they are monitoring these projects. Similarly, we were also talking of this here. Just now the previous speaker talked about cost over-runs, time over-runs and so on.

We are having very big projects but, still, we are not able to monitor them. During the Question Hour, I was very much pleased to learn from our Railway Minister that he is monitoring as to why certain trains get delayed. If, in the same way, we decide to monitor projects then we will know the progress. Therefore, there will be accountability of the officers. We can give some incentives also when the project is completed in time because there is either delay in the supply of money or something or the other. Therefore, I have given this example of housing project.

There is another thing. These housing projects are continuing for years together but when we go in the villages, We have not seen many new houses. Reports say that in one village a hundred houses are being constructed. When we go there, we do not see those houses. This also is happening. Money is spent but the things are not being done. Therefore, whether it is housing projects or it is one million wells project or any other project, what I want to emphasise is that if there is coordination and proper implementation with proper accountability, whatever proposals we have made in our Budget, we may be able to achieve them.

The other thing is that we have to create a proper environment and we have to build up confidence and a better sentiment in the market. As I said, I am a student of economics. Student means learning. I do not understand how when a company is losing on the profits, share are booming!

Sir, yesterday I was reading that the shares of a company increased by 800 per cent and earlier this company was losing. So, what is this economy? Now, we are saying that the rupee is just falling. Our economists are saying that there is no reason as to why the rupee should fall, because our basic economic condition is favourable. We have not taken a large amount of loan. We are in a position to pay back whatever debt we have taken. Our balance of payments position is good. Our foreign reserves are quite good. Still the rupee is falling. They say that this is because of sentiments. The real economic criterion for the fall of rupee is not there. Still the rupee is

falling. This something which we cannot understand. So, I think all these things are relative. Now there is some good thing which is happening. The sentiment is improving and the rupee is stabilising. A beginning is made in which the economy is going to progress. Definitely there is a price rise and inflation is increasing. The Finance Minister himself said that 66 per cent of this inflation is because of two or three items, namely, vegetables, fruits, etc. This is a temporary shortage because of some seasonal factors. So, this can be criticised. This should be accepted. But, we should have a rational thinking that when supply improves the prices, at least of vegetables, will settle down. We have got enough foodgrains in our godowns. There is enough indication that there will be increased food production. Rice production has already crossed about 100 million tonnes. Therefore, there is no scare. The most important factor for the growth of the economy is the agricultural production. Last year's shortfall in GDP growth was due to lesser production of foodgrains. We had a total foodgrain production of 194 million tonnes which was short by four million tonnes. This was the reason for a shortfall in our GDP growth last year. Some cynics have pointed out, some of our critics have pointed out that we may not be able to achieve our targeted growth of seven per cent of the GDP and many other targets. I think that might not be correct. We may achieve our targets. The only thing which I want to emphasise in my speech is that if we really want to achieve our targets we should lay more emphasis on impelmentation, accountability, etc. With regard to tax proposals, I would like to say that the Income Tax limit has been raised from Rs. 40,000 to Rs., 50, 000. He has given many concessions to the people. For example, there was a criticism of Import Duty as to why it was eight percent. He has justified it and stated that because of Excise Duty and Sales Tax which prevail in our country our own goods do not have a level playing field. They have to pay more as compared to the imports. That is why the Import Duty was imposed. But, when there was a criticism that it was more, he brought it down to eight per cent. Similarly, he has given many concessions wherever there was any criticism. He has already stated in his

last speech that whenever there is any criticism and some right things are brought to the notice of the Finance Minister, he, as a democrat, has taken into consideration the sentiments of the Opposition, the sentiments of the public, and in the interest of the public, he has reduced some taxes even at the cost of a revenue loss of Rs. 264 crores. So, I really compliment the Finance Minister and wish him all the best. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri Sanatan Bisi. You have fourteen minutes. I think, there are two participants.

SHRI SANATAN BISI (Orissa): First of all, I am very happy to note that the broad approach in the Finance Bill represent the continuation of tax reforms initiated by the previous Government. As you know, the United Front Government was trying to broad-base the tax structure and make tax administration stricter to enforce compliance. Furthermore, I would say, the presence of black money is quite alarming. There was a study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983-84 which estimated undisclosed money between Rs. 31,581 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores. The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997, came into force on 1st July, 1997 and lasted till 31st December, 1997. The total number of declarants who availed the benefit of the Scheme was 4,75,798. The total amount of tax collected, including interest, was, Rs. 9,583.83 crores. The total amount of undisclosed income declared under the Scheme was Rs. 33,339.30 crores. Sir, what I would like to submit is, yet, there is a question-mark on unearthing the undisclosed money. To my mind, provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts, restrictions on cash transactions, presumptive purchase of properties and provisions regarding penalties and prosecution for punishing tax defaulters as per the Income Tax Act, 1961, are not enough. The political will is essential. I do not know whether it is possible, in a coalition Government. We are quite aware of the signals that are given by the coalition partners regarding seizure, searches and cases involving those who have indulged in mischief and malpractices. I need an assurance from the hon.

Minister in this regard. Further, I want to know from the enforcement agency why they are unable to unearth the black money from the holders. What are the difficulties? Let us know. The House should be aware of it. As per D.O. Letter No. 189/14/96-ITAI., dated 2nd December, 1997, our former Finance Minister had written to me that the creation of CIT administration office at Sambhalpur has been decided, but the same has not been implemented. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister the reasons for not implementing the promise. I belong to Sambhalpur. I demand early implementation of the promise made by the former Finance Minister. To consider the backwardness of taluk instead of district for giving a tax holiday, a Committee was constituted and the Committee has submitted its report. I want to know as to what action has been taken so far. This is regarding Unstarred Question Number 1087, dated 4th March, 1997. We have to see the scheme *Kar-Vivad* Samadhan as mentioned in Chapter 4. Let us see what good things are coming. Further, I would like to say that we are not able to achieve the targets set for collection of direct and indirect taxes. In the year 1997-98, against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 45,710 crores, the actual collection was Rs. 38,561 crores. With regard to customs duty, against the target of Rs. 52,550 crores, the actual collection was Rs. 40,240 crores. Similarly, in excise duty, against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 51,915 crores, the actual collection was Rs. 47,782 crores. So, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister the reasons for not achieving the targets and resource mobilisation. I am very happy that the Government is going to constitute the National Sports Council and the National Cultural Fund.

Then, I would like to know whether there is any proposal to give additional allocations to individual States over what was recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission, as it is in the case of Orissa, which is economically backward? Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, in the last two years, the recommendations made by the Standing Committee of Finance were not accepted by the then Finance Minister,

though many roll-backs and many amendments were brought by the Government. So, I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister that this year he has been receptive to some of the suggestions given by me as well as the Standing Committee on Finance, like the deletion of the substitution of the value determined by the State Governments for registration purposes for computing capital gains and also the anomaly in regard to status of not ordinarily resident, etc.

Then, in the whole of India only our party had asked the Finance Minister to give tax benefits to such units which are giving additional employment. In these days of computerisation and modernisation, the employment potential is dwindling. So, I thank the hon. Finance Minister for giving that incentive.

Now, I would briefly deal with one or two things. One is regarding the Two-out-of-six Scheme, instead of One-out-of-four Scheme. Last year, I am speaking from my personal knowledge, in Chennai under One-out-of-six Scheme 77,000 declarations were filed. Out of them only 13,000 people were found to be liable to pay taxes. And a total of about Rs. 75 lakhs were collected. I would request the Finance Minister to find out as to how many crores were spent to popularise the scheme. Is it really widening the tax base?

Then, inclusion of credit card holders and members of clubs, in my humble opinion, is not going to help at all. No bank, no credit card company, worth its name, issues a credit card without an income-tax number. So, they are already tax-payers. This criterion is not going to widen the tax base. Similarly, why should anybody declare that he is a member of a club? You simply write letters to clubs, and they will give the list of their members. I do not understand why these two criteria have been added. These are not going to make much difference as far as widening of tax base is concerned.

Then, on page 18 of the Finance Bill there is a printing mistake. Page 18, line 35, instead of saying, "The manner in which the Permanent Account Number..." It says "inner in which..." Obviously, it may be a typographical mistake. I do not know whether the Finance Minister

can move an amendment right now or later. But, this is a mistake and I have brought it to his notice.

As stated earlier, in the reports of the Consultative Committee as well as the Standing Committee, the qualification for membership of Income-tax Appellate Tribunal was - Legal Service, Grade I, or Commissioners of Income Tax, or CAs with ten years practice, or lawyers with 10 years service.

Sir, earlier it was the Central Government Legal Service Grade I or Commissioners of Income Tax or Chartered Accountants with ten years practice or lawyers with ten years practice. Now, it has been brought on the ground that the Chartered Accountants and lawyers with ten year practice at a young age became the members of the Tribunal whereas the Commissioners of Income Tax or the Central Legal Service Grade I take a long time to reach that position to qualify as the Income Tax Tribunal members. It was suggested that instead of downgrading that requirement, upgrade the requirement of Chartered Accountants and lawyers. Sir, if a Chartered Accountant aspires to be a member of the Tribunal within ten years, first of all, he has no sufficient experience to be a member of the Tribunal, secondly, it is obvious that his practice has not been successful; that is why he wants to give it up to have permanent income. So, what I suggest is that instead of downgrading from Commissioner of Income Tax to Additional Commissioner and Central Government Legal Service Grade I or II, upgrade the requirement of Chartered Accountants and lawyers from ten years to 20 years. After 20 years of practice, if a Chartered Accountant or a lawyer wants to become a member, it will be for recognition and for prestige and not for any standard income. This I would like to suggest. This can be implemented when the new Income-tax Bill is brought. I would request....(interruption). Whatever the money may be, if I give away the practice within ten years, that means that I am not successful. I am not...(interruption)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): If only a Chartered Accountant can be as self-sacrificing as Mr. Vayalar Ravi who has left his practice.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: One more problem is that some of the senior Commissioners of Income Tax are deputed by the Department to appear as senior Department Counsel or Department's representative before the Tribunal, and if an additional Commissioner who is junior to him sits on the bench, it will create hierarchical problems within the Department. This I think the hon. Finance Minister will look into, at least when he introduces the new income-tax Bill which is pending.

Sir, before going to the other point, please forgive me, I am going to reserve a lot of things for this Kar-vivad Samadhan Scheme. But before that let me deal with the Service Tax. This is one matter with which I will deal and finish.

Sir, the Chartered Accountants render different kinds of services. The only service which is the exclusive domain of a Chartered Accountant is audit service; audit of companies, firms or trusts and other entities. The tax representations, and the representations made before the various authorities, not only the Chartered Accountants do, but lawyers, tax practitioners and various other people also do it. Now, even for those services, if only Chartered Accountants were to collect or pay from their pocket five per cent of the service tax, it creates an unfair advantage to the other professionals who do not have that obligation.

Sir, when we were discussing this in the Standing Committee it was told, it was a good suggestion that we will include lawyers also. I find that lawyers have not been included. Doctors have not been included. I request the hon. Finance Minister to restrict the levy of service tax on Chartered Accountants to the exclusive domain of audit service and not in respect of other services.

Now I come to the Settlement Scheme, that is the kar-vivad Samadhan Scheme. In Tamil there is a saying "जो लड़की रोती है, उसको दूल्हा मिल सकता है। जो लड़की हमेशा हँसती है, उसको तो अपने आप मिला चाहिए"। पर इस कर-विवाद समाधान में तो उल्टा है।

I read it and re-read it, the Scheme and with particular reference to Clause 88 regarding who can make a declaration. Only a person who has

a tax arrear can make a declaration and not who has a dispute. The definitions of tax arrear and disputed tax are the same. I do not understand how the definition of disputed tax and tax arrear can be the same. You read this, Sir, on pages 30 and 31. Disputed Tax means total tax determined and payable in respect of any assessment year under any direct tax enactment but which remains unpaid. Again this arrear is the emphasis and not the disputed tax. The definition of 'Tax arrears' is: 'in relation to direct tax assessment...' etc., etc., '...but remaining unpaid.' The definition of 'disputed tax' as well as 'tax arrears' is the same. Only a person who has got arrears can make a declaration; not a person who has paid.

I would like to explain about the average pendency of income-tax cases. There are three types of appeals. The last appeal is to the High Court or the Supreme Court. The first appeal is before the Commissioner of Appeals, or, the Deputy Commissioner. The second is the Tribunal; on facts. On questions of fact, the Tribunal is the ultimate authority. Only on questions of law, the case goes to the High Court or the Supreme Court.

Now, the minimum pendency in the Tribunal is five years. If I file an appeal today, the first hearing would be only after five years. The minimum pendency in the first appeal is one year, i.e. before the Commissioner of Appeals. Therefore, five-plus one; it comes to six years. Any scrutiny assessment-- all the officials know; the hon. Finance Minister also knows--will not take place till the last moment, when it gets time-barred. The time for completion of assessment under the Income-tax Act is two years from the end of the assessment year. Therefore, five plus one plus two comes to eight years. For eight years, it is likely to remain pending.

Now, if one has to go back eight years from 1998-99, it would be 1990-91. What was the rate of tax in 1990-91? Fifty per cent was the rate of tax. Then, eight per cent surcharge. The tax works out to 54 per cent. Take a case where the disputed amount is Rs. 10 lakhs. The total tax would be Rs. 5,40,000/-. Then, we have the interest component. There are two categories of interest; pre-assessment interest and post-assessment interest. The pre-assessment interest is because of the failure to

pay advance tax. It is twenty-four per cent from the first day of April, till the date of completion. For two years, the pre-assessment interest would work out Rs. 5,40,000 + Rs. 2,70,000/= Rs. 8,10,000/-. After that, for six years, when the appeal is pending, there would be interest liability, at the rate of eighteen per cent, payable under section 220(2). This is post-assessment interest. This works out to Rs. 7,20,000/-. Therefore, the total amount, when the appeal is pending--the person has not paid anything--would be Rs. 15,30,000/-.

Now, the scheme envisages that such a person who has not paid anything can get away by paying thirty per cent of the disputed amount, i.e. about Rs. 4,50,000/-.

Take the case of another person. Let us say, the disputed amount is the same, i.e. Rs. 10 lakhs. He has paid Rs. 5,40,000/- plus the pre-assessment interest because of his failure to pay the advance tax. As in the earlier case, it would be Rs. two lakhs odd. Now, this person, merely because he has paid the tax in order to co-operate with the income-tax department, or, because of coercive measures, is not eligible at all for filing a declaration under this scheme.

This is a very, very basic flaw. I do not know what the hon Finance Minister thinks about it. Does he think it is a reasonable discrimination? Sir, I have tried my best to set this right. As a parliamentarian, I have failed. But the professional pride in me tells me to go to the court in order to get it set right. I promise I will do that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Kumar, you have....

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Sir, I have the professional pride. I think it is wrong. If it is not accepted, I have to go to the court to get it set right.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Kumar, I am only reminding you about the time-factor.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Only one minute more, Sir. I always stick to the time. I never exceed it.

I will make one last point. In regard to any law, any regulation, a lot more is required on implementation. Somebody pointed out just

now as to what is happening in excise, etc. The hon. Minister would be surprised to know. In 63JR, the Madras High Court had said. This was a case of a bus company -- the Salem-Coimbatore Bus Transport Company. The company was paying bribe to a traffic constable. The company paid Rs. 30,000/-. It is called *mamool*. It claimed it as an expenditure. The incometax officer disallowed it, saying that there was no voucher. Stupidly, because, for a bribe, there would be no voucher. The matter went to the Madras High Court. The Madras High Court said: 'The wheels of business do not move unless you grease the palm; more so, in the business of buses'. This is what the Madras High Court had said. It is there in 63JR. You can see. Nobody minds speed money. (*Interruptions*) What I am stressing is that nobody bothers about speed money. What is happening? It is not happening in the Income-Tax Department. It is happening in the Customs and Central Excise Department and more so in the Enforcement Directorate. What is happening is extortion. I know it personally. The passport of a businessman was taken and kept for some enquiry. I know what has been demanded and what has been paid for return of the passport.

So, what I request is that if you can not improve things, at least remove some defects in the system. If there are five defects and you remove three defects, you will have done something.

Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri Chitranjan, ten minutes.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala) Mr. Vice-Chairman, the efforts made by the Finance Minister to raise additional financial resources are mainly to increase the indirect taxes. In the case of direct taxes, very big concessions have been made one after another, year after year, for a long period to the rich and especially to the corporate bodies. The same trend is being continued. At the same time, for additional resources, the method of raising the indirect taxes, especially the customs duties and the excise duties, have been resorted to. The original plan was to raise additional resources of about Rs. 9,000 crores.

Of course, after that, the hon. Finance Minister announced several concessions. Within 24 hours and 48 hours he made some concessions. Of course, if some concessions are to be made, there is nothing wrong in announcing them. But, normally, such things are done when the Finance Bill is taken into consideration. But, here, unusually it has been done in the beginning itself. So, that shows that proper home work had not been done at the time when the Budget was prepared.

Anyhow, as a result of the Budget proposals and so many other measures resorted to by the Government, now we are facing a very high inflation. The hon. Finance Minister is explaining away that phenomenon by saying that the trend had started in the month of October last year. Of course, it is true. But, even according to his own statistics, the average inflation rate last year was only about 5 per cent. Now the inflation rate has gone up to 7.6 per cent. That means that there is an increase of 2.6 per cent compared with the last year. We are already facing the inflationary trend, and the various steps taken by the Government will, of course, increase it.

I was listening to the Finance Minister's speech made at the time of the Appropriation Bill and also that made towards the end of the discussion on the Budget. He was explaining away the price-rise and other things as temporary phenomenon, as seasonal. He is saying that this all has happened because of some happenings in the South-East Asian countries, the economic and financial turmoil there and the crisis in Japan and some other countries in the world. Of course, they are all there. All those events will have their own impact here also. But, at the same time, according to me, we cannot forget the fact that our own actions here are responsible to a greater extent for the inflationary trend as well as for the price increase. Take, for example, the indirect taxes--the transport charges, railway fare, postal charges and so many other items. There was an increase during this period. Along with that the value of the Rupee had also fallen down. The Finance Minister once declared here in this House itself and also outside that he was not worried about the fall in the value of the Rupee and he was not going to defend or hold up the value of the Indian

Rupee. That is what he had said. It appeared in the press also. I do not know why he should make such a statement. Is it wise to make such a statement? Anyhow, inflation is there and prices are increasing.

Sir, the hon. Minister had announced certain tax concessions. According to me they are only marginal concessions. In the customs and excise the maximum concessions that he has conceded is only Rs. 263 crores. That means more than Rs. 7,000 crore will be again realised from the people by way of these taxes. Therefore, I am of the opinion that more concessions will have to be given. He should consider it. I am not listing all those cases, but I am citing a few cases. Take, for example, the polyurethane that is being imported. Its customs duty has been reduced. As a result about 300 factories, which are using the natural latex mainly as raw material are in a crisis. Demand that is being raised by the rubber cultivators is that import of polyurethane should be banned. So, at least, in order to save the rubber cultivators, the customs duty that is imposed on polyurethane will have to be increased. In the same way, say for example in the case of coconut and several other agricultural products, their prices have come down and lakhs and lakhs of agriculturists are facing difficulties. At the same time the Government is reducing the import duty on edible oils from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. My suggestion is that that reduction should not be made. In the same way take the case of tea and certain other food products which are being packaged. There certain concessions have been given. In the case of tea, the final proposal that the hon. Finance Minister has made is that only the package up to 100 grams will be excluded from the purview of the tax. My suggestion is that that limit will have to be further increased.

In the case of rubber foam, its excise duty is to be reduced. The rubber cultivators are in crisis. Even the industry is in crisis. So, reduction in its excise duty is very much required. In the same way the customs duty on steel has to be reduced. In the past it had been reduced from 85 per cent to 25 per cent. Now, our entire steel industry is in crisis. Therefore, you should not think of increasing

it. When we considered the anomaly, it was being said that we are committed to the conditions of the W.T.O., the Marakesh Agreement. Therefore, we cannot do that. But, Sir, there are several countries in the world which are increasing the customs duty. Even day before yesterday, certain instances appeared in the press. Therefore, you should look into that. The indirect taxes have put enormous burden on the common man. It ruins the economy also.

The second point I want to raise is about the price rise. I was listening to the Finance Minister when he introduced the Bill and I felt that he was trying to underplay the whole thing, as if it was not a very serious issue. He admitted that there has been an increase in the prices of four or five vegetables and the rise was from 15 per cent to 30 per cent. But actually the prices of all commodities have increased. Of course the prices of consumer goods other than used by the rich people alone, have increased. The increase was to the extent of 50 per cent, 60 per cent, 65 per cent and 70 per cent respectively. Due to lack of tie, I do not want to narrate the facts. But this is the situation. There has been a terrific increase in the prices of essential commodities. This is a country where 39 per cent of the people live below the poverty line. If this situation continues, then, more and more, families would be pushed below the poverty line. Therefore, the number of people living below the poverty line would increase. That will be dangerous thing. The Finance Minister said, "Nothing effective will have to be done." I was very much pained to hear that. When such a situation arises, the Government will have to pay attention and take immediate measures which will provide relief to the people. This was done at the time of British rule in this country. Take for example, the war period. Then, they have made efforts to distribute foodgrains as well as several other commodities, including cloth. So, in this situation, you should also do the same thing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Now, you will have to wind up. You have already taken ten minutes.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: I will take a few minutes more to finish my speech.

Therefore, my suggestion is that the Government should seriously think of formulating certain measures. They should make arrangements to make available certain essential commodities at reasonable prices to at least selected targetted people. This will have to be done by the Government.

I will come to the question of labour. The Finance Minister has claimed that because of this Budget employment opportunities will increase. Without its promises being implemented, how could the employment opportunities increase? Frankly speaking, I don't believe that statement. For example, the public sector had 22,00,000 employees. For several years, there has been no fresh recruitment. In every institution, the number of workers is going down. Earlier there were 18,000 workers in all institutions. Now there are only 13,000 workers. This is the situation. The Finance Minister said that a number of factories will be closed down. He has not specified the exact number of factories going to be closed down. I think that number will not be very small. I think a lakhs of workers will be thrown out of employment. This figure will come to two lakhs. Therefore, lakhs of workers will be thrown out of employment even from the public sector undertakings.

With regard to other public sector undertakings, the Finance Minister said the day before yesterday in this House, that the policy of the Government was to protect, modernise and expand the public sector. It is very difficult for me to believe it because the Prime Minister, Mr. Vajpayee, himself categorically stated--not only from the inception of the BJP but, even at the time of the inception of the Jan Sangh, which was the predecessor of the BJP, from that time onwards, your declared policy is, you were against Government investing in productive sectors. From that day, you are against it. And even now, you are against it. And you are not in favour of the public sector. That has been said by the Prime Minister. Even after having become the Prime Minister, he has repeatedly said that this is the policy. I am at a loss to understand what policy will be implemented.

Secondly, the Finance Minister, as well as his Budget speech, as also the other speeches

made by other Ministers in the Government, has said that these disinvestments will go on. Already, in the case of four industries, they have declared this. What is going to happen when the disinvestment takes place? When the disinvestment takes place tomorrow, naturally, those who have taken the shares will have to be given representation on the Boards of Directors. Then, gradually, they will be handed over to the private sector. There will be no public sector. That is what is going to happen if disinvestment is continued. Not only that. The basic policy with regard to that is being revised. For example, immediately after the nuclear test, conducted on May 11, as I understand, from the Prime Minister's Office, a letter had been issued to various important Ministries. A direction was issued that all those applications of foreign companies which are there or where their participation was involved, all those applications, will have to be immediately sanctioned. Due to lack of time, I do not elaborate on this. On May 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th, immediately, several Ministries have taken speedier actions. As a result of that, 18 oil fields, a copper mine and three fast-track projects of electricity have been sanctioned; and it is continuing. Even in the beginning, when the Budget was presented, the Finance Minister said that in the insurance sector, Indian industrialists would be given shares. But today, in the papers it has appeared that the Cabinet had discussions and decided that the foreign investors should also be given shares. The only dispute was about the extent to which they should be given. There are so many other facts. All the fields are being opened to the foreign investors. I am not against receiving foreign investment. But if such an indiscriminate attitude is being shown, it will endanger the sovereignty of the country, it will endanger the self-reliance of our economy and it will have very bad effects. All these things will have to be considered.

I have one more point about electricity. Now, the policy that is being pursued is mainly giving to the private sector, even to the foreign sector. It is said that there is a dearth of electricity for us and therefore, whatever may be the source from which we get money, we should invest. That is what is being said. Now

what happens? For example, take the case of Enron.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I think you will have to wind up now. You have consumed double the time allotted to you.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: I am winding up, Sir. It is said that in the case of Enron, Rs. 4.9 will be the charge per unit, according to the exchange value that prevailed in the year 1993. But now, that rate has changed. Therefore, by the time power is sold to the Maharashtra Electricity Board, the price per unit will be more than Rs. 5 or even more than that. This is what is going to happen in the case of most of the private sector units. In that case, will it enable us to provide electricity at reasonable rates so that industrialists could compete with the foreign multinationals in various fields.

(THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR)

5.00 P.M.

Therefore, all these policies are required to be reconsidered. That is what I have to say on the Finance Bill. I hope the Minister will seriously consider what I have said. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, I rise to oppose this Finance Bill not because it has been moved by my good friend, not because it is the first Budget of the BJP Government, but because this Budget is totally against the National Agenda for Governance. At page 2, they have mentioned that their main programme is going to be Berojgari Hatao and the Budget, which the hon. Finance Minister has presented to this country, is not job-oriented. It is only traders oriented. This Budget is anti-poor Budget. The hon. Finance Minister has taken almost two months to formulate this Budget, and I think, like the CIA, which was not aware of what was coming up at Pokhran-II, the hon. Finance Minister was also not aware of the sanctions and has not taken any precaution to withstand the shock of the sanctions which certain countries were likely to impose on India after Pokhran-II - India Going Nuclear. Now, while presenting this first Budget of this Government, the hon. Minister

has bungled and I do not want to go into details. We have seen what has happened to the petroleum sector. This intention of the Government, the intention of the Finance Minister was to collect one rupee as a cess for the National Highways Authority for the development of a highway and he wanted to mop up Rs. 750 crores for that Authority. We have seen what has gone wrong and I think that was an indication that this Budget is in total disarray. This Budget is totally directionless. What have they mentioned in the National Agenda for Governance? Their target is to have a growth rate of seven per cent to eight per cent. I don't think they will be able to achieve this target. We have seen for the last two years how the rate of growth has declined. When we were in the Government in 1996, the rate of growth had gone up to 7.5 per cent and now we see that it has come down to 5 per cent. I don't think with this type of Budget, you will get anything. What is the intention of the Government? How will they keep up the promise which they had given to the nation through their National Agenda for Governance? There is an impression in this Government that they are here for a few months. Yesterday, we heard the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests saying that he would do it provided he runs for five years. That apprehension is there in the Government because this Government does not have a mandate from the people of this country. This Government is running on the crutches supported by different constituents. So, I can understand what direction this Budget will give to the economy. The hon. Minister has mentioned that this Budget is laced with Swadeshi. I don't have any objection to be pro-Indian or pro-nationalist or pro-Swadeshi. But the question is that when the whole world is opening up, when we are going globalised, when the world is becoming a village, if we go back by fifty years in the Golden Jubilee year of our independence, I don't know how this Government will stand up and remove the anomalies in our society. We know that this country has a population of 950 million people. Out of that almost 370 million people are below poverty line. Every Budget promises them that their standard of living will be raised by the

Government. But with this directionless Budget, I don't think it is possible to do anything because this budget is not going to create any jobs. Madam, we know that the Minister has imposed a special customs duty. He first announced it 8 per cent and then he rolled it back to 4 per cent, and this is done only to help the trading community in the country, not the manufacturers. A manufacturer who imports a product has to pay a special customs duty, but if a trader imports a finished product by way of printer circuit, I don't think he has to pay a customs duty. Again the Minister said, "The customs duty will be 4 per cent." We know the rupee has depreciated almost 20 per cent in the last one year and the importer has to pay that amount. I think that duty will tally to almost 6½ to 7 per cent. I don't think the Government has given any benefit to that industry.

The hon. Minister has spoken about information technology. He said, "We have to go on the super highway." I think it is high time that they had to do that. We have to globalise the economy, but at the same time we have to see that our tax collection system is computerised in the country. It is not enough that you have granted this facility only to the private sector because we have to start at home, and unless we see that the whole taxation system is brought on lines, it is streamlined and it is computerised, I don't think the Government's targets of tax collection and mopping up tax revenues will be fulfilled. We have seen in the last three years that whenever there is a target fixed, every time the target cannot be achieved. We are short almost by 20 per cent. That is grant for pilferage of revenue. We have seen in the Standing Committee on Finance that when we leave the discretion on the officer, whether he is a customs officer or a Central excise officer or an income-tax officer, there is often a tendency to underplay the paper work. This tendency can be checked when we go on on-line computer, and that cheating cannot be permitted. That cannot be pilfered. Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that in the Revenue Department, right from the Ministry down the level of Income-Tax Departments, Central Excise Duty Departments, Customs Duty

Department, everything is put on line. The Minister has mentioned a good scheme of PAN, i.e. Permanent Account Number to a tax-payer. And this has been implemented. I think the Minister is going to implement it in 45 cities. But what about the remaining cities?

Now I come to the petroleum sector. When petrol is so cheap internationally, we impose almost 45 to 50 per cent duty on petroleum products. When crude is imported in the country, you levy 25 per cent of customs duty; then you impose 20 per cent of excise duty when the products are refined. Then you have petroleum shares of two to three per cent. We almost pay 45 to 50 per cent duty on that, and the prices of petroleum products are increased. You have a slogan: "We have a social obligation!" I don't think with that type of tax on petroleum products you can subsidise the power sector because whatever you charge on the petroleum sector, the consumer has to pay for it, the poorest of the poor has to pay on salt, on sugar, on edible oil, on everything. Unless you remove these anomalies, I don't think it will be a growth-oriented Budget which you have given us.

Again we have seen how for the last two years mopping of revenue has gone down. In 1996-97 the revenue has gone down by 700 crores of rupees. In 1997-98, our revenue has gone down by Rs. 4,500 crores. The Government speaks of growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent in the National Agenda. At the moment, I think, the rate of growth is 5 per cent. I am not sure about it. I hope the hon. Minister will clarify that. GDP is only 5 per cent. When they say that they would achieve a growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent, then GDP should be 14 per cent. I don't know how the hon. Minister will achieve this target. I think it is only a slogan to befool the people for the time being because he knows that they will not last long.

There are so many anomalies in decision-making. They say that MODVAT is being misused by certain industrial houses. They have totally banned it. I don't know how they will mop up revenues at the end of the day. The tax collecting agencies harass the industries in the last part of the financial year because they have to fulfil their targets. Unless these anomalies in the Budget are removed by the Finance Minister, he will not be able to achieve the targets.

The Finance Minister is trying to help the trading sector not the manufacturing sector because the trading sector is the middleman of the economy. They are the people who get profit just by sitting in their shops. They are not the people who manufacture any products. I hope the hon. Minister will give some benefits to the manufacturing sector also from the special customs duty of 4 per cent. The hon. Finance Minister has rightly raised Re. 1/- on petroleum products to give it to the National Highways Authority to improve infrastructure in this country. But, at the moment, he is only favouring the petroleum sector which is involved only in refining. Why shouldn't some benefit be given to the petroleum sector which is involved in drilling? We have ONGC and there are so many other public sector companies. We have seen that fly-by-night operators, maybe, the private companies or multinational companies have come into operation and they want to have the cake. The hon. Minister has only helped those people who are in the field of refining of petroleum. Why shouldn't this facility be given to those people who are involved in drilling which is a very difficult job, rather than giving this benefit to those people who import these products and take the benefit?

The hon. Minister has given some facility to the power sector. We can see that so many companies are coming up. There is mad rush because the Government has given a lot of incentives, tax holiday, etc. to private power sector. They are taking all the benefit. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that other infrastructure sectors are also given more benefits and they are brought on par with this sector. If there is a proper level playing field, our economy will pick up. Thank you.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I first congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for his strenuous concentration on the impact of economic sanctions which came up on the eve of nuclear tests. Even though it is of inflationary nature, he is more cautious towards allocations.

Our DMK Parliamentary Leader, Mr. Murasoli Maran, remarked that the initiatives taken by the United Front were included in the Budget. The Budget can be classified under

three heads such as Direct Taxes, Indirect Taxes and Outlays. Regarding direct taxes, four measures are striking. (a) The basic tax exemption limit for personal rates of taxation has been raised from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 with standard deduction fixed at Rs. 25,000. This will effectively work to Rs. 75,000 for those whose income is below Rs. 1,00,000. (b) Expenditure on medical expenses for exemption will be raised from the present Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000. (c) A new scheme called "Samadhan" for direct and indirect taxes offers waiver of interest, penalty and immunity from prosecution. (d) The levy on gift tax will be abolished. (e) Several incentives have been announced for encouraging housing activity. (f) Companies which employ additional workforce will get a new deduction. These are all welcome features in the Budget. Regarding indirect taxes, seven measures are important. These include increase in customs duty on cold rolled coil; import duty on paper and paperboards being raised; customs duty on standard newsprint being reduced; excise duty on motor spirit being raised--this increased the price of petrol but later on the request of hon. Members the petrol price was raised by only Re. 1--and the ambit of service tax being extended. Regarding outlays, seven items are significant. They are: (1) Allocation for Atomic Energy Department raised by 68 per cent, that is, from Rs. 828 crores to Rs. 1,391 crores. (2) Plan allocation for agriculture is up by 50 per cent. (3) Indira Awas Yojana allocation has been hiked to Rs. 1,600 crores. (4) For rural water supply a provision of Rs. 1,627 crores has been made. (5) National Highways Authority will get Rs. 500 crores more. (6) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy will get Rs. 404 crores--an increase from Rs. 190 crores. (7) A sum of Rs. 379 crores for the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has been provided. The increase is from Rs. 122 crores to Rs. 379 crores. A sum of Rs. 9,000 crores has been provided as food subsidy. There are certain new proposals. They are laudable. These must be encouraged in the right direction. These pertain to (a) Disinvestment up to 74 per cent in non-strategic public sector; (b) A National Information Technology Task Force will be set up; (c) Multi-pronged boost has been given to rural credit; NABARD will

be launching a Kisan credit card; (d) SBI will be launching a new foreign currency denominated 'Resurgent India Bank'; (e) The limit for NRI's Secondary Market Investment in domestic companies has been raised and (f) Experimental asset reconstruction companies will address bank's problem of NPA.

I welcome the Budget for the following five reasons. Special relief for irrigation and rural credit; disinvestment of 74 per cent in non-strategic public sector; rise in general exemption limit to Rs. 50,000; introduction of Kisan Credit Card and benefits given to small industrial sector. For all these reasons, we have to appreciate and co-operate with the Government for the general good of our country.

Madam, I have already said that the allocation for agriculture is not adequate. So, I want to suggest some measures to be included in future. As you know, our country is an agricultural country as 80 per cent of our people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The hon. Finance Minister also clearly elaborated and stated in page 3, para 8 of his Budget Speech. He said, "Thirty-seven per cent of our cultivable area is under assured irrigation." That means, 63 per cent of our agricultural land is without water. The people who are engaged in this profession are thus in non-irrigation non-assured area. They are relying upon the seasonal vagaries of rain and suffer a lot. So, allocations for irrigation and watershed developments have to be planned very carefully. For this purpose, Rs. 677 crores have been allocated in the Budget. Last year, there was a provision of Rs. 517 crores for this purpose. Though this amount is about Rs. 100 crores more, keeping in view the devaluation of the rupee, it is more or less equal to the last year's allocation. So, it should be considered and sufficient allocation should be made for this purpose. I request the hon. Finance Minister, if possible, and if he is able to save money somewhere else, some allocation should be made for non-assured irrigation areas so that these areas could also come under assured irrigated area. I request the Finance Minister to concentrate on those schemes which really augment agriculture in the area under cultivation and improve the economic

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standards of our agriculturists. In this way, it will stabilise our national economy. For augmentation of agricultural production, the latest technology must be extended to the ordinary farmers in every nook and corner of our country. It can be done only by doing research and experiments in our agricultural universities. The augmentation work of ICAR should be encouraged. These two institutions must be fully utilised for this purpose.

Madam, in this connection, I wish to bring to the notice of our hon. Finance Minister the financial assistance given by the Central Government to the agricultural university of Tamil Nadu located at Coimbatore. Madam, this university was established in 1970. Twenty-eight years have passed, but there is not adequate assistance from the Central Government. Funds are not sufficient to augment the activities of the agricultural university of Tamil Nadu. By doing this, it will only increase agricultural production and it will really have an impact on the lives of the people. *(Time-Bell rings)* Madam, I must be given some more time to impress upon the hon. Finance Minister about the conditions of the people living at the tail-end of our country, i.e. in Tamil Nadu.

I need not elaborate because I have no time anyhow. This year, the State Government has allocated Rs. 42 crores whereas the Central Government assistance is below Rs. 200 lakhs, that is Rs. 183 lakhs. I request the hon. Finance Minister to do the needful. According to the UGC norms and other scientific norms prevailing in the country, fifty per cent of the grant these universities should be released; UGC should give 50% of the total allocation as aid. This has to be taken into consideration. On this occasion, I want to bring to the kind notice of our Finance Minister that the request of the Agricultural Department of Tamil Nadu to the Central Government for aid. It is said that it has made some research work to augment the functions of agriculturist. The Tamil Nadu Government has given a detailed report regarding establishing a sub-centre of the Central Tube Crops Research Institute at Salem. Out of the 2.5 lakh hectares of land under Tapioca crop, nearly 0.78 lakh is in Tamil Nadu. 900 factories are there to produce some

goods for exports. More than 4 lakh people are engaged in that work. More than Rs. 200 crore is got by way of exports. So, a sub-centre of the Central Tube Crop Research Institute of Trivandrum is to be located at Salem.

Another sub-centre for cotton research is to be established at Perambalur. A detailed report from the Tamil Nadu Government is with the Central Government for consideration. So also establishment of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Tamil Nadu will be very useful for the development of agriculture. Coconut Development Scheme has been submitted to the Central Government for consideration. I request ICAR to take up that research work. Caterpillar controlled select coconut development scheme and sugarcane development scheme is to be developed under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. ICAR must provide necessary financial assistance.

Finally, I would bring to the notice of the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister the fate of Tamil Nadu agriculturists. Because of floods and vagaries in the seasons, one year after another, frequently, some portions of the districts are affected by floods. Some portions of districts are affected by drought. This must be compensated. Unless you do it, this will not be helpful for the augmentation of agricultural needs. In this connection, I wish to conclude with an appeal of our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar to the Central Government regarding the Centre-State consultations. The National Development Council and the Inter-State Council should be viewed as an apex body for close and continuous consultation. The Planning Commission has to take into consideration the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations and the federal system has to be implemented so that unity in diversity is established for ever. With these words, I finish.

उपसभापति: श्री सतीशचन्द्र सीताराम प्रधान, आपके मेडन स्पीच वाले मैम्बर कहाँ हैं? उनका नाम है, 6 मिनट में मेडन स्पीच कैसे होगी? आप के लिए 6 मिनट हैं।

श्री सतीश प्रधान: (महाराष्ट्र) बस 6 मिनट हैं।

उपसभापति: नैक्सट टाइम आप ज्यादा मैम्बर लाइए तो ज्यादा दे देंगे।

27/10/98

श्री सतीश प्रधान: उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी जो यह फाइनेंस बिल लाए हैं, उसे मंत्री जी ने बहुत अच्छे ढंग से बनाया है और मैं उसका समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें कुछ कमियाँ हैं, जो मुझे महसूस होती हैं और मैं उनको मंत्री जी के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ ताकि वे उस विषय में भी कुछ सोचकर आगे कदम उठा सकें जो देश के बहुत से लोगों के लिए अच्छी बात होगी।

महोदया, इस देश में जो बहुत सारे लोग नौकरी करते हैं, सेलरीड हैं, सबसे पहले मैं ऐसे लोगों का दुख आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। इन्कम टैक्स एक्ट 1961 से जो सिटी कम्पन्यूटीरी अलार्डस दिया जाता है या हाउस रेंट अलार्डस दिया जाता है या डियरनैस अलार्डस दिया जाता है, इसके ऊपर भी इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट इन्कम टैक्स लेता है। मेरे हिसाब से यह गलत है क्योंकि जो बढ़ती हुई महंगाई है उसको कम्पन्यूट करने के लिए डीए दिया जाता है। अलग-अलग शहर के मुताबिक, शहर में, सिटी में या गांव में महंगाई के बारे में, दाम के बारे में, रहने के बारे में जो फर्क है, जो अंतर है, उसे ठीक करने के लिए और शहर में रहने वालों को वहाँ रहने के लिए जो ज्यादा दाम पर चीजें लेनी पड़ती हैं, इसके लिए उनको सिटी कम्पन्यूटीरी अलार्डस दिया जाता है। हम सबको मकान नहीं दे पाते और जिसको मकान देते हैं उससे तो इन्कम टैक्स लेने का सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता लेकिन हम जिसको मकान नहीं दे पाते, उसके किराए को कम्पन्यूट करने के लिए हम उसको हाउस रेंट अलार्डस देते हैं। लेकिन ये सब अलार्डस जो रिड्यूस् किए जाते हैं, उनके ऊपर भी सरकार इन्कम टैक्स लेती है और एक तरह से जो अलार्डस के रूप में देती है, उसे टैक्स के रूप में वापस ले लेती है। तो यह डीए सीसीए और एक्-आरए लेने के बावजूद इन पर टैक्स देने के कारण उनको कुछ रिलीफ नहीं मिल रहा है। महोदया, इस विषय में मद्रास हाई कोर्ट में चर्चा हुई और मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने इस विषय पर निर्णय किया और कहा कि ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। इसके बाद फिर 1989 में गवर्नमेंट ने दो नोटिफिकेशन्स निकाले और उसके द्वारा डीए, सीसीए और एक्-आरए टैक्सबल हैं, ऐसा निर्णय किया। मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप यह अन्याय दूर करने के लिए क्या प्रावधान कर रहे हैं? आपने बाकी बहुत से लोगों को रिलीफ दिया है, लेकिन इस विषय में आप क्या करने वाले हैं? इस विषय में मैं एक और जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय में मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट में एक केस दाखिल हुआ। मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट में केस दाखिल होने के बाद पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में, जगह-जगह पर यह बताया गया कि किसी को अगर इसमें एंटर करना है तो

उसको एंटर करने की इजाजत दी जाए और यह एक हिस्टोरिकल रिकॉर्ड बन गया और 14,000 लोगों ने इसमें शामिल होने के लिए अपने दस्तखत किए। इसमें एक बात और हो गई कि देश की लोअर कोर्ट्स के जो जज हैं और उनको जो एसोसिएशन है, 10,000 जजों की तरफ से वह भी इसमें शामिल हो गई। तब भी अभी तक सरकार ने एस विषय में कोई निर्णय नहीं किया है, यह मैं बताना चाहता हूँ और माननीय मंत्री जी से विनती करता हूँ कि वे इस विषय पर तुरंत निर्णय करें ताकि करोड़ों लोगों को इससे कुछ समाधान मिल सके।

इसके साथ ही साथ मैं एक और बात की ओर आपका ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ कि इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट ने बीच में एक जजमेंट दिया था 1992-93 के समय में। मुम्बई की एक कम्पनी, जो कंस्ट्रक्शन कम्पनी है, उसके ऊपर रेड हो गई। उनके ऊपर केस चला और इनकम टैक्स ऑफिसर ने उनके ऊपर केस चलने के बाद जो जजमेंट दिया है, उसमें कहा है कि जो प्रोटैक्शन मनी या हफ्ता लिया जाता है लोगों से, उसके लिए 40 लाख रुपया उससे लिया। ऐसा उन्होंने कहा और इसे मानकर ऑथोरिजेशन कर दिया। मैं मंत्री जी को जजमेंट की एक कॉपी दे दूंगा। मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप इस बारे में सतर्क हो जाइए क्योंकि यह निर्णय आगे के लिए, कानून और व्यवस्था बिगाड़ने के लिए क्रिमिनल लोगों के लिए वरदान साबित होगा। इसलिए इस विषय की ओर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

महोदया, मैं एक और बात आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। बहुत सारी चर्चा यहाँ हो रही है और हमारे मुंबई में और दिल्ली में भी लोग आकर शिकायत करते हैं प्राइवेट फाइनेंस कंपनीज के बारे में। आपने बहुत सारी प्राइवेट फाइनेंस कंपनीज को परमीशन दे रखी है। इसके बाद जेवेलीज कंपनी या हाइलियास जैसी कंपनियों ने लोगों के पास घर-घर में अपने एजेंट भिजवाकर बड़ी तादाद में रकम ली, डिपॉजिट लिए लेकिन लोगों को अपना पैसा वापस नहीं मिला। जब चिदम्बरम जी फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर थे, तो मैंने उनसे इस बारे में शिकायत की थी कि लोगों को अपना पैसा वापस नहीं मिल रहा है। इन कंपनियों के जो एजेंट हैं वे ऑफिस बंद कर चुके हैं और जो एजेंट घर-घर जाकर पैसे लेकर आए, उनका घर में रहना मुश्किल हो गया है और जिन लोगों ने अपनी पूंजी लगाई थी, उनको वह वापस नहीं मिल रही है। यह बताने के बाद रिजर्व बैंक ने कहा कि बोर्ड यह पैसा वापस कराएगी। बोर्ड में जब लोग जाते हैं तो उनको घंटों वहीं खड़े रहना पड़ता है और रिजर्व बैंक इसमें कोई दखल नहीं देता है। लोगों को अपना पैसा कब वापस मिलेगा, कुछ मालूम नहीं है। आज

भी हजारों लोग सड़क पर दब-उधर भागदौड़ कर रहे हैं लेकिन उनको पैसे वापस मिलेंगे या नहीं उनकी हालत क्या होने वाली है, यह किसी को पता नहीं है। मैं मंत्री को से अनुरोध करूंगा कि आप इस ओर ध्यान दीजिए।

महोदया, मैं इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट के बारे में एक और चीज आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ कि किस ढंग से वहां व्यवहार होता है। बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियां मुंबई में हैं, उनमें काम करने वालों को अच्छी पगार मिलती है। वहां कुछ एजेंट लोग भी काम करते हैं। वे लोगों को बताते हैं कि हम आपको इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट से रिफंड दिलवाएंगे, आप ऐसा कीजिए कि सैलेरी सॉर्टिफिकेट दे दीजिए। सैलेरी सॉर्टिफिकेट लेकर वह एजेंट क्या करता है, कुछ मालूम नहीं पड़ता। लेकिन उस व्यक्ति के नाम से इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट में रिफंड के लिए सारा प्रोसीजर पूरा किया जाता है और उसके नाम से बैंक भी इशू होता है लेकिन वह बैंक कहां ऐनकैश होता है, कुछ पता नहीं। मेरा ऐसा ख्याल है कि इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट से अगर किसी को कुछ पैसा या रिफंड मिलने वाला हो तो क्रॉसड चेक से मिलना चाहिए और मिलता भी होगा। अब यहां सवाल यह उठता है कि अगर क्रॉसड चेक से पैसा दिया जाता है तो उस व्यक्ति को जरूर मिलना चाहिए लेकिन उस व्यक्ति को पैसा नहीं मिलता, पता नहीं वह पैसा किधर जाता है। किसी को इस बारे में मालूम नहीं है। एक दिन अचानक उसकी स्कूटी होती है और जिसके नाम सैलेरी सॉर्टिफिकेट है, उसका बैंक एकाउंट सीज करके, उसमें से पैसा निकालकर इनकम टैक्स वाले अपना बकाया पैसा वापस ले लेते हैं। इस ओर आपको कुछ ध्यान देना पड़ेगा ताकि इस तरह से लोगों को चोट न किया जा सके। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि इसकी पुलिस इक्वायरी हो रही है लेकिन पुलिस के पास जाने के बाद और कोर्ट में जाने के बाद आपको मालूम है कि 4-5 साल तक कुछ नहीं होता है। ऐसे 4-5 साल पुराने कई केस अदालत में पड़े हुए हैं लेकिन उनको कुछ रिलीफ नहीं मिल रहा है, यह मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ (समय की घंटी)

मैडम, दो प्वाइंट्स और हैं, उन्हें कहकर मैं अपनी बात 2 मिनट में समाप्त कर दूंगा। मैं एक बात और बताना चाहता हूँ। बीच में मैंने मंत्री जी से इस विषय में बात की थी। इस विषय पर दोबारा उनको रिमाइंड करने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ। लोगों को जो आपत्ति हो रही थी उनको उन्होंने लोक सभा में बजट पर बात करते समय बहुत कुछ रिलीफ दिए हैं। मैं चाय के बारे में बतलाना चाह रहा हूँ। सर, चाय के बारे में आपने रिलीफ दिया। चाय दो किस्म की मिलती है - एक तो लूज चाय आती है उसको कागज में रखकर पैकिंग करके देते हैं और दूसरा सील पैकेट आता

है जैसे पान पराग जैसा सील आता है उस ढंग से। इस ढंग से जो चाय बेचा जाता है उसमें एक कप, दो कप की चाय हो सकती है। फिर भी उसके ऊपर से आज भी टैक्स नहीं हटाया गया है, क्योंकि पैकिंग चेंज हो गया। मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ, मंत्री महोदय से विनती करता हूँ कि उस विषय पर आप जरा ध्यान दें, उसको भी टैक्स से रिलीफ दीजिए क्योंकि वह बहुत छोटे आदमी, कॉमन आदमी के काम में आने वाला है।

मैडम, आखिरी बात है। मैंने एक्स्चेंज मिनिस्ट्री के बारे में बात करते समय बताया था, उसे मैं दोबारा यहां छेड़ना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि हमारे आदर्शपूर्ण फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर यहां पर हैं। उनके डिपार्टमेंट ने एक सर्व्यूल्स निकालकर रखा-जो रिक्लूमेंट है उस पर कंट्रोल करना। कोई भी किधर भी रिक्लूमेंट पर कंट्रोल होना चाहिए। इसके लिए सर्व्यूल्स हैं, भावना अच्छी है। लेकिन उसका नतीजा यह हो गया कि हमारे यहां क्रीड़ा क्षेत्र में अभी चार आदमी रिययर्ड हुए, स्पोर्ट में बात ऐसी होती है मंत्री जी टीम इवेंट जो है, टीम इवेंट में 16 लोगों की रिक्लूमेंट होगी और उसमें से कम से कम चार या छः आदमी एक ही समय रिययर्ड होंगे, तो वह 4-6 आदमी रिययर्ड होने के बाद आपको न छः आदमी लेने पड़ेंगे। आप वन परसेंट रिक्लूमेंट का उधर कंडीशन डालेंगे तो वह ठीक ढंग से काम नहीं कर पाएगा, तो वह टीम ठीक ढंग से पूरी नहीं होती भले ही बैंक हो, भले ही प्राइवेट सैक्टर हो, पब्लिक सैक्टर अंडरटेकिंग हो, उसकी टीम पूरी नहीं हो पाती और उसके लिए वहां का स्पोर्ट्स पर रहा है। आपके डिपार्टमेंट ने जो सर्व्यूल्स निकाला है उसमें बदलाव करो और उस क्रीड़ा क्षेत्र के लोगों के लिए भी बहुत अच्छा होगा। दूसरे स्पोर्ट के बारे में आप 80जी का सर्व्यूल्स दें। स्पोर्ट्स को उसके लिए रिलीफ देते हैं। लेकिन अगर स्पोर्ट्स को कोई स्पोर्ट इवेंट स्पोर्ट्स करना है तो उसको पहले यह कहना पड़ता है कि मैं यह स्पोर्ट इवेंट स्पोर्ट्स कर रहा हूँ और उसके लिए आपके डिपार्टमेंट से परमिशन लेने के बाद वह स्पोर्ट्स के लिए पहले पैसा देता है। यह जो व्यवस्था है इसके बदले में उसको स्पोर्ट्स करने दो और साथ-साथ में उधर भी जो प्रोसीजर है वह चालू रखे, ऐसा कुछ इसमें संशोधन करें तो अच्छा ही रहेगा। इतना ही मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

उपसभापति: श्री विजय के दर्डा, मैडम स्पीच है, डिस्टर्ब नहीं करेंगे घंटी बजाकर। लेकिन आप खुद समय का ध्यान रखिएगा।

श्री विजय के दर्डा (महाराष्ट्र): कितना समय मिलेगा?

उपसभापति: दस मिनट बोलिएगा।

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा: मैं आगे आकर बोलूँ?

उपसभापति: हां, आप आगे आ जाइए, दस मिनट बोलिएगा (व्यवधान) अग्रवाल साहब, आपका नाम है। बिल्कुल चिंता मत करिए। मैं बैठी हूँ तो आपके राइट का प्रोटक्शन हो रहा है।

दर्डा साहब, और आगे आ जाइए, जरा सब लोग देखें कि नए मेंबर कैसा बोलते हैं।

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा: आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय तथा इस भारतीय संसद के उच्च पवित्र सदन में देश के विभिन्न कोनों से आए हुए सभी सम्माननीय सदस्य, मुझे बड़ी खुशी हो रही है कि आज उपसभापति महोदय ने मुझे यहाँ बोलने का अवसर दिया है। मैं पहली बार यहाँ बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ और यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि निश्चित रूप से मुझसे जो भी त्रुटियाँ होंगी या मेरी कमियाँ रहेंगी, उनको आप नज़रअंदाज़ करेंगे। चूंकि मैं इंडिपेंडेंट की हैसियत से चुन करे आया हूँ, यहाँ विभिन्न दलों के जो माननीय सदस्य हैं वे मेरे विचारों को सुनेंगे तथा भविष्य में भी मेरे विचारों का संकोच नहीं होगा, ऐसा मुझे आश्वासन देंगे।

हमारे माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो देश को एक बजट दिया है, उसके बारे में एक महत्वपूर्ण विचार मैं आपके सामने प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ। एक विनम्र सदस्य के रूप में आपके माध्यम से मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि भारत में निजी क्षेत्र के सबसे बड़े उद्यम और जिससे सारा देश जुड़ा है, जिससे पचास करोड़ महिलाएँ, पुरुष और बच्चे जुड़े हैं, वह क्षेत्र कृषि क्षेत्र है। भारत को कृषि प्रधान देश के रूप में जाना जाता है। भारत के सर्वांगीण विकास में नागरिकों के जीवनस्तर में एक खुशहाल भारत, एक खुशहाल परिवार जहाँ छोटे-बड़े सदस्य के चेहरों पर सुख, शांति, संतोष भरी मुस्कान हो, इसके लिए कृषि क्षेत्र के विकास की जरूरत को आज़ादी के बाद हर सरकार ने माना है और इसके विकास के लिए आवश्यक साधन भी जुटाए हैं, उपाय भी किए गए हैं। मैं जानता हूँ कि हमारे दलों के मुताबिक शत-प्रतिशत संसाधन उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाए हैं। इसका कारण मुख्यतः आर्थिक मजबूरी और देश का विशाल स्वरूप रहा है। फिर भी हमने कृषि के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय बल्कि क्रांतिकारी सफलताएँ भी हासिल की हैं। इसके लिए निश्चित रूप से श्रेय देश के प्रथम प्रधान मंत्री और दूरदृष्टी पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू तथा उन अन्य राष्ट्र नेताओं को जाता है जिन्होंने देश में कृषि के महत्व को समझते हुए इसके विकास के लिए योजनाएँ बनाने के स्तर पर उल्लेखनीय योगदान दिया है। किंतु इस वक्त जो हमारी एग्रीकल्चर पॉलिसी बनी है, उस पॉलिसी को देखते

हुए ऐसा लगता है कि करीब-करीब इस देश में 70 फीसदी जो पैसा आता है, उस सेक्टर से आता है और अगर उसकी ओर ठीक से ध्यान नहीं दिया गया तो भविष्य में हमारी सारी योजनाएँ, हमारे सारे कार्यक्रम ठप हो जाएंगे। इसीलिए मैं वित्त मंत्री जी का स्वागत करते हुए भी कुछ बातें उनके सामने रखना चाहूँगा कि वे अर्थतंत्र का नियोजन करते समय इन बातों को ध्यान रखें कि इन सब चीज़ों के ऊपर भी पैसा खर्च हो रहा है या नहीं हो रहा है? क्राँप हज्जैडरी, हार्टिकल्चर, एनीमल हज्जैडरी, फिशरीज़, फारेस्ट्री तथा कृषि आभियंत्रिकी जिसको हम एग्री इंडस्ट्रीज़ कहते हैं हमारे देश की 70 प्रतिशत आबादी के जीवन यापन का साधन बने हुए है और दुनिया के 25 प्रतिशत कृषक परिवार अकेले भारत में रहते हैं। भारत में कृषि निजी क्षेत्र का सबसे बड़ा उद्यम है किन्तु यह दुखद रहा है कि यहाँ के निजी औद्योगिक क्षेत्र को व्यापक नीतिगत समर्थन दिया गया है, वहीं हम यह भूलते जा रहे हैं कि कृषि भी एक निजी उद्यम है जिससे 50 करोड़ स्त्री, पुरुष और बच्चे जुड़े हुए हैं। उपसभापति महोदय, हमारा कृषि क्षेत्र इस वक्त दोराहे पर खड़ा है। हम इस बात पर गर्व कर सकते हैं कि पिछले कुछ दशकों में हमारे किसानों तथा वैज्ञानिकों ने खाद्यान्न के क्षेत्र में देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में अभूतपूर्व योगदान दिया है। खाद्यान्न के क्षेत्र में हमारी यही आत्मनिर्भरता हमें स्वतंत्र विदेश नीति के मार्ग पर चलने के लिए बल प्रदान कर रही है। अतः हमारी जनता की रोजी-रोटी की सुरक्षा और विदेशी मामलों में हमारी राजनैतिक तटस्थता कृषि एवं उससे संबद्ध क्षेत्रों के सतत विकास पर निर्भर करती है। दुर्भाग्य से कृषि पटल पर इस वक्त विपरीत चित्र उभर रहे हैं जिसका वर्णन यूँ किया जा सकता है। इनप्रस्ट्रक्चर, ग्रामीण संचार, गोदाम, शीत संयंत्र, खराब होने वाली चीज़ों के परिवहन जैसी फसल काटने के बाद की सुविधाओं के मामले में हम बहुत पिछड़े हुए हैं। विश्व व्यापार समझौतों में कृषि के लिए स्वच्छता को कड़ी शर्त के रूप में शामिल किया गया है। इस मामले पर अब तक हमारे देश में कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। कृषि के क्षेत्र में हमारे देश में स्वच्छता का ढाँचा भी अत्यंत कमजोर है। हमें छोटे कृषकों को फसलों की प्रोसेसिंग और मार्केटिंग का ढाँचा भी उपलब्ध करवाना होगा। जैसा कि राष्ट्रीय दुग्ध विकास बोर्ड ने दुग्ध उत्पादन के क्षेत्र में किया है। राष्ट्रीय बागवानी विकास बोर्ड की स्थापना सन् 1982 में स्वामीनाथन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर की गयी थी। इस बोर्ड ने देश की व्यापक बागवानी क्षमता का अधिकतम दोहन कर किसानों के आर्थिक उत्थान की दिशा में न तो अब तक कोई ठोस भूमिका अदा की है और न ही अभी तक उसके अंदर

कोई खास प्रीग्रस हुई है। दूसरा है - इरीगेशन। विकासित देश पानी की प्रत्येक बूंद की उपयोगी क्षमता में निरंतर वृद्धि करते जा रहे हैं। पिछले 30 वर्षों में इज़राइल जैसे देशों में वहां के किसान पानी के बहाव वाली सिंचाई से रिप्रिक्लिंग और ड्रिप जैसी सिंचाई प्रणाली अपनाने लगे हैं। खेत पर आधारित कृषि की जगह प्लॉट ऐग्रीकल्चर ने ले ली है। हमें कृषि की इन आधुनिक तकनीकों को अपनाना होगा। इम्बैलेंस - असंतुलन - देश में सिंचित तथा वर्षा पर आधारित क्षेत्रों पर समान रूप से ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। आधुनिक कृषि तकनीकों का उपयोग करके हम असिंचित क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादन को दोगुना कर सकते हैं। उद्योग, इंडस्ट्रीज, असहकारिता की जगह कॉन्टैक्ट फार्मिंग पर आधारित कृषि को उद्योग क्षेत्र में बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। औद्योगिक घरानों के अपने-अपने प्रभाव वाले क्षेत्रों में इस संबंध में सेवा उपलब्ध करानी चाहिए। उद्योगों को उचित कीमत पर फसल खरीदने की प्रणाली के तहत कॉन्टैक्ट कल्टीवेशन करवाना चाहिए। इन्टेल्लेक्चुअल प्रॉपर्टी राइट्स - हमें बौद्धिक सम्पदा अधिकारों से संबंधित मामलों पर तत्काल ध्यान देना होगा। अगले वर्ष सन् 1999 में विश्व व्यापार समझौते में उल्लिखित व्यापारिक बौद्धिक सम्पदा-ट्रेड रिलेटेड इंटेलेक्चुअल प्रॉपर्टी राइट्स की समीक्षा होगी। हमें पीछों की किस्मों की सुरक्षा और कृषक अधिकार कानून के तहत विविध कानून-बायी डायवर्सिटी ऐक्ट तत्काल बनाना चाहिए ताकि हम 1999 में होने वाली समीक्षा के लिए खुद को तैयार कर सकें। हमारे किसानों को सब्सिडी की अधिक बुनियादी सेवाओं की आवश्यकता है। मौसम, पर्यावरण, प्रबंधन तथा मार्किटिंग से जुड़े मामलों में किसानों को लेटेस्ट इन्फार्मेशन उपलब्ध करवाने का प्रबंध किया जाना चाहिए।

कम्प्यूटीकरण, सूचना प्रणाली विकसित कर इसकी सुविधाओं को गरीब किसानों को, उनके परिवारों को उपलब्ध कराया जाना चाहिए। इम्प्लीमेंटेशन में प्रायः यह देखा गया है कि समस्या नीति के साथ जुड़ी नहीं है लेकिन इम्प्लीमेंटेशन मशीनरी के साथ-साथ 50 वर्षों में हमने अनेक वर्टीकल स्ट्रक्चर्ड प्रोग्राम बनाये हैं। हमें व्यावहारिक कार्यक्रम उससे जोड़ने होंगे।

उपसभापति महोदय, मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि वर्तमान सरकार के राष्ट्रीय ऐजेंडे में अगले पांच वर्षों में भूख से मुक्ति का लक्ष्य हासिल करने का संकल्प किया गया है। तमिलनाडु में भूख से मुक्ति क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम के तहत जो नतीजे हासिल हुए हैं उससे यह साबित हो गया है कि राष्ट्रीय ऐजेंडा के लक्ष्य को हासिल किया जा सकता है, बशर्ते कि खाद्यान्न के उत्पादन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया जाए। गरीबों के आर्थिक उत्थान एवं जैविक संरक्षण से

जुड़ी हुई समन्वय नीति तैयार की जाये। खाद्यान्न का जैविक संरक्षण स्वच्छ पेयजल तथा पर्यावरण स्वच्छता की उपलब्धता पर निर्भर करता है। किन्तु इसके साथ ही साथ हमें पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम में आमूलचूल परिवर्तन करने की ओर ध्यान देना होगा, क्योंकि गरीबों को इसका पूरा लाभ नहीं मिल पा रहा है। आज भी आप देखते हैं कि गांवों के अन्दर किसान आत्म हत्या कर रहे हैं। महाराष्ट्र और आन्ध्रा में चर्चा इस बात की हो रही है कि 80 किसानों ने आत्म हत्या नहीं की है, 60 किसानों ने आत्म हत्या की है। छेटी-छेटी राशियों के लिए किसान आत्म हत्या कर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि कैसी हमारी नीति बन रही है? किसानों की बिजली काट दी जाती है पांच हजार, दस हजार, पन्द्रह हजार रुपये के लिए और दूसरी तरफ जो बड़े-बड़े उद्योग हैं जिन्होंने 30, 40 करोड़ रुपये भी नहीं दिए हैं उनको सुरक्षा दी जा रही है। क्या यह किसान इसी ढंग से सिसकता रहेगा? हम लोग बैंकों के लिए अनेक योजनाएं बनाते हैं। बैंकों से उन्हें ऋण नहीं मिलता है। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि इस ओर अधिक ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। जब तक किसानों के लिए और एग्रीकल्चरल पॉलिसी के ऊपर हम लेगे ध्यान नहीं देंगे तब तक यह हमारा फाइनल ठीक से हो पाएगा, ऐसा मुझे लगता नहीं है।

दूसरी बात, मैं वित्त मंत्री से दरखास्त करूंगा और याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि न्यूज प्रिंट जो इस देश में इम्पोर्ट किया जाता है, दो वर्ष पहले उनके ऊपर 10 परसेंट एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगाई गई थी। मैं मंत्री जी का आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने इस वर्ष 5 परसेंट कस्टम ड्यूटी उसमें से कम कर दी है किन्तु जैसा कि आप जानते हैं उस समय मैं यह अधिवचन दिया गया था कि जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मार्केट में पांच हजार पिचहत्तर यूएस डॉलर कीमत हो जाएगी उस वक्त सनसेट क्लोज लगू होगा और जो 10 परसेंट ड्यूटी लगी है वह निकाल दी जाएगी। मंत्री जी, आपने आधी राहत दी है, उससे हमारे बड़े अखबार वाले भाई खुश हुए हैं किन्तु अगर आप 50 परसेंट और दे देते तो माध्यम और छोटे जो अखबार वाले हैं, उनको भी राहत मिल जाती और जो वायदा किया था वह वायदा भी पूरा हो जाता। मुझे उम्मीद है कि ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: वह फिर जोर से लिखेंगे।

श्री विजय के दडी: लिखने की तो कभी आपने चिन्ता ही नहीं की। दूसरा मुद्दा मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहूंगा इन्कम टैक्स ट्रिब्यूनल का। यह एक बड़ा गम्भीर विषय है। इन्कम टैक्स ट्रिब्यूनल के अकाउन्ट्स मेम्बर का सितम्बर 1997 में सलेक्शन हुआ था और उस कमेटी के

चेयरमैन आज के हमारे चीफ जस्टिस आफ इंडिया थे। उस समय 18 सदस्य चुने थे।

6-00 P.M.

18 सदस्यों को चुन लिया गया था और उसके बाद उस समय के जो लॉ-सेक्रेटरी थे उन्होंने उनसे कहा था कि अगर यह 18 लोग नहीं आते हैं तो कुछ और लोगों की सूची बनाई जाए। बाद में पांच और लोगों की सूची बनाई गई और कमेटी से उनकी एप्पुवल ली गई। इस तरह से कुल 23 लोगों की सूची बनाई गई थी। मजे की बात यह है कि जो पांच लोग बाद में चुने गए थे उनके पहले एपॉइन्टमेंट लैटर भेज दिए गए और उनको नियुक्त कर लिया गया। लेकिन जो 18 लोग थे उनकी अभी तक भी पोस्टिंग नहीं हुई है। इसके कारण आज जगह-जगह रिक्तियां हो रही हैं। ट्रिब्यूनल मेंबर की जगह खाली है, ट्रिब्यूनल चेयरमैन और सेक्रेटरी में विवाद चल रहा है कि पहले किसे भेजें। इसमें पैसों का भी लेन-देन हुआ है। इन पांच लोगों से लाखों में पैसे लिए गए हैं।

आज जब हमारा देश इकनॉमिक क्राइसिस से गुजर रहा है तो ऐसे समय में भी इन लोगों की जगह रिक्त हैं। मेरा अनुरोध है कि फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर देखें कि ये जगह रिक्त क्यों हैं, क्या इनमें झंझट हो रहे हैं और क्या बात इनमें हुई है?

साथ ही साथ में एक और विषय की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि इन दिनों में हम लोग इन्फोर्समेंट डायरेक्टोरेट नाम सुनते हैं, ई.डी। ये हैं कौन इन्फोर्समेंट डायरेक्टोरेट ऐसा लग रहा है कि 'दे आर सुपर ह्यूमन बीगूज इस देश के सब नागरिक हैं, चाहे वे इण्डस्ट्रियलिस्ट हों, चाहे वे ब्यूरोक्रैट्स हों या वे सामान्य नागरिक हों। उनकी सम्मान की रक्षा करने की व्यवस्था हमारे संविधान में की गई है। हाल ही में मुझे एक केस देखने को मिला है कि एक प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति जो कि इस देश के एक अखबार से जुड़े हुए हैं, टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया के चेयरमैन हैं, उनके साथ किस ढंग से व्यवहार हुआ है। इससे पहले एस्.एन.जी. किरलोस्कर के साथ जो व्यवहार हुआ। राजन पिल्लै को हम भूले नहीं हैं कि किस ढंग से उन्हें टार्चर किया गया, किस ढंग से अपमानित किया गया था जिसके कारणवश उनकी मृत्यु हो गई थी। आज भी जैन की प्रतिष्ठा, डिगनिटी को नीलाम किया जा रहा है। क्या उन्हें कोई रोकने वाला नहीं है? अगर किसी ने इकनॉमिक ऑफेंस किए हैं तो उसके लिए क्या करना चाहिए? चार्जशीट फाइल करिए, उनके खिलाफ कानूनी कार्यवाही करिए। लेकिन डेढ़ साल के अंदर 19 बार

इन्टेरोगेशन करने के बाद, 25 घंटे उनका जबाब लेने के बाद, अगर किसी आदमी को हयूमिलिएट किया जाए, थर्ड डिग्री मेथड इस्तेमाल किया जाए तो क्या यह उचित है? मैं सदन को बताना चाहूंगा कि 6 तारीख को मैंने यहां ओथ ली और ओथ लेने के बाद मुझे पता चला तो मैं, सीधा मुम्बई चला गया। मैंने मुम्बई होस्पिटल में देखा कि वहां वे बेचारे होस्पिटल के कपड़ों में थे, उनके कपड़े उतारे गए और सर्च किए गए। यह कौन सा कानून है, क्या उन्हें रोकने वाला कोई नहीं है इस देश में, वे भी हमारी आर्थिक नीति के महत्वपूर्ण अंग हैं। किसी वजह से अगर कोई आर्थिक गुनाह करता है तो उसको सजा जरूर मिलनी चाहिए। अगर सजा देगा कौन? सजा देने वाला कौन होगा? यह भी तय होना चाहिए। लोगों के मन में ऐसा नहीं लगना चाहिए कि इस देश में सरकार नहीं है और हुकुमत-शाही सब कुछ कर सकती है, नौकरशाही सब कुछ कर सकती है। यह बात रोकी जानी चाहिए।

अंत में मैं आप सब को एक बार फिर धन्यवाद देता हूँ जो आपने मुझे यह मौका दिया और मुझे शांति से सुना। धन्यवाद।

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Madam Deputy Chairman, passing of the Finance Bill is an annual exercise. Through this Bill the Finance Minister tries to raise resources, regulate the economy and promote growth. This Finance Bill does not inspire anybody. The Finance Minister is trying to raise both direct and indirect taxes through this Bill. I am afraid, it will not help him to solve the problems. He tried to bring various provisions through this Bill.

Madam, the Finance Minister has mentioned in his Budget speech that he will end the inspector raj; and will make tax laws more transparent, more friendly and enable a tax-payer to discharge his duty without fear. But if we examine various proposals of the Finance Minister at the macro-level and his claim of ending the inspector raj, we can find that they are not so and he is not going to achieve them. Instead, there will be more of inspector raj, there will be more harassment. The revenue which he is expecting from all these measures will not be accomplished.

Madam, the Income Tax Act is a very old one enacted in 1961, an exercise was made to amend the Income Tax Act; and a new Act was brought forth. Now, it is more than 37 years

old and we have not amended it. Every year through these Finance Bills, we are trying to meddle with this law and make the Income Tax Act, direct tax and indirect tax more complicated. An exercise was done last year. A new Income Tax Bill was to be introduced, but we do not know what has happened to it. The Finance Ministry has not come out with any statement whether the same Bill will be introduced or they are going to introduce the Bill prepared by the task force or whether they are going to make any amendments to it or whether they are going to introduce a new Bill. It has not been made clear to us. Due to constraint of time, I will not be able to go into the details. However, I will just cite a few examples of various tax laws which he has proposed. Some of the amendments which he has proposed, I feel, are based on assumptions. And for his assumption that whether those proposals are going to yield revenue and raise the resources, I am sure, the Finance Minister is in for a big disappointment at the end of the year, if this Government stays. Madam, he has proposed to amend section 10 of the Act. The Bill seeks to withdraw section 10(22) and 10(22 (a)) and seeks to add certain sub-clauses in order to bring under the tax net certain educational institutions and hospitals which exist solely for treatment. In the Lok Sabha, the hon. Minister had brought certain changes. But he has not spelt out the reasons. These educational institutions or institutions like hospitals or charitable institutions like trusts or associations, have to function under certain laws of trusts or the Societies Registration Act. How all of a sudden, they become profit-making institutions and how they are taxed when they are charitable institutions, what are the reasons or compulsions for taxing them, are not spelt out. Nor has he said what tax revenue he is going to have from them. It is not clear. It is very vague.

Madam, a big change has been brought in that 'resident' and 'not-ordinary resident' have been taken away. The Finance Minister has proposed to remove the classification of assesses who have been treated as 'residents' but not 'ordinary residents'. The proposal, I am afraid, will send a wrong message to non-resident Indians whose support the Budget seeks to enlist. This may also pose a problem

in taxation of foreign nationals who stay for over 182 days in a year in India. Such a national will be considered as a resident for the purpose of tax liability although he may be exempt in terms of double taxation agreement. This will result in an NRI who probably migrated to another country for earning tax-free income being subjected to tax in his own home state. I request the hon. Finance Minister to carefully examine this provision. It is going to create a lot of problems.

Then again, clause 45(6)(2) introduces a new section 145A. This proposal will simply open the floodgates of litigation. The proposed amendment is also not in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India which is a premier accounting body. This is going to create a lot of litigations. And, through 'Samadhan', one of the intentions of the hon. Finance Minister is to remove litigation. (*Interruption*).

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Then what will lawyers do?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Come to Rajya Sabha.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Then there should not be any 'Samadhan' and you have to withdraw that 'Samadhan' also.

Again, the hon. Finance Minister has added two new sections. The proposals seek to enhance the fee for filing an appeal. In any case, this will not help to reduce the litigation because the main litigants are the Department itself. It is not the common man. The proposal to enhance the filing fee for appeal is a very retrograde step and is opposed to the principle of equity and natural justice. It is said that out of 6,400 reference applications pending before various High Courts in India as on 31st March, 1998, 4,800 applications were filed by various Departments only and 1,600 applications were filed by the assesseees. In more than 800 pending references, the Department has not filed any paper books nor has it filed any response despite a lapse of ten to fifteen years in most of the cases. It was point out that a sample analysis indicated that 62.8 per cent of the orders referred to various High Courts on question of law have been upheld by the High Courts. By just enhancing the fee for appeal. I

am afraid, the Finance Minister is going to reduce litigation. Then another far-reaching amendment which the Finance Minister is trying to introduce in section 40, clause 20, is to deduct the subsidy received by an industry for calculation of depreciation. There are different kinds of subsidies which an industry gets. For instance, we have the backward area subsidy. But nobody knows when the subsidy will come. Sometimes even after ten years, the industry have not received the subsidy. Now, how are you going to deduct this subsidy? Are you going to deduct it out of his assets for the purpose of depreciation? Sometimes, he is not going to receive the subsidy at all because the State Governments are giving the subsidy. So, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to look into this matter.

Then I come to the question of Permanent Account Number or the opening of the bank account. For this purpose, you should prescribe certain limit. Who has to give the account number? Ordinarily, any person, even a footpath vendor, can open a bank account. Is he also to be given a Permanent Account Number? Kindly clarify this point also. Then I come to the question of service tax. Many hon. Members have spoken about the service tax. The Finance Minister is right in saying that we should find out the new avenues of taxation. But I would like to say that here one profession has been discriminated against. The chartered accountants, the cost accountants and the company secretaries have been brought under the service tax net. There is no objection for bringing them under the service tax. But under section 288 of the Income-tax Act, a chartered accountant is one of the persons who can represent before the Income Tax Authority. An Advocate can represent, a Tax Practitioner can represent. This Bill has touched the chartered accountants for the purpose of service tax. The service tax is levied or is given for the service rendered to the client. Suppose the same client goes to an advocate or to a tax practitioner, he will not be charged service tax. There is a discrimination. Either there is a bias against a profession or there is a discrimination between the clients. If a client goes to some practitioner, he is not to pay a service tax, but when he goes to a particular practitioner, he will have to pay a service tax. Madam, I would like to bring to

your notice the assurance given by the Prime Minister to the chartered accountants: "The hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, today assured the chartered accountants that he would seriously consider the issue of rolling back the imposition of five per cent service tax and then take up the matter with the Finance Minister." While addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Prime Minister said, "I am aware of the problem being faced by the chartered accountants as a result of the imposition of the five per cent service tax. Kindly show me the way in which the service tax will remain intact, but CA will be out of it." Mr. Vajpayee said amidst laughter, "I have not imposed the service tax; therefore, I cannot withdraw it! It is the Finance Minister who has imposed the tax! And I assure you that I will take up the issue with the Finance Minister."

Madam, the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister have given an assurance....
(interruption)...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: It is outside the House!

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: It is outside the House. I have said "outside the House". It has been reported in the press, and it is a genuine demand. Madam, I have also moved an amendment in this regard. This is the explanation as far as the amendment is concerned.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think your amendment is incorporated.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Madam, I won't take much of your time. I would like to suggest one thing. I agree with Raghavji who said, "The service tax is being administered by the Excise Department and the Customs Department. The Excise and Customs Departments deal with the commodities and other things. Income Tax Department is the proper Department to deal with the service tax." The Department of Direct Taxes is the proper Department to administer the service tax. Otherwise, as he has said, the inspector raj will come. Income-tax inspectors will be going to various professionals. In any case, professionals will be going to the Income-Tax Department, and while assessing the income-

tax, automatically the service tax could also be assessed. So, I strongly suggest that the hon. Finance Minister should consider shifting the administration of service tax from the Excise and Customs Department to the Income-Tax Department.

उपसभापति: श्री रामदास जी, संक्षेप में बोलिएगा।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): महोदया, आपने मुझे 22 मिनट के लिए कहा है।

उपसभापति: नहीं, मैंने नहीं कहा है।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: मैं उससे अधिक नहीं बोलूंगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not said 22 minutes. I have not just said anything.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: मुझे जो सूचना है वहीं बता रहा हूँ।

उपसभापति: आपकी सूचना कभी गलत भी हो सकती है।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: इसलिए मैं आपके नोटिस में लाया। उपसभापति महोदया, आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। (व्यवधान)।

उपसभापति: मैंने इसलिए कहा कि बहुत लेंट हो गया है। साढ़े छः बज गए हैं। आज लंच आवर भी नहीं हुआ है। इसलिए जल्दी खत्म कर दें। जरूरी नहीं है कि आपके पास टाइम ज्यादा है तो आप बोलते ही रहें। जितना रैलेक्स है उतना ही आप बोलिए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: महोदया, मैं बहुत जल्दी ही खत्म करूंगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is too late, and the Minister of Health is here to make a statement.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: उपसभापति महोदया, वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो वित्त विधेयक यहां प्रस्तुत किया है मैं उसके समर्थन के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। वित्त मंत्री जी को मैं दो बिंदुओं पर धन्यवाद और उनका आभार भी व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। पहला बिंदु मेरा यह है कि जिस विरासत में उनको यह बजट प्रस्तुत करने का मौका मिला और जिस प्रकार का बिगड़ा हुआ आर्थिक ढांचा इन्हें प्राप्त हुआ था, उस संदर्भ में, उस परिप्रेक्ष्य में इन्होंने जो एक साहसिक बजट रखा है, इसके लिए वह निश्चित रूप से बधाई के और धन्यवाद के पात्र है।

महोदया, दूसरे बिंदु पर धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे ही सरकार और वित्त मंत्री जी को पता लगा कि

यूरिया पर जो टैक्स लगाया गया था, उसे वापिस लेने की आवश्यकता है, उसे किसानों के हित में उन्होंने तुरंत वापिस ले लिया। उस के बाद अभी लोक सभा में जब उन्होंने वित्त विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया और सांसद बंधुओं ने अपनी-अपनी मांगें और सुझाव प्रस्तुत किए तो उस समय भी उन्होंने उन सारी बातों का विचार करते हुए लगभग 260 करोड़ रुपये के करों की राहत देकर एक संदेश दिया कि यह सरकार अगर अच्छे सुझाव आते हैं तो निश्चित रूप से उन पर विचार कर के किसी प्रकार के पूर्वाग्रह से ग्रसित न होकर निर्णय लेती है।

महोदया, मैं दी-तीन बिंदुओं पर विशेष रूप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। महोदया, इस समय देश का औद्योगिक ढांचा मंदी के दौर से गुजर रहा है। इस समय विकास की दर रुक गयी है, एक्सपोर्ट की जो बढ़ोतरी हो रही थी, वह कम हो गयी है और विदेशी मुद्रा का भंडार कम हो रहा है यह हमारे आर्थिक क्षेत्र की कुछ समस्याएं हैं लेकिन यह हमारी सरकार के चार महानों में पैदा नहीं हुई है, यह वित्त मंत्री जी को विरासत में मिली थी और उन्हें ठीक करने का काम भी माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी के कंधों पर है। इसी दृष्टि से मैं उन्हें कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात तो यह है कि हम ने जब उदारीकरण की नीति स्वीकार की, वैश्वीकरण या ग्लोबलाइजेशन की नीति स्वीकार की तो हमारे सामने यह बात थी कि हम अपने देश के उद्योगों को भी 'लेवल फील्ड' देंगे। एक ऐसा समान धरातल देंगे जो कि विदेशी कंपनियों या विदेशी उद्योगपतियों को मिल चुका है, लेकिन मैं वित्त मंत्री जी के ध्यान में यह बात लाना चाहता हूँ कि वास्तव में हमारे देश का उद्योग-धंधा उस मैचुरिटी लेवल तक नहीं पहुंचा था जहां उसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जगत में प्रतिस्पर्धा के लिए छोड़ दिया गया। उसी का परिणाम है कि हम ने बेतहाशा इम्पोर्ट अलाउ कर दिया, हम ने बेतहाशा अन्य-अन्य कंपनियों को कंजूमर गुड्स और अन्य उद्योगों में अलाउ कर दिया जिस के परिणामस्वरूप भारत का उद्योग रण होता चला जा रहा है और उसी के कारण हमारे लाखों, करोड़ों रुपये का इन्वेस्टमेंट जो इस क्षेत्र में हुआ है, वह आज खतरे के कगार पर खड़ा है। महोदया, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि आप जिस समय समान धरातल की बात करते हैं, उस समय केवल एक दो बातों पर नहीं तो कम से कम जो कास्ट इनपुट्स हैं और जिन के कारण हमारी कास्ट और विदेशीयों के उत्पादन की कास्ट के उपर असर पड़ता है, उस पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए। आप उद्योग से विद्युत का रेट क्या लेते हैं और दुनिया के देश विद्युत का रेट उद्योग से क्या चार्ज करते हैं महोदया, हमारे यहां पर इंप्रस्ट्रक्चर की कमी है। उन्हें कितनी सुविधाएं इंप्रस्ट्रक्चर

के रूप में प्राप्त है हमारे यहां अगर हम कहें तो केवल लेबर सस्ती हो सकती है, बाकी कोई चीज हमारे यहां दुनिया के अन्य राष्ट्रों के मुकाबले सस्ती नहीं है और उसी के कारण हमारे उद्योग दुनिया की इस प्रतिस्पर्धा में पीछे छूट गए हैं। महोदया, आज इम्पोर्ट सस्ता पड़ता है और भारत में पैदा हुआ माल मंहगा पड़ता है। उसी का परिणाम है कि हम उद्योग में पीछे छूट गए हैं और हमारा निर्यात कम हो गया है। इसलिए मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करंगा कि इस क्षेत्र में आप को विशेष रूप से इस बजट सत्र के बाद संबंधित लोगों को बुलाकर एक प्रारंभ लेवल फील्ड देना चाहिए जिस से कि उन के सामने यह बात आ सके कि इन-इन क्षेत्रों में आप ने समान धरातल दिया हुआ है और आप को इस प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना करना है।

महोदया, मेरा दूसरा सुझाव इस मामले में यह है कि भारत सरकार के कई उद्योग हैं जिन का कि एक्सपेंशन हुआ है। महोदया, यहां मैं केवल उद्योग से संबंधित बात नहीं कह रहा हूं, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी के ध्यान में यह बात लाना चाहता हूं कि हमारे यहां किसी भी सरकारी उद्योग में जब कोई प्रोजेक्ट बनता है तो उस के लिए समय-सीमा निर्धारित होती है कि हम इस प्रोजेक्ट को 3 साल में या 5 साल में पूरा करेंगे। लेकिन मैं केवल उदाहरण के तौर पर कहना चाहता हूं कि स्टील इंडस्ट्री या स्टील प्लांट्स का एक्सपेंशन हुआ और एक एक एक्सपेंशन में, जो 1988 में तय किए गए थे वह 1998 में जाकर पूरे हो रहे हैं, दस साल में। इससे लगत खर्च जो तय किया गया था 2100 करोड़ रुपया राऊरकेल स्टील प्लांट का, वह 4100 करोड़ रुपया एक्सपेंशन में जाकर खर्च हुआ। इसके कारण स्टील इंडस्ट्री सिक हो गई, डेप्रिस्सिएशन इंटेस्ट लगा रहा है, दस साल में उनका जो खर्च लगा गया उसके कारण हमारे देश की स्टील इंडस्ट्री खतरे के कगार पर खड़ी है। आज वह माल नहीं बेच पा रही है, उसे अपने माल को लगत से कम मूल्य पर बाजार में बेचना पड़ रहा है। मैं यह निवेदन इसलिए कर रहा हूं, महोदया, कि जो वित्तमंत्री से संबंधित विषय है, आप कम से कम एक एग्जिक्टिव तो दीजिए वित्त मंत्रालय की तरफ से कि अब आगे से इस सरकार के समय में ऐसा कोई काम नहीं किया जाएगा, जिसमें टाइम-रन हो जाए या कास्ट-रन हो जाए। अगर दोष किसी व्यक्ति या किसी अधिकारी का होगा जो उसकी एकाउंटबिलिटी होगी, उसको आन्सर देना पड़ेगा, उस काट्रिब्यूट का आन्सर देना पड़ेगा, उसको पैन्लैन्डज करना पड़ेगा। जब तक आप यह पैनैल्टी नहीं लगाएंगे उन काट्रिब्यूट्स पर, उन लोगों पर, जो एक्सपेंशन की जिम्मेदारी लेते हैं, तब तक हमारे देश में यह कोस्ट ओवर रन का हिसाब कम नहीं होगा। अगर ऐसे उद्योग सरकार के हों तो

इसके बिना यह कभी भी नहीं चल पाएंगे, चाहे आप कितना जोर संसद में बैठकर लगा लीजिए, चाहे कितने एग्जिक्टिव दे दीजिए। हमारे यहां तो कास्ट ओवर रन को अवार्ड दिया जाता है, रिवार्ड दिया जाता है। उस काट्रिब्यूट को आर्बिट्रेशन में खलकर फिर उसको कम्पनसेशन दिए जाते हैं। ऐसी अजीब स्थिति हमारी हो गई है। हम अपने ही घर में अपना खून निकालकर उसको पिला रहे हैं। और वह काट्रिब्यूट मोटा होता जा रहा है, सरकार की कंपनी दुबली होती जाती है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं वित्तमंत्री जी, कि इस मामले में भी सरकार को बड़ी कठोरता के साथ निर्णय लेना चाहिए और उसे लागू कराना चाहिए।

महोदया, मैं राजस्थान का उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं, हमने पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. के अंदर उदाहरण पेश किया है कि हमारी कंस्ट्रक्शन में, जो कंस्ट्रक्शन सरकार की तरफ से चलता है, उसमें न आर्बिट्रेशन होगा, न उसमें टाइस एक्सटेंशन होगा, न ही उसमें कास्ट एक्सकलेशन होगा। जो काम जिस समय के लिए दिया है, उसमें पूरा करना पड़ेगा अन्यथा काट्रिब्यूट रद्द कर दिया जाएगा। उसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि जहां हमने एक सौ करोड़ रुपया विकास के लिए खर्च करना था वहीं हमने तीन सौ करोड़ रुपया खर्च किया, विकास का काम किया, सही समय पर किया और पैसे का सदुपयोग हुआ। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि देश का जो पैसा डेन-आउट हो रहा है, इन सारे कार्यों में डेन-आउट हो रहा है, उसको आप रोकिए। अगर आप इसको रोकेंगे तो निश्चित रूप से हमारे उद्योगों को प्रतिस्पर्धा में शामिल होने में सहायता मिलेगी। यह मेरा दूसरा बिन्दु है, महोदया।

महोदया, तीसरी बात, मेरे कुछ सुझाव वित्त मंत्री जी को हैं, जो टैक्स से संबंधित हैं और वह बहुत जरूरी हैं। मैं राजस्थान से आता हूं। आपको पता है, राजस्थान डेजर्ट है और थोड़ा सा हिस्सा गुजरात का भी है। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने हमारे पहाड़ी इलाकों को मदद दी है, यह बहुत अच्छी बात है, देना भी चाहिए। अभी हिमाचल प्रदेश में हमारे माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी गए थे, वहां पर उन्होंने कुछ करोड़ रुपया उनकी सहाय्यार्थ देने का तय किया। बहुत स्वागत योग्य कदम है। देना पड़ता है ऐसी स्टेट्स को। कश्मीर को हम देते हैं, हमारे नार्थ ईस्ट के जो प्रांत हैं उनको हम मदद देते हैं। मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा था वित्त मंत्री जी से, कि डेथ पैननेन्स कमीशन में भी, जब कृष्ण चंद जी पंत अध्यक्ष थे, उस समय हमने उनको निवेदन किया था कि डेजर्ट एरिये की

भी आपको कम से कम उसी स्तर पर लाकर उनको सहायता देनी चाहिए, उन्हें कुछ छूट देनी चाहिए। इसमें केवल दो ही प्रांत मेरे अनुमान से हैं, राजस्थान का हिस्सा और गुजरात का हिस्सा, तो उनको इस मामले में सहायता मिलनी चाहिए। डेजर्ट एक्ज के को भी उसी रूप में ट्रीट करना चाहिए, यह मेरा एक सुझाव वित्त मंत्री जी को है।

महोदया, हमारे राजस्थान से डेलीगेशन आया था। आप जानते हैं, राजस्थान में मार्बल उद्योग एक बहुत बड़ा और प्रतिष्ठित उद्योग है। इसमें लगभग 16 लाख लोग कार्यरत हैं, इस काम को करते हैं। यद्यपि मार्बल इंडस्ट्री को इंडस्ट्री के रूप में नहीं ले पाई है हमारी सरकार, लेकिन राजस्थान सरकार ने उसको इंडस्ट्री माना है और इसे इंडस्ट्री मानकर कुछ छूट दी है। हमारे यहां पिछली सरकारों ने मार्बल को प्रेनाइट से भिन्न रखते हुए उसके ऊपर 30 परसेंट एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगा दी थी, हमारी सरकार ने भी 10 परसेंट ड्यूटी लगाई, लेकिन मैं माननीय वित्तमंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने उस 10 परसेंट बढ़ी हुई ड्यूटी को वापस ले लिया है, लेकिन उसमें एक छोटी सी कमी रह गई है, उसके लिए मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि उस बहुत छोटी सी कमी को समाप्त कर दें क्योंकि उन्होंने कहा है कि 400/- रुपया स्क्वायर मीटर के ऊपर का जो माल होगा, उसके ऊपर 10 परसेंट एक्साइज बढ़ी हुई लगेगी अर्थात् 30 से 40 परसेंट लगेगी। वित्तमंत्री जी, मैं आपको बता देना चाहता हूँ कि इससे आपकी आमदनी मुश्किल से 80 लाख रुपए होगी साल भर में। लेकिन इस सैट-पर-सैट के कारण आपको यहां पर इस विभाग में जो एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट के आदमी होंगे, न जाने वे उस उद्योग से संबंधित लोगों से कितना खून चूस लेंगे, इसका अंदाजा आप लगाइए। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि 80 लाख रुपए कोई बड़ी बात नहीं है, उसको आप मेहरबानी करके समाप्त कर दीजिए ताकि वहां राजस्थान में मार्बल का उद्योग पनप सके, लाखों लोग उसमें लगे हुए हैं।

महोदया, दो-एक छोटे-छोटे बिन्दु हैं, उन पर अपनी बात कहकर मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। महोदया, मेरा एक और निवेदन मध्य प्रदेश से संबंधित है। यहां पर बीड़ी पत्ते का काम लगभग सरकार करती है और यह सरकार के हाथ में है लेकिन मुझे जानकारी मिली है कि यहां पर टी-डी-एस-टैक्स डिडक्शन ऐट सोर्स - 10 परसेंट काय जाता है व्यापारियों से। महोदया, मुझे आश्चर्य है कि 10 परसेंट टी-डी-एस कैसे संभव हो सकता है? कहीं पर, किसी भी कांटेक्ट में, किसी में भी 2 परसेंट से ज्यादा डिडक्शन ऐट सोर्स मैंने कभी देखा नहीं, सुना नहीं और कभी कटवाया नहीं, लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य है कि बीड़ी

पत्ते पर, जो सरकार का धंधा है और उससे व्यापारी खरीदता है, उस पर 10 परसेंट टी-डी-एस कटता है। महोदया, इस 10 परसेंट टी-डी-एस को कोई जस्टिफिकेशन नहीं है, इसे समाप्त किया जाना चाहिए और दूसरे अन्य जो ट्रेड हैं, इसे उसके लेवल पर लाकर 2-3 परसेंट टैक्स ऐट सोर्स, जैसा सरकार उचित समझे, इसमें करना चाहिए क्योंकि पैसा वापिस जा रहा है। सरकार के पास इसके तथ्य होंगे कि जब असेसमेंट हो जाता है तो फिर पैसा रिफंड किया जाता है डेढ़ साल बाद ब्याज सहित। सरकार को ब्याज का नुकसान होता है और व्यापारी को चार चक्कर निफंड का चैक लेने के लिए लगाने पड़ते हैं और उसके बाद जो बाकी खर्चा करना पड़ता है, उसकी मैं चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता। तो इसको समाप्त किया जाना चाहिए। अन्नेसेसरली हम इस्पेक्टर्स के हाथ में या और लोगों के हाथ में इन ट्रेड्स को क्यों देते हैं? इसको कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री महोदय इस बात की ओर भी ध्यान दें।

महोदया, मेरी एक बहुत छोटी सी बहुत पहले की डिमांड है। जब पूर्व में डा. मनमोहन सिंह जी हमारे वित्त मंत्री थे, मैंने उनके सामने भी यह प्रश्न उठाया था और बिदम्बरम साहब के समय भी प्रश्न उठाया था और मैं शायद पिछले सात साल से यह प्रश्न उठाता आ रहा हूँ और मुझे लगता है कि चार साल मेरे और हैं, मैं तब तक यह प्रश्न उठाता रहूंगा। महोदया, आप स्वयं जरा विचार करें कि विदेशी हमारे राजस्थान में, उत्तर प्रदेश में, उड़ीसा में आते हैं। वे शो-रूम पर जाते हैं, सामान खरीदते हैं, काउंटर सैल होती है और वहां पर आर्टिसेंस के सामान बिकते हैं-हैंडिक्राफ्ट के, हैंडलूम के इत्यादि, इत्यादि और फॉरेन एक्सचेंज में उनको वे वहां पर दाम देते हैं। वह फॉरेन एक्सचेंज का एक इस्टेब्लिश्ड डीलर है और जो वह फॉरेन एक्सचेंज कमाता है उसे दूसरे दिन रिजर्व बैंक में जमा करा देता है। लेकिन इस ट्रेडर को, जो शो-रूम पर अपना माल बेचता है, इसको एक्सपोर्ट का नाम नहीं दिया जाता, एक्सपोर्ट नहीं माना जाता और उसके कारण वह ट्रेडर जो फॉरेन एक्सचेंज अर्ज करता है, उस पर उसको कोई लाभ नहीं मिलता। इसके कारण इस धंधे में कई प्रकार की गड़बड़ियां शुरू हो गई हैं। डा. मनमोहन सिंह जी जब वित्त मंत्री थे तो उन्होंने इस बात को स्वीकार किया था कि अगर यह बात हो रही है तो यह गलत है, यह नहीं होना चाहिए और उनको भी वही लाभ मिलना चाहिए जो दूर ऑपरेटर्स को मिलता है, उनको भी वही लाभ मिलना चाहिए जो होटल वालों को फॉरेन एक्सचेंज पर मिलता है। मंत्री महोदय, मैं आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि राजस्थान,

उत्तर प्रदेश और जो प्रांत हैंडिक्राफ्ट में काफी प्रभावी हैं, जिनका माल बिकता है, हजारों-करोड़ों रूपए के आर्डर आते हैं—वे सैम्पल ले जाते हैं और सैम्पल के बाद आर्डर आते हैं—उनको इसका बेनिफिट मिले।

महोदया, इसके साथ ही मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करते हुए वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि आपने जो बजट प्रस्तुत किया है, हम उसका तहेदिल से समर्थन करते हैं और जनता की मांग, जो मैंने आपके सामने रखी है, आप उस पर सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार करें।

धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anybody who earns foreign exchange is to be accepted and the person should be given benefit of it.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala): Madam, perhaps, I am the last speaker. I do not know.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is one more. You have a few minutes only.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Madam, while we discuss the Finance Bill, as such there is no scope for a general reference to many things. The Government has placed before us the taxation proposals which are under discussion now. Therefore, general discussion is limited. I mean, the scope is limited. Still, two-three points I have to refer. I do not want to make a speech. The first point is, I would like to invite the attention of the Finance Minister to the fact that the Indian economy is facing a serious trend. I do not think he will disagree with this. The point is that today industrial growth has come down to 4.5%. Food production is less by 5 million tonnes. Trade deficit has come to 6.8 billion dollars. Rupee has plummeted, resulting in external debt rising to Rs. 44,000 crores. This is the position of the economy. Another serious factor to be noted is, we cannot hide because when we, Members of Parliament, go out of the House, all the people would look at us and ask: What about price rise? Technically you say that it is only a rise of 4.5% earlier and now it has become 7.6%. But that percentage does not give us the exact position. The position is that, Madam, in every household the rise is from 4.5% to 7.6% on the percentage basis. Actually the prices have gone up in every essential commodity used in

every home. Rice price has gone up from Rs. 10 to Rs. 14. Potato price has gone up from Rs. 2.25 to Rs. 10. Mustard oil from Rs. 34 to 54. Onion from Rs. 3.25 to Rs. 14. Tomato, from Rs. 7 to Rs. 36. This is the plight. I do not want to go into the details. What does it mean?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know, tomato has come down a bit.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: I do not want to go into the details. The point is that the total economy is in difficulty. Price rise is there in a serious proportion. The Finance Minister has replied in the other House which I have gone through. He said that he was not responsible. I am not disputing that point. Who is responsible? The point is, I cannot go to the market. Therefore, I am only saying that this is the situation. There may be many reasons but the Government has increased the petrol price; rail fare hike is there; there is postal rate hike; rise in Excise Duty has a place. This is one thing. I want to invite the attention of the Finance Minister. I have gone through the speech made by the Finance Minister. Madam, you will excuse me if I quote from his own speech which he gave in the other House. He was referring to the world economy. It is a good thing he has done. No other Minister had the chance to do it. He has referred about Korea; he has referred about Japan; he has referred about Russia; and, the economic setbacks suffered in the tiger economies of East Asian countries. He has stated: "East Asian countries' crises erupted last year. As a result of that, in November, 1997, 111 billion dollars were withdrawn in one month. In January, 1998, 81 billion dollars were withdrawn and it turned to a positive trend in February and March and again, a negative trend is seen up to 24.9 billion dollars. What does it mean? Now, you see, he has stated in the speech yesterday in the other House. I read it. He is completely towing the line of the pattern earlier being continued by the previous Governments. He is correct there. That means, a new situation has come towards the world economy which though noted by the Finance Minister, he did not draw a proper conclusion out of it. What does it mean? He has referred to two things; not only the

economic crisis but to the threat which is being made by the U.S. and others about sanctions against us.

He has also correctly referred to that question? How do we withstand all that? The new economic crisis which the world economy is facing means that the total capitalistic economic system in the world is going through a serious stress, including the mighty economy of Japan. If the Japanese economy goes into a crisis, it means we have its reflection in US economy, etc. I do not want to deal with that. So, what we have to see is that this kind of a situation does not affect our economy. Therefore, some safety measures are to be taken by the Finance Minister properly. While he says that he is continuing the old policy, this change has to be looked at and proper steps should be taken. Therefore, I come to the question of strengthening our Indian economy by strengthening our public sector, our infrastructure, our basic industries, our agriculture and our economy as a whole. We must stand on our own legs. This policy change is not reflected in the approach of the Finance Minister. I want a change in that so that we can withstand any act of U.S. or anybody else. If anybody sets that we must tow their line, then we must declare that we will never tow their line. We have our own line. This we can do only by strengthening what we have got, and if there is any lacuna that has to be corrected. Keeping this in view, I must submit one or two points together with that. The first point is with regard to the approach of the Finance Minister towards the public sector. He has announced that the Exit Policy will be implemented. Madam, out of 19 lakh 60 thousand workers nearly 5 lakh 20 thousand or 5 lakh 50 thousand workers will fall in the so-called Exit bracket.

This means—Mr. Finance Minister, excuse me for that—that if this policy is implemented, nearly one-third of the workers have to go out of employment. So, you will be giving some money, etc. This figure may be wrong. So, he has to correct me, perhaps. But, the point is that the total economy of the country which is based on a policy of the public sector will be disturbed. In the basic sector economy some industry might have some bad economy. I am

not against correcting some errors in the public sector. That is up to you. Another point is that he has declared disinvestment in those industries which are making profit continuously for 20 years. You invite this private sector as if they are infallible people. No. Japan has mainly the private sector, Korea has mainly the private sector and many other Asian countries have mainly the private sector. Can you rely on them? No, you cannot. Therefore, Mr. Finance Minister, this policy of disinvestment is inviting the working class into action. The working class is worried about it because about six lakh workers are going to be sent out of employment. This is my first point. Secondly, the industrial base which we have built is going to be disturbed. It is not for the sake of employment, but it is for the national sake that the workers are forced to go for action. I am sorry to say that this is going to happen because of this policy.

These are the main issues which I have to submit in general. Then I come to the tax proposals. A question has been raised by my friend Dr. Biplab Dasgupta. Madam, 65 per cent of the total income of the Government comes from the indirect taxes. Year after year the proportion of direct taxes is coming down. Why can you not change that framework? Why can you not think in terms of taxing the rural rich so that thousands of crores of rupees can be mobilised for the exchequer? In this way the Finance Minister will be able to have a new changed road. Therefore, taxation policy in general needs to be changed. I do not go beyond that. I want to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to two or three points.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Balanandan, your time is over.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: I will not take much time. I know that you are in a hurry. I am also in a hurry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. I am not in a hurry. I have one more speaker; then the Minister; then a statement.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Madam, the earlier Government has levied excise duty on bidi industry. I had pleaded with Mr. Chidambaram. He had made a policy change. He had reduced excise duty on cigarettes. What is the result of it? The total bidi industry

which is employing 60 lakh employees, mainly the poor women, are affected. Therefore, we have to see what the workers' contribution to excise duty on bidi is. Madam, they are paying to the Government nearly Rs. 6. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister one thing. Sixty lakh poor employees are adversely affected because of the policy change introduced by the earlier Government and reduction of duty on cigarettes. While going into the question of other things, I want the hon. Finance Minister to look into this also. My case is, there is also another exemption granted. When bidi is branded, it has to pay tax and non-branded bidi need not pay any tax. If the annual production of bidi is below 20 lakhs, there is no tax. That means, tax-evaders, who do not want to pay anything to the Government, are being protected. Those industries which are co-operative societies in our State and where there are 70,000 workers, are paying duty through their nose. I do not want him to say anything now but I request him to go into the question properly either by making some device or by appointing some committee. This is my first prayer to the hon. Finance Minister.

The second thing is about the reduction in custom duty on caprolactum product. Earlier, there was 80% customs duty on caprolactum. That has been reduced. During 1997-98, the basic duty was reduced to 30% and the special duty to 5%. Now, what you have done is, you have reduced the basic duty to 25% and you have introduced 8% additional duty which you have again reduced to 4%. I have no objection to that. I am only raising two things. One is, 4% should be made applicable to traders also because the benefit which he wanted to give to the national industry is not being given. That is one point. Therefore, I want that 4% should be made applicable to traders and the 30% should remain as it is. You should not reduce that.

Another point is about the titanium dioxide. In Kerala, we have only a few industries like caprolactum, titanium dioxide, etc. There also the hon. Minister has made some changes in the customs duty. You have introduced 8% additional duty on titanium dioxide and then you have reduced it to 4%. There also you have exempted traders. What does that mean? The

industry would not get the benefit. There is some kind of a tax system in Pondicherry. If it is done in Pondicherry, 1% tax has to be paid. Therefore, the whole trade goes via Pondicherry and ultimately, the national industry will suffer.

Finally, when you only see the immediate economics of the industry, it would not work. Today, the position is, you will be getting a lesser price for some goods, but still your national industry is smashed. If your national industry is smashed, the prices may go up. That is why I request the hon. Minister to see that if he can make some adjustment in caprolactum as well as in titanium dioxide. So, bidi is a very important item and I think, you will do something. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI BRAHMAKUAMR BHATT

(Gujarat) : First of all, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the question of regional imbalances in this country. I think, it should attract the attention of everybody. Here, I would quote some figures, to show the imbalances. Electrification is 75 per cent, and the remaining 25 per cent is in the Eastern States of this country. The per capita generation of electricity is 453 units, and the per capita availability is 57 units. Now, there are States in this country, where the per capita use of electricity is 500-600 units. It means in some States electricity is either not available or it is not generated. Therefore, they do not use it or they are not able to use it. The average industrial consumption of electricity is 37 per cent. But, in States like Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra and some other States the industrial consumption is above 50 per cent. As the average is 37 per cent, there are some eastern States, for example, the State of the hon. Finance Minister himself, where there is no industry. So, these imbalances should attract the attention of everybody in the country. It is a question for all of us. At current prices, the per capita income is Rs. 9,321/-, while the per capita income at 1980-81 prices was Rs. 2,573/-. I was amused to hear Mr. Ram Jethmalani on TV that the distance between rich and the poor should go, it cannot be tolerated. How will it go? The average income of an ordinary man is Rs. 2573/-. These are

Government figures. I would like to submit to the hon. Finance Minister that instead of giving figures on national basis, he should give figures on regional basis, or, if possible, on State basis, as to what is the use of electricity, what is the per capita income, what is the standard of living of the people. Only then a correct picture of this country will come before us.

The other point, on which I would like to stress, is regarding rural unemployment and underemployment. According to the hon. Finance Minister rural unemployment and underemployment is massive. This can be solved only through self-employment. There is no reason why every craftsman, every artisan, every weaver, cannot become an entrepreneur and run his own little enterprise. It is very good. But, in the Open General Licence, the things allowed are : coconut oil, garlic oil, wafers, juice, panits, cement, sindoor, bindi, kumkum, shaving cream, soap, plastic stickers, hand-made paper, carbon paper, razor blade, lamp tubes, wooden furniture, dolls, playing-cards, football, volleyball, cricket ball, basket ball, and last but not the least, slate and pencil.

7-00 P.M.

What will happen to those people whom you are advocating that they must start village industries? What will happen to village Kumhars, village Lohars and village Darjis? This is basically contradictory. What Dr. Lohia contemplated was छोटे मशीन सबको काम, वह तो इसमें है नहीं। This is absolutely a different picture. I would like the hon. the Finance Minister to explain because I cannot understand this. The disparity in income in this country is a very big thing. Shri Vinoba Bhave once said that the difference between the rich and the poor in income should be one to ten. Shri Jayaprakashji once said which I rememebrr, "it cannot be one to ten, keep it one to thirty". What is the position today? There is no measure of disparity. Then, I believe that the average Indian's income is Rs. 27 as on today at the current price. And the average income of some persons is even Rs. 5000/- today. There is the question of disparity of income in this country? This is a question to be addressed by any Government. I do not say this Government or only this Finance Minister. Everybody who is

in charge of the reins of this country has to address this particular thing.

What about the black money? My friend, Shri Sanatan Bisi, has quoted 31,000 crores. He has very much underestimated it. It has appeared in the Press that the estimated balck money is around Rs. Two million crores. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister, what his estimate about the black money is. If actually it is Rupees Two million crores, then the time has come when there should be two Finance Ministers, one for the white money and one for the black money. Black money is only a tip of the iceberg. Our former Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram, tried to get money by VDIS. He went with a begging bowl to different parts of the country. He know how much he got. But, it is only a tip of the iceberg.

Everybody knows this. When there is any transaction everybody asks : What is the basis, 60 or 40? You will take 60 in cash or 40 in cash! What is this? Everybody knows this. It is in the knowledge of everybody in this country that this is the position everywhere and still we want to ignore it. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister what the estimate is about the existence of black money

There are so many problems. I won't quote Gandhi everywhere because the hon. Finance Minister has quoted Gandhi in his speech. What is the position of the poor people in this country? Sanitation rural, it is 6.37 per cent and urban, in every field taken together, it is 50 per cent. This is the position of the poor people of this country. The other thing about which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is infrastructure. He has referred to it. I agree that the infrastructure should be strengthened and more and more attention should be given to it. For electricity whatever provision he has made, I would like to know whether it is enough. What amount of electricity is required in the Ninth Five Year Plan and what provision is made? My suggestion to the hon. Finance Minister is that in the existing power stations if one additional unit is added, then the power will be cheap because we want to give subsidy. If infrastructure is ready, no additional staff will be required. And instead of Rs. 3½ crores

Rs. Four crores per megawatt, perhaps, we will get power at a cost of Rs. 2 crores per megawatt. In three power stations of Gujarat we have done this. We have added one unit each of 210 megawatts in three power stations and they have started functioning. This is a point which the hon. Finance Minister may consider that one additional unit in the existing power stations will reduce the cost of power. It will be a cheaper power and the Government will be able to provide... (time-bell rings). I will finish, Madam. I have misunderstood you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is very uncomfortable to sit here while they are biting. (interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : One more thing I would like to suggest to the hon. Finance Minister. Is he prepared to give incentives to those people, salaried persons and others, who want to save money? Earlier, there was the 80 CC provision. I know. When I was in active practice, I was able to save something under the 80 CC provision. I was getting fifty per cent rebate. But it was withdrawn. Why it should not be introduced again? If Government wants more money, it would work as an incentive. Without any incentive, nobody is going to invest money in the Government instruments or in any other instrument. I am sure, if the 80 CC provision is again brought back, it is very likely that more and more investment would come — private investment, personal investment. Those who are in professions, salary-earners and others would take advantage of it. This is one suggestion I would like to make.

About NRIs, the Finance Minister is, perhaps, more hopeful than he should be. I know some of the people in America. Several times I had been to the USA. I have many friends in America. Before spending one dollar, they would think ten times; not just one time. They are more interested in dollar than in rupee. I must tell you, they are not much interested in the Indian situation. They are more worried about their position there. Therefore, there is no reason for the hon. Finance Minister to be optimistic that they would come, the NRIs would come, and invest a lot of money here. I wish his hopes come true. But as far as I know,

the people who are staying over there are not very much interested in investing here. I have met several people in groups. I have met them several times. I can tell you that no Indian, no NIR, is going to invest in India on a large scale. Therefore, on that account, I don't think the Finance Minister can expect much.

उपसभापति : ब्रह्मकुमार जी, आपके 11 मिनट हो गए हैं इसलिए आप अपनी तकरीर खत्म करिए।

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : I will conclude.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Madam, he should get more than ten minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has got more than ten minutes.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Only one thing I would like to add. The hon. Finance Minister is interested in getting more revenue from excise and customs duties as well as sales-tax. I tell you honestly. (Interruptions) You go to any petrol pump. You go to any dealer. You go to any wholesaler. You go to any retailer. How many of these people, how many of these dealers, who are selling various things, give the bill? As a result of this, the Government is denied of the revenue. The tax due to the Government is evaded. Has the Government any machinery to ensure recovery of the tax from these people? If a machinery had been there, the Government would have got hundreds of crores. But there is no machinery to implement this, to ensure the recovery of tax. This is known to everybody. I believe, each and every Member in this House knows this. No bill is given. Only when you force the man to give the bill, perhaps, he would give it; at the same time, he would tell you that he would be charging six per cent, or, ten per cent, extra. If the Government has some kind of machinery in this regard, the Government can get more revenue and they need not have to, unnecessarily, tax the common people.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Thank you, Mr. Bhatt. I have to call the Minister now.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Madam, one last thing I would like to say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is already 7 O'clock. Members are sitting here throughout.

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SHRIBRAHMKUMAR BHATT: Madam, just one last thing. I have put down my papers. One last point.

We say that we are proud to be a nuclear State. Other people may not recognise up. We may be a nuclear State. We may not be a nuclear State. I am not saying about this Government or any other Government. I am not saying about this Finance Minister or any other Finance Minister. While we may be proud of our country becoming a nuclear State, we should be ashamed about the fact that we have the largest number of illiterates. Millions of youth are unemployed. Thirty-six per cent of the people do not have two square meals a day. Forty-seven per cent of the people are illiterates. Seventy out of every one thousand newly-born never see their first birthday. Beggars are following the foreigners in the streets of Delhi. Thirty-five per cent of the urban population live in *Juggi-jhopris* of plastic and jute, with no electricity, no water and no sanitation. Child marriage is prevalent everywhere. It is known to all of us. Child labour is there on a large scale. They scavengers are in a sad plight. There is a huge disparity between the rich and the poor.

Madam, I am reminded here of the first line of a film song. It is: 'woh subha kabhi to ayegee'. Let us hope 'woh subah kabhi na khabi to ayegee.'

I wish you well. Thank you.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI (Gujarat): Thank you, Madam.

I just wanted to mention one point only about the co-operative sector which is being taxed. Of course, they have been given exemption to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh of net income. But, I would like to suggest that most of the States are involved in the co-operative movement. Co-operative societies generally make more than one or two lakhs of rupees. The banks are also making profits. If tax is going to be levied to the tune of 35 per cent, I think, the whole co-operative movement in India will be marred.

I would like the Minister to rethink about this particular aspect.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all? Very good.

Mr. Finance Minister take the cue from the last speaker.

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: उपसभापति महोदया, मैं इस बात को ध्यान में रखकर ही अपनी बात रखूंगा कि आपकी कुर्सी के नीचे मच्छर हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They are not duly elected to this House.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: (West Bengal) Impose some tax.

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: यह सही है कि अगर मैं कोई टैक्स लगा सकता तो उन पर भी जरूर टैक्स लगाता।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Scare them away from the House.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Put a fine of Rs. 500/- for the unauthorised entry.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: For every bite.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They are having a free meal on my feet.

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: महोदया, मैं आभारी हूँ उन सब सदस्यों का जिन्होंने इस सदन की मर्यादा के तहत इस चर्चा में भाग लिया और बहुत से महत्वपूर्ण बिन्दु अत्यन्त शालीनता के साथ रखे। मैं आभारी हूँ इस बात के लिए भी कि कई बिन्दु, जो शायद मेरे ध्यान में नहीं थे, उनको यहाँ माननीय सदस्यों ने उठाया है। मैं उनको आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि उन सारे बिन्दुओं का मैं आने वाले दिनों में ध्यान में रखूंगा और जहाँ जहाँ देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार लाने के लिए कदम उठाने की बात होगी, उसमें मैं पीछे नहीं रहूंगा।

मैडम, एक वित्त मंत्री का काम, प्रणव मुखर्जी यहाँ बैठे हैं—अत्यन्त कठिन होता है। वह अगर सब कुछ मान ले तो शायद उसे सारे करों को समाप्त कर देना होगा और भारत सरकार की दुकान बंद करके उसे घर चले जाना होगा। इसीलिए, शायद यह एक ऐसा मंत्रालय है, जिसमें जो भी पीठासीन होता है, उसको कई बार विरोध का सामना करना पड़ता है और उसे कई मित्रों को खोना भी पड़ता है, चाहे, अल्पकाल के लिए ही क्यों न हो। लेकिन यह एक दायित्व है जिसको निभाना है। सारी परेशानियों और कठिनाइयों के बावजूद मेरा यह प्रयास होगा कि मैं सही ढंग से इस दायित्व का निर्वहन करूँ। यह कहा गया, जब श्री साल्वे सर्व प्रथम इस विषय पर बोले, अभी वह सदन में नहीं हैं—लेकिन उन्होंने कई बातें, रखीं और उन

बातों की चर्चा न केवल इस सदन में, बल्कि सदन के बाहर भी हो रही है। कहा जा रहा है कि मैंने कुछ निर्णय लिए और फिर उन निर्णयों को बदल दिया। मैंने इस सदन में कहा है मछोदया, और फिर एक बार दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए यदि कोई सही सुझाव आए तो सिर्फ ज़िद करके उसे नहीं मानना, मैं इसे उचित नहीं मानता हूँ। मैं कभी अपने बारे में यह मानकर नहीं चला कि मैं ही सही हूँ और सारी दुनिया गलत है। इसलिए जब माननीय सदस्यों की तरफ से, अन्य स्रोतों से कोई अच्छा सुझाव आता है तो उसे मानने में मुझे कोई कठिनाई नहीं होती है क्योंकि मेरे लिए यह कोई प्रतिष्ठ का प्रश्न नहीं है। और मैं यह भी आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ इस सदन को कि मैं इसी नीति पर भविष्य में भी चलूँगा। यदि कहीं कोई भूल हुई है, कोई त्रुटि रह गई है तो उस भूल में सुधार करना, उस त्रुटि को दूर करना कतई गलत नहीं हो सकता है।

लेकिन साथ ही साथ दो बातों की ओर मैं सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूँगा। यहाँ पर चर्चा हुई। कई लोगों ने मेरे साथ सहानुभूति दिखाते हुए यह कहा कि विरासत में कठिन आर्थिक परिस्थिति हमें मिली। मैंने तथ्य रखे हैं इस सदन के सामने। जब मैंने बजट रखा, उस समय भी मैं तथ्यों को रखा, जब मैंने अंतिम बजट रखा था, तो उस समय भी मैंने तथ्यों को रखा था। लेकिन देश के वित्त मंत्री होने के नाते यह सदन मुझ से सहमत होगा जब मैं यह कहूँगा कि कोई भी वित्त मंत्री, किसी भी सरकार का, देश में और विशेषकर विदेश में पैनिक पैरामेने का काम नहीं करेगा अपने ही देश के बारे में। मेरे लिए यह रास्ता नहीं खुलता है कि मैं अपने पूर्ववर्ती वित्त मंत्रियों के कामों के बारे में शिकायतों का ढेर लगा दूँ और कहूँ कि उन्होंने देश को डुबो दिया और हमी एक ऐसे वित्त मंत्री आए हैं जो देश को उबारने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। देश उबरेगा या नहीं उबरेगा, यह तो मैं नहीं जानता लेकिन उससे निश्चित रूप से एक अनिश्चितता का वातावरण न केवल इस देश में बल्कि सारी दुनिया में पैदा होगा। इसीलिए मुझे याद पड़ता है, मैं उसी दल में उस समय था, जब इसी सदन में कहा गया कि कोफर खाली है, देश का खजाना खाली है और बहुत बड़ा संकट आया उस समय देश के सामने जब उस समय के प्रधानमंत्री ने, उस समय के वित्त मंत्री ने सार्वजनिक घोषणा की कि देश का खजाना खाली है तो विदेशी हम पर क्यों विश्वास करेंगे, देश के लोग हम पर क्यों विश्वास करेंगे। इसीलिए वित्त मंत्री के नाते यह मेरा दायित्व हो जाता है कि कठिन परिस्थिति होते हुए भी विश्वास के साथ चुनौतियों का मुकाबला किया जाए और कभी भी देशवासियों को या

बाहर के लोगों के मन में यह भावना पैदा न होने दी जाए कि हम कंगाल हो गये, हम असहाय हो गये, हमारा खजाना खाली हो या हम अब बरबादी के कगार पर खड़े हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ विश्वास के साथ कि हम सरकार मैं नहीं थे लेकिन इस देश में 50 वर्षों में जो कुछ हुआ है, उसमें बहुत कुछ सराहनीय रहा है और उन्हीं नीतियों का नतीजा है कि आज जब हम ने परमाणु परीक्षण किया और दुनिया के देशों ने बहुत मित्रता का व्यवहार नहीं किया। हमारे ऊपर उन्होंने प्रतिबंध भी लगाए। उस समय हमने किस खूबी के साथ, किस ताकत के साथ और किस विश्वास के साथ उस परिस्थिति का मुकाबला किया और हमारे पड़ोसी देश की क्या हालत हो गई। यह उन्हीं नीतियों का नतीजा है। इसलिए हम सब को डेनीग्रैड कर दें, यह मैं मानता हूँ कि सही नहीं है। हाँ दिक्कतें हैं, सही है, अर्थ-व्यवस्था में मंदी आई है, कृषि की पैदावार में गिरावट हुई है, औद्योगिक उत्पादन कम हुआ है, निर्यात में कमी आई है, यह तथ्य अपनी जगह पर हैं। हमारे छिपाने से भी नहीं छिपेंगे, दुनिया सारी जानती है लेकिन वह एक चुनौती है जिसका हम सब को मिल कर एक राष्ट्र की तरह, एक जन ही तरह, हमें मुकाबला करना है। यह सिर्फ मेरा दायित्व नहीं है। इसलिए मैं सदन के सारे सदस्यों से यह अपील करूँगा आपके माध्यम से कि हम कोई भी ऐसी बात न कहें, हम कोई भी ऐसा आचरण न करें जिससे देश में एक पैनिक का, एक चिंता का, एक अनिश्चितता का माहौल पैदा हो। इसी संदर्भ में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत बार चर्चा हुई, आज भी हुई कि प्रतिबंध लगा दिये गये। हमने कहा कि हमने कभी इसको नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं किया लेकिन हमने कहा कि बराबर हम मुकाबला करने की स्थिति में हैं। आज यदि अमरीका को अपने कानून में संशोधन करना पड़ा तो मात्र इसीलिए करना पड़ा कि वह भारत से ठकराया, इसलिये उसको अपने कानून में परिवर्तन करना पड़ा यह विश्वास इस देश की जनता में हम सबको मिलकर पैदा करना है। जैसे हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हम किसी देश के दबाव, मैं किसी दूसरे देश के दबाव के सामने झुकने वाले नहीं हैं। इसका सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण, प्रमान यदि चाहिए तो वह इस सरकार के द्वारा उस समय दिया गया जब इस बात की चिंता किए बगैर कि इसकी प्रतिक्रिया क्या होगी हमने परमाणु परीक्षण करने का निर्णय लिया। हम लोग जानते थे कि इसमें कोई हमें फूलें का गुल्दस्ता भेंट करने वाला नहीं है। इसकी शिकायत होगी और विशेषकर उन देशों के द्वारा जो विश्व में शक्तिशाली माने जाते हैं। लेकिन हमने इसकी चिंता नहीं की और हमें जो सही फैसला लगा वह सही फैसला हमने किया और मैं सरकार की तरफ से पूरे सदन को

महोदया, यह आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि चाहे वह अर्थ नीति का हो, चाहे वह विदेश नीति का हो, चाहे वह सामाजिक नीति का हो, चाहे वह किसी नीति का क्षेत्र हो, यह सरकार बिना किसी दबाव में आए, खासकर विदेशी दबाव में आए, देश के हित में जो बात होगी वही निर्णय, वही फैसला करेगी। उसी संदर्भ में मैं यह कहना चाहता था महोदया कि अर्थव्यवस्था के क्षेत्र में यहाँ पर यह बात उठायी गयी, मैंने भी इसको कहा है इसी सदन में, पहले भी कहा है।

आज जापान में क्या हुआ? मूडीज ने जापान को निगेटिव वाच लिस्ट पर डाल दिया। मुझे पता नहीं प्रणब बाबू तक यह खबर पहुँची है कि नहीं। चारों तरफ पूरे एशिया में एक निराशा का वातावरण पैदा हुआ है। जापान जिसकी रेटिंग थी ट्रिपल "ए" उसको आज निगेटिव आउटलुक में मूडीज ने डाल दिया। उसका असर पड़ा। पूरे दक्षिण एशिया पर, पूर्वी एशिया पर उसका असर पड़ा। हमारे स्टॉक मार्केट पर भी पड़ा। हम पूरी तरह से आज बचे नहीं हैं। उनसे हम आइसोलेटेड नहीं हैं। हम कहीं न कहीं वैश्वीकरण के तहत, ग्लोबलाइजेशन के तहत उनसे जुड़े हुए हैं। लेकिन इस सरकार की नीति क्या है। हमने कैलीबरेटेड ग्लोबलाइजेशन की बात की। इसका मतलब क्या हुआ? इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि हम यह नहीं चाहते हैं कि हम इतनी तेज रफ्तार से ग्लोबलाइजेशन की दौड़ में जाएँ जिसमें कि आवश्यक रूप से हम इस देश के उद्योगों को समाप्त करके ही नये उद्योग-धंधे शुरू करें। यह नहीं होगी सरकार की नीति। हमारा प्रयास यह होगा कि हाँ प्रतिस्पर्धा होनी चाहिए। लेकिन प्रतिस्पर्धा-जिसमें मैं भी एक विद्यार्थी रहा हूँ, कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रतिस्पर्धा देश के भीतर सबसे पहले होती है। उसके बाद अगर देश के भीतर प्रतिस्पर्धा पैदा करने की स्थिति नहीं बनती है तब हम विदेशी के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा करने की बात सोचेंगे। यह है कैलीबरेटेड ग्लोबलाइजेशन। अगर हम किसी क्षेत्र में उस क्षेत्र को खोल दें जहाँ पर कि मोनोपोली थी चाहे वह पब्लिक सेक्टर की रही हो चाहे प्राइवेट सेक्टर की रही हो- उस क्षेत्र को हम खोलना चाहते हैं और देश के भीतर परिस्थितियाँ बन सकती हैं प्रतिस्पर्धा पैदा करने के लिए तो हमें पहले जैसे दूसरे देशों ने किया है कि पहले देश के उद्योगों के लिए, देश के लोगों के लिए उस क्षेत्र को खोलना चाहिए। उसके बाद फिर जब थोड़ी ताकत हमारे अन्दर हो जाएगी तो हम दुनिया भर से मुकाबला करने को तैयार होंगे। यह सरकार प्रतिस्पर्धा की उसी नीति पर चलने का इरादा रखती है। यह नहीं हम करेंगे कि हम सीधा पहले दौड़ जाएँ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में या उनको अपने यहाँ बुला लें आवश्यक रूप से

और यहाँ के उद्योग-धंधों को चौपट कर दें। तो यह आवश्यक है कि हम इस बात को करें।

फिर हमारे मित्रों ने एक बात पीएलएन्यू की उठायी। यह कहा कि बहुत सारे लोग बेरोजगार हो जाएंगे। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता है कि हम इस देश में रोजगार को बढ़ावा देंगे। अभी माननीय सदस्य जो हमारी बजट स्पीच से उद्धरण कर रहे थे कि हम जब रोजगार बढ़ाने के बारे में सोचते हैं तो हमें निश्चित रूप से स्वयं-योजन, सेल्फ-इम्प्लायमेंट के बारे में सोचना पड़ेगा। किसी का यह कंस इस देश में नहीं हो सकता है कि हम सिर्फ सरकारी क्षेत्र के माध्यम से या सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के माध्यम से या निजी क्षेत्र में जो ऑर्गेनाइज्ड सेक्टर है उसके माध्यम से इस देश की बेरोजगारी की समस्या का समाधान कर सकते हैं। यह कोई सरकार कोई भी सरकार नहीं कर सकती है इससे स्व नियोजन के क्षेत्र में, सेल्फ एम्प्लायमेंट के क्षेत्र में हमें तेजी के साथ आगे बढ़ना पड़ेगा और उसके लिए हम इस बजट में बहुत सारा प्रावधान किया है। इसलिए ऐसा नहीं है कि हम उन नीतियों पर चलते हुए जिसमें छंटनी हो जाए, उसमें जो लोग पहले से ही नौकरी पर हैं, कामशुदा हैं, वे भी काम से अलग हो जाएँ और हम देश में बेरोजगारी पैदाएं। पीएलएन्यू के बारे में जो हमारी नीति है, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बारे में, सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के बारे में बार-बार मैंने उसका खुलासा किया है और मैंने अपने बजट भाषण में पूरी तरह से इस देश की जनता को आश्वस्त किया है, जो मैं यहाँ दोहराना चाहूँगा कि हम पब्लिक सेक्टर में कोई भी सुधार करेंगे, तो हम मजदूरों का अहित नहीं होने देंगे। निश्चित रूप से हम मजदूरों के हितों का ख्याल रखेंगे। यह आश्वासन मैं आज दोबारा इस सदन में देना चाहता हूँ।

अब यहाँ पर कहा गया कि मुझे फिस्कल डेफिसिट को, राजकोषीय घाटे को नियंत्रित करना है मैं जानता हूँ फिस्कल डेफिसिट, प्रणब बाबू यहाँ पर बैठे हैं और अन्य पुराने सदस्य जो बैठे हैं, उनको याद होगा कि 1991 के अंतरिम बजट में पहली बार फिस्कल डेफिसिट के सिद्धांत को यदि किसी ने लगाया, तो मैं लगाया। मैंने कहा था देश में फिस्कल डेफिसिट को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए, क्योंकि बजट डेफिसिट, का कोई मतलब नहीं होता है। पहली बार 1991 के अंतरिम बजट में फिस्कल डेफिसिट को दर्शाया गया था, उसको अंकित किया गया था। तब से फिस्कल डेफिसिट की चर्चा इस देश में चली। मुझे यह कहते हुए महोदया, थोड़ा अप्सोस जरूर हो रहा है कि उस अंतरिम बजट में 1991 में मैंने कहा था कि फिस्कल डेफिसिट 6 प्रतिशत रहेगा और अब जब मैं दोबारा वित्त मंत्रालय में लौट कर आया हूँ, तो मैं देखता हूँ कि फिस्कल डेफिसिट

फिर भी 6 परसेंट या 6 परसेंट से उपर ही है। क्या हो गया? कहीं न कहीं हमारे इंतजाम में, हमारी व्यवस्था में कमी रह गई और हम उतनी मजबूती के साथ फिस्कल डेफिसिट पर काबू नहीं पा सके, जितनी मजबूती के साथ हमें इस पर नियंत्रण रखना चाहिए था। शायद कहीं न कहीं हम सब इस बात के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। क्योंकि हम जब शायद विपक्ष में जाते हैं तो हम बहुत सारे उन मुद्दों को उठाते हैं, जो सरकार में रह कर, हम जानते हैं कि हम उनका कार्यान्वयन नहीं कर सकते हैं, इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं कर सकते हैं, जबकि हम सब लोग कभी न कभी सत्ता में रहे हैं, चाहे वह कितने दिनों के लिए क्यों न हो। हमें इस बात को गंभीरता के साथ सोचना पड़ेगा कि यह जो सस्ती लोकप्रियता की बातें हैं, उनको एक राष्ट्र को हैसियत से हमें खोटा कर पी जाना और फिर हमें कहीं भी सस्ती लोकप्रियता की बात करनी चाहिए। मेरे कांग्रेस पार्टी के जो मित्र हैं उनमें जब मेरी बात होती है तो वे मुझ से कहते हैं कि अक्सर हम लोगों के पास जब प्रतिनिधि मंडल आते हैं किसी न किसी मांग को लेकर, तो हमें यह कहना पड़ता है कि हम तुम्हारा साथ नहीं देंगे, क्योंकि यह देश हित में नहीं, यह जिम्मेदारी का एक आचरण है। मुझे इस बात पर संतोष है और हम सब को उस रास्ते पर चलना पड़ेगा। एक तरफ हम से कहा जा रहा है कि आप अपने खर्च को कम कीजिए, सरकारी खर्च को कम करने के लिए आप कौन से कदम उठा रहे हैं, यह बार-बार पूछा जा रहा है और रोज़ यहां पर, मेरे मित्र बैठे हैं स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी, आपके सामने, सदन के सामने एक प्रतिवेदन रखेंगे, दूसरी तरफ से दबाव आता रहेगा कि नहीं, आप इस खर्च को बढ़ाओ, आप इस खर्च को बढ़ाओ, आप यह छूट दो, आप यह छूट दो, तो फिर इस फिस्कल डेफिसिट का क्या होगा? अभी कहा जा रहा है मैंने छूट दी और इस सदन में आवाज़ उठी थी कि यूरिया की कीमतों आपने बढ़ाया है उसको वापस लीजिए। इसी सदन में आवाज़ उठी थी कि आपने बहुत सारे कर लगा दिए हैं, उनको वापस लीजिए। मैंने रेस्पांड किया। लेकिन अब यह कहा जा रहा है कि फिस्कल डेफिसिट बढ़ जाएगा तो क्या करेंगे? दोनों रास्तों पर हम एक साथ नहीं चल सकते। यह जो रास्ता है उस पर हम सबको, जब तक हम साथ मिल कर नहीं चलेंगे तो एक आदमी या एक सरकार के बश की यह बात नहीं है कि उन सारे निर्णयों को, कठोर निर्णयों को लागू कर दे। मैं यहां पर कहना चाहूंगा कि पिछले 7 वर्षों में उदारीकरण का जो दौर है, उस उदारीकरण के दौर में हमने जो आर्थिक सुधारों का काम किया है, तो जितने हल्के काम थे, जितने आसान काम थे, उनको तो हमने कर दिया लेकिन मुश्किल काम बचे रह गए और अभी जो भी सरकार होगी, उस को

उन मुश्किल, उन कठिन कार्यों को आवश्यक रूप से करना पड़ेगा उस से किसी को छुटकारा नहीं मिलेगा। उपसभापति महोदय, आज हम हैं यहां पर, कल कोई और बैठेगा तो वह भी उसी दिशा में चलेगा क्योंकि देश की वही दिशा बन गई है। उस को अब बदलना संभव नहीं है। इसलिए यहां कहना चाहूंगा कि एक्सपेंडिचर या खर्च पर जितना नियंत्रण रखना होगा, उतना कठोर नियंत्रण सरकार रखेगी और मैं आज के दिन इस सदन को आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि हम जितना बजट खर्चा है, उस खर्च को बढ़ने नहीं देंगे। हमारा यह प्रयास होगा कि हम उसी के भीतर उस साल के खर्च को रोककर रखें। हां, दूसरी तरफ जो कर हैं, जो हमारी प्राप्तियां हैं, उस में हम सुधार लाने का प्रयास करेंगे। अब यहां कहा जाता है, आप ने बहुत बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर बातें कह दी हैं और वह आप को नहीं मिलेगा महोदय, मैं ने जब बजट भाषण का उत्तर दिया था तो मैं ने हर कर के बारे में परसेंटज बताया था कि पिछले वर्षों का क्या परसेंटज था और हमारा परसेंटज क्या है? हां, यह सही है कि पिछले साल में कमी रह गयी थी, भारी गिरावट कुछ करों के रिलाइजेशन में हुई थी। लेकिन जब मैं उस के ऊपर जाने की बात कर रहा हूँ तो कृपया न भूलें कि वह एक छोटा बेस बन गया है, एक संकुचित बेस है जिस के ऊपर मैं बिल्ड अप कर रहा हूँ और हमारे पास अभी तक जो सूचना है, उस के मुताबिक मुझे निराशा का कोई कारण नहीं दिखता। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, मैं डायरेक्ट टैक्स की बात कर रहा हूँ, इस देश में एडवांस टैक्स का पेमेंट जून के महीने में होता है और यदि 60 प्रतिशत कार्पोरेशन टैक्स में वृद्धि हुई है तो महोदय मैं तो अपने को उत्साहित महसूस कर रहा हूँ। फिर सितंबर के महीने में हम सब पर्सनल इनकम टैक्स जमा करेंगे, एडवांस टैक्स सितंबर में देंगे तब मैं उस आंकड़े को देखूंगा, लेकिन मैं अपने पूर्ववर्ती वित्त मंत्री श्री चिंदबरम् को साधुवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने 2/ का जो क्राइटेरिया लगाया और जो कदम उन्होंने उठाए, पिछले साल इस देश में 25 लाख नए करदाता एड हुए और लोगों ने कर देना शुरू किया। महोदय, यह अपने आप में एक बड़ी बात है। इस बार हम ने उस को 1/ किया है क्योंकि हमने अनुभव के आधार पर देख है कि अक्सर हमारे यहां यह होता है कि आप एक जाल फैलाइए और यहां जो करदाता हैं वे उस जाल से कैसे निकलें, तुरंत वह रास्ता ढूँढ लेते हैं। इसलिए 1/ करना आवश्यक था क्योंकि उस में दो को मिलाकर करना था। उस में एक एंड्रेस पर एक चीज है तो दूसरे एंड्रेस पर दूसरी चीज है। इस कारण उस को मिलाने में दिक्कत होती थी। अब 1/ में सारे लोग आ जाएंगे। लेकिन उसका यह मतलब नहीं है कि मैं किसी को परेशान कर रहा हूँ। उपसभापति

महोदया, इसीलिए मैं ने दूसरे सदन में इस बात की घोषणा की कि जो सीनीयर सिटीजंस हैं, उन के लिए हम इस को लागू नहीं करेंगे कि टेलिफोन है तो आप आकर ये भरिए मैं कह क्या रहा हूँ? मैं कह रहा हूँ कि सिर्फ आप एक बार अपना रिटर्न दाखिल कीजिए ताकि हम जान सकें कि आप करदाता हो, कर देने योग्य हैं या नहीं, कर आप को देना चाहिए या नहीं देना चाहिए। उसी में मैं इस सदन में इस बात को एक बार बिल्कुल स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ तो किसी प्रकार का "नैन" या "जीआईआर" नंबर देने की बात जो करदाता नहीं है उस पर किसी प्रकार का नियंत्रण नहीं होता। अगर कोई बैंक जाता है और कहता है कि मैं करदाता नहीं हूँ तो उस को कोई रोकेंगा नहीं कि तुम बैंक में खाता नहीं खोल सकते। आज के बाद यह व्यवस्था नहीं है कि इनकम टैक्स पेई जो होगा, एसेसी जो होगा, वही सारा काम कर जाएगा, वही खरीद-फरोक्त कर जाएगा, वही बैंक अकाउंट खोल जाएगा। और बाकी लोग नहीं खोल पाएंगे। यह व्यवस्था कैसे चल सकती है? मैं सिर्फ यह कह रहा हूँ कि अगर आप इनकम टैक्स के एसेसी हैं, तो उस का नंबर दे दीजिए और अगर आप एसेसी नहीं हैं तो आप एक बहुत साधारण-सा घोषणा पत्र दे दीजिए जिस में कि मैं जाकर किसी को नहीं कह दूँ तो मैं अकाउंट खोलना चाहता हूँ, मेरा नाम बालनंदन है।

I can do this. I can have a benami transaction in somebody else's name. I can say that.

हम दीपांकर मुखर्जी हैं, हमारा नाम ये है और मैं उस को चालू कर रहा हूँ।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): आप की हिट लिस्ट है क्या?

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूँ कि एक छोटसा धेषणा पत्र आप दे दें जिस में सही एड्रेस लिखा हो, सही नाम लिखा हो। ओहो हम कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं। लेकिन अगर किसी का घेलू नौकर जाकर अकाउंट खोलता है और उस अकाउंट में लाखों रुपए का ब्रॉजेशन होने लगता है...

उपसभापति: वह बेनामी है।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: वह बेनामी अगर होता है तो इनकम टैक्स जाएगा। आप जानते हैं अमेरिकी में क्या व्यवस्था है? वहाँ दस हजार डॉलर की हर निकासी या जमा पर इंटरनल रेवेन्यू को सूचना देनी दड़ती है बैंक को।

तो हमने यह जो व्यवस्था की है, इस व्यवस्था के तहत, इसके पीछे हमारी मंशा क्या है? हमारी मंशा है कि करों का जो इवेजन हो रहा है, उसके ऊपर हम रोक लगाएं

और मैं यह दावे के साथ इस माननीय सदन के समाने आपके माध्यम से रखना चाहता हूँ, मैं डम, कि पिछले साल अगर 25 लाख लोग इसमें जुटे तो इस साल उससे कहीं भारी संख्या में लोगों को हम कर के दायरे में लाएंगे। यह हमारा प्रयास होगा। मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूँ, जैसा यहाँ कहा जाता है कि 15 से 20 करोड़ लोग इस देश में ऐसे हैं, जिनकी दुनिया के किसी उन्नत देश से परचेजिंग पावन कम नहीं है, अगर परचेजिंग पावन कम नहीं है तो हमारा टैक्स क्यों कम है, उसको भी टैक्स के नेट में आना चाहिए। हम दोनों तरफ से प्रयास कर रहे हैं, एक तो हमारा जो टैक्स के नेट में आना चाहिए। हम दोनों तरफ से प्रयास कर रहे हैं, एक तो हमारा जो टैक्स एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन है उसकी मानसिकता में, उसको एटीट्यूड में, उसको माइंडसेट में अंतर लाकर, कि तुम उसकी सहायता के लिए हो, उसको हरेस करने के लिए। उसको परेशान करने के लिए नहीं हो और दूसरा, जो व्यवस्था है, जो प्रोसीजर है, जो प्रक्रिया है उसको जितना हम सरल कर सकते हैं, सहज कर सकते हैं उसके माध्यम से और तीसरा, इधर यह व्यवस्था करके। हमारा प्रयास यह होगा कि हम इसमें जो संख्या है, उस संख्या में भारी वृद्धि करें और मैं मानता हूँ कि जीडीपी की परसेंटेज, मेरे पास यहाँ आंकड़े हैं, चाहे डायरेक्ट टैक्स हो या इनडायरेक्ट टैक्स हो; पिछले वर्षों में टैक्स जीडीपी रेशों के मामले में दोनों पीछे गए हैं, हमें उसको आगे बढ़ाना है। जब तक हम टोटल ऑक्स जीडीपी रेशों, जो 10 प्रतिशत से भी नीचे चला गया है, उसको हम ऊपर नहीं ले जाएंगे जब तक हमें फिजिकल डेफिसिट से मुक्ति नहीं मिलने वाली है। इसी दिशा में हमें प्रयत्न करना होगा।

महोदया, अब उसके बाद कहा गया कि महंगाई बढ़ी है, मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ी है। किसी का इसमें मतभेद नहीं है क्योंकि आंकड़े हैं। मैं यहाँ खड़े होकर यह थोड़े ही कह सकता हूँ कि नहीं, मुद्रास्फीति नहीं बढ़ी है, महंगाई नहीं बढ़ी है। हाँ, बढ़ी है, लेकिन इस पर परसों इसी सदन में मैंने एक प्रश्न का उत्तर दिया था, जो कि पहले नंबर पर प्रश्न था और महोदया, मैं जानता हूँ और आप सब लोग भी जानते हैं कि आने वाले हफ्ते में, सप्ताह में इस पर फिर एक बड़ी चर्चा होने वाली है, इसलिए मैं इस विषय पर अभी सदन का समय नहीं लूँगा।

महोदया, दो तीन बातें, जिसकी ओर मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट कर अपनी बात को समाप्त करूँगा। "सामधान के बारे में तरह तरह की बातें हुई और मुख्यतया दो तरह की बात हुई। एक तो यह कहा गया कि बहुत ही यह अनैतिक आचरण है सरकार का, कि लोगों ने टैक्स जमा कर दिया है उनको छूट इसके अंदर नहीं दे रहे हैं। कोई छूट किसी को नहीं दे रहा है क्योंकि

एक मुकदमेबाजी सरकार और हमारे जो असेसी हैं, उनके बाच में चल रही है। हमने क्या कहा? हमने कहा- भाई, आओ, आउट आफ कोर्ट करते हैं। आउट आफ कोर्ट सेटलमेंट का एक रास्ता खोला है। अगर किसी ने टैक्स दे दिया है और उसके बाद वह मुकदमा लड़ रहा है तो उसको जरूर इतना विश्वास है कि उसका केस इतना पुख्ता है, इतना मजबूत है कि वह जरूर जीतेगा, नहीं तो टैक्स देने के बाद वह क्यों जाएगा और पैसे खर्च करेगा वकील लोगों के ऊपर, और जाकर यह कहेगा कि भाई, और पैसे खर्च करो। उसको विश्वास है, वह जीतेगा। मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ कि तुमको राहत नहीं मिलेगी, अगर तुम जीत गए।

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Sir, my queries are not being replied. I don't want to quote the cases. By coercion, by threat of attachment, when the appeal is pending, taxes should not have been recovered. It is not that willingly somebody pays tax and goes to make an appeal.

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: नहीं, ठीक है। इस तरह के भी कुछ केसेस होंगे, लेकिन उनके लिए न्याय का दरवाजा बंद नहीं हो रहा है। वे न्याय की मांग करने के लिए उचित न्यायालय में गए हुए हैं। उनको वहां से न्याय मिल सकता है। वह रास्ता मैं बंद नहीं कर रहा हूँ। मैं सिर्फ यह कह रहा हूँ, और उसमें मेरा स्वार्थ जरूर है, अगर वह कर बाकी है या जहां कर की अदायगी पर्सियल हुई है वहां पर हम कम्प्रोमाइज करने को तैयार हैं, अगर वह कम्प्रोमाइज करने को तैयार है तो। फिर भी अगर वह महसूस करे कि नहीं, हमारा केस इतना मजबूत है कि हम सरकार से कोई कम्प्रोमाइज नहीं करना चाहते, तो वह नहीं करेगा। हम दसको बाध्य भी नहीं कर रहे हैं। हमने सिर्फ एक दरवाजा खोला है कि अगर हमसे आउट आफ कोर्ट सेटलमेंट करना चाहते हो तो हमारी शर्त यह है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इसका बहुत सारे लोग लाभ उठाएंगे। अब इसमें कोई अनैतिकता का काम नहीं है। क्योंकि अगर मैंने सारे दरवाजे बंद कर दिए होते तो कोई कहता कि यू आर बीग वैरी इनीग्रल, आपने ऐसा क्यों किया? लेकिन मैंने कुछ उसमें नहीं किया है।

दूसरी बात थी कि "समाधान की तुलना 'बीडीआईएस' से की गई। श्री विप्लव दास जी ने कहा कि यह बीडीआईएस-2 है और कई लोगों ने कहा कि यह "बीडीआईएस की तरह है। "बीडीआईएस" और "समाधान" में मौलिक अंतर यह है कि "बीडीआईएस" डीन कर रहा था उस काले धन से जिसको आज तक

डिक्लेअर नहीं किया गया था। उसमें हमने छूट दी थी या पिछली सरकार ने यह कहा कि आप 30 परसेंट या 35 परसेंट पर आकर समझौता कर लो, टैक्स दे दो और अपने काले धन को उजल कर लो। "समाधान" में हम क्या कर रहे हैं? "समाधान" में तो सब कुछ है, इंकम है, जो पकड़ी गई है या जो हमारे ध्यान में है, उस इंकम पर टैक्स भी लगाया गया है, उस टैक्स की पेमेंट के बारे में अब हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं। यह नहीं कि वह काले धन है, जो छिपा हुआ है, अंडरग्राउंड है, ऐसा नहीं है। सारी बात सबके सामने है। अगर आज के दिन लोग कहते हैं कि 50,000 करोड़ रूपया सरकार का फंसा हुआ है इन विवादों में, न्यायालयों में, तो यह सबकी जानकारी में है, यह किसी से छिपा हुआ नहीं है। यह काले धन नहीं है, यह विवादित धन है।

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: In that case why do you talk about immunity?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am not talking of any immunity.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: But that is immunity.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Immunity for what? If he is prepared for an out of court settlement, if he pays according to the rules that we shall lay down, then he does not have to pay penalty or interest. That is what we are saying (Interruptions). In rules and also in the Finance Bill we have clearly defined the kind of cases which will qualify for action or settlement under Samadhan. A whole lot of cases are outside the purview of Samadhan. For instance, Harshad Mehta cannot come and say, "I want to settle it." We will not say, "All right, we are prepared to make a settlement." Anyone who is accused of corruption cases and who is being proceeded against the Prevention of Corruption Act, cannot come and say, "I am prepared to make a settlement. Why don't you make a settlement?"

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Supposing, you unearth a corruption case....

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Those cases are not covered.

(Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. We are not having a question and answer session.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Certainly, those cases are not covered.

मैडम, मेडिकल एंड एजुकेशनल इंस्टीट्यूशंस की बात यहां पर आई, पिछली बार भी जब चर्चा हुई थी, हमने उसमें सुधार किया है। लेकिन पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी की टिप्पणियां उसमें थीं और उन्होंने कहा था कि इन पर कोई नियंत्रण आप रखें। मैंने पिछली बार भी चर्चा का उत्तर देते समय इस तथ्य को रखा था और मैंने उसमें फिर भी सुधार किया। मैंने कहा कि एक करोड़ से ऊपर जिसकी आमदनी है, उन लोगों को हमारे पास आना पड़ेगा और दिखाना पड़ेगा कि आपका हिसाब-किताब क्या है और आपका जो सरप्लस है, वह आप कैसे इन्वेस्ट कर रहे हैं? यह सही है कि सैक्शन 11, जिसका जिक्र किया गया है, उसमें कहा गया है कि आप उस पैसे का खास-खास तरह का इन्वेस्टमेंट कर सकते हैं। उस पैसे पर एक तरह से सारे समाज का अधिकार है क्योंकि आप एजुकेशनल और मेडिकल परंप्रिज के लिए उसको लिए हुए हैं। इसलिए आप जैसा चाहें उस तरह से उसको खर्च करें, उस प्रकार से उसको इन्वेस्ट करें, यह नहीं चल सकता है। आप जानते हैं कि अभी हाल में ही मंसूरी में एक एजुकेशनल इंस्टीट्यूशन पर रेड हुआ, वहां करोड़ों रूपए की कैश हमको मिली थी। हम इस तरह का कैश भी जानते हैं जहां पर कि एक एजुकेशनल चेरिटेबल इंस्टीट्यूशन था, लेकिन उन्होंने पैसा एक कम्पनी को टेक-ओवर करने में लगाया। तो क्या हम चाहते हैं कि इस तरह की बात चले? इसलिए थोड़ा नियंत्रण रखना आवश्यक है और वही नियंत्रण बहुत कठोर नहीं हो जाए, इसलिए मैंने उसमें सुधार करके यह नियंत्रण रखा है।

गिफ्ट टैक्स के बारे में, मैडम, दोनों तरह के विचार यहां पर आए। साल्वे साहब ने उसका स्वागत किया। हमारे राधवजी ने कहा कि इससे रास्ता खुल जाएगा, टैक्स इवेजुन होगा। मीडिया में भी इस बात की चर्चा हो रही है कि पता नहीं मैंने कौन सा दरवाजा खोल दिया और इतना इवेजुन हो जाएगा। पहले तो यह एप्रोच ही गलत है क्योंकि इससे हम उन सारे लोगों को प्रोत्साहित करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं जो कर वंचना में इंडलज करते हैं और चाहते हैं कि हम करों से किसी तरह से मुक्ति पाएं। यह एटीयूयूड गलत है। लेकिन साथ ही साथ मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो पूरी व्यवस्था इन्कम टैक्स ऐक्ट की है, उसके तहत यह करीब-करीब अंशभव है कि कोई गिफ्ट देगा और उसके चलते वह अपनी इन्कम को बचा लेगा। गिफ्ट देने में मैडम, हम जानते हैं मानवीय प्रवृत्ति को, सारा सदन जानता है कि गिफ्ट देकर हम अपने को उससे वंचित नहीं करना चाहते हैं अपने जीवन में। अगर हमारे पास कोई प्राप्ति है

तो शायद हम अपने बच्चों को भी अपने जीवनकाल में नहीं देंगे और अपने को उससे वंचित कर लेंगे।

इसलिए ऐसा आसान नहीं है कि सारा कुछ गिफ्ट में दिए जा रहे हैं। अगर वह इस तरह की बात करते हैं तो हमारे पास व्यवस्था है जिसके तहत हम उनके साथ डील कर सकते हैं। यहां पर बीड़ी लीवज के बारे में बालनंदन जी ने और रामदास अग्रवाल जी ने मामला उठाया है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि टीडीएस, 2 परसेंट ही है, 10 परसेंट नहीं है और दूसरी बात यह है कि अगर कोई कॉन्ट्रैक्टर या ऐसीसी यह कहे कि हम इसके दायरे में नहीं आते हैं तो हम उस पर निश्चित रूप से विचार करके उस पर टीडीएस नहीं लगाएंगे। यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि टीडीएस हर किसी पर लगे लेकिन उनको क्लियर करना होगा कि हम टीडीएस के दायरे में नहीं आते हैं। ऐसा करने पर हम टीडीएस नहीं लगाएंगे।

श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्ता (मध्य प्रदेश): बीड़ी लीवज पर 10 परसेंट टीडीएस नहीं लगाएंगे।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Ten per cent is collected only at source form the seller on payment made to the buyer of *tendu* leaves.

यह तो जब ट्रांजैक्शन हो रहा है, तब की बात है न। उस ट्रांजैक्शन पर 10 परसेंट लगता है लेकिन TDS of two per cent is deducted in case of payment made to the contractor. These are two separate things.

जब वह बेच रहा है तो उसको 10 परसेंट देना पड़ेगा। अगर वह कह दे कि हम टैक्स के दायरे में नहीं आते हैं, हमारी इतनी इनकम नहीं होती है, वह अगर लिखकर दे तो मैं टैक्स ऑफिशियल्स को यह इस्ट्रक्शन दे रहा हूं कि उसको फिर परेशान नहीं किया जाएगा। यह एक ऐडमिनिस्ट्रिटिव प्रॉब्लेम है, जिस पर हम विचार करेंगे।

उपसभापति: अभी और भी बाकी है?

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: महोदया, इनकम टैक्स ऐक्ट के बारे में एक बात कही गई कि एक ऐक्सपर्ट कमेटी बैठी थी, उसने काफी सिफारिशों की थीं और एक कॉन्फ्रिमेंसिव नया इनकम टैक्स ऐक्ट लाने की बात हुई थी। लेकिन मेरी जो सूचना है, उसके अनुसार 1997 के फइर्नस बिल में और इस फइर्नस बिल में बहुत सारी निर्विवाद सिफारिशें जो थीं, उसका हम लोगों ने समायोजन कर लिया है और जो थोड़ी-बहुत सिफारिशें बची हैं, उन पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं। जो सिफारिशें विवाद के घेरे में हैं, हम उन पर भी विचार करेंगे और यदि आवश्यकता हुई कि हम उनमें सुधार करने के लिए एक सम्यक नया कानून लाएं तो उस पर सरकार जरूर विचार करेगी। मैं इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचा

हूँ कि अगले साल के फाइनेंस बिल में हम इन बातों को डाल सकते हैं और उसके बाद उस एक्सपर्ट कमेटी की जितनी सिफारिशें थीं, उन सभी को लागू किया जा सकता है। तो इस पर भी हम विचार करेंगे। इस तरह से हमने इस पर खुला दिमाग रखा हुआ है। महोदय, बहुत सारी बातों का मैंने उल्लेख किया है, हो सकता है कि कुछ बातें छूट भी गई हों।

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: You have not said anything about rural wealth tax. Are you going to impose rural wealth tax or not?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Biplab Dasgupta, please....(Interruptions)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I am sorry. He is trying to evade the issue. He must categorically state what the Government's stand on this is....(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You all spoke for five hours and the Minister cannot reply everything in half-an-hour....(Interruptions)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is an important issue....(Interruptions) He knows that it is important.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No arguments, please....(Interruptions)

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: देखिए, हमारी सोच में एक अंतर है और उसको स्वीकार करना पड़ेगा। आप जिस सरकार का समर्थन कर रहे थे, दो-दो बजट उस सरकार ने पेश किए, उसने वैल्यू टैक्स क्यों नहीं लगाया?

....(Interruptions) No, you raised this issue on both the occasions....(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer. what is this?(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Did you come to the point of withdrawing your support from that Government on that issue?(Interruptions). If it is such an important issue that you want an answer from me here and now, if it is a matter of such a serious concern for you, then this is the reply that I would like to give, that you supported the Government for two years and they did not do it(Interruptions).

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: The question is, it is a very important issue. You know it is a very important issue. You can fetch a lot of money by imposing rural wealth tax. Why don't

you impose this tax? Or you say categorically that you don't want to impose this tax.(Interruptions)... There should be some reason for it.

उपसभापति: वित्त मंत्री जी, आप बोलिए, कोई इंटरप्रेशन मत कीजिएगा।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Income-tax on agriculture....(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is all right. You put your viewpoint, he is putting his viewpoint.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: There are many issues, Madam, where we will have to have some kind of a national consensus. Unless there is a consensus in regard to those issues, it is not possible to take a step forward in that direction.(Interruptions)... There is no consensus on this issue.

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Madam,(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Agarwalji, please sit down. The Minister is capable to answer it.(Interruptions)... Don't worry.

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: महोदय, अन्त में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि बहुत सारी बातें उठाई गई हैं.....(व्यवधान)

श्री को रहमान खान: सर्विस टैक्स का हमने मुद्दा उठाया था और यह.....(व्यवधान)

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: सर्विस टैक्स का जो आपने चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट के बारे में मुद्दा उठाया है, मि. आर. के. कुमार ने भी यह मुद्दा उठाया है, उन्होंने एक रास्ता भी सुझाया है कि जो आडिट का काम वह कर रहे हैं उसी पर सर्विस टैक्स लगाया जाए। यह सुझाव है जिस पर हमने निश्चित रूप से I have taken note of it. I will go back and look at it, and see what can be done.

लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर आपसे कहूंगा कि मैंने कई प्रोपोजन को सर्विस टैक्स के दायरे में लाने की इस बार कोशिश की है और आगे के लिए भी कुछ काम छोड़ा है। अब हम अगर उसमें रियायत देने लें तो हमें सबको रियायत देनी पड़ेगी, हम एक ग्रुप को कैसे चूँ कर सकते हैं और कह सकते हैं....(व्यवधान)

श्री को रहमान खान: मैडम, कुमार साहब और हमने यह कहा कि एक पर्टिकूलर प्रोपोजन को आपने मुक्त किया है और एक पर्टिकूलर प्रोपोजन वही जो काम करता है वह कर-दाता वह कर देने वाला वहाँ कर नहीं देगा,

यहां देगा तो it is a discrimination. This is what we are asking.

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: नहीं, ठीक है आपने डिस्क्रिमिनेशन को बात कही है। कुमार साहब ने यहां तक कहा कि

his professional pride. If he does not get satisfaction here, he would like to go to the court.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You try to find out.(Interruptions)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We are. I know they were addressing a Press Conference at 7 o'clock. I have all that information. I am aware of the fact that the Prime Minister had gone to that meeting. I had also gone to that meeting.(Interruptions)...

Yes, I had gone to that meeting. You see, there are various issues which any Government of the day has to take into account and come to a conclusion taking into account all aspects of the matter. So, here and now, I am not in a position to give any assurance. These issues have been raised. I have taken note of them and they will receive my attention. लेकिन अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ महोदय, कि यह पूरा बजट जिसका यह अंतिम चरण आज है—फाइनेंस बिल, इससे पहले हमने एक एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल की चर्चा की, उससे पहले बजट की चर्चा की, यह पूरा जो बजट है वह एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है हमारे दृष्टिकोण से और देश की आर्थिक समस्याओं का हमने जो आकलन किया उस आकलन को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमने एक रास्ता निकालने की कोशिश की है और मैं इतना कहना चाहूंगा कि जो भी उसकी भर्त्सना हुई, उसकी शिकायत हुई जो कुछ हुआ सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहूंगा माननीय सदस्यों से कि हम कुछ इंतजार करें। यह जो तीन महीने का समय गुजरा है उसमें बहुत तरह के संकट विश्व भर में, देश के भीतर हमारे समाने आए लेकिन कुछ-कुछ उसमें से एक रास्ता नजर आ रहा है और मैं थोड़ा इस बात की अपनी ओर से पुरजोर सिफारिश करूंगा माननीय सदस्यों से महोदय, कि थोड़ा धीरज आप रखें, थोड़ा विश्वास आप रखें। मैं आपको यह आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि इस बजट के माध्यम से और जो आर्थिक नीतियां हम अपनाने वाले हैं और अपनारंगे आगे चलकर उसके रास्ते हम निश्चित रूप से इस देश को खुशहाली की ओर, प्रगति की ओर ले जाएंगे।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, there is a

circular prohibiting recruitment of sports persons. Why can't the Government withdraw it? Only P.T. Usha is getting gold medals for the country. A circular has been issued by the Ministry of Finance which prohibits recruitment of sports persons. Please withdraw this circular.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that?

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, service tax is as good as personal tax. That is collected by the Central Excise. It should be collected by the Income-tax Department before the Government takes a decision to scrap it. Now, it becomes as good as dual tax. This tax is collected by the Central Excise.(Interruptions)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is with the Customs and Excise because it is an indirect tax. But, this a suggestion for us.(Interruptions)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, the Minister has evaded answers to most of the issues. He has not replied to the major issues.(Interruptions).... As a protest, we are walking out of the House.(Interruptions)....

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

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: मैडम, लास्ट टर्म के बजट में चिदम्बरम साहब ने यह घोषणा की थी कि स्पोर्ट्स के लिए कोई भी प्रमोटर होगा तो उसको 100 परसेंट टैक्स एक्जेंप्शन दिया जाएगा और हम यह उम्मीद कर रहे थे कि इस बजट में भी यह होगा। मैं चाहूंगा कि फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब इसको देखें।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1998-99, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

AN HON. MEMBER: Madam, they have walked out.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not worry. If somebody wants to walk out, it is his freedom. Let them walk out. You cannot stop anybody from(Interruptions).... Please, कोई बात नहीं। No comments on this. Some day you can also walk out. So, it is okay. It is all right.

We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 115 were added to the Bill.

Clause 116

Amendment of Act 32 of 1994

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On clause 116, there are three amendments, from number one to number three, by Shri K. Rahman Khan. Mr. Rahman Khan, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, I feel that the suggestions and amendments which I have given are reasonable and logical. I am sure that there is a mistake. I am not asking the Finance Minister not to bring more professionals in the range of Service Tax. The point I want to impress upon is that it is discriminatory and it will not stand the test of law. Do not force people to take recourse to law. This will only encourage litigation. After all, we are parliamentarians and we are making a law. The law should be justifiable. There should be equity and justice in this regard. It is totally unjust and discriminatory. I hope, and as it has been stated by the Finance Minister, that it will definitely receive his attention. Therefore, I do not move my amendments.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That clause 116 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 116 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 117 to 119, the First Schedule, the Second Schedule, the Third Schedule, the Fourth Schedule, the

Fifth Schedule and the Sixth Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was proposed.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, with regard to sports, he can give an assurance.(Interruptions)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, this is a point which has been raised very forcefully by my friend Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Mr. Vayalar Ravi jointed him. There is already a reduction of 50 per cent on any contribution to a sports fund. This is a suggestion which has been made strongly in this House and it will receive my attention.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted.

8.00 P.M.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd July, 1998."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, there is a statement by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare about the strike by Group C & D employees of hospitals in Delhi.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Strike by Group C & D Employees of Government Hospitals in Delhi

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT ESHILMALAI): Madam, the Group C & D employees of hospitals of the Central government, Government of NCT of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, ESIC, etc. have under the aegis of the Joint Council of JACKHU, CHEF, ESI & AIIMS have proceeded on strike with effect