

problems that are being faced by the country. I don't think so. So, let us sincerely evolve a situation. Let us try with all honesty and sincerity to review the political situation. Are we in a position to solve these problems without after the hon. Prime Minister conclude his reply or will it be continued on Monday?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't know how much time the Prime Minister will take for his speech. If there is no time today, we can continue the discussion on Monday.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The whole discussion could be completed on Monday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no problem. We can do that. Now, let his reply be over. Mr. Prime Minister.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-CONT'D.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Hon. Deputy Chairman, on 20th February, 1997, respected Rashtrapathiji addressed the joint session of both Houses of Parliament. The Address by the President of India is a policy document of the UF Government. We have been governing this country for the last nine months. I don't want to elaborate what achievements we have made in the last nine months. The achievements made by this Government in the last nine months are before the country. The President's Address has clearly indicated the programmes and policies which the UF Government intends to implement during 1997-98. After the President's Address, the General Budget for 1997-98 was also presented to the nation through this Parliament.

Madam, I am not going to minimise the achievements made in the last 50 years. The achievements in the last 50

years cannot be underestimated, or cannot be minimised. We are going to celebrate this year the 50th year of our Independence. The country has progressed in various fields. But, at the same time, the magnitude of the problems before the nation, the problems which our country is facing, I think, will have to be considered in the context of the present political situation. The political atmosphere in this country is so complicated that it is confusing every one. I don't want to elaborate the result of the Eleventh Lok Sabha elections. The people of this country have not given a clear mandate to any political party to run the country. But the United Front has accepted the responsibility of administering the affairs of this country. The United Front is a combination of several parties, with different ideologies, with different manifestos and with different programmes. But all of them have come together and accepted a Common Minimum Programme. All of us have decided to come together and shoulder the responsibility of running the administration of this country. But, for the smooth running of the Government, all of us have to collectively take a decision to narrow down the areas of difference as far as the programmes are concerned. Therefore, we accepted unanimously the Common Minimum Programme. This is like a document of guidelines. It is a sort of indication to the nation as to what we want to do and how we will take this nation forward. We don't want our differences to create any doubt in the minds of the common people of this country who have given us the mandate to maintain our secular democracy. How best we will be able to exhibit our administrative talent or experience before the nation, is what is of concern to the common man of this nation.

Madam, I would like to spell out what the challenges are, what the

responsibilities are, before the nation. Even though we have made substantial progress in our development, today the problems that are there before the nation cannot be minimised by anyone. I don't think any one political party is in a position today to stand up and say that they are in a position to solve all the the cooperation of all the political parties? I want to pose this question in the initial stage itself. I am not going to say that we have done something like a magic. I am not going to say that heaven has been brought down to earth. But we sincerely tried to do whatever little we could on the basis of what we learnt in the United Front Government in this type of a political atmosphere. We honestly tried. Our efforts are sincere. I do not want to blame anybody at this juncture. There is no need to blame. There is no need to go back to the past history. We have sincerely done our best in the last seven or eight months. In the first one month — I

can call it as our probation period because for twelve days, till we got the vote of confidence -- we were unable to take any decision. Madam, after we got the approval of the House or the sanction of the House or the mandate of the House, we tried to function by identifying the areas to which priority had to be given. Even though we had made enormous achievements, there were still certain areas which were left out and which were not completed and we tried to identify those areas, taking into confidence all the political parties. I would like to make it clear that this Government is not a Government of national parties only. This Government is also there with the cooperation of all the regional parties, with the cooperation of all the Independent Members and with the cooperation of even the Congress which is supporting us from outside. So, we tried to form this Government and we wanted to identify the challenges and the responsibilities that were there before us, with the coop-

eration of all the political parties. I will tell you that when for the first time I called the Chief Ministers' Conference, which included BJP Chief Ministers, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra who belonged to the Shiv Sena, the Chief Ministers belonging to the Congress Party and the Janata Dal and the Chief Ministers belonging to the regional parties like Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, Mr. Karunanidhi and Mr. Mohanta; I don't want to take individual names, all the leaders cooperated fully and with total unanimity they identified the areas for which whatever resources we were able to mobilise, were to be given on priority so that the suffering masses of this country could be bailed out first. These areas which we have fixed unanimously in the Chief Ministers' Conference have already been made known and we call them Basic Minimum Services. Last year, in a short span of seven or eight months, in these areas we tried our best. The first Budget was placed before the nation by the Congress Government before it went to the elections, and after the elections were over, for a short span of eight or nine months, we were asked to place the Budget for the year 1996-97. In the Budget—what I have spelt just now about these seven basic services—we tried to provide an additional allocation of Rs. 2,466 crores. Why am I mentioning this? The policy documents are the documents of programmes of the United Front -- it is a policy document -- but at the same time, for the policies and programmes which we are going to place before the nation to implement those programmes, to implement those policies, the necessary resources must also be provided. We can provide those necessary resources only through our Budget. That has been the indication. In our Budget for 1996-97, for the remaining period of seven - eight months, we tried to provide Rs. 2,466 crores for these basic services.

In addition to that, I would like to mention here that—yes, that is my firm

commitment and there is no hesitation for me to say this—since the beginning of my political career—my friend, Mr. Krishnaji is sitting here—I always used to fight for the rural masses. Even though I was sitting in the Opposition for seven, eight years, I all along used to fight for the rural masses. The first decision I took was to provide Rs. 2,500 fertilizer subsidy on phosphatic fertilizers to the farming community. What were provided last year is nothing new. Even in Lok Sabha where I stayed for a short duration of three years and nine months or ten months, I all along persuaded the then Government and the then Finance Minister—he is not sitting here -- I met him several times as a Member of Parliament, as Chief Minister of Karnataka and tried to persuade him. I was also a Member of the Standing Committee on Fertilizers. My friend, Shri Chaturanan Mishraji who is the Agriculture Minister, was also a Member of that Committee and in that Committee we tried to evolve an overall situation and we recommended for a phased reduction in subsidy. We also felt that our recommendation must keep the price of nitrogen fertilizers the barest minimum burden on the farmers.

Madam, last year we thought that excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers could cause damage to the fertility of the land and then the productivity would go down, and the same thing has happened. In 1995-96, the productivity went down to 185 million tonnes and this year whatever encouragement we tried to give, it yielded that result. I am sorry in 1995-96, it was 185 million tonnes and last year it went up to 191 million tonnes. This is the ground reality, nobody can dispute this. So, I don't want to narrate all those achievements, what we have done in the field of economy.

This time the intention of the Government which we have spelt out in this policy document and the Budget that we have placed before the nation is a clear

indication that this Government wants an overall development of the country. It does not confine itself only to one area like industrial sector or economic growth. So it is not one area which we have thought of. But, we have taken utmost care to see that all areas are given sufficient weightage. In this background, we have taken a little care of industrial growth; we have taken a little care of infrastructural facilities; we have taken sufficient precaution in the agricultural sector; we have taken sufficient precaution in the social sector and rural development. In all these areas, this Budget is a clear indication to fulfill the promises that we have made through this Presidential Address. Madam, with your permission, I would like to highlight some of the points. What were the challenges before us; how can we sort out these problems? Can we drag on for 50 years? Although in the last 50 years we have made major achievements, the task before the country is voluminous. I would just like to narrate some of the issues that are pending before us. Madam Deputy Chairperson, I have just mentioned the minimum basic services. In a time-bound programme, before we enter the 21st century, if we want to provide water supply to the habitations or villages, whatever you may call it, according to the estimates made by our bureaucrats and technicians, it comes to Rs. 20,000 crores. So in the next four years we require Rs. 20,000 crores for providing water to villages and habitations. We require Rs. 20,000 crores only for one sector. We require Rs. 65,000 crores to provide communication and road facilities to all the villages in the next four years or at the end of this century. We require Rs. 27,700 crores for housing. For elementary education—I can give a statement showing how many villages have not even primary schools, but I do not want to take the time of the House—we require Rs. 40,000 crores. We require Rs. 40,000 crores for elementary and universal compulsory education. Today in the

morning the whole House was concerned about power when this darkness was going to be removed and when brightness would come. Almost the entire House with one voice criticised the Government. What can I do without the cooperation of the nation, without the cooperation of both the Houses? I think nobody can do anything. We can make progress to a certain extent or I may call it a limited progress. It is not possible. In the next five years, according to the estimate or target of the 9th Plan that they have given, our demand, our requirement is 57,738 MW. For that, if we put all these things together like generation, transmission, etc., we need about Rs. 3,51,000 crores.

In the morning the hon. Members were rightly tried to point out the transmission and distribution losses. Today, according to the experts, the national average distribution loss is 20.8%. If you see the international average loss it is 12% but in our country the national average loss is 20.8%. To improve the system on the one side, to improve the distribution and transmission system and to create further transmission and distribution system and generation of power, it all comes to Rs. 3,51,000 crores. Why I am giving all these figures is, the responsibility, the task before the Government or before the nation. We have to collectively shoulder the responsibility; whether I am here or somebody else is here tomorrow; and we have to solve this problem with a proper understanding, and a mind-set is required for this purpose.

I would like to give briefly some of the points and would, not elaborate. Even in the irrigation sector, 194 major and 176 medium irrigation projects are pending. If we explore all potential, we can irrigate about 113 million hectares but the present achievement is about 50 million hectares. To complete these lingering projects—these projects are going on from the Second Plan; the former

Finance Minister is sitting here and he knows about it, there is nothing new in it; what I am quoting is figures from the Planning Commission—we need about Rs. 42,000 crores. Forget about taking up new projects. I am not going to give the details about new projects. To complete these lingering major and medium projects we need about Rs. 42,000 crores.

On industries, I would like to bring it to the notice of the august House that our investment in the 245 public sector undertakings is about Rs. 1,72,438 crores. About 100 public sector undertakings are running under loss and the loss, annually, is about Rs. 5,000 crores. Here, I have not taken into account the losses of the National Textile Corporation. Out of the 245 public sector undertakings, 100 units are incurring about Rs. 5,000 crores of loss annually, and the remaining 145 units are making a profit at the rate of 3.47%. This is the picture. The accumulated losses of the NTC is about Rs. 4,678 crores as on 01-04-1996. Against this background, we have taken certain decisions. On the one side we want to encourage private investments, we want to encourage global investments. Yes, we did take some decisions which may be liked or which may not be liked. But, we took advantage of the liberalised economic philosophy promoted in 1991. I must be frank. The country was facing an economic crisis. When I was sitting in the other House, I was just watching the proceedings of the House. The House was facing a crisis in those days. When we took over, I think our foreign exchange reserves stood at about 17 billion dollars. It has now gone up to 19.5 billion dollars. I am not going to quote any figures. The point is, taking advantage of the economic reforms which began in 1991, we want to see that sufficient funds flow, at least, to some areas. For example, power. The amount involved is Rs. 3,51,000 crores. Will it be possible for anybody? Let anybody say in

this House: 'We are not going to invite any investment: we will solve the problem with our own resources'. If anybody says like that, I am prepared to bow my head before him. But I do not think it is possible. After all, the realities must not be distorted. You must accept the realities.

Madam, we can achieve progress only if we allow privater investment it may be foreign investment or domestic investment—in some areas, when we are living in a competitive world, when we have to compete with the other countries of the world. I would like to make this point very clear. There is no question of any hesitation on my part. When I took over the responsibility as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, on the same day, without any hesitation, within a half-an-hour, when the former Prime Minister contacted me, I told him: 'As the Chief Minister of Karnataka, I am not going to hesitate; the only thing is that I have some reservations in regard to the agricultural sector'. I said: 'On the subsidy issue, I have my own reservations: I do not want agriculture to suffer'. This is because, 70-75 per cent of the people live in the rural areas. The workforce is about 65 per cent. Therefore, this area cannot be neglected. I think agriculture accounts for 35 per cent of the GDP. We cannot allow that to suffer. That is why I said: 'Barring that, in all other areas, I am prepared to co-operate'. This was the assurance I gave to the former Prime Minister.

I would like to make it clear, today, on this issue, I would request the whole House, including my friendly parties: whether they are in the Government, or, outside the Government or they are extending their support from outside, that I need the support of every section of the House to see that India plays a very pivotal role in the global economy.

This is the need of the hour. I would request every one of the hon. Members. Some of them are very senior to me. I

am not going to claim that I have better experience or vast experience. I am only making an appeal. Let us collectively work. If anybody thinks that I have gone wrong somewhere, they have got the right to criticise the Government. If I have gone wrong, this House can take a decision. Even if the House takes the extreme decision, I have no objection. But let us, together, solve the problems of the nation.

The problems are stupendous. They are not simple. On the one hand, there is unemployment and poverty. You can imagine, sixty-five thousand villages have no communication facilities. I do not want to name the States. It is not necessary for me. Then, girls' education—only 2 per cent. I went to Mewat. I visited some villages. About 80 per cent of the people in these four districts belong to the minority community. I went to Madhya Pradesh. My friend is sitting here. As per their memorandum, girls' education is just 2 per cent in the tribal areas. That is why, to start with, from the Government itself, we have provided Rs. 250 crores in this Budget. This is a programme to establish special schools, residential schools, for girl children-free education, free accommodation, free food everything. I am not going to trumpet. As I said, the need of the hour is that every body has to think about areas where more attention has to be given, collectively, in order to solve this problem. This is what I would like to submit before the House. *(Interruptions)* We have decided to name this programme after the beloved lady, Kasturba Gandhi. My friend is reminding me about the name of this programme. *(Interruptions)* If anything is there, I am prepared to.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They are asking whether the name of the project is the Kasturba Gandhi Project.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I mentioned briefly about investment. We

want to allow some areas for foreign investments, for private investments. In some areas we will allow 100 per cent equity. Take the power sector. In some other areas we will allow 74 per cent equity, and in some others 51 per cent equity. I do not want to give all those details. Mr. Chidambaram, the Finance Minister, will give a detailed reply to the Budget Discussion. We have opened up the power sector, the mining sector, the coal sector and the highway sector. We were able to take up not even a single national highway road in the last several years. I met Mr. Pranab Mukherjee when he was the Planning Minister. I personally went to him as Chief Minister. I requested him, "You allow at least one road in Karnataka." He said, "Where is the money? It is not possible." Today every State is demanding highways. The present condition of our highways cannot be compared with that in advanced countries. Let us not have a false prestige. A country like Myanmar today is expecting \$4 billion of foreign investments. This country with 950 million people is claiming Rs. 25 crores. We are making all exercises to get \$10 billion. China is able to get \$100 billion. It is a communist country. We must realise that unless and until we try to get sufficient funds from the private sector, it is impossible to achieve some of the objects in a time-bound programme.

We can go on for another 50 years or 100 years. Some people, with the blessing of God, may survive 100 years or 120 years. they can see it. I have no such hope. I say only this: Let us not allow people to suffer any more. Hungry stomach knows no law. That is my philosophy. The tears of the people who are suffering today cannot be wiped; their tears cannot be erased by programmes or policies or slogans unless we make genuine efforts to implement them.

There was an unhealthy competition for populist programmes. The party

supporting us should not mistake me. If I say this, I say it with all sincerity. You take the proceedings of the Karnataka Legislature. As Minister in charge of Irrigation, I told the House. "Let us not make an unhealthy competition for having populist programmes." It is not going to help the country to become economically strong. A populist programme will have only a temporary gain so far as politics is concerned. It is not going to give a permanent solution to the suffering of the masses." With this background, about 15 to 20 years back, I quoted one sentence from the speech of Mr. Kosygin, made in 1972. My memory goes back by 24 years. I was the Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Devraj Urs was the Chief Minister. Mr. Nixon had gone to USSR in 1972. I quoted this from a Soviet magazine.

In his welcome Address Mr. Kosygin had said about 24 or 25 years back: We need your money; we need your technology. Today it is not a question of selling away your country's honour. I am not here for that. I make it specifically clear in the House that I am not going to allow my industries to suffer; I am not going to allow my country to suffer and I am not going to sell away the honour of the country. This is practically impossible, whether it is the case of the small-scale industries, or medium-scale industries or high-tech. industries. There is no question of allowing my industries to be liquidated. They have to be protected. Let us review without any bias what you have done all these years. There is one unit in Karnataka known as NGF. Here I am quoting the then Industries Minister because I know the background. Almost all the union leaders, whether they were affiliated to the Congress Party or the B.J.P. or any other party, unanimously passed a resolution for the handing over of the NGF. When they approached me, I wondered why all the unions themselves were advocating this. Was it that they

wanted to extract the maximum advantage? I told them that it was not possible. Let us run it. I told them to sell away some land invest further on it and see that it is revived. Why I am mentioning this is that it is not simply a question of handing over the x, y or z sick industry to someone. We should try our best to improve the condition and health of the industry with your cooperation, with your guidance and advice. I am prepared to have a fresh look. If it is not possible, then I will go by your advice. It is not a question of just throwing away industries into the hands of some vested interests. I will sincerely do my best to revive them. In case it is not possible, then I will take the advice of my colleagues and Members of the House and will go according to the direction given by the House.

Madam, a favourable climate has been generated after this Budget. We have taken some decision. Yes, I may tell you very frankly that there may be lapses and pitfalls. You have got every right to give your valuable suggestions for improvement. I am prepared to accept them honestly. There is no question of my standing on prestige. We have to try our best with the background of your experience. We have taken the advice of several experts, industrialists and economists. We have tried our best to see that a sincere effort is made in the Budget and also in our policies and programmes. Madam, so far as the industrial sector is concerned, I do not want to elaborate on it any further. As I have already mentioned, we have tried to encourage the private sector investment in the infrastructural area. Thirtyfour hon. Members of the House had also participated in the discussion and had given their valuable suggestions on the basis of their knowledge and experience. They might have made some bitter attacks and criticisms. If I have gone wrong, I am prepared to rectify my mistakes and take their advice.

So far as future course of action of the Government is concerned, I am going to briefly narrate what steps the Government is going to take or what the intention of the Government is. I would like to tell the House what we want to do in the next year, in this country. We cannot solve the problem in one year itself. Even with your cooperation, even with your sincere advice I am not going to say that it can be solved in one year. Some problems can be solved in four years or five years. Some problems may be pushed through the next five years. I am not saying that I will be here for ten years. I am not saying that I will be here eternally, I am only saying that the path which we have chosen, if we continue with it sincerely, we can make India economically strong and it would become a major player in the global market in one decade. This is my honest opinion. I have no hesitation in my mind in saying this.

Madam, regarding the agricultural sector, this year the fertilizer subsidy component itself is Rs. 9,195 crores. In the agricultural sector the fertilizer subsidy alone is Rs. 9,195 crores. In 1996-97 when we presented the Budget, we made a provision of Rs. 7,767 crores for fertilizers. In 1995-96, the subsidy component to the farming community was Rs. 6,735 crores. In the Revised Estimates, in the second Budget which we presented, we made a provision of Rs. 7,767 crores. This year 1997-98, it would be Rs. 9,195 crores. I myself took the decision to revise the price of nitrogenous fertilizer. I increased its price because the consumption of nitrogenous fertilizer has not gone down last year. Thought we have given certain facilities, though we have given a subsidy of Rs. 2,500 crores on phosphatic fertilizer, I was expecting that the consumption of nitrogenous fertilizer would go down. But unfortunately the figure says that the consumption of nitrogenous fertilizer like urea still maintained the same level. that

is why I tried to convince the producers that we would increase its price by 10 per cent; and the same money would be passed on to the phosphatic fertilizer and we are not going to touch that money. It comes to about Rs. 700 crores. The money collected from the nitrogenous fertilizer would be further passed on to the phosphatic fertilizer. This is the decision I have taken.

Regarding the public distribution system, I would like to make it clear, yes, some States like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and may be one or two more States have introduced the public distribution system on subsidised rates for the poorer sections of the society, the poor people. On this issue, there is some controversy. I do agree that the States' resources are not going to permit the States to take on such a heavy burden. The Centre is also not in a position to take this issue as a national programme because money has to be provided to various other areas.

After assuming office, within a week, a decision was taken and we accepted the 'Common Minimum Programme'. I do agree that there was some delay. The delay was because of the fact that I had to consult the Chief Minister. I called a meeting of the Chief Ministers in order to know their views. Without their cooperation, it was not possible to implement the scheme. If the Chief Ministers had not cooperated or if they had not extended their cooperation, it would have been practically impossible to implement the scheme. We could not have succeeded in implementing the scheme without their cooperation. In some of the States, there is no infrastructure and there is no proper arrangement. They have to identify the beneficiaries, the people who are below the poverty line. The Planning Commission has given certain guidelines to this effect. The basic guideline is that they must identify the beneficiaries, and

according to our assessment, about 32 crore people are going to be benefited by the PDS system. This year, we have provided Rs. 7,500 crores for food subsidy alone under PDS. I would like to inform all the Hon. Members of this august House that unless the States come forward with their list of beneficiaries and unless they follow the guidelines given by the Planning Commission and the Central Government, we cannot allow the money to be swindled away by the vested interests and the traders. I would like to inform the hon. Members that we are providing this money under a very difficult situation, keeping in view the suffering of those people who go without two square meals a day. We are providing this benefit to those people who are suffering from malnutrition. Recently, I had been to Mewar where a lot of people had died. Some of my own friends had submitted a memorandum to me stating that 10,000 people had died. But when I visited the place and made on-the-spot enquiry, the reality was otherwise. It was found that malnutrition was one of the main causes of this malady. Ultimately, we took a decision that this is one area which requires our immediate attention and we must extend the benefits of this programme to this area. In order to achieve this objective, the cooperation of the State is a must. If the States are not going to extend their cooperation in this respect and if they are not going to identify the beneficiaries according to the guidelines given by the Planning Commission, it is practically impossible to implement the scheme. Some of the States requested me to hand over the money to them. I said: "Nothing doing. We are not going to release any money until and unless you fulfil the criteria fixed by the Government of India and until and unless you follow the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission." So, unless the States satisfy the guidelines and unless they show their sincerity to the scheme, we are not going to release the money. I

need the cooperation of the Members of this House in this regard.(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, don't interrupt him like this. Let him finish.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am not going to dispute his claim. I appreciate his concern and sincerity. But this is just a beginning. For the first time, we have launched this programme as a national Programme. You must understand this. I need the cooperation of all the hon. Members and they should suggest how we can improve our resources. Let us go ahead. Let us expand this programme further. Let us extend this programme further. It is a new programme which we have launched. It is not a question of any individual programme. We have launched a national programme. In the first instance we require Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 8,000 crores. If we want to double it, the amount will go up to Rs. 15,000 crores to Rs. 16,000 crores. At the same time, we must also try to mobilise the resources. May I ask you a sincere question? Forget the fact that you are a BJP man and I am a Janata Dal man. Forget that for the time being. When the power generation cost was Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 or Rs. 5, what was the ultimate agreement your Maharashtra Government signed with Enron? You take Punjab. You are going to supply free power to the people of Punjab. You are going to supply free water. Where do you get this Rs. 3,54,000 crores from? You honestly tell me. Only to come to power if you play these gimmicks, can we run this country? Can this country become strong? It is practically impossible.(Interruptions)....

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): The entire speech is a gimmick.(Interruptions)....

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): He should tell his constituent, the TDP, to

withdraw.(Interruptions).... I am supporting him.(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please let him complete.(Interruptions).... Don't do like this.(Interruptions).... Ahluwaliaji, please sit down.(Interruptions).... Mr. Ahluwalia, please sit down.(Interruptions).... Please sit down.(Interruptions)....

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is also a gimmick.(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You also sit down.(Interruptions).... Let the speech be over.(Interruptions).... Let him finish his speech.(Interruptions).... Please, order.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I have made a beginning. I have told my own Government in Karnataka(Interruptions).... I am not going to mix politics with the country's development. When the country's development comes, politics is not paramount for me. I am not worried about it. I told my own Government in Karnataka the same thing. I stand by my conscience. I must tell you very frankly that on this issue I will not compromise, whether I am going to remain here or I am not going to remain here. I am not concerned about it. I am not going to compromise.(Interruptions)....

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): बिहार का नाम नहीं लेंगे(व्यवधान).... बिहार में शिक्षा नहीं है। हर आदमी को साड़ियाँ बाँटी जा रही है।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: कबल बाँटे जा रहे हैं।

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Please.(Interruptions).... Please. Let us all collectively, frankly, without bias(Interruptions)....

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Mr. Prime Minister, only you have a right to be agitated here.(Interruptions).... The hon. Members here are not agitated.(Interruptions)....

Only he has the mandate to get angry.
....(Interruptions)....

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: No, no.
....(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have a right to get angry.(Interruptions).... Let him finish.(Interruptions)....

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: We want to hear the Prime Minister.(Interruptions).... That is not the reason. Why should he get agitated by a simple question?(Interruptions)....

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am not agitated. I said, "I welcome it." If you want to increase the quantum, you must also be prepared to increase the resources. The resources can be mobilised only with the co-operation of everybody, not by one individual. The resources can be generated only by the co-operation of the entire House. It cannot be done by the individual. At the same time, you must all realise what the past experience was. On the basis of populist programmes alone one cannot survive in politics. Please be aware of it.(Interruptions)....

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: That is why your Chief Minister wants.(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please.(Interruptions).... Nobody should interrupt.(Interruptions)....

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, what is this?(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, I will handle everything. Let us complete his speech. It is already five minutes to 5 o'clock. Let him finish.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: On Monday you will have every right to attack the Government. Today you have participated in the debate on the UP issue. I have never found fault with any

person for whatever criticism or bitter attack he made. You have got every right to criticise. On Monday I will sit here. It is a different matter whether I am going to intervene when the Home Minister replies to the debate. I will sit here and hear the advice which is going to be given by the hon. Members on the opposite side on the UP issue. Now I am not going to deal with the UP issue. The EAS, JRY-Food for Work Scheme which was introduced by the Congress Government, will be continued. There is no question of discontinuing the scheme. The EAS, JRY scheme is meant for those people who work as labourers. The Food for Work Scheme will continue. I would like to make one point. One kilogram of food every day, that is, thirty kilograms of food a month, that scheme will also be continued. Almost all the blocks will be covered under the Employment Assurance Scheme. No block will be left out. Almost all the blocks have been covered. That is one point on which I would like to stress. Regarding allocation for Plan, Rs. 8,000 crores have been given. We have increased the allocation for rural development. All this is there in the Budget which has been presented to the House. I do not want to go into that aspect. I would like to mention two or three other points. It will be worthwhile. At the beginning of the President's Address itself, we mentioned the minorities, the Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes. On the first page itself, the President mentioned the Scheduled castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the other Backward classes and the minorities. We have not forgotten them. One of the Congress Members here-I don't remember his name-came to me and said, "You must provide some money for the Maulana Azad Trust." Rupees forty crores have been provided. Not only that, Rs. 41 crores have been provided for the Minority Development Corporation. I would again assure the House that this will not stop at

Rs. 81 crores. My intention is to go beyond Rs. 100 crores this year. In the 9th Plan, we want to make an allocation of Rs. 1,000 crores for minority institutions. This year, we will be spending Rs. 100 crores. We have made a provision of Rs. 81 crores for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the small land-holders. We are committed to it. In the case of small and marginal land-owners, we have started a scheme of providing free water to their land. They are unable to bear this expenditure. That is why we have taken a decision to launch a national programme for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. We will be providing them with funds to bear recurring expenses like maintenance of pumps and power expenses. This will be done for five years. The Welfare Department will take care of it. This programme was successfully launched in Karnataka. With this background, I took a decision that we will launch it in the whole country. It is a national programme to improve the economic condition of these people. In addition to this, we have made sufficient provision for the Financial Development Corporation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The hon. Finance Minister has indicated these figures in his Budget speech and I do not want to repeat them. I would like to mention only one or two other aspects.

5.00 P.M.

All these programmes, whether it is PDS, whether it is free water supply, whether it is land for the Scheduled Castes or Minority Development Corporation, we have allotted money. One more aspect is, the figures vary. The figures indicated are of those registered in employment exchanges. It is 4,60,00,000 or 4,80,00,000. The figures of unemployed are vary. This year we wanted to see that one million educated unemployed boys....

AN HON. MEMBER: What about girls?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: When we are thinking of providing reservation in the Parliament, how can we forget girls? We wanted to provide the financial support under self-employment scheme. In the Ninth Plan we wanted to give this support for 50 lakh unemployed educated boys and girls. I have added girls. To implement these schemes, to identify the beneficiaries, the States must evince interest. Otherwise, these schemes will not be successful. I need the cooperation of the States, not the hue and cry of the States that we want more power, that we want more financial powers, Sarkaria Commission, and all those things. We also examined it with the Home Minister, we tried our best, we called the Chief Ministers' Conference, the National Development Council meeting and ultimately, we took certain unanimous decisions on some areas and we have constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Home Minister and we have delegated certain powers. But, at the same time, the money that we are going to release in all those areas must be properly used. There are cases, there are instances where the money that has been released has been diverted for some other purpose, for non-plan expenditure or in some areas for some other programmes. In this connection, I would like to make an appeal to all the States. Let them cooperate; They must realise the intention of the Government that even though we have got the resource crunch, even though we have got the financial crunch, why do we have to go in for private investments? If we have got sufficient resources we could have invested even on infrastructural areas because with all this struggle when we are making much of effort to see some of these areas are covered by our own resources, this must be properly used. Those people who are suffering must get the required benefit. With your kind permission I would like

to take the House into confidence. So far as ten lakh boys and girls per year are concerned, while we are going to extend the benefit, we need the financial support. I convened a meeting of all banks top executives, and of the Reserve Bank Governor, I had a discussion with them and after taking the views of the Reserve Bank, the institutional finances, some of the State Governments, the Financial Development Corporations of the States and the opinion of the people, I ultimately formulated the scheme. My intention is not to extend this help to all those boys and girls who have registered their names in the employment exchange.

Those boys and girls who come from the families of the poorest of the poor cannot provide collateral security to the banks when they go to them for loans. They may be coming from any community. They may belong to any community. I am not interested in communities. But this scheme should go for the benefit of the poorest of the poor amongst the educated unemployed. That is my intention. Suppose a boy or a girl comes from a little well-off family, there is not need for him or her to get this benefit. I have asked the Department concerned to issue these guidelines to the States. When they start identifying the beneficiaries, they should ensure that the benefit under the scheme has gone to the poorest of the poor without any caste consideration. This is one aspect which I would like to spell out. This is the intention of the Government. I appeal to the States to extend their full co-operation to this programme so as to ensure that this programme is properly implemented and the deserved got the benefit of the scheme.

Lastly, I would like to say a few words on foreign policy. I don't want to exceed the time-limit. I think I would require ten minutes more. The policy of this Government is to ensure friendly relations with our neighbours. The problem with Bangladesh which was pending for the last

30—35 years is solved. We tried to solve this problem. The other day when this matter was raised, I was here. We entered into an agreement with Bangladesh on the Ganga water issue. We are implementing this agreement with effect from January this year. Up till now, there is no problem in regard to the percentage of water to be shared by these two countries. There is no question of any deficiency so far as percentage of water is concerned. Both the countries are implementing the treaty terms in regard to the percentage of water to the shared successfully. This is one thing which I would like to mention. The other thing is about the Mahakali agreement between India and Nepal for better use of water that is available for hydel power generation and for irrigation development. This treaty is going to be a milestone. We are going to take further steps about the use of water in the Himalayan region for power generation and for irrigation development. There is one more agreement, the trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Turkmenistan. This is going to facilitate smooth transit of cargo between India and these two other countries. This is going to open us to the Iranian port, Bander Abbas, via the CIS countries. This is going to be one of our major achievement. I am not going to say that we have solved everything. But we have at least made some sincere efforts. In the last seven months, I have not brought the heaven down to earth. But we have made sincere efforts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is nine months.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Those two months were the probationary period. If you include those months also, yes, it is nine months.

For the first time after our independence, the President of the Republic of China visited this country. The treaty which we have entered into with them, is going to be of major help so far as border security is concerned. It will minimise our burden,

If I am correct, and we are hoping that this is going to be the beginning of a new chapter. Late Rajiv Gandhi and the former Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao had visited China. In the last seven or eight years, these two leaders had gone there. So, our relationship with China has ushered in a new era. After the visit of the Chinese President, we have agreed on certain confidence-building measures, to be taken along the Line of Control, which will serve to reduce tension in the border area. This is one major achievement that I would like to bring to the notice of this hon. House.

On the issue of Pakistan, there was some controversy which had already been clarified by my colleague. I would like to reiterate that our intention is that even with them we want to have a good relationship. This very same House had passed a resolution. I think both the Houses had passed a resolution somewhere in 1994. That resolution is binding. I want to make clear only one thing. We want to begin at least in trade, transport and communications. And there is a good response. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has indicated that we can have Official level talks and then we can proceed further. This is the indication that he has given. We have also agreed. I hope that the Official level talks will come through very shortly.

With our other neighbours also, like Sri Lanka and others I don't want to elaborate on that—we have been trying our best to maintain a cordial relationship. Peace is our main motto. We don't want to have confrontation with any of our neighbours. With this background, we are trying to pursue the policies that have been formulated by previous Governments since our independence. Our main objective, is to maintain peace. We don't want to have confrontation with anybody. We are pursuing the same line. With Pakistan, as a first step, let us start with transport, communications and trade. And I hope these Official-level

talks will give us some positive results. I also appeal to the Government of Pakistan in the light of the indication that they have given, that we are prepared to respond and extend our full cooperation.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, with your kind permission, I once again make a sincere appeal to all sections of this House. There is no question of mixing any politics here. We have enunciated some of our programmes in the President's Address. We have tried to provide necessary financial allocation for all these areas. Now, we have given this concession to old people that there will be no tax on their income up to Rs. 1,00,000/-. We have widened the tax net and we have reduced taxes on various things, whether it is import duty or something else. I don't want to go into the details because it has been sufficiently debated in the country. Our intention is to see to it that this country becomes the number one country in the whole world in the next one decade. We will collectively work and sincerely work in that direction. I need the cooperation of the people. I need the cooperation of the House. Thank you, very much.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Madam Deputy Chairman, with regard to the Ganga waters, the hon. Prime Minister said that he has not yet come across any difficult situation. I would like to tell for the information of the Prime Minister that the difficult period is going to come during the last ten days of March and the whole of April when we are going to face a lot of trouble at the Calcutta and Haldia ports. Mr. Prime Minister, this is just for your information. I don't want you to react to it, but somebody should inform you as to what the correct position with regard to the Ganga waters is.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, we would not have a question-answer session. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: I don't want any reaction from him. I was only informing him.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Madam, my only request to the entire House, through you, is to extend our unanimous thanks to the Rashtrapatiiji.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will.

I shall now put the amendments which have been moved to vote.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैडम वीमेन रिज़र्वेशन बिल असेम्बली और पार्लियामेंट में लाया जाएगा, लोकपाल और इलेक्शन रिकॉर्स बिल भी लाया जाएगा, इनके बारे में प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कुछ नहीं कहा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment number 24 to 64, Shri Govindram Miri. Is he there?

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: मैडम, प्रेज़ीडेंट एड्रेस में कहा गया था कि वीमेन रिज़र्वेशन बिल लाया जाएगा, लोकपाल बिल लाया जाएगा, इलेक्शन रिकॉर्स बिल लाया जाएगा। इसकी चर्चा तो प्रधान मंत्री जी ने नहीं की है।(व्यवधान)....

उपसभापति: अभी आप बैठिए। I shall now put the amendments which have been moved to vote. Amendment numbers 24 to 64 by Shri Govindram Miri—he is not here. Oky. But I have to put them to vote.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Madam, he is not present.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has moved them and he is not here to withdraw them and nobody else can withdraw them on his behalf. I shall not put his amendments to vote.

Amendment numbers 24 to 64 were negatived

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment numbers 65 to 69 moved by Shrimati Malti Sharma. She is also not here.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: She is not present now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She is not here, but she has moved them. She is not withdrawing. I shall put her amendments to vote.

Amendment numbers 65 to 69 were negatived.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the motion of Thanks to vote.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Madam I have a point. I had written to you. I did not interrupt the Prime Minister because it would not have looked very appropriate. I wanted kind of a clarification on one two points. Since this is a policy document followed by your approach to the Ninth Five Year Plan, I am going to put only two or three questions. Firstly, the weakest link in the entire process of planning is the infrastructure. First of all, I would like to understand whether the Prime Minister himself is going to look into the matter that nuclear power stations have failed miserably. You wanted to generate 38,000 MW of power in the Eighth Five Year Plan, but you have not been able to achieve even half of it. Now, merely by giving the figures that in order to produce 53,000 MW of power so many crores of rupees are required, that is not going to satisfy us at all. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister himself is aware of the fact that there are very small problems in nuclear power areas and whether our available eminent scientists are capable of removing those difficulties so that the target of the Ninth Five Year Plan is achieved. Unless you assure us about this, the entire infrastructure will definitely fail.

Another point on which I would like to have some kind of a clarification from the hon. Prime Minister these are matters which need to be gone into—is that Bombay went without power for three hours and the entire life in Bombay was paralysed. I am surprised that in the capital city of Delhi itself we have been facing this problem for the last few

weeks. Is he going to make an inquiry into the matter by appointing a team of experts, to fix the responsibility and to find out as to who are responsible for doing this kind of a thing? I would also like to know whether the Government has taken any decision on the Report of the Fifth Pay Commission. So, these are the things about which I would like to know to what exactly the position is.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As far as the Plan is concerned, I would like to inform you that this issue was raised with the Chairman. I think we are going to discuss the entire Plan in totality. So, I think, at that point of time of discussion these questions can be answered. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will discuss every aspect of planning. Mr. Mukherjee was also discussing this today with the hon. Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will be discussing the Plan, as far as power is concerned we need a lot of power.

Now I put the Motion moved by Shrimati Kamla Sinha to vote. The question is:

That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

That the Members of the Rajya Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both House of Parliament assembled together on the 20th February, 1997.

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Houses stands adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday, the 10th March, 1997.

The House then adjourned at twenty-two minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 10th March, 1997.

