

बाढ़ है। उसमें जो सेंट्रल असिस्टेंट्स का सवाल है, अभी तक सिर्फ दो क्वार्टरली से ज्यादा नहीं गई है। यह भी गम्भीर सवाल है। कम से कम पांच हजार गांव आज फंसे हुए हैं। यहां और भी सदस्य हैं, उनको भी मौका दिया जाना चाहिये ताकि वे अपनी बात यहां पर सदन में रख सकें ताकि वह समस्या भी सदन के सामने आ सके। यही मेरा आपसे आग्रह है।

उपसभापति: आपका निवेदन बिलकुल कोरेक्ट है, जो आप बोल रहे हैं, सही बात है। मैं भी यही बात कह रही थी, जब मैम्बर बोल रहे थे। आप रिकॉर्ड पर पढ़ लेना और आप सुन भी रहे होंगे। मैंने पहले निवेदन किया था मैम्बरों से कि वे संक्षेप में अपनी बात रखें, बात कह दें। दूसरे मैम्बरों को चेयरमैन साहब परमिशन देते हैं, यह उनका अधिकार है कि वे यहां पर बोलें। उनके अधिकार को चेयर ने या चेयरमैन साहब ने नहीं लिखा है। उनका अधिकार आप लोग ही ले लेते हैं। आप फिर शिक्कायत भी हम से करते हैं। आप लोग उस वक्त क्यों नहीं बोलते हैं? जब कोई बोल रहा होता है किसी सम्बेकट पर तब तो आप खामोश रहते हैं। उस वक्त आप नहीं बोलते हैं कि आपके अधिकार का उल्लंघन हो रहा है।

For Zero Hour submissions and Special Mentions, if the Members agree, we have to sit late in the evening. We are left with four hours and two minutes for the Budget discussion. I will give the time left for each party. The Congress (I) party has one hour and thirty-three minutes and I have eight names. The BJP has taken excess time than was allotted to them. There are four names and they have no time left. The Janata Dal has eighteen minutes with two Members. There are eleven minutes for two Members to speak. And 48 minutes are left for some Independents.

I have my apprehensions, as the Lok Sabha has adjourned till 2 o' clock, I will try to find out at what time the Minister will reply in the Lok Sabha. If he finishes his reply in the Lok Sabha, then he will come to the Rajya Sabha. But after he comes to the Rajya Sabha, we should finish our discussion in the House. So I request the hon. Members to abide by the time left to their various political

parties and if the Budget discussion is over, if Members so agree, they can take up the Zero Hour and Special Mentions. I feel there are very important issues concerning everybody and there are other matters. I was willing not to have lunch hour and that we should at least have one hour during the lunch. The Members did not want to have it that way. So it is okay. Now it is entirely up to the Members. If they finish the Budget, they can have that, the time cannot be extended beyond 24 hours, fortunately or unfortunately. With these words, I adjourn the House for lunch for one hour.

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

The House reassembled after lunch at ten minutes past two of the clock, (The Vice-Chairman (Shri Md. Salim) *in the Chair.*)

THE BUDGET (GENERAL) 1996-97 (CONTD)

*SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, I congratulate the honourable Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram for having presented an excellent Budget keeping in line with minimum programme of the 13 party United Front Government formed as a result of mandate given by the people to govern the country with a secular, liberal, democratic coalition at the Centre.

After 49 years of Independence and eight Five Year Plans, and so many projects and programmes there are 40 per cent people living below poverty line according to the reply given by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Minister of Civil Supply the fact that there are crores of people living below the poverty line after so many plans and projects is really regrettable and is shameful.

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Telugu.

After so many years we have not been able to improve the literacy condition in the country. Illiteracy still persists. Next comes the unemployment problem which is increasing day by day. Then comes the regional differences and income imbalances. The price hike is really torturing the middle and lower middle class people.

They are the worst sufferers as the prices are continuously increasing. The worst thing we face in our country is misuse of power, money and illegal practices.

Everyday we read in the newspapers and magazines reports of misappropriation of funds and misuse of power which is very unfortunate.

We have the United Front Government now which has the good intention of correcting all these flaws and Mr. Chidambaram has taken the initiative to improve the situation through the Union Budget for 1996-97. This Budget has laid a foundation for improving conditions in agricultural sector, expediting the development of natural resources increasing the industrial output by 12 per cent, launching programmes to expedite removal of poverty, solving problems of rural areas and starting many more schemes which would help every citizen of India to lead a respectable life.

Vice Chairman Sir, this Budget has three main goals in view. Firstly, development with social justice. Secondly, to bring down the fiscal deficit to the level of 4 per cent of GDP. Thirdly, to formulate the Budget in such a way that in the next 10 years the GDP rate will not be less than 7 per cent.

Sir, while carrying out these goals the Government should keep in mind what the Economic Survey says about the infrastructure including roads, electricity, coal, steel and cement. It says the infrastructure is inadequate. It has been decided to provide Rs. 5000/- as a share capital to IDFC to enable it in taking measures for the improvement of roads, electricity etc. Even regarding electricity I have to say that in the face of acute

shortage in spite of Indian and foreign private companies coming forward to enter the power sector, no action has been taken till now and instead fictitious reasons are given. This is a serious issue which the government has to look into.

Ours is an agriculture based economy. 32 per cent of GDP is contributed by our farmers. Agriculturists and farmers constitute 70 per cent of our population. Our Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda being a farmer himself is an honour to the entire farmer community and we all feel happy about it. In spite of all these facts the agriculture production this year has come down by 0.9 per cent, which is a matter of concern. So I convey my hearty wishes to the hon'ble Minister for giving importance to the development of agriculture and the welfare of agriculturists.

It has been announced in this budget that in order to increase the capital base for agriculture and agro based industries, share capital of NABARD will be increased from Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 2000 crores within 5 years and to Rs. 1000 crores this year itself. The farmers who work hard to give us foodgrains are well taken care of in this Budget and they are so happy because the Prime Minister had announced subsidy on fertilizers like potash and phosphate much before the Budget was announced and he has increased the rate of subsidy from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2224 crores. The farmers community are grateful for this gesture. Our Finance Minister has decided to give a subsidy to power tillers upto Rs. 30,000 or 50 per cent of the cost. While we have small and marginal farmers working in our country it is highly appreciable that subsidy of Rs. 30,000 has been announced on tractors which is applicable to all farmers.

We are facing problems regarding irrigation facilities also in our country. I Congratulate Shri Chidambaram for increasing the subsidy on sprinklers and drip irrigation system from 50 per cent to 70 per cent. Apart from that the ceiling limit has also been increased from

Rs. 15000 to Rs. 25000 The subsidy announced regarding small farmers, marginal farmers, women S.C. and S.T. to 90 per cent is really appreciable because it encourages the capabilities of farmers and is really a commendable step taken by the finance Minister.

Sir, I have some submissions to make. Loans are of course sanctioned for different crops but I suggest that the maximum limit of loan should be increased. The procedure of availing of the loans from banks or co-operative societies is very cumbersome and steps should be taken to improve the procedure in the matter. It should be made simple and expeditious. At present if someone applies for loan at the time of sowing seeds, he gets the loan at the time of harvesting. Not only that NABARD gets the money at the rate of 6 per cent interest while giving loan to the farmer, it charges the interest rate of 10 to 12 per cent.

Sir, my humble request is that seeing the condition of our poor farmers the interest rates should be reduced further. The crop insurance scheme introduced by the Government is good but of no use because under this scheme one Mandal or block is considered one unit. This is not good because in any calamity three or four villages only could be affected. Each village should be considered a unit under this crop insurance scheme. I have read in newspapers that our Agriculture Minister Shri Chaturanan Mishra has announced perhaps in Madras that small and marginal farmers can have the benefit of the premium being paid by the Government. It is really a welcome proposal and it should be implemented and should not remain just a proposal. This is my humble request.

Whatever steps we take and any number of schemes we may introduce, we should not ignore the implementation of land reforms. Unless we work on it throughout the country we cannot improve the situation completely. Take the example of Japan. We know how best they make use of their land. In our

country though the land ceiling law is there, it is hardly implemented properly as many rich land owners manipulate and are still owning 100 to 1000 acres of land which is not being used for agricultural purposes leading to national loss. So my request is that land reforms should be implemented in letter and spirit, correcting the defects, if any.

Sir, we should keep in view the situation of the agricultural labourers who work very hard but do not get proper returns for their labour. So, a comprehensive law should be introduced for the betterment of agricultural labourers on the whole. NABARD is providing loans to the States, through Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for implementing projects of minor and medium irrigation, soil conservation and watershed management. But the funds provided for are meagre. In 1995-96 an amount of Rs. 1,984 crores was provided. But this Government has allocated an additional Rs. 2500 crores which I appreciate. I agree with the statement that in the next 3 to 4 crop seasons an additional area of 1 lakh hectares will come under irrigated cultivation.

Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister for taking the initiative to provide a new scheme for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme which provides Rs. 900 crores to States for speeding up the completion of projects in their final phases—which could be completed with a little more additional funds. This initiative is quite laudable for the development of agriculture in the country. It is quite an alarming situation in our Country where several minor irrigation projects are not completed. We could not utilise our natural resources soil and water to their full potential. This wastage has to be stopped. Our natural resources should be utilised properly by all States.

Sir, I submit that there are still lapses in our efforts to utilise our water resources fully and also our soil resources in our country. Special attention has to be

given now. There are several projects in several States which are left incomplete for various reasons for lack of funds, disputes between States etc. These projects need to be completed as early as possible in all the States.

Sir, I come from Andhra Pradesh and there are several projects pending such as Pulichintala, Bheema, Sri Ram Sagar II Phase, Telugu Ganga — Srisailem left canal, Polavaram, Ichhampalli, Vamsadhara II phase and 17 major and 10 medium irrigation projects in Telangana and Rayalaseema are some of the projects to be completed. The State Government has been trying for the last 10 to 12 years to get clearance and funds from the Central Government, Central Water Commission and Planning Commission. Sir, this is a very sad State of affairs. Sometime ago a group of Panchayat Presidents, State Legislators and MPs have brought this to the notice of P.M. and gave a representation and a memorandum to this effect. We have also promised that if proper irrigation and loan facilities are provided we will produce more agricultural products. But then with some lame excuses they are delaying unnecessarily and are not sanctioning the projects. Since this Government is formed with a good intention of serving the people of India in the right perspective and has started working for the development of the Country, I expect that the required sanctions will be accorded and funds would be allocated for the pending projects of our State. In spite of our Chief Minister's efforts and requests made to the Central Government the pending projects are not cleared.

Sir, through you, I request the Minister kindly to look into this matter.

Sir, we are also facing problems regarding water. Of course, disputes will arise when the river waters flow through more than one State. It is quite natural for every State to claim the river water for their own State. But we all belong to one nation and it becomes the responsibility of the Central Government to res-

olve the problem and equally distribute the natural resources among the States. Sir, Bachawat Commission was set up to settle the dispute of Krishna river water. According to the Bachawat Award the height of the Dam near Almatti on Krishna river should be constructed. But the height of dam is being increased more than that announced in the Bachawat Award and we have received this news with evidences. Sir, if this happens, more than 30 lakh acres of land in Andhra Pradesh is bound to become a desert or barren land. My submission in this regard is Sir, that whatever recommendations or changes are made in Bachawat Commission award, Whether it is by Central Water Commission or Planning Commission should be done in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government should also see to it that the dam will not be constructed even an inch higher than the height permitted in the Bachawat Award.

Sir, it is true that expediting industrialisation helps in the economic growth of the Country. It is also mentioned in the Budget proposal that the industrial production should increase to the extent of 12 per cent. It is a matter of happiness that we have also improved the investments and are encouraging foreign investments also. But my suggestion is that funds should be utilised for modernising production processes, technical know-how etc. On 12th July FIPB was reorganised and the Minister for industries was happy that it has already accepted more than 330 proposals. Permissions are granted to Quaker Company for snack bars, to Warner Bros International Company for Video parlours and restaurants construction, to the Perfetti Company for chocolates and chewing gums production, to the Bloom Burg institution for wire service net work and also to coco-cola, BMW, Hero Cycle companies. We should concentrate more investing on companies which will help on the overall development of the country and not on chewing gums and bubble gums. Foreign

investments should be encouraged to improve technical know-how, modern equipments etc. This is my humble submission Sir, just to acquire 1000 crore dollars every year the Minister for Industry and the Central Government should not ignore the basic aim of the FIPB. The present situation of the Country doesn't need foreign chocolates, cigarettes and Video parlours. Sir, we need better technical know-how for the development of our industries.

Sir, some of our citizens who became NRI's have some feeling for the motherland and want to make investments. But they face so many problems which discourages their enthusiasm. It is really very sad to know the problems they have to face. Sir, I am quoting an incident published in the Hindu 29.8.96. Mr. K.N. Bhatia, an NRI from Dubai, who has invested about Rs. 6.5 crores in the manufacture of anti spare parts and rubber products, had to run from pillar to post to get clearance. He had to bribe his way through for completing the formalities so much so that he is now wanting to be 'redeemed' from such ordeals.

This is typical of the problem faced by NRI's who want to invest in India, Customs officials demanding bribes to clear machinery, sales tax officers knocking at the doors for favours, Secretaries to Ministers and ranking bureaucrats demanding free supply and bribes to octroi are common obstacles faced by these people. As Mr. Swaraj Paul the NRI industrialist from London, put it "an NRI is wanted only when money is wanted."

Sir, unless we check corruption, cumbersome bureaucratic procedures, we cannot expect any foreign investments.

Lastly Sir, I cannot help appreciating the courage of our Finance Minister for the steps he had taken regarding Income Tax. The increase of tax rate on cigarettes from 5 to 7 per cent is also appreciable because this may discourage a few smokers. As there is a demand to raise the income tax exemption limit to Rs.

60,000 it should be considered. There are 110 lakh people paying income tax. So it hardly matters if 20-30 lakh people are exempted from paying tax.

Sir, I will conclude my speech after one or two points. There is no mention of Family Planning in our Budget. I request the Government to look into it. Secondly the condition of handloom weavers is really in a sad state. So something has to be done. Regarding the betterment of their condition. Corruption which is spreading like an infectious disease has to be checked. We all know about Sukh Ram and many other politicians who are indulged in corruption. But my request is, there are many more other than politicians and they should also be charged. People involved in corruption are politicians, bureaucrats, industrialists and contractors. So everybody has to be taken into task.

Sir, one more think I would like to mention is regarding the exhibitions being held. We come across so many exhibitions but now in Karnataka international women's exhibition is being held. We are trying hard for the upliftment and betterment of women and we are including women in Parliament legislatures and in IAS and IPS services. Ofcourse we have different kinds of exhibitions. But then exhibition of women is really objectionable. It is said that the money collected will be utilised for social-services. It is really a shameful state of affair sir. I once more congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a wonderful Budget. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri S.S. Surjewala. He is not here. Shri Brahmakumar Bhatt. Do you want to speak? No? Dr. M. Aram.

DR. M. ARAM (NOMINATED): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I think this is a good Budget. I welcome the many features of this Budget and I support it.

According to the Finance Minister, there are seven broad objectives: economic reforms, poverty alleviation,

growth in agriculture, fiscal discipline, investment in infrastructure, human development and viability in balance of payments.

Sir, I shall refer to three of these major objectives.

Regarding poverty alleviation, it is our central challenge. Though, today, we are in the fiftieth of our freedom economic freedom is yet to arrive for about thirty per cent of our population. The Finance Minister has enhanced the Budget allocation for Rural Development from Rs. 1,263 crores to Rs. 2,195 crores. I welcome this enhanced provision.

Also, for rural employment and poverty alleviation, the present allocation is more or less the same as last year's—Rs. 6,437 crores. During the Eighth Plan period the previous Government allotted Rs. 30,000 crores for anti-poverty programmes. Now we are in the last year of the Eighth Plan and formulating the Ninth Plan. We have to keep up the momentum and allocate substantial funds during the Ninth Plan period so that we may make a final assault and make our country poverty-free.

Sometimes we use the phrase "poverty alleviation" and sometimes the phrase is "poverty eradication." At the Social Summit in Copenhagen, which I had the honour to attend, the Indian delegation made it clear that our objective was eradication of poverty rather than alleviation. This is certainly a very difficult and big objective, but we should move towards it. Sir, the problem has been the delivery system. It is not the allocation of substantial resources for anti-poverty programmes but how they are actually utilized at the ground level. So, I believe the emergence of the Panchayati Raj institutions under the 73rd Constitutional amendment provide a new vista of opportunity, particularly, the women leaders who will be in these people's bodies. So they should be fully involved in micro planning for poverty eradication and generation of full employment.

Secondly, Sir, I very much welcome the many initiatives the hon. Finance Minister has taken to strengthen the agricultural sector. Surely it is matter of serious concern that in 1995-96 the agricultural production growth rate dipped to 0.9 per cent even though in the previous year it was 3.4 per cent. Also, contrasted to the industrial growth rate of 12.4 per cent, the decline in agricultural production growth rate is a matter of serious concern, and the various initiatives he has taken will certainly strengthen the agricultural sector.

The break through in food production over a period of many years in our country is a success story. From 50 million tonnes we went about 190 million tonnes, but since then there has been a decline, and now our buffer stocks also have dropped. There has been a decline from a record level of 35.6 million tonnes in July 1995 to 22.7 million tonnes in April 1996. So it is very urgently necessary that these corrective measures are implemented so that the agricultural sector picks up in production.

Sir, agro-processing and value addition should be the thrust areas so that we generate additional rural employment and also enhance the income of rural households. Those households which are below the poverty line have, according to the 1992 calculations, an income of less than Rs. 12,624 per annum. Now, in order that we may make a dent and really remove rural poverty, we have to have a strategy which will meet these objectives.

Sir, I would like to make a reference to khadi and village industries which constitute an important component of our anti-poverty programme. The former Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, provided Rs 1,000 crores of credit for the khadi and village industries, the highest ever allocation made. The high-power committee which was under the chairmanship of the former Prime Minister, initiated several khadi and village industries programmes in order to create 2 million jobs in the khadi and village industries sector.

Also an initiative was made to create 125 model blocks in order to meaningfully observe the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. I think these initiatives should be pursued. There has been a slight reduction in the budget allocation for khadi and village industries. Since khadi is not only an economic proposition but also it has a symbolic value—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru called it “livery of freedom”—in our fiftieth year of Independence I think the khadi and village industries sector should have its due.

Sir, may I now turn to human development? The Common Minimum Programme has accepted the target of 6 per cent of the GDP for education. We understand that we are at 3.9 per cent level. So, I very much welcome the enhanced Budget allocation for education. The Plan allocation for the Department of Education has been increased from Rs. 1,825 crores last year to Rs. 3,388 crores this year. This increase is largely for the National Mid-day Meal Scheme and also the Primary Education Project. As you know, universal elementary education and free and compulsory education still remain elusive objectives. So, the National Mid-day Meal Scheme should go a long way in enhancing the enrolment and also in reducing the drop-out rate. This was the experience in Tamil Nadu. When the Mid-day Meal Scheme was introduced in Tamil Nadu by the then Chief Minister, Shri M.G., Ramachandran, I happened to be the Vice-Chancellor of the Gandhigram University, and I served on a high-powered committee. I remember that by one stroke 65 lakh children were given midday meal in Tamil Nadu, and Rs.120 crores were allotted during that year. Gradually the number of children and also the financial allocation increased. Article 45 enjoins that all children from 6 to 14 should be given free and compulsory education. This should be achieved in the near future.

Sir, a very disturbing matter for all of us is the literacy level in our country. According to the 1991 Census, the litera-

cy level is 52.2 per cent. I asked of the representatives of the Department of Education the other day in the Standing Committee meeting, for the level of literacy in 1996, five years after the last Census. Neither the National Sample Survey Organisation nor any other body is in a position to give us the correct position today. But, we say that we aim at 100 per cent literacy by the turn of this century, that is, within four or five years from now. Assuming that we are 55 per cent or 60 per cent literate, still we have a long way to go. Let us compare India with our neighbouring countries. Sri Lanka has 89 per cent literacy; Indonesia, 84 per cent; Myanmar, 81.5 per cent; China, 80 per cent, but India probably has not yet achieved 60 per cent. Therefore, we have to make sufficient allocations and also have to revise our strategies so that we really become 100 per cent literate. I do believe that the mass media, the electronic media we now have should be fully deployed in order to achieve this purpose. The Panchayati Raj Institutions, particularly the Village Education Committees, and women leaders also should be involved in this.

The seventy-third Amendment and the Eleventh Schedule that goes with it have assigned four subjects to the Panchayati Raj Institutions—elementary and secondary education, technical training and vocational education, adult and non-formal education and libraries. Since the Eleventh Schedule assigns these four subjects to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, they should be fully supported with resources and political power.

We all know that a great exercise is going on in the country. The Tenth Finance Commission recommended special allocations to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Nagar Palikas Institutions, and I hope that special allocations will be made for them.

Finally, the population problem is the most serious and the most fundamental problem. It is the root of all our economic problems. We were told by the

department of Family Welfare that a district-specific strategy was being adopted, particularly in those States where the problem is still serious, especially the Hindi-speaking States. Adequate Budget provision should certainly be made. I am glad that the current year's Budget provision is Rs. 1.550 crores. It is Rs.25 crores more than that of last year. It should be further stepped up. I do believe that voluntary organisations which have a proven record, would be fully involved in this process.

And then, we may be able to achieve some of the national goals which are yet to be achieved i.e. health for all, education for all, literacy for all and employment for all. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR (Assam): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget for 1996-97 presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

This Budget does not hold out any hope for Assam and for that matter for the whole of the North-Eastern region. This region is most backward in the matter of industry. No infrastructure conducive to establishment and growth of industries is there. Rail and road communications are the worst in the region. The Five-year tax holiday has failed to persuade the industries of any kind to come up in the region. The proposal for imposition of the Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT) in the present Budget will further act as disincentive and discouragement to persons planning to set up industries in the State. Imposition of Minimum Alternative Tax is proposed on all companies, whose assessable income after claiming all deductions available under the income-tax laws is less than 30 per cent of the book profit. There is no provision in the Finance Bill to indicate that companies enjoying Income-tax exemptions under section 80 (1A) shall be exempt from MAT. In order to encourage industries to be set up in Assam and in the North-Eastern States exemption

from MAT for these companies has to be ensured.

Assam's economy is shattered by recurring devastating floods for the last five decades. There cannot be any development in Assam, if the Brahmaputra river is not controlled and its vast water resources harnessed by controlling floods, generation of energy, creating irrigation facilities etc. The Brahmaputra Board has done precious little in this respect during the last decade and some of its existing one or two projects prepared by the Board are not being implemented for want of funds.

The State is suffering from a serious financial crisis. Central grants are being adjusted against dues from the State. Justice has not been done to the State in the matter of fixation of fair and reasonable price for crude oil extracted in the State and the rate has not been revised for a long time. Most of the tea-gardens owned by Indian and foreign big business have their headquarters outside Assam thereby depriving the State of thousands of crores of rupees of its share of the Income-tax, as assessment is made outside Assam and the share going to the State where the assessment is made.

There cannot be any question of developmental and economic activity, unless peace is established in the State, which is under turmoil for the last several years. The so-called insurgency problem is, in fact, a political problem. It has been admitted even by Army authorities that the problem is a political one and has got to be solved politically. Given the political will, the Government of India can proceed unilaterally to solve the problem by giving more powers to the State and by recognising the rights of the people in the matter of control and management over the natural resources to ensure maximum benefit from the natural resources to the people.

The General Budget provisions are not going to help the State, which is in the most backward position in all matters.

Agriculture is in primitive stage. Modern methods of agriculture are practically unknown. Education, health services, drinking water facilities, etc. are practically at the same stage in which Britishers left us. We hear the present Government assuring that they would give special attention to the North-East States and do everything possible to remove regional imbalances and bring the region at par with the other parts of the country. Regional imbalances cannot be removed unless special programmes with special budgetary provisions are made. There is no attempt in this Budget to make such provisions and all talks of removing regional imbalance is a farce.

The price line of specially essential commodities is already high due to hike in the price of petrol diesel LPG and also due to hike in railway fares and freight charges. A further hike in the price line would become unbearable to the common man. The Finance Minister has taken credit for lowering duties on items of mass consumption like edible oil, tooth paste, detergents certain glassware etc. But is there any guarantee that the benefit of such reduction of duties would not be misappropriated by the manufacturers by not allowing the benefits thereof to percolate to the common consumer?

(Time-hell rings)

How many minutes have I been allowed?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Your Group has been allotted thirty-six minutes. There are six names from your Group. You are the sixth speaker. You would get only six minutes.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: I may be given some more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You may conclude in one or two minutes.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: The Finance Minister has made no change in the income-tax exemption limit except that he has reduced the income-

tax rate on the first slab to 15 per cent. The standard deduction has been raised to Rs. 18,000 for salaried employees having an income of up to Rs. 60,000. It is a fact that there are large scale evasions of income-tax and the amount of unrealised tax is enormous. There should have been real attempts on the part of the Finance Minister to bring down the number of tax evasions and to bring substantial number of people within the tax net. In that case it would have been possible for him to give substantial tax relief in the matter of exemption limit which a vast majority of tax-payers are expecting.

The Finance Minister has increased the social sector outlay from Rs. 1,189 crores to Rs. 9,300 crores with a provision to benefit the aged-persons, destitute women and children. There has been an attempt at boosting the industrial and agro production with a view to benefit the poorer sections of the people. But all these attempts would be futile if the plunders by middlemen cannot be stopped.

In spite of threats from Pakistan and its vast expanding and diversifying the armament programme both nuclear and conventional, the Defence Budget has not been increased. We shall have to spend heavily in case of a war or an emergency situation arising therefrom. Low amount of budgetary allocation is not going to benefit the people unless measures for combating corruption are taken. The recent trend in the Centre and in the States has been to plunder and loot the public exchequer. We have witnessed in the last five years scams involving public exchequer to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees.

3.00P.M

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Majumdar, you have to conclude now.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: I am concluding, Sir. The programme for employment generation and poverty reduction are not encouraging in

view of the fact that the IRDP allocation has shown a decline in real terms, and as a consequence, there has been a continuous decline in the number of beneficiaries since 1993-94. The allocation for rural employment which was Rs. 4,771 crores in 1995-96 has been slashed down to Rs. 3,835 crores which will not help in employment generation in any appreciable manner, as assured by the Finance Minister. With these submissions, I conclude my speech.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Budget proposals of the hon. Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram. The Budget presented by the Finance Minister of the United Front Government has not deviated from the basic approach of the previous Congress Government. I must congratulate the Finance Minister for his courage and conviction that in spite of the diverse shade of opinion among the partners of the United Front Government, he has stood by the progressive policies of the previous Government. In the Budget speech, the Finance Minister and all the partners of the United Front Government have been over-emphasising that this Government is for the farmers, the poor and the downtrodden. But the Budget is not in that direction. The previous Congress Government's commitment to the poor and the farmers was no less than the present Government. In fact, the previous Congress Government's emphasis was on poverty alleviation and programmes for the weaker sections of the society and we are insisting that those policies should be continued. It is but natural that whenever a new Government takes office, it will have to define its priorities. It will try to demonstrate that those priorities alone represent the will of the people. The Congress party, which has extended its support to the present Government, understands this and will not object to their patting their own back. I welcome the steps taken by the Finance Minister to increase the share capital of NABARD and also the effort to increase the rural infrastructure fund

by additional Rs. 2500 crores and also to allocate Rs. 800 crores for completion of irrigation projects, costing more than 1000 crores of rupees. I would like to mention here that the Government promised to give Rs. 200 crores for Karnataka for completing its Upper Krishna project. But unfortunately, the Government succumbed to the pressure of its partners and withdrew the announcement because of the internal problems within the United Front Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Sir, it is being denied, not withdrawn.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: The Government has promised 800 crores of rupees.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: The Minister said, "It has not been promised."

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Out of that amount, the Government has promised that projects costing more than thousand crores of rupees will be provided assistance. Otherwise, what is the point in providing 800 crores of rupees for irrigation facilities?

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Not for Almatti Dam!

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Maybe, that is your opinion. But the Upper Krishna Project is an approved project.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: And huge pressure is there!

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, I welcome the announcement for establishment of an Infrastructure Corporation; it is very essential, and I hope that proper capital structure will be provided. Now the Finance Minister has said that 500 crores of rupees will be provided in this Budget and another Rs. 500 crores will be contributed by the RBI, but the amount of Rs. 1000 crores is not sufficient. I hope that the Finance Minister will make the Infrastructure Corporation a success.

A lot of publicity has been given for the various welfare measures introduced, but the financial outlay earmarked for these measures is very insignificant. It is only Rs. 35 crores for more than six new projects announced! And this amount will not be sufficient even to serve one per cent of the targeted groups. The schemes are laudable, but the meagre budgetary provision will make the schemes non-starter.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, these are not the Central Government projects. These are ideas which have been thrown up. We have said, "The State Governments and NGOs will have to take up these matters." I have exactly said, "These are initial allocations and as the State Governments and NGOs will take up these matters, more funds will be provided."

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Anyhow, the new Government has to take up certain populist schemes and these schemes have got piled up and I appeal to the Finance Minister to make a higher allocation for these schemes.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री.मोहम्मद सलीम): इन्तदाई दौर है।

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, I am surprised to note that the Finance Minister after announcing opening of the insurance sector for private sector developed a cold feet because of the opposition within the UF parties and has promised to take it up in the next Budget. The Finance Minister has disappointed the capital market and the Budget in general has not created confidence among the investors. Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is more aware than any body else that the Government alone will not be able to bring investment for creating the infrastructure unless there is a total involvement of the private sector. Unfortunately, the private sector is suspected and maligned. A sound and vibrant capital market is a prerequisite for growth. Some scams or

some blacksheeps in the capital market should not come in the way of promoting a sound capital market. The Budget has disappointed us in this direction.

Sir, I welcome the announcement made by Finance Minister to rewrite the Companies Act and the Income-tax Act. These Acts are actually blocking the growth and development and are not helpful in implementing the New Economic Policy.

Coming to the more publicised Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT), I am not opposed to the measure, but I would like to point out that a similar tax was levied a few years ago, but after two years it was withdrawn. It is in the fitness of things and it will be appropriate to know why the tax which was levied earlier, was withdrawn. What is the reason which compelled the Government to withdraw that tax? All these controversies are due to the different rates of depreciation allowed to be claimed in the Companies Act as well as the Income-tax Act. The Income-tax Act allows a higher rate of depreciation for replacement of the capital assets whereas the Companies Act allows a company to charge a lower rate of depreciation for declaring profits.

If a company takes advantage of the lower rate of tax allowed in the Companies Act, it shows a book-profit and pays dividend. The Income-Tax Act allows the company to claim a higher rate of depreciation. When a company adopts this method given by the law and makes use of the provision which has been made by the law, why should it be taxed only on the notional profit? Whatever be the book-profit, it is only a notional profit and the companies are taking advantage of it and declaring dividend. Let the rate of tax allowed in the Companies Act and in the Income-tax Act be the same. Why should there be two different rates of depreciation, one in the Companies Act and another in the Income Tax Act? Instead of this MAT (Minimum Alternative Tax), etc., if there is one rate of depreciation in the Companies Act and in

the Income-Tax Act and if it is defined clearly, it will solve the problem. This is not a new provision. It was there already. It is not a new invention or it is not that they have plugged a particular loophole. It has been talked about the MAT that something new has been done, something extra-ordinary has been done. That is not the case. It was earlier introduced under section 115 of the Income-Tax Act. But it was withdrawn. Now it is again reintroduced.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you opposing the levy of tax?

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: I am not opposing the levy of any tax. The point is this. The book-profit of zero-tax companies is due to the different rates of depreciation in the Companies Act and in the Income-Tax Act. I strongly oppose the measure of the Finance Minister to withdraw the unauthorised depreciation like losses after eight years. Depreciation has not been done over the years. Depreciation is given after using the asset. When the asset is used depreciation is given. For any reason if a company is not making profit and if they are not able to absorb the depreciation, it is not correct to assess that and allow it. It is not correct to say that the assets are used, the assets have lost their value and the company should be allowed to continue this. It is not a good measure in my view. Such measures show the helplessness of the hon. Finance Minister. It is an attempt to please certain sections of the United Front Government saying that some industries have been taxed to make resources available. It is not correct. The Finance Minister had rightly announced before the presentation of the Budget that new recruitments to the Government Departments would be stopped. But it was withdrawn immediately. Though the Finance Minister has not increased the income-tax rate, he has increased the standard deduction in the case of salaried employees. The demand for an increase in the income-tax limit is continuing because we are living in an inflationary

society where money is losing its value. We are asked to pay tax at a higher rate as the income increases. I suggest that the exemption should be clubbed with the rate of inflation. Why couldn't it be done?

The exemption limit should be attached to that.

Now I come to the Plan expenditure.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now you have to come to the last point.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: I will finish in two minutes, Sir. I will not take much time. It is surprising to see the Plan expenditure. The Plan subsidy has been increased by Rs. 3,000 crores.

Earlier subsidies were given to the tune of Rs. 13,000 crores. Now it has been increased to Rs. 16,000 crores. Some of the important sectors have been ignored. Some sector like defence, power, science and technology and social welfare have been neglected and allocation to these sectors has not been increased over the previous years even in accordance with the rate of inflation and normal escalation cost. The overall increase in the Central Plan Outlay has been increased by 16.74 per cent. But the surprising thing is there is an increase of 99 per cent in the case of civil aviation sector. In the case of coal sector there is an increase of 66 per cent. In the case of power sector the increase is 5.46 per cent. In the case of science and technology sector it is increased by 8.5 per cent. So far as electronics sector is concerned, there is an increase of 2.89 per cent. In the case of space sector there is no increase. So far as railway sector is concerned, the increase is 8.4 per cent. In the case of small scale industries and agro industries the increase is 3.7 per cent and in the case of agriculture sector the increase is 12.37 per cent. But in the case of some agro sectors which are very important, the Plan allocation is very limited.

Sir, the Finance Minister has reduced the budgetary allocation to Parliament.

Last year it was Rs. 84 crores. This year it has been reduced to Rs. 74 crores. I don't understand why it has been reduced.

These figures clearly indicate that the infrastructure sector has been given a go-by by the Government and there seems to be divergent directions.

In conclusion I would say that the Finance Minister, in the circumstances in which he is placed, has had no options. If he had his way, he would have presented a better Budget. Thank you.

SHRI JOYANTA ROY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in my opinion, the philosophy underlying the Budget seems to be liberalisation. The previous Minister had envisaged that high and fast rate of growth of economy might only be achieved through a mechanism of liberalisation, which means globalisation and privatisation. According to him, the concept of growth with social justice means the obligation of the Government to distribute the fruits of growth among the poor from time to time through some welfare schemes. The hon. Finance Minister has presented growth and social justice as a separated concept not inter-linked. We are of the view that growth and social justice cannot be separated. They are interlinked. If there is no social justice, there can be no growth. So India may provide illustrations in this respect. India's growth would have been higher and faster if it had its developmental course anchored in equitable and productive assets. Therefore, the Finance Minister's view on liberalisation is the basic weakness of this Budget. The Finance Minister's view on poverty has been exposed by the UNDP report of 1996.

Sir, despite all these things, I would like to appreciate some features which have been provided in the Budget proposals of 1996-97. Our hon. Finance Minister has brought all the zero tax companies under the tax net. He has cautioned against tax evasion. He has declared allegiance to the Common Minimum Programme of the Government. He has proposed to transfer

all the Centrally-sponsored schemes to the State Governments. He has expressed concern over the decline in agricultural investment. There is an urgent need to provide some relief from the ravages of inflation. The Finance Minister has also called for reviewing the functioning of the BIFR. He has also initiated a review of the Sick Industries Companies Act. The Budget allocation for education has also been enhanced. Sir, I would like to say one more thing. I would like to criticise one point. The hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has proposed the setting up of private local area banks with two to three contiguous districts under its jurisdiction. He has also proposed to set up State-level agricultural finance institutions with NABARD as its chief promoter. But I would like to remind our hon. Finance Minister that the primary agricultural cooperative societies, the Agricultural and Rural Development Banks and cooperative banks have been providing rural credit for the last, almost, nine decades. They are providing funds for agricultural development and rural development. The nationalisation of banks and the establishment of RRBs came as a big blow to these cooperative credit societies. Now they are facing competition from commercial banks and also the RRBs. The very existence of these cooperative credit societies is at stake. If private local area banks are established, the entire cooperative credit sector will be finished. So, I would request the Finance Minister to accept the recommendations of the Sarai Commission to include the primary agricultural cooperative societies, the rural banks and the ARDB under the RBI Act of 1949. I would also like to say that the Finance Minister has abandoned his responsibility in respect of infrastructure and the social sector. This utter negligence towards the social sector and the infrastructure tantamounts to providing opportunity to the private sector to enter the social sector like providing water, sanitation, etc. Sir, at the end, I would like to say that this Budget reflects a worrisome coexistence

of continuity and change. In this respect, I have to say that the continuity aspect of this Budget is decisively more pronounced than the changed aspect, which means that our Finance Minister has followed the beaten track of the previous Government. This means that the Government is deviating from the approach of the United Front Government. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a Budget which adheres to the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front. The position of the Finance Minister is indeed unevitable as within the given limited resources, he has to satisfy the current needs as well as provide funds for future expansion. The Budget serves the purpose, the targets and the achievements which have been set forth before the Finance Minister. There being various courses before the Finance Minister, I would like to dwell upon two or three major factors which the Finance Minister has kept in mind in this Budget. Sir, the most important factor is the economic growth and the steps to sustain it. The second factor which has been kept in view is the achievement of social justice, a concept which has been articulated and placed in a very comprehensive and specific manner in the form of the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front. For embarking on a sustainable growth, the Budget seeks to provide special thrust for the development of rural infrastructure and agricultural sector. Two thousand five hundred crores have been provided for rural infrastructure which is a matter of great satisfaction. As far as agricultural sector is concerned, the Finance Minister has provided for an increase in the capital of NABARD from the present limit of Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 1,000 crores and, ultimately, to Rs. 2,000 crores. On this point, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Finance Minister to a great disturbing factor. Sir, our agricultural growth had

been honouring around 2.8 per cent P.A. until early 1990s; whereas last year, it came down to 0.9 per cent P.A. Sir, this is a matter of concern. And if we take into account the rate of growth in our population which is 2.1 per cent P.A. this factor needs to be looked into. As regards the per capita income in the rural areas and the urban areas, there is a widening gap. Until early 1970s, this gap was at the ratio of 1:2 whereas in the recent years, it has gone up to 1:6.5 This means that the rural population has lost its purchasing power by three times. There are a number of factors which affect this phenomenon. One is the raising of the terms of trade. That means the rural population has lost the buying power whereas the urban population has got better opportunities in comparison to their other counterparts. Sir, the second factor is the lower allocation of plan resources earmarked for agro-sector.

The contribution to agro-sector was 37 per cent in the First Plan and this year it came down to 17 per cent, in the Seventh Five Year Plan. A slight improvement was noticed during the Eighth Five Year Plan where the resources were lifted by about one per cent. However, our hon. Finance Minister has taken this factor into account, as in this Budget he has gone in for a marked increase in the plan allocation to the agro-sector. Sir, as a consequence of this reduction is allocation the capital formation in agriculture which was around 18 per cent in 1980-81 came down to 9.3 per cent within a decade or so. This downfall in capital formation is even worse in the public sector. If you compare these two figures, the private sector contributes to 11 per cent whereas the public sector contributes to 5.9 per cent. I am sure, Sir, as the hon. Finance Minister has allocated 4.5 per cent more to this sector in his Budget, this imbalance will be checked to a great extent. Sir, one thing the Finance Minister needs to be complimented is that he has raised the allocation for irrigation and flood control by 401 per

cent. That means from mere Rs. 249 crores in 1995-96 Budget, he has now provided Rs. 1248 crores. Sir, everybody knows that the story of successfully increasing agricultural production which is popularly known the Green Revolution, is attributable to the assured availability of irrigation facilities. At present, only 30 per cent of our agricultural produce is through assured irrigation facilities and the balance 70 per cent depends on rain gods. This disparity in irrigation has been mainly responsible for the acute disparity in rural incomes between irrigated and non-irrigated areas. The point can be appreciated by taking note of the fact that the irrigated areas of Haryana, Punjab and Western UP produce 2.6 tonnes to 4.6 tonnes per hectare whereas in the States which do not have this facility the agricultural production is to the tune of a maximum of one tonne per hectare. The higher allocation by the Finance Minister to this head is going to correct this imbalance in the long-run as well as in the short-run.

Sir, the next point is, after the World War-II when Europe was to be rebuild, the Marshall plan was introduced. In the Marshall Plan, the maximum emphasis was given to the infrastructure development. This Plan had emphasised development of telecommunications, power, transport, etc. In our case, we have had a concept of 'Welfare State' to achieve our goals for which the Government has adopted economic intervention as a measure to give a push to economic growth. The concept, however, seems to have been pushed too far and too further.

In our case, the total installed power capacity is 83,000 MW whereas actual utilisation is to the tune of 60% approximately. We have a severe power shortage. In the year 1994, only 4,598 MW of power was added. The target for 1995-96 was further reduced and it had gone down to 2,161 MW. The actual achievement was 2,123 MW.

The same is the case with the National highways. This time, the hon. Finance

Minister has provided an increased allocation. But you will see that in the Eighth Five-Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 13,210 crores was provided. The actual expenditure including the proposed investment in 1996-97 is expected to be Rs. 3,607 crores. Delays and non-implementation of projects costed the Government and the nation very dealy. I mean, the loss can never be made good. Our power deficiency is over 50% of our present installed capacity. My point is that when we consider development of infrastructure, certain regional imbalances should be corrected. In States like Bihar where coal reserves are in abundant quantity, the Government should think of installing mega-power plants so that the power generated could be made available to other States rather than transporting coal in which there is a transport loss of 30% of coal.

Hydel resources should also be further explored. We have States where power is generated in excess of their requirement. There are some other States which suffer from acute power shortage and at the same time heavy floods and other natural disasters. In our national Plans, we must think of some long-term hydel projects which can contribute to the development of agricultural sector as well as the power sector.

The next issue is about public sector undertakings. Investment in public sector undertakings has been a bad experience. When we got independence, we thought of going in for the PSUs because they required huge investments and the private sector was found to be not capable of taking up such huge projects and making such huge investments. But, Sir, now with the changed circumstances, I am sure that the private sector is fully geared up to take more and more projects and thus relieving the Government from investing in service and industrial projects. Sir, in this way, a lot of burden on the exchequer can be reduced.

Sir, there are various common schemes under one head or the other. We have

the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Here I would like to say that if a better co-ordination is maintained among the various social upliftment schemes, then the achievement can be better. Sir, under the prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, educated unemployed youths are provided loans of Rs. 1 Lacs by the commercial banks and a subsidy of Rs. 7,500. So far we have successfully implemented seven lakh such ventures. I would submit to the hon. Finance Minister to see if this scheme is further expended increased and in the ensuing Five Year Plan if we can go in for five million such ventures under this scheme. Sir, it is very interesting to note that the recovery under this scheme is 70 per cent which is very rare. In normal commercial and industrial activities, the recovery of loan is much less than 70 per cent. Sir, the Finance Minister has given emphasis on eradication of poverty through various schemes. We welcome that and we congratulate him for that.

Sir, coming to the macro-economics, the Finance Minister has done his best or at least expecting to do something better than the past to reduce the overall deficit. Sir it is a welcome move and we wish that the hon. Finance Minister would be successful in achieving this.

Sir, coming to the allocations made for Defence, I have a feeling or at least I subscribe to the idea that Defence expenditure in terms of percentage should not be taken very rigidly. We are sure that the Finance Minister would be available as and when the country needs more funds for meeting the Defence requirements.

Sir, the burning question which some of my colleagues have also raised is the MAT.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Kindly conclude.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: One minute, Sir. Sir, the only way of raising the living standards of the poor people by

introducing Social upliftment schemes and for is that the Government gets its revenues from the corporate sector and from those who earn profit because, after all the Government provides for infrastructure, secured environment and financial assistance. I fully agree with the Finance Minister when he made provision for MAT. But, here I would submit for his consideration that export oriented units which are in non-domestic tariff areas should also be considered for Tax exemption benefit same as available for EPZ units. Without taking much time of the House, I conclude my speech. I assure the Finance Minister of my fullest co-operation and support to the Budget. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri Moolchand Meena. He is not here. Dr. B.B. Dutta.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi)] in the Chair

DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we have already had an informed debate on the Budget. The Finance Minister has indeed kept his goals very clear. First of all, as we see in the Budget, he has stuck to continuity to structural reforms and also to the Common Minimum Programme. This is where we need to compliment him for sticking to the structural reforms. He also kept commitment to the philosophy of growth with social equity. Thirdly, he has tried to raise revenue without burdening the poor. These are the three, I should say, laudable objectives which the Budget seems to present. As for strategy, this is a two-track strategy, if I may say so, -- to accelerate growth investment and modernisation and, at the same time, emphasising the strengthening of anti-poverty programmes. So, I think, this is the strategy and these are the objectives that he has stuck to. For this, he apparently deserves our compliments. But, some of the stalwarts in the House made a masterly analysis of the Budget. Shri Satish Agarwal, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri Ashok Mitra and others raised certain

important points to which I would again like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister. I think we also need to understand these points. Mr. Mukherjee, pointed out certain things about the weaknesses of the structure on which the Budget has been built. He, I think, indicated how the expenditure has been depressed and revenue enhanced to show low fiscal deficit. He also pointed out that our revenue receipts are of the order of Rs. 1,30,000 crores and that debt service is going as high as Rs. 1,28,000 crores leaving Rs. 2,000 crores to the exchequer. Then again he pointed out that there is a disturbing ratio between the Plan and the non-Plan expenditure, and the revenue and the capital receipts. So, these are some of the points. Mr. Agarwal pointed out -- it is an important point and to which I would draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister and request him to clarify -- the widening gap between the assets and liabilities and questioned the need for indicating the fiscal deficit as percentage of GDP. According to Shri Agarwal it should be shown as the ratio of borrowing requirements or capital expenditure. These are a few things which struck my mind and that is why I am mentioning them. We will be looking forward to the clarifications that will be given by the hon. Finance Minister. Sir, about the strategy, which I have read in the Budget, I would like to make one comment on the massive anti-poverty programmes. I think, Dr. Mitra, partially touched one point about the need for land reforms. There is no commitment to land reforms. There are no effective measures to implement the land reforms.

We have been launching many programmes. Even though we have been spending large sums, it is not being translated into assets. There are schemes, there are programmes, under various names. There is a very large injection of money into these programmes. Large amounts are being pumped into these programmes.

To my mind, four things are very important. One can say this from the

experience we are having in the rural areas, the areas we come from. One is: land reforms, as Dr. Mitra pointed out. The second thing is: the efficient functioning of the Panchayati Raj system. We passed the Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Bill to usher in the Panchayati Raj system. Through this we have to ensure the empowerment of the poor and the empowerment of women. Only when these four things are done, the schemes that we are trying to implement under the various heads could be substantially and meaningfully implemented. Otherwise, as is being criticised by all the experts, though the Budget may be good, though our management may be good, at the implementation level, it would suffer.

I find that on all these counts, there is hardly any emphasis. These are purely economic requirements. We must stress our economic programmes the economic compulsions; what are the measures to be taken and what are the reforms to be undertaken. If we do not do that, we would be merely playing politics with money. In fact, many of our poverty alleviation programmes are being criticised that they have a political overtone; not the economic content which they should have. I think it would be very difficult to disagree with such a kind of criticism.

I would like to point out one thing. Cash is like fire. Cash burns. When a large injection of cash is made, it burns the social values. Different categories of people connive with each other. The Government officials, the lower level officials, who are entrusted with the implementation of various plans and schemes, the contractors who come into the picture; all combine together to change the entire social structure. This creates a lot of social tension and it destroys the good values. As a result, a lot of social and political consequences and consequences follow.

Therefore, I would impress upon the Finance Minister that he should ensure—from other Ministries also—that

proper stress is given to all these factors which I have mentioned.

Sir, I am afraid, the Finance Minister, in his Budget, has not indicated the status of employment in the organised sector. This, to my mind, is very important. Since the 70's employment in the organised sector, which is very important, has not increased significantly. It is not enough if you just give the figure in regard to growth in employment. We must understand one thing. If employment does not increase in the organised sector, a lot of social tension, political instability and other things would follow. That is a disturbing thing. In the unorganised sector, yes; we want employment to increase. But we must also see the inherent difficulties in the unorganised sector. There is an element of expectation; there is an element of temporariness; all these things are there. In the organised sector, it is different. The Finance Minister has not indicated anything about this important aspect. It is very important in the sense that the index of positive industrial growth is very much connected with the organised sector. Previously, the private sector enterprises accounted for more employment in the organised sector. Now there is total confusion in the private sector enterprises. The share of private sector enterprises in the organised sector employment is very less. This takes us again to the question of the status of the public sector enterprises to which, I think, Dr. Mitra made a reference.

We have been hearing about the need to reform and restructure the public sector. But except in general terms, the Finance Minister has not come out with any clear indication. In which areas of the public sector we are going to disinvest, which public sector units will remain or which public sector enterprises are going to be restructured or reformed, this kind of clear indication must come. Otherwise, now there is an uncertainty hanging on the head of the entire public sector. This is bad. There is a lot of

confusion. I think this confusion is now very articulately being voiced by the employees of the public sector enterprises, including even the top-level executives. They are putting their cause together and, in fact, I found a letter where they are demanding publication of a White Paper on the public sector enterprises. I think it is high time we came out very clearly, stating our policy as to in which areas the public sector will remain or no public sector will remain and in which areas we are going to reform or restructure the public sector. This should be clearly spelt out.

Now, in the Budget the Finance Minister has put a target of Rs. 5,000 crores for mobilization by way of disinvestment of PSU shares. In the last Budget, when Dr. Manmohan Singh was there, he set, I think, a figure of Rs 7,000 crores. But the achievement was only to the tune of Rs 352 crores. That was in the 1995-96 Budget. Dr. Manmohan Singh failed to achieve the target. How Mr. Chidambaram is going to achieve this, I actually do not know, but it is there in the Budget.

A very disquieting information that has been shared by the Finance Minister with us in his Budget speech is the stagnation in the agricultural sector, particularly in foodgrains production, but he has not explained why the agricultural sector is not growing to keep pace with the growing population. Now it appears that the Green Revolution has lost its steam and something has gone wrong somewhere. I shall be happy if the Finance Minister can explain a little elaborately, when he gives his reply, as to what has gone wrong with the agricultural sector.

He has again proposed a 400 per cent increase of allocation for irrigation, which is very much connected with agriculture. But as you can see from the experts' opinions, there are certain questions about irrigation. I think Shri Pranab Mukherjee also has raised a question about this. There are some relevant ques-

tions before we go to increase the allocation and spend more money on irrigation:

(1) What has been the contribution of irrigation, particularly major irrigation, to increase in crop production? (2) What is the strategy for the efficient use of irrigation water? (3) What is the current level of irrigation efficiency in terms of higher crop intensity?

I would like to make it clear that without arrangements for on-farm irrigation for ensuring timely supply of water according to crop sequence, irrigation may be counter-productive and cause increased soil salinity. Moreover, flow irrigation does not supply water round the year, for which ground water facility is required to supplement flow irrigation. Is the Government having an integrated plan for the efficient use of water by a mix of various systems?

Sir, I would like to ask a further question. What has been the policy towards water management, particularly in flood-prone areas? These issues have not at all been touched by the Finance Minister. Then, I understand that our achievement in irrigation is amongst the lowest in the world, if you compare it with other countries.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Defence budget. There has been only a nominal increase. It is a matter of concern that the capital component is only about Rs 7,000 crores, of which only about Rs 4,000 crores would be available for modernization of the armed forces.

4.00 PM

But we are given to understand that the current year's capital budget will permit only the settlement of the on-going acquisitions. Then, where is the money for new weapons? Where is the money for the strategic arms purchases which may be required and which are required? Moreover, the revenue component will increase due to the likely hike in the pay-scales, which is a big component in the Budget. Secondly, there may be erosion of the capital budget. So, I would like to

get a categorical assurance from the Finance Minister that he would not allow any such reduction and that he would provide additional funds for defence.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Dr. Dutta, I hate to interrupt you, but you know that your time is up.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: I will take just three or four minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Three or four minutes of the time of your colleagues will be cut.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: In the last year's Budget, I think, Rs. 19,506 crores of Central support was provided to the State Plans. In 1994-95 it was about Rs. 20,000 crores. Now it was expected that the Finance Minister would remove this distortion and would provide sufficient funds for the State Plans. This hope has not been proved to be correct. An increase of Rs. 2,400 crores has been proposed, raising the current year's allocation for the State Plans to only Rs. 21,972 crores and that too primarily for the basic minimum services. In real terms, if we discount for the inflation, the Central support has actually declined. I am talking about the special category States. We have got ten special category States. As many as seven, I should say eight, including Sikkim, are in the Eastern region. The Plans of these States are going to be very badly affected.

You know the problem of the North-Eastern region. They require well-planned irrigation. A massive allocation is necessary particularly in infrastructure. If the allocation comes down, then, ultimately, what is going to happen is this. There will be diversion of more funds from Plan to non-Plan. Already the Rangarajan Committee has permitted them to divert 10 to 20 per cent of the Central Assistance to non-Plan requirement. In such a situation, the special problems of the special category States, particularly the seven North-Eastern States are well

known. I do not know why it has been neglected.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I think you should wind up now.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: Yes, Sir. just one minute.

I was talking about the infrastructure investment in the North-East. I want to mention particularly about power because we have got about 40 per cent of the hydel power potential in the North-East. I am told that a non-official trade delegation with the support of the Bangladesh Government is going to visit the North-East shortly. They have already indicated their requirement. Their number one priority is to get power from India. There is a lobby here which earlier pointed out that the cost of production of power was very high and that the second important point was that the transmission loss was very high. But, I am sure that if we go in for power generation with proper planning, I am sure that we will be able to sell power to Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries and that the transmission loss argument will vanish. We require power for the industries of the North-East. Power has got an all-round impact on the economic development, on economic revolution. So, I do not understand why there should be this much reluctance to go in for heavy investment in power.

The economic destiny of our North-Eastern region, Bangladesh and even Myanmar is the same. A partition might have occurred. It does not matter. But no economic prosperity is coming there. No economic development is going to take place if the people of this region do not realise that the economic destiny is the same. At least the Government of India should realise this, and it should get ready with proper planning. I think that the time is coming when we shall be able to restore our transit facilities. We can have whatever transit facilities we want. We can sell power. We can get their market, and they can get our market. I

think that some amount of planning should be done with some foresight.

Just one more point Sir. The strengthening of the National Highway Authority of India and creation of Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation with an authorised capital of Rs. 5,000 crores is a welcome measure, but there are a few basic questions. Will the increase in the capital base of the National Highway Authority lead to reduction in outlay for the State for maintenance of National Highway by the State PWD? I am asking this because sometimes we have faced some bitter experiences. I have in mind the extremely poor state of condition prevailing there. Therefore, I need an assurance that no reduction will take place in the Central Plan outlay for National Highways. Secondly, how much of the authorised capital of Rs. 5,000 crores will be provided in the current year for this Infrastructure Development Corporation? Last time, when Dr. Manmohan Singh gave the North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation with an authorised capital of Rs. 500 crores, it started with Rs. 50 crores. Since the rate of interest is as high as 21 per cent, in an area where we have got the cost already built in, the increase of cost because of interest rate is 20 to 22 per cent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): The Finance Minister will try to deal with it in a better way. I think you have to wind up now.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: These are the points that I have raised. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar. The hon. Member is not present.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA (Kerala): In his maiden Budget speech, the Finance Minister has expressed his desire to be a "Royal Lord" "*Vallath Arasu*", as envisaged by Saint Thiruvalluvar. He is attempting through this Budget to lead us to further rapid economic growth. He is

not satisfied with the present. According to him, to achieve the ultimate aim, we need more reforms, more resources, more discipline and more compassion.

As he says about reforms, I may say that the nation expected much more strong and liberalised approach from him. It is true there are no severe tax proposals in the Budget except a few, but the question is how he is responding to the modern thinking in the tax world that with a lower tax rate we can collect more tax. We need more reforms in the tax structure and we have to re-write the income-tax laws.

In his speech the Finance Minister said: "We will keep our economy open and competitive in order to encourage foreign trade and attract foreign investment. We will reform the tax system." So, he is admitting that our tax system needs reforms. How far he will go, is the question.

As to foreign investment, the general feeling is that the main hazard that stands in the way of the flow of foreign capital investment into our country is the most complicated and insensate laws of our country. The lack of transparency is also one of the reasons. Our politicians and bureaucrats always want to carry out dealings behind an iron curtain. They always avoid transparency. But a person who wants to invest money in India may not like this secretiveness and may not be willing to spend money unnecessarily. Only persons, who have no capital of their own with them, will be happy and will always be happy with the kickbacks and other such payments. It is because his money will not be at risk. He is playing with the money of the Exchequer.

How we can save these investors from the tentacles of the tax officials, various licensing authorities and a certain members of the ruling class, is the question. It is here that we need some reforms. In the famous Chelliah Commission report, Dr. Raja Chelliah suggested reducing the

tax rate. Bring down the tax rates. The Commission said, "Bring it down from 51 to 45, further to 40, again to 35 and so on. The U.S. companies are paying 28 per cent of their profit as tax. In Singapore it is 30 per cent. In Canada it is 35 per cent. Why can't we follow them?" That is the question.

Sir, some days back we have seen a report in the newspaper that the Indian Bank was facing a loss. They failed to collect back the amount which they had given as loans. Is it the loan paid to the agricultural sector? Is it the loan paid to the beneficiaries of the IRDP and the JRY? No, it is not. These are loans paid to bogus companies. These are loans paid to companies which existed only on paper. It is here that we want reforms. The Government must take firm steps to check this type of malpractices and corruptions. Our nation has witnessed many scams. We have witnessed Kumar Narain scam. We have witnessed a scam in import of petroleum products, in import of fertilizers, in import of urea. We have seen the St. Kitt's case. We have witnessed so many cases. Would a person from abroad come here to invest his money? So, we want reforms.

We have to take steps to bring the Lok Pal Bill, a long-awaited Bill. Even now it is in cold storage. When Mr. Deve Gowda assumed charge of the Prime Minister, he stated boldly that he was going to present the Lok Pal Bill in the coming session. But today, I think, he is not so sure.

There are more than 50 million Indians living abroad. They are having money to invest. If we can streamline and attract them to bring their money and invest here, it would definitely boost our economy. So, for that we have to make some changes in our system. Our tax laws must be made more simple and sensible. Our dealings must be made more transparent. Our banking be made more reasonable. We must not ignore the dictum. "Loan delayed is loan denied." Will the Government be able to face this

challenge? That is the question. I do admit that the Finance Minister has announced many concessions in excise duty and customs duty. But the question is whether this benefit would reach the common people. Some of the industrialists are saying that they are not going to reduce the price of their products because of an increase in the cost of production. If the intention of Finance Minister was to help these companies, then, well and good let them benefited. If the intention of the Finance Minister was that these benefits should reach the common people, then, he must take necessary steps and ensure that these benefits reach them.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for succeeding in pumping vigour to the agricultural sector. Though the agricultural crop production growth rate was 4 per cent in 1992-93 and 1993-94, it slowed to 0.91 per cent in 1995-96. The positive approach of the Finance Minister to declare more incentives to the agricultural sector by way of subsidy to fertilizers, to drip irrigation, for the purchase of power tillers, tractors, etc., would definitely boost the agricultural sector. At the same time, I want to say that the decision to reduce import duty on rubber has come as a severe blow to the rubber growers in Kerala. Ninety two per cent of total rubber production in India comes from Kerala. The worst-affected State is Kerala. The Finance Minister was a Commerce Minister in the previous Government. He was very much interested in the well-being of the industrial sector. But I want to say that the growth of industrial sector should not be at the cost of the agricultural sector.

The Finance Minister should have considered that in Karnataka also, there is rubber cultivation. Now there is no need for import of rubber. That is the pity. Last year permission was given to import about forty thousand tonnes of rubber. But it was not imported. This year, even according to the Rubber Board, the domestic production is higher than the demand. So, why has the

Government reduced the import duty when there is no need for import? Within a week from the date of suggestion of the reduction in the Budget, there was a fall in the price of rubber from Rs. 48/—per kg for lot rubber to Rs. 42/—per kg., a fall of Rs.6/—per kg. Please see how this decision has affected the rubber prices.

I have stated earlier, there are only a few new tax proposals in this Budget. One of them is the increase in the import duty on outboard motors and spare parts. These outboard motors are used by the fishermen community in Kerala and other Southern States. They are using the outboard motors fitted to their country-crafts. These outboard motors are not manufactured indigenously. We are importing the whole bulk from outside. 'Malsyafed', a co-operative organisation is the major source of supply of these OBM's to the fishermen. Hitherto, the co-operative sector was given concession in customs duty. Now, they are also been brought under the tax net. The revised duty on OBM is 23.2 per cent and spare parts is 46.48 per cent. Formerly, it was only 15 per cent. The import duty on rubber was reduced to help the tyre lobby. But in the case of the poor fishermen community, the import duty on outboard motors has been increased. See the difference!

I may point out one more thing. Now, there is much talk about more powers to States, co-operative federalism and such other matters. But no earnest effort is seen taken on the part of the Government in this Budget towards that goal. It is heard that the Government is intending to appoint a Commission to find out whether all the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission can be implemented. Don't appoint new committees. Please stop this unnecessary exercise of appointing Commissions after Commissions. It will serve no purpose. So, this new Government, which is a combination of the State parties, must do something positive to inject more federalism into our system.

Lastly, I may say that this Budget lacks in proposals for creating job opportunities to educated unemployed youths. Before concluding, I may say that as per the report of the World Bank, India needs 25 billion dollars to repay the dues of foreign debts and India needs 46 billion more dollars to maintain a viable BOP position. If we need so much amount, naturally, we have to mobilise the support and co-operation of other foreign nations. But due to the C.T.B.T. and certain other issues, I don't think we are in a favourable position. We may be able to have the financial support of some big nations. But even if some of them may be willing to help us, their helps may be attached with strings. So, we have to convince the other friendly countries, and we have to make more friends, who are willing to agitate with us, struggle with us and fight with us for a better economic growth. For that I may say that my party—the Kerala Congress(M)—has suggested before the former Government a proposal for the formation of an Asian economic community.

I suggest that this Government should also consider the various aspects of the formation of an Asian Economic Community so that we can strengthen our economy. With these words, Sir, I conclude and I support the Budget. Thank you.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH (Manipur): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I also welcome the Budget proposals presented by the Finance Minister. India crossed the fiftieth year of its existence as an independent democratic nation on the 15th August, 1996, (Independence Day). Within the period of half a century we have seen the record of both achievements and failures and now the nation has to face more challenges in the coming century in order to achieve the objectives stated in the Preamble of our Constitution, i.e. a sovereign, Socialist Secular Democratic Republic. We may take that we have achieved the goal of a Sovereign Democratic Republic which was set out by the framers of our

Constitution. The present-day society of our country is a technological society which is a very complex one. This has affected all other human organisations and their relationship with us. Our social, political and cultural organisations and their working have been of an extremely complex form. India, being a country having unity in diversity, have many cultural and regional differences. We should impress upon the people of our country to by enlightening them with a proper understanding.

Since our country is a pluralistic and caste-ridden society, the lack of people's participation will lead to domination and exploitation by a few. To develop a clear sense of participation in every affair of our country, we have to make the people realise that without self-help and self-reliance we cannot achieve self-sufficiency in various spheres of our life. According to our Constitution, we have to attain the goal of socialism which is the aim of planning and it has to have growth with social justice.

However, a limited success has been achieved towards realising the objectives of planning for the poorer and weaker sections. Our planning is ineffective. The main reason for its failure is that the planning has been implemented for the benefit of a few persons from the top and the implementation of the Plan programmes is hardly reaching the bottom of the society; that means the trickling-down theory that the country has been following has failed and to start working at the grassroot level is the only means to achieve our goal of socialism. We must not forget that the days of showing lip-service to the cause of poor and weaker sections are over and now the planning is to be started from the grassroot level and everybody is to be involved in the implementation of our programmes from the grassroot.

After the 42nd Amendment in our Constitution, we have added 'Socialist' and 'Secular' to the Preamble of our Constitution, "aimed at eliminating the

inequalities in income and status and standards of life of our people." Now the main challenge before our country is the recognition of the concept of secularism as manifested in the guarantee of freedom of religion as a fundamental right in the Constitution. We must not forget that India is a vast country, extending from Cape Comorin in the south to Kashmir in the north, from Gujarat in the west to Manipur in the east, consisting of various communities, castes, religions, languages, etc. The existence of the country rests on the will of the people. The existence of sovereignty of our country depends upon our people's will.

Now a new Government known as the United Front Government, consisting of the national and regional parties, has come into power with a Common Minimum Programme. Our Congress Party is supporting this Government without any condition. In order to achieve the concept of socialism our Congress Party leaders had taken up different measures and our present leader, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, had adopted a new economic policy with the objective of free market and privatisation. It had not shown the actual achievements to all but had shown the pros and cons of the new economic policy within a short period. The people's will has gone in favour of the regional parties in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, whether it might be right or wrong. There are 28 different parties, a number unparalleled in the parliamentary history of India have been seen. The strength of Members from the farming community has increased from 33% to 52%. Everybody knows that never before have there been so many farmers, backward castes and states leaders in the Lok Sabha. This change of faces in the Parliament will have a distinct bearing on the business of the House.

Mr. Finance Minister, what you must not forget and will have to materialise is contained in the words said by a senior

M.P. from the CPI, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, who is now a Minister, and published in the *INDIA TODAY* and I quote:

"Deve Gowda's success as a Parliamentarian lies in balancing the interests of the regional parties and the Congress."

As far as our Congress Party is concerned, we take you as our Finance Minister as you are born and brought up in our Congress Party. The Budget which you presented on the concept of the new economic policy is our Budget. We appreciate your skill. You skilfully managed to present the Budget to keep both the Congress and the CPM, which have buffeted the United Front Government from two sides, happy.

We have seen that the Left Party had sharply criticised the updating of the Economic Survey presented by the Finance Minister in the Parliament for endorsing the reform programme of the Congress Party. But it seems to have become mollified now though the Finance Minister was unambiguous about the Government's commitment to reforms.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I think you have taken ten minutes. Now you have to wind up.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: there is nothing unexpected in the Budget. It is expected that the Budget will have a pro-farming and pro-business thrust. The Prime Minister will try to please the farmers, the Muslims, the OBCs, women and all sections of the poor class as he has repeatedly declared that his Government is a Government of the poor and for the poor and he is born and brought up in a farmer's family.

Mr. Finance Minister, here again I remind you of your enchanting speech, "I have made an attempt to raise revenues without putting any burden on the poor", and it is done in your Budget. We may appreciate you for your "safety net" principle, for increasing the amount from

Rs.1,189 crores to Rs.9,390 crores for the social sector development in your Budget, for stressing your commitment to honour the United Front Government's Common Minimum Programme...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You will have to wind up now.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:...For increasing the outlay for education from Rs.1,500 crores to Rs.1,825 crores and for increasing marginally the outlays for health, labour surface transport, and women and child development programmes. The new pension scheme by LIC, the low-priced medicine policy by GIC and establishment of a National Illness Assistance Fund are greeted by everybody.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Singh, you have made your point. The rest you can send in writing to the Finance Minister. That will help him. Dr. Biplob Dasgupta, you have exactly 11 minutes. But you can take two minutes more.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, when I first heard the Budget speech from the Lok Sabha Gallery, I thought that it was a good Budget because contrary to the policies followed over the last five years, the State was no longer taken as a passive observer. The State has a very important role to play in the economic life. Everything should not be left to the forces of demand and supply. Moreover, there was a concern for the basic needs of the people. Certain priorities were worked out like a positive approach towards agriculture. The old policy of not giving subsidy to agriculture was withdrawn. It was promised to improve the Centre-State financial relationship. The idea was that some of the Centrally sponsored projects would be given to states. I also appreciated MAT. I am sure that the Finance Minister would be able to put those opposed to MAT on the mat

when he replies to the debate. When I read these documents later, when I dug deep into these documents, I started feeling a little bit uneasy because the Budget bore the hallmark of a typical traditional Congress budget including the familiar cliches and rhetoric including giving Rs. 5 crores here and Rs. 5 crores there as lollipops. It is almost like a sort of everything-for-everybody kind of Budget without taking into account or coming to grips with more fundamental economic issues. For example, take the case of reform. There is no mention of land reform which is a fundamental reform. Without this reform I do not know how you can increase agricultural production beyond a point. Without land reform how can you industrialise the country? Not a single country in the world has industrialised without land reform. There is not a single word about land reform in the Budget.

Then there is no mention of black money. The amount involved in it is enormous. You don't need to go with a begging bowl to any other country if you are able to control the flow of black money and make it white and get it from them and put it into right investment areas.

There is no mention of rural wealth tax. There was a rural wealth tax a long time back. Obviously, the rural people are poor. But at least one per cent of the rural population are stinking rich. They can surely pay taxes. Their number would be in the region of 70 to 80 lakhs. Why can't we have rural wealth tax which is very much within the domain of the Central Government?

There is a lot of emphasis on disinvestment. I would like to put a humble question. I am sure the Finance Minister would be able to handle this question. I would request him to visit South Korea. It is a capitalist country. They have a steel company which is supposed to be the most competent steel company in the whole world. Even advisors from this company go to the USA for giving train-

ing. This steel company is a Government owned company. There are banks in East Asia which are owned by the Government. The question is not of ownership of either banks or steel plants or anything else. The question is of management. By simply disinvesting and taking money from the public sector and putting it into private sector, you are not going to improve things unless the management changes. There is something fundamentally wrong with this approach. For example, there is no mention about external debt. It is touching 100 billion dollars. Every year it is growing by five billion or six billion dollars. What is going to happen to the future generations? They will have to repay it. What is the plan? What is the perspective? It is absolutely missing.

When I read the Budget again, my opinion changed a bit. I felt sympathetic because after all, I can see the difficulties which the Finance Minister has to face. Somebody in the Government told me—a Minister told me and I will not name him—that the Government's position is like that of the great lady Draupadi, the mythological character from Mahabharat. But with a difference Draupadi had five husbands and this Government has 13 husbands. Worse still in Mahabharat there was a strict rule that if Draupadi was with one of the husbands, the other should not enter the room. But in the case of this Government, all the 13 husbands enter at the same time... (*Interruptions*)... The situation is even worse. There is a fourteenth character lurking somewhere in the dark. He is not her husband but is equally interested in molesting the young lady and is always waiting to see when she would take a U-turn. This is the fourteenth character. I can quite sympathise with the Finance Minister who had to handle so many difficulties while preparing the Budget. Now I will come to a more specific issue, that is, regarding the Centre-State financial relations. While intervening in the debate a few days back, Mr. Chadambaram made a point which I feel was misleading. I do

not think he meant it to be misleading. But somehow it was misleading. He made a statement that in line with the CMP—we quote the CMP all the time. It is our Bible—the Central Government was prepared to transfer all the centrally-sponsored projects to the State Governments. But the State Governments were not willing to take them. This is the statement he made. Here we have a situation where the CMP wants the projects to be transferred to the State Governments. But the State Governments do not want them. He even mentioned to me and Dr. Ashok Mitra that even our Chief Minister, that is, the Chief Minister of West Bengal did not want them. I went back to our chief Minister. I read his speeches and tried to find out the position. As regards the commitment to transfer the Centrally-sponsored scheme was concerned, the only worry the State Governments expressed was that the schemes would come but the money would not come. The State Governments want that the schemes should come along with the money. There should be some clear Government undertaking and this should be ratified by a resolution of the Inter-State Council that when these schemes are transferred, the money would also be transferred. Some additional money should also be given every year so that the schemes are implemented and the Governments are not left high and dry without any money while taking the responsibility for the implementation of these schemes. I would like the Finance Minister to respond to this point. Another point that I would like to raise is regarding the rate of interest that is charged. If you look into the book of Capital Receipts, you will find that one of the major sources of earning of the Central Government is the interest charged from the State Governments for the loan given to them by the Central Government. In the Budget I find that Rs. 16,000 crores would be realised by the Central Government from the State Governments in the form of interest. Last year, this source produced Rs. 13000

crores. I see this as nothing but *Mahajani* business. You get loans from IDA at half per cent and one per cent interest. You get loans from Japan at one per cent or two per cent interest rates. These soft loans are given to the Central Government. When that amount is transferred to the State Governments, the Central Government charges them a rate of interest of 14 per cent. The rate of interest in 1974 was around four per cent. Since then, by stretches, the interest rates have been increased. There is no justification for this. The difference between the interest they pay to the foreign lender and the interest they charge from the State Governments is appropriated by the Central Government. I feel this is very, very unfair.

Then, you have the cess imposed on various things. Why is cess imposed? Cess is imposed for a specific purpose. Cess is imposed to finance education, health, oil production or whatever it is. There are two types of cess. One type of cess is where the money collected would be spent only for that specific purpose. Another type of cess is, I think, a fraud on the people. In this case, money is collected as cess but not entirely spent. It is taken into the Consolidated Fund of India and it becomes a process of augmenting resources for the Central Government. In this situation, this is not cess at all. It is actually an excise duty in a different name. If that is the case, then it is not only wrong to mislead the people by saying that we are taking the money to spend on something but what is worse is that the State Governments also are denied of their share because it is not treated as excise duty. I would urge the Finance Minister to look into it so that at least the share which has to come to the State Governments as part of the excise, namely, 47.5 per cent, comes to them. If it is seen as augmentation of the resources of the Central Government, very well, you share the money with the states or otherwise spend entirely on the specific purpose for which the money has been collected.

Coming to another aspect, namely, savings and investment, anybody who knows anything of economics knows that unless there is savings and unless there is investment, there cannot be any growth. Growth is very much fundamentally linked with savings and investment. Now, what is the position over the last five years? Dr. Manmohan Singh is here. We have been raising this issue repeatedly over the last few years. The Gross Domestic Savings was 23.6 per cent in 1990-91. It came to 22.8 per cent in 1991-92, 21.2 per cent in 1992-93 and to 21.4 per cent in 1993-94...*(Interruptions)* I will come to the rest later. Then, as regards Gross Domestic Capital Formation, from 27 per cent in 1990-91, it came down to 23.4 per cent in 1991-92, 22.1 per cent in 1992-93 and to 21.6 per cent in 1993-94. The point is that it is quite consistent with the international trend that wherever the World Banks structural adjustment programme has been introduced or wherever the stabilisation programme of IMF has been introduced, there has always been a steady fall in savings and investment all over the world. Now, here is the catch. What is this catch? Dr. Manmohan Singh is asking me to mention it. I find that in the figure printed for 1994-95, there is a sudden increase in savings from 21.4 per cent — in a matter of few months — to 24.2 per cent and the increase in capital formation from 21.6 per cent to 25.2 per cent. It does not make sense to me. This sudden jump in the election year does not make sense to me. It is a quick estimate. It is not a provisional estimate. It is a quick estimate in the election year. I am very, very doubtful about this figure. I will not be surprised if, in the next estimate which will be a proper estimate, it is found to be wrong. This sudden jump of three or four per cent does not make any economic sense...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam):
Is the hon. Member casting aspersions on the Central Statistical Organisation?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: No. All that I am saying is that there is something seriously wrong with the estimations ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: 1994-95 was not an election year.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: But the publication was made in 1996. All that I am asking is: What is the explanation for this steady fall in the four years and a sudden rise of four per cent in one year? (Interruptions) Let us forget about elections. Tell me whether it makes any economic sense.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: If you look at the production of capital goods in 1994-95, it will exactly lead to the conclusion.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: How can it be so?

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: If you don't want to listen...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): This dialogue is very interesting and informative. But the point is, you have to address the chair and wind up now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What the hon. Member should try to tell this House is the break-up of savings into private savings and public savings and he should also tell this House where we are falling behind. Our private savings, our household savings and private sector savings, are much above Asian standards. In public savings, we are way behind Asian standards and world standards and you must, therefore, explain why public savings are low. Don't club everything and say savings are low. Private savings and household savings in this country are extremely high.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I don't agree, I will tell you why. What is the private savings figure for all other Asian countries? What is the Asian standard? I do not have the break-up for public and private savings, you allow a variation of 10-12 per cent. In China, the gross

domestic savings figure is 42 per cent, leave out 12 per cent, it is 30 per cent; South Korea 38 per cent, Malaysia 39 per cent, Thailand 35 per cent, Indonesia 29 per cent, even Philippines which is not very developed is 24 per cent. This is under investment. In savings, China 44 per cent, South Korea 39 per cent, Malaysia 37 per cent, Thailand 35 per cent, Indonesia 30 per cent. So that figure cannot be right. Even by Asian standards, even private savings are much higher in those countries than in India. Lastly, just two specific points and then I will conclude. There is a tendency in our country to be more sensitive to the points made by World Bank and ILO and the International Monetary Fund. But what we do not take into account is the fact that there are many, many other international agencies, other agencies which operate within the framework of the United Nations, who are critical of many of the basic formulations followed during the last five years are continued by our Finance Minister. For example, the ILO is opposed to the proposals to weaken labour legislations. A number of monographs have come out with clear statements which are opposed to such attacks on the working class. The UNCTAD, mentioned by somebody in the morning; the UNCTAD, again a UN agency, is very critical of this open ended policy of this sort which is prescribed and it says that it does not agree with the view that more trade is necessarily better.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: There is no UNCTAD for the last one year.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I have received many Monographs. I can give you references. If you want, you can write to the UNCTAD, they can also give you. I will send you the references. Does the Food and Agricultural Organisation agree with the idea that food security is not important? Or that by discarding self reliance a country can purchase from the world market. The ECLAC the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean, warned

everybody that the unrestricted flow of foreign money can be very dangerous? Despite this warning Mexico, welcomed this flow and is in great trouble now. UNICEF was the first to raise this issue. They said that this structural adjustment must have a human face. Why did they say so? What has been the situation in Africa, South of Sahara, which has implemented the structural adjustment programmes faithfully? They made the point, they raised the issue of wide-spread poverty, wide-spread in employment, that has been caused by structural adjustment, the way it was implemented. Even Japan was not in agreement with the theology being preached by the World Bank. They asked the World Bank to say that the path followed by the east Asian countries is different from the path which is being prescribed by the World Bank and they wanted a study to be completed on this, to give two billion dollars to complete this study which is known as the East Asian Miracle. I don't have the time, I can give many quotes which will completely explode the idea that there is only one view of how world economy should proceed, of how the developing countries should go about.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): The Finance Minister will refer to all the reports.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: No. but what I am saying is this. There is another body of world opinion, knowledgeable world opinion, about economics, most of which is coming from institutions, agencies, organisations affiliated to the United Nations. These agencies take a view which is completely different from the sort of view which is being imposed on us, i.e. by the World Bank and IMF.

We should not take a uni-linear view. We should take the overall experience into account to see what the realities are and what the experience has been. I only say at the end of my speech that we never learn from history. In our country, we have never learnt anything from his-

tory. There is so much of material available now. If one goes through the experience of structural adjustment over the last 16 years, one finds that there are only two countries which have benefited from the structural adjustment programmes. All other countries have experienced a lot of trouble. The two countries which have benefited from structural adjustment policies are Ghana and Chile. There is no other country in the world which can say that it has benefited from the kind of economic policies which are being preached by the World Bank. This experience should alert us while formulating our economic policies.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Thank You, Dr. Dasgupta.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am very grateful to you for giving me some extra time. I hope that the issues I have raised would be responded to by our hon. Finance Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri Mann — not present. Shri Lachhman Singh.

SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH (Haryana): Thank you, Sir. I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting his maiden Budget. I will like to put up before the Finance Minister only those items which have not been represented or mentioned in the speeches of any of my colleagues in this House. I will represent the case of unorganised sector comprising the individual assessee numbering about 30 lakh people., I will appeal to the Finance Minister and request him to note down everything that I am saying. I also request my colleagues not to interrupt me as long as I am saying something. There are 30 lakh individual income-tax assessee out of the total 110 lakh income-tax assessee. There is no country in the world, including India, whose Constitution does not provide for a provision to make appeals....(interruptions).....Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I re-

quest the hon. Finance Minister to listen to me carefully.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Dr. Dasgupta,(interruptions)....

SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH (Haryana): I have already requested my colleagues not to interrupt me. When they were speaking, I did not interrupt them. I am not used to interruptions. I am a much elderly politician mind you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Dr. Dasgupta, don't cross-talk. Shri Lachhman Singh has already requested not to be interrupted. Let him be heard by the Finance Minister.

SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: There is no Constitution in the world including that of India which does not have a provision for appeal against punishment. But there is a clause in the Income-tax law which says that no appeal lies against orders passed under that clause. I request the Finance Minister to make a note of this. If anybody, unluckily, fails to pay advance tax in time, he is penalised at the rate of 18%. If anybody fails to file a return in time, he is penalised at the rate of 24%. And there is no appeal against such orders. Recently the Government of India has issued instructions to the Commissioners saying, "you can look after the interests of those persons whose books are recovered during raids and whose books are with the CBI...." So, those persons who are guilty of everything have been given this chance and persons who are regular assesseees have been barred from this. If the Finance Minister really wants transparency in his administration, he should immediately instruct the concerned people that there should not be any 'ifs and buts' every type of assessee has a right to appeal before the Commissioners. Penalty is not a source of income to the Government. It is only a warning so as to ensure that tax is paid at the prescribed time. I am sure the Finance Minister who is a young man and a very capable person, will agree with me that

penalty is not a source of income to the Government. Any order levying penalty should be made appealable. Now there is another clause which says that if a return has not been filed in time, penalty should be imposed at the rate of 300%. They call it concealment of income. If a person is caught having assets disproportionate to his known sources of income who has never paid any income-tax in the whole of his life, in whose residence money worth Rs. 3-4 crores was found, he is charged at the rate of 60% only. How will an assessee be able to pay 300% and 42%? Is it possible? I will give the example of Sardar Bahadur Ranjit Singh, an hon. Member of Lok Sabha. In 1939, he was taxed at the rate of 110%. The case went up to the Privy Council. The Privy Council had amended the Act and said that you could not charge more than what he had earned. You cannot charge more than what is earned. Where will he pay from? Is it justified that 342% income-tax is charged? Is it justified? So, I would appeal to the Finance Minister to look into it very carefully and reply about it at the time of his reply to the debate.

Sir, the Finance Minister was kind enough to look after the senior citizens. In his speech he has said that instead of rupees one lakh, they will have to pay tax after one lakh twenty thousand. While I concede that it is a good gesture, I would suggest to the Finance Minister that if he wants to put his name in the Guinness book and wants to be the most popular Finance Minister of the world, then he should decide that there will be no tax at the age of seventy-five — neither income-tax nor gift-tax nor wealth-tax. After all, how many people are there at the age of seventy-five? If you so desire, you can increase the age and make it eighty or make it seventy eight, I don't mind that. This can only be done by the United Front Government which consists of 13 parties — *halla gulla* people will also be there — and they will not say anything now because they are the persons who try to sabotage everything with it. So, I would request the Finance Minister that

he should see to it that a person when he reaches the age of seventy-five should not be made to go to these offices and talk to the clerk. He should be allowed to die in peace. If the Finance Minister can do it, it is well and good and if he cannot, then I wouldn't bother.

Sir, I would also like to say something about the Chelliah Committee Report. It is a nice report. I am a disciplined person — I wouldn't take much time as I am seeing my watch also. I would not go into the details of that report, as I am not reading from that as the same is available in the Library. There is no point in reading from that report. Without taking much time of the House, I would request the Finance Minister that the tax should not be more than 35 per cent. Forty per cent tax is too much. The Chelliah Committee has recommended 30 per cent, but Dr. Manmohan Singh while making his Budget speech said that he would apply these recommendations within two years. He must have done 35 per cent or 30 per cent next years. So, I would request F.M. that the maximum tax should be 35 per cent — not 40 per cent, it is too much. If you want transparency in administration, then you will have to make these clauses very simple so that an illiterate bania can understand it and pay the tax in the concerned office. Mr. Finance Minister, your officers would never agree for that. You don't talk to them. If your conscience says that it should be amended, then you should amend it. Don't bother about them. I can assure you that so long as Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao is with you nobody on the earth can remove you from the Finance Ministership. I can assure you that we will go on supporting you — positively we will go on supporting you. We have meeting at 5.45 P.M. wherein I will also raise this issue and make it clear that we will go on supporting the United Front Government, but tell your Ministers to listen to us in the House, otherwise, in the next session I will hold-up everybody here. I am a different type of person. I can speak for

hours together. In 1969, Sir, I spoke in the World Assembly for Peace in East Berlin. I know how to speak.

Then, I would make a request to the Finance Minister about the wealth-tax. Three years back, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that commercial property should be exempted from the wealth-tax because it is a double tax. Mr. Finance Minister, you made a mention about the unintended loopholes; these are not at all unintended loopholes. It will be double taxation. You will be charging 40 per cent on rent and you will also be charging wealth-tax. So, it should be removed. I hope that the Finance Minister would agree to that.

Finally, Sir, the Finance Minister has shown his inability that he cannot tackle the problem of black money. I don't know whether the House will agree with me, but I would like to tell that every problem of this country will be solved if the Finance Minister agrees with me. Let there be a moratorium for five years, let the black money come out. You should allow these people to construct houses for the poor and the rich to construct commercial buildings in the country and nobody should ask them where the money has come from. In this process lakhs of people will be employed, millions of tonnes of cement and iron will be used. In this process, every penny will come out. Nothing will be left as black money. Housing problem will be solved; commercial problem will be solved and the Government will live in peace. There will be no agitation in the industry because whosoever is employed he will get minimum wages of one hundred rupees. In Bihar the wage is Rs. 10 — 50, in Punjab it is Rs. 70 and in Haryana it is Rs. 65 — 70. We don't get labour there. There is no labour problem there. If the labour does not come from Bihar and U.P., then we wouldn't be able to cut our harvest. So, I would request the Finance Minister to look into it.

5.00 P.M.

Nobody will blame you because those persons who used to blame you are with you now. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are not going to blame you at all. We will support you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I assure you that till 1998, you will be the Finance Minister. I do not give you time than that ...*(Interruptions)*... We have promised that and we will not touch you up to 1998. ...*(Interruptions)*... They may touch you. Who knows what is going to happen. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): But, now I would ask you to wind up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: Sir, there was a tragic incident in 1984. Thousands of innocent Sikhs were killed. I do not want to go into the matter. But, Rs. 86 crores have been assessed by the High Court and some other courts in order to make them the payment. I would request the Finance Minister that it is possible that the Delhi Government can say that they do not have funds — because FM is very generous that FM should contribute to that and see to it that the money is distributed under the agency of the Central Government. The Central Government should make arrangements for making payments to those persons who are roaming and who are not in a position even to have two square meals a day. I would request the Finance Minister to do something in this regard.

Now, I will come to the problems of my own area, that is, Kalka. I will not take more than two minutes on it. Sir, Kalka is a border town of our State. Earlier, some time back, we were in Nalagarh Sub-division. In Nalagarh, there are two industrial towns, namely, Buddi and Parwanu Baroutiwala. There is industrial-tax holiday. There is no tax. What is our fault? The topography of the area has not changed. This is unfortunate because in 1967 the States were bifurcated and Himachal Pradesh was created. Haryana was destroyed; Punjab was destroyed. It is not our fault. ...*(Interrup-*

tions)... Only Himachal Pradesh was created. Both the States were put to a great loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I would request that this matter should be looked into and in the Pinjore block of Kalka area, there should be an industrial-tax holiday so that people can get more employment. There will be more avenues of employment. Otherwise, we are living as we are and we wait for some good time to come. It is just possible that I will be there and pass an order immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*... Who knows what is going to happen. I am a very optimistic man; I am not a pessimist. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why do you laugh? I had been in the Government for 15 years. I held topmost positions in the Government of Haryana. There is nothing to worry about why not? I hope that the Finance Minister will look into all these grievances.

Sir, there is one more point that I want to make. There are State Pollution Control Board, but there is no Inter-State Pollution Control Board. Mr. Finance Minister, I know this is not your Department but you make a provision in the Budget for Inter-State Pollution Control Boards and give them judicial powers so that they can put behind bars those people who are creating pollution. Sir, in Kalka town, we have got polluted water and the entire belt of thousands of acres has been spoiled by the industries of Parwanu Baddi and other segments which are above us and we live below them. So, I request the Finance Minister that he should communicate with the concerned Departments so that there is an Inter-State Pollution Control Authority with powers. It should not be as suggested by somebody that there should be a commission of inquiry because then it is as good as talking to a dead body. These commissions of inquiry may take 15 years and by that time the man will go to hell or heaven; nobody knows. So do not try, do not ask for a Joint Committee or some such thing. This is nothing. Take a decision immediately. Why should we delay it till tomorrow because today means today,

tomorrow means nothing. It will go to hell.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): But, you finish today. ... (Interruptions)... I want to finish all the discussion today.

SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: I would request the Finance Minister that he should look into all the suggestions that I have made. I apologise if something has hurt the Finance Minister. Sir, I am a very disciplined man. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You have made a very interesting speech.

श्री सुरिन्दर कुमार सिंगला: सर, यह इनकी मेडेन स्पीच थी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): लक्ष्मन सिंह जी बहुत पुराने पंजाब और हरियाणा के हैं, मैं इनको जानता हूँ।

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा। मीणा जी, आपके 12 मिनट हैं।

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा (राजस्थान): 12 मिनट में पूरा हो जाएगा। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले मैं फार्मिस मिनिस्टर को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा कि 13 पार्टियों के संयुक्त मोर्चे को संतुष्ट करते हुए, सब के लिए एक समान प्रयास करते हुए, बड़ी बुद्धिमानी से, बड़ी धनुराई से श्री मनमोहन सिंह जी पूर्व वित्त मंत्री द्वारा दिखाई गई राह पर चलते हुए उन्होंने यह बजट पेश किया। यह बजट कांग्रेस की नीतियों का एक प्रमाण पत्र है। देश के अंदर 70 प्रतिशत जनता कृषि पर आधारित है। भारत कृषि प्रधान देश है। देश के प्रधान मंत्री भी किसान के बेटे हैं। देश के किसानों को यह आशा थी कि कृषि को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इस बजट में पिछली सरकार के बजाए ज्यादा पैसा रखा जाएगा। लेकिन बजट को पढ़ने के बाद निराशा हुई कि पिछली सरकार ने कृषि विकास पर 1995-96 के अंदर 6094.75 करोड़ रु० दिया था और अब इस सरकार ने उसे घटाकर 5394.18 करोड़ रु० कर दिया। यह समझ में नहीं आता है। किसानों के विकास के लिए देश के प्रधान मंत्री जी यू०पी० के अंदर जगह जगह घोषणा कर रहे हैं कि हम किसानों को फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए सब्सिडीज दे रहे हैं, किसानों के विकास के लिए हम नाना प्रकार की छूट दे रहे हैं, 30 हजार रुपए की छूट एक ट्रेक्टर पर किसानों को दी जा रही है लेकिन मैं फार्मिस मिनिस्टर साहब से

यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि पिछली सरकार के बजट में कृषि विकास पर जितना पैसा खर्च हुआ उससे कम पैसे में आप कैसे किसान को छूट और लाभ पहुंचा सकते हैं।

इस देश के अंदर कृषि को उद्योग का दर्जा दिया गया है। लेकिन कृषि उद्योग के विकास की जो दर है वह 2.4 प्रतिशत है जबकि दूसरे उद्योगों के विकास की दर 12 प्रतिशत के करीब है। नाबार्ड की हम बात करते हैं। 1991 में सरकार ने यह तय किया था कि नाबार्ड, सरकार और बैंक बराबर की हिस्सेदारी, 50-50 रुपया खर्च करेंगे और किसानों के विकास के लिए, कृषि के विकास के लिए ऋण देंगे। लेकिन इस बजट के अंदर केवल सरकार नाबार्ड की ओर से सौ करोड़ रुपए अपनी ओर से और 400 करोड़ बैंकों की ओर से ऋण लेकर किसानों को देगी। यह संभव नहीं लगता है कि इससे लघु किसानों, सीमांत किसानों को कहीं लाभ होगा। केवल बड़े किसानों को इस बजट से लाभ होने की बात है। जो पिछड़े और दलित किसान हैं उनको इस बजट से जो आशा थी वह निराशा के रूप में बदल गयी है।

मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि किसानों को हर पार्टी वोट बैंक के रूप में काम में लेती रही हैं। हर पार्टी किसानों को लुभावने नारे देती है जैसे कि अभी देश के प्रधान मंत्री यू०पी० के अंदर बातें कर रहे हैं कि किसानों के लिए हम सब्सिडी देंगे। सब वोट के लिए है। वोट की बात करते रहेंगे। लेकिन किसी ने किया कुछ नहीं। बजट के अंदर प्रावधान किसानों के लिए किया जाता है, किसान के विकास की बात की जाती है लेकिन जब तक किसानों की उपज का सही मूल्य नहीं मिलेगा तब तक किसानों का विकास नहीं हो सकता, न कृषि का विकास हो सकता है और इस विकास के लिए हमें किसानों के लिए साइंटिफिक तरीके से गोदामों की व्यवस्था करनी पड़ेगी जिससे कि उचित समय पर सही मूल्य के समय किसानों से जबर्दस्ती अनाज न लिया जाए। उसने अपनी जो उपज पैदा की है उस अपनी कमाई को सही टाइम पर बेच सके सुरक्षित रख सके इसके लिए साइंटिफिक गोदामों की व्यवस्था सरकार करे तो किसानों को वास्तविक रूप में लाभ मिल सकता है। इस बजट के अंदर ग्रामीण विकास देखिए। यह देश गांवों का देश है और जब तक गांवों का विकास नहीं होगा तब तक देश का विकास नहीं हो सकता।

लेकिन इस सरकार ने ग्रामीण विकास के लिए इस बजट के अंदर जो एलोकेशन किया है, पिछली सरकार द्वारा किए गए एलोकेशन की अपेक्षा वह कम है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी):

अगर आप फिगर्स न देकर अपनी बात कह दें तो बहुत बातें कह सकते हैं। फिगर्स तो फायनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब के पास हैं। आप ज्यादा बातें कह सकते हैं। क्योंकि आप के पास समय 12 मिनट का ही है।

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा: महोदय, ग्रामीण विकास की कई योजनाएँ केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से चलायी जा रही हैं और पिछले करीब 20-25 सालों से यह योजनाएँ चली आ रही हैं, लेकिन गांव के विकास के नाम पर न वहां की गरीबी घटती है और न ही गांवों का विकास होता है। महोदय, हमारे भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री स्वर्गीय राजीव गांधी कहते थे कि जहां हम गांव के विकास के लिए एक रुपया भेजते हैं तो 15 पैसा खर्च होता है और 85 पैसा बीच में अधिकारी भ्रष्टाचार के रूप में उस पैसे का दुरुपयोग करते हैं। महोदय, यह बात सही है कि आज ग्रामीण विकास की जो योजनाएँ चल रही हैं, चाहे जवाहर रोजगार योजना के नाम पर या आई० आर० डी० पी० के नाम पर, उन योजनाओं का सही मूल्यांकन ही नहीं होता है। कितने लोगों को इस योजना का लाभ मिला, कितने बेरोजगारों को रोजगार मिला, कितने लोगों को मजदूरी मिली, इस बात का कोई मूल्यांकन नहीं होता है। विकास का काम कितना हुआ, कितना नहीं हुआ, इस का कोई मूल्यांकन नहीं है। इसलिए इन का मूल्यांकन कराकर आप को पुनः सोचना पड़ेगा कि किस प्रकार से इन योजनाओं को लागू किया जाए जिससे कि गांवों में रहने वाले गरीब आदमी का विकास हो सके। महोदय, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आप ग्रामीण विकास की योजनाओं के नाम पर जितना पैसा खर्च करते हैं, उस पैसे का सदुपयोग हो, इस के लिए आप दोबारा सोचकर इन योजनाओं को लागू करें क्योंकि ऐसे इन योजनाओं से काम चलने वाला नहीं है। इन योजनाओं पर जैसे कि राजीव गांधी कहते थे, आज भी डी० आर० डी० ओ० के माध्यम से योजनाएँ चलती हैं, मगर इन योजनाओं के लिए डी० आर० डी० ओ० के लोग सरपंचों से रिश्त लेकर स्वीकृति देते हैं। उदाहरण के तौर पर मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि सांसदों को एक करोड़ रुपया दिया जाता है, उस में से गांवों में पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था के लिए बोरिंग की बात आती है तो उस में सवा लाख रुपए के अंदर 400 फुट बोरिंग हो जाती है। उसी बोरिंग के लिए वाटर वर्क्स के लोगों के एस्टीमेट के अनुसार ढाई लाख रुपए देने पड़ते हैं तब जाकर बोरिंग होती है। इस तरह इन योजनाओं में कहीं कोई देखने वाला नहीं है कि वास्तविक रूप में कितना पैसा खर्च होना चाहिए। यह कोई देखने वाला नहीं है। जो एस्टीमेट

इंजीनियर बना देता है, उसी एस्टीमेट के आधार पर काम होता है और दूसरी ओर कोई बोरिंग मशीन वाली कंपनी सवा लाख रुपए में 400 फुट गहरा गड्ढा कर देती है। इस तरह से डबल एस्टीमेट देखने में आता है, तो कैसे होगा वहां विकास?

महोदय, गांवों के अंदर इंदिरा आवास योजना की बात होती है। हमारी पिछली सरकार ने भी कहा कि इंदिरा विकास योजना के अंतर्गत लोगों को मकान बनाकर दिए जाएंगे, लेकिन वास्तविक रूप में यह लाभ गांव के गरीबों को नहीं मिल रहा है। इस योजना के अंदर मकान के लिए जो सब्सिडी होगी, वह पहले ही अधिकारी ले लेते हैं और उस आदमी तक वह पहुंचती ही नहीं है। योजना के अंतर्गत एक मकान की कीमत के लिए जो पैसा दिया जाता है उतनी कीमत का मकान नहीं बनाया जाता है। आज वह मकान जगह-जगह गांव के बाहर देखने को मिल रहे हैं जिन में कोई रहता ही नहीं है। तो ऐसी आवास योजना के क्या लाभ जोकि आवास के लायक ही नहीं है? लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार के पैसे से योजनाएँ चलती हैं, उन में काम हो रहा है, उस के आंकड़े आ जाते हैं कि हम ने इतने लोगों को लाभ पहुंचाया। महोदय, उस में राजस्थान की सरकार का और ही दूसरा हाल है। राजस्थान की सरकार तो इन योजनाओं के लिए केन्द्र सरकार जो पैसा देती है, वह उन योजनाओं पर खर्च करती ही नहीं। वह उस पैसे का यूटिलाइजेशन इस तरह से करती है कि केवल आंकड़े केन्द्र सरकार को भेज दिए जाते हैं, लेकिन वह सरकार उस पैसे का कहीं सदुपयोग नहीं करती है। वहां की सरकार के नुमाइंदे ईमानदारी का डोल पीटते हैं, लेकिन सरकार में बैठे हुए लोग-चीफ मीनिस्टर से लेकर नीचे जितने भी कार्यकर्ता हैं, उन्होंने राजस्थान के अंदर लूट मचा रखी है।

राजस्थान के अंदर अधिकारियों के ट्रांसफरों के ठेके दे रखे हैं। एक एक एम०एल०ए० को कह रहा है कि पांच मास्टर्स के ट्रांसफर करवा लो, एक इंजीनियर का ट्रांसफर करवा लो। इसके बारे में खुले रूप से पता लगाया जाए कि क्यों इस प्रकार की लूट हो रही है। विकास की योजनाएँ, वहां उन अधिकारियों को लगाया जाएगा, जो अपना मंथली भेंट करता रहेगा वहां के नेताओं को, वहां का जो एम०एल०ए० और मिनिस्टर है उनको भेंट करता रहेगा या वहां की सरकार के नुमाइंदों को भेजता रहेगा। ऐसे अधिकारियों को लगाया जाता है।

... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी: मीणा साहब, मध्यप्रदेश के बारे में बताइए। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: मैं यहां के बारे में जानता हूँ वही कि बात करता हूँ। मध्य प्रदेश और उड़ीसा के बारे में आप बात करिए। राजस्थान की जो स्थिति है वह मैं आपको बता रहा हूँ। ... (व्यवधान) ...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर को कुछ बताइए। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: मैं फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर को ही बता रहा हूँ। ... (व्यवधान) ... आप सुन रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ... कानों में अंगुली दे लो, अगर नहीं सुना जाता तो। वह कर्म कर रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री गोविन्दराम विरी: वह कर्म तो आप करते होंगे, हम नहीं करते। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: मैं बता रहा हूँ, जो कर्म कर रहे हैं। आपके लोग ईमानदारी का डोल पीट रहे हैं। जाकर आप राजस्थान में देख लो। ... (व्यवधान) ...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): आपका समय कैसे ही समाप्त हो रहा है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

प्रो० राम बक्ष्ज सिंह वर्मा: आप सुख राम के बारे में तो बताइए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): नहीं, आप डिस्टर्ब मत कीजिए, उनको बोलने दीजिए।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: मैं जसवन्त सिंह के बारे में जानता हूँ, भैरो सिंह के बारे में जानता हूँ। मैं ज्यादा जानता हूँ। आप कहें तो कहीं। सुख राम से ज्यादा हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): जो यहां पर नहीं हैं, उनके बारे में न कहें। अपने विषय के बारे में बात करें। आपको तो समय भी हो गया है।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक निवेदन करना चाह रहा हूँ। देश के अंदर कृषि को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सिंचाई की व्यवस्थाओं के लिए आपने इस बजट के अंदर प्रावधान किया है, लेकिन मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि राजस्थान की भी कई योजनाएं हैं, जो केन्द्र सरकार के पास आई हुई हैं। एक इन्दिरा नहर योजना है, जिससे सवाई माधोपुर, दोसा, भरतपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट के कई गांवों के लोगों को लाभ होने वाला है। आप उस योजना को मंजूरी दें। मैं चाहूंगा कि अगली पंचवर्षीय योजना में उसको मंजूरी देकर उस पर काम प्रारंभ किया जाए। यदि देश के अंदर सिंचाई व्यवस्था की जाएगी और कृषि को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा

तो निश्चित रूप से कृषि में लगा किसान आर्थिक रूप से मजबूत होगा और देश की आर्थिक व्यवस्था अपने आप सुदृढ़ और मजबूत होगी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद। आपका समय 15 मिनट हो गया, तीन मिनट ज्यादा हो गया। अब आगे दूसरे लोगों को मौका दीजिए।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सर।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): जो आपके पास लिखा हुआ है, वह आप मंत्री जी को भेजिएगा। बहुत अच्छी तरह से वह आपको जवाब दे देंगे और उसके ऊपर अधिक कार्यवाही भी होगी। (व्यवधान) ... अभी पांच माननीय सदस्य बोलने को और बाकी हैं।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सर, मेरा एक निवेदन है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): कहिए।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सर, इस देश में इस देश के संविधान के अंदर एक व्यवस्था की गई है शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के रिजर्वेशन की। पिछले 40 सालों से यह व्यवस्था चली आ रही है, लेकिन जो उनका बैंकलोग है वह पूरा नहीं हुआ किसी भी विभाग के अंदर। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आपके विभाग के अंदर, वित्त मंत्रालय के अंदर जितने विभाग आते हैं, उनके अंदर तो शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के रिजर्वेशन का जो बैंकलोग है वह तो पूरा हो जाना चाहिए, चाहे वह बैंकलोग छोटे कर्मचारी चतुर्थ श्रेणी का हो या 'ए' क्लास आफीसर का आप इसको जल्दी पूरा करा लें। परमोरशन में भी जिस प्रकार का दुर्ब्यवहार विभागों के अंदर हो रहा है, आपके वित्त विभाग के अंदर भी, कई विभागों में, वह दुर्ब्यवहार दूर हो और शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट, शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स का जो वास्तविक अधिकार है वह उनको मिल जाए। यही मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Shri Vizol. Six minutes, please.

SHRI VIZOL (Nagaland): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am sorry, I think I cannot conclude within six minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You can take another two minutes. But please

start mentioning the main points so that the entire gamut is covered.

SHRI VIZOL: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to participate in this discussion on the General Budget. I want to say something about the financial aspects, but I am more concerned about the law and order situation in the North-East, particularly in Nagaland.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You tell the Finance Minister about the financial aspects only--how much money you need and so on--because he is not concerned with the other things.

SHRI VIZOL: I will come to them later.

Nagas are a singular race of people. They inhabit a mountainous country which was known at the British time as the Naga Hills. Nagas never knew subjugation by outsiders nor were they ruled over by aliens since time immemorial till the advent of the British. A neighbouring country, that is Assam, was invaded by the Burmese. The Burmese conquered Assam, plundered the country and massacred its people. The Assam rulers fled the country and from their hide-outs sought help from the British in Calcutta. Calcutta was then the capital headquarters of British India. The British landed in Assam in 1826 and negotiated a peace treaty with the Burmese. The treaty was signed with the Burmese King of Ava at Yandabo in 1826. The Burmese withdrew from Assam, and the British took control of Assam and annexed Assam to the British empire in India.

The British thereafter planned to open a direct route from the Assam plains to the Manipur valley through the Naga Hills. They sent a survey party escorted by the Frontiers Armed Police in 1832. The survey party was routed by the Nagas. The British sought armed assistance from Manipur Raja, Ghambir Singh. Raja Ghambir Singh complied with the request and led an army of 800 soldiers accompanied by two British army offic-

ers, marched to Kohima. All along the route from Manipur to Kohima, the invading party destroyed everything within reach, including villages, granaries and all household properties. They reached Kohima and captured a Naga youth and buried him alive. Raja Ghambir Singh stood on a flat stone over his grave and had his footprint engraved. They also placed an upright stone, on which they carved inscriptions, insignia of their power etc. The stone monuments remained in the heart of Kohima town till they were removed and destroyed by the Naga Movement activists in the seventies. This invasion of the British had led to the Anglo-Naga internecine war which continued from 1832 to 1880.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Vizol, I hate to interrupt you. But you can circulate this historical portion to all of us and to the Minister. But, what do you expect from the Finance Minister, and what lacunae do you find? That will help the Finance Minister, all of us and the people of the area.

SHRI VIZOL: All right, all right, in that case, I will skip this. When the whole Nagaland was on fire in the year 1956, a convention of Nagas including those pre-peace leaders, Government officials was held at the Assam Rifles Cantonment in Kohima. Resolutions were passed. This convention was intended to be a mediating agency to mediate between the Government of India and the underground organisation. Unfortunately, the convention was controlled by the Government agencies, and a settlement for separate state for Nagas was made with the Prime Minister of India in Delhi behind the back of those who were fighting the Indian army in Nagaland. The best opportunity to nip the insurgency or militancy in the bud was lost. It was an opportunity to solve the problem. That opportunity to nip the militancy in the bud was lost. It was unfortunate. Although we have a separate State of our own, we still do not feel happy because the problem still con-

tinues. Now the insurgency has spread. Insurgency broke out in Mizoram and Nagaland in 1956; in Tripura in 1966. Manipur in 1970, Assam in 1978 and so on. Now, as you are aware, militancy has spread all over the State. How are you going to deal with it now! They are going to different places teaching the right of self-determination. They are meeting the human-rights commissions and the UN Working Groups. The other day the Assam ULFA leader, Mr. Rajghoa with his Chief Secretary and the Chairman of the Socialist Council of Nagaland represented the case to the international fora at Geneva. There has been insurgency in different regions in India and there is no response from the Government. Insurgency and militancy is expanding its base in Meghalaya. In Burma, there is the Golden Triangle, the centre for manufacture of drugs. With the help of this drug money, they are procuring light machine-guns, which the Indian Army is not getting. Because of this they are causing a lot of havoc all around. Since the Central Government has not been paying attention to Nagaland and the North-Eastern region, militant groups are growing in number. As they multiply, the situation will become more complicated and it will be very difficult to find a solution to the problem. It is unfortunate that in spite of 36 years of Statehood in Nagaland, the law and order situation has been becoming more and more difficult. If you read Article 371A of the Constitution, you will find that the Governors hold special responsibility for maintaining the law and order. Till now in his opinion the situation in Nagaland is not disturbed. With this special weapon in his hand, how can you depend upon the Governor, who has not yet been able to decide whether to solve the insurgency problem or not.

I would advise the Central Government today to look into the whole state of affairs and come out with an objective view of the whole situation and offer an open dialogue to the underground organisations to hammer out an agreed solu-

tion to this problem. I say an agreed solution, because I feel that is the right word. On the eve of the last Lok Sabha elections, the former Prime Minister had announced that he was prepared for an unconditional dialogue with the underground actions, whosoever is willing to come forward. He offered an open and unconditional dialogue, but when the media persons asked him what did he meant by that, he said the solution was to be agreed within the framework of the Indian Constitution. This has confused the underground leaders.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I think you have made your point. The Finance Minister will take care of the points mentioned by you about the control of the narcotic drugs that are being smuggled.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKE NATH CHATURVEDI): So, shall I call upon the next speaker? You may bring many of the things to the notice of the Home Minister or raise them in a subsequent debate.

SHRI VIZOL: Okay Sir, I will raise these problems in the next debate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Thank you very much. Honourable Members, we have four more Members to speak and we have to finish this debate today. My request to the Members is that they should be very brief. The next speaker is, Mr. Ram Jethmalani. Mr. Jethmalani, you will have six minutes. You can extend it to eight minutes. But I cannot extend it beyond eight minutes.(Interruptions)....

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If we can change him per minute let him speak for half-an-hour.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): We would like to share them.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Mahārashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, in obedience to your orders, I would con-

concentrate on three topics which I wish to stress. First of all, I expect a Budget speech in a poor country like India to start with an acknowledgement of the main disease of the country, that is poverty and the next step is an analysis of causes of the poverty. I regret to say that both these steps do not find articulated in the Budget speech. In fact, the Budget speech starts with not an economic statement, but with a political statement which no doubt gave the idea to Prof. Gupta about recalling the tragic figure of Draupadi. But I suspect that the hon. Finance Minister could do with 12 husbands easily. It is the 13th which he finds most inconvenient. And the 13th is represented by Prof. Gupta. That 13th husband should have by now realised the total infertility of his operations and should have refrained at least from making that entry which he talked about... (*Interruptions*)...

Sir, the fourth paragraph of the budget speech refers to that document which was prepared by the thirteen and called the CMP. The statement made in that paragraph is the central theme of the Budget speech. To my mind, it is an exercise not only in self-deception but an exercise in concealing from everybody the ills that beset this unfortunate country.

Paragraph 4, says:

"Conclusions are that the economic indicators point to high growth. But there are significant areas of weakness. The update has identified these areas as fiscal deficit, sluggish agricultural growth, inadequate infrastructure, high interest rates and the trade deficit."

Will Mr. Chidambaram, my young friend for whom I have tremendous respect both as a very astute lawyer and as a very astute politician, tell me which are the areas of strength which he has identified? If these are the areas of our weakness, I think, our country is in a very poor shape and it will be dishonest of me to paint any rosy picture of the country's economic future.

Sir, I said that if there was an honest analysis of the causes of poverty, you don't have to be an economist, you don't have to go to the London School of Economics or read economics in any college—but to my mind, it is self-evident and a proposition more of common sense than of economics that today one of the major causes of poverty in this country is the growing population.

Sir, there is no economist who has not pointed this out. Sir, in a very interesting book which I have been reading, and which I think has not escaped the attention of Mr. Chidambaram—and if it has, I think he will borrow it from me and read it; It is by one of our modern economists, Lester Thurow—writing on the "Coming Economic Battle amongst Japan, Europe and America," at page 205 of his excellent book, this is what he has to say:

"There is a further requirement that guarantees that most of today's third-world countries will remain poor 100 years from now. It is simply impossible for any country to become rich in the context of a rapidly rising population. The reasons are simple. To make new human beings into modern productive workers takes a lot of investment. If there are going to be very many of these new human beings, existing human beings have to be willing to severely restrict their own personal consumption in order to make the investment needed by those new human beings. The history of the world's richest countries illustrates an iron law of economic development—no country can become rich without a century of good economic performance and a century of very slow population growth."

Forget about politics. Unless this sin is attended to as quickly and steadfastly as possible, there is no escape from the hall in which we are trapped, from the guagmire we have got into. There will be no

escape, whatever be the economic doctrines by which you propose to run the country. It is a strange paradox; if we are to fight the war against death, the war against death itself involves a war against birth and unless you are in a position to assure that we Indians will learn to breed less, we will rather have to get used to the idea of disappearing sooner or later.

Sir, the second point to which I wish to draw attention is the promised disinvestment which is very prominently mentioned in paragraph 50 of the Finance Minister's Budget speech. I quote: "Government have approved the proposal to establish a Disinvestment Commission. Any decision to disinvest will be taken and implemented in a transparent manner. Revenues generated from such disinvestment will be utilised for allocations for education and health and for creating fund to strengthen public sector enterprises."

I must violently disagree with this proposed disinvestment in the manner in which it is proposed and the purposes and methods of disinvestment. The first thing is that those who wish to disinvest, must also know that this country is full of economic manipulators, stock exchange manipulators, of all kinds, and you cannot give people an advance notice that we are going to sell off our property. Not only we sell off our property but the extent of the same is intimated in advance in paragraph 50. What is more, you even tell them that we are going to sell in September, October, November, January and February. You provide so much useful information to economic manipulators that your disinvestment will come to naught, will go up in smoke. They once tried it in 1991-92. I forgot the exact year—Mr. Manmohan was the Finance Minister in which they tried to do it and it was a pure economic disaster when the disinvestment, partial though it was, took place. We wasted away our funds, we disposed of our assets at much lesser prices than we could have got by more intelligent management and more honest

management of the disinvestment that took place at that time. Sir, I will take two minutes. (Time Bell rings) You have given me eight minutes. I have already taken six minutes. Two minutes are left. What is needed is a speedy conversion of debt into equity. 73 per cent of our total tax revenue is being eaten away in servicing our debts. We are paying merely Rs. 55,000 crores by way of interest on Rs. 750 lakh crore which is our total external and internal debt. This is the way of insolvency and unless you speedily terminate it, you are likely to face financial difficulties. You must disinvest. But our creditors must turn into sharers in our prosperity and must also share the results of our economic incompetence and corruption. That is the direction in which we have to go. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that something has got to be done and merely saying that we will sell off and whatever we get, we will make investment in education and health and for creating a fund for strengthening the public sector enterprises is not correct. This is the doctrinaire confusion from which you are suffering, created by the 13th husband. For God's sake, keep the 13th husband away for a while, and probably, you will be nearer to success.

And lastly, Sir, the third point that I wish to make. I do congratulate you and I also congratulate the last, not the last, the last but one Finance Minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh, when he embarked upon his new economics. I am glad that you have embarked on that road and I make no secret of the fact that I even broke ranks and extended a word of praise when this new economic freshness came to be talked about for the first time on the Floor of this House. But let us not forget that Adam Smith whose policies you have now adopted, was essentially a professor of moral philosophy in the first instance. He was first a professor of logic, then he became a professor of moral philosophy. The first book for which he became famous was called "The Theory of Moral Sentiment". His "Wealth of Nations" came later. When

he talked of his great economic doctrines, which you have now embraced he expected that those doctrines would operate in a moral framework which he assumed to exist in the society of his times.

Sir, without treading on anybody's toes, let us do a little honest introspection, Mr. Minister; let us look back, let us hark back in history: Have you or have you not let down this nation? Have we not destroyed the moral framework which Adam Smith had in mind? And unless you speedily take steps to restore that moral framework, none of your Economic Policies are ever going to succeed. We will sink more and more into debt. You will make poverty more extensive, you will make poverty more humiliating and more devoid of human dignity; it will get worse and worse. First resolve to restore the moral climate, Mr. Finance Minister, while I have the greatest respect for your great and unchallenged acumen and your intellectual outfit, I am not prepared to extend to you any great compliment for being hot in the pursuit of the politically corrupt. Look back; this is the question which I wish to leave to you not to answer in public; answer it to your conscience. Answer it to your conscience and you will realise that something has gone wrong somewhere; please correct it. You are Prime Minister material for this country and I hope that one day you will occupy that august position, but there is an 'if', and that 'if' is that you steadfastly and seriously commit yourself to the removal of moral mess that has been created during the last few years. Thank you.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, the Budget has become a main vehicle in the formation of the policy-changes in the democratic world. The present Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram, is really a staging post in the reform process. Sir, the domestic economy, especially the agricultural sector, has got special attention in the Budget. It is, no doubt, a healthy trend

that if is going to contribute much to the development of the economic growth of our nation. In our country, on many occasions, agriculture has remained practically outside the pale of efforts to raise the levels of productivity and efficiency through dismantling the Governmental regulations.

It will be a revolutionary change, if the present Budget can rectify the situation. Agricultural investment needs greater attention and agricultural productivity has to be boosted. The decision of the Finance Minister to strengthen the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development by increasing its paid-up capital is a healthy trend in this direction. It is also welcome that the Budget has responded to the inadequacies in the rural credit structure. The rate of inflation which the Budget assumes at 8.5% is a point for our concern. Control on expenditure is the need of the hour. If it is not done properly, it will lead to a high level of Government borrowing and RBI credit. This will lead to an unfortunate situation where there will be a combination of high interest rates and high inflation. The Budget has helped the commercial banks to freely operate within the parameters already set. The proposals to give greater autonomy to the RBI to implement the policy and to strengthen it by a legislative process are timely and it is a very serious step taken by the Finance Minister. In the present reform context it is going to contribute much to the development. Increase in funding is made possible in the fields of rural development and education. The system is to be reformed and restructured to ensure that the funds allocated reach the poor. The interference of the intermediaries should be checked strictly. If this aspect of our economic growth is really protected, it will strengthen social justice in a broad way.

Sir, the problem which our infrastructural projects face on a large scale is that it is not clear how they can be implemented without the active involvement

of the States at every stage. The record of most of the States in this respect is not so bright. But the role of the State in the economic development of the country cannot be ignored. Many of the irrigation projects in the country are State-sponsored. It has to be welcomed that this Budget has initiated a move in this direction.

Sir, our State of Kerala has some genuine grievances. As has already been mentioned by my hon. friend, Shri Joy Nadukkara, certain suggestions in the Budget are going to harm the economic welfare of the people of Kerala. FACT, which is one of the leading public sector units in the country, will be suffering. The fate of the coconut farmers of Kerala is not going to be bettered even after the new Budget. So, my request is that a subsidy has to be announced for coconut cultivators and FACT should be protected from the onslaught of foreign products.

Another important thing related to Kerala is the fate of the Cochin port. Actually it is the pride of the country and its expansion is very important. It cannot be delayed. I request the Finance Minister to consider these aspirations of the people of Kerala. There is a false propaganda against coconut and coconut oil which have very role in the economy of Kerala and much of the propaganda is a creation of foreign industrialists. Actually they are contributing to the destruction of our own agricultural and hereditary industries.

As regards the reduction in import duty on rubber, my friend, Mr. Joy Nadukkara, has dealt with it in detail. That has badly affected the rubber cultivation in Kerala. It will be in the interest of the people of Kerala to cancel that reduction.

The Budget will no doubt encourage a high rate of growth. In the present circumstances, industry can progress. But for making the progress speedy the pressure on the interest rate should be eased. As the monsoon is expected to be

normal the Government revenue would remain buoyant. The foreign industrial investors can also now invest in unlisted companies. This dispensation is also good. It will have its impact on the future growth of primary market. Now a days, the reduction in fiscal deficit is recognised as the acme of an exquisite Budget. The present Budget has succeeded in this task by bringing down the deficit to Rs. 62,266 crores, at the level of 5 per cent of the GDP.

In brief, the Budget contains the spirit of both reform and pragmatism. Though the Finance Minister was very much generous in taking into consideration various problems relating to various States, the people of Kerala have a genuine complaint and genuine grievance that our aspirations were not taken into consideration seriously. At least, after the presentation of the Budget, we hope that the Finance Minister would take some very serious steps and actions to rectify this situation.

Thank you.

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं वित्त मंत्री को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने संतुलित एवं प्रामोन्मुखी बजट प्रस्तुत किया है। गांवों और खेतों को बचाने के लिए मैं सिर्फ एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। हालांकि प्रधानमंत्री महोदय ने और वित्त मंत्री ने अपने बजट में कैमिकल फर्टिलाइजर पर सब्सिडी दी है इससे किसानों का तो हित हो ही रहा है लेकिन वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान मैं इस ओर भी आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि इसके साथ-साथ इसको फ्रेडली फर्टिलाइजर को कनसेंट आज बना है, जीवाणु खाद की ओर विशेष ध्यान देना पड़ेगा जिससे किसानों और उसका धन जो धरती है उसको बचाया जा सके। आज पूरे देश में कैमिकल फर्टिलाइजर से धरती की उर्वर शक्ति घट रही है इसलिए कृषि वैज्ञानिकों को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिये।

साथ ही साथ एक अंतिम निवेदन और करना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से नारियल विकास बोर्ड द्वारा आज बिहार में केले की व्यापक खेती होती है और किसान इससे लाभान्वित हो रहे हैं, मेरा वित्त मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह है कि केन्द्र में भी केला विकास बोर्ड का गठन किया जाना चाहिए ताकि महाराष्ट्र और बिहार के किसानों को उससे लाभ मिल सके।

श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्त (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बहुत थोड़े समय में मुझे अपनी बात कहनी है। बजट तो त्रिवर्ष प्रस्तुत होते हैं लेकिन मैं अपनी ओर से विचार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे बजट के बारे में देश की जनता क्या सोचती है, उनका इम्पेशन क्या है हमारे बारे में? इस पर लम्बा-चौड़ा भाषण करने के लिए तो समय नहीं है लेकिन मैं अपने कुछ सुझाव देना चाहूँगा और खासतौर से मैं अपने प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश तक ही समिति रखूँगा। सबसे पहले तो मैं वित्त मंत्री महोदय का इस आशा के साथ स्वागत करता हूँ कि उनसे देश को बहुत आशाएँ बंधी हैं। पिछली सरकारों ने क्या किया, क्या नहीं किया उससे तो भारी निराशा व्याप्त है जनता में। लेकिन नये वित्त मंत्री देश की आशाओं के अनुकूल कुछ काम करेंगे इसकी आशा मुझे अवश्य है। इस दृष्टि से सबसे पहले मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप हर बार केन्द्रीय राजस्व में पैसे की कमी अभिव्यक्त करते हैं। जब भी मांगें हुई हैं तो यही हुई कि पैसा कम है। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस केन्द्रीय राजस्व को बढ़ाने के लिए आप क्या-क्या कदम उठाना चाहेंगे? यही मुख्य प्रश्न है जहाँ पैसा होने पर वितरण भी उचित तरीके से किया जा सकता है लेकिन केन्द्रीय राजस्व को बढ़ाने के लिए जो-जो कदम सरकार को उठाने चाहियें-वे अभी तक उठाये नहीं गये हैं, इस बात की चिन्ता मैं करता हूँ।

अब ये जो ब्लैकमनी है, भारी तादाद में विदेशों से ऋण आया है, कर्जा है, लोगों पर इनकमटेक्स का पैसा बकाया है, यह पूरी जिम्मेदारी से, ईमानदारी से, सिंसियरिटी से आप वसूल करना चाहते हैं कि नहीं? देश की जनता आपकी तरफ देख रही है। आपको यह पैसा सख्ती से वसूल करना चाहिये।

इस फिजूलखर्ची को आपको रोकना चाहिए, इतना ही मैं कह सकता हूँ। दो ही स्रोत हैं जिनसे राजस्व बढ़ाया जा सकता है। विदेशी कर्जों को कृपा करके आप बंद कर दीजिए। यह बात ठीक है कि विकासशील देशों को कर्जों की जरूरत होती है। लेकिन जितना कर्जा आप ले चुके हैं आप मेहरबानी करके उसे लौटाने की तरफ ध्यान दीजिए और नए कर्जें मत लें। देश की जनता पर यह और भी बोझ होगा।

इसके साथ आपके पास जो पैसा राजस्व में आ गया है उसको आप ईमानदारी से खर्च करें और यह भी देखें कि वह ईमानदारी से खर्च हो रहा है या नहीं हो रहा है। यही देश की जनता का इंटेरेस्ट है, इससे ज्यादा नहीं है। केन्द्र के राजस्व का पैसा यदि भिन्न-भिन्न योजनकों में

भ्रष्टाचार के नीचे दबा हुआ होगा तो उससे आपके विकास के रास्ते हमेशा के लिए अवरुद्ध हो जायेंगे। भ्रष्टाचार पर बहुत चर्चा हुई है, इसलिए भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ आपको कड़ी कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए। आपको देश से ब्लैक मनी निकालनी चाहिए। (समय की घंटी)।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं दो मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त करूँगा।

आप ब्लैक-मनी को निकालिए और सख्ती से निकालिए। यही इसका एक तरीका हो सकता है। इससे आप जनता में विश्वास पैदा कर सकते हैं कि सरकार कुछ करना चाहती है।

नित नई नई घोषणाएँ प्रधानमंत्री जी कर रहे हैं। वैसे तो इसका स्वागत है। लेकिन यह भी बताया जाए कि इन घोषणाओं पर कब अमल होगा। यह घोषणाएँ पूरी भी करनी हैं या नहीं। पिछली सरकारों ने जो घोषणाएँ की थीं, कई स्थानों पर पत्थर लगा दिए गए लेकिन वे योजनाएँ कभी पूरी नहीं हुईं। आप कृपा करके इससे बचिए।

अब मैं अपने प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश की तरफ आता हूँ और दो-तीन मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। आपने जो बजट पेश किया है उसमें मध्य प्रदेश, जो कि एक विशाल प्रदेश है, भारी प्रदेश है और देश के लिए अपना बहुत कुछ योगदान दे सकता है, उसकी तरफ बजट में काफी दुर्लक्ष्य हुआ है। मध्य प्रदेश ने अपनी सिंचाई योजनाओं के लिए जो पैसा मांगा था वह अभी तक आपने मंजूर नहीं किया है। वहां पर सड़के इतनी खराब हैं लेकिन उनके लिए कोई मंजूरी इसमें नहीं है। नेशनल हाई वे का विस्तार भी मध्य प्रदेश में नाममात्र का नहीं हुआ है। भोपाल-नागपुर की मांग वहां वर्षों से चल रही है लेकिन कुछ नहीं हुआ। जो स्वीकृत हो चुकी है उनको भी आपने नहीं किया है। भोपाल-अहमदाबाद-एंची राजमा को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित किया जाए।

वनीकरण की योजनाएँ भी हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में बहुत हैं। अगर इसके लिए आप केंद्र से पैसा देंगे तो नये तरीके से वनों का विकास करके उत्तम किस्म की टीक पैदा की जा सकती है। हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में सागौन भी होता है। लेकिन वनीकरण के लिए आपने कोई राशि नहीं रखी है। मध्य प्रदेश के विकास के लिए हवाई अड्डों का विस्तार जरूरी है। लेकिन हवाई अड्डों के विस्तार के मामले में आपने कुछ नहीं किया है। जो सेवाएँ पहले से उपलब्ध थी वे भी आपने बंद कर रखी हैं। पीने के पानी की वहां पर समस्या है। पीने के पानी

को लेकर भोपाल के अंदर दो-दो आंदोलन हुए हैं। मध्य प्रदेश में पीने के पानी की बहुत समस्या है। इसलिए पीने के पानी के लिए जितना भी पैसा मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा मांगा जाए। उसको आप देने की कृपा करें। हमारे यहां कोलार जल योजना इसके लिए 50 करोड़ रुपये मांगा गया है उसे पूरा किया जाए। इसी तरह नर्मदा जल योजना जिससे भोपाल की 16 लाख की आबादी को पानी मिल सकता है उसके लिए धन उपलब्ध कराया जाए। कृपा करके आप इन बातों पर विचार कीजिए।

अंत में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गैस पीड़ितों को दिए जाने वाला पैसा अभी तक वहां बांटा नहीं गया है। दो लाख लोग अभी भी इससे पीड़ित हैं। एक आपत्तिजनक सर्कुलर वहां के कल्याण आयुक्त ने 17.3.94 को निकाला है जिसमें गैस पीड़ित क्षेत्र के 36 वार्डों के लिए उन्होंने यह घोषित कर दिया कि उनको दिया जाएगा लेकिन 20 वार्डों को नकार दिया है। दोनों में डिसक्रिमिनेशन किया गया है। दो लाख लोग अभी भी इसकी मांग कर रहे हैं। यह जो कल्याण आयुक्त ने सर्कुलर निकाला है इसके वापस लिया जाना चाहिए और जो ये 1994 के गैस पीड़ित लोग हैं सब को रहत पहुंचनी चाहिए।

शराब के कारखानों के कारण वहां का पर्यावरण बिगड़ रहा है। मध्य प्रदेश के अंदर कोल माईंस एरिया में यह समस्या ज्यादा है। भोपाल डिस्ट्रिक्ट, रायसेन जिले के अंदर जितने शराब के कारखाने चल रहे हैं वे पर्यावरण को बिगाड़ रहे हैं। इसकी समीक्षा की जानी चाहिए और देखा जाना चाहिए कि किस प्रकार से वहां इसको ठीक किया जा सकता है।

अंत में, अभी अभी अमरनाथ में जो दुर्घटना हुई है, मैं केंद्र सरकार से रेक्वेस्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि आप कश्मीर को इतना पैसा आतंकवाद को रोकने के लिए दे रहे हैं और अन्य बातों के लिए दे रहे हैं, अमरनाथ यात्रा हमेशा ठीक से हो सके इसके लिए जितने भी पैसे की आवश्यकता हो उतना आप वहां मार्ग बनवाने के लिए देने की कृपा करें। इसी प्रकार से केदारनाथ जाने के लिए 14 किलोमीटर का रास्ता अभी तक नहीं बना है।

6.00 PM

50 साल में अभी तक नहीं बना है, लाखों लोग यात्रा पर जा रहे हैं लेकिन अभी तक खच्चर पर जा रहे हैं। यह रोड बनाया जा सकता है, दुर्घटनाओं को टाला जा सकता है। कृपा कर के आप इन बातों के लिए भी पैसा रखेंगे, मुझे उम्मीद है। आपको बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

[The Vice Chairman (Shri Md. Salim) in the Chair.]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The discussion on the Budget is over now. The Minister will reply tomorrow. We have some Special mentions. I would like to take the sense of the House whether we can have Special mentions now.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am told that, by convention, the reply is delivered in the Lok Sabha first and then it is made in the Rajya Sabha. So, I will come to this House after my reply tomorrow in the Lok Sabha.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): कल लोक सभा में अगर रिप्लाई हो गया तो मंत्री महोदय उसके बाद आएंगे और वहां रिप्लाई करेंगे, यह हमारी रीति है। अभी हम स्पेशल मेंशन ले लेते हैं। चार-पांच माननीय सदस्य बैठे हैं। स्पेशल मेंशन खत्म कर देते हैं। श्रीमती जयन्ती पटनायक।

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to expedite the establishment of ongoing T.V. Projects in Orissa

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Orissa): Sir, at present, four high-power and 64 low-power T.V. transmitters are functioning in the State of Orissa. These transmitters provide a coverage to 83 per cent of the State population. The State Government of Orissa has submitted proposals for installation of another 25 low-power transmitters and for expansion of the Doordarshan network during the Eighth Plan period. A demand was also made to set up the second channel of Doordarshan during this Plan period. Besides, the proposal to set up two auxiliary T.V. studios, one at Sambalpur and another at Jeypore have not been implemented so far. Sir, the Eighth Five Year Plan is going to be completed very soon and the Ninth Plan will commence thereafter. A very little time is left at the disposal of the Central Government. Unless immediate efforts are taken by the