

थी देश में, वह आप काहे को बर्बाद कर रहे हैं—अपनी भी, कांग्रेस की भी। अपने देश का एक ऐसा कारखाना जो मवर आफ दि इंडस्ट्रीज था, उसको हम बर्बाद कर रहे हैं। खाली पैसी कोला पीने से और अंकल चिप्स चबाने से क्या देश चलेगा।

मैं एक बात और कह देता हूँ कि अगर सरकार हमारी बात नहीं सुनेगी तो बिहार में एक ऐसा विकराल आन्दोलन इसको लेकर उठेगा जो सरकार संभाल नहीं सकेगी। जब बिहार के लोग उठेंगे तो आप उन्हें नहीं संभाल सकेंगे। 1942 में भी यही हुआ था, 1957 में भी यही हुआ था, जब प्रकाश नारायण के समय में भी यही हुआ था। इसलिए यदि वही रास्ता सरकार ने पकड़ लिया है तो निर्विवाद रूप से हम जवाब देंगे, लेकिन हम अभी भी आपसे पैट्रियटिक अपील करेंगे कि इस बात पर आप गंभीरता से विचार करें। आप एलान कर दें परन्तु कि ऐसी कोई बात नहीं हो रही है, हम हरे प्रयास करेंगे कि इसको बचाएँ।

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by my esteemed and hon. friend. HEC is the pride of India, built with the help and assistance of the Soviet Union, and it is the foundation of our self-reliance. It cannot be allowed to be dismantled, it cannot be sold—the working class will oppose it to the last. Mr. Vice-Chairman, through you I request the Government to release the necessary funds so that HEC is modernized, and also to arrange for orders to be placed on it. I believe that the Government will not bring that industry to disaster but will try to improve it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Now, we will not take up the Special Mentions which are admitted for today. We will now take up general discussion on the Budget (General), 1995-96, Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 1995-96

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बजट के ऊपर विचार करने के लिए बहुत लम्बा समय हो गया है। अब तो बासी हो गया है। लेकिन.... (व्यवधान)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार): बिना पास किए खर्चा हो रहा है। कहिए कि पास कैसे हो गया?

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: खर्च का तो वैधानिक प्रावधान कर लिया गया है। अब ग्रेजमेंट के आधार पर खर्चा हुआ है। लेकिन मोटे तौर पर बजट के बारे में जो तात्कालिक प्रतिक्रियाएँ होनी चाहिए थी और जिससे देश को भी और सरकार को भी लोगों की भावनाओं का पता चलता, सें समझता हूँ उसमें थोड़ी देरी हो गई। लेकिन देरी होने के बावजूद अगर उसमें कुछ दुस्ती हो सके तो यह देरी स्वीकार करनी चाहिए, क्योंकि अब इसका कोई इलाज नहीं है। वित्त मंत्री जी इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि इस बार के बजट पर तात्कालिक राजनीतिक परिस्थिति का परिणाम हुआ है और उनको यह सपझ में आया है कि हिन्दुस्तान की इतनी बड़ी आबादी जो गरीबी रेखा के नीचे है, उसको राहत जून तक सीधी नहीं दी जाएगी तब तक लोगों की भावनाओं में परिवर्तन और सरकार के प्रति पैदा होने वाली नाराजगी, उसमें कमी होना मुश्किल है और इसलिए शायद पिछले तीन बजट भाषणों के बाद चौथी बार कुछ पौपुलिस्ट कदम उठाने की तरफ सरकार ने इस बार तबोज्जह दी है। यह अच्छी बात है। उसका हथ्र क्या होगा, यह अभी देखना बाकी है? मुझे ऐसा लगता है जैसा कि एक कहावत है—एक हलवाई के घर पर तुलसी पत्त रख दिया गया। राहत की घोषणा यहां हुई है और कहा गया है कि बैंकों से इसकी व्यवस्था होगी। बैंकों की हालत ऐसी है कि जिनको चलाए रखने के लिए भी सरकार को मदद की जरूरत पड़ रही है। अब हम किस चक्र में फंसे गए हैं, इसके आधार पर विचार करने की बहुत बड़ी

[श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी]

जरूरत है ? बजट के मार्फत सुधार कार्यक्रमों पर बहुत आग्रह किया गया है । मैं यह मानता हूँ कि देश की आर्थिक परिस्थितियों में सुधारों की आवश्यकता है । लेकिन मैं वर्तमान सरकार को भी याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि यह लोकतांत्रिक देश है । यह बात ठीक है कि एक सरकार अपने कुछ सुधारों की गतियाँ, दिशाएँ तय करती है लेकिन हर चुनाव के बाद जब नई सरकार बनती है तो उसको और अधिक सुधारने का और अपने दृष्टिकोण के आधार पर आगे बढ़ने की गुंजाइश रहती है । इसलिए इसमें कोई जड़वाद आ जाए, कोई ऐसी भावना पैदा हो जाए कि दाएं-बाएं इसमें मुड़ने की गुंजाइश नहीं है । ऐसा दृष्टिकोण न देश के लिए लाभकारी है, न यहां की अर्थ-नीति के लिए लाभकारी होगा । मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सत्य को इस लोक-तांत्रिक सत्य के अधीन ही हमें इन सुधारों के बारे में भी अपना विचार करना चाहिए । जो हालात मोटे तौर पर दिखाई देने हैं, हमने दिशाएं बयां पकड़ी हैं, साधन कितने जुटाए हैं, इस सबके साथ-साथ मोटे तौर पर यह मानकर चलना चाहिए कि अभी परिणाम नहीं दीख रहे हैं । अभी कितना लंबा समय आम आदमी को राहत मिलने का, उसकी आर्थिक परिस्थिति में सुधार का, उसकी आर्थिक कठिनाइयों को कम करने का, वह कब मौका आएगा । उसके लिए कितनी प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ेगी, यह एक विचारणीय प्रश्न है जिस पर सारा देश चिंतित है ।

मुद्रा स्थिति उतार-चढ़ाव की अवस्था में है । अभी भी संभल नहीं पा रही है और कब छलांग लगाकर बढ़ जाएगी, इसके बारे में विश्वस्त हमें नहीं हैं । राष्ट्रीय कर्ज बढ़ता जा रहा है और आज भी व्यापार संतुलन हमारे विपक्ष में है । जब तक ये ट्रेड बैलेंस हमारे अनुकूल नहीं होगा, हम इस कर्ज से या विदेशी निर्भरता से किस प्रकार से अपने आपको छुड़ा पाएंगे, यह एक प्रश्न जरूर है जो चिंता का विषय है । इसी के कारण देश की गरीबी बढ़ रही है, बेकारी की हालत

खराब हो रही है, इस पर विचार करना चाहिए । जो साधन हैं जिनमें से लोगों की गरीबी और बेकारी के लिए रास्ता ढूंढा जा सकता है, वित्त मंत्री महोदय भी इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि एनुअल प्लान ऐलोकेशन हटा है । हम बढ़ा नहीं पाए । इसी से अंदाज लगता है कि हमारा रिसोर्स मोबिलाइजेशन कितना संकटग्रस्त है, इसका हमें विचार करना चाहिए ।

जब कभी भी किसी देश में कोई कमी पड़ती है, हम एकदम से इम्पोर्ट की तरफ दौड़ते हैं । टेम्पोरेरिली हम उस कमी की पूर्ति करने का प्रयत्न करते हैं लेकिन किन कारणों से यह बेसिक कमी क्यों पैदा हो रही है हम डिमांड को क्यों नहीं मीट कर पाते, एक लांग रज परसेपेक्टिव इसके लिए जो होना चाहिए मुझे अफसोस है कि अभी तक नीतियों से वह प्रकट नहीं हुआ ।

हमारा जो बैलेंस आफ पेमेंट्स है उसके कारण सब कुछ कोशिशें करने के बाद भी विदेशी कर्ज की देनदारियां बहुत बढ़ गई हैं । इस साल भी शायद 8 अरब डालर हम विदेशी देनदारियां दे रहे हैं । कोई ताउजुब नहीं कि आने वाले दो-तीन सालों में लोगों का ऐसा अंदाजा है कि कहीं 13 अरब डालर तक यह रकम न पहुंच जाए । एक्सपर्ट ओपीनियन मेरी यह नहीं है लेकिन जो आशंकाएं प्रकट की जा रही हैं, मैं उनको आपके सामने रखने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ ।

आपने बजट संशोधनों में दो हजार करोड़ की रियायतें दी हैं लेकिन आंतरिक साधन कैसे जुटेंगे, इसकी व्यवस्था दिखाई नहीं दे रही है । और यह आम बात है कि जो राहत हम एनाउंस करते हैं, वह राहत कंज्यूमर तक नहीं पहुंचती । अफसोस के साथ अभी भी कोई ऐसी मशीनरी नहीं है जो इस बात को देखे कि जो रिलीफ हम दे रहे हैं, वह कंज्यूमर तक, उपयोग करने वाले व्यक्ति तक उनकी राहत पहुंचती है या नहीं ? टेम्पोरेरिली कहीं-कहीं कुछ जगहों पर इमिडिएट कुछ दाम घटाने की बात आती है परन्तु

महीने, दो महीने के बाद ही और कारण जोड़कर जितना दाम घटाया था, उससे डोका, दोगुना कीमत आगे बढ़ जाती है। तो फिर जो हम राहत देना चाहते हैं और राहत देते समय आपने भी कई बार शायद सावधान किया है इंडस्ट्रियल्लिस्ट्स को कि अगर ये बेनिफिट्स कज्यूमर को पास आने नहीं दिए गए तो हम दोबारा इस पर विचार करेंगे। पिछले साल भी ऐसी कुछ बातें हुई थीं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका कहीं कोई आब्जेक्टिव ऐनेलिसिस हुआ है क्या ?

हम यह दावा कर सकें कि जो राहत हम दे रहे हैं, जो राहत हम जिन लोगों को देना चाहते हैं, उनको उसका फायदा पहुँचता है या नहीं। यही वजह है कि संसाधन न जुटने के कारण हमें पूँजी-निवेश और जन-कल्याण के कार्य-क्रमों पर रोक लगानी पड़ी, क्योंकि साधनों के अभाव में इन सब बातों की पूर्ति करना असंभव है।

बजट का घाटा आप कम करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं लेकिन यह घाटा बढ़ता जा रहा है। ऐसा लगता है कि इन घाटों के आगे सरकार ने हार मान ली है क्योंकि कहीं भी इन घाटों को कम करने के बारे में कोई ठोस कदम या कोई ठोस सफलता कहीं दिखायी नहीं दे रही है। फिसकल डेफिसिट, 1993-94 में जी.डी.पी. का 6 प्रतिशत था जो कि 1994-95 में 6.7 प्रतिशत हो गया और 1995-96 में 5.5 आपका एस्टीमेट है। अब यह 6 या 6.50 कहीं तक जाएगा। लोगों को आशंका है कि इस मामले में देश को सही तस्वीर बताने में सरकार संकोच कर रही है। वास्तविकता अगर लोगों के सामने आ गयी और उसके आधार पर हम लोगों के अंदर मानसिकता पैदा कर सकेंगे तो इस आर्थिक संकट का मुकाबला करने में सब लोग मददगार साबित हो सकते हैं। बजट घाटे को, जी.एन.पी.के. 4.7 प्रतिशत तक सीमित रखने की बात थी लेकिन 7.3 प्रतिशत तक यह घाटा बढ़ गया है। आपने जो आंकड़े दिए हैं, उसमें यह घाटा 7.7 प्रतिशत गया है। लेकिन आशंका है कि यह घाटा

कहीं 10 प्रतिशत तक न पहुँच जाए। अब यह जो सरकारी आंकड़ों के बारे में एक शंका की परिस्थिति पैदा हो गयी है, इससे लोगों को लगता है कि उनको सही बातें नहीं बतलायी जा रही हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह एक बड़ी कॉन्फिडेंस क्राइसिस है जिसे आम व्यक्ति भी तस्त है और सरकार भी इससे तस्त हो रही है। यह सबसे बड़ा संकट है जिसके ऊपर पार पाना बहुत मुश्किल है।

महोदय, रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट 1991-92 में 16,261 करोड़ था जो कि 1994-95 में 35,541 करोड़ हो गया। ये आंकड़े इस बात को साबित कर रहे हैं कि हालत खराब हैं और सरकार को इसे स्वीकार करना चाहिए। अब यह जो रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट है, आप उधार लेकर इसकी खानापूर्ति करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। आप जानते हैं कि इसका परिणाम हिन्दुस्तान के रुपये की कीमत पर भी पड़ रहा है। आप चार बार रुपये का डेवल्यूशन कर चुके हैं। रुपये को स्थिर रखने के लिए आप विदेशी मुद्रा खरीदकर उसको स्थिर करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। लेकिन यह कब तक आपकी मदद करेगा और कब आप फिर से भारत के रुपये का अवमूल्यन करने के लिए मजबूर हो जायेंगे और फिर यह सारा संकट, यह सारा कर्जा, सारा घाटा, इसकी पूर्ति के लिए हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों से किस प्रकार वसूल करेंगे, इसका आपको सही अंदाजा लगाना चाहिए। उधार की मात्रा बढ़ रही है। 1991-92 में जितना हमने उधार लिया था, 55.2 प्रतिशत रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट की पूर्ति में चला गया 1992-93 में 66.67 प्रतिशत रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट में यह ट्रांसफर हुआ। 1994-95 में यह 62 तक घटा था लेकिन 1995-96 के बजट में यह 67 प्रतिशत हो गया। अब यह जो रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट है, इस पर सरकार को गंभीरता से विचार करना चाहिये। उधार की सी हुई मात्रा अगर रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट में ही पूरी होनी है और इसी रफ्तार से हम चलते रहे तो कहीं कोई ऐसा समय न आ जाए कि पूरी की पूरी ली हुई उधार की राशि रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट की पूर्ति करने में ही हम को खर्च करनी पड़ जाए। फिर तो

विकास करने के लिए कुछ भी नहीं बचगा। क्या हम इसके आधार पर देश की उन्नति कर पाएंगे, यह एक ऐसा सवाल है जिस पर इस देश के अर्थ-नीति निर्धारण करने वाले लोगों को गम्भीरता के साथ विचार करना चाहिये। अब यह एक आम बात हो गई है कि फिस्कल और रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट जो है इसमें सरकार की फिजूलखर्ची एक बहुत बड़ा फक्टर है। हर साल इसके बारे में ध्यान आकर्षित किया जाता है लेकिन शुरू के 8 महीने तो थोड़ा बहुत डिसिप्लन रहता है पर आखिर के चार महीनों में फुल गेट खोल दिये जाते हैं और अनुमान यह है कि 40-45 परसेंट पैसा, ग्लॉटेड मनी खर्च होती है शुरू के 8 महीने में और 50-55 परसेंट पैसा आखिर के चार महीनों में खर्च होता है। इसके कारण करप्शन है, इन्फ्लिशनरी है, मिसयूज है, मिस-एप्रोप्रियेशन है और इसी में से यह रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट बढ़ जाता है। कोई न कोई तरीका हमें निकालना चाहिये। यह बजट हम इस समय क्यों पेश करते हैं, खाने वाले 12 महीनों के खर्चों को हम अगर टाइम टेबल के आधार पर, प्रोपोर्शन के आधार पर खर्च करने की पद्धति नहीं बना पाएंगे तो यह वेस्टेज आफ मनी हो जाती है। खास तौर पर जनवरी महीने से पैसा लुटाना चालू होता है और 31 मार्च तक बिना रुके चलता रहता है क्योंकि समय इतना कम होता है। जो आपने प्रोसीजरल क्ल लगा रख हैं, सभा की कमी के कारण सब लोग उसकी वाग्लेट करते हैं। उस समय इसी बात की होड़ लगती है कि अगर पैसा खर्च नहीं किया तो लैप्स हो जाएगा। लैप्स होने का तो उनकी डर है लेकिन वेस्टेज का उन्हें कम डर है। इन दोनों के बीच में हमें कोई न कोई मापदंड निर्धारित करने की आवश्यकता है।

घाटा पूरा करने के लिए आप रुपये छापते हैं, करेंसी बढ़ाते हैं। अक्टूबर, 1994 में 21.5 परसेंट करेंसी ज्यादा बढ़ गई। अब क्या इसके ऊपर लगाम है, नियंत्रण है? वहाँ से तो आपने तब कर रखा है कि रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया से 6000 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा उधार नहीं लेंगे लेकिन आप जानते हैं बाजार

से आपका उधार पिछले साल 55 हजार करोड़ रुपये का था। यह 6000 करोड़ की सीमा बैंक से तय करने का नतीजा क्या हुआ? उसका कोई फिस्कल डिसिप्लिन में उपयोग नहीं हो सका। इसका विचार करना चाहिये कि जितना यह उधार बढ़ता है उतना ही ब्याज की रकम भी बढ़ती है। ब्याज की रकम बढ़ती है तो लोगों की सेविंग की मात्रा कम होती जा रही है। सेविंग में आपने देखा है कि 1990-91 में यह 23.9 परसेंट थी लेकिन 1993-94 में

savings have gone down to 20.2 per cent.

हिन्दुस्तान कपरेटिवली गरीब देश होते हुए भी रेट आफ सेविंग यहाँ का संतोषजनक माना जाता था लेकिन अगर इस मद पर भी अब लोगों में कमी आ रही है तो

things are seriously bad somewhere

हमको लोगों की सेविंग की केपेसिटी को बढ़ाने के लिए कैसे मदद की जा सकती है, इस पर विचार करना चाहिये। सेविंग की केपेसिटी इसलिए नहीं बढ़ रही है कि कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं। हमारे प्राइम इंडेक्स में 14 परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। पलसेज के प्राइम में 36 परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। प्राइस वेरियेशन बहुत है। फरवरी 1994 और फरवरी 1995 में चाय में 47 परसेंट प्राइसेज में बढ़ोत्तरी हुई, आयल सीड्स में 29 परसेंट बढ़ोत्तरी हुई, अंडे, मांस मछली में 28 परसेंट बढ़ोत्तरी हुई। सीमेंट, दवा, टेक्सटाइल्स में 17 परसेंट बढ़ोत्तरी हुई। अब ये प्राइसेज इसी तरह से बढ़ती रहेंगी तो सामान्य उपभोक्ताओं का इन वस्तुओं के अतिरिक्त तो गुजारा हो नहीं सकता। अगर इसी में उनकी सब कमाई खत्म हो जाएगी तो फिर स्वाभाविक है उनके पास सेविंग नहीं होगी। आजकल तो एक आम प्रचलन हो गया है कि आप रुपये के टर्म में भाव मत पूछो। आप पूछो कि डालर के टर्म में क्या भाव हो गया है। कुछ कमोडिटीज के भाव इतने बढ़ गए हैं कि लोग कहते हैं कि रुपए के भाव में पूछोगे तो हमको लगेगा कि बहुत बढ़ोत्तरी हो गयी है। ऐसी भाषा का इस्तेमाल करो जिसको कामन मैन न समझ सकें। इसलिए डालर की टर्मिना-

लाजी में दाम बताओ। आधों को समझ में आएगा और जिनको समझ में नहीं आएगा उनको कुछ पता नहीं चलेगा। यह बात ठीक है कि अनाज का उत्पादन इस बार बढ़ा है। रिकार्ड तो है ही क्योंकि इतना पहले नहीं हुआ। अतः रिकार्ड उत्पादन तो हो गया। लेकिन पिछले साल से 2.9 मिलियन टन्स ही ज्यादा है। 2.9 टन मिलियन टन्स में भी गेहूँ का जहाँ तक सवाल है वह आधा मिलियन टन कम है। इस फैक्टर को दबाए रखने का लाभ नहीं होगा। वास्तविकताओं का परिचय लोगों तक जाना चाहिए। अब हम बढ़ रहे हैं लेकिन ऐसा लगता है कि 180 मिलियन टन के बाद हम आज ऐसी गति में आ गए हैं जिसमें विकास नहीं दिखाई देता। मोर आर लेस बी आर स्टेबिलाइज्ड आन द फूड फ्रंट और आवश्यकता तथा लोगों का हिसाब ऐसा है कि सन् 2020 तक हमको आज जितना हम अनाज पैदा कर रहे हैं उससे दुगने अनाज की आवश्यकता होगी। अब इन सारी चीजों को हम कैसे मीट करेंगे। यह एक प्रश्न है जिस पर विचार करना चाहिए। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हम फूड ग्रेंस के मामले में पूंजी निवेश लगभग नगण्य कर रहे हैं। आविस्कार, अगर अनाज बढ़ाना है, लोगों की एग्रीकल्चरल कंपैसिटीज को बढ़ाना है तो कैपिटल इन्वेस्टमेंट होना चाहिए। कैपिटल इन्वेस्टमेंट बहुत कम है। इस मद में हमको विचार करना चाहिए और विशेषकर जब सारे इम्प्लायमेंट का 2/3 पार्ट कृषि पर डिपेंड करता है। तो आप दोनों परपोजेज सर्व करेंगे, इम्प्लायमेंट प्रोवाइड करने में भी मदद मिलेगी और एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन में भी इसकी बहुत बड़ी सहायता होगी। आपको इस पर विचार करना चाहिए।

यह चिन्ता की बात है कि बुनियाद से भी हम ढाले नहीं मंगा सकते हैं। उनके प्राइसेज बहुत हैं। हमारे यहां पर पल्सेज की कमी है और गरीब आदमी के लिए शक्तिवर्धक यही एक ग्राम खाद्य है जिसके आधार पर उसका गुजर चलता है। हिन्दुस्तान में तो बाल और रोटी मिल जाए तो उसको सब सुख प्राप्त हो जाता है। इन ढालों का उत्पादन कैसे बढ़ाया जाए इसकी विशेष चिन्ता की जाए।

यह चिन्ता की बात है कि मोटे अनाज के क्षेत्र में 21 परसेंट रिडक्शन हुआ है—एरिया ग्रैंडर कोर्स ग्रेन। अब केवल गेहूँ और चावल के टर्म्स में हम सोचते हैं पर और हिन्दुस्तान की 50 परसेंट आबादी आज भी कोर्स ग्रेन खाती है। अगर कोर्स ग्रेन के एरिया का कल्टीवेशन इसी तरह से घटना जारी रहा तो फिर अनाज की कमी हम पूरी नहीं कर सकेंगे। कृषि क्षेत्र को संस्थागत ऋण, वित्तीय सुधारों के नाम पर घटा दिया गया है। अब वे रिसोर्सिज तो जुटाने पड़ेंगे आपको। राजकीय अनुदानों में भी कमी की गयी है। ये ऐसे फैक्टर्स हैं जिनके बारे में एग्रीकल्चर का विचार करते समय आपको ध्यान देना चाहिए। क्योंकि एग्रीकल्चर में अगर ध्यान नहीं दिया तो फिर लोगों की सारी व्यवस्थाओं में सुधार होने की कोई गंजाइश नहीं रहेगी। एग्रीकल्चर के लिए फर्टिलाइजर का बहुत बड़ा महत्व है। अब सरकार ने भी माना है पिछले दिनों कि जो फर्टिलाइजर पालिसी में चेंजेज हुए हैं उसके बाद पी०ओ०के० के कंजप्शन में बहुत वेरिएशन आ गया है। 4:2:1 यह नामल है उसका और आपने भी माना है कि 15:4:1 एक स्टेज पर यहां तक पहुंच गया है इसके कारण भूमि की उर्वरा शक्ति खत्म हो रही है। अब यह यूरिया लोगों को प्राप्त हो और यूरिया पर सबसिडी दी जाए, लेकिन केवल यूरिया से तो काम नहीं चलता। इस सारे क्षेत्र का पुनर्विचार करके तीनों के तीनों कंपोनेंट्स का प्रोपोर्शनेट यूज हो, अगर इंपोर्ट भी करना है तो इस बात को ध्यान में रखकर किया जाए कि प्रोपोर्शनेट इस्तेमाल अगर होगा तभी भूमि की गुणवत्ता की कमी को आप रोक सकेंगे। उर्वरक नीति बनाकर इसको नियंत्रण किया जाना चाहिए। फर्टिलाइजर पालिसी ऐज सच इसकी बहुत जरूरत है, जिसको बनाना चाहिए मेरा आपसे यह आग्रह है।

किसानों के लिए जो पास बुक देने की बात थी हमको लगता है कि केन्द्र की तरफ से इसमें पहल की जानी चाहिए बहुत सी चीजों के मामले में हम लोग स्टेट्स के लिए गाइडलाइन्स, नाम्बे तय करते हैं। पास बुक एक ऐसा फैक्टर है कि केन्द्र को भी उसमें पहल करके ग्राम

किसान के फायदे की बात करनी चाहिए।

देश की रक्षा का भी उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। अब आप यह स्वीकार करेंगे कि जो आपने पैसा इस बार दिया है अगर इन्फ्लेशन का हिसाब लगाकर देखा जाए तो यह पैसा घटा है इस बार इस पैसे में बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं हुई है। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमको डिफेंस पर अधिक पैसा देने की आवश्यकता है। . . .

(व्यवधान) मैं चाहता हूँ मंत्री महोदय जरा ध्यान दें तो अच्छा होगा। हमें नया वैपन सिस्टम इंट्रोड्यूस करना पड़ेगा। आज जिन देशों से खतरा है, जिन परिस्थिति से हम घिरे हुए हैं कई क्षेत्रों में हमको वैपन सिस्टम बदलना पड़ेगा, मल्टी प्लायरज हमको लगाने होंगे और जो ओम्बो-लीट वैपन्स हो गये हैं इनका अपग्रेडेशन करना पड़ेगा। परसों भी यहाँ पर चर्चा चली थी कि मिलिट्री के पास डिफेंस फोर्स के लिए पैसा कम है। राष्ट्रीय रायफल मिलिट्री के जिम्मे डाल रखा है। अब तो जो स्टैंडिंग कमेटी है उसने भी इस बात की सिफारिश की है कि वह पैरा-मिलिट्री फोर्स है। तो क्यों नहीं डिफेंस पर से इसका खर्चा हटा कर होम मिनिस्ट्री को ट्रांसफर कर दिया जाए? डिफेंस पर पैसा हमारे पास कम है। जो मिसाइल का कारोबार शुरू हुआ था अब कहा गया है हम बड़े संतुष्ट हैं उसकी प्रगति से और प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने कहा है कि यह काम प्राइम मिनिस्टर को ही देखना चाहिए। यह प्राइम मिनिस्टर का शौक हो सकता है, शीशे में मढ़ करके मिसाइल को रोज़ देखना और उस पर संतोष अनुभव करना, लेकिन उनकी संतुष्टि से देश की शांति दूर नहीं होगी। सारी टैक्नीकल कैपेबिलिटी के टेस्ट पूरे होने के बाद पृथ्वी अभी तक हमारी मिलिट्री में इंडक्ट क्यों नहीं हुई, यह सीधा सवाल है? सीधा सवाल है कि और अगर यह डिप्लाम नहीं हुआ है तो भी हम संतुष्ट हैं, या हम उसको कैप नहीं कर रहे हैं। यह तो केवल दिलासा देनेवाली बातें, इन से इस देश की रक्षा के बारे में और किसी भी आक्रमणकारी का मुकाबला करने की क्षमता के बारे में विश्वास नहीं होगा।

इस मामले में सरकार को अपनी नीति बदलनी होगी। कि डिफेंस बजट को और उसका खर्चा किस तरह से हो रहा है, इसको रिव्यू करने की जरूरत है। हमने हैडक्वार्टर्स बना रखे हैं, लेकिन इतने हैडक्वार्टर्स की जरूरत है क्या? इस सवाल को जरूर एंजामिन किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि हरेक हैडक्वार्टर करोड़ों रूपए के खर्चे का आयतन बनता है। मैं यह जानता हूँ कि यह देश बहुत बड़ा है, इसके फ्रंटियर्स हैं, इसके अन-सेफ बार्डर्स हैं, लेकिन इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए भी इसके मिलिटरी हैडक्वार्टर्स कितने किए जाएं, यह एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। इस सवाल को रेलवे के जोनल हैडक्वार्टर्स कितने बनने चाहिए और कहां-कहां उनके डिवीजनल हैडक्वार्टर्स बनने चाहिए, इस आधार पर इसको किसी पापुलर मांग के आधार पर निश्चित करना इसका टेस्ट नहीं है। यह मिलिटरी रिव्वायरमेंट है और मिलिटरी रिव्वायरमेंट के आधार पर ही इनका आप फिर से विचार करें, मेरा यह निवेदन है।

महोदय, मैं यहां एक चीज का उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। कामन मैन के लिए गैस की बहुत जरूरत है और गैस को इम्पोर्ट करने की भी बात चली है। ओमान से लाने की बात चली है। पिछले दिनों में कि उसका रूट कहा होगा, कहा से बदल होगा, अब बहुत संभव है कि वह तय हो गया हो, लेकिन अभी भी जितनी गहराई पर यह पाइप-लाइन्स डालनी हैं कि वह सारे प्रेशर को वर्दास्त करेगी या नहीं क्योंकि दुनिया में जितनी भी पाइप लाइन्स हैं, उनसे यह तीन गुना अधिक गहराई पर यह पाइप-लाइन्स डाली जाने वाली हैं। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि इन सबके लाजिस्टिक के बारे में, हाइड्रो-स्टेटिक प्रेशर के बारे में परीक्षण हो चुका होगा। काश वह दुर्दिन न आए जब कि हमारे पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर पालियामेंट को बताएं कि स्कीम तो बहुत अच्छी थी, लेकिन वर्कबल नहीं है। मैं नहीं समझता कि वह स्थिति पैदा होनी चाहिए। फिर जो गैस पाइप-लाइन में जाती है, उसमें 13 परसेंट पेट्रो-कैमिकल तथा रसोई की एल०पी०जी० शामिल रहती है। अब

बम्बई में, दिल्ली में या हरियाणा में जहाँकि हम बिजली बनाने के लिए गैस का उपयोग कर रहे हैं, वहाँ पर यह पेट्रो-कैमिकल मिला हुआ गैस, उसकी जरूरत नहीं है। एल०पी०जी० की गैस के कंटेन्स निकाले जा सकते हैं। महोदय, एल०पी०जी० की बहुत कमी है और खाद के मामले में पेट्रो-कैमिकल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है। 13 परसेंट अगर इसका कंटेन्ट है तो इसका एकजा-मिनेशन होना चाहिए। आन द रूट आफ द गैस पाइप-लाइन ऐसी इंडस्ट्री एस्टे-नलिश की जा सकती है जहाँ पर कि गैस, कैमिकल फर्टिलाइजर और एल०पी०जी० बचाए जा सकें क्योंकि बिजली बनानेवालों के लिए उसमें कोई कमी नहीं पड़ेगी। नहीं तो फिर यह वही होगा जैसाकि गांव में चलता है कि इस पानी की अब क्या कीमत रह गयी क्योंकि पानी में से बिजली निकाल दी गयी? अब यह सिचाई के काम का पानी नहीं रहा। तो ऐसे लॉजिक देने का कोई फायदा नहीं है। पानी तो पानी है और अगर उसमें से बिजली निकाल दी गयी तब भी पानी की जो तासीर है, खेती की उपज बढ़ाने की उसकी जो ताकत है, उसमें कोई कमी नहीं होती। जो एच०बी०जे० पाइपलाइन थी, उसमें 36 एम० एम० एस०सी०एम०डी० इतनी कंपास्टी थी। राजस्थान को उसमें से 3.25 MMSC MD ही दिया गया। अब यह उसके कारण कुछ भी हो सकते हैं, लेकिन मेरा यह कहना है कि यह जो दूसरी नई पाइप-लाइन डाल रहे हैं, जो विजयपुर से दादरी तक जाएगी, यह राजस्थान के कई जिलों से गुजरती है, वाराण, सवाई, माधोपुर, धौलपुर, भरतपुर, अलवर, इसके लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार इस आशय पर विचार करे कि इसमें से 2 करोड़ वन मीटर गैस प्रतिदिन राजस्थान को दी जाए। मैं चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस सुझाव पर गंभीरता से विचार करे और राजस्थान की इस गैस के अभाव की पूर्ति को पूरा करने की कोशिश करे।

इस प्रकार एक छोटा सा और सवाल है और वह है टैक्स्ट बुक के कागज का।

पिछले दिनों यहाँ एक वक्तव्य तो जरूर दिया गया, लेकिन समस्या वहीं की वहीं खड़ी है। जो प्राइस एक साल के अंदर जनवरी, 1994 और मार्च, 1995 में रही उसमें डायमंड कोट इंडियन आर्ट पेपर जो 37/- रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम था वह 56/- रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम बिक रहा है, बी.पी.एल. मैपलिनो जो 27 रुपये 75 पैसे था वह 45/- रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम बिक रहा है, जे. के. पल्प बोर्ड जो 27/- रुपये था वह अब 41/- रुपये बिक रहा है। मने यह कुछ ही वेंरायटी की कीमतें आपके सामने रखने की कोशिश की है। इससे टैक्स्ट बुक छापना अब प्रकाशकों के लिए बहुत कठिन हो गया है क्योंकि इनको छाप कर वह सस्ती पुस्तकें नहीं दे सकते। हमने यूनिवर्सल एजुकेशन की बात की है, लेकिन यूनिवर्सल एजुकेशन के मामले में किताबें चाहिए। अगर गरीब का बच्चा उन कीमती किताबों को खरीद नहीं सकता तो फिर यह यूनिवर्सल एजुकेशन का मतलब अधूरा रह जाएगा। इसलिए मैं मांग करता हूँ कि इस पर गंभीरता के साथ विचार करें। इस मामले को मैं ज्यादा नहीं ले जाना चाहता। पेपर प्रोडक्शन कंट्रोल आर्डर सन् 1974 का पहले था, हमने उसका रिपील किया, लेकिन यह एसोरेन्स दिया था कि टैक्स्ट बुक छापने वालों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में और उचित दाम पर कागज मिलेगा। अब वह काम नहीं हो रहा है। हमें रिवाइज करना चाहिए इस बात को कि 30 परसेंट प्रोडक्शन यह टैक्स्ट बुक छापने वालों को प्राप्त हो। मैं यह भी मानता हूँ कि यह एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. ही केवल टैक्स्ट बुक के लिए नहीं है। कल के स्टेटमेंट में एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. की आवश्यकता हम पूरी कर लेंगे, यह तर्क दिया गया है। एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. क्या काम कर रही है, क्या उसका परिणाम है, यह अलग विषय हो जाएगा, लेकिन यह सीमित नहीं होना चाहिए एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. पर। जितने भी टैक्स्ट बुक पब्लिकेशन हैं, उन सब लोगों को यह कागज मिलना चाहिए और सरकार अगर इसकी पूर्ति नहीं करेगी।

लोगों की पढ़ाई में और पुस्तकों की प्राप्ति में बहुत तकलीफ होगी ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक दूसरे बड़े विषय पर आना चाहता हूँ और वह है अनएम्प्लायमेंट का । यह अनएम्प्लायमेंट घटना चाहिए, प्रोग्रेसिवली घटना चाहिए । यह हम दावा कर रहे हैं, लेकिन 1993-94 में एक मिलियन बेरोजगारों की संख्या बढ़ गई । यह वो फिगर्स दिए हैं कल 1986, 1987, 1988 के जो कंपायल्ड फिगर्स हैं, उसके आधार पर देने की कोशिश की । वित्तमंत्री महोदय ने कह दिया कि अब नए आंकड़े तैयार हो रहे हैं, जब होंगे तब हम आपको प्रोवाइड करेंगे । आप यह करे तो अच्छी बात लेकिन बेकारी के मामले में या गरीबी के मामले में देश की हालत बिगड़ती जा रही है । 35.48 करोड़ लोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे हैं मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार, आई.एम० ग्रोपन फॉर करेक्शन, लेकिन 1987-88 के फिगर देखकर 1994-95 में लोगों को संतोष नहीं हो सकता । आपको इन वर्निंग इश्यूज़ पर कुछ न कुछ जल्दी जल्दी आंकड़े प्राप्त कराकर लोगों को वास्तविकता से परिचित कराना होगा ।

छंटनी हो रही है, कारखाने बंद होने के कारण वे मजदूरों को वहां से निकाल रहे हैं । अब यह एनामली है कि यह कहा जाता है कि कोई छंटनी नहीं होगी, ऐसा नहीं होगा । शायद सारा का सारा ध्यान आरगेनाइज्ड लेबर पर है । आरगेनाइज्ड लेबर में तो विचार कर सकते हैं आप पर 90 परसेंट इस देश में अनऑरगेनाइज्ड है और बेकारी का सबसे बड़ा शिकार अनऑरगेनाइज्ड लेबर है—न यूनियन है, न उसके पास कोई आवाज है, न जवान है—और आर्थिक परिस्थिति की मा सबसे ज्यादा उस पर पड़ रही है, इसको हमें स्वीकार करना होगा । मैंने जैसा शुरू में कहा कि जो कुछ मदद दी गई गरीबी रेखा के नीचे के बच्चों को मिड डे मील के नाम पर, या कुछ बड़ों को दी गई है ओल्ड एज पेंशन के नाम पर

या लाइफ इश्योरेंस या खादी इंडस्ट्रीज़, के द्वारा लेकिन आपने तो उसकी जवाबदारी नहीं ली, आपने ट्रांसफर कर दिया—कुछ स्टेट्स को कर दिया, कुछ बैंक्स को कर दिया ।

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू (बिहार) : सारी जवाबदेही ये लेंगे तो मुश्किल हो जाएगी ।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : अब यही तो मुश्किल है, जहां जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए वहां नहीं ले रहे हैं, वहां रास्ता बता रहे हैं कि इस तरह से इसकी पूर्ति हो सकती है । और वहां खजाना खाली है, बैंकों के पास पैसा नहीं है । मैं उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ कि जयपुर में बैंकों ने लोगों को ऋण देने के लिए ऐप्लीकेशनस मांगी, वहां पर 26 बैंक की ब्रांचिज हैं । 3,226 ऐप्लीकेशनस आई और पिछले साल वह केवल 26 ऐप्लीकेंट्स को ऋण दे सके । अब यह जो पेस है, इस पेस के आधार पर बैंकों के मार्फत जो आप इनकी मदद करना चाहते हैं, इस पर आप विचार करिए ।

देश में 5200 ब्लॉक हैं और 1778 ब्लॉक बेकवर्ड एरिया में हैं । बेकवर्ड एरिया में तो शायद 70 परसेंट लोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे हैं । उनके लिए आपने क्या कदम उठाया है ? उनको दो समय का खाना मिल जाएगा, क्या आप उनको इसकी कोई गारंटी देने की बात करेंगे ? अब यह इतना बड़ा फील्ड है, कोई न कोई एजेंसी निकालनी पड़ेगी ।

जवाहर रोजगार योजना में जो काम मिलता है, उसमें 50 प्रतिशत कैश, 50 प्रतिशत फूड ग्रेन है । अब उस फूड ग्रेन का पैसा इतना अधिक काटा जाता है कि बाजार में फूड ग्रेन उससे सस्ता कीमत पर मिलता है, इसलिए वे इंटर-सिटिड नहीं है । अर्थात् वहां अनाज देकर के उनके बेलन में से ज्यादा पैसा काटा जाता है, इसीलिए जवाहर रोजगार योजना फिसल रही है, लोगों के आकर्षण का केन्द्र नहीं है ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्रा (बिहार) : क्वालिटी अच्छी रहती है ।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : वह एक अलग विषय है, अभी तो मैं कीमत की बात कर रहा हूँ, उसकी क्वालिटी या वह खाने योग्य है या नहीं, वह अलग बात है। मैं समझता हूँ कि एक अच्छी स्कीम, उसके साथ जो चीजें जोड़ दी हमने और उनका अगर ठीक प्रकार से रख-रखाव नहीं कर पाते तो वह कितनी अनुपयोगी हो जाती है, इस पर आप विचार करके देखिए।

SHRI M. A. BABY: (Kerala):
In Kerala, the anesthesiologists use it to make people unconscious.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Well, that is one way.

अब यह जो नौकरो देने वाली बातें हैं, स्माल स्केल इण्डस्ट्रीज—लघु उद्योग, काटेज इण्डस्ट्रीज करल इंडस्ट्रीज यह बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र है। अब आपने लघु उद्योग में पूंजी की सीमा बढ़ा दी। अब पूंजी की सीमा बढ़ा दो, फिर मिडिल स्केल के उद्योग भी उसमें आ जायेंगे।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : बेबी जी कह रहे हैं कि सरकार की एनेस्थीसिया हो गई है, भाषाओं का असर नहीं होता।

श्री सुंदर सिंह भंडारी : आखिर वह बच्चे कहा तक रहेंगे? अगर कामन मैन को हेल्थ अफेक्ट हो रही है तो सरकार भी कामन मैन के रिप्रजेंटेटिव हैं और यह कहना कि यहाँ तक असर नहीं पहुँचेगा।

This is something beyond imagination.

और इसलिए कहीं यह लक्वा न मार जाए इस सारे सोच पर, इसकी ज़रूर चिन्ता करनी चाहिए। मेरा ऐसा कहना है कि इन लघु उद्योगों के बारे में विशेष चिन्ता की जाए। 24 परसेंट इन्वेस्टमेंट के बजार 49 परसेंट इन्वेस्टमेंट की छूट दे दी। अब इसमें 49 परसेंट इन्वेस्टमेंट के बाद आप लार्ज हाउसेज को या मल्टी नेशनल्स को इस क्षेत्र में से कैसे रोकेंगे अगर एक बार यह देख लें हम तो क्या आपको इसकी कल्पना नहीं है कि गांवों से उद्योग या छोटी बस्तियाँ में से उद्योग शिफ्ट होकर बड़े शहरों की तरफ जाएंगे

और यह जो प्रोब्लम है हमारे यहाँ पर माइग्रेटरी पोपुलेशन का और गांवों में लोगों की रोजगार न मिलने के कारण मजबूरी में शहरों के फुटपाथ पर ज़िदगी बसर करना पसंद करते हैं, अब यह जो छोटे उद्योग थे वही एकमात्र सहारा था उनको गांवों में टिकाए रखने के लिए और जिन महीनों में उनको खेत पर रोजगार नहीं मिलता था, मारी फैमिली इण्डस्ट्री के रूप में यह लोग वहाँ काम करते थे। आज उनके सारवाइवल का सवाल खड़ा हो गया है और उतनी ही मात्रा में वह बेकारी बढ़ने की बात इसमें से पैदा होनी वाली है।

यह दो-चार छोटे प्रश्न मैंने अलग-अलग करके आपके सामने रखे, मैं फिर से आपको देश के आज के आर्थिक चित्र पर ले जाना चाहता हूँ। हमारे देश का एन्युअल ग्रोथ रेट क्या है? जी०डी०पी० जो 1988 से 1991 में 6.8 परसेंट था वह 1992 से 1995 में 3.7 परसेंट ही रह गया।

श्री जगेश देसाई (महाराष्ट्र) : और 1991-92 में क्या था?

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : 1991-92 में जो था, तो क्या अब उसके भरोसे जिन्दा रहेंगे या 1995 में आज क्या है इसके भरोसे नहीं, आप गिना सकते हैं। अगर आप गिनाकर समझते हैं कि : you are substantiating the country's economy. The suggestion would be welcome. But where have we come to We have reduced by half or less than half.

1988-91 में जो औद्योगिक उत्पादन 8.2 परसेंट था वह 1992-95 में 3.7 परसेंट रह गया है। लैस देन हाफ। जो कृषि का उत्पादन 6.3 परसेंट था It has come down to 1.8 percent and practically stabilised.

हमारा एक्सपोर्ट जो 17.2 परसेंट था, वह अब 8.3 परसेंट रह गया।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी-क्रमागत

Exports have come down from 17.2 percent to 8.3 percent despite four devaluations of the rupee.

मैं इस पर आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ, अगर यह डिब्रेल्यूशन नहीं हुए होते तो हमारा एक्सपोर्ट कहां होता, इस पर विचार करने की बात है ? इसी कारण से यह जो हमारा कर्ज है, उस कर्ज के मामले में भी वृद्धि आया है 90-91 में टोटल डेट 446 हजार करोड़ था जो अब 94-95 में 775 हजार करोड़ हो गया। अब लगभग दुगुना हमारा कर्ज बढ़ा है। अब सवाल खड़ा होता है कि बजट में ऐसी कौन सी व्यवस्था की गई है जिसमें से ये कर्ज घट जाए क्योंकि कर्ज अगर नहीं घटता है तो हमारा जो हर साल डेट सर्विसिंग का मामला है, वह हमारे लिए बढ़ता जा रहा है। गत वर्ष हमने 106 करोड़ रुपया कर्ज चुकाने के लिए दिया। इसमें 44 हजार रुपया केवल व्याज का था। अब 106 करोड़ रुपया हमने दिया तो हमारी टोटल रिबेन्यू रिसीट्स का 88% थी। अब कैसे इन दोनों का मेल बैठाना जाए, इसका आपको हिसाब बैठाना पड़ेगा। आज टोटल डेट इतना है देश के अंदर परकैपिटल 7 हजार रुपए कर्ज का हिस्से में आता है। अब इस प्रकार की परिस्थिति में हम देश को आगे ले जाने का विचार किस प्रकार से कर सकते हैं ? हम उधार ले रहे हैं एक रुपए में 24 पैसे, इंटरनल सोर्स और 2 पैसे एक्सटरनल सोर्स से पूरे के पूरे 26 पैसे हम इंटेरेस्ट में पे कर रहे हैं। अब य सीधा हिसाब हो गया। अब इस तरह की अगर परिस्थितियां हैं तो फिर अब हम तरक्की की और अंचाई की बात कैसे करें ? वास्तविक आंकड़ों में आप फेर-बदल बता सकें तो मुझे खुशी होगी, लेकिन ये टोटल पिक्चर ग्लूमी है। हम इस बात को जरूर सोचकर चलें। जो विदेशों का पैसा आया है, 30 हजार करोड़ रुपया विदेशी निवेशक यहां लाए हैं लेकिन उसमें मुद्रा प्रसार में ही 45 परसेंट की बढ़ि हुई है, इन्फ्लेशन बढ़ा है।

उससे कितने का हम लाभ उठा पाएंगे ? क्योंकि ये जो फारेन रिजर्व्स हैं, जिनकी बात की जाती है, वह 23 बिलियन हो गया। अब उस 23 बिलियन में स्ट्राक और बाइंड में कितना पैसा है ? मेरे हिसाब से लगभग 8 बिलियन ये स्ट्राक और बाइंड में है। डायरेक्ट इन्वेस्टमेंट में 2 बिलियन ने ज्यादा नहीं है। अब इस तरह का पैसा अगर हिंदुस्तान में है, क्योंकि आज उनकी फायदा हो रहा है यह हाट मती कहलाना है यह और अगर बिन मंत्री थोड़ा सा शिफ्टिंग कामने की कोशिश करेंगे तो इस पूंजी के हिंदुस्तान से पलायन की कोई नहीं रोक सकता।

इन्वेस्टमेंट कितना हुआ है, सीधा सा सवाल है और अगर हम यह कर सकते तो फिर केवल यह आंकड़े देकर कि फारेन रिजर्व्स हमारा बढ़ गया, इसमें कामन सैन को कहां लाभ मिल रहा है, यह देखने वाली बात है।

आपने उदारीकरण की नीति स्वीकार की, बहुत अच्छा किया क्योंकि वर्षों में सरकारी कंट्रोल, नियंत्रण, सरकारी मितिक्रय, उन लाइसेंस के चक्कर में हिंदुस्तान के उद्योग को हमने फंसा रखा था और उसमें से करप्शन और इन-एफिशियेंसी पैदा हुई। यह अच्छी बात है कि सरकार ने इस मान लिया कि ये जो कंट्रोल इकानामी की बात थी, यह काम नहीं देगी। आपने लिबराइजेशन किया, हमने उसका स्वागत किया है लेकिन यह समय में नहीं आया कि लिबराइजेशन ग्लोबलाइजेशन के बिना अधूरा कैसे है ? यह दू साइड्स आफ सेम क्वार्टर है कि क्या बनाया जा सकता है। यह आप्रेशन हमारे हाथ में रहना चाहिए कि ग्लोबलाइजेशन, हम भारत को वर्ल्ड मार्केट से, वर्ल्ड एकानामी में अलग नहीं रख सकते। लेकिन हम जिन क्षेत्रों में फारेन कैपिटल यहां बुलायें, फारेन कैपिटल हस्तक्षेप कितना करे यह जरूर विचार करने का विषय है। इस पर हमें सोचना चाहिए। यहां पर ट्रिक्स की बात बहुत हो गयी है। बाल-पेन भी मल्टीनेशनल बनाने लगे हैं। अब कहीं तो हमको रुकना पड़ेगा। अगर इस मामले में हमने कोई भी नियंत्रण लागू

करने की कोशिश नहीं को तो फिर इस देश की औद्योगिक प्रगति को बचाए रखना हमारे लिए मुश्किल हो जाएगा। इसलिए मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि अगर आप बाहर से सामान मंगाने हैं तो क्या आप इस बात का फैसला नहीं कर सकते कि फिनिश मैटीरियल मंगाने के बजाए रा-मैटीरियल या अनफिनिश गुड्स क्यों न मंगाए। यह एक अप्रोच है कि इम्पोर्ट बर्डन हम कैसे घटा सकते हैं। कई चीजों में हमें इम्पोर्ट करना पड़ेगा। लेकिन हर चीज में यह मापदंड रहेगा कि हम फिनिश गुड्स को मंगाने के बजाए अन-फिनिश रा-मैटीरियल से अगर गुजारा कर सकें तो ऐसा क्यों न करें। देश में हम इसके लिए क्यों न अवसर पैदा करें।

पब्लिक सेक्टर के बारे में पिछले दिनों जो रिपोर्ट्स आये हैं, पब्लिक इंटरप्राइज सेलेक्शन बोर्ड, ऐसा कहा गया है कि इसमें तीन मेंबर हैं। 167 मिटिंग्स में से it was presided over by only one member of the Board और दूसरा एक मेंबर बहुत लैट स्टेज में इसमें अर्वाइंट किया गया। And, the third member was not there. It was a one-man-show यह वन मैन शो के आधार पर सारे पब्लिक सेक्टर के क्षेत्र को छोड़कर इसके बारे में इतना गैर-जिम्मेदाराना दृष्टिकोण रखा जाए, मैं नहीं समझता कि यह उचित है। आप उनके शेयर बेचना चाहते हैं। मेरा यह कहना है कि इन मनी को आप सामान्य व्यक्ति की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए इस्तेमाल करें। पीने का पानी है, मकान है, सड़क है, यह पैसा उसमें लगाना चाहिए बजाए इसके कि हम और तरीके से इस धन का उपयोग करें। इस मामले में आप इसको लगाएं।

लघु उद्योग के क्षेत्र में जो रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट है, आपने 200 करोड़ रुपये उसके लिए रखे हैं। लघु उद्योगों की 23 लाख यूनिट्स हैं और 40 परसेंट आफ टोटल प्रोडक्शन जो इस देश का है वह लघु उद्योग से जुड़ा है। अब यह

200 करोड़, मेरा आपसे आग्रह है कि इस पर आप एक बिन्दी और बड़ा दीजिए और 200 की जगह पर इसे 2000 करोड़ रुपये रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट के लिए लगाएं। मेरा आपसे कहना है कि इनकम टैक्स में, आपने थोड़ा सा ओंठों पर मलाई लगाने की बात की है, इन्फ्लेशन रेट के साथ उसका कोई संबंध नहीं है। वेल्यू आफ रूपी के साथ इसका कोई संबंध नहीं है। मेरी मांग है कि इसकी मिनिमम टूट 50 हजार रुपये की जानी चाहिए। यह आज की मिनिमम रिक्वायरमेंट है। आप जानते हैं कि 60 परसेंट रेलवे का फ्रेट बढ़ गया है और थू-आउट इंडस्ट्री पर इसका प्रभाव होने वाला है। स्टेट्स इरीगेशन के रेट और पावर के रेट बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं। हवाई जहाजों का किराया बढ़ाने की बात चल रही है। आखिर इन सब प्रेशर्स में एकानामी का सेव करना यह एक महत्वपूर्ण बात है। यह अगर नहीं हुआ तो आम लोगों पर इसका बहुत बड़ा असर पड़ेगा। मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर में केपिटल इनवस्टमेंट बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर में वृद्धि हुए बिना हम इंडस्ट्री और प्रोग्रेस के मार्ग में आगे नहीं बढ़ सकेंगे। रेवेन्यू डेफिसिट के बारे में एक हार्ड लाइन लीजिये। आधा हो जाए आज की अवस्था में, इस बात का प्रयत्न करिये। अगले बजट में आधे से ज्यादा न बढ़ जाए, इस का यहां पर विचार होना चाहिये। अगर यह आधा हो गया तो निश्चित रूप से जी०डी०पी० में 6 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हो जाएगी। अगर इन सुझावों पर ध्यान दिया गया तो मैं समझता हूं कि इस बजट में जरूर कुछ चीजें पूरी हो जाएंगी। एडमिनिस्ट्रेंट प्राइसेज को रिव्यू करने के लिए एक कमीशन बनाया जाए, आरबी-ट्रेरी कीमतें जो बढ़ जाती हैं, कभी-कभी बढ़ जाती हैं, इसका इकोनोमी पर असर पड़ता है। इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के आधार पर बेसिक रा-मैटीरियल वह देते हैं तो मन-मानी करने का हक उनका समाप्त होना चाहिये और इसी प्रकार से स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज को अगर विशेष प्रोत्साहन नहीं दिया गया तो फिर स्वदेशी, स्वावलम्बन और मैं समझता हूं इससे राष्ट्रीय स्वा-

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी-कमागत
भिमान जुड़ा हुआ है, इन बातों की रक्षा
करना असम्भव होगा। मेरे इन सुझावों
पर सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार करें, यह मेरा
आग्रह है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, बहुत बहुत
धन्यवाद।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Sir, the points raised by Shri Bhandariji and many grey areas which he has indicated, I think, will be in the minds of almost all the Members. Sir, I would, first of all, point out that we came to power in June, 1991. At that time, the economic situation was so bad that we were on the verge of bankruptcy. The industrial growth was negative. As regards our foreign exchange reserves, they were not able to meet even the fifteen days' import. The inflation had gone up to 16.7 per cent. First of all, we had to put the economy back on the rails. I have found from my experience that whenever the non-Congress Government was there and when the Congress again came back to power, the legacy in economic terms was very bad. It was very difficult one or two years to bring back the economy on rails in 1977-78, when the Janata Party was in power and when they left the Government and Madam Indiraji came to power, the inflation was 21 per cent, GDP was minus, industrial production was minus everything was minus. The first task of any Government will be to put again the things on rails and that work has been done by our Prime Minister and our able Finance Minister in the last three years. Sir, I would like to point out one thing that this Budget is non-inflationary. There is no, I would say, burden of excise duty. On the contrary, they have reduced the excise duty on many items. As such now we are seeing the picture. I think in the month of March, the inflation rate was 11 per cent and on 22nd April, the inflation came down to 8.74 per cent. It is because the policy

of the Government and the Budget has played a major part in bringing down inflation. Sir, Mr. Bhandari raised one point regarding bank credit. He said banks will not be able to give sufficient advances, banks are in a bad state. Mr. Bhandari, I will give the actual figures. Bank credit in the year 1994-95 up to January has gone up by 13.6 per cent than the earlier years. I have got the figures with me. That means banks has given (Interruptions).

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: To which section of the society?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I am telling you, if bank credit is given to industry it can produce more goods. But in the earlier years bank credit had gone up only by 6.3 per cent. So, I would like to say that the Government have got money by which banks can give credit and that can be utilized for the purpose of development. That should be the policy of the Government not for holding up other parties but for industry. As far as the GDP is concerned, in 1991-92, it was only 0.9 per cent. In 1993-94 it had gone up to 4.3 per cent. In 1994-95 it had gone up to 5.3 per cent and I am confident, as a student of economics that this year it may go up by more than six per cent and that should be the motto of the Finance Minister and accordingly, he has to chalk out his policies. As regards the points raised by Mr. Bhandari about savings, yes, that is a very very grave point. Saving has gone down from 23.3 per cent to 20.2 per cent in the current year and here the Finance Minister has to act. How to act I can give my suggestions? But it is for him to consider. And I feel that we have to give a thrust to saving and that can only be done by giving incentives for savings. As such, the Finance Minister was kind enough to raise the limit under section 80I from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000. I talked to him and I told him why are "you are a miser

in this." The Economic Adviser; Mr. Raja Chelliah; has given some thought to it. He has added that because the savings rate has been reduced and unless savings are generated we cannot depend on foreign investment alone but with domestic investment on foreign investment, if savings are not there then you cannot have any kind of development. That is why he suggested a scheme. I would like the Finance Minister to consider it. Sometimes I cannot be in agreement with Mr. Raja Chelliah but this has definitely has convinced me that if a person pays 10 per cent of the income for the pension fund and it is totally exempted from income tax, not more than Rs. 50,000 exemption should be given. I do not say that the common man is going to put in the scheme but it is the tax payer. If that scheme is adopted I am sure you will be able to get a target of 23 per cent for savings and those savings can be utilised for the purpose of investment. I am happy that you have raised the point and that point was in my mind also. Sir, on some points I have agreed with you and also with what you said about inflation. No doubt, the wholesale price is not the real indicator for our housewives. The prices are going up. The prices are going up. This is particularly, so in the case of items of mass consumption like edible oils, pulses, etc. Of course, in the case of foodgrains, to some extent because of the PDS, you are able to give. But coarse foodgrains are not being given through the PDS. Mr. Bhandari raised this issue. Time and again I have said that coarse foodgrains should also be supplied through the PDS. The Government should procure. The State Government could be made the agency. On behalf of the Central Government, they should procure macca, bajra and jowar. We have seen. In Rajasthan, many tirbals consume macca. From the PDS they take wheat, but that

wheat goes to the market. I have seen it in my native place, Dahod. It comes there in the mandis and is being sold. To stop this, the Government should come forward, procure coarse foodgrains and supply them through the PDS in those areas where the people consume that kind of foodgrains. This would help them.

In regard to edible oils, the problem is there. There is no doubt about it. Then, the production of pulses has gone down. Even the acreage has gone down. Therefore, we have to give a thrust to the production of pulses and oilseeds so that the availability could be increased. I think we have been talking about this problem for the last ten years. We see that the production per capita has gone down. We have to give a big thrust

The third point which Mr. Bhandari had raised was about the multi-nationals. I would come to that later on. I have my own views on that. I think many of the wishes which you have expressed, if they could be translated into action, the whole House would welcome it. But all the wishes cannot be translated into realities because of some reasons.

You have mentioned about the revenue deficit. Yes, I agree. The Finance Minister is also very much worried about it. We are all worried about it. But we are not able to reduce it. It is increasing every year. The non-Plan expenditure is mounting. The proportion of Plan expenditure is only 28 per cent. The non-Plan expenditure accounts for 72 per cent. A major part of it goes towards subsidies for defence interest and other items. Seventy-two per cent goes towards non-Plan expenditure. I would come to the question of defence afterwards. I have my own strong views on it. (Interruptions)

No doubt, we are concerned over the price situation also. But Sir, so long as the production does not increase, the prices cannot be brought down. The only way to bring down the prices would be to have more and more production. For this purpose, we have to see that the performance of the public sector is improved. Here I see that this year's picture is dismal. As you know, I have always been a supporter of the public sector. Unfortunately, in the current year, we see that the number of sick units has gone up. It has not come down. We have to find out the reasons. The number of public sector undertakings incurring losses is increasing. Secondly, secondly, the losses of the loss-making public sector undertakings are further increasing. I think a study has to be conducted to find out the reasons for this. We should find out whether it is because of inefficiency or it is because they are not getting enough finance. We have to correct this. We do not want the public money to be wasted on loss-making public sector units. I have come to the conclusion. We have to correct it. We have to improve it. Wherever it is not possible, we have to take corrective action.

As far as the liberalisation programme is concerned, the licence-permit system had to go and it has gone. It is welcomed both by the industry and by the other sections of the people in the country. This was the root-cause for corruption. There was red-tapism and the consequential delay. The delay led to cost escalation. As such, this is the correct policy. At the same time, our Prime Minister has said more than once that the Indian industry should not be hit by the liberalisation or by any of the other measures. That is the commitment of the Prime Minister, and I am sure that that

commitment has to be put into action. I am very confident that our Finance Minister too will take care to see that by having foreign collaboration and foreign capital, our indigenous industry does not suffer.

I have seen the results of 1994-95. I find that liberalization has not affected our indigenous industries. Profits are going up. I have seen the balance sheets and accounts of some of the companies, at least those which have come in the newspapers. Some companies profits to have increased to the extent of 35 per cent and 47 per cent.

AN HON. MEMBER: Even 85 per cent.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I have seen 47 per cent and 35 per cent, and I have told my good friend, Mr. Birla, how it has happened. If the sales of these companies have not gone up to the extent of the increased profits, then it is a miracle. It can be by two methods only. One is by efficiency and the other is by hiking the prices. So, the Indian industry should not be allowed to hike the prices also. We have to see that they do not take undue advantage of, what we call, market economy. Ultimately, the people of the country will also judge. If you are taking a fair margin of profit, people will allow it, but if you also try to take advantage of the market forces, as I said earlier in this House, market forces in this country, when things are in short supply, will not work. Hoarding will be there, artificial scarcity will be created and supply can be restricted till prices go up. That is why what our Prime Minister said in Copenhagen is one thing which I very much appreciated, that we must have a market plus policy. I would like you to go through the speech of our Prime Minister in this regard.

Secondly, as we have accepted the policy of mixed economy from the time of Panditji, I would like to

quote what our Prime Minister had said in davos:

"The middle way is not just a philosophical postulate enjoined by the Great Buddha. It has permeated India's life in a variety of ways. When the communist ideas tended to overpower Indian thinking, Prime Minister Nehru adopted the concept of mixed economy. He was criticized in every quarter, right and left, but the mixed economy concept has saved India time and again from political submission and economic dependence."

This is the policy and this policy, I am sure, the Congress Party is wedded to for all times, or, at least till a new thinking comes up and something better than this comes up. But I am convinced that this is the only policy by which we shall be able to have growth, whereby the fruits will also be equitably distributed to the people of this country. I see that this policy has worked very well, and this policy of middle path is nothing but this. In this country, only market forces cannot work because this is a country where 30 per cent of the people are below the poverty line and many people are not getting even one square meal a day. As such, in this country there should be some kind of control by which the poorer sections of people can get items of daily necessity at affordable prices. This is how I interpret the concept as a person who has seen Narasimha Raoji working, and I think this is his concept and that concept is the only concept which our party and our Government should adopt, to see that the market forces do not exploit the common man, at least so far as those and technological exchanges with required by the common man are concerned. As far as the public sector is concerned, there is an impression that this Government is killing the public sector. Sir, you know very well that I have always advocated that both the public sector and the private sector, keeping the concept of mixed economy of Panditji in

view, have to remain in this country. Especially, the public sector should remain. Because of its infrastructure industries, we have to take more care of the public sector, and we must give more attention to the public sector. But, every now and then, it is being said that we are starving the public sector of finances. I am very sorry to say that this is totally false. I have seen the allocation given to the public sector in the last three to four years. I have seen that every year, barring three to four years. I have seen that every year, barring one year, it was increased. In the present Budget also the Central Plan has been increased by 2.2 per cent. Bhandariji, this time also, the Central Plan has increased and not decreased. Even if you take the inflation into account, it has increased, not decreased.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Take the total of Plan and non-Plan.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I am talking about the Centre. I will come to the non-Plan aspect. I am very much unhappy about it because the Plan expenditure is only 28 percent, and non-Plan is 72 per cent. Here we require more resources for the Plan, and, that in why, foreign investment is necessary.

I have come to the conclusion that you have to have your own resources. For that purpose, you have to go in for more savings. Till then, you have to exploit the resources of the country. This is the centenary year of Krishna Menon. So, it reminds me that he always said, "India is not a poor country, but India is a country of poor people. India is rich culturally and minerally. We have to exploit it."

At present, if we do not have the resources what is to be done? As our Prime Minister said, it will take time for the common man to get the fruits of liberalisation. The Government and persons like me think

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that the fruits should go to them. It will take time. Till then, what is to be done? Till then, we have to see how we can benefit them through some schemes which will benefit them directly. That is why, last year and this year, you have allocated more resources for rural development. As I told you earlier, if we are not going to tap our resources and if we are not going to take advantage of our natural resources, then, we shall be a hundred years behind other countries. We have to go in for foreign collaboration for investment.

I will give the example of China. From 1966 to 1976, for ten years, their economy was in such a shambles that they were getting 18 per cent less returns on a unit of investment. That is why, in 1976, they thought that in that way it would be very difficult. As such, in 1978 they started the liberalisation process. But, I must say that they have taken many precautions. I have not gone to China. I have not discussed it with them. But, from the literature which I have read, they have taken many, many safeguards to see that foreign investment was in a particular type of industry and the benefits would go to the people of the country. Secondly, they have also tried to see that the indigenous industry should not be hard hit by foreign collaboration. The Chairman of any foreign collaboration should be a Chinese, and the Vice-Chairman can be a foreigner. They have also seen that the labour of the company, though they were not Directors, would be invited to their meetings, and their views would be taken into consideration in formulating their plans. I cannot say whether it was implemented or not. But, these are good things. I feel that some study should be made. Our Finance Minister must have gone there. A person like me cannot get all the material. A book came into my hands about China's economic liberalisation. From that I find that China is doing

very well. The thrust of their approach on foreign investment is to have export industries. They have made special tax laws giving them all kinds of concessions only to attract the foreign investors. Thirdly, they have also tried to adopt some mechanism of prices. I will just read out one sentence on their objective: "Reform and self-reliance". "China has made a point of stressing self-reliance to be the basis of socialist modernisation. In the peaceful international environment, it regards opening up to the outside world and broadening the scope of economic and technological exchanges with foreign countries as condition essential to the modernisation undertaken." But what should be the relationship between self-reliance and opening up to the outside world? As you know, self-reliance means the country relies on itself, uses its own resources, technology and draws up its own strategy for economic development in the light of the country's specific conditions. Therefore, it does not mean keeping the doors closed to the outside world, while going about on its own. In the world today production of commodities, circulation and science and technology are so highly developed that no single country has all the resources and knowhow needed for expanding its economy. All countries, including the socialist world, seek to take advantage of the growth and progress in other countries and promote their own economic growth by exchanging what they have, for what they lack and taking the best they find in this. Whatever good is there in any country, if it is in our interest, we should adopt it. China has done it. In the last 10 or 12 years, there are 30,000 units in China in operation with foreign collaboration. Secondly, about 3,000 items of import required for the purpose of manufacture for export purposes have been made import-free. When a new plant in a joint venture with the Chinese is to be established, then whatever is required for the plant is import-free. But they have

also ensured that their own industries do not suffer. As such, when a new plant is to be set up, if some machinery or some part is available in China, they use that part and do not import it. As such, they have taken care to see that their own industries are not affected but that exports increase. Last year about \$ 90 billion worth of foreign collaborations were entered into. Out of it \$ 36 billion have already come in. There is a growth of 60 percent to 70 percent in investment. As regards the public sector production, in the year 1993, it went up by 37 per cent. And if you take inflation into account, it went up by 22 per cent. So, if the public sector in China can have these results, why can't we in India have? Why are many of our industries sick in the public sector? Why are our losses increasing? These are the questions which all of us have to think over. We have to find some solution by which our public sector also will thrive to such an extent that nobody will have to say that the public sector is a drain on the public exchequer. Let us all work to see that the public sector is made an efficient instrument for development. That was the dream of late Rajiv Gandhi. He used to say that we must have that public sector undertaking which is throbbing, which is efficient and not a drain on our public exchequer. Therefore, wherever it is possible...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Do you still hold the view that the public sector should attain the commanding heights of our economy?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I believe in that and our Government also believes in that.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: But they never say it.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Our Prime Minister. Shri Narasimha Raoji spoke about it. Just now I read what he has said about it. that is the policy of the Congress party. We want that the public sector should attain the commanding

heights. There is no doubt about it. But if we cannot reach it, what can we do? Earlier bonds were allowed to be floated by the public sector for mobilising resources. When late Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, bonds were allowed to be floated by the public sector. Most of the bonds were made tax-free. So the policy of the Government is to help the public sector and not retard it. At the same time, they should also improve their efficiency. I wish my good friend, Shri Mishraji, and those who are in trade unions help the Government. I think they can do it in a much better way. The main reason is overstaffing. We are examining many public sector undertakings. (Interruption) ... We should reduce the staff; otherwise, ultimately everybody will be unemployed. That is why we have to see that wherever overstaffing is there, it has to be reduced. If it is not done, then, there would be unemployment problem.

I would like to give some figures of foreign trade in China. In 1980, it was \$ 39 billion. They had started the liberalisation policy and attracted foreign capital. In 1992, it has gone up to \$ 85 billion. In 1993, it has gone up to .92 billion. Regarding trade deficit what is our record? As far as our country is concerned, in the month of March, 1995 we have exported goods worth 3 billion which has never been done in this history of India. It was \$ 3 billion in the month of March! They expected the growth of import would be 17 per cent. I think it will go to 18 per cent. I would like to tell the Minister that whenever we call for foreign investment, we should try to see that it is done in such industries which can export goods. We have to see that infrastructure industries like power, communication and transport are established with foreign investment. Most of the foreign

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investment which has come, if it is there in these three sectors then. I think Indian industry would not be hit at all. Of course, most of our Indian industries are not infrastructure industries. But we have to take care that our small-scale industries and our Indian industries are not hit by any kind of globalisation.

Regarding hike in prices I would like to give one suggestion. There is the Central Consumers Council. I am a Member of that Council. The Minister of Civil Supplies is the Chairman of the Council. Last year one working group was constituted to ensure that the common man was not hard hit by the hike in prices. The working group gave a report. In that working group, a representative from the industry was also there. Working groups suggested us that mass consumption items should be brought under the Price Monitoring commission where the margin of profit should be fixed at various levels, industry level, wholesale level and retail level.

But, unfortunately, the member who was from industry opposed it saying, "Now we have market economy. How can we do it?" In the name of market economy, if somebody wants to squeeze the consumers, I think that cannot be allowed. There also, you will be surprised to know their margin of profit was to be fixed industry and trade

Even then, they did not agree to it. I think the time has come now. I have been advocating this for the last four or five years, I do not want to fix the prices. But I do not want to profiteering. I want that the items of daily consumption should be given to the masses at affordable prices, with a reasonable margin of profit. I implemented it for one year in Maharashtra when I was the Minister of Civil Supplies there. The trade co-operated with me. If it cannot be done by law, call them and persuade them. Let there be some kind of discipline. You cannot squeeze the consumers in the name of market economy. I believe that this is what is meant by 'market plus'. In such circumstances, we have to intervene. How do we intervene? Whether by discussion or persuasion, you may decide. But there should be intervention.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not make my point clear about insurance companies. I remember the day when insurance was nationalised. Why was it nationalised? It was nationalised because people had no confidence in many companies. I remember, people were going for life insurance to the Oriental Life Insurance because it was guaranteed by the Government. People were going to them for life insurance. They had that kind of confidence. Being a Chartered Accountant, I have seen what they were doing. They were paying commissions. The first premium was always

ways not paid. The agents would say, "We shall pay it." Bogus expenses were there. The agents were given only a particular percentage of commission, say 15 per cent. But they were paid 40.50 per cent commission. So, for the other 35 per cent, they were showing some expenses. And black money was created. I think, as far as insurance companies are concerned, you may take your own decision. We have discussed it. You are also thinking about what should be done. I will just give you some figures. The growth of life insurance business is 16.33 per cent in 1994-95. The new business from rural areas is 40 per cent. That means life insurance has now gone to rural areas also. And the profit also has gone up. In general insurance also, the premium was Rs. 3,800 crores in 1992-93 and it has gone up to Rs. 4,450 crores now, which means a growth of 17.04 per cent. The gross profit was Rs. 1,084 crores which, earlier, was Rs. 779 crores. Yes, I agree that service has to be improved. There is no doubt about it. But it should not be on the ground that there is no competition. There is tremendous competition among the agents. All the agents are working to see that they get business so that they get commission. You think over it. I think there are social obligations also in life insurance. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Do you want foreigners to come in?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I do not want them to come in. I do not want even private Indian industry to come in. I want it to remain as it is. Improvement is necessary. Improve it. Have a check on them by some system. But I do not think that we should give it to private Indian entrepreneurs. Nor am I at all in favour of giving it to foreign companies. If you want, you can

go in a bit, but it should remain in the public sector.

As regards the other aspects of economy, I would not like to go into them in depth. In your speech you have enumerated everything. The Economic Survey has given all the details. I won't take much time of the House but I would only mention one or two things regarding the exemption limit. We have now made it Rs. 40,000/-. Keeping in view the inflation, if you can raise it to Rs. 45,000/- or Rs. 50,000, it would be better.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: It should be made Rs. 50,000/

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, it was already Rs. 35,000. We are asking only for an increase of Rs. 10,000/-. The limit was Rs. 35,000/-. If he gives some kind of concessions in savings schemes like 80L, I think it is quite reasonable. Sir, one thing more I would like to know from you and that is, why you have brought the scheme of tax deduction from the interest on bank deposits. Once we had introduced it and then we had withdrawn it. If we again introduce it, bank deposits will be affected, and if bank deposits are affected, it will become a vicious circle. I see it from that angle. That is why I feel that, again, there should be some kind of review. I think, this time you have made it two per cent or, may be, ten per cent. There are many widows who live on the bank-interest because they feel that money will be safe only if it is deposited in banks. They do not bother about the rate of interest. And I am happy that recently the rate of interest has been increased by one per cent. for which I have been fighting for the last two or three years because it is mostly the middle class who are putting their money in bank deposits, and with those deposits our

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industries get the benefit. If with that end in view the interest rate on bank deposits has been increased, I am thankful to you for this. You should look into the matter of tax-deductions on the interest on bank deposits. You should kindly again look into it; otherwise it will become a vicious circle. It will have a bad effect and bank deposits will come down; that is my fear. I request that you should look into it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Your case is only about the widows.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: No. I am only saying that they have the feeling that they will be hurt more than anybody else. We should look into that aspect.

Secondly, Sir, for professional and technical persons, again, you have brought the same thing, two per cent or ten per cent. I think it is ten per cent. Why do you want it? They are all tax-payers. I do not understand why on a sum of Rs. 10,000/- and above you want to deduct ten per cent. I think this is not going to help you. I know that you want to see that there is no tax evasion. But here I would like to mention one point and that is, your income-tax Department has to be strengthened. Have more persons. What are your expenses, collection expenses? Less than one per cent. If you employ more persons and have more inspections and scrutiny, you will be able to have more resources. If you oversee the accounts of some of the big industrial houses and if you are able to detect Rs. 400 crores, I think, we will get a sizeable amount and for that additional salary bill may come to about Rs. 50 crores but the benefit that you may get will be not less than Rs. 2,000 crores. Your inspection wing needs to be strengthened. You must have more officers. Only that will serve the purpose. This kind of

deductions at source will not serve the purpose.

Sir, as regards foreign capital, I welcome it. You must have it. Liberalisation does not mean giving licences. You have to take care of that also. The last point which I would like to mention is that we have to see that the fruits of the plan reach the toiling. The approach of the Government should be that. Whatever policy decisions we take, whatever actions we take, the ultimate beneficiary must be the poorest of the poor. Our Government is working with that point in view.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That is what Gandhiji has said.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Gandhiji has said like that.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: But now the people do not remember that.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: It is not so. Sir, I will end by saying what our Prime Minister had stated at Copenhagen. He said:

"Excellencies, we know that poverty and peace are interlinked. Poverty and distress anywhere in the world have the potential to threaten world security. Equity and unity within and among nations are, therefore, a moral as well as practical imperative. Nowhere would the interdependence of nations be put to greater test in the years to come than in the area of poverty eradication and social integration."

Sir, all our policies should be so shaped as to see that the dream of our Prime Minister comes true. I am very confident that this Budget has such proposals which will benefit the poor people; especially, the concessions which he has given in respect of tax will definitely improve the

standard of living of our people and everybody will get two square meals.

With these words, Sir, I support all the proposals made by the Finance Minister. I welcome them. Bhandariji has also made some important suggestions in vital areas which I feel the Government will consider and try to see how we can solve the problem which affect the poor people and how we can develop. When development is there, more goods will be produced. When more goods are produced, the cost of production will come down. When the cost of production come down, things will be cheaper. Otherwise, it will not be possible for us to realise his dream. With these words, I support the Budget.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Mr. Ashok Mitra.

SHRI ASSHOK MITRA (West Bengal): Sir, I thought I was listed at No. 5.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Yes, Mr. Jaipal Reddy is not here.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: As a law-abiding person I don't believe in jumping queues. Therefore, I appeal to you.. (Interruptions) ..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): What I am bringing to your kind notice is that the next Member is Mr. Jaipal Reddy, who is not here. Then the next Member is from the Congress. It would not be proper to call another Congress (I) Member after Mr. Jagesh Desai. That is why I am requesting you.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: I don't mind listening to the Congress Benches. Speak very sweet words.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Okay, then I will call Mr. K.K. Birla

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I certainly would have been quite happy if Mr. Ashok Mitra had spoken before me. As he has requested me to speak first, I would not mind to gladly bow to his wishes.

Sir, I am rising in support of the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. I would also like to compliment the Finance Minister for the excellent Budget which he has presented.

As very aptly described by my friend, Mr. Jagesh Desai, there has been a spectacular revival of our economy since 1991. As the Finance Minister has stated, in the heat of political debate we forget all the achievements attained by our economy under the overall leadership of our Prime Minister. Sir, the economic growth in 1991-92 was below one per cent. In 1994-95, it has risen to 5.3 per cent, kudos to the Finance Minister for all that has been done. Sir, I would like to say that a few countries could claim such an impressive economic revival in such a short time from such a deep crisis. Sir, I have heard certain criticisms. They say that the economic policy is tilted against the poor. The Finance Minister has mentioned various steps that have been taken to improve the lot of the poor. Apart from the speech of the Finance Minister, I have gone through many books. These are some of the schemes which he has introduced this time: a colossal amount of Rs. 3,862 crores for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which would mean 917 million mandays of employment to be generated in 1995-96; construction of 10 lakh houses under the Indira Awas Yojana; 372.38 million mandays of employment to be generated connected with the rural development programmes; 19.5 lakh rural families below the poverty line to be assisted, etc. This has belied the charge that the Finance Minister has not taken

[Shri Krishna Birla]

care of the benefits as far as poor people are concerned.

Sir, in my opinion, no budget in the recent times has done as much for the poor people as the recent budget presented by the Finance Minister, has done.

Sir, the economy can also be judged by the agricultural economy. The Finance Minister has also mentioned in his speech that the foodgrains production had gone down to 168 million tonnes in 1991-92. This year it is 185 million tonnes which is an all-time record. The Finance Minister has also mentioned in his speech that there is plenty of scope for improvement. I am happy to find that the Government of India is seriously considering entering into the export market for foodgrains in a big way. Then the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund which has been introduced by the Finance Minister within the NABARD is laudable. It will lead to quicker completion of projects relating to irrigation and soil conservation. These are a few general remarks which I have made. I would also like to suggest that there is scope for further improvement. It needs the attention of the Finance Minister.

Sir, my hon. friend, Shri Jagesh Desai, has already dealt with many of the points. I agree with him as far as a majority of the points are concerned.

Sir, rising revenue expenditure is a disturbing feature of our budget. I hope this will receive the kind attention of the Finance Minister.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY in the Chair.)]

The worrying point is the cut that has been accepted in the capital expenditure. There is a decline of nine per cent. I would like to mention

that the capital expenditure is an item which influences investment and growth. Sir, decline in the capital expenditure is a matter of great concern. I hope this fact again will receive the kind attention of the Finance Minister.

As has been pointed out by some of the previous speakers, it is somewhat disturbing that the non-Plan expenditure has risen by 8.9 per cent and the Plan expenditure has gone down by 0.5 per cent. Sir, digressing a little, I was trying to study the cause of revenue deficit. What exactly are its causes? I found that the major, single, biggest cause is the high incidence of interest payment which accounts for 30 per cent of the total revenue expenditure.

5.00 P.M.

We have to find ways to correct it. There are many methods. I would not like to give my views on this matter. I would only like to suggest to the Finance Minister to appoint a sub-committee consisting of people from his own Ministry. The committee can go into this matter in great detail. There is one thing which is very disappointing and I am probably voicing the views of the corporate sector in this regard. There is some justification in this also. The Finance Minister, in his speech, had mentioned that lowering of taxes did not necessarily mean lowering of revenue. The reason that he cited was that there was better compliance when taxes were lowered. If that is the matter, then it is certainly disappointing to find that the Budget did not contain any proposal for reducing the corporate tax. Sir, I would like to mention that in case we wish to globalise, then we have to be in tune with the other countries of the world. I would like to draw your attention to the Chelliah Committee Report. The recommendations made by this Committee are always read out here with great reverence. The Chelliah Committee

had also recommended revision of the corporate tax. In the Finance Minister's own speech which was delivered last year, there was a positive indication that surcharge on corporate tax would be removed. The matter could be examined again from a different angle. Money collected by way of direct taxes has risen in 1994-95 by as much as 25 per cent. The share of direct taxes in the GDP was 2.1 per cent in 1991. This has risen to 2.8 per cent in 1994-95. If we look at all these, there is a strong case for doing away with corporate tax. The reason why I emphasising on it again and again is this: the corporate tax at 46 per cent, including surcharge is the highest in the world. The Indian companies are put in a position of disadvantage globally when compared to other countries. Their expansion and modernisation gets affected adversely as a result of this.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : एक मिनट जरा सुनो। एक धारणा यह है कि एवरीथिंग बीइंग इक्वल, प्राइवेट सेक्टर जो टैक्स दे करता है वह लैस देन पब्लिक सेक्टर है।

everything being equal, the private sector pays less tax than the public sector. Should this be enquired into?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): In other words you are saying that they evade tax.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: It should be enquired into. That should certainly be done. As far as drawing conclusions is concerned, everybody can draw his own conclusions as per his own reading.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): He agrees to it as far as enquiry is concerned.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Now it is for the Government to consider it.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: In case our tax system is streamlined and rationalised, it will enable our economy to grow faster. It will enable us to achieve an industrial production of 12 per cent as against eight per cent. The aim of the Finance Minister should be to reduce the corporate tax so that it is in line with what is there in the other countries of the world. So, as far as the surcharge is concerned, it should be dispensed with as early as possible.

This is a point which, of course, the hon. Finance Minister has studied. My impression is that the 'tax-holiday' benefit did improve our economy, particularly in those regions where the 'tax holiday' was given. Sir, if it is a fact, this period of five years, which is going to expire shortly, should be extended.

I agree with my friend, Shri Jagesh Desai as far as the increase in the exemption limit is concerned. In my opinion, the exemption limit should be further raised. If I may speak a bit more frankly, I feel that the hon. Minister has been a bit of a miser because the increase which he has effected hardly takes care of the inflation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): He says that he is very liberal.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: So, let him have the matter examined again and then come to some decision.

Sir, there is another point to which attention has been drawn and which I also want to repeat. This is with regard to the fiscal deficit. The hon. Minister should make every possible effort to see that the fiscal deficit is contained. I am saying this because in the past our experience has been that we make programmes and then ultimately we find that at the end of the year the fiscal deficit has exceeded.

I want to say a few words regarding the discriminatory treatment to domestic companies as far as tax on capital gains is concerned. It is surprising that the

[Krishna Kumar Birla]

domestic companies are required to pay a tax at the rate of 34.50 per cent on long-term capital gains, whereas, the foreign companies are required to pay only 10 per cent. As far as short-term capital gains are concerned, the domestic companies are required to pay tax at the rate of 46 per cent and the foreign companies are required to pay only 30 per cent. Sir, to the best of my knowledge, nowhere in the world, the indigenous industry is charged higher taxes as compared to the foreign companies. I am really surprised as far as this point is concerned.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: You want a level-playing field.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Yes. That is the term used by you.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Level-playing plus.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Yes. That could come from you.

Sir, then there is another point regarding income from dividends. As most of the MPs are aware, the dividend is paid out of the profit-after-tax of the company. To tax it again really means that you are resorting to double taxation. I strongly urge that this double taxation should be avoided. If this double taxation is avoided, it will increase the savings, improve the domestic capital formation and also improve the economy.

There is one point regarding the Tax Deduction at Source (TDS). The Budget, presented by the hon. Finance Minister, has widened the scope as far as the TDS is concerned. But many things have now been included in the TDS—the bank interest, postal income, dividend income from Mutual Funds, dividend income from UTI, payments to contractors and sub-contractors, etc. Everything has been brought within it. I would like to mention here that it is going to create enormous difficulties both for those people who have to pay the tax and also for those who have to collect the tax. It also presents enormous

difficulties because huge paper work is involved. This is again a matter on which I would plead with the Finance Minister that he should give it a second thought. Sir, generally, I welcome the Finance Minister's decision of reducing the peak rate of import duty to 50 per cent. But, I would have felt happier if side by side steps would also have been taken by the Finance Minister to examine the fortune of each industry and come to some sort of a conclusion whether the reduction of import duty across the board would have really caused any problem or disadvantage to the existing industries or not. Sir, probably the better thing would have been to some sort of a Tariff Commission or a Statutory Body and ask them to examine it as quickly as possible and then give their conclusion. Sir, the results that are going to be or maybe that are some of these industries may find that they are out-priced in their own country. Sir, I know that the Finance Minister would find it difficult now to accept my suggestion, but I would certainly plead with him and give him another suggestion which he can definitely bear in mind, i.e., wherever instances are brought to his notice that some industries from outside are dumping goods in this country, then, Sir, he may take immediate action rather than going through the normal channels which is a very time-consuming process.

Sir, I compliment the Finance Minister for his decision of opening the North-Eastern Development Bank for creation, expansion and modernisation of industrial enterprises and infrastructure. I would also like to mention that there are many other parts in this country which are also backward areas and I would suggest to him that he may keep them also in mind and try to open such banks in those areas also.

Sir, I would like to say a few words about inflation. The Finance Minister's strategy of reduction of import duty, liberalisation of imports, reduction and exemption of excise duty and creation of a buffer stock, I think, they are steps in the right direction and I hope that

they will be able to look after the inflation, but certainly, the Finance Minister has got to keep an open mind and examine from time to time how the inflation is going and what more corrective steps are needed.

Sir, one thing which we should always keep in mind and towards which my friend, Shri Jagesh Desai, has also drawn our attention is regarding giving priority to those industries which could generate employment, because that is the biggest thing which the country needs at present. Sir, I have been studying this problem for a number of years and from a number of angles and I would like to plead that in my opinion the industry which could give the biggest and the quickest employment is development of construction activities, increase of construction activities in this country. This fact was also confirmed only a few days back by the Minister of Surface Transport when in one of his reports he mentioned that in case the surface transport could be improved it would give direct employment to a large number of people and indirect employment to still a larger number of people.

Sir, I would like to mention something regarding the FIIs operating in the secondary market. This is a very important question. The FIIs have realised and they have been able to identify that India is an emerging market. Sir, we always welcome the FIIs, but we welcome their coming in primary market, not so much in the secondary market. I don't know how they are entering in the secondary market. They are not going to create any difference whatsoever. They don't contribute to the economic development of any nation. They just invest because of opportunities of capital gains, they invest with the idea of making a quick buck, quick money and they are essentially, in my opinion, speculators, even though they claim to be long-term investors. This is a fact because I am in touch with the stock market. In the month of January and February, the market collapsed mainly due to large disinvestment made by the FIIs. Sir, the Mexican crisis is the evidence of the fact that there is need to insulate

exposure of our capital market against global manipulators, and therefore, I would like that in the Matter of portfolio investment by FIIs the hon. Finance Minister takes some drastic action. Another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister is the share market. The reaction of the share market to the Budget was not at all good. Revival of share market is very important because as far as primary market is concerned, it is dependent on the healthiness of the share market, and it is also dependent on the industrial growth of the country. In the year 1994-95 we were able to collect Rs. 35,000 crores through public and rights issue of shares. In 1995-96, it is anybody's guess and my feeling is that it is not going to be as much as it was in 1994-95. Sir I know that the term 'Badla' has come in for a lot of criticism. I do not deny the fact that it has many evil features which are connected with badla or, you may call it in a more refined word, 'carry forward business'. Sir, if appropriate checks are taken and the authorities are vigilant, I think, it is something which is certainly worth considering. Then, the SEBI abolished this carry forward business or the badla business. Alternative arrangement was made by them. The SEBI then appointed a three-member committee, as the hon. Members might have read in the newspapers, and let them recommend. But, Sir, the ultimate decision is that of the Government of India. For the liquidity problem some kind of forward trading or carry forward system with adequate safeguards and transparent regulatory mechanism should be evolved. If the primary share market is not improved, it will be a great setback as far as developmental work is concerned. I would, therefore, like to mention that this is an important matter which must receive the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. Sir, (Time-bell) another five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You have taken 25 minutes. There are about 10 speakers.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Not according to this clock, I have taken just 18 minutes. Kindly give two more minutes and I will finish.

Sir, another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is a matter which was not in the Finance Minister's speech but contained in many of his papers and this is regarding acquisition of immovable property. Sir, from a note I read, it appears that the Government is groping for it—it said, "We made big successes as far as pre-emptive acquisition of immovable properties are concerned." What exactly are the facts? In eight years' time, from 1st October 1986 to the 31st December, 1994, the Department invested Rs. 451 crores and they made a profit of seven crores of rupees only. To make a profit of only seven crores of rupees over eight years is, in my opinion, ridiculous. Sir, the profit was made not taking into account the cost of interest. In case the cost of interest on these properties is taken into account, then the profit will turn into loss. Sir, even if you do not take the interest into account, the total incidence is only 15 per cent on investment.

When the scheme was introduced, the idea was, probably, that the Government, after acquiring properties, would make colossal profits. Where is the profit? There is no profit at all. In fact, you purchase buildings today and sell after three months. Then, even according to the law of inflation, you will be able to make something like 3 or 2.5 per cent profit. As usual, the inflation in buildings is much more and if you wait for three months, you will be able to make a profit of 10 per cent. Sir, my point is that this entire system is, in my opinion, a feudalistic one and it interferes with the lives of citizens. But what the Government is doing? At the same price they want to have a right of first purchaser, as far as that property is concerned.

Sir, this Budget deserves sympathetic consideration on the part of the Finance Minister. In general, this Budget has very elaborately and minutely analysed the socio-economic condition of the country. It has evolved a clear direction about the fiscal policy and strategies to carry forward the basic national objective for rapid economic growth with appropriate regard to spreading its benefit for all sections of the people and to carry forward the ideals of civilisation of social equity in respect of the poor and underprivileged. It is an endeavour to build a free and strong economy which is totally capable of facing the challenges of competition in the world with due regard to social equity and to its policies and priorities. Thank you.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in a way it is an absurd situation. The Budget has been presented nearly two months before. It has been discussed around the entire country. The nation has expressed its views on the contents of the Budget. Here in Parliament, we come round to this general debate at the end of this day. All I can say is that what has happened has happened. Such a thing ought not to happen or to be repeated. All the speeches that we are making are purely academic, for the sake of the archives of Parliament. I do not think they really would mean any difference this way or that way.

I would also like to make an additional observation about the labours of the seventeen Parliamentary Standing Committees, who were asked to go into the Demands for Grants. Now they are going to be guillotined. Nobody would bother to read those reports. They will be guillotined next week. Shall I put my hand on my heart and say, "What happened to that labour?" You see, we are wasting the people's money and resources in trying to organise these Committees. If you are not going to make any use of the observations of the Committees, you will only be wasting the labour and resources of the people. Now, I have to follow Mr. K. K. Birla,

but I am afraid I cannot follow in his footsteps, because that would be bad for his reputation and worse for mine. Therefore, I have to say. (Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: We are friends. (Interruptions). It is quite possible that some other Members of the Congress (I) would not be able to tell you anything. Ultimately, it is the Finance Minister who has to give a reply. I have no hesitation. (Interruptions). . . .

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Thank you very much. Okay. (Interruptions). At the same time, I have to say some uncomplimentary things about the Budget and the Finance Minister's Budget Speech. Anyway, the Budget Speech or the review of four years' so-called economic policy. The Government calls it a New Economic Policy, but we call it a "Fund-Bank adjustments programme" as implemented by the very obidient Government of India. Here, you see on the kind of a retrospective judgment. Certainly, I do not blame the Finance Minister: He has to praise his baby and nobody else in the country: he himself has to defend what he has done in the last four years. I have only two separate comments. I have heard a lot of uncharitable comments, even for the Finance Minister himself, about the genesis of the crisis of June 1991, all on account of that wretched Government that occupied the seat of power in New Delhi from November 1989 to November 1990. I am not a Member of the Janata Dal. I have views which are often at variance. But, let us be objective. The Finance Minister may be a politician today, but he has the past of an economist. We know that much of the crisis that got generated in 1991 was on account of a series of decisions and actions taken during the period from 1984 to 1989 by the regime that was there. We know that much of the crisis that got generated in 1991 was on account of a series of decisions and actions taken during 1984 to 1989 by the regime that was there.

then, I do not want to get into that unwholesome history. I think it is necessary that we should be objective in this matter. Again, what have been the achievements? Leave aside for the present, the rate of inflation. Here again I listened to my friend, Mr. Jagesh Desai. The rate of inflation has come down from 11 per cent to say 8.7 per cent, whatever it is. What does it mean? Week after the Government performs an act of dissembling Rate of inflation has come down, but the wholesale price index keeps on relentlessly increasing. It has increased continuously over the last several weeks and there is no respite. The poor housewives gets baffled. Her experience tells her something else and the way the Government reports are presented, it is difficult to understand the difference between inflation and the rate of inflation and whatever happens. Therefore, why can't we cough it out? We are dealing with our own countrymen. Why can't we tell them that this is happening that the prices are going up but the increase in the prices has slightly abated. Let us leave that out. It is a serious situation I have certain things to say, subsequently, about what the issues here are. Let us take the performance over the last four years 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, and 1994-95. What should be the base year for you? Obviously, the year preceeding; the year when you came in, when you occupied the seat of power. That should be the year—1990-91, and with 1990-91 as the base year, if you work out your achievements in industry and agriculture, you will genuinely be worried. I did some preliminary calculations, and I find that despite everything the improvements in the last couple of years, the overall rate of manufacturing, the compounded rate of growth is hardly 3.5 per cent. The Finance Minister did mention in his Budget Speech about a 24 per cent growth in capital goods industry over the last year and even yesterday he mentioned a 20 per cent rate of growth. But when you work it out with 1990-91 as the base, you have to take into account that this so called 20 per cent increase is from a very, very, very low base.

Overall, over this four year period the capital goods sector has jumped by only two per cent. In agriculture, the rate of growth is tapping off. These are the two basic industries. What shall we do? There is a genuine problem that growth is tapering off both in industry and in agriculture. Growth of industry is less than half of what it was than in the 1980s despite all the things that have been said about liberalisation and the benefits of liberalisation. We know where we are getting stuck. The Government has cut down its own investment. Nothing is happening in the Government sector. No capital formation worth the name in agriculture, and industry has shrivelled, shrivelled and shrivelled, because it is the Government's policy to withdraw itself from the industrial sector. We talk about following the example of Japan or Korea etc., etc. Let us take the Ministry of Industry. It has got three departments, the Department of Industrial Development, the Department of Heavy Industry and the Department of Small-Scale Industries and Agro-Industries. If you add up the budgetary appropriations of these three departments, it would not even amount to Rs. 1,600 crores, less than one per cent of the total budgetary appropriations which the Finance Minister has sought for the entire year. I know there are other industries such as steel, mines and petroleum. Even if you throw in these, the overall effect of what the Government intends to do in the industrial sector is just a trickle. You cannot dream of catching up with China or Japan or Korea on the basis of this scale of activity.

Therefore, there is a problem. The problem is that there is not enough of savings. I know the Finance Minister's difficulty. He does not have money to spare. But has he not created this very problem, the problem of drop in the rate of savings in the country, about which Mr. Jagesh Desai has also mentioned? There has been a drop in the rate of savings by about 4 per cent, overall.

Now, why is this drop in the rate of savings taking place? Because, suddenly, our Government has decided to tell the countrymen that savings are no longer important. You must consume, consume, consume. The floodgates of luxury consumption have been opened up through satellite television, advertisements, saturation advertisements, in the newspapers, etc. Everybody pretends that we are a very rich country and we can consume to our heart's content. This is the problem of economics, which I remember, I posed last year when we were discussing the Budget. I, as a defunct economist, posed this question to the other—I don't say 'defund'—economist, the Finance Minister.

This thin, very thin, stratum of the upper middle class—they are the ones who can save. They are the ones who can also consume. The poor cannot make both ends meet. They can't consume. It is only the upper class, whom you are pampering, pampering, pampering, who can consume. Even they cannot do both the things together. Either they can save or they can consume. How do you get out of this dilemma? This is the problem I posed, last year, to my economist friend, the hon. Finance Minister. But I was disappointed. I should add I was hurt at heart. What I got in response from him was a political hyperbole.

I repeat my question: How do you solve the problem. I have not got the answer from the Finance Minister yet. But it is the Commerce Minister who made a very candid statement about a fortnight ago at some symposium or some such thing. He said: 'Yes, our domestic savings rate has gone down, but we are not worried. We will compensate for that by inviting foreign investment'. This is the model. This is the model which the Fund-Bank adjustment programme sets out and we are faithfully following this model. But there is a hitch. We know what the hitch is. We have brought down our rate of savings.

from 24.28 per cent to 20 per cent. But the other has not gone up. the foreign investment, the direct foreign investment, has not gone up.

I am told, last year, i.e. in 1994-95, Rs. 3,000 crores' worth of direct foreign investment had come in. But how much is it? It is not even half or one per cent of our national income. It is not even half or one per cent of the G.D.P., whereas our rate of savings has dropped by 4 per cent. Overall, our capital formation is lagging behind. That is not the end of the story.

What is the composition of this direct foreign investment, actual, direct foreign investment, which has come into the country? I have been trying very hard for the last eighteen months to get from the Government some hard data about the industry-wise, State-wise, break-up of the actual, direct, foreign investment. This was about a fortnight ago. The Prime Minister was in this House and the poor gentleman was made to read out about the investment approvals, guishing out figures of billions and billions of dollars. I tried to seek from him some hard data about actual investments, industry-wise and State-wise. When I asked for these data, they said these data are not Centrally maintained—that data, of approvals which are really national figures, and the approvals may not be acted upon. But they do not have those data on hard facts. These are not Centrally maintained, and for the life of me I cannot believe that if the Finance Ministry sets at work, it cannot essentially maintain such data. Now the point is—perhaps this is the realization—that out of these Rs. 3,000 crores which have come in last year, very little has gone to industry or agriculture proper or for the core sectors. Most of them must have gone to Seagram or Sait Design Outfit—I do not like to add to the list—and I think the Finance Minister is bashful that this is all that has been his net contribution through begging the foreigners to please come in. Yes, because of the foreigners, for one reason he is worried, Mr. K. K. Birla is also worried that foreign investment is com-

ing in the wrong directions and is going to the share market and for portfolio investments.

The other day I dropped in at a friend's place. His granddaughter, barely six years of age, suddenly comes up to me and asks, "Uncle, what is a portfolio investment?" This is the culture which we are imbuing in our much younger generations that they are worried about portfolio investments and the share market. Sometime ago I had sought the Finance Minister's view and asked, why can't you impose some fiscal penalties so that this flow of foreign investment in the wrong channels which also gives a boost to the inflationary forces of the economy could be checked? And I was amused because—of course, my views, by definition, do not out any ice with the Finance Minister—the other day I found that the US Secretary of Treasury made precisely the same suggestion, and I hope now it will go home, because you need an American sponsorship, and that you have now got. (Interruptions)...

But, perhaps, what is happening in the share market will itself act as a restraining influence on the flow of portfolio investments, which is not such a tragic thing. What is tragic is that the share market has been taken over by a "bunch of crooks". I am sorry, but this is the only expression you can use about some fly-by-night operators who have also been indulged in, perhaps, by the Securities and Exchange Board of India. Now, certain things are sub judice, etc., etc. But I was just looking at some of the rules, and sub-rules. Sub-brokers are there and I am told, some of the species of sub-brokers have been very active in setting things wrong in the share market. A sub-brokers cannot buy, sell or deal in securities unless he is registered with the SEBI. But, there is a small proviso. What is the small proviso? He can apply for registration, and pending a decision being reached on whether he should be registered or not, he can continue to buy, sell and deal in securities. Many of these people have been

operating under the garb of the small proviso. I am not convinced that anybody in the Ministry of Finance has drawn the Finance Minister's attention to this kind of this. Obviously, this is happening. So, we have to worry about disciplining our share market, it is true, but, that will not solve the problem of lack of savings. ..(Interruptions)

Let me continue. Later on, I will cover all that you want me to cover. You have been a good teacher to me for the past 18 months.

It would not solve the problems of our overall lack of savings and of capital formation.

It is in this context that I would seek the judgment of the Finance Minister about the rightness of what he and the Government are doing with the public sector units. Efficiency is how you define it. If you have installed capital assets, as the nation has done, worth thousands of crores of rupees and if you purposely do not make use of the capacity that is latent in these units, then, I don't believe that you are serving the cause of efficiency, particularly when your country is so awfully poor and the capital is so short. This is exactly what is happening. You are deliberately starving the public sector units of funds which they could profitably use and produce goods. What you have done in some cases is that you were doing out wages to the workers, but you were not giving the working capital funds to buy the inputs, to make complementary investments here and there and to make a little adjustment in their production process, by which they might have been able to improve the level of production, because it is a dogma, a dogma which has been handed down from 11,000 miles away that all public sector activity must be stopped frozen, because it is bad. The American religion says so. Since you have borrowed from them.....

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Is it your presumption, or are you arguing, that it is incumbent on the Government to

finance the working capital requirement of the public sector units?

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: No. All that I say is that you must pick and choose. It is about eight or nine months ago. I was listening to the Minister of Civil Aviation. With great glee, he was informing the House that the Indian Airlines had incurred a loss of something like Rs. 3,000 crores or there about because of privatisation. If you say that the public sector is inefficient, if you make it inefficient and if you do not make it work, of course, it will lose its efficiency. Pick and choose. Take the BHEL.

I see no reason why somebody should not give some attention to the problems of the BHEL or the Instrumentation Ltd. or some of the units in the eastern sector. But, you have set your mind, "No. These are bad. We will start on an entirely new slate." I do not know where you will reach. You will not reach anywhere. There will be a total collapse, and that will remove them from the scene.

Now, you gave your estimates about the deficit in your Budget. Last year, 6 per cent of the GDP was the deficit which jumped to 6.7 per cent. This year it is 5.5 per cent. We can see that it is going up from 5.5 per cent to 6.2 per cent. But forget about the tricky arithmetic. These are the figures against the background of which you did not do much. In any case these figures suppress the truth. You are taking into account roughly one per cent of GDP through disinvestment. You are selling the shares of the public sector companies. There is absolutely no reason why a part of what you earn by selling the shares of the public sector units should not be used to bring back to health selectively—I am not saying generally—the public sector units.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: We are precisely doing that.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Anyway, I do not want to indulge in an argument with you. I know your mind and you know my mind. I also know that I

cannot deviate from the economic sense. So, let us leave it at that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Please conclude, now.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: I will just take five minutes more. In any case this is an old hash. This forum will continue.

The newspapers have carried conflicting stories about what kind of commitments the Finance Minister has made to the US Department of Treasury. Some people say that while he cannot formally say that the insurance sector will be opened up, he says it is contingent on certain circumstances. If you do that, you will be doing a grave injustice. I will repeat what Mr. Desai has said. I have gone through the report on the insurance sector. It is a report of 120 pages. There are only one and a half pages which deal with the problem of privatisation. The only rationale they offer for privatisation is that they have organised a survey of opinions and corporate respondents have expressed in favour of privatisation. I think I did ask this question to the Minister if he would fix rates of corporate tax by organising a survey among tax-payers. It is easy to destroy something, but it is very difficult to build something. We should be proud of our insurance industry. Because of some pressure from the Americans, who cannot hold their own in the world in fair competition, you are doing so. They lost the battle of technology to Japan. They are losing it to China and Korea. Therefore, they are applying pressure on us. Why should you succumb to their pressure? We have enough strength built in ourselves. We can combine with other developing countries and poor countries. They cannot force us. They have military strength, but will they dare to land their Army, Air Force and Navy for this purpose? We should resist them.

Sir, I would finally come to something. There is one redeeming feature of this Budget. That is the last and final Budget of this Government. But, even so I cannot stop without referring to one permanent disaster and calamity which has been done by the Finance Minister over the past four years in the country. You have ruined the morality. I am sorry to say that. One day you will retire from Office. We will all be retiring. I wish I could have a long association with you, but I would say look at what others would say after retirement. Can somebody dare to refer to Mahatma Gandhi in such a syndrome?

Somebody can dare to refer to Mahatma Gandhi. The manner in which they did, we could not protest even after 48 hours. We cannot protest because we are not sure how the Americans will react. If we chuck out the Star T.V., the American Government may not like it. This you know, is a sad thing. You see, they have become a country of greedy people. They are interested only in money-making, rate of returns. All other values have been demolished. I am very sorry to say that this has been perpetrated by my very dear friend, the Finance Minister. I pray further for the emancipation of his soul.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Finance Minister, do you have any soul?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I don't have any.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Shri S. S. Surjewala. Not here. Shri S. K. T. Ramachandran

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, though I am called all of a sudden, I am not surprised. After great giants have played here, the little mouse is called for. I could not understand what they were talking because I am a layman. Even the Finance Minister is not ready to hear me. But they are all experts. They can talk so many things. They can have their own dreams. But I think

they never had any experience about the dream of an ordinary villager. Our hon. Member, Shri Ashok Mitta was giving a wonderful speech. But I would like to know whether he perceives reality, whether he understands truth or whether he was merely talking for the sake of opposing certain things. I heard Shri Ashok Mitta when he was pointing out to the Finance Minister that he was ruining the country. Who is ruining the country? Who has ruined the country? That is to be understood. People who are dogmatic will never promote the interests of the country. You have to follow certain principles and yet you should not be dogmatic. What has happened to the communist countries which were dogmatic? (Interruptions) Mr. Baby, please listen to me. What has happened to your Mecca? What has happened to your Medina? Moscow was your Mecca. Earlier you used to say, "Oh, you see Russia. You see East-Germany." What is going on? What has happened to all those countries? Those countries have been ruined. Now, they are not on the map of dialectical materialism. There was utter disaster. The whole regimental system was crushed and destroyed. Now, you have no Mecca. Now, you have no Medina. At the same time, you do not want to see the prosperity of the country.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: We want you to build good capitalism.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: You don't understand either capitalism or Marxism. You're half-baked. (Interruptions) I am neither a capitalist nor a Marxist. I am a realist, what has happened in 1991? That is the thing. I do not know what the cause for it is. I leave it to you to judge for yourselves because all of you are experts. What was the situation then? How was our economy then? The economy was in utter disaster. No country in the world was ready to turn to you. Even your own people, non-resident Indians, were ready to take away all the capital they had invested here. You were almost on the

brink of bankruptcy. Is it not a fact? Whether it is because of Chandra Shekhar's Government or the great man V. P. Singh's Government, I do not know. But what was the situation then? That was the base from which we had inherited certain things. What happened after we took over the reins? That is the thing. In the past four years, what has happened? What was the growth rate in 1991? 1.5 per cent. What is the growth rate now? 5.6 per cent. What was the growth rate in industry then? It was a meagre three point something. Now it has reached 8.5 something. If you have some faith in statistics what does it mean? Is there no prosperity? What about our exports? What was the gap between the exports and the imports? Has not that been contracted now? Has not the export risen? In spite of the swelling imports, we are now in a position to manage our import cost with our own exports. Only a small deficit is there. Does it not indicate growth? Does it not indicate prosperity? Leave alone all that. I do not want to go into the jugglery of statistics. What happens now? For the past four years, the country is peaceful. There is no riot anywhere. There is no disturbance anywhere.

SHRI M. A. BABY: What about your party?

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: When we are fat... (Interruptions) I will handle him. We are prosperous and so we are fatty. Therefore, we are having some time for 'tamasha'. (Interruptions) We are not like you. You do not have brain. You do not have anything. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly do not interrupt him. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: There is brain-drain. (Interruptions)

SHRI M. A. BABY: We will borrow some brain. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: I want to tell you one thing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You address the Chair, Mr. Ramachandran.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: I am addressing the Chair. Through the Chair, I am telling my friends something. I am a poor man coming from a village. I have never studied economics. I have never studied politics. I studied mathematics. That is all. In spite of that, I could understand economics and politics from people's face. I do not want to read any books.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Even after the election results?

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Election results do not indicate anything. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly do not interrupt him. No comments, please. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Robbers prosper. Does it mean that a robber is earning legally? (*Interruptions*). Prosperity is not an indication of your righteousness. Sometimes a righteous man may be defeated. (*Interruptions*). A beautiful lady with insanity wins the attraction of somebody. (*Interruptions*). You don't distract me. I am your friend. One day, you told me. "You should have been a communist. Why are you there?". I do not want to be a communist of your type. You are hobnobbing with the communalists for the sake of power.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Ramachandran, kindly speak on the subject. I request hon. Members not to disturb him.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: If you take the conditions of 1991 and the conditions now into consideration, the country has prospered. I call those who have not seen the prosperity 'blind'.

They could not see things that are visible. I cited so many examples. The number of labour strikes in the country has gone down in spite of the hammer and sickle. They induced them. Have you heard of strikes over the 6.00 P.M. last four or five years? There are no strikes. There is industrial peace in the country. Terrorism has also come down. You take the case of agricultural growth. In respect of foodgrains production we have now reached the peak figure of 187 million tonnes, my dear good friend. What does it mean? With in four years Mr. Manmohan Singh, with the help of Narasimha Raoji, our great leader, has rescued the country from the peril, from the total disaster, which was caused by the misrule of Mr V. P. Singh....(*interruptions*)...

SHRI M. A. BABY: People do not appreciate it.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: People do appreciate it but you do not realise it...(*interruptions*)... People are always with us. Everything will be seen next year. Next year, at the time of elections, in 1996 people will show who you are. You will be nowhere, that much I can say. I learnt politics in the college of Kamraj, I learnt economics from him. He might not have been an expert but he understood people..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): What is this, Sir? Why are they interrupting him?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Baby, kindly don't interrupt him?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I am glad that he spoke so high.....(*interruptions*).... What is it that he finds so funny? When Mr. Ashok Mitra was speaking, he said many things about the Finance Minister. He was severely critical. We all kept quiet. They do not have to agree with Mr. S. K. T. Ramachandran, but they can let him speak. It is only good manners.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Sir, you kindly allow this time. In the House it is always the practice and convention that a speaker yields. Only when a speaker yields, somebody can interrupt.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Nobody yielded.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): He might have yielded, but you are making comments.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Sir, the hon. Member is such a seasoned parliamentarian,.....

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: I am happy that you have given a clean chit to me.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, not only did Mr. Ramachandran not yield, but Mr. Baby was sitting and addressing the Chair and the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): When Ashok Mitraji spoke, nobody from that side interfered. They were hearing him. Kindly have that much courtesy now.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, that much courtesy CPI(M) does not have.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Now you are also sitting and speaking....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: You are all on the panel of Vice-Chairmen. I am a poor back-bencher. No back-bencher is supporting me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You can continue now.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I like such interruptions because they are stimulants.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You may like it but the Chairman does not want it. That is the thing.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, he has himself admitted it.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: I can handle you.

Sir, I am giving some good points. They cannot bear it. That is why they are distracting me. Now, let us go to inflation, their favourite subject. Our great Dr. Mitra was trying to differentiate between the rate of inflation and the actual growth of inflation and he was telling something about the soaring prices. Of course, the prices of some commodities have not been contained. So, he was not happy. I know that. Even a few days back, one bank employee came to me and requested me to raise this point in the House. The prices of some pulses, grains, edible oil and coffee are soaring. Yes, that is right, but you cannot always expect everything to be good. In such a vast country when you are dealing with all these things, because of the variety of operations when you touch something, something else may be going up. Such differences do occur. So, you take into consideration that we are trying to contain the inflation. Our Prime Minister has given instructions that the welfare of the people should be given priority. So, the prices of some goods, in fact, may be going up, but that is only a temporary phase. That is not going to be a permanent feature. They may be contained. On behalf of the Government, I assure that the prices of such commodities, which are essential for the household, will be contained.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Because your Government will also be a temporary phenomenon

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Yes. You are also. I don't know where you will be tomorrow. Everything in the world is temporary. Everything is fleeting. Nothing is permanent. Even the world is fleeting.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly don't disturb.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Even the universe is fleeting. Everything is fleeting. You may be a Congress man tomorrow if I give you something. I know you.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I am not interested in that.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: You may not be interested, but your wife may be interested.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Ramachandran, you speak on the subject. I request the hon. Members not to disturb the speaker.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Now he is casting aspersions on the Congress, "We will give you something if you join the Congress."

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Baby, when we give you better ideology, when we give you greater hopes, when we show you the better way, you will come

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly don't dilute the discussion.

SHRI M. A. BABY: He is exposing the Congress (I)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: We are giving a better ideology than Marxists. We are showing a better

way than what your leaders are showing. So, your wives will compel you to come to us.

Now, Sir, we have talked about so many important things. I say that only because they have to oppose, they oppose. In reality they appreciate because there is progress and there is prosperity for the people. Here I want to say one thing. We have to build the nation. In the last fifty years we have done something. But it is not enough. We have to strive and develop our country on par with the ultra-developed countries. What have we to do for that? That is the thing which we have to bear in our mind. Now, cutting across party lines, I want you all to aim high and to find the way through which we can take the country to development so that it could be a match to the so-called developed countries. So, think seriously what we can do. We lack funds. We don't have enough sophisticated technology. We want advanced technology. In the Global market we have to make our country competitive. At the same time, we should see that poverty is eliminated and the people's standard of living is promoted. For that rural parts should be developed. These two tracks should be followed by the Government to reach ultimate prosperity. For that we need very fine infrastructure. Our power system should be developed. Our communication system should be developed. Our agricultural system, that is, the water resources system, should be developed. That is the main thing which is required for the improvement of agriculture. Our transport system should be developed. So, our water resources system, power system, communication system, etc. should be developed

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: You don't import water resources

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Excuse me I am dealing with a very important thing. I am thinking of the future. I don't think about whether my party comes to power or your party comes to power. I think about the people. We should have a long-term ambition. Now I am dealing with a long-term ambition (*Time bell*)... I beg that I should be given some more time because I am dealing with a very important thing. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: You please subtract the time of interruptions. If the House is not interested in some important thing... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): It is a question of time, not the interest of the House.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Moreover, this might be my last session. So far, I have not disclosed it. This might be my last speech. My term is going to end this year. I don't know whether I am going to be re-elected or not. Please listen to me.

We should have a master plan to develop the overall infrastructure. To develop the things like transport system, augmentation of all the potential water resources power generation, the Government should come forward with a master plan, an overall master plan. The master plan may not be for five years, it should be for ten years. It will require vast funds. We might not be having those funds. If we want to develop the infrastructure, if we want to develop our country, we should have enough funds. This fund will be of

the magnitude of Rs. 10,00,000 crores to Rs. 15,00,000 crores. Taking into consideration the inflation rate. It may go even high we should mobilise such a huge amount within 10 years. What are you going to do? Are you going to borrow from other countries or are you going to tap your own resources? I don't want to say that you knock at the doors of other countries. We have enough resources here. We have enough manpower. We can provide employment. If we develop all these things, we will generate employment. When we provide employment to the people, people will generate wealth and with that vast wealth we can develop the country to become competition.

Sir, before I conclude, I will mention one thing. Parsimony is not economy. Parsimony means stinginess. Being stingy one cannot develop oneself or the country cannot develop itself.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: You should have told this to the Finance Minister when he was here.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: I want to teach you. The Finance Minister knows all these things.

Frugality is not the way to prosperity. Being frugal and adopting parsimony you cannot prosper. You want money which you have to plough back into the society to develop the infrastructure and to develop the country.

There are so many loopholes in the country. If the loopholes have to be plugged, the major thing you require is national character. Without national character, without the character of an individual, without the character of the country, you cannot do any magic. You cannot do anything with a magic wand. If character is to be developed, the educational system should be changed. The educational system in our

country is the legacy of the erstwhile imperial rulers. The educational system is job-oriented. It should be changed. The educational system should not only be job-oriented, but it should also be information-oriented and above all our education should be character-oriented. So, from the beginning itself children should be trained. Civic sense should be inculcated in the minds of the children from the elementary school stage.

So, the educational system should be changed. Not only that. All the politicians, irrespective of their status should declare that they would lead a pure, honest and simple life to be emulated by the people. Until and unless the politicians of the country change themselves, until and unless they change their character, this country has no chance of improving. So, I would like to request my friends on the other side to forget the party they belong to and to think of the society, think of the country, think of the welfare of the country, think of the future of the country and support the Budget. Don't oppose for the sake of opposing. The Budget is a commendable Budget. It has been said that the Budget has been made with an eye on the elections. If it is an election Budget, it means that it is a good Budget. I hear many tributes being paid in glowing terms to Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Manmohan Singh for rescuing the country and putting it on the right track of prosperity. Thank you. Jai Hind

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): We had decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting that the House should sit up till 7 p.m. But some of the Members who have to speak are not here. Hence we will continue with the Budget discussion on Monday. There are three — four special mentions listed here. Only one Member,

Shrimati Malti Sharma, is present here and I call her.

SPECIAL MENTION

Supply of poor quality meal in Dehradun Shatabdi Express

श्रीमती मालती शर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उत्तराखण्ड महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक अत्यन्त लोक-महत्व के प्रश्न को सरकार के ध्यान में लाना चाहती हूँ। महोदय, सरकार ने शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियाँ चलाई हैं किन्तु दुर्भाग्य है, मैं आपके ध्यान में जो चीज लाने जा रही हूँ, 9 मई के ज्ञासता में एक खबर छपी है देहरादून से आ रही शताब्दी के विषय में। देहरादून से गई दिल्ली, यह शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस आती है और उसमें भोजन की जो व्यवस्था की गई थी, उस दिन के भोजन में किस कदर गढ़ा भोजन, घटिया भोजन यात्रियों को सर्वे किया गया है, उसके बारे में मैं बताना चाहती हूँ।

महोदय, पूरी गाड़ी के अंदर सीटी में चींटियाँ चल रही थीं, चावल में बदबू थी, दाल सड़ी हुई थी, जो अचार था, उसमें फफूंदी लगी हुई थी। इस तरह का भोजन यात्रियों को सर्वे किया गया। महोदय, यह तो स्पेसिफिक बात है। वहाँ पर कुछ अधिकारी भी ट्रैवल कर रहे थे और उसमें कुछ डाक्टर भी ट्रैवल कर रहे थे जिन्होंने इस भोजन के बारे में आपत्ति उठाई और आपत्ति उठा करके उन्होंने जो वहाँ के कर्मचारी थे, उनसे शिकायत बुक मांगी। वह देने में भी आनाकानी की गई। जब ज्यादा बहस की गई तो उसके बाद उनको शिकायत बुक दी गई। महोदय, मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि अक्सर इस ट्रेन में भोजन इतना रद्दी से रद्दी दिया जाने लगा है कि जो कुमाली रोटी जिन्हें कहते हैं, वह बिल्कुल कच्ची होती है, जित सज्जी और बहुधा पुलाव कहते हैं, उस पुलाव की हालत यदि आप देखें तो वह सज्ज नहीं बनता। सज्जना बेहद बेकार होती है। मैं कह देना चाहती हूँ आपके माध्यम