

about. A special programme should be undertaken to uplift the people of this region. The special treatment should not only be in words. As we know, Manipur is already a special-category State. But, what is "special category" in the real sense? What is the speciality about it? Allotting a little more funds is the speciality? If we really want to give special-category status to that State, if we really want speciality, in them, we have to give special attention. Special measures should be taken to see to it that that part of the country develops in big way. Madam, we have seen the Appropriation Bill. How is the money spent? About fifty five per cent of the total Budget allotted to Manipur goes towards establishment, which does not contribute anything to development as such, then about 25 per cent is for the valleys and 20 per cent is for the hills. A major chunk of it goes for the maintenance of law and order, within does not, in any way, contribute to the development of the economy of that State. There is a vicious circle in the sense that there is insurgency because there is no development, and there is no development because there is insurgency. And, because of insurgency, the people do not want to put up industries there; the people do not want to start industries there. So, we get into that vicious circle which never ends. I would like to suggest that some economic programmes should be undertaken by the Government. The Government should pay special attention to the development of that State economically. Small-scale industries and agro-based industries should be set up there. Tourism also should be promoted. It should also take concrete measures to bring railway services to Manipur by the Railway Ministry. Madam, there is a demand for setting up a Central University. This aspect also should be looked into, because in each of the other North-Eastern States, namely, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram,

a Central University is there. I don't know why Manipur should be left out. The demand for setting up of a Central University should also be considered by the concerned Ministry. I request the Government not to come before this House with another Appropriation Bill again after six months and the Government should see to it that the Central rule is ended in Manipur and a popular Government established. I appeal to the Central Government to restore the popular Government in Manipur and revive the Manipur Assembly.

Thank you very much, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I adjourn the House for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

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

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-eight minutes past two of the clock,

The Vice-Chairman (Miss Saroj Khaparde) in the Chair.

THE MANIPUR APPROPRIATION
(No. 2) BILL, 1994—Contd.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, may I raise a point of order. About the quorum, a lot is being published in the papers. It affects the prestige of the Rajya Sabha. The point is that only the Congress Members are here. So, I would very much request the Congress Party to issue a whip to its own Members so that all their Members are present and the papers may not write like this. The quorum can be made only by the Congress Members not by anybody else because other Members are not here. Then, naturally your own party should issue a whip as your Members are not coming. I can only request I can only request otherwise, the papers are writing that there is no quorum.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I think the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. She will take cognizance of it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA):with your long experience, you know that quorum is not the responsibility of any party. I think... (Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Quorum is only attendance. Attendance is only quorum. I would only request you to make your people to attend the meetings and then the quorum will be there. It is only my advice. You can do whatever you like.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We are very grateful for your presence.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): O.K. Thank you very much, Swaminathanji. Now, I would like to take the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 1994. The speakers' list is before me, and, according to that, Mr. Narayanasamy is to speak now. Yes, Mr. Narayanasamy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam Vice-Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 1994. Madam, I support the Bill. As far as Manipur is concerned, it is a very sensitive State like the other North-Eastern States. Manipur can be visualised as a State where the Hindu culture is predominant. When you see Meghalaya, Sikkim and other North-Eastern States, including Arunachal Pradesh, you will see that there are Christian Missionaries and institutions there. But, as far as Manipur is concerned, Vaisnavite

cult is being practised by the Manipuri people and when we visit Manipur, we find that we are in one part of South India. The peoples culture, their way of life, are such that one finds that Manipuris are like the South Indian people. We can see the same greenery. People have staple food rice as their though the other North Eastern States are not taking that much. In Manipur they are growing paddy and coconut. Apart from that, Manipuri dance is widely accepted by the people of this country. Such a beautiful State having rich culture is now in turmoil.

There was an elected Government. Though it was the Congress Government, we found the situation to be such that the State administration could not be carried on. Though the Central Government is running the Government we never hesitated to bring President's Rule in the State. The Assembly has been kept under suspended animation. The Kukis and Nagas have been fighting a battle for a long time to gain supremacy. Some of them have come from border areas and they have settled in the lands and wanted to occupy the lands because they wanted to survive in that area. Therefore, the Kukis and Nagas have been fighting. In the meantime, the local Manipuri people have also have started fighting or survival. In this way, the peaceful State has become a State where communal clashed started. Now, Madam, though our Congress Government was there in the State, the Chief Minister was trying to settle the dispute but he could not succeed in the process, not because of the Kuki-Naga problem alone, but because of the external forces also which are working to see that this State is disturbed. Now, President's Rule has been imposed. I would like to know from the honourable Minister, after the imposition of the President's rule, what development activities are taking because under President's Rule people may say that no political parties

a.e ruling and there is no interference in the administration. Now that the Governor is controlling the State, I would like to know as far as the State administration is concerned, what developmental activities after the imposition of President's Rule which has been done. I would like to know this from the Minister because, especially in the North Eastern States, yesterday I just made a passing remark about the North Eastern States they have been given the special category status. They have been given financial autonomy by the Central Government. They have been given 90 per cent of the grants by the Central Government to administer the States. But, unfortunately, in the North Eastern States, the funds that have been provided and the essential items that have been sent are not properly distributed. This is a complaint because, on the side of Bangladesh and on the other side, China borders, the people who are involved in smuggling activities just take away the materials that have been sent by the Central Government for the welfare of the people. Coupled with that, several steps have been taken by the respective States to provide materials but it is not possible because it has a hilly terrain. And now, when the President's Rule is imposed, as far as Manipur is concerned, how is the Public Distribution System functioning there? Now the burning problem of these people, the insurgency in the State, is because of the youth being unemployed. It is this which is posing a very serious problem in the State. The youths who have been educated, who could not get employment, were being diverted, that might is being diverted to militancy because the organisations that are working in the North-Eastern States, with the connivance of the external forces, are utilising the younger generation and they have given them weapons and other facilities to fight against their own Government, the State Government. Therefore, the

youth energy in this country, especially in Manipur and other North-Eastern States, could not be utilised for productive purposes. Therefore, it is high time that employment opportunities were created in Manipur. The Government of India can have an experiment there. Employment opportunities can be created now for the younger generation. Now, because of the insurgency, because of the militancy, because of the external forces interfering in the affairs of these States, tourism is also not developing. Such a hilly State, where a lot of foreign tourists can come because of the problem being posed in Jammu & Kashmir, this area of the country, especially Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and other States, trekking and various other sports can be promoted in which people from other countries can take part, remains undeveloped. Develop Tourism will develop and create employment opportunities. It will develop the State. For the purpose of developing tourism, I would like to know from the Minister what steps have been taken.

Madam, in the year 1980, the Government of India, then Smt. Indira Gandhi, our hon'ble beloved Prime Minister, brought a North-eastern Council covering all the North-Eastern States for the economic development of those region and also for having coordination among the North-Eastern States. Unfortunately, though the North-Eastern Council meets, they discuss various issues, major development has not taken place. And especially in Manipur, in spite of the Government, the elected Government functioning there, why this insurgency, why these clashes occur? That is because the people are fed up with the administration. The people have no faith in the administration because whatever the people need has not been sanctioned. Therefore, Madam, the North-eastern Council which is a very vital aspect, which has been created for the purpose of developing the whole North-east, of

which Manipur is a part, along with other areas Manipur can develop Manipur. If one State in the North-eastern region is given concentration by the Central Government then other regions will be discontented, and there will also be discontentment among the people especially when the North-eastern people are very sensitive. Whether they are from Manipur or Arunachal Pradesh or Sikkim, they are very sensitive people. There is a general feeling among the North-eastern people that the Central Government is neglecting them. The Central Government is not taking care of their welfare, the employment opportunities, education etc. They have been requesting, whenever they meet parliamentarians, they have been telling that the Central Government Ministers should visit the State. Apart from the State Government ruling there, should know their problems. The Central Government can depute a Minister to see their problems from the point of view of the Central Government and to see what are the developmental activities are taking place in this State. But unfortunately the Ministers are not going there and would not blame any Minister in this regard. But little more attention can be given in this area so that there will be satisfaction among the people of North-east, even the Central Government is focussing its attention for the development of the North-eastern region.

Madam, there is a very big project. Because I visited the Manipur I found there is a big hydel project in the State and it has been improved and further expansion is also in the offing. If that is done by the Central Government it would be better, because the electricity that is generated and water supply that is given by this scheme are not only being utilised in that State alone but they go to other States also as this is a Central grid. I visited that hydel power project. I saw the

development that has taken place there. If the expansion programme comes in there, there will be more employment opportunities to the people of Manipur. That aspect has to be considered by the hon. Minister. Now, the Minister may think that the Legislative Assembly is under suspended animation. But the point is whether they are going to keep it under suspended animation for a long time because keeping the State under President's Rule is no solution for solving the problems in the State. Now, I would like to compare the situation in the State when it was ruled by an elected Government and now being ruled by the hon. President of India through his representative, the Governor. When I go through the papers, I see the same kind of situation prevailing there. In the law and order situation also, there is no improvement. It is not satisfactory even in the case of developmental activities. Therefore, I would like to say that only an elected Government which is acceptable to the people of the State can solve the problems of the State.

Madam, we have solved the problem of Punjab. We have solved the serious problem of Assam. And when compared to those serious problems, the problem in Manipur is nothing. It can be settled very easily by bringing the people together. If there are militants, we should not kill them. We should talk to their leaders. We should bring them into the mainstream because those people are not anti-national. They are fighting for their survival in the State. As far as Manipur is concerned, the Kuk's and the Nagas are fighting for their survival the Manipuris are also fighting for their survival. It is a question of survival because one group wanted to evict the other from the State. Therefore, all the leaders of all the three groups can be called. Now is the time to call them when President's Rule is there. The Governor can call them and discuss with

them. Then the problem can be solved. Madam, I am very happy that the hon. Home Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Commerce Minister visited the State. They understood the problem of the people, and they tried to give some kind of schemes to the people also for development there. I do not know what has happened thereafter. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what further developments have taken place in the State after the visit of these three senior Cabinet Ministers.

Madam, President's Rule is a replica of the Central Government's administration. If anything happens in a wrong way, it would reflect on Centre. And we, the public representatives, are answerable, and the Government of India is answerable. Until and unless you call them and discuss with them to solve the problem, the problem will remain for ever. The North-Eastern Council has to be given a status. Madam, there is a clear-cut opinion—and the hon. Minister also knows it—that these problems are created by the external forces. You try to stop those forces which are living in the adjoining country. The external forces are creating problems for our country in the North-Eastern region, in Jammu and Kashmir, in Punjab, and in Assam. Those have to be curbed. I would like to know as to what steps are being taken in this regard.

Madam, I am very happy that the Budget has been presented here. I hope the hon. Minister will not come here with another Budget. And I would like to know when they are going to hold elections there because they cannot keep the Legislative Assembly permanently under suspended animation. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when they are going to hold elections there. What are the developmental activities that have taken place? How many youth have been given employment? I would like to

know all these things so that the entire country and the people of Manipur will know what action the Central Government has taken during the period when the State is under President's Rule.

Madam, with these words, I support the Appropriation Bill, and I hope the hon. Minister will give replies to all the points I raised. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Minister you should listen when the Member speaks.

SHR. M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: I am sorry, Madam.

DR. B. B. DUTTA (Nominated): Madam Vice-Chairperson, I rise to support the Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, moved by Shri Chandrashekhhar Murthyji. It is now the eighth month of President's Rule that was imposed in Manipur from the 1st of January, 1994. Only the other day, between 31st July and 1st August, I visited Manipur, along with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Apang, who is the Chairman of the North-Eastern Congress Co-ordination Committee. Besides Imphal, we toured the other parts also and we could see that there were very healthy trends emerging. Developmental activities have picked up momentum there. A lot of projects are in the process of being completed.

Earlier, due to the communal strife, the ethnic strife which visited Manipur there was large-scale violence and it necessitated the imposition of President's Rule. The Prime Minister and the Home Ministry rose to the occasion and they did not hesitate to dismiss even their own Party Government, in the larger interest in order to protect the life and property of the people and to stop the fratricidal war among the ethnic groups. It was a very wise decision. As a result of this, we now find that even in that arena a lot

of improvement has taken place. Political dialogue between the warring group has started. The leaders of all communities are visiting the different areas and they are having discussions across the table. The democratic process is on.

Of course, we cannot have President's Rule all the time. As a matter of principle, as Mr. Narayanasamy has just now said, President's Rule is not an ideal solution for everything. But when the internal situation in certain parts of the country warrants President's Rule, it is within the Constitutional framework and it is part of our Constitutional mechanism to impose President's Rule. It has to be applied boldly and imaginatively. That is why it is there I would say President's Rule should be there as long as it is necessary. We should not be very apologetic about it. As long as it is necessary, it should be there.

Madam, we have routed one healthy sign in Manipur. It is a very good sign. Within these last few months, things are improving and I am sure, very soon, the full democratic process would come into play in Manipur. This is what I had seen there which I wanted to report to the House. It is a very good sign.

In this context, I would like to make a few observations for the benefit of the Members who do not live in North-East and who may not have the insiders' perception of the problems that lead to violence which keeps on visiting not only the State of Manipur but other areas in the North-East. Therefore, I would like to make these observations.

Earlier, while speaking on this Bill, Mr. Bhubanswar Kalita made certain observations about the state of the economy there. He cited unemployment as the reason. He said that unemployment was one of the

major reasons because of which the youth in the North-East was going astray. They have taken to arms. They have forgotten their loyalty to the Motherland. Sometimes they are even talking of independence. Well, unemployment is one of the main reasons. There is no doubt it. But we must go a little deeper. Unemployment is there in other States also. In fact, if you compare the unemployment statistics, if you compare the ratio of unemployed persons per thousand population in the North-Eastern Region with that of the other States, you would find that the number of the unemployed is far less than it is in, say, Bihar or West Bengal or some other larger State, but you do not see this kind of violence in those States. Therefore, this alone cannot explain everything.

One problem in the North-East is that there is virtually no industrialisation. As a result of this, though the North-East is a part of this vast country, it still remains far backward as India is forging ahead. With the liberalisation process now on, it would pick up speed and it would grow faster. But the North-East would remain backward. This is a discrepancy which is haunting the mind of the youth. This is one reason.

Secondly, there is no dearth of sympathy. There is no dearth of love and affection or the people of the North-East from the national leaders, from Delhi. They have done a lot already. They have pumped in a lot of money there. A lot of investment has been made. But the question is this. The pumping in of this kind of funds has its own fallouts. In the North-East, in the small ethnic communities you will find that their basic ethos, political and social ethos, are egalitarian. In such a canvas you find that a few people are becoming rich and richer and the many remain poor and become poorer. Now, this is not in the social and

political ethos of the people of the North-East. A lot of people, even tribal leaders, speak out in anguish that the cash flow has become one of the main weapons of development. It has been one of the main weapons since the days of the Nagaland insurgency, way back at the time of Partition and Independence, and you find that the flow of cash, which is not always converted into assets, is like fire. It is burning up all the social values. The social fabric is being destroyed. We have beautiful tribal societies with a very democratic structure, and those democratic values which they incalculated, which they preserved and protected for so long, are being destroyed. You find school dropouts becoming millionaires by becoming contractors. A brilliant student who becomes an IAS or an IPS or is poorer. He is Mr. Nobody! Surely, a political class has arisen and they have become rich. What is the condition of other even though they come from the same community, the same ethnic group.

Now, this kind of non-egalitarian development, this kind of inequality, has also poisoned the minds of the youth. When you hear the youths of the North-East speak of bribery what they mean is—you try to understand the language that you are bribing and promoting a class of people and keeping you power all right here with their help. This could have been stopped if there has been proper monitoring of the projects, by ensuring that the projects for which money is being given are surely implemented. This is not being taken care of. Here the Central Government cannot say, we have given the money to the State Government and it is the duty of the State Government to do it. No! The Centre has also got the responsibility to ensure that to whatever projects money is given, are implemented.

Of late you find a kind of frustration arising among a section of our leaders, "No, it is useless to spend money; nothing will happen; you cannot do anything there." A sort of policy of retreat is being followed. This is what I strongly object to. We should not follow a policy of retreat from the North-East. We should follow a forward policy, with a positive attitude towards our tasks, and the tasks must be accomplished.

The task is industrialization. I remember, the Industry Ministry, two years back, made an exercise and identified our areas for industrialization in the North-East even with the existing level of infrastructure. In the light of the available level of technology, industrialization is possible. In areas like power-based industries, coal-based industries, electronics, and pharmaceuticals — because you have got a lot of herbs in those areas and in the light of the new GATT agreement and all these areas become very important, particularly pharmaceuticals—a heavy investment should be made. Therefore, instead of taking negative steps, take positive steps. The Centre, when it started giving money to the North-East went on giving, giving and suddenly when they found that nothing was happening, they stopped it. Always give and make sure that what is being given is being converted into assets. You should not allow a situation where 25 or 30 per cent is converted into assets and the rest vanishes into thin air. That creates a havoc in the economy. It has created instability within the numerous societies living in the North-East. I want to tell the policy planners that is why ethnic strife and all such things are happening there.

But there is no reason for despondency. We find that there are hundreds of thousands of people in every State who are deeply committed to India, to the values of our democracy and secularism which we are propounding. They are fighting elections. They are coming out victorious. They are forming governments. But, it is the duty of the Central Government as well as political leaders belonging to other political parties to inspire people to inculcate these values by their own actions. We should not follow a policy of retreat.

I will give you another example of retreat. The children of the IAS officers and the IPS officers posted in the North-East cannot be educated there. They have to have a house in Delhi, and their children will be taught in good schools in Delhi. Of course because they are IAS officers and IPS officers, they cannot neglect their children. Their children have to be educated. It is the first duty of any parent. We agree with that. But, consider this. Shillong which was the cultural capital of the North-East, has a tremendous educational infrastructure. In its bosom it has some of the finest institutions in the name of Loreto, St. Mary's College, St. Edmund's College, etc. In all these institutions, today's things have gone down so much that nobody wants to admit his sons and daughters. Why should we allow these things to happen? This is a wrong policy. We should try to see that in every capital in the North-East there are some good schools with high standards, where children of people in top positions also can go. They will also contribute by mixing with the children of the North-East to keep up the standard of education. We should ensure

all these things. Why this policy of veterans? In the British period, the British administrators came and conducted expeditions right into the heart of Mizoram and Nagaland. Some of them died. They left behind so many chronicles which are research materials today. They brought a culture. They made an impact. They did so much for that area with their own imperialistic exploitation, of course, but we cannot do it in free India! Why should we have such an attitude of retreat from the North-East? If anybody is posted to the North-East, it is deemed to be a punishment posting for him.

The North-Eastern Council is a very novel institution. Just now, Mr. Narayanasamy was taking about the North-Eastern Council. What have you made of the North-Eastern Council? It started very well. It was conceived well. It had very imaginative provisions for its functioning. Brilliant officers were sent there. Now it is ill-staffed. A posting to the North-Eastern Council is again a punishment posting. The Council is not doing the kind of job for which it was created. Small and numerous States have been created by the 1971 Reorganisation Act but North-East has common economy. Then region has not developed economically. And the North-Eastern Council was brought into play a positive role in the region's development. That is not being done.

I find that there is a lack of perception even in today's rulers in New Delhi of the role to be played by the North-Eastern Council. We have raised this issue time and again from the North-East Congress coordination Committee platform. But till today nothing has happened.

So, Madam, I tell you that the situation will improve, and then it will worsen. In the process, ultimately we will find that we are not only back to square, one but that we are also going further down and down. Where is the North-East going today?

Now, foreign influences are again penetrating. Again the situation, is worsening. The insurgency is again multiplying. Insurgents are coordinating among themselves in spite of the fact that three-fourths of the people of the North-East are for India and that they are fighting for India. Others are silent. The insurgents have got only a handful of supporters. They have sophisticated weapons and foreign help. Can we not exploit such a situation? I would request that these points should be taken care of.

Madam, just one more point, and I will have finished.

The Government had the courage, the Home Ministry had the courage and the Prime Minister had the courage and the will to impose President's Rule in Manipur. It was well appreciated. There are other areas like Tripura, about which I spoke in the morning. Don't discriminate between one and the other. Wherever you find that something is going wrong in any way, don't hesitate to impose President's Rule. This is what I say. President's Rule is a part of our democratic Constitution. It is not some thing different. Just because some foreign powers will say that there is no democracy in some part of India, why should I become jittery? It is needed to be continued in Kashmir because of militants coming across, because of mercenaries coming from Afghanistan and fighting a war in Kashmir. We have got every right to carry on as long as we can. There is history. There may be a 30-year war or 100-

year war. We have to fight it out. Why should we fight shy of that? we are not against President's Rule as such. Let it be there as long as it is necessary, but don't discriminate. Discrimination is what is not liked by the people living in the North-East. Non-partisan policies and egalitarianism should be upheld. Thank you, Madam.

DR. M. ARAM (Nominated):
Madam, three hon. Members have already spoken on the Manipur Appropriation Bill. I shall make a few fresh points. President's Rule was imposed there on 31st December, 1993. As Dr. Dutta has said we are in the eighth month. From the point of view of peace, sometimes we have peace, sometimes we have violence. This has been an intermittent process. Sometimes there is violence in the hilly areas of Manipur and sometimes in the Valley areas. I have been to Manipur many times. Particularly when I was engaged in the Nagaland Peace Mission work, I used to go there a lot. It was in the '60s and in the '70s. At that time peace was disturbed only in the hill areas of Manipur. The Valley was peaceful. But in recent years the Manipur Valley has become disturbed and the angry young-men belonging to the majority community have gone underground. As the hon. Member, Dr. Dutta, has said, we should understand the real cause. Why do these angry young-men, who are now in the PLA or PREPAK, want independence. Even the underground Nagas, many years ago, wanted independence? We have to talk to them. These young-men, some of them are very talented and brilliant. They are rebelling against the system which they find wanting. They come out of the universities and their future is dark and not clear. Therefore dialogue is always the best way to bring about

understanding This does not mean that wherever there are threats and challenges to law and order, administrative step should not be taken. On the one hand, a policy of firmness, on the other hand a policy of dialogue, both must go hand in hand. In hand even though the Assembly is in suspended animation, even though the popular Government is not there, I believe the imposition of President's Rule provide the Government of India with an opportunity to talk to the people having gone underground. When we had a brief spell of President's Rule in Nagaland that was the time when the Governor as representative of the Government of India and the Constitution held talks through the intermediaries with the underground. In Nagaland as well as in Manipur, I am aware, there are excellent public leaders, peace-loving leaders, respected leaders, Church leaders and other social leaders whose services must be taken advantage of by the Government, who would be very glad to act as communication channels. When I was in Manipur, not too long ago, I did meet of the underground youngmen. When you talk to them you will understand more and more of their minds. They may say independence, but what they are really meaning is identity. In Nagaland also that was the conceptual difference. It later became clear that they really meant 'identity'. They are proud of the Manipur cultural identity, Manipur tradition and cultivation and civilisation and culture, culture. They may even sometimes think of going back to the original Manipur script rather than the script they have now adopted—the Bengali script. So, this kind of going back to the ancient roots is one of the trends here. They are proud. That pride we must appreciate. So, they should be made to realise that the Manipuri identity or the Naga identity could be not only preserved within the present political frame

work and the Constitutional arrangement, but also could be developed creatively Nagaland, Manipur and other States could develop their cultural identities. At the same time, they can also progress with the rest of the country. Therefore, I would like to stress the point that President's Rule provides an opportunity to the Governor to take the initiative to contact and talk to the public leaders like Raj Kumar Priyavrat Singh who has been the Chairman of the Peace Mission Committee, with whom I had the privilege to work during the Sixties and Seventies. I also met him recently. I think they will all be helpful in contacting and communicating with the underground friends.

The second point is about unemployment. All the three previous speakers referred to the problem of unemployment. Now, let us probe this issue a little closely. As the hon. Member, Dr. Datta has said, the population of Manipur State is not very large. According to 1991 Census, it was 18.28 lakhs. Now it must be 20 lakhs or 2 million. The unemployed graduates may be about 30,000. Some say it is 40,000. The figures of unemployment vary. The figure is not the main thing. But the point is that they have had a wrong type of education. They are not only unemployed but they are unemployable. This is the condition of almost every graduate around the country. The Manipur University has been established. I was associated with it when I was a member of the University Grants Commission. But then the University should make the courses socially relevant and should introduce job-oriented courses and vocational courses. That is very important. Even in this Budget, the Appropriation Bill, which is under our consideration, Rs. 629.99 crores, almost Rs. 630 crores has been provided to the State and the single largest item is education, it has been

provided Rs. 103 crores. But it should be enhanced. Then, correct type of education can be given.

Now I will come to the industrial development of the State. I quite agree with what has been said by the hon. Member, Dr Dutta. What is required is rural industrialisation, not large-scale industrialisation but intermediate type of industrialisation. Indeed, Manipur has already made a fine start in electronics, in spinning and various other areas. But then micro-planning is very essential. A decentralised system of development is necessary. In this context, the Seventy-third Constitutional Amendment and the proposed Panchayat election will give positions of responsibility to one-third of the women in the State. It is a very promising development. One very special feature about Manipur society is the wonderful place that the women of Manipur occupy. If anyone goes to the Imphal city of Manipur first, he will be taken to the women's bazaar. The commerce is done by women. These women have leadership qualities. In the handloom industry also they are there. Not only that, women also set good examples to others. I do not know how many of the hon. Members of the House know about the history of Manipur. The women have come forward to protest against social wrongs whenever these were committed. The woman's power, *stree shakti* in Manipur is very strong and it has continued for many decades. I have seen women taking out torchlight processions. I have seen them sitting in *dharna* and participating in various kinds of demonstrations. They have successfully fought against alcoholism. They have done many things. But Manipur women will have a new opportunity to conduct public affairs in all the villages and towns when the Panchayat elections take place. So, I am all for revival of the democratic process. Before long, there should be State elections and Panchayat elections and then Manipur

will certainly have a great era. I spoke about these young men. Many of them, I know (*Interruption*). As I said, they are also rebelling against the system. It was pointed out that money was not the issue. Money is available in plenty. When I was on the Central Board of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, after the Nagaland Peace Accord, the then Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, and then Finance Minister, Mr. Subramaniam, thought that I should turn my attention more towards development. I was on the LIC Board. I went to Imphal and talked to the LIC management. I asked them, "How is the business?". The person concerned said; "We have a roaring business. Crores pour into Manipur like monsoon rains. So there is plenty of money around are having a roaring business in the LIC." I said; "What happens then? Do all these crores of money which pour like monsoon rains reach the targeted beneficiaries? Does real development take place? How do these crores disappear? What is the solution?". They suggested an ingenious solution. He said; "Let us have some reform. Like we have the DA and the TA; let us also have a CA. I said; "What is that?". "If you want to get something done in an office; you pay Rs. 10/- here; Rs. 25/- there Rs. 100/- there and Rs. 500/- there. so; let us also have a CA; Corruption Allowance"; he said. Corruption is so wide-spread and rampant. How do we wipe it out? One does not know really. It is this corrupt system that the angry young men are rebelling against. So; the problem is not just unemployment; it is not just the desire to maintain the identity of Manipur. They are also fighting against the system. It is a challenge before all of us. How are we going to face it, not only in Manipur but everywhere?

With these few words, Madam, I support this Bill and I hope that the

[Dr. M. Aram]

democratic process, both at the Panchayat level and at the State level will be revived very soon. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, I would like to request the Minister to reply.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Madam, I thank all the Members who have participated in the discussion. I wish to inform hon. Members that I shall restrict my reply to the discussion only in respect of the financial aspects of the State of Manipur. I do not want to go into the Plan Outlay and the allocations.

I wish to inform this august House, at the outset, that after the imposition of President's Rule, there has been a significant improvement in the law and order situation in the State. Many Members spoke about the developmental activities. In addition to the general improvement, after the imposition of President's rule there, there has been a notable achievement in the developmental activities of the State.

Most of the Members who have participated have mentioned about the leakage and the siphoning off of funds which are directed to be effectively used for the development of the State and our various programmes. Under the President's rule, we have taken very serious steps in this regard. Therefore, the leakage and siphoning off of funds in the implementation of the several schemes and works have been effectively plugged. In addition to this, the releases of funds have been linked to the specific projects and works and they are closely being monitored by the district authorities. In the field of construction of roads, improvement of roads, to provide water supply and irrigation progress, One Eingra Irrigation Dam

project is likely to be completed by the end of this year. This project was languishing for several years. This will provide drinking water and water for irrigation purposes for the capital city of Imphal. The progress of the Kukka Irrigation Dam is also being quickened and this project will provide water to the district headquarters of Chura Chandpur. The hon. Member, Shri Bhuvaneshwar Kalita, mentioned about the flow of funds from the Plan outlay of 1994-95. He also mentioned that the hill areas are getting only 25 per cent of the total allocation of the State. Madam, I wish to inform the hon. Member that it is not correct. The hill areas are getting 35.71 per cent, that is, about Rs. 85.72 crores out of Rs. 240 crores and the hill population constitutes one-third of the total population of the State of Manipur. Also, many Members referred to the unemployment situation in the State of Manipur. After the imposition of President's Rule, each of the 22 blocks in the hill areas, has been given a sum of Rs. one crore per block and there is the Employment Assurance Scheme for taking up rural employment and the construction of a large number of village roads, schools and community buildings have been taken up under this programme. Due to the ethnic clash between the Nagas and the Kukis, the total number of people affected by this clash in the hill areas comes to 6,000 families. They were rehabilitated by way of taking them to safer places and by way of assistance in terms of their material and other needs. Many of the Members and even Shri V. Narayanasamy referred to the misuse of supply of the essential commodities. I wish to inform the hon. Member that after the imposition of President's Rule, the supply of essential items of food through the Public Distribution System has considerably improved in the far-flung districts and also in the hill areas of the State and the State Government has eliminated the contractor system

in respect of transportation of goods. The Government has taken up the work through their departments. Also, Madam, the hon. Member, Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, mentioned that the State is not linked with any railway line. I wish to inform the hon. Member that the nearest railway station in Manipur is Jiribam and for this a techno-economic survey to lay a railway line from Jiribam to Imphal has been carried out and it is under the consideration of the Railway Minister. One of the important multi-purpose projects is the Loktak Hydel Power Project. And there is also a proposal to set up an additional project at Loktak downstream. For this, the project has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority of the Government of India and the project is awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Environment, and also, a sum of Rs. 5 crores has been allocated for taking up this work under the current Plan.

Kalitaji has also referred to the drug-abuse and de-addiction centres. The State Government has taken stringent measures to prevent inflow of drugs from the international borders and drug trafficking in the State. In addition to this, de-addiction centres in all the four district headquarters namely Imphal, Churachandpur, Chandel and Ukhrul, have been established. Apart from this, a large number of NGOs have taken up this de-addiction work and are getting assistance, technical inputs and training from the Government.

Madam, many other Members have insisted on the installation of popular Government. As I have already mentioned, this will be conveyed to the Home Ministry, and I also wish to inform the august House that the existing projects which are in progress, will be completed on a war-footing.

I appeal to the hon. Members to support the Appropriation Bill. Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, I shall put the motion moved by the Minister to vote. The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur for the services of the financial year 1994-95 as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE MOTOR VEHICLES AMENDMENT) BILL, 1994-Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now I would like to take up the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1994 for further consideration. When the House adjourned on 9th August, 1994, the Minister concluded his speech. Now I would like to request the Members to speak on the Bill. The list of speakers is before me. I would request Mr. John Fernandes to speak on the Bill.