

Re: BORDER GUARD MUTINY IN BANGLADESH

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is a point of information. Sir, there is a mutiny in Bangladesh and the BDR is in revolt. The External Affairs Minister is here. We would like to know about it because it is a neighbouring country and mutiny has taken place there by BDR. It is a matter of serious concern and we want to know what is the situation there. As we saw in the TV, more than 50 people have died, hundreds are injured and firing is being done from helicopters and it is still going on. The Army has been called. They have been asked to surrender but they are not surrendering. Continuous firing is on. We would like to know what is the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*... Their DG is killed. ...*(Interruptions)*... The BDR's DG is killed. Their headquarters has been attacked. All these things are happening in our neighbouring country, Bangladesh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Because our BSF is on the border and the BDR is also on the border, it is a matter of serious concern for India. I believe that the Minister of External Affairs will inform the House about the present scenario in Bangladesh.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I will inform the House before the House adjourns.

THE INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL) 2009-10 — *(Contd)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta. You have ten minutes, Mr. Sengupta.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Thank you very much, Sir. I do not think I will take ten minutes because we are all eagerly waiting here for Mr. Mukherjee to present his final statement. I will take this opportunity just to indicate a few areas which, I think, the Finance Minister, the present Finance Minister, is well aware of, he has shown in his speech the awareness of that. But I would have expected sitting as an Independent Member but basically I am a Congresswala that he would be able to assure us of ...*(Interruptions)*... Well, I wanted to tell him because of my friends who think just because they have supported me that I have changed my character which I have not. But, anyway, the point here, Sir, is that the Finance Minister was very correct that in this present situation his Constitutional responsibility prevents him from doing too many things. But within that he has done a few things and also has given some indications of the lines that our Government would follow. In fact, at the end of his speech, in the Lok Sabha he has categorically stated that the aim of this Government is to look for an economic growth, which is meant not just inclusive growth, but equitable growth. That particular conclusive paragraph should be quoted everywhere as saying that this is our position. Besides this particular point everybody was expecting that the Finance Minister would do something about this meltdown, this economic crisis. Now, Sir, he has mentioned and he has repeatedly

mentioned last time that the Government has introduced two fiscal stimulus, two packages and yesterday also he introduced some tax cuts as a part of those fiscal stimulus. Now I do not want to say much about the merits of those schemes, merits of those proposals, but I just want to put forward a simple argument that in a situation when the demand is not there, the country is facing a severe demand shortage, what is important is to see how demand can be stimulated, how the demand can be expanded. Now, if you reduce income tax, direct taxes, then, people would spend. That would have an effect on demand. If you reduce indirect taxes, then, Sir, unless the indirect taxes are passed on to the consumers in the form of lowering the prices they only add to the profits of the companies. Secondly, if you are going to talk about passing it on to the prices, two per cent reduction here and there or a two per cent fall in the retail prices may not have much impact on demand. His office must have done the calculations and they must have got some kind of inclination for that. But, I think, this additional Rs. 30,000 crores, that he has provided, will probably not do much to help the fiscal stimulus, although it might help those people who were over burdened with these kinds of taxes, which means they would only help the companies. I am mentioning this because, I think, the fundamental problem that we are facing today is a question of stimulating demand and in a State where we are partially globalised — that our big businesses, big manufacturing units, including exports and also through linkage effect, others like big corporate units — we would find it very difficult to have an expansion of demand when the international demand is down. Sir, this is a point I want to stress. We are all very keen that you should give stimulus to exporters to reduce taxes. Now, if the world demand for our exports does not increase, it is only a competition between us and the Chinese, the two exporters. It is like this: in the earlier recession days there was competitive devaluation. The countries are devaluing against each other so that they can do better than the other. I am not saying that this should not be done but I am saying that please do not think that this would have more impact because the world demand for our exports is not increasing and has no chance of increasing. Then, how do we increase demands? Sir, the Finance Minister in his speech has mentioned this point that we have to increase domestic demand and how do we increase domestic demand? If you want to be a Keynesian, we should be a regular Keynesian, not half-hearted changer. We should be able to provide purchasing power to those who will spend. As a result of it, there will be an increase in demand. It so happens in our country, there is a huge population of poor people, of marginal producers who with a little bit of purchasing power would be able to spend and would be able to produce also. The question of increasing domestic demand in our country, — Sir, I beg to point out, the Finance Minister may like to examine — depends very much upon the purchasing power of our poor people, small and marginal farmers, micro and small producing units and how much purchasing power they get, the ability to produce and the ability to boost or stimulate demand. Sir, if this is accepted, then, our Government has already done quite a few such projects and these projects. I am not suggesting

a new project because that is difficult but it is possible to work on those projects to see an expansion of demand. Now, the first thing that comes to mind, of course, is the NREGA. Lot of money has been spent. It is a demand driven scheme. But, still there are many little things that have to be done so that people, their States can actually use their money in NREGA programme. Another flagship programme which was introduced by this Government by an original formulation of National Advisory Council under Mrs. Sonia Gandhi was social security. It has been introduced in our country in last year's Parliament Session by an Act. It is a very half-hearted Act. This particular Act was approved by all parties together in the famous Standing Committee Report. This could have given you a tremendous amount of mileage. But, we introduced it half-heartedly. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am talking about the unorganised worker. That is the sort of security Bill that he is talking about. This has been introduced half-heartedly. The coverage has been limited. The method of implementation has been limited and much more important is that there is no fund. There is also uncertainty about the possibility of financing that. If the hon. Finance Minister could say, 'I would like now to expand the social security to increase the coverage, go to all people who are qualified for that and, for this purpose, I shall be able to provide finances as as State comes forward.' It will have no immediate financial implication. But, it will have a tremendous impact on the millions of our people who are willing to spend on many of these social security benefits for their pockets, provided they know that, after some point of time, it can be covered.

Sir, there are two other issues which I want to mention which were part of the past Government policies. It is for marginal and small farmers. We have taken a great pride in the fact that we have waived so much credit to the agriculture sector. We have also taken a great pride that agriculture credit has been doubled. But, if you look at it, when 84 per cent of our agricultural households live in marginal holdings, with less than 2 acres, they do not get credit. They get only small portion of the total credit that is available to the agriculture sector. A new scheme has to be put forward for marginal and small farmers. We had this kind of a scheme when Smt. Indira Gandhi was there. But, it was given up. I am just putting it to the hon. Finance Minister to please think about it, because this will greatly inspire the real poor people in our country and also help agriculture movement and agriculture revolution.

Sir, my final point is on micro units. We have introduced some major changes. But, again, that is basically for small-scale industries. Micro units have less than 10 people working. Sir, 58 million units are there in the country which are without any financial support, without any credit support and without any marketing support. This was in our NCMP that there should be a National Fund for this kind of unorganised workers. We have already prepared the whole scheme. It is being examined by the Government for the last two years. The time has now come for the hon. Finance Minister to say, 'Yes, we shall try to introduce it in whatever form.' He does not have to accept the whole of it. But, something to recognise that these micro units get some

help. Sir, I am trying to point out what we already have. But, with little bit of changes, we can, actually, do that.

Finally, Sir, my friend, Dr. Bimal Jalan, has talked about implementation. He has talked about infrastructure and all that. There is one animal there which is creating problem. I can get into this debate. We are, now, talking about the Public-Private-Partnership. We do not ask the NTPC to go ahead and invest in Bihar. But, we want to have some kind of participation on that. This has created problems. Still, we can do something about it. But the point that is to be stressed, that, much of the infrastructure which has immediate effect on people such as Bharat Nirman, rural road, rural infrastructure, rural sanitation, rural housing, etc., they do not require huge public sector operations. They need a particular kind of a push to the State sector. Here, we have given a lot of money. As you must have seen the CAG's Report which says that much of the money that has been given has been shelved. So, this is a time and only our hon. Finance Minister can do that. He has to show a method by which we can incentivise the States. Those States which can spend on this, they should be rewarded. There is a method. It can be done in a number of different ways. Sir, this Budget has given an increase in the borrowings of the States. Borrowing really does not help them, because they are have already over-borrowed. What is necessary is to give them additional Central support. If that additional Central support is linked to this kind of incentivisation, it helps. All right, we have got 0.5 per cent of GDP as a possible additional fiscal deficit, I am prepared to give out of that money to the State, provided they spend on social sector project. It will have immediate impact on the demand and growth. If it has an impact on demand, it would have an impact on growth. If there is an impact on growth, we shall be back to a situation where you can get out of the present crisis. So, this is my simple point. Today, the answer to the crisis is 'domestic demand' — domestic demand through helping the poor, the vulnerable people, who are producing and who are consumers. With this, we can help the poor, help the vulnerable, reduce their poverty, make them employable, and, at the same time, we can provide a stimulus to growth and that will take us out of the present crisis.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009; the Appropriation Bill, 2009; and the Finance Bill, 2009. The Interim Budget has been presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, at a very crucial time. I think, the Interim Budget has been appreciated by many hon. Members from the Opposition also that he has presented a right Budget, without keeping any political interests. I also congratulate him for the Interim Budget that he has presented here. It has not been only been on this occasion, but the Congress Party and the UPA Government have never compromised with the national interest and the national economy and have never done anything with a political point of view. I, once again, thank Pranabda for that.

Sir, if I recall the point mentioned by the hon. Member, Shri Shourie, who initiated the discussion, I would like to mention here that any scheme by the Central Government, in a federal structure, has to be implemented by the State Governments. Whether it is the National Employment Guarantee Programme, or, it is the Rajiv Gandhi Kutir Yojana, or, it is the Bharat Nirman Yojana, or, any other scheme, the Central Government has no authority, under the Constitution, to implement any scheme in the States. The State Governments have to implement them. So, any non-implementation of any scheme, or, nonutilization of the funds is the result of irresponsible State Government, and not the Central Government. The Central Government has just to formulate a policy, has to allocate the funds, has to monitor, has to coordinate, but it is the State Government that has to utilize the funds and implement that scheme. So, the State Governments should be held responsible for non-implementation of any scheme or non-utilization of funds. As you know, the National Employment Guarantee Programme has not only been appreciated nationally, but internationally too because this scheme has an innovative idea to provide employment to the crores of people in the country. Such a thing has never happened at any place in the world. There have been many researches and discussions in many foreign universities as to how this scheme has come up; as to how it has been developed; and as to how it has been implemented. So, I think, we should also appreciate this scheme. Rather, we should support it and suggest that the employment for 100 days, under this scheme, should be extended up to 200 days and more funds should be allocated to this scheme so that more and more poor people could get employment. Sir, I have no resistance in saying that — may it be any Government, the Rajasthan Government, or, the Madhya Pradesh Government, or, the Andhra Pradesh Government — they have done a tremendous work under the National Employment Guarantee Programme. As a member of the National Council of the National Employment Guarantee Programme, I have seen that they have utilized the money and have done a very good work. And, if no good work has not been done, then, the State Governments are responsible for it. I would like to draw the attention of this House on one issue how some of the State Governments are misusing the money. In Orissa, the State Government is deducting 28 per cent money from the labour money. They are charging 28 per cent royalty. Can you imagine that? And, this 28 per cent royalty is from the funds of the National Employment Guarantee Programme. I think, such a thing cannot happen anywhere else. So, there are many things that are happening at different places. But, you look at what happened during the NDA regime. I know about the credentials, credibility and honesty of Shri Arun Shourieji. I have all respect for him. But, what happened when the NDA Government was there? During their regime, the Centaur Hotel was privatised, Paradip Phosphate was privatised, Modern Food Industries was privatised and Balco Industries was also privatised. And the investigations are going on till now. What is the report? Everybody knows about it. We sold them at a minimum price. Now, every year, they are earning profits, more than the double, maybe, in thousand

crores. Maybe, they are getting Rs. 500 crores. We sold them at a minimum price. I thank Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who recommended and decided not to privatise any public sector company. And, today, under the UPA Government, if you look at the public sector performance, you will find that most of them are earning profits. The Railways is earning around Rs. 90,000 crore profit. The turnover of central public sector enterprises increased from Rs. 5,87,000 crores in 2003-04 to Rs. 10,81,000 crores in 2007-08 and profit grew from Rs. 53,000 crores to Rs. 91,000 crores. In addition to that, the Railways earned a profit of Rs. 90,000 crores. This is what has been achieved by the public sector enterprises. The number of profit-making public sector enterprises was 143, now, it has gone up to 158. The Government approved implementation of guidelines on corporate governance in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

I don't want to take much of your time. I would like to say that whether it is the Gross Domestic Product, or fiscal deficit, domestic investment, gross capital formation, tax collection, annual growth rate, or manufacturing sector growth, or exports, whatever you see, all have recorded a growth. Everywhere and in every sphere, the UPA Government has done a tremendous work.

I now come to the growth rate, which is now 7.8 per cent. We should be proud of it. We should also realise that there is a melt down in the world economy, and the developing countries growth rate has come down to two per cent or three per cent. Any knowledgeable person will appreciate that despite the global financial crisis, which began in 2007 impacting most of the emerging market economies, we are able to maintain a growth rate of 7.8 per cent in this country. Our country has become the second fastest growing economy in the world. So, we should appreciate this.

I don't want to take much of your time. While appreciating the Budget, I want to give some suggestions to our hon. Minister. He can consider them. We do appreciate the agriculture debt waiver and also debt relief scheme which has been undertaken by the Government. It has allocated Rs. 65,000 crores for this. Sir, I just want to add one point here. The Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe farmers, who have taken loans from the National Scheduled Caste Development Corporation and through the TRIFED, have not got this benefit. They have taken farm loans, but, the Government circular has gone only to the Nationalised Banks and Cooperative Banks. And, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, who take loan from the National Scheduled Caste Development Corporation or TRIFED, are not getting this benefit.

I now come to Agriculture Insurance. I request the hon. Minister that at the time of giving Agriculture Insurance, the village should be taken as one unit.

Sir, the Government has implemented the Sixth Pay Commission's recommendations for the Central Government officers. I would now request the Government to finalise the wage revision of all the Central Public Sector Banks, insurance companies and *Grameen* Banks, so that they can get the benefit. With these few words, I once again thank the hon. Finance Minister. I support this Budget.

श्री उपसभापति: महेन्द्र मोहन जी, आप बोलिए, आपके पास आठ मिनट का समय है।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं सर्वप्रथम अपने वित्तमंत्री जी को बाधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि कल उन्होंने लोक सभा में जो घोषणाएं की, उससे शायद लोगों को कुछ राहत मिले। यद्यपि उसमें एक बहुत बड़ी आवश्यक बात यह है कि excise duty में जो कमी की गई है, क्या उसका लाभ आम आदमी तक पहुंचेगा? यह देखना इस सरकार का काम है, क्योंकि शीघ्र ही यह सरकार चुनाव में जा रही है, तो कैसे उसका implementation होगा? कहीं ऐसा न हो कि excise duty में जो कमी हुई है या सर्विस टैक्स में जो कमी हुई है, उसका लाभ आम आदमी तक न पहुंचकर केवल industrialist के पास ही रह जाए। इसके साथ ही साथ मेरा आपके माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि इस सरकार ने यह तीसरा Stimulus Package दिया है, इसके लिए भी वे बधाई के पात्र हैं, लेकिन यह इस प्रकार की बात है कि किसी बीमारी में अगर कोई दवा पूरी दी जानी हो और उसे एक बार में पूरी दवा न देकर तीन टुकड़ों में दी जाए तो उससे लाभ प्राप्त नहीं होता है। आवश्यकता इस बात की थी कि Stimulus Package को और अच्छे रूप में तथा और अधिक दिया जाता, ताकि जो बीमारी चल रही थी, वह बीमारी समाप्त होती। जो रोजगार समाप्त हो रहे थे, वे रोजगार पैदा होते और मांग बढ़ती, क्योंकि जब तक मांग नहीं बढ़ेगी, तब तक industry नहीं चलेगी और Industry नहीं चलेगी, तो लोगों को रोजगार प्राप्त नहीं होगा। इसलिए मांग बढ़ाने के लिए यह आवश्यक था कि long term और short term, दोनों में कुछ इस प्रकार के Packages दिए जाते कि अगले छः महीने के अंदर, जैसा अभी मेरे साथी डा. विमल जालान जी ने कहा था कि जो Infrastructure Projects हैं, जिन projects को sanction किया गया है, वे projects कैसे छः महीने में पूरे हों, कैसे वे सारे कार्य पूरे किए जाएं ताकि लोगों को रोजगार मिले और लोगों को काम करने का मौका प्राप्त हो? केवल यह कह देने से कि हमने Excise Duty में थोड़ी कमी कर दी, सीमेंट थोड़ा सस्ता हो गया और इससे निर्माण कार्य बढ़ जाएंगे और लोगों रोजगार मिल जाएगा, यह संभव नहीं है। इस ओर विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना चाहिए कि किस प्रकार से हमारे देश के आम आदमी को शिक्षा और सुरक्षा प्राप्त हो तथा रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान की जो उनकी आवश्यकताएं हैं, वे पूरी हों।

महोदय, इसके साथ ही साथ यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें व्यापारी वर्ग को बिल्कुल ignore कर दिया गया है। व्यापारी वर्ग के लिए भी कुछ Stimulus Packages दिए जाते, कुछ इस प्रकार की सुविधाएं दी जाती कि व्यापारी वर्ग भी आगे बढ़े। इस देश के अंदर ऐसे बहुत-से व्यापारी वर्ग हैं, जिसके माध्यम से हमारी financial activities चलती हैं। उसके लिए आवश्यक है कि व्यापारियों को सुरक्षा प्राप्त हो। व्यापारियों के लिए एक विशेष बीमा योजना लाई जाए, जिससे कि व्यापारी सुरक्षित रूप से, बगैर किसी डर के अपने कामों को पूरा कर सकें।

महोदय, जब माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी बजट पर बोल रहे थे, उस समय मैं दर्शक दीर्घा में बैठा हुआ था। वे हमारे बहुत वरिष्ठ मंत्री हैं, उन्हें बहुत ज्ञान है, मैं उनका आदर करता हूँ, लेकिन उस वक्त ऐसा प्रतीत हो रहा था कि हमारे भारतवर्ष का बजट नहीं प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है, बल्कि वह केवल चार-पांच सालों के कार्यकलापों का विवरण दिया जा रहा है। उससे development के बारे में तथा किस प्रकार से financial चीजें मजबूत हों, कैसे इस मंदी के दौर से हम बाहर निकलें, इसके बारे में कोई भी जानकारी नहीं हो रही थी। विगत पांच वर्षों में इस सरकार के द्वारा बहुत अच्छा टैक्स कलेक्शन हुआ, इससे बहुत पैसा आया और यह एक ऐसा मौका था, जब कि इसके माध्यम से कुछ सुविधाएं देकर हम व्यापार को आगे बढ़ाते, Industry को आगे बढ़ाते, आम आदमी को आगे बढ़ाते, किसानों की मदद करते तथा रोजगार पैदा करने के अवसर पैदा करते। हमारी सरकार की एक बहुत बड़ी स्कीम “Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme” रही है। इस स्कीम में 30,100 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है, जब कि पिछले वर्ष 36,750 करोड़ रुपए का खर्च हुआ। इसमें कम प्रावधान क्यों किया गया? यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई। इसी प्रकार से Rural Development और Urban Development Scheme “JNNURM” में भी allocation कम किया गया है। यह भी बात मेरी समझ में नहीं

आती है। हमें बजट में लगभग 2.5 per cent का Fiscal Deficit दिखाया गया है। लेकिन कल माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो सुविधाएं दी हैं, जो कुछ टैक्स कम किए हैं, उससे ऐसा लग रहा है कि जो उन्होंने 2008-09 के Budget Estimate में साढ़े पांच परसेंट Fiscal Deficit की बात कही है, वह कहीं सात परसेंट या आठ परसेंट से भी ऊपर न निकल जाए। इस ओर भी थोड़ा-सा ध्यान देंगे।

महोदय, इसके साथ ही साथ मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर भी दिलाना चाहूंगा कि Non-Plan Expenditure में जिस प्रकार से व्यय बढ़ते हैं, उसको कैसे रोका जाए? अगर किसी तरह Non-Plan Expenditure की जगह Plan Expenditure को बढ़ाया जाए, तो इससे हमारे देश की तरक्की ज्यादा हो सकती है। Plan Expenditure में केवल 39,571 करोड़ रुपए बढ़ा है, जब कि Non-Plan Expenditure में 1,10,498 करोड़ रुपए की वृद्धि हुई है। हमें अपने Non-Plan Expenditure को कम करना चाहिए और Plan Expenditure और Development Expenditure को बढ़ाना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही साथ मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर भी दिलाना चाहूंगा कि non-plan expenditure में जिस प्रकार से हमारे व्यय बढ़ते हैं, उसको कैसे रोका जाए और non-plan expenditure की बजाय हमारे plan expenditure में किसी तरीके से खर्चा बढ़ाया जाए तो हमारे देश की तरक्की ज्यादा हो सकती है। Plan expenditure में केवल 39,571 करोड़ रुपया बढ़ा है जबकि non-plan expenditure में 1,10,498 करोड़ रुपए की वृद्धि हुई है। इस प्रकार हमें अपने non-plan expenditure को कम करना चाहिए तथा plan expenditure और development expenditure को आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही साथ मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से आपके माध्यम से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि जिस प्रकार का fiscal deficit आ रहा है, उससे ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि हमारा रुपया डॉलर के मुकाबले में और कमजोर होता जाएगा जिससे हमारे यहां investors भी हमें प्राप्त नहीं होंगे और हमारे interest rates भी कम नहीं होंगे। यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि हमारे interest rates कम किए जाएं, हमारी industries को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए लेकिन उसके साथ-साथ यह भी देखा जाए कि जो प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए उसका लाभ आम आदमी तक पहुंचे। किस प्रकार से उसको यह लाभ प्राप्त हो, इस ओर भी ध्यान देना बहुत आवश्यक है। हमारे यहां कृषि की उत्पादकता बढ़ी है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... खाद्यान्नों की पैदावार 230 मिलियन टन हुई है, कृषि में विकास भी ठीक ढंग से हुआ है लेकिन अभी भी स्थिति संतोषजनक नहीं है। किसान अभी भी आत्महत्या कर रहा है और परेशान है। कई कारणों से अच्छा होता, अगर कृषि की पैदावार को और अधिक बढ़ाने के लिए किसानों के लिए आप उसमें कुछ अधिक सुविधाएं देते जिससे उनकी non-agricultural income बढ़ती, irrigation facilities बढ़तीं, कृषि में investment और बढ़ता। हमारे यहां defence allocation इस बार बहुत अधिक बढ़ाया गया है। यह जरूरी है कि सुरक्षा के लिए defence allocation बढ़ाया जाता, लेकिन चिंता इस बात की है कि अभी भी भारत 70 प्रतिशत हथियारों का आयात करता है। अतः यह जरूरी है कि अनुसंधानों के लिए पैसा दिया जाए, लेकिन इसका उल्टा किया गया है। पिछले साल अनुसंधानों और विकास में 6,476 करोड़ रुपए खर्च किए गए थे, इस बार उसे घटाकर केवल 4000 करोड़ कर दिया गया है। क्या हम हमेशा हम लोग आयात पर ही निर्भर बने रहेंगे? क्या हमारा self development नहीं होगा और हम आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर नहीं बढ़ेंगे? यह बहुत जरूरी है कि हम आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर बढ़ें। महोदय, मैं केवल दो मिनट और लूंगा। हमारी stock market से आज आम आदमी बहुत अधिक जुड़ा हुआ है। उस stock market में बजट का कोई भी अनुकूल प्रभाव नज़र नहीं आया है। इधर stock market बहुत ही volatile चल रही है। विदेशी वित्त निवेशकों का भारतीय शेयर बाज़ार की तरफ बिल्कुल रुखा रवैया हो गया है और वहां से भी पैसा नहीं लग रहा है। अगर शेयर बाज़ार और आम आदमी को सहायता पहुंचानी है तो हमें कुछ ऐसे incentives देने चाहिए कि शेयर मार्किट के अंदर भी कुछ चीजें बढ़ें।

श्री उपसभापति: कृपया अब समाप्त करें।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: इसके साथ ही साथ जैसा मैंने कहा था कि शिक्षा की ओर ध्यान देना बहुत आवश्यक है। शिक्षा पर हमारी सरकार हमेशा कहती रही है कि GDP का हम 6 प्रतिशत खर्च करेंगे, लेकिन यह

जानकारियां प्राप्त हुई हैं, कि शिक्षा पर होने वाला व्यय केवल 34,400 करोड़ रुपए का है। इस प्रकार अगर देखा जाए तो GDP का केवल लगभग तीन प्रतिशत हम शिक्षा पर व्यय कर रहे हैं जबकि 6 प्रतिशत का वायदा है। मेरा माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से आपके माध्यम से यह अनुरोध है कि कृपया इस ओर ध्यान दें और इस प्रकार की कुछ और रियायतें दें। एक और वर्ग है जिसे बिल्कुल ignore किया गया है, वह है direct tax में, जबकि income tax के अंतर्गत कुछ सुविधाएं दी जानी चाहिए थीं जिससे आम आदमी की purchasing power बढ़ती क्योंकि जब purchasing power बढ़ती है, तभी production और मांग बढ़ती है और उससे रोजगार पैदा होता है। उस ओर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है और इस बार उन्होंने उसी को रिपीट कर दिया है। इस ओर भी ध्यान देना आवश्यक है। यह आवश्यक है कि हम आम आदमी के पास पैसे को पहुंचाएं जिससे उसकी purchasing power बढ़े, उसकी सुख-सुविधाएं बढ़ें और उसके माध्यम से हम इंडस्ट्री को बढ़ाएं और देश को आगे बढ़ाने में हम अपना योगदान दें। इस संबंध में डा0 विमल जालान जी ने, श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी जी ने तथा श्री अरुण शौरी जी ने जो कुछ कहा था, मैं उससे सहमत हूँ कि देश को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि हम कुछ long term provisions लें, हम short term के ऊपर न चलें, तभी हमारा देश देश और तेजी से आगे बढ़ सकेगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुमोदन करता हूँ कि वे अपने बजट को आगे बढ़ाएं। धन्यवाद।

DR. C. RANGARAJAN (Nominated): Sir, my overall assessment is that we have had a reasonably good Interim Budget. It is a well-drafted document. By maintaining the overall total expenditure in 2009-10 and the enhanced level reached in 2008-09, it has provided adequate stimulus to the economy. Let us look at the numbers. The Revised Estimate of total expenditure for 2008-09 is 20 per cent higher than the Budget Estimate for 2008-09, and that for 2009-10 is another 5.8 per cent over the current year's Revised Estimate. In fact, if you look at it from 2007-08, in the course of two years, the overall increase is about 33 per cent. By any stretch of imagination, this is an enhanced level of Government expenditure which should provide adequate stimulus to the economy. In fact, this high level of Government expenditure has implications for fiscal deficit a point to which I shall come later.

If the Government expenditures are being maintained at this high level, why is it that concern is being expressed by some people that the stimulus is not adequate? For this, we must turn to the composition of Government expenditures.

The Budget has provided for large allocations for the social sector. The allocation for the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has almost doubled. Substantial additions have been made to the Bharat Nirman projects. All this would lead to an improvement in the rural demand. This will also reduce, to some extent, rural poverty. But, in some ways, this increase in rural demand may not necessarily improve the conditions of those sectors of the economy which are suffering. The recession in the developed world consequent to the international financial crisis is affecting several segments of economy, mostly through exports. The export sector is not a small sector in the economy. Goods and services taken together constitute today about 35 per cent of the GDP. Therefore, recession abroad is affecting the export sector in a big way, and within the export sector, there are some segments which are more than normally affected. These are textiles, gems and jewellery, automobile components and, to some extent, the IT. Therefore,

what is really required is, sector-specific proposals which would have the effect of addressing the severe problems being faced by some of the sectors. For example, a good decision has been taken under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission — provision has been made to buy buses. Now, provision for purchase of additional buses is a very important thing because this would not only improve urban transport, but would also provide the right kind of incentives as far as automobile industry is concerned. Therefore, what I would like to suggest is, a re-look at the composition of Government expenditures. It is not enough to look at the size and the level of Government expenditure; we also need to look at the composition of Government expenditures. For example, the Defence Ministry could also reallocate its expenditures in a manner in which the additional expenditures could be directed towards those sectors which have suffered the most. Therefore, this is my plea to the Finance Minister: You have maintained Government expenditure at a high level. It has its own consequences. It is providing adequate stimulus to the economy. But, take a look at the composition of Government expenditures. Let us look at the allocation for each department, for each Ministry and see whether allocations can be rearranged in a manner in which it would stimulate the demand for those sectors of the economy which have taken a particularly severe beating. Let me say that the increased allocation for the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme or for Bharat Nirman are welcome. Improving rural demand is extremely important and justified. But, at the same time, we need to look at those sectors of the economy which have taken a particularly severe beating and do something about it. Now, I also know that it is not possible always to substitute external demand by domestic demand. Take the example of gems and jewellery. Because of the decline in external demand, the gem and jewellery sector has been affected. It is not possible in this sector, to substitute the external demand, which existed before, by domestic demand. In some cases it can be done. It may be possible in the case of automobile components or in some other sectors, but not in all sectors. In such sectors, what we can really do is to see to what extent those who have suffered and those who are bearing the brunt of the heat can be additionally provided for. As I said, in some sectors, such as in the case of automobile components or textiles, domestic demand can substitute external demand and it is that that we should really be doing. So, my plea basically is, look at the composition of Government expenditure and see whether we can realign the Government expenditure in a manner in which we can go and stimulate the demand for those sectors of the economy, which have been affecting.

Now, I come to the final point and that is on the fiscal deficit. What has happened is, the increase in the Government expenditures and the declining trends in revenues have contributed to an increase in fiscal deficit and the revenue deficit. To some extent, the decline in revenues is also partly a policy decision. The decisions to reduce the excise duty earlier and now are meant to stimulate demand. Of course, personally I prefer increase in Government expenditure to reduction in taxes because the increase in Government expenditure has a direct impact whereas

the reduction in taxes has an indirect effect. It will reduce the prices of the products and, thus, it will stimulate demand but whereas Government expenditures on other hand have a direct impact on demand. But nevertheless in some situations reduction in indirect taxes will also help. But, on the whole, what we have is an increase in Government expenditure, a reduction in taxes, and a reduction in revenue growth as a result of the slower growth in the economy. All this has contributed to an increase in fiscal deficit. The fiscal deficit, as you all know, was originally projected at 2.5 per cent for this current year. It is becoming 6 per cent, and the revenue deficit is going up from the Budget estimation of 1.1 per cent to 4.4 per cent. Now, it is also estimated that the fiscal deficit the next year will be 5.5 per cent and the revenue deficit will also be high. Both the fiscal and revenue deficit may, in fact, increase the next year over what is now shown because the new Government increase some more Government expenditures. With the result you are going to get a situation in which fiscal deficits are going to be higher. I think in a difficult situation as we are placed today, in a situation in which the demand is weakening, perhaps the high level of fiscal deficit may be justified. But this is not a sustainable level of fiscal deficit; this is not a kind of deficit, which we can allow to continue for years. Therefore, I would urge that an early action be taken as soon as a recovery begins to appear to bring down the fiscal deficit. There is a recognition of this fact in the Budget itself, but I think it is worth reiterating that over the years we must try to bring down the fiscal deficit. Now, it is not an empty thing to talk about the fiscal deficit. Fiscal deficit do have an impact on the economy. Whatever the stimulating effect it may have, it has a very serious effect on the Budget itself. Interest payments as a proportion of net revenue receipts keeps increasing as the fiscal deficit increases. As a result of various actions, we were able to bring down the interest as a proportion of revenue receipts from 47 per cent in 2003-04 to 31.5 per cent in 2007-08. But as a result of increase in the fiscal deficit in the current year, interest payment as a proportion of the revenue receipts will go to 34.3 per cent and in 2009-10 it will become 37.37 per cent. These are very large pre-emptions of the revenue receipts. The higher ratio of interest payments to the revenue receipts essentially means that less is available out of the revenue receipts for development expenditure and that is the reason why we need to be concerned about the fiscal deficit. I would, therefore, argue, and also as we have said and as is being pointed out; the borrowings in the current year will always be two-and-half times the borrowings which were originally estimated at the time of the Budget and this will put pressure on interest rates. All of us want the interest rates to go down because that is the only way to stimulate demand. But when fiscal deficit is rising and when Government borrowing keeps increasing, it will also put pressure on interest rates. It is true that we should look at the fiscal deficit not as it happens in every year, but as a cyclical average — rising during periods of depression or recession and falling during periods of boom. But, this has not happened in the past. Even in the periods of boom, we have kept our fiscal deficit high. I would,

therefore, urge the Finance Minister that as you move along and as the economy improves, we should bring down the fiscal deficit to the target which we had fixed. There is some logic behind fixing of 3 per cent of the GDP as the fiscal deficit for the Centre, and another 3 per cent of the GDP as fiscal deficit for all States together. That means, the Centre and the States, taken together, would have 6 per cent of the GDP as the target of fiscal deficit. At present the households savings in financial assets are only between 10-11 per cent of GDP. The pre-emption of these transferable savings by all the sectors in the economy has to be kept in view, and in this situation, 6 per cent fiscal deficit for the Centre and the States together is a fair distribution of the transferable savings of the household sector. Please remember, in this economy, household sector is the only surplus sector, and, therefore, household savings in financial assets constitute the transferable savings and these transferable savings have to be fairly distributed between the corporate sector, public sector enterprises and the Government Administration. It is in that context that six per cent, for the Centre and the States taken together, is a reasonable level of fiscal deficit that they should maintain and, therefore, I would urge the Finance Minister — I think, he himself recognises it. There is a clear statement in the Budget itself — that as the economy improves, we should try to bring down the fiscal deficit to the targeted level.

The world is passing through a difficult time. The new year has opened on a sombre mood. Not only the developed world, but also the developing world has also suffered. The decoupling theory does not hold good any more. Growth is slowing down. We have several estimates; the most optimistic estimates are of 7.2 per cent or 7.1 per cent growth rate in the current year. In the first half of this year, we grew at 7.8 per cent. That means, in the second half of the year, the growth is only about 6.5 per cent. And, I believe, in 2009-10, the economy will, perhaps, grow only at that rate. But, even in order to enable the economy to grow at that particular rate, in the context of the present world situation, we need to maintain aggregate demand at a high level. This is a standard Keynesian prescription, and, therefore, we need to gear both, monetary policy and fiscal policy, to maintain the aggregate demand at high level. Monetary policy is in a position to stimulate growth because inflation is coming down and, perhaps, the inflation level may go down further, and, therefore, there is scope for reducing the rates of interest. And, the fiscal policy should maintain the Government expenditures at high level in the current year and in the next year. But, as I said, earlier, if we have to provide adequate stimulus to the sectors of the economy which are suffering, we need to look not only at the level of Government expenditure but also at the composition of Government expenditure, and, therefore, I would end by requesting the Finance Minister to take another close look at the composition of the Government expenditure and to see how the expenditures can be re-aligned in a manner in which the sectors of the economy, that are currently going through a difficult phase, can be helped.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): I was listening to my friend, Mr. Arun Shourie's, outstanding speech — naturally, it was an address as a leader from the Opposition side — and experts like Shri N.K. Singh, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Shri Arjun Sengupta, and Dr. Rangarajan. I stand here as a truly independent person, non-partisan, trying to look at the interest. ...*(Interruptions)*... She has told me that she will disturb me a couple of times but not more. I stand here to represent the legitimate interests of the corporate sector, and the customers of the corporate sector who are ultimately the citizens of this country. I was very disappointed with the Budget presented on 16th February, and I expressed my views to the media. I did not accept the views about something barring in Constitution, or, appropriateness in an Interim Budget, or, Vote on Account, or, the fact that the Opposition could have objected to that. Luckily, the learned Finance Minister put those doubts at rest yesterday, and I welcome the announcement both, regarding service tax and excise duties. Incidentally, I may mention that my motorcycles legitimately do not get that benefit. They were already at eight per cent; so, also my autorickshaw. So, we do not get any benefit, but I do not grudge that at all. I think what you did was absolutely correct. Sir, we have heard about fiscal deficit etc. I would like to mention one thing. For the last twelve months, none of us like inflation. The world is afraid of inflation. Industries suffer, fixed-income earners suffer and the poor suffers. But, Sir, we have had too much emphasis on inflation control, if I may say so, with due respect, because of the Reserve Bank of India. We now want emphasis on growth. Everybody has said that. If inflation raises its ugly head again to ten, eleven or twelve per cent — at present, it is around four per cent — I am sure, for that situation, the Reserve Bank of India and the Government have steps to control it. Today, let us not compromise even on the fiscal deficit, which I myself say, Sir, including the off balance sheet items, including the States, which, for this year, ending March, 2009 is likely to be 11 to 12 per cent. Six per cent was only for the non-balance sheet items and Non-States. I do not like that figure. It is quite too high. But it is not due to the stimulus that this country needs, Keynesian economy or otherwise; it is due to the wasteful subsidies, non-merit subsidies and all those expenditure that we have to make because we are a democratic polity; elections are coming.

But why is the poor man sending his children to private school? It is because of the reason that most of the Government schools do not provide proper education. Why do people, even poor men, try to go to quacks, rather than availing medical facilities provided by the Government? It is because of the reason that these have collapsed. We are not spending our money properly. I know that this cannot be settled over night or in a very short period of time. Sir, the new Government won't come to power in two months' time. The next Budget is, at least, four months away, and, at the earliest, I believe, it would be the end of June. Four months is a long time. Today morning, we heard President Obama's speech to the Joint Session; again,

an outstanding speech. During the last six to eight months, or, even today, nobody in the world knows — be it the investment banks, the Government, Larry Summers, the new Treasury Secretary — what happened, how did it happen, how long will it last. They still say, the worst is probably not over. Now, we may be partly decoupled. We are not fully coupled, our banks are stronger etc. etc., I won't go into all that. All that has been said. But the fact remains, I believe, Sir, from whatever I have heard and read, that the calendar year 2009 will be a very difficult year for the Indian industry and the Indian people. Hopefully, recovery will start, as Mr. Chidambaram said the other day, from the end of this year, maybe, only next year. Nobody knows. We have to try our best, we have to pull up our socks, tighten our belts and get ready to face the problem of closing of small and medium enterprises, lakhs of people losing their jobs etc. etc. I feel very bad that our governance is so poor. If we can have 26/11, if we can have, at least, part of the 160-Districts under Naxalite-influence, if hoodlums can hold any city to ransom, which happened recently in Chennai and Mangalore, then, what are we doing? Where is governance? Hopefully, we will see it when the new Government comes to power and when the Parliament elections and some State elections have taken place. Hopefully, some hard decisions would be taken. But for the next four months, through you, Sir, I request the learned Finance Minister — I don't want to go into details — to spend, spend and spend. Dr. Bimal Jalan said something; Mr. Arjun Sengupta said something. Sir, go ahead, pick up twenty projects, which are already in progress. Give directions. No committees, no this, no that. I would speak for the Defence. Our security is very, very important, Sir. We need employment. Without more employment, where will the purchasing power come from? We need confidence in the economy. Why are vehicles not being bought? There are mainly two reasons. Others are minor reasons. Price is not a reason; we all have discounted our vehicles. The first reason is that the confidence is lacking in the economy, whether it is stock market or otherwise. One does not know whether one's job is safe. Forget about getting increments. His job is not safe. Secondly, credit is not available. RBI has to further reduce SLR, has to reduce CRR, has to reduce repo rate, has to reduce reverse repo rate by another fifty or hundred basis points. What is the danger? More than that, forget about ICICI and HDFC, at least, why can't the public sector banks lend, not to Bajaj, but to the customers? A motorcycle customer is not a rich man. He is not getting loan, I am making a categorical statement, from the public sector banks or NBFCs at a reasonable rate of interest because banks are risk averse. This became sub-prime to India, Sir, what was sub-prime in housing to America. They were exuberant. They lent like mad. There were lot of NPAs. I am not suggesting, Mr. Finance Minister, that they should lend to become an NPA. No. But, that is their job. Choose the right customer. And, Sir, please wake up and change the law. In the last 12 months because of populism, the bank lent. For three months, he does not pay. I don't blame that customer. He has a problem. But the bank cannot re-possess the vehicle. Police says, if you get a call, call us. The Supreme Court said something. Let's make a law that no strong-arm

4.00 P.M.

tactics should be there. I am not supporting that. But, if I lend, 'I' means whoever lends, and if the fellow does not pay, whatever his problem is, I must have a right to repossess my vehicle, or whatever my item is. What is wrong with that? Otherwise, you are giving a signal to the bank not to lend. That cannot be the desire of the Government. But, loan is not taking place, Sir. So, we need confidence in the economy because this is a discretionary decision. He will say, "rather than today, I will buy after one year. My vehicle is four years' old. It will become five years' old. What is the problem?" Vehicle, I am giving an example. It can be a television or a DVD. So, Sir, we need to build confidence. We need more employment. This is domestic demand. I agree with Mr. Arjun Sengupta and others. Help export if you can. We are exporting a lot from our company, Sir. But, demand abroad has been affected, specially from January this year. It was not so bad in the last quarter. Now, it has been affected. We should help them. But, ultimate solution for the calendar year 2009 is domestic demand. It won't come from magic; it won't come overnight. But, let us spend wisely. Of course, that is my only hope. That will create employment; that will create purchasing power. And, Sir, the very important thing is, credit must go also to the corporates, wherever required, and to the customers, to the customers, to the customers. I can't emphasise that more. For these four months, at least, let us not worry about inflation. We need employment. We need growth. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं तीन-चार बातों की ओर वित्त मंत्री का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। यू.पी.ए. की सरकार आम आदमी के नाम पर बनी है, लेकिन वास्तविकता यह है कि उसके साथ सबसे बड़ा विश्वासघात हुआ है।

अभी वित्त मंत्री बताते हैं कि महंगाई का सूचकांक कम हो रहा है, लेकिन वास्तविकता क्या है? जहां कर्मांडिटी प्राइसिज़ कम होने के कारण, थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (W.P.I.) कम हो रहा है, वहीं फूड प्राइस इंडेक्स बढ़ रहा है। मैं एक ही आंकड़ा बताऊंगा। जो हमारा फूड प्राइस इंडेक्स है, अगस्त, 2008 में 6% था, वह अभी फरवरी में 13.25% बढ़ा है। लोगों को रोजमर्रा की जिन चीजों की आवश्यकता होती है, हमने उसका एक चार्ट बनाया है जैसे गेहूं, चावल, शक्कर, चाय, तेल, मूंग दाल, आलू, प्याज, टमाटर, मिट्टी का तेल, रसोई गैस इत्यादि। अगर हम 2004 के मूल्यों की तुलना आज के मूल्यों से करते हैं, जब हमने इनको सत्ता सौंपी थी, तो आज कम से कम इन मूल्यों में डेढ़ गुना, दो गुना और कहीं-कहीं तीन गुना तक वृद्धि हुई है, इस तरह दामों में इतनी अधिक बढ़ोतरी हुई है। यह मैं फरवरी, 2009 की बात कर रहा हूँ। असली बात यह है कि जो महंगाई लोगों को खा रही है, वह कम नहीं हुई है। मेरा यह मानना है कि महंगाई से जूझती आम जनता के साथ इस सरकार ने विश्वासघात किया है और उनको कोई राहत नहीं दी है। सर, बड़ा मुद्दा यह है कि नौकरियाँ जा रही हैं। इस सरकार ने प्रोमिस किया था कि एक करोड़ नौजवानों को रोजगार देंगे। लेकिन, 5 साल के बाद जब यह जा रहे हैं, तब इन्होंने डेढ़ करोड़ नौजवानों को बेरोजगार करने का पूरा नक्शा तैयार किया है। जो लोग बेरोजगार हो रहे हैं, उनमें केवल एक क्षेत्र, एक्सपोर्ट में, एक करोड़ लोग बेरोजगार हो रहे हैं। टेक्स्टाइल, डायमंड, आईटी तथा अन्य क्षेत्र जो एक्सपोर्ट से जुड़े क्षेत्र हैं और जो नॉन-एक्सपोर्ट सेक्टर हैं, जैसे— ऑटो इंडस्ट्री या कंस्ट्रक्शन या अन्य काम हैं, उनमें भी बड़े पैमाने पर मजदूरों से लेकर अन्य प्रकार के काम करने वाले बहुत-से लोग बेरोजगार हो रहे हैं।

उपसभापति महोदय, इन बेरोजगार लोगों को कोई संरक्षण नहीं है। आज वित्त मंत्री लोगों को सलाह दे रहे हैं कि हो सके तो आप वेतन कम करो, लेकिन नौकरियाँ मत छाँटो। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह केवल सलाह ही देंगे या खुद कुछ कर के दिखाएँगे? आज जिनकी नौकरियाँ जा रही हैं, वे लाखों युवक आज बड़ी परेशानी में हैं। एक सप्ताह पहले मुम्बई में एक इंजीनियर बेटा और उसकी माँ ने नौकरी जाने के कारण आत्महत्या की। इसी तरह से डायमंड के मजदूर भी आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। आन्ध्र प्रदेश में वीवर्स लोग आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। इन सब लोगों का रोजगार यू0पी0ए0 सरकार ने छीना है, इसलिए कि उसने समय पर मंदी का सामना नहीं किया। मैं मानता हूँ कि 'नरेगा' में भी योजना है कि अगर 15 दिनों में जॉब नहीं मिले तो उसको इकोनॉमिक डोल दिया जाता है, लेकिन ये जो नौजवान बेरोजगार हो रहे हैं, उनको यह सरकार कौन-सा डोल दे रही है? ऐसी कोई योजना नहीं है। कहते हैं कि ESA में एक प्रावधान है, जिसके तहत उनको छः महीने के लिए आधी तनखाह दी जाएगी, लेकिन एक भी बेरोजगार हुए नौजवान को ऐसा कोई भत्ता नहीं मिला है। यह मैं आपके माध्यम से इनका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और इसीलिए मैं यह माँग भी करना चाहता हूँ कि जिन लोगों की नौकरियाँ जा रही हैं, उनको एक साल तक आधी तनखाह मिले, ऐसा सरवाइवल भत्ता उनको मिलना चाहिए। अगर यह उनको नहीं मिलता है, तो यह नौजवानों के साथ विश्वासघात होगा। पहला विश्वासघात आम इंसान के साथ, अब दूसरा विश्वासघात नौजवानों के साथ तथा तीसरा विश्वासघात इस सरकार ने जवानों के साथ किया है। अगर आज सेना के सेवानिवृत्त अधिकारी भी अपने मैडल लौटाने पर तुले हैं, तो इसका मतलब यह है कि इस सरकार ने उनके अभिमान को और आत्मसम्मान को ठेस पहुँचाई है। उसके लिए छोटा वित्तीय प्रबंधन चाहिए। लेकिन उनके आत्मसम्मान को ठेस पहुँची है और उसकी भरपाई आज तक नहीं हुई है। इस सरकार ने बहुत ढिंढोरा पीटा कि हमने infrastructure में पहल की है। लेकिन, सर, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें उन्होंने टारगेट से आधी भी सफलता नहीं पाई है। वह चाहे रूरल रोड्स हों या इरिगेशन हो या पावर जनरेशन हो या Golden Quadrilateral का काम पूरा करने की बात हो या North-South Corridor की बात हो अथवा East-West Corridor की बात हो, infrastructure के हर क्षेत्र में यह सरकार आधा टारगेट भी पूरा नहीं कर पाई है। अभी नए एग्जाम सिस्टम में 50 फीसदी से पास नहीं किया जाता और इस सरकार को 50 फीसदी भी सफलता नहीं मिली है, इसलिए यह सरकार पूरी तरह से फेल हुई है।

सर, मैं केवल 2 चीजों का उल्लेख करूँगा कि 4-laneing करना था, उसमें 30 per cent मुकाम भी हासिल नहीं हुआ है। National Highways connecting important cities का जो काम था, वह काम भी अधर में लटक गया, ports का भी काम अधर में लटक गया। इसलिए इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर में, और खासकर बिजली में, बहुत बड़ा घोटाला है।

एक विद्वान ने बहुत अच्छी तरह से कहा था कि— “Between 2003-08, we did enjoy very good economic growth. But it was not linked all that much to policies during the UPA regime; it was much more due to reforms undertaken during the earlier periods and an exceptional boom in the global economy. Our private sector responded very well to this economic climate.” यह उन्होंने कहा। इस प्रकार बात यह है कि इस सरकार के पास अब संसाधनों की भी कमी है और इसलिए मैं एक माँग करना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, आपने पढ़ा होगा कि स्विट्जरलैंड में जो बैंक होते हैं, उनमें सारी दुनिया का सिक्रेट फंड या सिक्रेट धन लोग रखते हैं। उनके सिक्रेट अकाउंट्स हैं, जिनकी किसी को जानकारी नहीं मिलती, लेकिन स्विट्जरलैंड में अब कानून बदला है। अब जो देश उससे माँग करेगा, वह उनको सारी जानकारी कि किस सिटिजन का कितना पैसा जमा है, यह बताने के लिए तैयार है। हमारे यहां से कुछ भारतीय लोगों ने 14 लाख करोड़ से भी ज्यादा रकम ऐसी अपनी दूसरे नंबर की कमाई से वहां छुपाई है। आज जब वह मौका आया है, अवसर आया है कि वह संपत्ति भारत को मिल जाए, तो इसके लिए भारत को स्विट्जरलैंड के पास अपनी एप्लीकेशन देनी चाहिए कि वह इसकी जानकारी हमें दे दे। अमरीका ने किया है।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: जर्मनी ने किया है।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: जर्मनी ने किया है। बाकी देश भी उसको फॉलो-अप कर रहे हैं, लेकिन भारत क्यों चुप है? वित्त मंत्री जी, अपने देश की संपत्ति जो लूट कर अपने लोगों ने बाहर ले जाकर रखी है, उसको वापस लाने का यही एक सुनहरा मौका है और वह वापस लाने के लिए जो आपको प्रयास करना चाहिए, वह आपने नहीं किया है।

उपसभापति महोदय, अंत में मैं एक ही बात कहूंगा कि मैं दूसरे सदन में वित्त मंत्री जी का भाषण सुन रहा था, जब बजट पर उन्होंने अपना जवाब दिया था। उन्होंने एनडीए और यूपीए सरकार की तुलना की और एनडीए और यूपीए की तुलना करते समय उन्होंने बहुत सारे आंकड़े दिए। मैं केवल वास्तविकता के आधार पर तुलना करना चाहूंगा। हमने, एनडीए ने एक मजबूत अर्थव्यवस्था यूपीए को सौंपी थी, आज उन्होंने उसको एक मजबूर अर्थ-व्यवस्था में परिवर्तित किया है। हमने एक करोड़ रोजगार का सृजन किया था, इस सरकार ने डेढ़ करोड़ युवाओं को बेरोजगार करके रखा है। हम हर रोज 11 किलोमीटर की सड़कें बनाते थे, इनकी औसतन एक किलोमीटर की भी नई सड़क नहीं बन रही है। हमने सस्ते दाम दिए थे, महंगाई को रोका था, इन्होंने महंगाई को आसमान तक छूने दिया। हमने कर्जा सस्ता किया था, इन्होंने कर्जा महंगा किया, जिसके कारण इंडस्ट्रीज को आज यह दिन देखने पड़ रहे हैं। हमने किसान का कल्याण किया, अब इन्होंने किसानों को आत्महत्या पर मजबूर किया, जो आज हजारों किसान मर रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)... 35 किलो राशन हम गरीब को दे रहे थे, लेकिन यह 15 किलो राशन भी मुहैया नहीं करा रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)... हमने कनेक्टिविटी की रेवोल्यूशन लाई थी, इन्होंने स्कैम की श्रृंखला चलाई है। कनेक्टिविटी के क्षेत्र में भी स्कैम लाए हैं। हमने परमाणु बम बनाकर दिखाया था, लेकिन इन्होंने परमाणु समझौता करके पोखरन-3 होने की संभावना को खारिज कर दिया है।...(व्यवधान)... हमने डब्ल्यूटीओ में किसानों के हितों की रक्षा की थी, इन्होंने यूएस के साथ नॉलेज इनीशिएटिव के नाम पर क्या छुपा कर लाए हैं, यह देश से छुपा कर रखा है, जो बताते नहीं।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए। नैक्स्ट आपका है, तब बोल लीजिए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, सूखे और बाढ़ को रोकने के लिए हमने नदी जोड़ योजना बनाई थी, आपने वह बंद कर दी। हमने फार्म इन्कम गारंटी योजना किसानों के लिए बनाई थी...(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): Sir, I have a point of order.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Under which rule?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Under the relevant rule.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Under which rule? There should be a specific point of order.

श्री उपसभापति: मिनिस्टर हैं, इंटरवीन करना चाहते हैं।

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He should know. When he is raising a point of order, he should know the rule. What is this? ...(Interruptions)... He cannot raise it like this when there is a discussion going on. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is the Minister for Water Resources. ...(Interruptions)... He says, नदी जोड़ योजना का बोला था, उसका रेप्लाइ कर रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the Minister will reply when his time comes. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is an intervention. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is only giving a point of information. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What point of information? Sir, he has a right. He can intervene. He can get the time allotted from his party and intervene. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why will he speak like this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, he has said that we have given up the projects relating to inter-linking of rivers. ...*(Interruptions)*... In fact, it is reverse. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. You have not given up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, that is my point. Why are you allowing him? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप छोटी सी बात को इतनी बड़ी क्यों बनाते हैं? It is waste of time. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिए! प्लीज, आप बैठिए! ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, under the rules, no irrelevant point should be made. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, no irrelevant point should be made in the Budget speech. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No irrelevant point has been made. You say it on the floor of the House that the issue of river connectivity is an irrelevant issue. Do you say that this point is irrelevant?

श्री उपसभापति: अहलुवालिया जी आप बैठिये ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपका वक्त आएगा तब आप बोलिएगा।

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: On the Finance Bill, he is talking of the nuclear programme. Is it not irrelevant? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बोलिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उपसभापति महोदय, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप conclude कीजिए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उपसभापति महोदय, मैं conclude कर रहा हूँ। मैं भी अर्थशास्त्र का विद्यार्थी रहा हूँ। मैंने जो भी आइटम्स बोले हैं, उसका बजट से क्या ताल्लुक है, इसके बारे में मैं बता सकता हूँ। मुझे अगर 12 घंटे का समय दे दिया जाए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: उसमें एक चीज तो होगी कि जो कुछ भी माननीय सदस्य यहाँ बोलते हैं, वह तथ्यों के आधार पर कही गई हो! ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: हाँ, यह तथ्यों के आधार पर ही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Why do you allow such Ministers? ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Intervention in the House should be informed one.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): They have misled the House. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: उनको जवाब देने का अधिकार है। अगर जवाब देना है तो वे दे देंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: पार्लियामेंट में, पार्लियामेंट जैसा भाषण होना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: पार्लियामेंट में तो पार्लियामेंट जैसा बजट भी होना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिये। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उपसभापति महोदय, दो मिनट का समय चाहिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप conclude कीजिए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, मैं conclude ही कर रहा हूँ, लेकिन ये बीच में रोक-टोक कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल (पंजाब): ये मैम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट हैं, तो इतना होना चाहिए कि जब मंत्री जी खड़े होते हैं तब उनकी बात ये बैठकर सुनें, यह मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ आर्डर है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: देखिये, हाउस का 10 मिनट बेकार में डिस्टर्ब हुआ है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वक्त की शॉर्टेज है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please remember that there is time constraint.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उपसभापति महोदय, मैं भी अर्थशास्त्र का विद्यार्थी हूँ। अगर आप मेरे लिए समय की सीमा न रखते और 12 घंटे का समय देते तो हर एक प्वाइंट का relevance मैं इनको बताता।

श्री उपसभापति: सब के लिए समय की सीमा है।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: लेकिन आपने 12 मिनट दिया है, मैं उसी में इनको बता सकता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति: अब 12 मिनट से ज्यादा 14 मिनट हो चुके हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उपसभापति महोदय, हमने छोटे और सीमांत किसानों को सुरक्षित करने के लिए Farm Income Guarantee Insurance Scheme शुरू की थी और पहले बजट में इन्होंने उसका appreciation किया था, लेकिन वह योजना भी इन्होंने बंद कर दी। हमने एक निर्णायक सरकार दी थी और यह एक लचर सरकार छोड़कर जा रहे हैं। क्या यह चित्र देश के सामने आएगा? अगर आप बजट में एन0डी0ए0 और यू0पी0ए0 की तुलना करना चाहते हैं तो हम भी उसके लिए तैयार हैं, लेकिन आप सुनायेंगे और लोग सुनेंगे, ऐसा नहीं होगा। हम भी सुनायेंगे, आपको सुनना होगा। इतना कहकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए]

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय (गुजरात): धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय। चौदहवीं लोक सभा के इस अंतिम सत्र में माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो अंतरिम बजट पेश किया है, इसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करती हूँ। भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 112-113 के तहत माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने केन्द्र सरकार के वार्षिक लेखा-जोखा को प्रस्तुत करके भारतीय लोकतंत्र की मान-मर्यादा और संवैधानिक परम्पराओं का जो बखूबी निर्वहन किया है, उसके लिए भी मैं उन्हें धन्यवाद दे रही हूँ।

महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि हमारी पार्टी, कांग्रेस सदैव ही संवैधानिक परम्पराओं के निर्वाह और उसकी रक्षा के लिए तत्पर रहती है। इसके एक नहीं बल्कि अनेक उदाहरण हैं जो कि इस देश की सबसे बड़ी पंचायत, इस पार्लियामेंट के अंदर मौजूद हैं। मैं यह भी कह सकती हूँ कि कांग्रेस पार्टी ने संवैधानिक परम्पराओं का निर्वहन करके भारतीय लोकतंत्र की नींव को मजबूती प्रदान की है, यह हमारा दावा रहा है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह एक अंतरिम बजट है, इसलिए किसी को भी इस बजट से यह अपेक्षा करना कि इस अंतरिम बजट के अंदर चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए केन्द्र सरकार कोई नीतिगत बड़ी घोषणा करेगी, यह बात गलत होगी। साथ में मैं यह भी कह रही हूँ कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने इस बजट के अंदर कोई बड़ी घोषणाएं की होतीं, तो यह बात गलत होती, उन्होंने कोई आर्थिक पैकेज दिया होता, तो यह भी गलत होता। इसलिए माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का यह अंतरिम बजट प्रस्तुत करने का जो प्रयास है, इसे लेखानुदान प्रस्तुत करने की कवायद ही मानना चाहिए और मैं समझती हूँ कि मेरी इस बात से सारा सदन भी सहमत होगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले दिनों लोक सभा में प्रतिपक्ष के नेता माननीय आडवाणी जी ने बजट पर हुई बहस में अपने भाषण के दौरान हमारे वित्त मंत्री, प्रणब दा का बहुत ही सम्मान किया, उनकी तारीफ की, इसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देती हूँ। पुराने दिनों का स्मरण करते हुए आडवाणी जी ने कहा था कि प्रणब दा के कंधे बहुत मजबूत हैं और वे कांग्रेस के एक समाधानकारक हैं। मैं उनको बताना चाहती हूँ कि प्रणब दा के कंधे ही मजबूत नहीं हैं, बल्कि प्रणब दा एक सच्चे कांग्रेसी हैं और एक सच्चा कांग्रेसी होने के नाते उनके नैतिक मानदंड भी बहुत ही उच्च और आदर्शमय हैं। मैं उन दिनों का स्मरण कराना चाहती हूँ, जब हमारी UPA की चेयरपरसन, माननीय सोनिया गांधी जी ने प्रधान मंत्री पद का त्याग किया था और एक सच्चे कांग्रेसी का दर्शन कराया था ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री के.बी. शणप्पा (कर्नाटक): यह बजट से संबंधित है ...**(व्यवधान)**... Is it related to the Budget? ...**(Interruptions)**...

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: आपके आडवाणी जी ने जो बोला है, उसी का जवाब दे रही हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**... आडवाणी जी ने जो कहा है, मैं यहां पर उसी की बात कर रही हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री अरुण शौरी (उत्तर प्रदेश): क्या यह बजट से संबंधित है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: आडवाणी जी ने जो कहा है, मैं उसी का जवाब दे रही हूँ, आप आडवाणी जी को यह जवाब पहुंचाए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल: आप लोगों को क्या तकलीफ हो रही है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Sabharwal, please sit down. Don't interrupt. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please don't interrupt. ...**(Interruptions)**... अलका जी, बोलिए।

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगी कि कांग्रेसी कार्यकर्ता अपने नैतिक मूल्यों और मान्यताओं की नयी ऊंचाइयों को ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Alkaji, sit down for one second. आपका समय दस मिनट का है, इसलिए You come to the point. ...**(Interruptions)**... Come to the point.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं प्वाइंट पर ही आ रही हूँ। इन्होंने UPA और NDA की बात कही थी, इसलिए मैंने इनको यह जवाब दिया है। सोनिया जी ने कांग्रेसी कार्यकर्ताओं को एक नयी मंज़िल दी है। इसलिए माननीय सोनिया जी का और प्रधान मंत्री जी का मैं धन्यवाद करना चाहती हूँ कि उन्होंने इन नैतिक परंपराओं का निर्वहन करने की जवाबदेही प्रणब दा के मजबूत कंधों पर डाली और प्रणब दा ने वह जवाबदेही बखूबी निभाई है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि हमारी UPA सरकार सस्ती लोकप्रियता बटोरने के लिए या चुनावी लाभ को ध्यान में रखते हुए मतदाताओं को रिझाने का प्रयास कर सकती थी, उनको तोहफे दे सकती थी और मत बटोरने की बात कर सकती थी, लेकिन हमने ऐसा नहीं किया। अब मैं अपने NDA के साथियों से यह कहना चाहूँगी कि आप वर्ष 2004 के साल को याद कीजिए, जब 2004 में वाजपेयी जी की सरकार जा रही थी, चुनावी घोषणा भी हो चुकी थी, उस वक्त के वित्त मंत्री, जो आज इस सदन के सदस्य भी हैं और प्रतिपक्ष के माननीय नेता सदन भी हैं, उन्होंने भी एक बजट पेश किया था, लेकिन उन्होंने उस बजट के अंदर इतने तोहफे दे दिए थे, सरकारी खजाने को खुला छोड़ दिया था और वे यह ख्याली पुलाव पका रहे थे कि जनता इसमें उलझ जाएगी, उनकी सरकार के कार्यकाल में जो जन-विरोधी नीतियां उन्होंने लागू की थीं, जो जन-विरोधी कार्य किए थे, जनता उनको भूल जाएगी, इन सबको भूलकर वह उनको वोट देगी, उनको जिता देगी, लेकिन जब परिणाम आया, तो वह उल्टा था। इसलिए मैं आप लोगों से कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह पब्लिक है, पब्लिक और पब्लिक सब जानती है। यह बात आप जान लीजिए कि “India Shining” के उस दौर के अंदर इस देश की जनता ने आपके चेहरे की shining को उतार लिया था, इसलिए आप जब भी कोई बात करें, तो अपने सामने आईना रखकर बात किया कीजिए कि हम क्या हैं और आप क्या हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय वित्तमंत्री जी ने इस अंतरिम बजट के माध्यम से देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को एक दिशा दी है, जिसका विस्तार आने वाली सरकार करेगी। उन्होंने इस अंतरिम बजट के अंदर यू0पी0ए0 सरकार की नीति और नीयत को उजागर किया है। उन्होंने खासकर आम आदमी के बारे में बात की है। उन्होंने इस बजट के द्वारा यू0पी0ए0 सरकार के भविष्य की योजनाओं को रेखांकित किया है। महोदय, हमारे यहां चावल के हांडी में से चावल का एक दाना लेकर हमारी माताएं और बहनें बता सकती हैं कि चावल पका है या नहीं पका है। इसीलिए मैं इस अंतरिम बजट के दो-तीन मुद्दों पर बात करके अपनी बात समाप्त करूँगी। मैं उन्हीं मुद्दों पर अपना ध्यान केन्द्रित करना चाहूँगी, जिससे यह पता चल जाएगा कि यू0पी0ए0 सरकार की नीति जन कल्याणकारी है, जन उपयोगी है और आम आदमी के हित की है। हम आम आदमी को साथ लेकर चलना चाहते हैं और उनके समुचित उत्थान तथा विकास की बात करते हैं। हम उसको करके भी दिखाते हैं। सबसे पहले मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि यू0पी0ए0 सरकार की आर्थिक नीति एक सच्ची और सफल नीति है। इस अर्थव्यवस्था का प्रबंधन एक कुशल हाथों में है, जिसकी वजह से वैश्विक मंदी के इस माहौल में भी हमारे देश का आर्थिक विकास दर 7.1 फीसदी तक रहने वाला है।

महोदय, चालू वर्ष में तमाम कठिनाइयों और विपदाओं के बावजूद आर्थिक विकास दर को इस प्रकार से प्राप्त करना और वह भी पूरे विश्व के विकसित देशों के विकास दर में भारत का दूसरा स्थान होना, यह बहुत ही बड़ी उपलब्धि है। यह बहुत बड़ा कठिन काम है, लेकिन हमारी यू0पी0ए0 सरकार ने यह करके दिखाया है।

महोदय, माननीय वित्त मंत्री ने अंतरिम बजट के अंदर पिछले पांच वर्षों में कृषि, ग्रामीण विकास, शिक्षा और सामाजिक क्षेत्र के लिए क्या कार्य किया है, उसको भी रेखांकित किया है। पिछले पांच वर्षों में कृषि क्षेत्र का आवंटन तीन गुणा हो चुका है। हमने तीन करोड़ साठ लाख किसानों को कर्ज माफ़ी का लाभ दिया है। हमने गरीबों के लिए खाद्यान्न का मूल्य अभी भी जुलाई, 2002 के समतुल्य रखा हुआ है। किसानों को गेहूँ और धान का समर्थन मूल्य पर्याप्त मिले, इसलिए हमने इसमें भी इजाफ़ा किया है।

महोदय, यूपीए सरकार की यह नीति रही है कि उसके केन्द्र में हमेशा आम आदमी रहे। वह सबसे आखिरी पंक्ति में खड़े हुए इंसान की बात सोचती रहती है। उसकी सारी योजनाओं के केन्द्र में वही आम आदमी रहता है। वही आम आदमी, जो मेहनत करता है, मजदूरी करता है और इसी वजह से उस आम आदमी को बुनियादी सुविधाएं मुहैया कराने की हमारी प्राथमिकता रहती है। हम बजट में इस बात को दिखाते भी हैं।

महोदय, पिछले साल भी कांग्रेस ने एक नारा दिया था — “कांग्रेस का हाथ, आम आदमी के साथ,” और हम पुनः पांच साल के बाद इस बात को दोहराते हैं कि हमारा हाथ आम आदमी के साथ है। हम आम आदमी के

हाथ से हाथ मिलाकर चलते हैं और हम कहते भी हैं कि, “आओ, हाथ मिलाकर चलें मंजिल की ओर बढ़े चलें, बढ़े चलें विश्व विजय की ओर।” महोदय, जैसा कि मैंने पहले कहा है कि हमारी सारी योजनाओं के केन्द्र बिन्दु में आम आदमी रहता है। मैं इस वजह से सदन को बतलाना चाहती हूँ कि हमारी जो महत्वाकांक्षी ग्रामीण परियोजना है, भारत निर्माण का जो हमारा कार्यक्रम है, ग्रामीण रोजगार और अन्य विकास कार्य हैं, उनके लिए इस बजट में वित्त मंत्री जी ने एक लाख करोड़ रुपए से भी अधिक का आवंटन किया है, जिससे गांव में रहने वाले आम आदमी के प्रति जो हमारी प्रतिबद्धता है, उसे हम पूरा कर सकें। हमने वह प्रतिबद्धता दर्शाई हुई है।

महोदय, यू0पी0ए0 की चेयरपर्सन सोनिया जी के विशेष प्रयास के फलस्वरूप हमने जो ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना का शुभारंभ किया था, उस योजना की तरफ न सिर्फ हमारे देश के लोग बल्कि पूरे विश्व के अंदर सभी देशों के लोग आशाभरी निगाहों से देख रहे हैं। हमने जो कहा था, वह हमने करके दिखाया है और हमने इस योजना का लाभ आम आदमी तक पहुंचाया है। महोदय, मैं फिर कहती हूँ कि इस योजना के तहत हमने जो लाभ दिया है, इसकी वजह से पूरी दुनिया के लोग इस योजना की तरफ आकर्षित हुए हैं। इसलिए मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहती हूँ कि इन्होंने 2009-2010 के बजट में इस योजना के लिए 30,100 करोड़ रुपए की व्यवस्था की है और चालू वित्त वर्ष के तहत इस योजना से साढ़े 3 करोड़ ग्रामीण परिवारों को चालीस दिन का रोजगार मिला है जिससे हमने 138 करोड़ 74 लाख श्रम दिवस का उत्पादन किया है। महोदय, इस योजना का महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य यह है कि इस योजना में आम आदमी को रखा गया है और इस योजना से करीब 50 प्रतिशत महिलाओं को लाभ मिला है। इतना ही नहीं, करीब 55 प्रतिशत अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों को इस योजना से लाभ मिला है। साथ ही भारत निर्माण योजना के लिए भी 40,900 करोड़ रुपया उन्होंने आबंटित किया है और प्रधान मंत्री ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के लिए 12,000 करोड़ रुपए हमने दिए हैं। **..(समय की घंटी)..** सर, एक महिला बोल रही है, कम से कम इतना टाइम तो दे दीजिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude. You have exceeded your time.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: बाकी कोई महिला नहीं बोली है, हाउस में इतना टाइम तो हमें दे दीजिए। महोदय, इसके साथ ही ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन में मदद हो सके, इसके लिए...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: All *mahilas* are treated as equal.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: इसी प्रकार ग्रामीण स्वच्छता कार्यक्रम है, उसके लिए 1200 करोड़ रुपए दिए गए हैं जिससे उन्हें लाभ मिलने वाला है। ग्यारवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में शिक्षा का जो खर्च है, उसमें 9 गुणा बढ़ोतरी की गयी है। साथ ही सर्व शिक्षा अभियान के लिए 13,100 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है। महिलाओं पर विशेष ध्यान देते हुए जो 40 से 60 साल की विधवा महिलाएं हैं, उन्हें इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय विधवा पेंशन योजना के अंतर्गत प्रति माह 200 रुपए का लाभ दिया जा रहा है जबकि 18 से 40 साल की युवा विधवा महिलाओं को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा होने के लिए और स्वयं को समर्थ बनाने के लिए प्राथमिकता के तहत आई.टी.आई. में प्रवेश दिया जाना है और पांच सौ रुपए वजीफा देने की बात भी वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने बजट में की है। महोदय, एक आखिरी बात करके मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करने वाली हूँ कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने इस अंतिम बजट के अंदर सीमा पार बढ़ते आतंकवाद को देखते हुए देश की सुरक्षा पर काफी तवज्जह दी है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): बस, अब हो गया।

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: सर, मैं कह तो रही हूँ कि यह मेरा लास्ट प्वाइंट है। जिस तरह से सीमा पार आतंकवादियों ने मुम्बई पर हमला किया था, जिसकी पूरे विश्व में चौतरफा निन्दा हुई थी। महत्व की बात हम यह कहना चाहते हैं कि हम देश की सुरक्षा के प्रति बहुत गंभीर हैं। उसमें भी आम आदमी की सुरक्षा के लिए हम कटिबद्ध और वचनबद्ध हैं। इस आम आदमी को सुरक्षा दिलाने के लिए माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने रक्षा क्षेत्र के

बजट में 35 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की है। मुम्बई में हुई आतंकवादी घटना को उन्होंने बहुत गंभीरता से लिया है। अगर कूटनीतिक तरीके से देखा जाए तो हमारी कूटनीति बहुत सफल रही है और उसकी वजह से सीमा पार आतंकवाद को जो देश बढ़ावा दे रहा था, उसकी कलई खोलने में हमें काफी हद तक सफलता मिली है। यह हमारी सरकार की सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धता है जबकि वहां आतंकवादियों को कंधार तक छोड़ने जाने वाले लोग भी मौजूद थे।...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): अब बैठिए। आपने बहुत अच्छा बोला।...**(व्यवधान)**... बस हो गया। अब बैठिए।...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: जब कि हमने आतंकवाद से लड़ने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को पूरा किया है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहती हूं कि आने वाले दिनों में आम चुनाव आने वाले हैं, वह आम चुनाव जो आम जनता करेगी, वह आम जनता जानती है कि कौन सी सरकार है जो कठिनाइयों को...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): हो गया, अब बैठिए।...**(व्यवधान)**... श्री डी. राजा। आप बैठिए। मैंने डी. राजा जी को बुलाया है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो० अलका क्षत्रिय : आम आदमी उस सरकार के साथ रहेंगे, हमारे साथ रहेंगे और आने वाले समय में भी हम ही बजट प्रस्तुत करने वाले हैं, यह बिल्कुल तय है।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मैं कुछ कहना चाहती हूं। अलका जी ने जो कहा है, वह बहुत अच्छी बात है लेकिन मुम्बई में 26.11.2008 के संबंध में जो कार्यवाही जितनी seriously और strongly करनी चाहिए थी, मैं अलका जी से कहना चाहूंगी कि वह नहीं हुई है। मैं केवल correction देना चाहती थी।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You need not reply to it. It is for the Minister to reply to it. I have a request to make. We should have the reply at least by 5.30 p.m. So, the hon. Members will have to stick to their time. Each of you should try to finish in five or seven minutes. You raise the points only.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have great respect for the hon. Minister, Shri Pranabda, for his hard work and for his tremendous grasp on political developments. At the same time, I have no other option but to criticise the Government, even though it is an Interim Budget. We had supported the Government for four-and-a-half years. But the nuclear deal was the last straw on the camel's back to break. And, there were several macro economic policies on which we had to confront the Government and we had to fight with the Government. Now, when I rise to speak on the Budget, I would like to criticise the very direction of the Budget. In fact, Pranabda was quite satirical when he presented the Budget and made his Budget speech. He has claimed that people have seen how the *Aam Aadmi* has become the focus of the development process. Who is the *Aam Aadmi*? The Congress (I) claims that it speaks for *Aam Aadmi*. The BJP friends also say that they speak for the *Aam Aadmi*. But who is the *Aam Aadmi*? That is the issue. If that is so, I strongly feel that the Budget has not really reflected the problems of *Aam Aadmi*. And the Budget does not acknowledge the growing inequalities, the economic disparities, in the country. The Budget has not shown any concern for the chronic poverty that we face today in India. If we go by *Aam Aadmi*, I think, the people, belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, form a big component of *Aam Aadmi*. Now the Common Minimum Programme of the Government had promised, and I read: "The UPA

Government will launch a comprehensive National Programme for Minor Irrigation of all lands owned by Dalits and Adivasis. Landless families will be endowed with land through implementation of land ceiling and land re-distribution legislation. No reversal of ceiling legislation will be permitted.” I do not know if the Government is in a position to explain this part of the Common Minimum Programme to the *Aam Aadmi*. I will be grateful then. What has the Government done on this issue? Nothing has been done. Where is the National Programme for Minor Irrigation of lands owned by the Dalits and Adivasis? That is where this Government has betrayed the interests of *Aam Aadmi*.

Again, Sir, we have been talking about the Special Component Plan (SCP). Now it has been renamed as the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). But what is happening is that the Government is not allocating adequate money in its Budget, as has been envisaged by the policy-makers. The recent CAG report for 2007-08 observes that about Rs. 3,87,000 crores has been denied to the Scheduled Castes under the SCP and SCSP. Now what is their response to this? How far the Government has been sensitive to the problems of *Aam Aadmi*? When the Government claims it is the Government of the *aam aadmi*, does it not understand that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people are the *aam aadmi*? Then, what is the commitment of the Government? The Government is not giving enough money to the Sub-Plan meant for these common people.

Then, Sir, I come to the other issue of agriculture. The Budget Speech refers to remunerative prices to wheat and paddy. On the very same floor of the House, demand has been made to give Rs. 1000 per quintal to paddy growers. The Government says only Rs. 900 per quintal, as if the Government has done a big thing for the paddy growers. I don't think this is the approach to the problem of agriculture. The other issue relates to sugarcane. This is a problem. I must say, because it is remunerative price, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has announced for 2008-09, that the price of one tonne sugarcane as Rs. 1,550. If I refer to Tamil Nadu, the State Government has given Rs. 450. Now, it can be Rs. 2,000 per tonne, but what happened? I want to know whether the Government has given any respect to the suggestion made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. You are claiming that you are the Government of *aam aadmi*. But, the farmers, who produce sugarcane, the farmers who produce paddy, they do not get remunerative prices, and there is no intervention from the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers.

Coming to the public sector, Sir, when we are facing a crisis, all over the world, and even the Nobel Laureate like Paul Kurgman has warned that if this recession prolongs, it may lead to great depression, Depression II. But, having said that, I must say, what is the response of the Government. The Government claims that our fundamentals are very strong. What are the fundamentals? The Government is not explaining that. But, I understand, if at all our fundamentals are strong, we have the Public Sector Undertakings, we have the public sector

banking industry, we have the public sector insurance industry. And, I think, this is the fundamental of our economy. If the public sector is strong, the economy can be protected. What has the Government done during our support for the past four-and-a-half years? The Government wanted to offload the Government equities in profit-making public sector undertakings, and they went for disinvestment in the BHEL. We had to protest strongly. In fact, that was the first time that we made a very big break with the Government. We said, "We cannot go along with you." And, now what is happening? In the name of FDI, the Government is thinking, Mr. Bansal is sitting there, the Government is contemplating to remove the cap on FDI in the insurance sector. From 26 per cent...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Not remove the cap, the proposal was from 26 to 49 per cent. We are not removing the cap.

SHRI D. RAJA: That is the point I am making. Now, it is 26 per cent, they want to increase it to 49 per cent, which we oppose. Even when we were supporting the Government, we strongly opposed it. Now, why do you want to do this? Now, I come to the insurance sector. I take only the General Insurance. The General Insurance, without any break is paying 35 per cent to 40 per cent dividend every year to the Government of India. The Government of India's initial investment actually is Rs.19 crores. Now, why are you thinking of increasing the FDI limit to 49 per cent? It applies to the insurance sector also. If you take the public sector...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sorry for the interruption. This FDI is not for the public sector insurance companies.

SHRI D. RAJA: My simple point is, our General Insurance Company, our Life Insurance Company are public sector insurance companies. And, they are competent; they are making profits; they are paying dividends. Allow them to do the business and you do not open up the insurance sector for foreign players. That is the simple point I am making. If you are convinced that it is nothing but your commitment to the neo-liberal policies; if you see the world over, if you see how the Latin American countries are responding to the present financial crisis, this is not exactly related to insurance but related to pension funds. I make this point because the former Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram wanted to place pension funds in the private sector and we opposed. The pension funds in Latin American countries have suffered some times drastic losses as a result of the global financial crisis. Argentina decided to nationalise its private pension funds. In Chile, Columbia and Mexico, there are voices heard for urgent reforms. Even in America what they are saying is, what the U.S.A. is doing is nothing short of nationalisation. Nothing short of nationalisation. That is what the New York Times wrote about all these measures.

My point is, now, our public sector undertakings are making profits up to Rs. 90,000 crores. Why cannot you defend the public sector? Why cannot you expand the public sector? Why are you committed to privatisation? This neo-liberal policy will take the country to further

troubles. This will affect our independent, self-reliant economic development. It will also affect the social justice which the Government claims to have commitment to.

I must make my final point, Sir. I agree, when we ask about 6 per cent of GDP to be spent on education, 2 to 3 per cent of GDP to be spent on health, the Government said, it is not for one year, but for over these years. I agree. At the end of the Government-rule, what is the percentage of GDP spent on education, social sector or health? What is happening today? The Defence Budget is increased. I think, it is 35 per cent in this Budget. What is the justification? Mumbai terror! Given the situation that prevails in Pakistan, I understand, our security should never be compromised. Whatever is needed for security, we should do. But, at the same time, what is the logic behind this? When you do not invest in agriculture as expected, when you do not invest in infrastructure as it is expected, how come the Government, every year, goes on increasing the Defence Budget? There should be some logic and it should be explained.

Finally, I know, Pranabda is one of the ablest Ministers in the Government and we worked with him. We saw his political sagacity. He has been given the job to defend the Government which cannot be defended at this fag end of its tenure. Pranabda ended his Budget Speech with an interesting sentence. He said, "Our people will recognise the hand that made it all possible." It is a very satirical line and I did not expect Pranabda would be so satirical when he made his final sentence. I think, people will also recognise the hand that has deprived them of their livelihood. Thank you.

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak in the august House on the important Budget. Sir, the UPA Government has taken good number of steps for the welfare of the weaker sections, especially for SCs/STs and backward classes during the last five years like Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, etc. It is worth mentioning that these schemes are implemented by achieving the growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent. Sir, the total budgeted expenditure for the Tribal Ministry has been increased to Rs. 2705 crore in 2009-10 from Rs. 1970 crores in 2008-09.

Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in notified tribal areas is to be strengthened. This is even more important because in several areas tribals have been displaced because of some developmental projects. Sir, the notification of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been welcomed by Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who will get legal rights on forest land on which they have been cultivating or using over generations for their livelihood. This has really helped the forest dwellers particularly the tribes. Sir, some forest officials are threatening tribals when they undertake any activity on their land. There is no proper demarcation machinery. In order to solve this problem, a separate agency may be set up for demarcation of such tribal areas so that they can construct without any hindrance from forest officials.

Sir, about Rural Health Mission I would like to say that the total Plan expenditure on health and family welfare has been increased by 112 per cent under the UPA Government during the last five years as compared to 43 per cent under the NDA Government. Sir, the Government is implementing the National Rural Health Mission to cover health care in rural areas in an effective manner in the country. In some areas, the doctors are unwilling to go and join in the remote areas. They should be given proper facilities at the hospitals and incentives for working in such remote areas. This problem prevails in Andhra Pradesh. I request the Government to concentrate on this major issue. A separate tribal area recruitment agency for health community centres may be set up and people may be recruited in such health centres. Generally, the doctors who are posted in tribal areas are showing their unwillingness to join in notified areas. Hence special recruitment drive may kindly be undertaken exclusively for notified tribal areas.

Sir, the Panchayats in the notified agency areas have lack of funds. Due to paucity of funds, the tribals are unable to repair even the drinking bore-wells, roads, footpaths, and school buildings in the notified agency areas. A separate agency is the need of the hour to rectify such problems by allocating sufficient funds especially for the notified tribal areas, which come under Panchayats. **(Time-bell)** One minute, Sir.

I am happy to know that 15 new Central Universities will be set up in the country. My request is that a Central University may be set up in Rampachodavaram, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh with all faculties. Sir, I request the Government to allocate more funds to properly implement the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Scheme which comes under a Central sector plan. This will ensure transparency and efficiency of Panchayats in the country. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Shrimati Vasanthi Stanley. I know it is your maiden speech, I will not stop you, but you exercise self-restraint.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Respected Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am extremely thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to register my observations on the Interim Budget, 2009-2010 in this august House. On this occasion, Sir, first I would like to thank our Leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalamangar Karunanidhi and also the DMK Party for sending me here to this august House where our founder Leader, Aringer Anna who was known as C.N. Annadurai here, upheld the traditions of this House and also fought for the rights of the Dravidians. I make an appeal to you, Sir, and also to the Members here to be liberal and also to be lenient, this being my maiden speech. First of all, let me congratulate the UPA Government for its commendable performance in the last four years. I thank the Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singhji and also the Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji. I would specially like to thank our former Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram for making India the second fastest growing economy in the world despite the global financial crisis since 2007.

5.00 P.M.

The other developing countries were finding it rather difficult to keep themselves going but India has shown a healthy 7.1 per cent of GDP growth. I give my best compliments to the UPA Government for paying special attention to the agricultural sector. The Government has increased the Plan allocation for agriculture by 300 per cent between 2003-2004 and 2008-2009. Kisan Vikas Yojana with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crores has increased the growth rate of agriculture. A special package has been announced by the Government for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture by 2004. Not only that, the main thing to improve agriculture is the waiver of agricultural loans. Our Tamil Poet says which means that the whole world is after agriculture only. The holistic approach given by the Government for agriculture has resulted in ensuring food security. Overall result is that our granaries are all full. Waiving of agricultural loans to the tune of Rs. 65,000 crores has resulted in benefiting 3.6 crore farmers. Sir, I would like to underline here that I belong to the DMK party of Tamil Nadu who has made this dream scheme of waiving off farmers' loans because this has already come true in Tamil Nadu by the first signature of our Leader when he became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the fifth time. Nearly 7000 crores of farmers' cooperative loans were waived off by our Leader. But I am disappointed, Sir, that the minimum support price of paddy is not at par with wheat. A quintal of paddy is Rs. 900 and a quintal of wheat is Rs. 1090. Why this disparity? I wish that this disparity was not there. I would also request that the Minimum Support Price of sugarcane should be increased to Rs. 2000 despite its crushing capacity. On the social sector, Sir, I welcome the Fifteen-point programme of our Prime Minister which includes the welfare of the minorities. The UPA led Government has set up a new Ministry for minorities. I also understand that adequate funds have also been allotted to this. But as a previous State Minority Commission Member of Tamil Nadu and as a former Member of NCMEI, *i.e.* National Commission for Minority Education Institution, I have a few points to raise here. Our Leader Dr. Karunanidhi has always been fighting for the rights of the minorities. The Urdu Academy, though not much of Urdu speaking Muslims are there in Tamil Nadu, the Urdu Academy has been set up in Tamil Nadu. Urdu speaking Muslims are included in the list of BC in our State. Not only that, totally, Muslims are given 3.5 per cent reservation in education and employment. But as NCMEI Member I have come across so many cases in many States where they do not even allow the Urdu speaking Muslims to start their own schools. Either the Urdu teachers are not available or the students are not properly encouraged to go to such schools. Something should be done to improve this situation. Not only that, the female children especially in the Muslim community lag far behind when compared to other minorities in education. I wish the Government should take appropriate steps now to eradicate this. There is an Urdu couplet that I had learnt. It says:

बहुत जरखेज़ है मिट्टी हमारी।
करम का एक छींटा भी बहुत है॥

I may be wrong. Our land is so fertile that even a small drop of water will make it more fertile. Sir, Urdu language is so fertile that even small steps by the Government will, certainly, improve it a lot.

The other long-pending request of the minorities is that the Government subsidy should be extended to the Christian minorities also. When our brethren Muslim minorities are getting subsidy to go to Haj pilgrimage, why not this be extended to the Christian minorities for going to Palestine and Israel which are our holy lands.

I would also like to reiterate here that the Muslims and Christians of SC origin should be treated on par with SCs of Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs.

Sir, my next appreciation for the Budget is for introduction of Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme. Sir, widows, aged between 18 and 40, are given preference in admission in ITIs and stipend is given up to Rs. 500 per month. These are all very welcome steps. At this juncture, I would proudly say that the Widow Pension Scheme was first introduced by our leader, Dr. Kalaignar, when he became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the second time in 1974 itself. Now, he has been kind enough to extend this scheme to women who remain unmarried and aged. The other welfare schemes of our leader include Re. 1 for one kg. of rice. This is the dream scheme of our founder leader, Araignar Anna. As a tribute to his centenary, our leader has announced this golden scheme. The other important schemes are: free distribution of LPG kits and stoves and colour televisions being distributed to poor people. Marriage assistance of Rs. 20,000 has been given to poor girl children. Not only this, he is also encouraging girls to complete, at least, up to 10th standard. Our leader encourages the girl child to study and he also gives assistance for their marriage. In the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, three eggs are being provided per week to our school children. All these good schemes have reached the nook and corner of our State and we can proudly face the people at any time.

I also welcome the Budget for allocating Rs. 100 crore for the Unique Identification Authority, increasing rural and infrastructure development fund a corpus to Rs. 14,000 crores in 2008-09 and also for expanding Panchayat Empowerment Accountability Scheme. I specially thank the UPA Government for declaring Tamil as a Classical Language and Sethusamudram Project. I also thank for the Desalination Project which is going to be the only source of our drinking water in the near future. At the same time, I would also like to reiterate here that necessary funds should be allocated for the Sethusamudram Project and also for the Desalination Project.

Sir, I come from Virudunagar district of Tamil Nadu. Sir, I just make two more points. My native village is Watrap. We call it Watrayiruppu. There is a dam in our place called Pilavakkal. From here, a hilly route has been designed. This project is pending before the Government for a very long-time. If this 5 kms. stretch of hilly route is completed up to Varasanadu hills of Teni district, then, it will, certainly, give an access to Kerala State and 50 kms. of route is shortened. This also empowers our local people. Since this project is for my native place, I would like to

underline this project. Last, but not the least, Sir, much has been done and said about the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. I don't want to stress much on the UPA Government in this regard. But I would just like to quote our national poet, Barbiar said, which means though our India has more than one hundred crores of faces, she has only one life; though she has more than 80 languages to talk, she has got only one idea. I like this, as a teacher, I had taught so many Hindi poems also, which inspire the national integration. For example, all of us know the poem of Allama Mohammad Iqbal, "सारे जहाँ से अच्छा हिन्दुस्तान हमारा, ..." Likewise, "मजहब नहीं सिखाता आपस में बैर रखना, हिन्दी है हम वतन हैं, हिन्दुस्तान हमारा ।". Like this, we have been singing so many songs inspiring the national integration. Yesterday, when there was an uproar here about claiming A.R. Rahman as a Tamilian, Mr. Deputy Chairman said, "No, he is an Indian". When we are talking about the ethnic problem here — I touch the feet of every Member here — why do we call them as Sri Lankan Tamilians? Why don't you just for a minute think that they are Indians, living over there in Sri Lanka? Just for a minute please think over this is not a problem that pertains only to Tamil Nadu and it is the problem of India. We can, then, put an end to this ethnic problem.

With these words, I welcome the Budget. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): A very impressive maiden speech.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak on the Interim Budget. Similarly, last year, you gave me an opportunity to speak on the Budget, 2008-09. In that speech, I had raised several red flags of caution. I would like to read out some parts of that speech. I quote, "It is clear that certain critical parts of our country are showing signs of a slowdown. Reports point to a slowdown becoming a slow and sure reality. The Finance Minister has said that he will keep an eye on this and take necessary action to ensure that sectors don't go sick. I am only afraid that given the Government's general track record of responsiveness any response will be too late to prevent an irreversible slowdown and all its attendant problems." Sir, I had also said in the same speech, "This year is a transition year and a critical year. It is important that we don't fall off the growth track and get derailed. I remember very well what happened last time. Our same policy-makers had presided over a preelection budget in the mid-90s. Increased public spending in the face of economic slowdown threw us into a three-year recession. This Budget, from amongst all the Budgets of this Government, is most risky to pull off. The weakening global economic cues and signs of our economic slowdown in some critical areas reinforces the view that this could turn out to be a high-risk budget with consequences on the current growth strategy and slope."

Sir, unfortunately these red flags were to no effect and my worst fears are becoming a reality, compounded by a sequence of misreading and mis-steps by policy makers over the last twelve months. The recent IIP data of 3.9 per cent vs. 9.2 per cent for the same period last year, points to a sharp slide in economic and industrial performance. Blue chip companies are

scrambling for credit and financing. The small and medium scale and unorganised sectors are almost at standstill. The job market is crumbling and most companies could find themselves smaller next year, as compared to this year. The fiscal situation has caused a S and P downgrade yesterday. This picture is startling and it is clear that we are in the midst of a full-blown and escalating economic crisis.

The year 2008-09 is a year when our growth got de-railed. The question today is for how long and what costs and consequences of this derailment will be. Most importantly, from my perspective, it is a year that has revealed that we had started believing too much of our own marketing hype that the Indian growth formula was sustainable and continuous. That has proved to be delusional. It has laid bare the fact that exuberant public spending alone is not a solution. There are many more structural changes and reforms that are needed before our objectives of an inclusive economic architecture can be reached and be sustainable. Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has said in his Budget Speech that we are in extraordinary times and we need extraordinary measures. I agree with it, Sir. We all agree that a prolonged lag in getting the economy to respond and grow again will inflict serious, consequential and collateral damages on vast parts of our real economy; on the financial sector, on the manufacturing sector, on exporters, etc. and, consequently, on jobs.

Sir, let me outline what I believe the Government should be doing. In my view, the current crisis can no longer have a monetary policy solution alone. The focus has moved to the fiscal and real economy side, to stop the slide and restart the economy. Sir, let us be very clear about this problem. The problem is the death of demand, stalled credit and stalled investment flows. Sectoral stimuli packages are meaningless if they don't catalyze these three points. Sir, let me take one point at a time. For example, consumer spending will restart only if there is a sharp increase in consumer disposal income or things are available at sharply lower prices to the consumer. This will require, — and there is no way of avoiding it, — direct taxation reliefs. These will put money in the hands of consumers. And, I believe, yesterday's announcement by the hon. Finance Minister, for the first time, dealing with taxation, holds some promise of restarting consumer demand.

Sir, the real economy is also currently suffering from lack of credit flow from credit markets. Despite the significant additional liquidity pumped into the banking system by the RBI, there is clearly no increase in credit off take by corporates, and other borrowers. This situation will only worsen in the coming months as the Government intervenes in these markets to borrow in order to finance the fiscal deficit. While some of this is due to risk aversion on the part of banks, some of it is also due to the mismatch between costs to the banks versus the required lending rates. I believe this can be addressed through an interest subvention model, which is currently applicable to the exporting sectors. It can be extended to various other sectors in distress. These two steps, along with using MAT and dividend distribution taxes as offset-able against investments, combined with enhanced fiscal headroom for State spending can form a package for fiscal steps to steadily and systematically revive the economy.

Sir, let me touch one point on the structural side. It is clear and it is obvious to most people, who are following what is going on, that the incoming Government will have to make an effort in creating a consensus on the key issue of public spending which has expanded significantly under this Government, but, unfortunately, with no concerted effort at measuring or improving delivery and outcomes. As Shri Pratap Bhanu Mehta of the Centre for Policy Research, said in a recent article, that inclusive growth is not just about profligate spending, but, thinking about the architecture of the economy as a whole. The recent CAG report said that Rs. 51,000 crore allocated to various schemes were transferred to NGOs with no record of spending, and diversion of SIDF funds to cultural programmes are symptoms of economic strategy that spends without focusing on outcomes and results. This is the strong reason why any public spending driven stimulus package of the sort suggested by many economists will fail. It will be hopelessly leaky and will not deliver on its outcomes and objectives and will only create a spurt in corruption. Sir, delivery of our public spending and reforms of our subsidy delivery mechanism are critical as part of our governance reforms. Governance reforms are more difficult and time-consuming and so we must start this at the earliest and given the current economic context and the uncertainties around it, this becomes even more pronounced and urgent.

Sir, let me end by saying that the challenges to kick-start our fiscally stretched and deadlocked economy are daunting. Managing an economy on a downtrend requires special grit and skills, very different from managing an up economy. The number of a 5.5 per cent fiscal deficit for the coming year is just not credible and will be missed by a mile. I will quote Standard and Poor, "India's fiscal position has deteriorated to a level that is unsustainable." We are currently sitting on a fiscal time bomb that threatens to unravel and wipe out the gains made by our economy over the last fiscal years in the NDA and the UPA Governments. I agree with my colleague, Mr. N.K. Singh, when he says that the economic cycle should not be allowed to be disrupted by the political cycle. Thank you.

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

- (I) **The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009.**
- (II) **The National Waterway (Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of the Barak River) Bill, 2009.**
- (III) **The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2009.**
- (IV) **The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2009.**

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