

"The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill."

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Punjab Appropriation Bill, 1990, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 1990.

"The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill."

Sir, I lay the Bills on the Table.

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—(Contd.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG): Mr. Padmanabham.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman. Dr. Ratnakar Pandey just now made some remarks. I am sorry to say my Hindi is rather not up to the mark to understand whatever he said, but I believe he indulged in personal remarks against Governors, the Prime Minister, other Ministers and everybody else. These were more invective in nature and I believe that they do not merit any answer from any of the hon. Members of this side. But when one talks on the President's Address, he should try to criticise the policies enunciated in the Address and not include in personal invectives, abuse and falsehood. This will not lead us anywhere. Therefore, I need not comment on the speech that he has made just now.

I would like to make only one point clear. Most of the speakers from the other side have been describing this Government as a minority Government. Not once, twice or thrice, but umpteen times I have been

hearing in this House that this Government is a minority Government. There is no doubt that this Government is a minority Government. Not only that, this Government is a coalition Government also. But what does it mean? Do they mean to say, because this is a minority Government, it will not deliver the goods? That is what exactly they mean by very often describing this Government as a minority Government.

Soon after assuming power, this Government sought a confidence vote in the Lower House. The majority of the Lower House supported this Government and they ratified the mandate given to it by the people. Because this Government enjoys the mandate of the people, it cannot any more be described as a minority Government. Though a minority Government, this Government enjoys majority in Parliament and as such this Government has every right to govern. I would like to submit that it does not matter what type of Government it is, whether it is a minority Government or a coalition Government or a Government supported by 400 Members. What matters is whether the Government has got a political will to implement the programmes and to have a control over the administration or not. If you go through the President's Address, it is amply proved that this Government has a political will and this Government will implement the policies and programmes enunciated in its manifesto which was published well before the elections.

I would like to point out some of the important programmes enunciated in the President's Address. The first and foremost thing is that as soon as this Government came into power, it repealed the 59th Amendment. Even the Congress Government which had brought this 59th Amendment, could not oppose it and had to support it.

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Another thing is that this Government has already taken steps to form an Inter-State Council and also promised that in the coming days during the session it is going to form a National Security Council which will help in planning the defence expenditure and other security matters. Like that this Government has already taken some firm steps to bring in electoral reforms. The Members from the opposite side have been talking about some of the incidents. These incidents were quite common during the last 40 years after independence. During the election period some untoward incidents have always taken place and before also these incidents took place. That is why this Government is thinking in terms of bringing in a comprehensive electoral reforms Bill. They have already taken steps to constitute a Committee for this purpose and this Bill will be brought forward during this session itself.

Another most important promise in the Address is the creation of the institution of Lok Pal. Sir, for the last four decades the party which was in power always talked in terms of creating a Lok Pal and creating some institution which would go into political corruption and all that but they did not do anything. As soon as the National Front Government assumed power, they have promised and stated clearly in the Address that they are going to create the Lok Pal institution and bring the highest office in the country, the Prime Minister under the purview of this Bill along with important political functionaries.

As you know, Sir, this Government has also promised to create a Judicial Commission for the appointment of Judges both in the Supreme Court as well as in the High Courts and also for their transfers. We know very well how the previous Government tempered with the judiciary, how they have browbeaten them and how

they have misused the judiciary for political and partisan ends.

Another important promise made in the Address was reconsideration of the Postal Bill. This Bill which was passed by the previous Government was pending with the President for quite some time because this Bill interfered with the privacy of the citizens. As such the President himself who was elected during the previous regime withhold it. Now, this Government is proposing to bring it before the House for reconsideration.

Another important thing which the Government promised is autonomy for the electronic media. They have already taken necessary steps in this regard. The Prasar Bharati Bill was introduced in the Lower House and very soon it will come up before this House. Therefore, this Government is definitely trying to live up to its promises. The Government will definitely implement some of these schemes which they have promised before the elections. Sir, on behalf of my party, I support the Motion moved by my colleague, Shri Virendra Verma. Thank you.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address at the fag-end of the day. My learned friend from the Treasury Benches has just now charged us that when we speak about the Government, as a Coalition Government, we do not understand the implication. The whole world knows that wherever there is democracy, the coalition form of Government is not a good Government. Here when we are discussing the Motion of Thanks, the country is run under a Government which is not even a coalition Government; definitely it is a minority Government supported by the majority...where the supporters are of very different ideologies—one, extreme rightists and the other, leftists, extreme or moderate. Sir, they have not even been

able to chalk out their minimum programme on which they agree. On Article 370, the Janata Dal Prime Minister says that this article will not be abrogated in any case. As soon as the Prime Minister made the statement in Parliament, an ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party President, stands up and refutes the Prime Minister and says that whatever the Prime Minister is saying means he is trying to implement his manifesto, whatever is written in the Janata Dal manifesto. It is very sensitive issue. On the one side they want that the problem of Kashmir should be solved as early as possible. On the other side, an ally of the Government, a supporter of the Government, the oxygen of the Government, is trying to add fuel to fire. At one place, the Bharatiya Janata Party, in its manifesto, says that they are against the Minorities Commission whereas in the Janata Dal manifesto they say that they are not against the Minorities Commission and if they come in power, they will give statutory status to the Minorities Commission. In the Presidential Address, so many things have been said about minorities' welfare. A 15-point programme will be very effectively launched. There is nothing new. The Congress Government has done a lot of things under its 15-point programme. It is said that something will be done about Urdu. They have appointed a committee for reviewing the recommendations of the Gujral Committee. May I ask the Prime Minister, the Government, why the Government has not accepted in toto the recommendations of the Gujral Committee when Mr I. K. Gujral himself is a member of the Cabinet? What is the need for appointing a committee on every crucial issue, on every ordinary issue? This Government is just appointing committees. The Congress Government also appointed two or three committees to look into the recommendations of the Gujral Committee and the reports of these committees are there. Why should this Government not see the report of the Surur Com-

mittee which was constituted by the Congress Government to look into the Gujral Committee recommendations? This Government is wasting time. My hon. friends on the other side do not understand the implications of a coalition Government. The first implication of a coalition Government is, it is short-lived. What promises have you made? Do you think you will get so much time to convert the promises into practice? What happened in 1967? The whole country, many States of our country, had gone in for SVD, Samyukt Vidayak Dal, a sort of coalition government. What happened? Within two or three days, due to their own inner contradictions, the Governments fell. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will you please yield for a minute? What I would like to say is that there is absolutely no dichotomy between a coalition Government and growth and stability. It all depends upon the given situation and the parties who have received mandate at the elections. This coalition was conceived even before the elections, not after the elections. Kindly hear me. The National Front was formed even before the elections. This adjustment with the left parties as well as with the BJP was also formed well before the elections. There were talks and all that. The Congress party made this an issue in the elections also.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I have got your point. People have given the votes to them... (*Interruptions*)... The people all the same rejected it. The people elected the Opposition parties. It means that they have given a mandate to the Opposition parties to rule for some time elected the opposition for five years. BJP as well as Left parties and everybody who is supporting this Government from outside within the Parliament without joining the Government are very very conscious of this fact. That is the reason why they are supporting the Government in spite of minor differences on article

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370. ... (Interruptions) ... Sir, I would have understood and I would have welcomed the argument of my learned friend from the Opposition benches if they had joined on a certain minimum programme. They issued a separate manifesto. The BJP issued a separate manifesto. The CPI(M) issued a separate manifesto. The CPI issued a separate manifesto. There was no common minimum programme on which they agreed. They agreed only for one thing: remove Congress(I) anyhow by mispropagating, by indulging in malpractices, by booth capturing, by muscle power, by wrong propaganda, by creating communal disharmony, whatever it may be.

SHRI A. NALLASIVAN (Tamil Nadu): May I know what was the programme when the AIADMK and the Congress fought jointly the other parties in Tamil Nadu, during the recent Lok Sabha elections?

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I am discussing the President's Address. Whatever points have been raised in the Presidential Address, mostly I am trying to cover that. If you talk about all of them, it requires a lot of time. I am quite competent to answer you, but I don't want to digress from whatever I want to say in this House.

Sir, the second implication of such type of Government is that they can even sacrifice their basic programmes. Whatever they have said to the people on which they have got the mandate, they can sacrifice even those basic points on which they have come to power, just to share the power and just to keep unto themselves the power. What instigated your Deputy Prime Minister to resign may I ask? Was there any issue between the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister?

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: BJP and Left parties are not sharing

any power... (Interruptions)... So, it is absolutely agreement a minimum programme... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: No, I am not yielding, Sir... (Interruptions)... Was there any political or ideological difference between the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister? The letter which has been written by the Deputy Prime Minister to the hon. Prime Minister says: You have not consulted me in the appointment of Governors; you are not consulting me in the appointment of Judges; you have not consulted me in the appointment of Solicitor-General; you are not consulting me in the appointment of Ambassadors.

What is there? Because the power is not being divided equally, the Deputy Prime Minister has resigned. Secondly, was there any other difference, any ideological difference? I do not know. Kindly let me know this and what happened within a week when the Presidential Address was presented before the Joint Session. This is a mishappening—I say it is actually a mishappening—and it is a question of the country's unity. Punjab is in a very bad shape. Kashmir is mishandled like anything. And in spite of that, they do not understand that the Government faces enormous challenges but those challenges cannot be met only by sermons, just by saying that there should be national consensus and by giving an impression to the people that they are going through the process of national consensus.

In Kashmir, the BJP was advocating the appointment of Mr. Jagmohan as the Governor. But what is the stand of the CPI(M)? Do they support Mr. Jagmohan? No Member of the House can say that they are supporting him. So, much contradictions are not good in the interests of the country, in the interest of the integrity of the country, in the interest of the unity of the country, in the interest of the development of the

country and in the interest of the progress of the country. As I said, what happened in 1967 has become the history. In 1977, what happened? You have inherited a good legacy. On all positive issues the Congress (I) will keep the interests of the country above all other things. But what happens? We went to Kashmir. But, after that, the BJP people issued a statement against our leader. What is this? If you want the support of the Congress (I), you must know how to take our support. These things have to be avoided. You are talking so much about the electronic media, about the autonomy to the electronic media, and you are saying that you are giving autonomy to the electronic media. But on the 17th March, you have shown a film on the TV on Bhagalpur. What is the meaning of it? The gist of that film is that the total responsibility for that riot in Bhagalpur was on the minorities of that area. The basic allegation that we make is that there were provocative slogans by the BHP. That was the basic reason for that riot. All that has not been shown on the TV nor has the comment.

Our leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on the first day said, "We are the largest party in Parliament. But you want to form the Government. Yes you go ahead." And we transferred the power very conveniently.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): You are giving a wrong argument. Your party also would have formed the Government with the support of some other party. But you did not do it... (*Interruptions*) ... because you could not.

SHRI S'ED SIBTEY RAZI: We have seen the fate of the Grand Alliance; we have seen the fate of the Samyukta Morcha; and we have seen the fate of the Janata Party which was under one banner. Now, there are two or three parties and two or three banners and all have joined. What will happen? God knows better.

As I said, your only objective is to see as to how to keep yourself in power and in this struggle one all is trying to marginalise another. There was the Budget and there was a demonstration against the Budget by the BJP. It is O.K.; it is all right. If you differ on certain things, then why are you supporting the Government? If the Budget was not good and if it was anti-people, then why are you supporting a Government which is really anti-people? Inside the house you say something and outside you say something else. For how long can you keep the people under illusion by all these tactics? So, you should be exposed. It will not take a very long time before you save yourselves from all these things.

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Maldives? What is the stand of Nepal? Is anybody coming out openly to support you? Our Foreign Minister visited Bangladesh and it was said that it was a very good visit. After that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited it. What happened? Bangladesh came out openly and gave a statement about Kashmir which is very injurious to us, which is not in our interest. Even a small country like Maldives, its President came here and he said it is a political matter and we should settle it by negotiation. Our image has gone down, our reputation has gone down. And there are big challenges before this country. I am happy that the President sounds with a ray of hope but I would like to remind this Government that there is darkness of communalism, there is darkness of fundamentalism, there is darkness of revivalism, there is darkness of so many other ills of society. We should not be complacent on any of these things. We should view all these very seriously. You are in the Government and you are running the whole country. And you are ruling most of the States now. How you have come into power in Bihar and in some other States is a different story. Somewhere you have used the card of communalism, somewhere you have used muscle power, somewhere you have done booth-capturing. What have you done in Maharastra? Your Prime Minister is surrendering on many issues. In the beginning he was looking like a Marayada Purushottam in politics. But so many times he has done it; on the resignation also. These are all very important things. We are also concerned with all these things. But because your Government is there, you must be responsible, your Government must be a responsible Government. You should not be a divided house. Your Government should be a Government of stature. You have to work unitedly and lead the country. We have good wishes for you. But don't take us for granted. If you go wrong, every Congressman will come on the streets and will oppose you till the last.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG): Now Shri Surender Singh, not here. Shri K. K. Birla, not here. Smt. Veena Verma not here. Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh, not here. Dr. Abrar Ahmed Khan, not here. Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu, not here. Shri Ram Chandra Vikal, not here. There is no one left now and we close the debate on the President's Address....

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (TAMIL NADU): Sir I have already given my name. I have been waiting since morning. I have not taken my lunch even. Please give me a few minutes. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG): Yes, please. Mr. Venkatraman,

***SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of thanks on the President's Address. Because of the resolve of the people, during the last General Election, the Congress (I) was voted out and therefore, today we have the National Front Government. My Hon'ble friends sitting across, have been asking just one question time and again. They want to know the achievement of this Government during the last 100 days. I would like to ask my Hon'ble friends. Congress was in power for over 40 years. What is the achievement of the Congress Party during these long years? It only created more problems for the country for the sake of ephemeral political gains. The Kashmir issue has been alive right from the time of Independence. Neither Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, nor Mrs. Indira Gandhi, nor Mr. Rajiv Gandhi could solve Kashmir problem. This is a legacy that has been handed down to the present Government. My Congress friends are speaking as if the Kashmir issue is a new development after Mr. V. P. Singh assumed office. They also blame that Mr. V. P. Singh is not taking effective steps to solve the problems. I wish to ask my Hon'ble Cong-

ress friends as to what had happened on 15th August, 1989, on the Independence Day, when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister? When the nation was celebrating the Independence Day, National Flag was burnt by subversive elements in Jammu and Kashmir. There was violence all over the State. Even at that time, it was we, then sitting in the Opposition, who had raised the issue in the House through a Calling Attention Motion. But the Congress people think that the people have forgotten all this.

Sir, it is unfortunate that people vested interest are trying to link the abduction and the subsequent release of Ms. Rubiya to the escalation of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. Rubiya incident is just an isolated case. Here, I am reminder of a proverb in Tamil: 'A crow set on the branch of a tree and just then a ripe fruit fell down'. So, it was only a coincidence of events. There was a lot of simmering in the State over years and it erupted at the time of abduction and that is why this isolated incident attracted nation-wide attention.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, having realised the vitality of secularise, the National Front Government has committed to follow the policy of secularism. To safeguard the unity of the country, the Government has constituted the National Integration Council and the Chief Ministers are likely to meet shortly. So far, the States were being treated only as the sources of revenues. The States had to look up to the Centre for financial assistance and the Centre would give something grudgingly. But happily, this situation has changed. Now State Governments are involved in every decision making with regards to the receipts and expenditure and the States are allocated with adequate funds for their development. This total commitment to the federal structure enshrined in the Constitution is indeed laudable. I am all the more happy because, in spirit,

*English Translation of the original speech in Tamil.

[Shri Tindivaram G. Venkatraman]

this goes hand-in-hand with the famous slogan of our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar, 'let us give our hands for unity and raise our voice for our rights'. I also welcome the decision of the Government to rehabilitate the people affected during the riots in Delhi in 1984, and the communal violence in Bhopal in 1984. Setting up of Special Courts in Delhi and Meerut to try the culprits involved in the violence is another bold step of this Government, Sir. I am sure, that the decision of the Government to extend the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by ten years will go a long way in improving the lot of this people. The of-quoted Mandal Commission Report was put in cold storage by the previous Government. Standing by its promise, this Government has given the assurance to implement the Mandal Commission Report and a Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. Devi Lal to look into the details. It is heartening to note that the backward class, the down trodden people, who remained neglected all these years, are going to be benefitted. The youth are the asset of this country for in their well being rests the future of the nation. And this Government has come out with various programmes for the welfare of the youth. For example the upper age limit for Civil Services has been raised from 26 to 28 years.

On foreign policy, the time-tested policy of non-alignment is committed

to be pursued by this Government. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has categorically stated that while India would be friendly with all its neighbours and try to settle issues through negotiation any country trying to meddle in the internal affairs of India would be taught a fitting lesson. I take this opportunity to thank the Opposition for supporting the Prime Minister in this matter.

I place on record the decision of the Government to accord priority to the agricultural sector. In the fund allocation, happy, irrigation gets precedence over other areas. I appreciate the decision to waive farming loan upto Rs. 10,000. This, indeed, is a landmark decision. At last, I thank the Chair, for giving me this chance to speak, at least at the fag end of the day.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG): The speeches on the Motion of Thanks are over. All the Members have spoken on it. The Prime Minister will reply on 23rd March immediately after the Question Hour.

The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at fifty-nine minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1990.