

6.00 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The time that you asked is over.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, I need five more minutes. Sir, I know for certain that the collective wisdom of the people of India is much larger than the wisdom of their representatives or of any Government. The ultimate test of any Government's promises or programmes is after five years when people cast their votes. We must have done something right, and we are continuing in that direction, for the people of India have returned us to power consecutively the second time.

Sir, Arnold Toynbee once said, "The History of civilisation is nothing more and nothing less than a series of responses to a series of challenges that people face in common." Have we come up to those challenges? Have we answered those challenges? That, Sir, is the touchstone on which this Budget will have to be judged.

Sir, I have one quote to make from the speech of Shri P. Chidambaram, the then Finance Minister, when he was speaking during the debate on the Budget for 2006-07. He said, The young people of India are building castles, it may appear that those castles are in the air, but as Henry David Thoreau said: "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." That is what, Sir, this Budget seeks to do.

In summation, allow me to say, Sir, the final validation of the Budget; the Budget echoes the silent cry of those who suffer from want, hunger, disease, powerlessness and lack of freedom. It lends itself to the advancement of dignity of the marginalised. It allows everyone to participate in the prosperity of the nation. It protects the vulnerable and helps those in need to escape the trap of need. It envisions an economic system that strengthens the bonds of human solidarity. It recognises that the State must exist for its creators and not *vice versa* and that the economic system is a means and not an end. Finally, Sir, and this is the most important line I would like to draw your attention to, the Budget knows its own limitations. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Message from Lok Sabha.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009

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

"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 Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th July, 2009.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India.”

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2009-10 *Contd.*

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, at the outset, I seek indulgence that if I cannot finish in time, give some marginal concession. I am just very quick.

Sir, the Budget speech is quite encouraging to listen. But, when we go through the figures, disappointments start creeping in. This Budget was expected to unleash a stimulus to bring the economy out of recession which has already crept in because of the global meltdown. Massive job cuts had taken place and the Economic Survey estimation of six lakh jobless is a gross under-estimation. The Commerce Ministry has estimated it to be 15 lakhs till March 2009. In reality, it is more than 50 lakhs across the sectors, including the export sector. In such a situation, a stimulus was expected to be unleashed. But, whatever actually has been unleashed is just a pittance. In totality, the increase in the total expenditure in the Budget 2009-10 compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09 is merely 0.5 per cent of the GDP. Out of which, the Plan expenditure is slated to increase by only 0.2 per cent of the GDP as compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09. We have heard so many figures and statistics on different heads and counts. There are other ways of looking into the figures. But, please also consider this aspect.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister as well to the stimulus package which was released before the Budget, assessed to be 3.5 per cent of the GDP. That stimulus package has been scanned by Arun Shourieji just now. But, let me tell you as to what is the impact of that stimulus package. That has failed to arrest the loss of livelihood of five million people. Then, what for the stimulus package is? And in the new stimulus package, whatever is being released is released from the national exchequer and the *aam admi*, in the name of whom the UPA Government all along has been swearing in, also has a claim or stake on that amount of national exchequer released for stimulus. Unless that stimulus package is made conditional to employment protection, this stimulus package will only be used by entrepreneurs to arrest the decline of their margin and bottom line. That is an unjust arrangement. That is not at all an *aam admi* arrangement. It is only focussed on *khaas admi* and that requires a change. I insist on the Finance Minister to put in place some such conditionalities of employment protection, banning retrenchment, lay-off and closure along with the packages being offered to the export-oriented sector and other sectors.

Reviving agriculture must be central because agriculture and allied activities provide livelihood to 60 per cent of our population and *aam admi* resides there. What is the allocation for