

Sir, in spite of giving all these concessions to the corporate sector and declaring so many policies, what is the net result? Are we getting some sort of positive results out of it or not? Sir, unfortunately, India falls at 94 among 118 countries Hunger Index, whereas Pakistan stands at 88. So, this is one of the glaring examples. Sir, 40 per cent of the world's undernourished children are in India, and, if you see the rural side, the indebtedness has doubled in the last decade, i.e., 48 per cent. Then, when we are talking about giving priority to the agrarian sector,... **...(Time-bell)**... Just two minutes, Sir. For the past ten years, more than 3000 agrarian banks are closed and the Government is not making any sort of conscious attempt to reopen them. So, I think, it is high time that we have to take a positive stand on the rural side.

Lastly, the allocation in the Budget to the various sectors is not up to the mark. This is my feeling. For example, take public education. For compulsory education to the age group 6-14 years, the Government is supposed to spend Rs. 10,000 crores, but the allocation is only Rs. 1200 crores to the elementary and secondary education. Sir, the allocation to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has declined. The same is the case with the mid-day meal scheme, which has declined from Rs. 7200 to 7014 crores. Lastly, the National Rural Health Mission is one of the priority sectors for which allocation in the Budget has been increased to a mere 1.2 per cent. Hence, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to have a relook into all these sectors and give priority to those which are going to help the aam admi whom you have referred to so much. Aam admi should be benefited. The aam admi would be benefited only when you change the priorities.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, much has been said about the economic implications of this Budget. The financial repercussions, the priority given to the various sectors which were discussed in the Economic Policy Resolution as well as in the discussion on Budget on which Mr. Tariq Anwar has already expressed our Party's views. I would, therefore, concentrate on something more mundane, namely, the provisions of the Income Tax Act. But, despite that, I would be failing in my duty if I do not record my appreciation for Pranab babu, who is a very gifted man. I had taken him to Bombay with me when I was President of the Indian Merchants Chamber. And I have seen the way in which he could rattle on facts and figures without referring to any notes, with his fantastic memory and he could silence all critics on all points that were raised.

Sir, I believe that this is a growth-oriented budget and even though the fiscal deficit is 6.8 per cent of GDP, I am worried because there is an increase in the Plan expenditure. And increased Plan expenditure means more activity, more economic benefits, which would ultimately percolate to the common man. Of course, I am worried about the revenue deficit of 4.8 per cent because it means that even for running our day-to-day expenditure, we would have to borrow money from banks and other places. I know that the hon. Finance Minister had a very unenviable task. It was Edmund Burke