

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is for the Chairman to decide. Yes, Mr. Poojari

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want only to draw your attention to .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) It is for the Chairman to decide . (Interruptions).

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**THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL,
1987—contd.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am grateful to the honourable Members who have taken part in this discussion. Sixteen Members have taken part in this discussion. Some of the honourable Members who have given very good suggestions are Shri A. G. Kulkarni, Prof. Lakshman-na, Shri Kalpnath Rai, Shri Kailash Pati Mishra, Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy, Shri Gopalsamy, Shri R. C. Vikal, Shri Matto and Shri S. P. Malaviya. Some honourable Members criticised the price rise and spoke of the flight of the people of this nation and said that the Central Government should take action. We fully agree with the honourable Members and we share their concern. It is true that there is rise in prices. Taking into consideration the drought conditions prevailing in the country—just to cite one example—we have to see what the Government has to do and can do to tackle the situation. Honourable Members have placed their arguments before the House. Now it is not the responsibility of the Central Government alone. State Governments also have a responsibility. While the Central Government has to take steps to contain prices, it is also the responsibility of the State Governments to take action against hoarders, against blackmarketeers. We have also to contain the circulation of money, money supply, for which we have

taken action from the banking side. The Reserve Bank has raised the statutory liquidity ratio. I would request honourable Members, particularly Prof. Lakshman-na—you are a respected Member of the House and you know what is happening in the country—to bear in mind how traders are taking advantage of the situation, how blackmarketeers are operating, and keeping this in mind, if the State Governments, whether Congress-ruled or Opposition ruled, take stern measures against the hoarders and blackmarketeers then to a certain extent we can contain this rise in the prices also.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): What about FERA violators?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far as the availability of money is concerned for the purpose of hoarding and blackmarketing, that also has to be contained. We should cut the supply of money to such people, and for that purpose the Reserve Bank of India has been clearly told and the Reserve Bank of India also gave the guidelines saying that money will not be available for the purpose of hoarding and blackmarketing and that only for genuine requirements, money will be made available. This is the step that we have also taken.

Sir, some of the hon. Members have said that we have to take action against the law violators, particularly they have mentioned about the Bofors deal. Mr. Gurupadaswamy has also mentioned about the submarine deal also. Sir, this has been discussed here. The hon. Members have made effective arguments. So far as the Bofors deal is concerned, a Joint Parliamentary Committee has been set up and they are looking into the matters. If anybody has violated any law or any rule, he will not be spared and nobody will be spared. The Government has made it very clear.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Why Mayadas was not summoned by the Committee?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, it is the concern of the House and of the nation that if there is any violation, nobody would be spared. In fact, I wished that if these Opposition Members also had taken part and they had played their own rôle in the Joint Parliamentary Committee, that would have been more helpful to find out the truth. And some of you hon. Members are very effective and if you had been in the Joint Parliamentary Committee, you would have elicited certain pertinent points. Some of the hon. Members like Mr Gurupadaswamy, Mr. Lakshmana, Mr Nirmal Chatterjee and from the other House persons like Mr Madhav Reddy and Mr Indrajit Gupta and persons like you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and some of the hon. Members here, if they also had been there, the Joint Parliamentary Committee could have been more effective, and if there had been any violation, no person would have been allowed to go scot-free. Unfortunately, Mr Lakshmana and some of the effective Members of the House went back and now .

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): This is what I told them

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): We went back because some of the terms of reference were such .

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Even then I don't think that you people would have let any person go scot-free if there had been any violation. Such of the Members are known for their integrity, known for their effectiveness..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He is complimenting you.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: For that purpose, it is not fair to comment now that we are going to be effective. So far as the availability

of documents is concerned or so far as the co-operation that has to be extended to the Joint Parliamentary Committee is concerned, the Government of India will not run away. We will fully co-operate so far as the functioning of the Joint Parliamentary Committee is concerned.

Sir, so far as the submarine deal is concerned, I need not repeat what has been said earlier, and it is an issue that pertains to the Defence Department and they clearly stated in the House also earlier as to what type of action is being taken in that regard also. And the department is looking into that and there also if there is any violation, definitely I say the Government will not run away from that. The Government will come forward with full account if there is any violation there also.

Sir, the hon Member, **Shri Rai** expressed the fear that the reduction made in the Budget will affect development works like power projects. I may assure the hon Member that while making the reduction it has been ensured that important projects in the core sector are not adversely affected. Sir, I fully appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member so far as the developmental activities are concerned and that they should not be affected and that they should not be curtailed in the Plan outlay. Sir, here the Government is fully aware of this fact and that is why this assurance has been given and as far as possible there will not be any cut in the developmental projects and this assurance I can give to the hon Member.

Sir, Mr Kulkarni dwelt at length on duty concessions. Sir, he has raised these points earlier also and we have effectively answered these questions and in fact some of the questions raised by the hon Member and the suggestions that have been made by him are noted. He is a very effective Member, a senior Member of

[Shri Janardhan Poojari]

the House and I do not think his memory has failed him. Here also I have given him an assurance earlier. We are pursuing that matter and I need not repeat it once again.

Sir, on the expenditure side I may say that international pressure have necessitated a large expenditure on defence, food, fertiliser and export subsidies which serve a social and economic purpose. A good part of the revenue budget of the Government is transferred to the State Governments in terms of the recommendations of the Finance Commission, which is also large. Another important chunk of revenue expenditure is the expenditure on maintenance of assets created over successive plans and the decision to provide to our people education, health and housing facilities involves a social-investment type of expenditure which will not result in immediate financial return to the Government. It will also be noted that the emphasis on anti-poverty programmes has increased the current expenditure component of the plan and thus adding to revenue deficit of the Government. The increase in interest burden of the Government is the result of large borrowings which had to be made over successive Plans to ensure that the Plans are adequately funded. Thus, the problem of debt burden is not a problem of the single solution. It is the result of so many factors with so many ramifications requiring structural corrections in a number of areas. A number of harsh decisions may have to be taken to correct this and I hope that the hon Members will extend the support to the actions that the Government may take from time to time towards this end.

Sir, Mattoji has referred to the fertiliser subsidy and indicated that this could have been anticipated and provided for in the Budget. He also referred to the indications of the likely spill-over the subsidy to next year.

He is not correct, Sir, in assuming that additional expenditure involved is Rs. 156 crores. The position is that even in the original plan Rs. 140 crores to be provided to five companies shown on page 4 of the Supplementary Demands by KRIBHCO and RCF. The two companies, however, had some technical difficulties in transferring funds direct to the other five companies. Hence it was decided that the two will repay the Government dues to the Government and the Government will in turn provide Rs. 140 crores to the companies. This arrangement thus does not involve any net cash expenditure as regards spill-over to the next year. I may mention that claims are paid only on submission of Bills and their scrutiny. The subsidy of at least one or two months of the year does not get paid in full in that year itself and there is a spill-over to the next year. Sir, this is nothing unusual; it is a normal practice. The current year's payment also includes the spill-over from the last year.

Shri Matto pointed out that we are providing Rs. 100 crores for renovation and modernisation of thermal power stations programme, and that this should have been foreseen and provided for in the Budget itself. I may mention that we are only seeking approval for a token supplementary of Rs one lakh, and not Rs. 100 crore, and the entire expenditure is to be met from savings within the grant. As far as the amount of Rs. 100 crore is concerned, it is for the Power Finance Corporation to give it a large equity base to facilitate borrowing by the Corporation. The Corporation will keep the amount of Rs. 100 crore in deposit with the Government, and there is no net cash outgo.

As for the provision for Daman and Diu, hon. Member's presumption that this is matched by savings in the provision in the original budget for erstwhile Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu, is confirmed.

So far as the report referred to by the hon. Member is concerned, it is not a report published by the Reserve Bank of India. This was published by someone—I do not want to give the details of it, it is not a report submitted by the Reserve Bank of India. About the other point regarding debt, I have already stated...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: What about the question raised by me?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Mr. Gopalsamy raised the question about the role of our Indian army.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I asked why prosecution has not been launched against Reliance Industries on PTA case?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far as the Ceylon position is concerned.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: The hon. Minister said that the report I referred to about our position in 1992-93, is not the Reserve Bank of India report. But here is an exception—I can lay it on the Table of the House—from the Economic Times, New Delhi dated December 1, and it says, if the current trend in market borrowings by the Government continues, India might get into a situation of....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He says it is not Reserve Bank of India's report.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: .. internal debt trap, according to Reserve Bank of India report study, reports P.T.I.. Sir, P.T.I is a Government concern; RBI is a Government concern. How has this news come in? So, I suggested for which he should positively respond, that if the contention of figures given by me is correct, I wanted to know whether he will constitute a committee in his Ministry to see that if this is the situation, what is the remedy for it.

PROF C. LAKSHMANNA: Was there a Reserve Bank of India study made or not and if it was there, what are the findings and how it differs from what has been stated in this particular PTI report?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I will check up the details and write to you and to Shri Mattoji. The article that has been written is by a retired officer of the RBI; it is not the official view of the RBI. Anyway, I will check it up and write to you.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: I don't bother whether the point raised by me is correct or not. What I want is that if that is correct, then we must take remedial measures.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I have already stated it. So far as the point made by Mr. Gopalsamy is concerned, I can understand the feeling of the hon Member. Sir, I also happened to visit some of the districts in Tamil Nadu. So far as the role played by the Indian Army is concerned... (Interruptions) hon. Member from the BJP, Shri Advani, has given us a piece of advice to you and to all of us regarding...

SHRI V GOPALSAMY: We need not agree to that suggestion. He is entitled to his opinion.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, we are proud of the role played by the Indian Army.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It will not go on record

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Mr Gopalsamy, I do not think your senior colleague will fully agree with you.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY: Such strategies will never work with us.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI. This question has been discussed and it has been explained in this House as to why the Indian Army had to go there. Taking into consideration all aspects, I do not think the Indian Army has committed any wrong thing there. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI). Mr. Maran, you may have a different view. Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu). Mr. Prabhakaran has sent two complaints to the United Nations about the atrocities committed by the IPKF. It is an unpatriotic war. You should look at it from that angle.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI. So far as Reliance is concerned, I have said earlier and I am saying it again now about the action that would be taken.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: What about prosecution?

SHRI A G KULKARNI. No action has been taken as yet.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI. You are in a hurry.

SHRI A G KULKARNI (Maharashtra). You are not going to the court. The biggest crook is not being booked. Why are you not taking action?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: We do not spare anybody, whether it is Reliance or any other company. Nobody will be allowed to violate the law. Nobody is above law in the country. It is your effort, it is the concern of the nation and it is the concern of the Government also. We have to take action, Mr. Kulkarni, if there is any violation. I fully agree with you. I am only saying that we should not be in a hurry. There are so many documents. The process is already on. We have to prepare a

foolproof case. We will take action if there is any violation by any body, whether it is Reliance or any other company. At the same time, we should ensure that we do not fail in the court.

SHRI A G KULKARNI. Mr. Poojari, I am happy that the Government is in the process of booking Reliance in various cases. That is all right. But what about Prafulla Shah? He is also a FERA violator. I have raised this three times. You said that you will look into it. When will you look into it?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: He is still looking into it.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: With all respect to the hon. Member, I would say that he should give us some time also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You can go to the next point.

SHRI A G KULKARNI. You are booking him?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: If there is violation, we have to book. We will not spare anybody, whether it is Reliance or any other person.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY. Will the hon. Minister yield for a minute? I am happy that you are going to take action against Reliance. What I would like to know is whether there was any recommendation made by the CBI to launch prosecution but it was overruled by the boss of the CBI. This was the question I raised. For what reasons, duty concession was allowed for the Reliance to import Paraffin? This is also a very important question.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: This relates to the Home Ministry. Anyway I will write a letter raising your point to the Home Ministry.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Why Paraffin was allowed to be imported?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He will write to you.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: That was in regard to the other point. My other question was, why Reliance was allowed to import Paraffin.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: And about the CBI Director's extension, whether he was in collusion with Reliance. This also we wanted to know.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Why was Reliance allowed to import paraffin?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: One of the hon. Members, Shri Mishraji, raised the question about flow of credit weaker sections. In spite of the best efforts of the Government the flow of credit to the weaker sections is not up to the mark and we have to see that even the element of corruption is also eliminated. I fully agree with him that in the rural areas, in spite of the best efforts of the Government, the requirement of genuine persons belonging to weaker sections is not met to a certain extent. For that purpose, we have directed the branches, particularly, in the rural areas to see that the Branch Manager visits the rural areas once in a week, contacts the people, particularly of weaker section, and gives them proper guidance. Whether they are going or not, superior officers have been asked to monitor. Even I myself have gone to the interior places to see whether the branch managers are visiting and the flow of credit is there or not. In certain places I myself have noticed that some of the rural branch managers have not gone and some of them wasted their time. Even it was brought to our notice that instead of going to the rural areas they have gone to some other places. There also the Government is taking action. We are monitoring and for that purpose we are trying to see that accele-

rated flow of credit is there, we are holding credit camps for that purpose. Not only that, every rural branch manager should hold two credit camps per month outside the bank premises. They should give loans to the weaker sections. In some of the cases there is violation of these guidelines also, but we are monitoring.

श्री राम अबधेश सिंह (बिहार) : 10 परसेंट बिना पैसा लिए गरीबों को बैंक वाले लोन नहीं देते है। मैंने इस बारे में आपको भी लिखा, प्रधान मंत्री को भी लिखा ...

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: We have taken action even on the complaints received from hon. Members. There was a complaint from Shri Hukum Dev, an ex-M.P. of this House. There also we have taken action. In your case also we have ordered an inquiry. But, then I have to make one appeal to the hon. Members of this House. At the grassroot level some bank officers win over the complainant and it cannot be pursued. They see that some statement is recorded in their favour. So, my appeal to the hon. Members is to extend all cooperation at the grassroot level. They should also see that the evidence is made available at the ground level. This will be very helpful for us in taking action.

श्री राम अबधेश सिंह : कोई गुप्त एजेंसी आप बनाइए जिससे पता लग सके, नहीं तो वे विटनेस खड़े कर देंगे और अपनी बात को ठीक बताएंगे।

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I will keep your suggestion in mind, but at the same time I request hon. Members, whenever they give some complaint, they should pursue it and see that evidence is not lost. As you know it, people of weaker sections are already very poor. Sometimes, they are caught hold of by some powerful persons in the locality and they see that the complaint is hushed up. In some cases I have ordered for

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re-enquiry also. In some cases I have asked persons to go to the villages to see what the actual reality is. So, in these circumstances, I seek cooperation of the hon. Members.

I feel some of the major points have been covered by me. Some points relate to other Departments. I will take note of the same and also I will write to those Departments bringing to their notice the points raised by the hon. Members here and also I will tell them to reply to them. If any point has been left by me, I will reply to you giving a full answer.

श्री राम श्रवधेश सिंह : टाटा की टैक्स चोरी के बारे में मैंने आपको लिखा था और सदन में भी उठाया था, उसने करोड़ों रुपये की चोरी की है जरा उसके बारे में भी बता दीजिए। (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : सब आपको बता दिया।

SHRI N. RAJANGAM (Tamil Nadu): I want to know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to recommend the view expressed by me yesterday about recruitment of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates in the three wings of the armed forces—Air Force, Navy and Army. This was the most important thing said by Dr. Ambedkar in his days.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He is asking about recruitment of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: In the banks?

SHRI N. RAJANGAM: In the armed forces.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): How can he reply to that?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI:

Sir, about that point and others concerning other departments, I will write to the department concerned, bringing it to the notice of the Ministry concerned.

Sir, one point I missed—about budget deficit. Some hon. Members have stated that the Supplementary Demands will add to the deficit. I may point out that the budget deficit of the year does not increase to the extent of Supplementary Demands. For example, in 1985-86, the original deficit was Rs. 3316 crore and the Supplementary Demands amounted to Rs. 6600 crore. The final deficit was only Rs. 6940 crore and not Rs. 9316 crore. Similarly in 1986-87, the original deficit was Rs. 3703 crore and the Supplementary Demands amounted to Rs. 6017 crores. The final deficit was Rs. 8506 crore and not Rs. 9720 crore. Some hon. Members think that deficit financing is bad for the economy. We need not be dogmatic about this. For a fast developing economy like ours, especially in a system where the Government has to play a major role in not only economic development but also social well-being of the people, a certain amount of deficit financing is both desirable and necessary, but it should be within manageable limits; otherwise there will be stagnation in the developmental activities. In such a situation zero deficit may end up in zero development. This does not, however, mean that we should be complacent about deficit financing. It is always the endeavour of the Government to keep the deficit financing within manageable proportions. I fully agree with the hon. Members that we should not extend our legs beyond a certain limit. There I will keep in mind the suggestions made by the hon. Members. They have given us very concrete suggestions and definitely we will take note of these.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The question is

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI:
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was proposed.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, thank you very much for permitting me to make a few comments and raise a few questions. I shall be very brief.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Five minutes, please.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Perhaps five minutes. You know I am a cooperative sort... (*Interruptions*)...

One thing I want to tell is, the Minister is very courteous. He cannot be faulted, all right, but it is also my experience that when we write to him to take certain actions, I regret to say, the actions are inordinately delayed. This the Minister will kindly look into. I have also written letters. Replies are very courteous. But something has to be done. Anyway, that is another matter.

Sir, the point is, I have a feeling, particularly after reading in the newspaper today the honourable Finance Minister's

speech in the Lok Sabha, that madness is gripping the imagination of the Treasury Benches. When I am told that the economy is all right, I just rub my eyes in disbelief. Now, why can't I believe such a statement? The point is, frequent reference is made to the drought. But, as Gurupadaswamyji, I think, also has pointed out, the economy has been stagnating, even before the drought, in the field of agriculture—and that is a producing sector. The growth in national income, as one boasts of, is not in the physical production sector but in the tertiary sector. This is forgotten, and this spells disaster for the future of the country. I have a feeling—I mentioned it once earlier—that you take a superficial view of things and feel content. This is what is most dangerous.

You don't have to go to the RBI for making a calculation that you are about to enter into an internal debt trap. The fact is, you say that the bulk of non-Plan expenditure is interest payments. It is a very simple calculation that the way interest payments are increasing, the way you are going to the market for internal borrowing, by 1922—it is a simple projection—a position will be arriving when, by borrowing, the gross borrowing would be just enough to meet only the charges so that no net borrowing would be possible. This is the definition of internal debt trap, to which the Reserve Bank of India report referred. It does not need a reference to the Reserve Bank of India. It is a simple projection that from year to year you can arrive at this figure. This is one. If you want my comment on this...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, please.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: It is simple. India will not be in the debt trap not because of the policies pursued but, because before we enter into the debt trap, this Government will not be there. That is the only hope before me for the future of the country. Anyway, I am not going into that.

The point is, you have become so superficial that you do not take the long-

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term tendencies into consideration, drought has affected agricultural production. For the last three years it has been stagnating. This is the long-term feature. Even in these Supplementary Grants you just keep silent about a simple fact—because you have not mentioned it, I am mentioning it—that of the total amount that you want to spend—the gross amount—less than 50 per cent is on account of drought. More than 50 per cent, that is, Rs. 965 crores, is on account of non-drought while Rs. 800 crores is on account of drought. And, look at the dangerous elements. You have not included the instalments of dearness allowance to be paid in the course of this financial year because of the increase in prices, which is particularly growing at this period of time, that is, in the next six months. The deficit figures you quoted—I do not know whether you have been adequately briefed—themselves prove the dangers. The figures you have quoted, I knew. I would have quoted them otherwise. You start with an original figure. You end with a double figure. The price rise for this year only is not important. If you say, you are happy with the price rise because in the yesteryear it was 7.5 per cent and in this year it is only two digit, was 7.5 per cent something which was desirable? You talk of deficit financing being within manageable proportions. What is manageable? The Planning Commission visualised one figure. You have far outstripped that. You consider that to be manageable. The rise in prices is taking place not only because of the drought but because of the built-in inflationary pressures due to deficit financing over the last three years. If you do not go beneath the surface, you will be seriously doing damage to the country and incidentally to yourself.

Even within the supplementary grants, I draw your attention to one simple fact, you have indicated some savings. Are you aware that many of the savings are of this type? The transfer is from capital grant to revenue grant. What does it mean? It means that you are discounting the future. You are affecting the future

by withdrawing the money from the capital grant and spending it on the revenue side. I will not say much because the Finance Bill is there. The aspect of resource mobilisation, I will not enter into today. But these are the danger signals for the future.

The danger signal I mentioned in another context. Remember the year 1983-84 when the rise in the prices was the sharpest along with the top production in agriculture. A record production in agriculture took place that year.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You have said that earlier.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I mentioned that. So, these things you are not doing, and you are being complaint. It is these aspects which you have to take into account.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): That is all right.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Another point is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, no. The time is running out.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: On the other hand, you are receiving plenty of grants from foreign countries. With that grant you will import oil. That is, you are getting the oil free. Had you been concerned with the price rise and not complacent then, this free availability of oil-seeds and oil could have been utilised in the economy in such a manner that at least on that segment you could have brought down the prices.

I just wanted to draw your attention to this fact in order to shake you out of your complacency for the sake of the country, no less for the sake of any Minister who remains honest in the Cabinet and his future.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Do you want to reply

in five minutes or you want to reply at the time of the discussion on the Finance Bill?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Only two minutes.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: One second Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to know...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, I have some commitment.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: One sentence There have been grants for drought relief, against which we will be importing oil etc. I would like to know what price would be charged to the consumer when such oil comes to the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): That is all.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Only one thing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The Finance Bill is going to be discussed.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Only one point I am asking before he is going to reply (*Interruptions*) I am not going into the Finance Bill.

I am only asking the hon. Finance Minister to throw light on two issues which are most worrying us: one is about the increase in the non-Plan expenditure. According to the statistics published by the Reserve Bank of India, this year the non-Plan expenditure is Rs. 2,000 crores or more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) Only half a minute.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: One question. We are not able to reduce the non-Plan expenditure, it is increasing. On the question of deficit financing he has already mentioned that the limit is Rs. 5,600 crores. Now, according to the latest information it has increased to Rs. 8,000 crores. You are not able to manage the economy. So, my question is: how are

you going to manage the economy in such a situation?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The hon. Member, Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee, has stated that I delayed action on some of the matters when the hon. Members wrote to us. He said when our replies are received by them and when they go through these, they are not satisfied and they have again to send letters for effective action. I concede in some cases action is being delayed.

I concede his another point that increasing interest payments have forced us to larger borrowings. Here, however, the solution, as I said earlier, is to collect more taxes and curtail expenditure. I agree, as stated by him, non-Plan expenditure also has to be cut. But that is where we seek the cooperation of the Members. As I said earlier, certain harsh decisions have to be taken. In taking those harsh decisions we need your cooperation.

The hon. Member has stated that we are going to be trapped in what is called 'the debt trap'. As a result there is a ray of hope for him because in such a situation our Government will go. That is what Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee has said. Sir, Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee is an informed Member. Yet he must know that if we are going to be trapped in such a situation, not only will the Government of India and the Congress Party be trapped, but the whole will be trapped. In such a situation even his party will not be able to save itself. Therefore, the State Governments, Opposition parties and all of us should work together. Let us be common partners in the exciting task of building the nation. Let us have hopes. We have developed this country and we are strong enough to face all these difficulties.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The question is:

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted.