

amount meets the need of the whole North-Eastern Region and also taken outside by tankers. Recently, the Oil India is preparing to produce 3 lakh cubic metres more gas from the wells of pure gas daily from the month of October to increase production of L.P.G. But only 4 per cent of the natural gas is converted into L.P.G. and the remaining 96 per cent is burnt, resulting in heavy wastage. Apart from the gas presently being burnt daily, this additional 3 lakhs cubic metres gas will cost more than one crore of rupees.

This is a threat to the untimely extinction of the national property by wastage. Therefore, drilling from the wells of pure gas should not be started till the total gas produced along with the crude oil is properly and fully utilised. Till then, the gas in the wells of the pure gas should be stored for future use.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha, for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Saroj Khaparde, from the Committee, and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House, to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

APPROACH TO THE SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1985-90)

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Sir, I have the privilege of moving the following Motion for consideration of the House:

"That the document entitled 'the Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985-90', laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1984, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members to whom the document was made available would no doubt have had a chance to go through the Document by now. I would, therefore, confine myself to highlighting some of the major thrusts and policy directions outlined in the Approach.

"Food, Work and Productivity" are our basic priorities in the Seventh Plan. The strategy is built around higher agricultural growth which would involve increase in agriculture. This in turn, would mean concentration on irrigation and dry land farming and on making available inputs like fertilizers, credit, seeds and extension services. Agricultural research will also have to play an important part. As hon Member are aware, 73 per cent of our, total area under crops is rainfed, and the first priority would be to raise productivity in such areas. There will also be emphasis on increasing production of rice in the eastern region. Coarse foodgrains, oilseeds and pulses will require special attention. The targetted growth rate in agricultural production is 4 per cent, and in food production 5 per cent. Hand in hand with agricultural production, there will be an expanded programme for rural development and poverty alleviation. This will emphasis creation of employment for those who are without land, and programmes for benefiting small and marginal farmers as the bulk of the unemployed or the poor are either among the rural landless labour or among such small and marginal farmers. The integrated programmes of agricultural development and rural development are expected to make a significant contribution to reduction of poverty.

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Productive employment is the second of our basic priorities in the Plan. In agriculture this will mean promoting accelerated growth of labour-absorbing activities not only in agriculture and rural development, but also through a drive for promoting villages and rural industry in cottage, tiny and small units. Such industries would absorb labour which cannot be provided productive employment on land. This will also ease the pressure of labour on land. This will mean that our strategy will also have to provide for a shift in investment priorities towards items of mass consumption and production of wage-goods which can be produced with relatively less capital, and which do not require high levels of imported inputs.

As the agricultural constraint is loosened in the Seventh Plan, it could be possible to plan for higher rates of industrial growth. However, in order to economise on resources, the next phase of industrialisation has to be based on better utilisation and low-cost expansion of existing capacity. The emphasis will have to be on the modernisation and upgradation of our industrial technology and the induction of new technologies to raise output manifold. The time has come for a new policy framework that emphasises efficiency, competition and modernisation.

Agricultural and industrial growth will not be feasible without a sound and functioning infrastructure, such as power, coal, transport and communications. Huge investments have been made in this field but the returns are well below expectations. Therefore, the most important task is to ensure that all investments yield expected results in terms of the quantity and quality of service provided and the return earned.

There is need to improve greatly the physical well-being of the people and the environment in which they live. This will require an improvement in nutritional support for vulnerable groups, an expansion and improvement in health care, fertility

control, the provision of clean drinking water and sanitation and housing.

Control of inflation is essential for protecting gains in the real incomes of the poor, and for preventing the erosion of the savings of the Government. Therefore, the plan will aim to ensure relative price stability through judicious macro-economic policies and through adequate availability of food and raw materials.

The fulfilment of the Seventh Plan objectives requires a growth rate of a little over 5 per cent. This growth rate should contain inflationary pressures and lead to import substitution in sectors like crude oil, foodgrains and edible oils besides generating employment and income for the poor, especially in the less developed regions.

Over the five years, aggregate investment, at 1984-85 prices, may be of the order of Rs. 320,000 crores of which public investment would be about Rs. 150,000 crores. The public sector outlay in the Seventh Plan would be of the order of Rs. 180,000 crores at 1984-85 prices.

Greater priority will be given to attaining self-sufficiency and self-reliance in areas such as oilseeds, petroleum, petroleum products and a whole range of items which account for large imports or where the content of skilled labour is high. Domestically, investments with smaller import content have to be preferred to these with larger import content and the pattern of production itself has, as I have already indicated, to move in favour of less import-intensive production.

A rate of growth of population of 1.8 per cent per annum is being assumed for the Seventh Plan period, and the estimated population in the terminal year of the Seventh Plan is 803 million. This rate of growth itself is of the same order that was adopted in the exercises preceding the formulation of the Sixth Plan. There can be no scaling down of the importance of the objective of population stabilisation in the overall strategy. Improvement

in literacy and awareness, extensive programmes of information, education and communication, an appropriate mix of incentives, reduction of infant mortality through improvement of mother and child health services and satisfaction of minimum needs will also help towards this end.

One of the primary tasks of the Seventh Plan must be the harnessing of the country's abundant human resources and improving their capabilities for development with equity. This is how the programmes for alleviation of poverty, reduction of economic and social inequalities and improving productivity can be integrated with development. The strategies and programmes for education, communication, training and organisation should be such as to release the latent power of women and youth, as also economically weaker population groups, so that they can make an increasing contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

Measures for the protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections from inequitous practices leading to the alienation of their land will have to be strengthened. The strategy of the Special Component Plan for development of Scheduled Castes aiming at economic and education development and bringing about improvement in their working and living conditions launched in the Sixth Plan period has given a clear direction to the economic and social advancement of Scheduled Castes. The pace and quality of its implementation need to be considerably geared up and intensified through (a) beneficiary-oriented programmes to raise the incomes of those below the poverty line, (b) basti-oriented schemes, (c) elimination of scavenging, (d) educational development and (e) administrative and personnel reforms.

Public distribution of essential commodities like foodgrains and cloth to the vulnerable sections, especially in rural areas where productivity and wages are low, should serve as an essential complement to the programmes for employment and income generation. Otherwise, the

rise in the cash income of the poor can easily be neutralised by the rise in the prices of essential commodities. Public distribution of essential commodities to such sections needs to be expanded on a much larger scale than has been done so far.

The problem of regional disparities in development has to be tackled at different levels. Part of the solution lies in the development of agriculture in the less developed regions.

However, it is a much wider problem and its resolution requires a close re-examination of the mechanisms for channelising the flow of finance, policies on industrial location, the distribution of investments in irrigation and infrastructure and a host of other matters. It is essential that the regional dimension of development is dealt with as an integral part of the Seventh Plan.

Some major advances are needed in the expansion of elementary and secondary education with a vocation bias. A more flexible design of education should be evolved to make it relevant to local culture and environment and to the problems of community health. In the field of higher education, there should be the utmost restraint on any unplanned expansion. The emphasis should be on the improvement of quality, keeping in view the specialised needs arising from modernisation and the demands of new technology. The minimum qualification for jobs which do not require a university degree should be suitably defined to avoid influx of students into purposeless higher university education. Training in intermediate skills needs to be undertaken on a large scale for the provision of various services, including primary health services. Provision of clean drinking water and clearance of slums and provision of housing for the poor, both in the rural and urban areas, have to be given greater priority in the interests of general welfare as well as productivity.

To meet the objectives of the Plan, industrial output will have to grow at about 7 per cent. The emphasis on agricultural production will require adequate growth of sectors like fertilizers, pesticides and

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essential agricultural machinery like pumpsets, power tillers, etc. Facilities for production of basic wage goods and essentials of mass consumption like sugar, vegetable oils, drugs, textiles, paper and consumer durables will need to be modernised and expanded. It needs to be recognised that the industrial sector has played an important role in the structural transformation of some regions of the national economy and a suitably designed strategy for a faster rate of industrial growth will be one of the elements of the poverty alleviation and employment generation strategies.

In the Seventh Plan, it will be necessary to ensure that lags in production of the key infrastructural or intermediate goods like steel, cement, coal, railway transport, communication, irrigation and fertilizers do not become mutual bottlenecks. Nor should there be any idle capacity in any sector. Careful planning and timely implementation must ensure that capacities in basic infrastructures are available in time to match rising demand.

The Seventh Plan has to lay emphasis on improved utilisation of capacity by pinpointing the factors responsible for the existence of idle capacities. Continued, regular and intensive monitoring of all major public sector enterprises and especially of capacity utilisation, should be used effectively for this purpose. Projects adding to infrastructure capacity have to adhere to time-schedules laid down, and accountability has to be insisted on.

Along with capacity utilisation and expansion, it must be ensured that existing capacity is effectively maintained, that such maintenance is provided for and that the provisions so made are in fact used for the purpose.

These are some of the basic strategies of the Seventh Plan. These will govern the drafting of the detailed Plan, the selection of schemes and projects and the determination of investment priorities.

As the House is aware, the National Development Council which met on the 12th and 13th July, 1984, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister has approved the Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan. With these words, Sir, I commend the Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan to the House for its consideration.

The question was proposed.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, perhaps, it is my duty as the first speaker from the Opposition, to welcome our new incumbent in the Planning Ministry. I only wish that the skill and success which he has demonstrated already as Home Minister, in the case of Punjab, in alienating the Sikhs there, he will not repeat in this new field.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, when Dr. Adisesiah and Mr. Morarka retired... Sir, this is an appeal to you. I want to inform you, Sir, that when Dr. Adisesiah and Mr. Morarka retired they fervently requested me to consume whatever time they were allotted. Therefore, I should be given more time than what is due to our party.

SHRI R RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Please take one hour.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: May I begin with a broadside? I do not know whether the respected Members of the ruling party would listen to me or participate in a dialogue with me. Let me explain. This morning, a reference was made to a news item? The news-item was 'Extra 50 million dollars for Afghan rebels'. Now, the argument they have was very interesting. It is not here. It is in a different context. The argument was that nobody would object to giving funds for freedom fighters against the atheistic hordes from the North. As the House knows, Sir, I am a Godless person. I would not have been bothered by this, but for the fact that a very recent promotee, while criticising, not here, not in Delhi, used exactly the same kind of expression. That is, the charge was that that person has talked, met and discussed

with, another Godless person. The promotee does not belong to Delhi. But the promoters do. I am referring to Mr. G. M. Shah with reference to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Mr. Jyoti Basu. I am, therefore, afraid, Sir, as a Godless person, whether I will be able to catch the ears of the Members of the ruling party who are in alliance with, and who have promoted, this person.

But Sir, in case I am listened to, let me clarify one point. This is, all my references to this document will not mean any criticism of those who have actually drafted this document. I respect their competence. I know many of them to be truthful and honest. And if my comments about this document hurt them, I can only say that these honest, these truthful, people who themselves do not believe in this document... were forced in writing a piece which is full of contradictions, half truths and a cover-up though not a successful one, and they have been hustled into the job....

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV (Bihar). Russian strategy has been adopted in our Plan.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Russian strategy? I will try to indicate how you do not understand either India or Russia.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: I know it because you have become a friend of China now.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: On the basis of China I will try to make you understand both Russia and India. (*Interruptions*). Do not worry, I will come to that also. I ask you Mr. Ramanand Yadav or anybody for that matter if such linguistic monstrosity could be perpetrated. They have written such kind of sentences which have to be deciphered. I believe in dictionaries. I am not well-versed with the usages of the Safdarjung palace language. This is the kind of language used in paragraph 48, page 7. I quote:

"...the crucial task ahead is to reverse the inability of the system to cope with the overall demand."

Look at the monstrosity of the language, just imagine the kind of language. I hope Mr. Yadavji has very briefly understood it. So, Sir, this is the linguistic monstrosity. If it means something to somebody, certainly it means.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA (West Bengal): But there is no grammatical error.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: No, grammatical error. It is linguistic monstrosity. I am glad the ex-Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court has been able to decipher it after some time.

I will come to the details of the document a bit later, but how old is planning in India, Sir? Even the new incumbent is not unaware of this. It is about 33 years old. And in the course of these 33 years, even our founding fathers of the Constitution could not imagine of socialism through tremendous growth of monopolists in the country, that is the estates of some large houses having multiplied 40 or 50 times, or their growth in terms of percentage is 4000 to 5000 per cent. And through induction of multinationals in the course of these 33 years what we have achieved is this, and that is how we have achieved socialism. We did not begin in our Constitution with socialism. Through this growth of monopolists.... I am referring to the Indian Constitution, not to the Bengal constitution. This is the Indian Constitution to which I am referring.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD ROY (West Bengal): You are talking of the multinationals, but the multinationals are more loved and helped by West Bengal Government these days. They are being inducted in the West Bengal economy more effectively these days.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: They have learnt from you.

In the course of these 33 years they have achieved socialism through growth of monopolists. What else have we achieved? I will come to the details.

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Whatever it may be, we say that there is a poverty line and enormous population lives below that line. Was it inevitable? That is my question. Another approach paper of the Seventh Five Year Plan which has to be discussed and which is not very much different from the approach contained in the Plans, from the Second Five Year Plan onwards....

Was there any alternative to that approach? Sir, I will refer to an alternative experience. Mr. Yadav is no longer here. I will refer here to the experience of another country which plans. Now, our approach to Plan primarily, as you know, is in terms of enlargement of the cake. You have often told the workers in the factories, the agricultural labourers in the countryside that before you divide, you must have the cake; so enlarge the cake, produce more. Initially it was believed that it will automatically improve the condition of the people. Sometime later it was being discovered because the people started discovering it despite the intentions of the planners, that you have to tag on not only production but also social justice along with production. The results continued to be as in the old.

Now there is an alternative experience. And that experience is—I am not referring to China; I will refer to USSR—if at Los Angeles Olympics, as you all know, as Yadavji also knows, Pakistan hits a gold in the USA, we hit a gold in Moscow Olympics; so there may be no objection in drawing lessons from Moscow. Sir, what was that experience? Now I will take 33 years of their planning. You know, Sir, and the House may also know that the people in the Soviet Union emerged into freedom in the year 1917. They got off the shackles of exploitation from the year 1917. But they could start their planning only in 1928. Don't ask me what they were doing between 1917 and 1928. If you want to get an answer, you should send the question to the House of Commons of the United Kingdom or to the Senate of the United States. They have all the answer why Soviet people could not plan before 1928,

although they achieved their liberation in the year 1917. From 1928, they had a span of 12 years. Till 1940 they planned three Five Year Plans, each completed in four years and three months. And let me remind the House that in 1928, they started at the same level that they were in 1913 before the First World War. What was that level compared to India? One knows that they were at the same level as India was in the year 1947. After those 12 years, they were involved for five years in a war and at the cost of 2 crores of their lives, they saved their country and were indirectly responsible for the liberation of the colonies of the world. And they took another five years i.e. from 1945 to 1950, those ten years were taken in order to come back to the position of 1940s. They lost their plants, they lost their industries, they lost their crops and what is most precious they lost 2 crores of their best human beings. So twelve years of planning was there and add another 20 years—by 1970, by this kind of planning we know, and we referred to this morning also, they emerged as a Super Power.

They emerged as a super power not only in defence but also in production, not only in production but also in terms of material happiness of the people. And in the course of these 33 years we all know where they stand. What was it that made it possible? A different kind of approach. What is that different kind of approach?

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL (Gujarat): System also.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Yes. I will come to that also. Thank you for helping me.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Their first and second plans did not achieve the results.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I will come to that also, if you want me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): Now only a few minutes are at your disposal.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: How many minutes are left?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): Your time is over.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: How can it be? It is a full-day discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): It is over.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I am from the biggest Opposition group.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): Don't indulge yourself. Go ahead. (*Interruptions*). . .

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: So, what did they do? They precisely did the opposite of what we did. They distributed first. They did not say, produce first and then have distribution. They distributed. What did they distribute? They distributed all the assets. The entire lands owned by the landlords were distributed to the peasants, they took over all the properties of their Birlas, their Tatas and handed them over to the people. They took over the entire wholesale trade into their hands, they took the whole foreign trade from private hands and vested it in the hands of the State. Now, they started with this different approach; they started with distribution. And the result was fantastic growth in productivity which has been one of the slogans in this Approach to Seventh Plan, and that productivity is now history. We all know now that that productivity is equated even in our management institutions in terms of the same as the Stakhs-nov movement of the 30s in the U.S.S.R.

Sir, the question remains: Was it a mere option? Why are the choices this different that in our country we say, production first and distribution to follow? They started with distribution with remarkable results of production and productivity. The reasons are very simple. In 1917 when they got their freedom, what they did not do was to promote. . . .

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, is the hon. Member speaking on the Soviet Plan or the Indian Plan?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, may I inform the new Minister that the planning experience in India which started in the 40s also referred to the Soviet Plan? When Jawaharlal Nehru was presiding over the Congress Planning Committee—are you aware of your tradition?—he was referring to the Soviet experience. Now you have deviated from that tradition also.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD ROY: After Nehru you are now going. . . .

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: May be excluding you. I am sorry, you are not with me in the healthier tradition of the country.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): It was Subhas Babu.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: He was President of the Congress. You are absolutely right. And Nehru was Chairman of the Planning Committee.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: No, no. Nehru was President of the Indian National Congress and Subhas Babu was the. . . .

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: You kindly get yourself corrected by some old member of the Congress(I) and it will help you know the truth.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): At this rate he will take two hours.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Now, Sir, I will come to this Approach Paper. We have seen in the Plan document there are certain statements which have been repeated again and again. What are those? can are very impatient. This is a full day you are very impatient. This is a full day Such statements are that. (*Interruptions*) discussion. The point is that there are a few cliches. One is that there must be land reforms implemented to the full.

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And let us see how this is put. It is repeated here also. It is said: "The success of the strategy of agriculture and food production will also depend upon forceful implementation of both existing and any additional necessary legislation for land tenure system and consolidation of holdings." They have forgotten to mention that if such an attempt is made in West Bengal, the Presidential assent will not be given even in the course of three years. There are other such cliches. On page 5 it is said: "In the ultimate analysis the removal of poverty can be fulfilled if the poor themselves become conscious, improve their education and capabilities and become organised and assent themselves." They have forgotten to add that in case they raise their consciousness and organize themselves, they have to pass through a barrage of bullets before they are able to remove their poverty.

Now I will come to some other aspects apart from hackneyed things. (*Interruptions*). A very strange word for a Congress Member. So long the tallest in our country had told us that we have achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains Am I right, Sir? Now here is a line. I am reading from Part II. "It is necessary to aim at self-sufficiency in production." Is there not a contradiction? Have we achieved self-sufficiency or are we still trying to aim at it? They will explain it.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is about pulses. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: And the kind of self-sufficiency that you want to achieve requires some wonderful figures. Do you know that? We are not discussing Bengal. I will come to Bengal. Interrupt me at that time. Have we not achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains? Which one is true? Have we to aim at it or have we achieved it?

AN HON. MEMBER: There is a difference between pulses and foodgrains.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Have we achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains? Have you not broadcast all over the world

that one of the gains of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's rule is achievement of self-sufficiency in foodgrains? Is this not inconsistent with that?

The second interesting fact I am referring to page 2, para 16- is the novelty of the Approach. It says—and he has quoted figures—that the order of investment—must be careful—will be Rs. 3,20,000 crores, of which the public sector investment would be Rs. 1,50,000 crores. Am I right Sir? That means the private sector investment would be Rs. 1,70,000 crores. Am I right, Sir? This is for the first time an honest admission. In every other plan the initial allocation of investment was in favour of the public sector. For the first time perhaps inadvertently it has been mentioned that the private sector investment will have a higher percentage than the public sector.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: It is not higher.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Not higher? Is 170 not more than 150? It may be in the usage of the Safdarjang Palace.

AN HON. MEMBER: Now 180.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: It is not 180, Sir. There is a distinction between the investment outlay and the public sector outlay? If you are not aware of that, kindly bear with me and accept what I say. I am talking about the investment outlay. Do you know the Sixth Five-Year Plan outlay? It was Rs. 84,000 crores, the investment outlay in the public sector, and it was Rs. 74,000 crores in the private sector. Do you know these figures? Kindly educate yourselves with what has been given to you.

Sir, there is a very very dangerous thing in the approach, which is this. They have proposed in terms of administration a new tier. They have talked of people's co-operation. They have talked of people's participation. And they have talked not only of the block level planning where there is the panchayat and at the district level where there is the zilla parishad but

also the divisional level planning for which there is no corresponding elected machinery. Is it, Sir, an extension of the tendency of ruling the country by army and planning the people through bureaucracy? You have to answer that.

Sir, I will draw your attention to another fantastic thing. I do not know whether it is unconstitutional, illegal. But certainly it is immoral, I draw your attention to page 25. Have we not banished untouchability constitutionally? What is your answer. Members of the ruling party? Is it constitutional to have separate drinking water facilities for the Scheduled Castes and the caste Hindus? Is it constitutional? No. And your plan provides for this. It says:

“...access to safe drinking water should be separately provided, if access to community sources provided under the general scheme for drinking water supply to villages is difficult for them.”

You have recognised the reality.

& SHRI JAGESH DESAI: The *mohallas* are different.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: What does it mean? It means that your Plan document recognises untouchability in the matter of supply of drinking water. You deny that.

Then, Sir, I refer to another point. This refers to a solution. At page 15, para 3 you have a solution for the unemployment problem. What is the kind of solution you have got? The expression is wonderful. You are concerned about the educated unemployment very much. Elections are coming also. What is the problem? In terms of the wisdom of this document, there has been a mismatch between the supply and the demand. What is the solution therefore? Increase the demand? No, Sir. Reduce the supply of educated in the market. My reference is to para 3 on page 15. The simple solution is to refuse entry to the colleges and the universities so that by the end of the Seventh Five-Year Plan there is no more educated unemployment; Sir, this is cruelty. And this is an impossible

solution also. As you all know, if they do not come from the families of the Birlas, many of our people enter their colleges as an alternative occupation, not in search of learning or wisdom, you take this opportunity away from them, the four-year education in the colleges. They will only add to the problem of less educated unemployment. It will not be a solution to the problem of employment. It is not a sound policy of the Government. Sir, kindly refer to the Safdarjung palace.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I object to this word ‘palace’.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Hon’ble Minister can substitute with any other word if he likes to do so.

Sir, now I would like to refer to productivity. There is no reference to this in the Plan document. I simply say that it is a very ominous term in the Indian context. We have underlined productivity only a few years ago 1982-83 was the year of productivity. Sir, we all know the results of economic development of the country in 1982-83. If I may say so, it was the worst year in industry and worst year in the growth of the national income. In fact, the per capita income growth was negative. ‘The Economic Times’ dated 13th Aug., 1984 also mentioned the productivity year 1982-83. Do you know, Sir, how the Government behaved. The top 20 houses got 30 per cent more loans in the course of productivity year 1982-83. This is the Government’s productivity. In the approach plan document it has been mentioned. I will not go into those details because we are short of time, that agricultural production has to be underlined because it is that which may act as constraint. Sir, what is the result today? It seems agriculture which has succeeded most. It is agriculture which has grown fastest in the course of the last Five Year Plan. A question has to be asked as to what happened in the field of industry despite success in the field of agriculture. The industrial development has failed to take-off despite that huge loans sanctioned to the top 20 industrial houses. Is there an answer to this in the plan approach

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document? We all know in spite of short-falls in irrigation, power and fertilisers the success in agriculture was mainly due to nature's bounty. I want to inform the hon. Members of the ruling party that if at all we succeeded in agricultural production it was because of nature. If they want to repeat the success of the basis of the Sixth Five Year Plan I request them to pray to nature and that is the only approach. The target growth of national income is no longer what was promised or has been achieved in the Sixth Five Year Plan despite success in agriculture. We knew the size of the plan in terms of industrial growth. It is 7 per cent. Sp-

illy last time it was 7-8 per cent. In the enlarged provisions for the private sector that I have already mentioned, there are contradictions galore and I would not like to take your time in going into details, excepting indicating the statement on page 1 of the plan document. It is said that with a view to providing employment. Now watch the word 'priority has to be given in every sector'. I underline the word 'every'—while 'priority has to be given in every sector which contribute most effectively to this purpose of productive employment'. Now, come back to the next page where you discuss the problems of technology. You forget that you have said that every sector should be chosen with a view to promoting employment. Turn to the next page. You learn about sunrise items, sunrise technologies, latest sophisticated technologies in the field. Do you think they are the most productive in terms of employment? Is there a contradiction in that?

Now, Sir, I will not take much time in pointing out other contradictions in full. I do not deny at all, Sir, that there are no truths. There are half-truths. A poor cover-up—it could not be enough, I know. After all, the per capita availability of cloth is stagnating since the days of the First Five Year Plan. After all, one of the brilliant achievements in removing our poverty is expressed in another exceptionally interesting fact. You are all aware that at the beginning of the planning era, we were producing more short staple and

medium staple cotton than we could consume and very little of long staple and extra staple cotton. In the course of the movement towards eradication of poverty, we have been able to produce more of long staple and extra staple cotton in the country and much less short staple and medium staple cotton. Who consumes which? Do the poor consume long staple and extra staple cotton? Or do they consume short staple and medium staple varieties of cotton? What is the approach that led us to produce more and more that which is consumed by the rich and less and less that which is consumed by the poorer sections of the population?

Now, Sir, there are some truths, truths which that Member from Jalpaiguri may remember or may not know or may not acknowledge, truths which he was insisting upon for the last four years. What is that? That is, if you want to develop successfully your IRDP approaches, then there must be community programmes. I do not know whether he knows that the West Bengal Government amended the Panchayat Act to provide for bank loans being advanced to panchayats. We thought—I am rather closely connected with it; don't challenge me—that if the Central Government was so keen on public sector at the level of Bhilai or Bokaro, they might as well be interested in public sector at the panchayat level also. Do you know, Sir, that for four years we have been receiving circulars from the Centre saying, no, they cannot be permitted to go in for providing facilities to help the agriculturists? I am glad that this has gained mention in this Approach document.

I will just mention another fact about the experience of the Sixth Five Year Plan. They have mentioned the growth in terms of credit flow not only to the big houses but also to the small-scale sector. And in the small scale sector, we now distinguish between tiny sector and not-so-tiny sector. Would it surprise you to know that even within that small-scale sector, inclusive of the tiny sector, 6 per cent of the top among them cornered 52 per cent

of the credit—this is admitted here—and the tiny units which constitute 94 per cent and which provide employment for 72 per cent, got a credit-flow of 48 4.00 P.M. percent? You can imagine the direction and approach of our planning which leads even this sector to this kind of results. I would just mention a few other things in the approach in terms of contradiction. It has been recognised that our target in energy distribution would be that we should consume no more than 42 per cent from oil, no more than 33 per cent from electricity and to the extent of 25 per cent from coal. In fact, oil consumption is 48 per cent and not 42 per cent. One reason for our unfavourable balance of trade is this. Now, look at the approach in terms of railways. It is unfortunate that Mr. Ghani Khan Choudhury is not a member of the Planning Commission. Again and again he tells the House that he does not have funds. For what? For replacing the over-aged engines, over-aged coaches, over-aged wagons, over-aged tracks. Do you know the approach contained in the Seventh Five Year Plan? They will go in for modernisation, for electrification; they will try to electrify a lot of tracks. In the meantime the rehabilitation task that was there will not be completed. There will be electrification without tracks, without coaches, without wagons and without engines. Old tracks are not being replaced. Would you not consider this to be a contradiction? About energy saving devices, it is said we should concentrate and try to save energy by discovering new kinds of lanterns, new kind of ovens; scientists who are working on these things will be paid the salary of a clerk while the scientists who work in the private industries will be paid double their salaries. If you are really serious and interested in research work, in the problems of the poor, then reverse the pay-scales of the scientists working in the different fields. But is it contained in the approach? No.

I now come to some positive statements. Is it possible within our country to achieve what we all want to achieve? I would remind the House that our per capita income at current prices is Rs. 2000. I would remind the House that the poverty line

drawn at today's prices would be no more than Rs. 1200 per annum. There is a margin. If you are bent upon saving, if you are prepared to say, let there be no more poor, let there not be a single person below the povertyline in the course of the next five years, you can achieve that by a simple stroke of distribution of this per capita income. You can achieve that. But, then, that will not permit you to elect members of the Birla House to the Rajya Sabha. You want to provide employment. Then, can we make an alternative approach that nothing will be spent elsewhere except on providing employment? We say the prices of the necessities should be reduced. What happens, in fact, is something different. The prices that are, in fact, reduced are those of the Maruti Car; we all know that the attempt is to reduce the prices of TV. There is another contradiction you have mentioned and that is in education, that primary education should take into account the local needs, the local planning, the local details in providing education to our countryside. In the next page you forgot all about it. And you say that there will be centralised education through the tele-communication system. On the one side you recognise the need for localised planning, but on the other you go to telecast educational programmes.

Now about reduction of prices. Reduction of prices takes place in some items, but not in other items. There also your facts are splendidly mischievous. I will just quote to you a few figures which will be astounding. The figures say that the prices have risen by 7.7 per cent. Do you know how this is calculated by the officials? In order to arrive at this figure of 7.7 per cent what they had to do was to revise the last year's figures upwards. In terms of provisional figures which the Finance Minister is very pleased to give the growth rate would have been 8.9 per cent. If you revise that upwards, which you did not dare acknowledge in the House, the rate of today is decreased to 7.7 per cent.

The alternative approach that I was suggesting is this. First of all distribute the assets. First of all, nationalise the wholesale trade. First of all distribute the available land and find out the surplus land and

[Shri Nirmal Chatterjee]

get the President's assent to the West Bengal law. Divide the income and say you will not try to produce television sets; say you will not produce cars. These are luxuries and on these items you have tried to reduce prices. Instead of producing these things, you produce basic things which are in need by common people. You start a fresh approach on these lines. Then you will be able to provide better health for all. Instead of doing that, you now imagine the people's health problem to be nothing else than hypertension and such diseases. Instead of tackling the problem of medical aid in the country, you imagine that millions are suffering from hypertension. This is one of the items contained in your approach document. This approach will not tackle the problem of health of the poor.

I will only reiterate the alternative approach, which I have indicated. Then, I wanted to touch upon West Bengal. But since there is no time, I will leave it to others. Thank you.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I rise to present my views on the Approach Paper to the Seventh Five Year Plan, as set out in this document. The guiding principles of this document are: growth, equity, social justice, self-reliance, improvement in efficiency and productivity.

I shall confine myself to such of those aspects in which I have some expertise, particularly in relation to science and technology and their impact on the growth of the national income.

Let me first, at the outset, quote a very famous man, Mr. Schumacher, a well-known economist, who said that 'the growth and prosperity of a nation depends on three factors: education, discipline and organisation.' Unfortunately I do not find in the last few Plan education receiving as much emphasis as it ought to receive.

Organisation is a matter of managerial skills and abilities which ought to be brought into every department and every facet of life. I would like to mention here that today India is considered as the third nation in the world in science and technology based on the output of graduates. Obviously, the first two are the USA and the USSR. We have made several major achievements in our tasks. Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, believed firmly that only through the application of science and technology we could take the country forward in every facet of its economic activity. Our present Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, particularly since 1980, has increased the activities in the field of science and technology. If I may be permitted to say, we have a period from 1978-79, when science and technology received a very serious setback. At that time, the then Janata Government tried to break up the CSIR into fragments and, in fact, it did by scattering its units and attaching them to the various Ministries. Fortunately, after 1979, the CSIR, whose various units were scattered and thrown under various Ministries, has been brought back and all its units have been integrated. Not only that. We have now a few new departments. For example, there is the Department of Environment which has taken up the major task of creating and preserving the environment in our country. Then, there is the Department of Ocean development which has, in a short period of two or three years, made major records of achievement which I shall refer to shortly. We have fifteen Ministries which have operational responsibilities in the field of science and technology and the need of the Ministries like Energy, Agriculture, Irrigation, etc. for science and technology is more than that of the other Ministries or Departments. There are six agencies—I do not like to take your time by repeating these six agencies and departments like the Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, etc.—which directly deal with the development of science and technology or scientific and technological knowhow and the application of science and technology in the economic sector.

Let me, in the first instance, refer to an interesting article published in "Nature" in April 1984. "Nature" is a very important journal, very well known, in which the Editor, John Maddox, has written a 20-page article on the successes and the failures of our science and technology. He has mentioned the brighter side and the darker side of the progress in this field. In India, for instance, one of our major achievements is in the field of agriculture, the Green Revolution, and our achievement has especially been in the area of agricultural extension, which was taken up very sincerely and very well accepted, particularly in States like Punjab and Haryana. I would like to mention here that these major achievements of ours in the field of agriculture are to be taken to other States which have not adopted these modern techniques, particularly the adoption of the post-harvest technology to be utilised in the preservation of foodgrains. There are also other areas which we have neglected such as the use of biomass instead of concentrating on synthetic fertilizers. In fact, with the growth of biogas plants, mini and major, we must be having enormous quantities of natural fertilizers which must be able to give a little leeway and we should not go on multiplying our synthetic fertilizers. There are also certain areas such as Rajasthan where there is enormous water shortage.

We should adopt methods of drip cultivation, use of water economically and also in cultivation using such of those plants which need less water. In fact, it is well known that our farmers are not well educated about the usage, economical usage, of fertilizers and water. In spite of various difficulties which we are facing it is remarkable that our country has achieved self-sufficiency in food products, with the exception of, let us say, oilseeds and a few items like that. We have undertaken several irrigation projects. Unfortunately, the irrigation projects which we undertake are in such a state of affairs that we undertake a large number of irrigation projects which take a lot of time for completion. Because of this, the investment of the capital has not become useful till these irrigation projects are completed.

Similarly, we have certain sectors in agriculture like sugar mills where our plants are not efficient, with the result that some of the sugar mills have become sick and the Government had to take them over. It is time that we revise our policy and try either to improve the efficiency of our sugar mills or to condemn them and throw them as junk.

I would like to refer to some of the achievements that we have made because many of our Members of Parliament are not aware of them, particularly in the field of Antarctica research. In a short span of three visits to Antarctica we have established a station there and we become members of one of the prestigious bodies, namely, the Antarctica Committee; along with Brazil, India was admitted as a member. I would also like to mention here that the researches that are carried out in Antarctica are likely to lead to important developments. For example, we do not know the origin of monsoons. Perhaps, the studies in Antarctica on weather, the geological and snow/ice studies and various studies carried out in Antarctica, may help us to have a better understanding of the monsoon on which we largely depend. We have also made some important discoveries of buried mountains, lakes with live fish and many other major discoveries that were made.

I would now refer to the chapter on Science and Technology. On page 8 of this Document, the Document very clearly brings out, and I quote from para 61 which says:

"Substantial capabilities have been built but these have not been brought to bear in full measure on the national tasks..."

That means, although we have the capacity, we have the manpower, our science and technology has not been brought to bear in full measure on the various national tasks.

I want to refer to some of the points which we should take care of in order

[Prof. B. Ramachandra Rao]

that our science and technology and manpower are put to full use in our different departments, particularly those departments which are best suited to the growth of our economy. This Plan Document clearly brings out our weaknesses. What are the reasons for this? Let us see. In the first instance, from the First Five Year Plan, where we had an investment in Science and Technology of about Rs. 20 crores we have increased this investment to Rs. 3367 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan. Now, what is the percentage of this total funding which has gone into different departments? Nearly 46 per cent of this goes into atomic energy and agriculture. The rest of it can be divided between the CSIR, Science and technology, etc. But I would like to point out that 3 per cent of our science and technology goes to medical research. For the Department of Science and Technology it is 1.5 per cent.

For University Grants Commission's research projects, it is .05 per cent. Now, these are the departments which do fundamental research work and the percentage of allocation of these basic departments is so low that I do not expect much impact of this Plan Document and of these allocations on the progress to be made. I would like to suggest that the universities, Indian council of medical research, the Department of Science and Technology which gives grants to a large number of scientists and universities must have a larger share.

Now, I come to some of the important observations about the achievements of C.S.I.R., the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The C.S.I.R. was started in 1942. Its main objects was to exploit our natural resources for the benefit of the people of this country. It is one of the best known organisations which is supposed to have developed new technologies in various fields to make us self-reliant and also to have import substitution. For example, the C.S.I.R. was to have made the manufacturing and mining industries self-reliant and profitable. Yet, the export of our engineering pro-

ducts has been declining. If I may say so, at the end of 1983, the last year, the P.A.C. prefaced its initial report with these observations:

"It is disappointing that the C.S.I.R. has failed to make any significant impact on the development of science and technology for use in industry".

It is well known that in the field of application of science and technology to industry, we have lapsed in many respects. This criticism was noted by our Planers. The C.S.I.R.'s programmes ranged from basic research to strictly practical projects. However, out of the projects which the C.S.I.R. has undertaken and successfully completed, only 15 per cent were accepted by the industries. Therefore, there is something wrong with the C.S.I.R. taking up projects which are not useful or the industries are unwilling to take up the C.S.I.R.'s projects and would rather depend on foreign technology and that is where we will have to make a big dent and try to review the programmes of C.S.I.R. and to ensure that the C.S.I.R. and the industries have a better understanding of each other. One of the problems in our scientific research is that scientific and industrial research is undertaken in isolation from the industry whereas the industry and the C.S.I.R. have to interact very closely.

I refer again to the important article written by John Maddox in which he quotes the former Director-General of C.S.I.R. as having said, I quote: "Now, India is 10 to 15 years behind in industry compared to Japan and the U.S.A., but in 1990 we shall be only 5 years behind." I wish that we won't be behind at all. But only posterity can judge this matter. Let me say that barring a few outstanding projects, there is a feeling that there is very little direct interaction between the C.S.I.R. and the universities, the C.S.I.R. and university scientists and university scientists and industries. This triangle has to be bridged, if something meaningful has to come out of our important intellectual and scientific centres in the country.

Finally, I would like to refer to the Department of environment. (*Time bell*) I will take 3 minutes more. This is a newly created Department and has a very important role to play. In our country, we have an astonishingly wide variety of climate and environments. In 1952, the Government decided that one-third of our country should be covered by trees.

Unfortunately, due to indiscriminate felling of trees, particularly in the mountain areas, instead of one-third being covered by trees, today we have 10 to 12 per cent less coverage of the tree plantation. This Department, therefore, has a major task, a major role in controlling our natural environment by extensive plantation of trees, particularly fast-growing trees like subabul and others, and also to see that our atmosphere is not polluted by harmful fumes. Sir, when I go to my native place of Visakhapatnam, I find that the Hindustan Zinc Smelter Plant constantly belching out tonnes of sulphur-dioxide fumes when I brought this matter to the notice of the hon. House. I made a Special Mention. But even after six or seven months, nothing has happened. I do not know how this Department is going to enforce the laws on atmospheric pollution which most State Governments have accepted. Our river waters, our lakes, and our littoral areas on the sea coast are all polluted by industries. While I appreciate that the industries are essential for the development of our country, at the same time, the Government should come forward to provide funds to see that the pollution of our very important areas is prevented. I am surprised that this happens more often so in the public sector industries where the laws regarding pollution are grossly violated.

May I take one more minute. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, to say a few words about energy? In the energy sector, this Department has been doing exceedingly well by the creation of a Department of Alternative Renewable Energy Sources. The ratio between oil, electricity and coal is unbalanced. There should be more emphasis on coal and less emphasis on oil. Above all these things, we should concen-

trate more on bio-gas, wind energy, social forestry, solar heat-oriented power plants, efficient choolas, solar cookers and so on and so forth. I would like to particularly draw the attention of the Planning Commission to the fact that many countries are now planning to set up very high-power solar energy-based power plants. I know that in Jamaica, they are trying to build up a 20 MW power plant using solar energy. In the United States of America, there is a plan to build 100 MW power plant based on completely solar energy with a storage device. In our country, in the energy sector particularly in industries there is an enormous wastage of energy. The power transmission losses are the highest in our country; it is something ranging from 10 to 12 per cent. Some of the industries consume more energy than they need. And the effluent energy from the industries is never used at all.

Sir, this Document has laid down some of the important strategies that will be followed. It is mentioned—I referred to it earlier—in this Document at page 16 that indigenous research and technological activity in energy sector is unsatisfactory. I am glad that it is a very frank appraisal that we have not put enough funds and scientific talents to provide indigenous research and technological activity for having alternate energy sources. And this is a fact in the case of a Department which has a very big budget. A significant fraction of the funds of this department should be set apart for exploiting, exploring and increasing the efficiency of energy sources.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): There are 20 names before me. I request the hon. Members not to take more than ten minutes each. Now, Prof. C. Lakshmanan.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Sir, how can we finish such an important debate today itself? Let the debate go for the next day.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Approach Document to the Seventh Plan is a...

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, the hon. Planning Minister should agree to the spill over of the debate for tomorrow. This is a very important subject. How can we finish it today?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have no objection.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it should be continued tomorrow also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): All right, we will see. Yes, Prof. Lakshmanna.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this Approach Document to the Seventh Five Year Plan needs to be examined against the background of the need for accelerated development of the country. Sir, 32 years of planning has brought some development in the country, no doubt, not to the extent it ought to have. Therefore, the Seventh Plan assumes much more significance. If one goes through the Document as a whole, it is a beautiful exercise in dealing with the generalities, in trying to present innuendoes. But when we come to actualities, it is sometimes leaving much to be desired. Sir, planning has to be assessed in terms of either quantity or quality. If we take quantity into consideration, perhaps, there has been an attempt on the part of the planning process during the last 32 years to achieve certain targets, and to bring about improvement in terms of some quantities. But if we look at the quality of these increased targets, which these increased targets have been able to provide, we find that there is much to be desired. Sir, I would like to illustrate my point by giving a few examples.

Sir, it is true that there had been a large increase in the number of telephones in this country; though telephones cater

only to the needs of the upper stratum or upper middle stratum, but nonetheless there has been an increase in the number of telephones. When we look at the increase in the number of telephones, what is most grotesque about them is the inadequate functioning of these telephones. Most of the time they do not function. If they function, they function wrongly and they go out of order at every conceivable turn of events. Therefore, Sir, if this could be taken as one of the examples, there is a need for looking at the planning process not merely from the point of view of stepping up the quantity but also from the point of view of quality.

Now, Sir, I will come to the medicare. It is true that there has been an increase in the number of hospitals in the country; though not to the desired extent. Sir, we are having 6,901 hospitals and then we have a bed-strength of 4,86,805 beds and if we look at the number of people in this country and the number of hospitals available, it will be seen that there is one hospital available for every lakh of population though what could have been desired is to have at least one hospital for every twenty-five to thirty thousand of population. Sir, even assuming that there has been a considerable increase in the number of hospitals, what is the position of the hospitals today? In most of the places, especially the hospitals which are located in the rural areas, doctors are not available. If per-chance doctors are available, medicines are not available. If medicines are also available, other facilities are not available with the result that medicare has become only a sort of show-piece rather than actually serving the needs of the people for whom it is meant. Likewise, Sir, if we look at the schools and colleges, there has been tremendous number of schools, colleges and universities increasing in this country, but, Sir, what is the position of most of these schools? Most of these schools are single-teacher schools where even that single teacher not available most of the time when he is busy somewhere else, with the result that education has become a mockery in this country.

What about the credit facilities? There have been known melas; there has been increase in the number of banks which are supposed to meet the credit needs of the farmers, small farmers and the marginal farmers. But anybody who has been familiar with the credit facilities available in the country, would readily agree with me that credit is not available on time. If it is available, it is available out of time, which is being put to non-productive use by the smaller farmers in the rural areas. Secondly in getting the credit, there is lot of corruption, about which also most of the Members are aware. Most of the Members might have been the victims of that process because in helping some friends in the rural areas, in helping other people and in helping themselves, they would have come across these problems.

I would look to the other problem now. There is need today for increased steel production; there is need for increased fertilizers; there is need for increased pesticides; there is need for improvement in roads and communications; there is need for flood control measures and there is need for drought relief measures. But when we look at the priorities that have been given during the Sixth Plan, we find that we looked at the ASIAD, we looked at CHOGM and at NAM. We did not try to match the requirements in terms of these various needs of the planning process of the country's development vis-a-vis what is to be done in terms of our exaggerated association and participation in international activities. This has been the position. If we look at the question of quality and quantity, we find that quality has been at a premium. It has been always a liability. It has been always affected in terms of the well-being of the people.

Coming to the Seventh Plan itself, it has got four import thrusts—self-reliance, food, work and employment, and productivity. These are the four thrusts. Now, coming to self-reliance in food, it is true that we have achieved what has been claimed as self-sufficiency in foodgrains. With the attainment of self-sufficiency in

foodgrains, what is the per capita availability of foodgrains for a common man in the country? It is only 415.5 grams of other food-stuffs, millets etc. and 38.6 grams of pulses which together comes to 454.1 grams. And each person is not getting even half a kilogram of foodgrains for his consumption in spite of the fact that we have achieved self-sufficiency in food production. If we take the calculation of this per capita availability of foodgrains, we will have to take into account the enormous amount of waste involved in the conspicuous and vicarious consumption by upper stratum. If that is taken into consideration, it would not be 454.1 grams; it may be much less than what is given here. Therefore, while we have been talking in terms of self-reliance and increased food production, we have not been thinking in terms of fair distribution of the food produced which should legitimately go to the common man, because the biggest problem today is the problem of public distribution system. After 32 years of planning and 37 years after independence, we have not been able to evolve a durable meaningful purposive public distribution system. What we have been doing is only an *ad-hoc* arrangement, some token arrangement. The concept of self-sufficiency in food production will be meaningful only when it is coupled with a good public distribution system, and this system will be meaningful only when we are able to tackle the problem of implementation. What is happening either in procurement of foodgrains for FCI and so on, there has been an enormous role played by middlemen, not only in this field, but in every other field. There has been a role played by middlemen and unless these middlemen are removed from the public distribution system and unless there is a direct linkage between the public distribution system and the common man, I do not think, Sir, it will lead to any solution of the problem.

This becomes much more meaningful especially when we find that 48.13 per cent of the population is below the poverty line. This too if we take into account the per capita income at current prices.

[Prof. C. Lakshmanan]

It is Rs. 1749.5. If we take 1970-71 prices the base, it is Rs. 719.9. This means, the value of the per capita income of the common man has gone down in terms of the 1970-71 prices. This means, in fourteen or fifteen years, in a period of three Five Year Plans, the per capita income in terms of real benefit has gone down. Therefore, the calculation in regard to those who are below the poverty line becomes more meaningful if we take this factor into consideration. The number may not be 48.13 per cent of the population. The number, perhaps, may be much more if we take 1970-71 prices as the base. This is what we are doing in the case of food. The Seventh Plan has not been able to give any direction, it does not mention as to how it is going to meet the problem of food in terms of the food-grains available per capita for that common man, that neglected marginal man, that man who is in the village, that man who is in a far-off place. If we have to keep this man in mind, I do not think, the Seventh Plan has been able to give any direction in this regard.

Then, there is the question of work and employment. Sir, I had an occasion to mention earlier that there are 22 million unemployed in this country. This large number does not include those who are in the category of disguised unemployment and seasonal unemployment in the rural areas. This figure refers to those who are completely not having any employment opportunity at all. Therefore, if we have to generate employment, if we have to create work, for such a huge population, there should be something mentioned in the Seventh Plan document. But I find that it does not speak in terms of any meaningful programmes which could be evolved.

Then, comes the question of productivity. Is it possible to increase productivity? It is possible, perhaps, to increase production. But is it possible to increase productivity unless we go in for a change in the institutional framework, for reforms in the institutional framework. The document does not speak in terms of any

change in the institutional framework that is available in the country for increasing productivity. It does not say as to how it is going to attend to the problem of increasing productivity. The change in the institutional framework will involve a few things. It will involve a new thinking. First of all, in the entire process of planning, women have not been given a proper place. Only a small paragraph or two have been devoted here. On the other hand, women constitute 50 per cent of the population. They encompass different fields. But there is no mention as to what will be done for women in this great country after 32 years of Planning. Therefore, Sir, there has to be a change in the institutional framework involving women, involving the welfare of women, the well-being of women in different directions.

The other thing which is needed is the involvement of youth. While we are talking in terms of generation of employment, generation of work, we do not have any programme, any definite programme of action in the Seventh Plan document in regard to the involvement of youth in these developmental programmes; what will be the process in which youth of various categories, of varying dimensions, will be involved in the planning process. Sir, in short, the Planning so far and Planning even in the Seventh Plan is tending to be an elitist Plan. It is not tending to be a mass Plan.

The Plan document goes on saying how it is interested in bringing about a change in all aspects of the existence of Indians but it does not have any clear cut formulations in terms of the involvement of masses, as to how the planning process could be evolved to bring about change in the mass structure of the country how they could be involved in the planning process. And if that has to happen, there has to be a great change in the educational system. The educational system, as we have inherited, has been still the one which was formulated under the British regime to serve the interests of aliens, who were only interested in the expropriation,

in the appropriation and in the looting of resources of India. But on the other hand, independent India has not given any educational system which would be able to meet some of these problems, like the involvement of youth, elimination of middleman, and so on and so forth. For this there has to be emphasis—of course, the Plan document does say about these things—on adult education in the rural areas, on vocational education and to create an educational system which would be able to meet the needs of rural skills. This is because the planning process has ultimately to create and absorb and take into advantage all the skills that are available in the rural areas.

Sir, there is one more thing which has to be kept in mind. Various programmes, even as they have been formulated in the Approach document to the Seventh Plan, are the programmes which have to be ultimately carried out by the States. But there seems to be no involvement of the States to the extent they ought to be involved in the formulation of the planning process. Therefore, Sir, I sincerely plead with the Minister for Planning that there has to be greater involvement of the States in the process of plan formulations and for this I plead that there should be a national planning council, not the Planning Commission, not the National Development Council, but a national planning council which will take into account the various plan processes that are available, that have to be available for the formulation of plan programmes which have to be implemented ultimately by the States. So, this is the first suggestion.

The second suggestion is this. Whatever the Central sector schemes under the Plan, they have to be formulated clearly and made available to the States so that States may be having an understanding, an appreciation of those schemes. What is happening now? The schemes that are formulated are put to the charge of the States without giving them time for understanding the significance of those Central sector schemes.

The third point which I would like to suggest to the Planning Minister is that

the States should have freedom to plan their own schemes. Having decided the schemes in the planning process, as to which scheme should be with the Centre and which scheme should be with the States, there should be absolute freedom for the States to plan those programmes to suit the needs of their own States, of their own local requirements, and so on and so forth. Therefore, Sir, there has to be this freedom given to the States. There should be allocations. Once the allocation is done by the national planning council between the Centre and the States should have the freedom to formulate programmes in such a way that they will become meaningful, so that there may not be any problem of claims and counter claims. Sometime back one important Central scheme was formulated and it has been implemented by the States all over the country, but the claim is for the Central Government and the party in power, as though there had been no role for the States at all. So, if we are not clear as to what is the way in which the planning process has to be evolved, there is bound to be friction and this friction is not good for either the Union or the States. So, there has to be a clear demarcation and there has to be absolute freedom for the State sector to evolve their own planning process. Of course, such development should be made known to the national planning council.

Sir, another point is, there has to be a drastic change in the allocation of market borrowings. Even the Eighth Finance Commission itself says this. This is the point which I had made earlier and which was disputed to some extent by the Minister of State for Finance—namely over the years there has been an erosion of the share of the States as compared to the Centre. It is a point which has been made by the Eighth Finance Commission that there has to be a rational allocation of market borrowings between the Centre and the States and the share of the State should be increased.

Sir, we have been talking of anti-poverty programmes, Food for Work programme, employment improvement programmes. All these programmes involve

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the participation of the States. But this Plan document does not give any evidence as to how the various States which constitute this great country have to be involved in the planning process for these various programmes. And if the States are not involved and if the States are to be made only appendages in the planning process, there will not be any success in planning. But all of us do want the success of planning because it has been accepted by almost every body in this country that only through the planning process can there be progress. And progress can be achieved when we are able to look at our resources, look at our needs, match the resources and the needs and fix the priorities in a rational way so that the needs of the down-trodden, the marginal common man who has been in the streets, who has been in the village are met. If that is to be done, there has to be a greater share for the States in the planning process and I do hope that the Planning Minister will kindly consider these suggestions and try to involve in the future formulation of the actual size of the Plan a greater share for the States. Thank you.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR
(Bihar) : Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to make my observations on the commendable paper—the Approach to Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90. Before I make my own observations on the various aspects of this basic document which is very important for our nation for the next five years, I would refer to what the first speaker, Prof. Nirmal Chatterjee, said. Prof. Chatterjee was kind enough to invite a dialogue with the Members sitting on this side. I take this opportunity to deal with the various aspects. He has been good enough to mention in his speech to this House, He was good enough to appreciate the intentions and ability of the officers in the Planning Commission who have drafted this document. But halfway through I was a little surprised that a man of his eminence could criticise officials who have no opportunity to reply to his charge that they have been "forced" to draft it, that they

have brought only "half-truths" in it and other such words which I would not like to repeat here. Sir, is it fair to impute motives to our competent and able officers? They are patriots like us. They have done their duty in their own way. If we have to criticise, it is the Government policy which has to be criticised or the Government which gives direction for drafting papers like this. Therefore at the very beginning I would rather like to appreciate that within the constraints in which this draft has been presented to us, it is a very well drafted document which needs very careful consideration. It is only an approach paper. It is not the full Plan document where all the detail would be available. Certainly many things have been compressed and sometimes one wonders whether the language too is compressed.

Prof. Chatterjee has said that there has been no change in the approach since the Second Plan. According to him, Sir, the approach has been the enlargement of the cake, that is, produce more and more. He feels that this approach has not met the other side, that is, distribution—though he was not clear on the point. He was good enough to give the example of the USSR. Sir, USSR is a great nation. We are proud of their achievements. We have got very friendly relations with them. But Prof. Chatterjee, While comparing the planning processes should take into consideration the kind of philosophy and the system under which they work and the philosophy and system under which we are working. Sir, in a country like our when we work within the democratic framework, when we are a free society, when we have declared in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 that our is a mixed economy, these facts have got to be acknowledged while we take into consideration the process and the philosophy under which the whole Plan is to be drafted and results derived from it.

It is a factual thing that the USSR distributed land, factories and other things to the people. But should we forget about the various great things done in this country? Has he forgotten that when we

achieved Independence we had so many big States and how many States were integrated into the Indian Union, how zamindari was abolished, how privy purses were abolished, how Land Reforms Acts were brought about how Land Ceiling Acts were brought about? We are aware that there are certain defects in the implementation of the Land Ceiling Acts but that does not mean that efforts have not been made. Have you forgotten that the entire insurance companies were the entire insurance companies were nationalised, that the banks were nationalised? We have a commanding height today in the public sector undertakings. Is this not a fact to be reckoned with? These are facts, the result achieved in this country through the planning process of all the six Five-Year Plans we have had so far.

Sir, various points have been made here but I would like to reply only to a few points which are important. One is about foodgrains. Are we not aware of the state of affairs of foodgrains when the got our Independence and when we started the planning process. Have we forgotten that we were having so much import of foodgrains and were so much dependent upon others? Have we forgotten the great famine of Bengal? Now have we not achieved near self-sufficiency in foodgrains? Ours is a big country, we depend upon the monsoons, and the vagaries of monsoons create problems sometimes. Sometimes there are droughts, sometimes there are floods, but that does not mean that efforts have not been made. In fact we are having near self-sufficiency in foodgrains; we have even exported foodgrains. The other day, as the hon. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad, had announced in the House, we have got so much of stocks by way of abundant precaution. Unfortunately we have had to import some sugar and some foodgrains. But that does not mean our achievement should be minimised or ignored.

Sir, the next point is about allocation of resources, that is, Rs. 320 thousand crores is the investment. Prof. Chatterjee has said that public investment will be

150 thousand crores and private investment will be 170 thousand crores. Why are they allergic to "private"? Why should we be allergic? If we have to achieve certain results in our agriculture, in our industry, in all the sector, "private" does not mean a few top industrialists.

This notion must be cleared. 5 P.M. 'Private sector' means the entire community. People have the resources through the process of implementation of plans, through the development of agriculture and industry. People have their own resources. If they want to utilize their resources, it should be in the fitness of things that our resources in the private sector also should be improved.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): Mr. Thakur,...

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Only a few points I have covered.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): Mr. Thakur, you can continue tomorrow.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I have covered only some points.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Continue tomorrow.

श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर : सर, मैं अपना बात कल कह दूंगा, आज जवाब दे देता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संयद रहमत अली)
आप कितनी देर और लेंगे ?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: A few minutes more because we had requested Prof. Chatterjee to wait. So it is not fair. About drinking water, what is the insinuation? Have we not gone to the villages? Are we not aware that we have a special difficulty in tribal and hilly areas? It says: "If necessary, separate arrangements for drinking water will be made." What is the harm? This should be appreciated in the right perspective and not criticised.

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Similarly about employment, I do not know how this kind of distortion could be there. That we mean that the educated people should be employed is so clear in the Plan paper. In fact, it has dealt very elaborately on page 15 with this. It should be clearly understood, what it says. It says: "Manpower planning requires matching with educational planning so as to avoid imbalances between supply of, and demand for, trained and educated manpower. Educational institutions turning out 'unemployables' are a waste of resources which must be stopped." It further goes on like this. What is the question? The question is that there must be a balance growth and for the educated and trained people we should find employment. For some time we have implemented our rural programmes including the Integrated Rural Employment Programme.

Then the other question is about productivity. Prof. Chatterjee has said that 1982-83 was a Productivity Year and productivity was particularly low, especially in industry, and the per capita income has gone down. It is being very unfair to the nation. The year was otherwise unfavourable to the nation. It says: "After initial two years of recovery... by unfavourable weather in 1982-83." Now in 1982-83 we had a very difficult power situation in many parts of the country. Then it goes further to say: "In spite of this the Sixth Plan yielded good results and growth rate over four years has been round about 5 per cent." The Sixth Plan growth rate will be 5.2 per cent. We must take the Plan as a whole. We cannot just take up one year and say that the Plan has failed to reach its target. (*Time-bell rings*) Sir, if I am permitted, I will proceed or I will continue tomorrow.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN : Permitted.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : Now, Sir, Prof. Chatterjee has said about railways. I am surprised at it. Our Railway Minister is also from his State. But that does not mean that he should

single him out. He is not a Member of the Planning Commission.

Planning is the responsibility of the entire government or the entire nation. Therefore, to single him out is not being fair. If there is question of electrification for which emphasis has been given, that does not mean that tracks will not be there. This kind of thing will not serve any purpose. We can certainly say that there should be more provision for railways, more new railway lines should be laid. People from all sections have been demanding this. But that does not mean that we should say that one thing is very important.

Now Prof. Chatterjee said that scientists are paid more and industrial workers are paid less. Prof. Chatterjee forgets that his party is always trying that more and more payment should be made to industrial workers. Why should we complain? Industrial workers should get more. But why make a wrong conclusion? Then scientists should be paid more.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Just permit me. That is exactly what I did not say. On other things I said.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : I am happy that you have not said that.

You have said about the Maruti car and that the television set prices are being reduced. You always talk about monopoly. Should we give only high-priced cars and only for the people who can afford it? Should the middle-class people not have low-priced cars? The other day the hon. Minister made a statement in the House that latest by the end of this year the TV coverage will go up to 70 per cent of the countryside. If the TV coverage goes up, the people should be able to purchase, the people should be able to use, the TV sets. The benefit of science and technology should go to the poorer sections in the villages. That is possible only when we have low-priced TV sets. Television is very good. Why should we take always like this? There are many things which are considered to

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be luxurious things. But if they are beneficial to the masses, we must have them at lower prices to enable the masses to acquire them and to take the benefit of those things. This should not be left to us and selected people who would like to have the TV sets in their houses. I should have a TV set, Prof. Chatterjee should have a TV set and poor people should have the TV sets in their houses.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : I do not have a TV set, for your information.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : You should have it, Sir. That is what we plead.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : I don't waste my time on TV.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : Another solution, I would like to give tomorrow. Sir, you will kindly permit me tomorrow to make my own submissions on the Paper. I have made only little dialogue with Prof. Chatterjee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI) : The House stands adjourned till eleven tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at seven minutes past five of the clock, till eleven of the clock, on Tuesday, the 14th August, 1984.