

THE BUDGET (GENERAL)—1985-86
GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I rise to support and welcome the Budget proposals of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, our Finance Minister, who is fortunately here today. Madam, under the dynamic leadership of our young and silently efficient Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who, I think can be described as a Man for all seasons, or to describe him is the wanath Pratap Singh to present one Neethi Sathaka says :

विरदि धैर्यमवा अभ्युदये क्षमा, रुदसि
 वाक्पटुता युधिदिक्रमः

that is, who has these qualities:
 "Firmness in adversity, forgiveness in prosperity, eloquence in debate and valour in war"

The person who has these qualities and who is leading the nation has obviously inspired Raja Saheb Vishwanath Pratap Singh to present one of the best budgets in recent memory. Madam, this budget has been praised by all and adequate encomiums have been showered from almost all the sections of the society. Even a person like Mr. Palkhivala, the famous economist, who always is the first one to boldly criticise any budget, even some of the budget proposals brought forward by my friend, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, the erstwhile Finance Minister, has praised it. Once I asked Mr. Palkhivala that a particular proposal was a very rational and good proposal and even that proposal you are criticising. Even that man has said that it is the best budget and that it is reflective of the changing moods and the changing times in our country. I do not want to repeat all the adjectives used to describe this budget in this House or in the other House or outside. This budget has been described as bold innovative, forward-looking, growth-oriented, pragmatic, etc. etc. (Interruptions) There are so many others. I do not want to repeat them. John Keats,

the famous poet said: "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever." A beauty like you, Madam, or my colleague or the other charming ladies in this House has to be admired. A beauty has a lot of admirers or even suitors. But the point is. . .

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): They can be as taxing as the budget.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: That you will know better. There will still be a few people who will even criticise beautiful ladies. They will always say that her ear is a little lippy or if her nose had been little longer, it would have been better or that if her complexion had been little more fair, it would have been better. Similarly, there are various comments on the budget saying that the income-tax exemption limit should have been raised to Rs. 25,000/- I think it is like saying that a lady is beautiful and fair and if she had been fairer, it would have been better.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Tastes differ from individual to individual.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I thought you were discussing the budget.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): He is discussing beautiful ladies and not budget.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Beauty should also be taxed.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Who would be the assessor?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I will be the assessor.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: I am happy that the budget has evoked such a hearty response. Coming to the plus points of the budget, I will not

repeat what has been said. In fairness to the Finance Minister, I should mention that there have been bold steps as increasing the limit of the MRTP companies up to 100 crores which was even beyond their expectations. The Estate Duty has been abolished. The Compulsory Deposit Scheme has been given the go-by. The income-tax rates have been brought down to realistic limits for the first time which will perhaps inculcate honesty in the people and induce them to declare their incomes in real terms. There have been several bold steps for the farmers. The crop insurance, social security schemes and all these things are really something which indicate a departure from the past. The only think that is being criticised is the hike in petroleum products and diesel prices. However, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh has announced a reduction in that also. He has abolished the excise duty on birds which is a welcome thing. He has taxed the costly cigarettes more which does not concern me because I am not a smoker. I think the cost of crude had to be increased because it is fixed in terms of the dollar. Fortunately, the ONGC is really doing well and the Bombay High production this year is going to be at the record level and is likely to remain at the record level for a few years to come. Progressively, our country will have to import less crude. But coming to one important point regarding the fears expressed by many Members of the Opposition, I should in all fairness pay a tribute to the management of our economy in the last few years, particularly in the last six years whether under Mr. Venkataraman or under Mr. Pranab Mukherjee or now under Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh. They have really taken steps to control inflation.

Madam, I will now give you some interesting statistics about inflation the world over. This is from a UN Study. Madam, inflation in Bolivia which was 296.5 per cent in 1982 has gone up to 328.5 per cent in 1983. In Argentina, it has doubled from 209.7

per cent to 433.7 per cent. It reminds one of war time Germany where a cup of Coffee was costing a million marks. In Israel, Madam, which is supposed to receive so much of sops and subsidies from the United States and others and which is supposed to have a very vibrant economy, the inflation has gone up from 131.3 per cent to 191.1 per cent. Even in a socialist country like Yugoslavia the inflation is 60 per cent. In Poland, it is 18.2 per cent. Nearer home, in one of the African countries, in Nigeria which has come in for a lot of mention, the inflation is 38.7 per cent. In Sri Lanka, it has gone up to 21.4 per cent from 5.4 per cent because of their recent problems. In Kenya, it has gone up to 24.6 per cent from 18.3 per cent. And in Chile which is the best South American country, it has gone up from 18.6 per cent to 20.7 per cent. Compared to this, Madam, I will give you the rates of inflation in the last few years from the official statistics of the Government of India. In 1979, it was 17.6 per cent; in 1980, it was 18.2 per cent; in 1981, it was 9.3 per cent; in 1982, it was 2.5 per cent; and in 1983, I think, it is a single digit figure. This is a real tribute to the persons, whether the bureaucrats or the politicians, who have managed our financial resources. When this is so, I do not agree with the other hon. Members though there may be a slight cost push and inflationary tendencies in this Budget. And I do not know whether my friend, Prof. Nirmal Chatterjee will agree with me because he belongs to a different school of thought, but it is now a well-settled economics that today for development definitely there should be an inflationary factor present, and it is necessary for economic development. This is the new economic theory which has been accepted by most modern economists. Therefore, if the Finance Minister will take adequate steps to monitor the various prices from time to time and keep a careful tab and prevent hoarding, black-marketing and other ugly-hydra-headed things which will raise their heads,

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan]

I am sure, he can keep the inflation under control. And I do not think that the critics will be right in saying that is going to really set in an inflation which I have just now mentioned.

Now, coming to some of the constructive suggestions—I will not call them a criticism but I will call them constructive suggestions and I have always given them in the past—about the Finance Minister's Budget, I will now take up the important question of black money. Fortunately or unfortunately, a study which was commissioned earlier has not been completed. I think, it was given to one Dr. Raja Chellaiah of the National Institute of Public Finance. And in answer to a parliamentary question, it has been stated that the report is coming out some time at the end of this month. They will estimate, according to their view, what the total quantum of black money will be in this country. Madam, various reports are there about the quantum of black money in the country which varies from time to time. Even some person who is working in the Fund Division of the World Bank, a some Victor Toney or someone also gave a report which said that in India 50 per cent of the economy or the GNP is black money, and that nearly Rs. 65,000 crores of black money is there. But we do not know whether these are all authentic studies. We are awaiting the report of Dr. Raja Chellaiah. But what I want to tell the hon. Minister now is that though there are several persons who say that the schemes of voluntary disclosure were expected to realise Rs. 700 crores but realised only Rs. 226 crores in 1975, and the bearer bond scheme of Mr. Venkataraman was expected to realise about Rs. 1,000 crores but realised a less amount, Madam, these schemes are necessary because over a period of 30 years or 40 years or 100 years, this black money is circulating in the country. Not all of it is cash and as our Prime Minister re-

cently has said demonetisation of hundred rupees is likely to cause problems in the rural areas. Even day before yesterday in Gopuram, a place in Tamil Nadu, the nationalised banks were in for a big bonanza when it was rumoured that hundred rupee notes were being demonetised and within a matter of three hours the banks had sixty lakhs of rupees as deposit money with them. So, even this rumour is giving you so much. Imagine the problems it will cause in the rural areas, though from time to time even I have advocated the demonetisation of money as a step to remedy the black money situation in the country. Now my two concrete suggestions to the Finance Minister are that you have some scheme to mop up this black money which is in the form of cash, which is not blocked up in the shape of assets, bullion or jewellery or anything like that. There can be two such schemes. One is you have a scheme whereby if any person invests in housing, which is a very great problem in India, you can have houses for middle, lower middle and weaker sections of the society, if these people come forward to invest in massive housing schemes, particularly in the over-crowded areas, you know the position about the *jhonpris* of Bombay, about which you are better aware, and slums of Madras, if people come forward to invest in housing, you give them some sort of immunity. This will get you a lot of money and it can be invested in housing assets and thereby this amount of money which is in circulation in the economy, it will come out and it will be used for nation building and serving the poor and the downtrodden.

The other scheme can be had for the railways. As you know the railways are very much facing the constraint of resources. You can have a railway bonds scheme whereby the people investing in the railway bonds will not be asked any questions about the source of the money. Thereby you will be able to collect a lot of money for the railways. You can even give ten per cent premium on those bonds

These two schemes are likely to get you at least Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5000 crores and thereby some of the black money in the economy will be flushed out.

Now, Madam, I come to the question of capital gains. Of course, this is the first year, where a strong and bold departure has been made from the past. You have already abolished the estate duty which is the most welcome thing. In the case of the capital gains, where the Government's revenue is not more than a few crores of rupees, you should have a re-thinking on the subject. In many of the western countries, they are not having anything like a base year or anything like that. If you buy an asset for a lakh of rupees and at today's prices it sells for Rs. 10 lakhs, they take 20 per cent or 30 and you can keep the rest. Like that you can have the same formula rather than the high percentages that are there now. By this method also you can generate more funds for the economy.

Now, Madam, I come to the anti-smuggling measures which our Finance Minister has mentioned in his speech. Madam, the Finance Minister at page 40 of Part 'B' of his speech at 125 says : I hope the hon. Members will help to create a vibrant public opinion which alone in the ultimate analysis can help to reduce and eliminate the anti-national activities of the smugglers. On two occasions earlier, when Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was the Finance Minister and earlier when Mr. Venkataraman was the Finance Minister, I raised this issue. Many of us would have seen in all the leading newspapers one page advertisements of Casio calculators, Omega watches, and all sorts of smuggled items. All these things are not officially available in India. At the end of these advertisements there will be a small one line saying "For information only". These advertisements

are inserted in the newspapers by big smuggling syndicates based in Dubai and Hong Kong. The previous Finance Minister told me that he had referred the matter to the Law Minister. The difficulty was that they should amend the law to prohibit such advertisements if the Government is really serious in curbing smuggling activities. Why are you not bringing forward this legislation to say that these advertisements should not appear in the newspapers. You are yourself creating public opinion and craze for smuggled goods. Casio calculators are not available in India. But if you go to Burma Bazar, Palika Bazar, Tardeo Market, Mohatta Bazar, all these things are freely available on the roads. So, the smugglers' syndicates want to tell the people that these things are all available in India now and they are putting these advertisements. So, though you Madam, I want to appeal to our Finance Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to persuade the Law Ministry for speedy action in the matter and get the legislation passed as early as possible, if possible, in the next session itself to see that these advertisements are banned. Coming to the question of pensioners, the longevity in the country has improved. Our old mortality table is out of date and longevity has improved quite a lot. There is, therefore, no justification in keeping the retirement age at 58. Mr. Upendra may or may not agree with me. I participated in a Central Pensioners' Conference alongwith Mr. Gadgil, a couple of years back, and there were people who said that they were 60 but looked younger than me. I asked a person: You are so fit; how have you retired? And he replied that he was 62 years of age. So, there are many people who keep fit beyond 58. Thanks to the health measures, longevity has gone up. So, the Government should increase the retirement age to 60 or 62 years. Then you have said that those who retired on or after March 31, will be eligible for the new concessions of dearness

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan]

allowances linkage etc. In fairness, the Fourth Pay Commission was set up in July 1983 and therefore you may also consider the plight of all those pensioners in these days of high cost of living and you should consider doing something for them.

Coming to newspaper industry, today it is the avowed policy of the Government to see that literacy spreads throughout the country and one method of communication, apart from Doordarshan and All-India Radio is the newspaper, and if newspapers are to reach out into the rural areas, you must give some sort of concession, or incentive because the newspaper industry is no longer a profit-making proposition. Today the raw material, that is, the paper or the newsprint costs 80 per cent. As you know, the Supreme Court recently struck down the cost per tonne at Rs. 825 and said that Rs. 550 should be accepted for the purpose of levying import duty. You should reduce it to a nominal amount of Rs. 100 or Rs. 200, and I feel the total revenue loss to the Exchequer will not be more than Rs. 3 or 4 crores which you can try to make up in some other matter.

Secondly, about modernisation, off-set printing technology has overtaken all other printing technologies in the world but India is still not at it. Though you have announced liberalised policy in case of electronics, I may say that in case of printing technology, off-set printing is the most important technology. Today, duty on off-set printing plates is 16½ per cent and on photo polymer plates, the duty is 81.5 per cent. You must consider to rationalise it at an early juncture. Similarly, printing machinery was charged at the rate of only 10 per cent and at the time of Bangladesh crisis, it was raised to 40 per cent. There is a definite justification—if you want our newspaper industry to modernise itself—to reduce the rate of this duty to a very reasonable level.

I now come to textile industry which is really suffering and the Government has come forward to announce some concession. In the textile industry, the Finance Minister has announced a concession at about Rs. 13.85 crores which is a welcome measure. But concessions are all in favour of composite sector at the cost of spinning industry. Not that the composite sector does not require any concessions, the spinning industry itself is coming out today after a long period of recession and it will find it very difficult to bear the burden of additional excise duty of the order of 25 per cent. I would request the hon. Finance Minister either to remove this excise duty or at least to reduce.... (Time bell rings) I will just finish in a few minutes. I have not yet come to Tamil Nadu.

Now that you have rung the bell, I came to Tamil Nadu and say a few points about my State which under our dynamic Chief Minister Puratchi Thalai-var MGR, who recently returned as a miracle man after his sickness, is coming into the national mainstream. There are several power projects of Tamil Nadu which are pending for clearance before the Centre; there are many thermal and hydel projects. Because of short time at my disposal, I shall just rush through. There are four projects pending clearance, and these are Lower Mettur Hydel Stations, The Kadamparai Pumped Storage scheme, Servalar Hydel Project, Kundah Power House, Parson's Valley, Pykara, Lower Bhavani and Vaigal projects. Apart from this, there are several other schemes like Pandiyar Punnapuzha, Cholati-puzha, Hogenakkal, Nellithurai, Upper Amaravathy, Shanmughanandi and Nirar Nallar which were dependent on a settlement being reached between neighbouring States on the sharing of river waters.

I would request the Central Irrigation Minister to convene a meeting of four Southern States and resolve this Cauvery problem so that these schemes can also be taken up.

Then, Madam, about Coal. The Central Government, after due representation from Tamil Nadu, was kind enough to consider the import of coal on one-time basis. But you will, perhaps, be sorry to hear that from October, 1983, compared to the total requirement of Tuticorin of 22 lakh tonnes, it received only 16 lakh tonnes. The coal which comes from the places in Bihar is full of stones and shales and nearly 18,000 tonnes of stones and shales had to be removed. We have to pay for the price and freight, and then we have to remove these stones and shales. Madam, the Government of India should allow Tamil Nadu to import coal on a long-term, continuing, basis so that both Ennore and Tuticorin thermal stations can come up. Madam, power is an important pre-requisite for industrial development and really this sector has already come forward, by increasing the power generation by 50 per cent.

I am also thankful to the Central Government for ultimately resolving the problem in regard to the share of the Kalpakkam power. They have agreed to Tamil Nadu retaining the entire 235 MW in the first phase and 50 per cent of the second. I thank the Central Government for this.

I come to another important point in regard to the Integral Coach Factory, a second factory. Tamil Nadu has offered free land to the Government of India for setting up a second integral coach factory at Tiruchi. This may be considered. Similarly, the proposal in regard to the expansion of Madras Refineries at Manali, has been put forward before the Government and also the proposal in regard to the X-ray and colour plant at Hindustan Photo Films, Udagamandalam. Many of these things are within the knowledge of Central Government. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into these things.

Now, speaking about the Budget, I am really thankful to the Finance Minister that he has given a fair deal

by way of increased transfer of resources to the States. I would only like to bring to his notice one thing. I am very happy that the former Finance Minister is here. Madam, the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission have not really done justice to Tamil Nadu. States like Tamil Nadu who are known for their prudent financial management have really been disappointed because they are receiving lesser assistance. But the States—I do not want to mention the names because there will be a furore here—which are—I do not say mis-managing—managing their resources in not so an efficient manner, always get the cream. Here, I am sure, I will have the support of majority of Members of this House. The main thrust of the recommendations of the Finance Commission was to assist those States which are backward not only from the point of view of resources, but also in resource mobilisation. We only expect that this imbalance would be rectified, through a proper devolution of Plan assistance. I know, you are having your limitations in this. But Tamil Nadu has sought for a principle of Plan assistance which would be more rational and equitable than the Gadgil scheme which is already there. We have been pleading for this from time to time in the National Development Council. We are only suggesting to the Government a system of devolution which would take due account of the tax effort of the States, vis-a-vis the taxable resources and would also not reduce assistance to States which perform better on the family planning front. You know, Madam because we had done better on the family planning front, we lost two seats in the Lok Sabha, it should have been 41 and not 39. This is the price we have to pay. The right decision taken by the Government of India to freeze the population of the States at the 1972 level for the purpose of deciding various forms of assistance which are related to the size of the population, should be logically carried forward in the matter of assistance which is given, based on the per capita income of the States. The States

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan]

whose per capita income shows an increase only on account of population growth should not receive lesser assistance. I hope, a more equitable system of Plan assistance would be evolved.

In the end, I would like to say one thing about the problem of Sri Lanka refugees. We are very thankful to the Finance Minister for having provided Rs. 9 crores by way of assistance to the refugees. But this is only a short-term solution. The matter should be tackled at the highest level. I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister for sending Mr. Romesh Bhandari to Sri Lanka. He has had, I think, useful talks with President Jayewardene and the House will be informed of these talks very shortly. But the point is, President Jayewardene should be told in no unclear terms that there should be a political settlement.

1 P.M.

The U. S. Government has circulated a report about what is happening in Sri Lanka today is nothing but genocide. We cannot tolerate it. Particularly, our kith and kin are involved. This is raising high feelings in Tamil Nadu and I hope the Central Government will definitely take all this into consideration and see that proper settlement is arrived at in Sri Lanka.

Finally, Madam, there was a talk of changing the budget. A committee was appointed under Mr. L. K. Jha for this purpose and I do not know what has happened to this Committee's report because there are several points in favour of changing the budget period from February to November or sometimes in the middle of June. I do not know what has happened to that.

In conclusion I would only say that Lord Krishna has described in the Bhagwad Gita, Chapter 13, the qualities of Vishwanath Pratap. I quote:

“अहिंसा सत्यमक्रोधत्यागः शान्तिरौषधम्
दया भूतेष्वलोलुप्त्वं मार्दवं ह्रीरचापलम्.

And our present Finance Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has also got the same qualities. He is the person with all these qualities and so he will take us to a new India. Gusticed would translate. *Ahimsa* means harmlessness, *satyam* means truth. *Krodha* means one who has no anger. He himself is laughing, so he knows that. *Tyagah* means renunciation, *Shanti* means peacefulness, *Santhir* means absence of crookedness. not that others are crooked. *Daya* means you are having compassion to all. *Aloluptvam* means you are having uncovetedness on others' properties which are shown by your budget. *Maadavam hri achapalam* means you are having gentless, modesty and absence of fickleness.

With these words I commend the budget.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: With these qualities I may lose my job in politics.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam Deputy Chairman, enough bouquets have been showered beyond the saturation point commending the budget and congratulating the Finance Minister, but I am very sad to remark that although I have got great respect for our present Finance Minister who is committed to his conviction and it is because of that conviction that he stepped down from the throne of Chief Ministership, but I am compelled to oppose this budget for the deviating trend from the socialistic direction. Madam, Deputy Chairman, the time at my disposal is very short. So, straightaway I would like to make a charge, for what reasons the estate duty was abolished. Which section demanded abolition of estate duty? Some people could argue that the amount was very meagre, but that is not the question. In principle should not inherit the property by virtue of birth alone. Then only the gap between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' will get reduced. That is why the zamindari system was abolished, that is why the privy purses were done away with. We extended our fullest support to the then Government, when those

measures were introduced by late Madam Indira Gandhi. For what reasons have you abolished the estate duty? So, again the zamindari system, the feudal system is creeping in. What are the reasons for which you have increased the limit upto Rs. 100 crore under the MRTP Act. Even the monopoly houses never dreamt of such an enhancement. So far 101 companies came under the purview of the MRTP Act and now 49 companies are straightway going out.

I have carefully read the budget speech of our hon. Finance Minister. I do not find the word "socialism" throughout the speech of the Finance Minister. So you have done a good job not mentioning the word "socialism". So you are admitting the fact that it has been given a go-by. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru must be turning in his grave. So you have deviated from the socialistic direction towards free enterprise. You have received bouquet from Palkhivala; you have received bouquet from the Free Enterprise Forum. So the flood-gates have been opened for free enterprise.

Madam, in his budget speech the Finance Minister has mentioned that there will be balanced regional development. But I am very sorry to say that that is not the case. Some States, some constituencies are getting the lion's share; at the same time some States have been totally neglected. My friend, Mr. Ramakrishnan, in his speech mentioned about certain projects. He was rushing through because of paucity of time. One thing I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to. The Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company, a public sector undertaking, had started its unit for black and white film production at Ooty in Tamil Nadu years ago. It was inaugurated by Late Pt. Nehru. The same company made a proposal to set up a colour film unit—an integrated unit. An Expert Committee has submitted its report that the best location suited for such a project i.e. Ooty—because the infrastructure is readily available there, the cost will be minimised and

not only that, the tribes, the most backward sections, are living in those areas. Taking into consideration all these factors, we expected that the project will be started in Ooty in Tamil Nadu. But what happened? That has been shelved now. I am sorry to say it is now going to Nainital or somewhere in Uttar Pradesh. Two or three years back we raised this question here when Mr. Tiwari was here. This was raised by myself and Mr. Ramamurti, the then Member from Marxist Party. I have received a reply from the Ministry in response to an Unstarred Question that the project has got an estimated cost of Rs. 190 crores but so far they have not decided about the location of the project. So we are losing a projects, an opportunity. At the same time some constituencies are luckier. It will be appropriate to quote the lucky constituencies. Under the caption "They get more money than even some States", this has appeared in The Week magazine of January 6-12 of this year. I seek the indulgence of the Members on the Treasury Benches and they should not get shocked and surprised by what I am going to quote:

"Take the case of Amethi, the constituency represented by Rajiv Gandhi. The development programmes announced since 1982 involve an investment of Rs. 2,000 crores, even on a conservative estimate. Major projects announced so far and on which investment is being made include BHEL (Rs. 100 crore) HAL (Rs. 50 crores) and Indo-Gulf Fertilisers (Rs. 750 crore). The UP irrigation department has already earmarked Rs. 5 crore for water supply schemes in the constituency. Private Sector too is in the field. Samrat Cycles and Lohia Machine Tools have already set up their factories costing crores of rupees. Small-scale industries have been given licences freely, the cumulative effect on investment being Rs. 100 crore. Under the IRDP programme each block is given funds amounting to Rs. 8 lakh.

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

"Signs of development can be seen in the constituency—1,000 kilometers of irrigation canalise 8,000 hand pumps, 5,000 pumps owned by private individuals, a Rs. 15—crore Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, 1,000 bio-gas plants, 250 kilometers of pucca road, an excellent railway station, where major trains on the trunk routes stop. The list goes on..."

"Taking all this into account, the investment in Amethi may add upto Rs. 2,000 crore, though many feel that it may be much more. Even if this figure is accepted, it places Amethi in a unique position. The investment in the constituency will be more than the total outlay of the Sixth Plan (1980—85) of 11 States and nine Union territories."

So, you are getting the lion's share. Some years back when I was languishing in detention somewhere in a remote corner in the South, I read a news item which appeared in the press. A famous man during that period, Mr. Deva Kanta Barooah stated, "India is Indira, Indira is India." Now Amethi is India, India is Amethi that is the trend, Mr. Clean has created.

SHRI H. L. KAPUR (Nominated): I have a correction to make. In so far as the Amethi hospital is concerned, my hon. friend has said that Rs. 15 crores of money has been allotted by the UP Government. I am afraid, not one naya paisa has been given to us. And the project does not cost Rs. 15 crores.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You didn't hear properly. You go through my speech—it is on record.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Are you really taking this magazine seriously?

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: I must contradict what he said.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Newspaper and Magazine reports are not at all taken seriously by this Government. You should be replying to my question as to what happened to the colour film project for Ooty and other projects. But, at the same time, you are getting more project for Amethi and some other constituencies which are luckier. Leaders shout from house-tops and give sermons that there should not be any parochial outlook, no regional outlook.

.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY (West Bengal): Let him select a luckier constituency.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am not a bonded labourer to seek some other constituency somewhere else.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: He can join the Lok Sabha then.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Gopalsamy never smiles.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Because we are the affected party. My dear friend, when you come out I will smile and share your thoughts in other ways. But inside the house, this is the only time which we can express our sentiments. We are the aggrieved party. You are getting the bonus all along and so you are smiling always.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: We are quite aware of your plight in your own State because of the ADMK...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: My dear friend, you don't drag in the ADMK here. My frontal attack is on you. I will spare them. There is no necessity for me to attack them..... (Interruptions).....

Madam Deputy Chairman, you should not take into account this talks because of the interruptions..... (Interruption)....

Madam Deputy Chairman. I recall the words of Pandit Nehru in his speech on the eve of Independence in August 1947. I quote:

"Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time has come when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure but very substantially."

We made our pledges in 1947 and 1950. We made many pledges. Whether those pledges have been redeemed, have been honoured by the Government, these are simple questions. We pledged jobs for all, the educated as well as the uneducated. Has the problem been solved, has the pledge been redeemed? Millions of people are not getting jobs and, particularly, lakhs and lakhs of educated unemployed youth in some parts are turning Naxalites. You have not solved the problem.

We pledged land to the tiller. Has that pledge been redeemed? No. More than 14.5 million families are suffering without a roof over their heads. We pledged a new deal, a better deal, a better life for the poor millions. Has that pledge been redeemed, has that pledge been honoured? No. You have built mansions and palaces. In many places industrial complexes have come up. But, at the same time, people, without getting any shelter, are squatting on the platforms and on the footpaths.

Madam Deputy Chairman, we should hang our heads in shame to read the news repeatedly that people in Delhi under the very nose of the Central Government are selling their own blood to earn their bread. Even some days back the news has again appeared in the "HINDUSTAN TIMES" that they are selling their blood to earn their bread. When you were conducting the CHOGM, the NAM and the ASIAD, spending thousands of crores of rupees, kids died in the chilly winter for want of clothing in Delhi. This is the real India you have created. So, the pledges were not at all redeemed, were not at all honoured.

Madam Deputy Chairman, yesterday our Finance Minister has announced some concessions. But the housewives were disappointed because there was no concession on the cooking gas, the domestic cooking gas. Perhaps, because the Leader of the House and Finance Minister comes from this House, he might have deferred this concession for his reply here.

You have levied excise duty of Rs. 200 per tonne on the printing paper as well as on the writing paper. This is nothing but tax on knowledge. So, I would request the Finance Minister to repeal it.

I congratulate the Minister for certain steps like the Crop Insurance Scheme, and the Social Security Scheme. I would like to request the Finance Minister to include cotton and chillies also in the Crop Insurance Scheme. Because of the repeated pests, these crops are badly ruined in some of the districts in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: And fruit.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He is fond of fruit.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Fruit also.

But on the whole, if you put the Budget on a larger canvass, it has totally deviated from the socialist path. In 50s there was the slogan of 'socialist pattern of society.' Then they changed the slogan to Democratic socialism. Now it has been given the go-by. So, for this trend of deviation, I oppose this Budget lock, stock and barrel.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी के द्वारा जो बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया है, उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। नए प्रधान मंत्री ने और इसके पहले प्रधान मंत्री विश्व नेता श्रीमती गांधी ने यह कहा था,

"I want to make India developed, powerful and strong socialist India."

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

But for making India strong and powerful, united, tremendous national efforts are needed. Either dynamise the economy of the country or get yourself dynamited."

हमारे देश के नेता राजीव जी ने प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद यह कहा :

"I re-affirm my faith in planning and Socialism."

हमारे वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने जो वजट प्रस्तुत किया है उसका हम समर्थन करते हैं। इनके इरादे और सरकार के इरादे देश को शक्तिशाली बनाने के और नए हिन्दुस्तान को 21वीं शताब्दी में ले जाने के हैं। इरादों के साथ यह वजट बहुत ही अच्छा है। इस वजट में लड़कियों की इंटरमीडिएट तक की मुफ्त शिक्षा की व्यवस्था की गई है, इसका देश स्वागत करता है। वजट में 1080 करोड़ रुपया परमाणु ऊर्जा, अन्तरिक्ष, महासागर विकास, इलैक्ट्रॉनिक एवं कंप्यूटर के विकास के लिए रखा गया है, इसका हम स्वागत करते हैं। फसल बीमा योजना के सिद्धान्त को स्वीकार करना और उसे लागू करने के लिए जो कदम हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी ने उठाया है, उसका देश के करोड़ों किसानों की तरफ से हम उनका स्वागत करते हैं।

आयकर की सीमा 15,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 18,000 रुपये की। इस कदम का हम स्वागत करते हैं। यह जनता की और ग्राम लोगों की एक मांग रही है। सामाजिक सुरक्षा के लिए बढ़ई, लुहार को 3,000 रुपये देने की व्यवस्था का हम स्वागत करते हैं। कुछ उद्योगों को डी-लासेंसिंग के अन्तर्गत लिया जाना, इसका भी हम स्वागत करते हैं। कंपलसरी डिपोजिट स्कीम की समाप्ति, जिसका हमने अपने चुनाव-घोषणापत्र में उल्लेख किया था, उसका भी स्वागत करते हैं। राज्यों के लिए नए परिप्रेक्ष में जो 39 प्रतिशत प्लान आउटले बढ़ाया गया है, इसका भी हम स्वागत करते हैं। रिटैचेमेंट की राशि 25,000 रुपये से

बढ़ाकर 50,000 की गई है, इसका भी हम स्वागत करते हैं वकिंग क्लास की तरफ से। बोनस की दर 750 बढ़ाकर 1600 रुपये कर देना, यह सरकार का निर्णय मजदूरों के हित में अच्छा कदम है और ग्रेजुएटी की सीमा 35,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 50,000 रुपये कर देना, इनका भी हम स्वागत करते हैं।

आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी भी यहां मौजूद हैं, उनके दिल में इस देश को एक शक्तिशाली राष्ट्र बनाने का सपना है और हमारे देश के प्रधानमंत्री जी ने भारत को शक्तिशाली बनाने के लिए, राष्ट्र को इक्कीसवीं शताब्दी में ले जाने के लिए एक दृढ़ निश्चय किया है। भारत की करोड़ों-करोड़ जनता उनके इस कदम का स्वागत करती है। लेकिन देश के विकास और राष्ट्र के विकास के लिए जो ऐसी मान्यताएं हैं, उसके संबंध में भी हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी को विचार करना होगा। क्या कारण है वित्त मंत्री जी, कि इस साल वेलफेयर आफ शेड्यूलड-कास्ट्स का घन 71 करोड़ से घटाकर 42 करोड़ कर दिया है? क्या कारण है कि हाऊसिंग का वजट 84 करोड़ रुपये से घटाकर 30 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया दिया गया है? एन० आर० पी० का वजट 236 करोड़ रुपये जो पिछले साल था, उसको घटाकर 230 करोड़ कर दिया गया तथा खादी ग्रामोद्योग का पिछले साल 134 करोड़ रुपया था, उसे घटाकर 115 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया है, सेल्फ एंप्लायमेंट स्कीम का जो पिछले वजट 149 करोड़ रुपये था, उसको अब 62 करोड़ क्यों किया गया है? डेजर्ट डवलपमेंट के लिए पिछले साल 10 करोड़ रुपये की व्यवस्था थी, उसको अब 8 करोड़ रुपए क्यों किया गया है? नेशनल रूरल एंप्लायमेंट प्रोग्राम में पिछले साल के वजट में 236 करोड़ रुपये की व्यवस्था थी,

उसको अब 235 करोड़ कर दिया गया है, क्यों ? रूरल लैंडलेस गारंटी एंप्लायमेंट स्कीम में भी घटाकर अब 465 करोड़ कर दिया गया है, क्यों ? म्टील आयरन में पिछले साल 980 करोड़ रुपये की बचत थी, उस घटा कर इस साल 693 करोड़ रुपए क्यों किया गया ? फटिलाजर के लिए जो पिछले साल इतनी बड़ी धनराशि की व्यवस्था थी उसे भी आपने घटाया है।

उपसभापति महोदय, एक किसान हूँ और गांव का रहने वाला हूँ और गांव में रहने के नाते मुझे इस बजट से गांव की अर्थव्यवस्था पर क्या असर पड़ेगा, इस संबंध में आपसे निवेदन करना है। आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी, आप उत्तरप्रदेश के भी मुख्य मंत्री रहे हैं, देश के उद्योग मंत्री और कामर्स मिनिस्टर भी रहे हैं और आज आप वित्तमंत्री हैं, हमारे इस सदन के नेता भी हैं। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी की लड़ाई के जो हमारे उद्देश्य थे, जिस आजादी की लड़ाई के दौरान हमारे देश के स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों ने आजाद हिन्दुस्तान का एक नक्शा देखा था, करांची कांग्रेस का प्रस्ताव, जो हमने 1931 में दूरदृष्टि की मद्देनजर रखते हुए रखा था हमारा हिन्दुस्तान कैसा होगा ? उसका हमने जो एक नक्शा बनाया था जो फिर 1938 में जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी की अध्यक्षता में नेशनल प्लानिंग कमेटी बनी थी। फिर 1950 में हिन्दुस्तान में विकास के लिए हमने अपना डेमोक्रेटिक कंस्टीट्यूशन बनाया, वही प्लानिंग कमीशन भी बनाया। हमारा उद्देश्य था कि डेमोक्रेसी के माध्यम से सोशलिज्म और मोनोपॉलिज्म के माध्यम से डेमोक्रेसी हम हिन्दुस्तान में प्राप्त करेंगे। यह हमारे डारेक्टिव प्रिंसिपल्स भी कंस्टीट्यूशनमें रखे गए थे। तो मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि उस प्लानिंग और उस डेमोक्रेसी को मद्देनजर रखते हुए 1954 में

हमने अवाडी कांग्रेस में गौ जिन्दग स्टूवचर आफ सोसायटी का संकल्प जवाहर लाल नेहरू की अध्यक्षता में लिया था।

1962 में भुवनेश्वर कांग्रेस में कामराज की अध्यक्षता में सहकारिता समाज की आधारशिला होगी इसी को मान कर हमने समाजवादी समाज का निर्माण करने का सपना देखा था। 1969 में श्री निर्जलिगप्पा जी और आदरणीय श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के बीच इसी बात को लेकर संघर्ष हुआ था कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर कमांडिंग हाइट आफ दि इकानोमी होगा या पब्लिक सेक्टर कमांडिंग हाइट आफ दि इकोनीमी होगा। इसी सवाल की लेकर 69 में कांग्रेस टूट गई। इसी लिए श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया ताकि हिन्दुस्तान करोड़ों सर्वहारा लोगों के लिए बैंकों के दरवाजे खुले इसी लिए श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने राजा रजवाड़ों के प्रिवीपर्स को समाप्त किया। उसी लिए 76 में हमने हिन्दुस्तान के संविधान में संशोधन किया। पहले था India will be a Democratic हिन्दुस्तान एक जनतांत्रिक गणराज्य होगा, 76 में 42 वां अमendment कर दिया गया श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी की अध्यक्षता में और यह तय किया गया कि India will be a Democratic, Socialist, Secular Republic. हम पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य इसकी शपथ खाते हैं कि समाजवाद की स्थापना के लिए जान की बाजी लगा देंगे मंत्रिमंडल का हर सदस्य संविधान की शपथ खाता है और देश के प्रधान मंत्री ने पत्रग्रहण के पहले दिन कहा था I affirm my faith in planning and socialism. आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी आप योग्यतम व्यक्ति हैं और आपके दिल ने हमारे देश को आगे बढ़ाने की बड़ी भारी तमन्ना है ? हमारे नेता राजीव जी भी देश को आगे ले चलाना चाहते हैं। लेकिन फिर भी आपने जो एक्सपेरिमेंट किया है कि 20 करोड़ का एम0 आर0 टी पी0 का जो रेजिस्ट्रेशन था उसको 40 करोड़ कर दिया

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

हिन्दुस्तान के पूँजीपति वर्ग ने 50 करोड़ से ज्यादा की उम्मीद नहीं की थी, लेकिन आपने अपनी कलम से उसको 100 करोड़ कर दिया। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपने ऐसा कदम क्यों उठाया? एम0 आर0 टी पी0 के लेवल को 100 करोड़ क्यों किया गया जब कि हिन्दुस्तान की 35 करोड़ जनता गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहती है। हमारे डाइरेक्टिव प्रिंसिपल आफ कास्टीट्यूशन में है कि हम ऐसा कानून बनायेंगे कि मुट्ठी भर लोगों के हाथ में कन्सेन्ट्रेशन आफ वेल्थ नहीं हो पायेगा।

श्री विश्व नाथ प्रताप सिंह: माननीय सदस्यों मैं एक सूचना देना चाहता हूँ। एम0 आर0 टी पी0 और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के कार्यक्रमों में कुछ कमी की ओर आपने ध्यान दिलाया है। कुछ राज्यों के अन्दर चुनाव चल रहे थे। उनके प्लान आउटले तय नहीं पाये थे। इन योजनाओं में 50 प्रतिशत राज्यों को देना होता है 50 प्रतिशत केन्द्रीय सरकार देती है, चूँकि यह निर्णय नहीं हो पाये थे इसलिए जो आवंटन की धनराशि है उसको पूरा नहीं दिखाया जा सका मैं आप को आश्चस्त करता हूँ कि जहाँ तक गरीबी को दूर करने के कार्यक्रम है गरीब तक पहुँचने के कार्यक्रम है उनमें कोई कमी नहीं होगी। इसके लिए जो भी उचित धन राशि होगी रखी जायेगी।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: मैं आपकी भावनाओं से सहमत हूँ मगर भावनाओं से गरीबी नहीं हटेगी।

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह: भावनाएँ नहीं, धनराशि दी जायेगी।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपके इरादे बिलकुल ठीक हैं, लेकिन इस का क्या जस्टीफिकेशन है हिन्दुस्तान के चन्द पूँजीपतियों पर जो पहले 20 करोड़ की सीमा थी उस को 100 करोड़ कर दिया गया। क्यों ऐसा हुआ? क्यों कन्सेन्ट्रेशन आफ वेल्थ चन्द पूँजीपतियों के हाथ में हो।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is a bonus for monopoly houses.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: डिस्टर्ब मत करिए
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am supporting you.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: हमको अगर इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ शक है तो उनकी पूछने का अधिकार है। हम अपना वोट सरकार को देंगे, हम सरकार के साथ हैं लेकिन आदर-नोय वित्त मंत्री जी से पूछते हैं कि हमने क्यों ऐसा कदम उठाया।

श्री विश्व नाथ प्रताप सिंह: उसका जवाब देंगे।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: आपने जो 20 करोड़ का रस्ट्रक्शन बढ़ाकर 100 करोड़ कर दिया गया है क्या इस से कन्सेन्ट्रेशन आफ वेल्थ चन्द मुट्ठी भर पूँजीपतियों के हाथ में होगा या नहीं। आप खुद कहते हैं, हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का आंकड़ा कहता है कि 40 परसेंट जनता गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे है। तो गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले हिन्दुस्तान के 30, 35 करोड़ लोगों को ऊँचा उठाने के लिए हमने इस बजट में क्या कदम उठाये हैं, मैं इस बात की जानकारी चाहता हूँ। और मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह रुपया कम से कम आप एन0 आर0 टी पी0 और लैंड लैस रूरल गारंटी स्कीम, इंटीग्रेटेड रूरल डवलपमेंट आदि के लिए खर्च करें और इस बजट में कम से कम पिछले बजट का दस गुना रुपया इन कामों के लिए खर्चा जाय। इसकी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। तब मैं समझूँगा कि आप गरीबों के लिए कुछ करना चाहते हैं।

सभापति: अब आप लंच के बाद बोलियेगा।

The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-one minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock, The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee) in the Chair.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: आदरणीय उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन कर रहा हूँ कि अग्रिकल्चरल फाइनैशल इंस्टीट्यूशन का रुपया इस

बजट में 297 करोड़ से घटाकर 155 करोड़ कर दिया गया है। मैं उन से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अग्रिकल्चर और अग्रिकल्चरल फाइनेंशल इंस्टीट्यूशन के लिए काफी पैसे की व्यवस्था करें क्योंकि ये देश के विकास के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, इस देश में इस बात की बड़ी चर्चा छिड़ी हुई है कि पब्लिक सैक्टर लास में चलता है और प्राइवेट सैक्टर प्रॉफिट में चलता है। लेकिन जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने पब्लिक सैक्टर के बारे में कहा था—

Public sector is not meant to make profits. Public sector is meant to build up the infra-structure in order to make India strong and powerful.

अगर पब्लिक सैक्टर को हिन्दुस्तान में मजबूत न किया होता तो हिन्दुस्तान आज दुनिया का इंडस्ट्रियल पावर नहीं होता और अगर हिन्दुस्तान में पब्लिक सैक्टर को मजबूत नहीं किया गया होता तो हिन्दुस्तान में कृषि क्रान्ति ग्रीन रेवलूशन नहीं आता। अगर पब्लिक सैक्टर मजबूत नहीं किया गया होता तो हिन्दुस्तान एटॉमिक देश नहीं बनता। अगर पब्लिक सैक्टर मजबूत नहीं होता तो हिन्दुस्तान स्पेस पावर नहीं बनता। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वित्त मंत्री जी से कि ये बड़े जो बड़े पूंजीपति मोनोपली हाउसेज हैं, अखबार हैं, पालकीवाला जैसे लोग हैं ये मुट्ठी भर 4 करोड़ लोग हिन्दुस्तान की जनता को नहीं समझते हैं। जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने हिन्दुस्तान की बुनियाद डाली थी अग्रिकल्चरल रेवलूशन के लिए, हिन्दुस्तान के इंडस्ट्रियल रेवेलूशन के लिए। इसलिए मैं आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप जैसे वित्त मंत्री जी जब हुए हैं तो मुझे विश्वास है आप जैसे वित्त मंत्री होने के बाद हिन्दुस्तान में ब्लैकमनी खत्म होगी और आप कड़े कदम उठाएंगे जिसके कारण हिन्दुस्तान की दौलत में इजाफा होगा। मुझे विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह

जी में पूरा विश्वास है, वह नये वित्त मंत्री है, ईमानदार वित्त मंत्री है इसलिए किसी में हिम्मत नहीं है कि काले धन की कोई चोरी करे या जो तिकड़मवाजी कर के पैरलल इकोनोमी का देश में निर्माण कर रहे हैं, वह अब आगे जारी रख सके। लेकिन पब्लिक सैक्टर की इकोनोमी को यह मजबूत करेंगे—कमांडिंग हाईट ग्राफ दी इकोनोमी—आजादी की लड़ाई के दौरान हमारे फ्रीडम फाइटर ने जिसकी की बुनियाद रखी थी, जिस पब्लिक सैक्टर की इकोनोमी को जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने अपने खून पसीने से अन्दरूनी और बाहरी दबाव के बावजूद जिसको मजबूत किया था, जिस पब्लिक सैक्टर की इकोनोमी को अपने खून से मजबूत किया, श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने उसी पब्लिक सैक्टर की इकोनोमी को मजबूत रखा और हमारे देश में हमारे नेता श्री राजीव गांधी के नेतृत्व में वह पब्लिक सैक्टर और मजबूत होगा। मुझे विश्वास है वित्त मंत्री जी के मजबूत इरादों के साथ पब्लिक सैक्टर और मजबूत होगा और हमारे मुल्क में जन हित में कदम उठाये जायेंगे। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो आपने कैरोसीन पर टैक्स बढ़ाया है है...

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह: मैंने कम कर दिया है।

श्री कलहनाथ राय: मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ हिन्दुस्तान के सात लाख गांव के लिए आपने कैरोसीन पर टैक्स कुछ कम किया है—मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कांग्रेस पार्टी इज फार दी मासेज, श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी वाज फार दी मासेज। जवाहरलाल नेहरू वाज फार द मासेज नाट फार द क्लासेज। हिन्दुस्तान की करोड़ों करोड़ जनता, सात लाख गांव की जनता आज भी मिट्टी का तेल जलाती है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मिट्टी का तेल आप पूर्ण रूप से, एक भी पैसा टैक्स न लगा कर, टैक्सफ्री कर दिया जाना चाहिए। (व्यवधान) आप मुझे बोलने दीजिए। मैं अपने विरोधी पार्टी के लोगों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने तीन वर्ष

[श्री कल्हनाथ राय]

के शासन के दौरान पब्लिक सैक्टर कमजोर हुआ। पब्लिक सैक्टर को 74 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा जनता पार्टी के तीन वर्ष के जमाने में उठाना पड़ा। यह क्यों हुआ क्योंकि वह खुद पब्लिक सैक्टर के दुश्मन थे। क्यों हुआ, क्योंकि वह खुद पब्लिक सैक्टर की इकोनोमी को नष्ट करना चाहते थे। आप में से बहुत लोग उसके समर्थक हैं। श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी जब शासन में आई तो पब्लिक सैक्टर में 1982-83 में 614 करोड़ रुपये का मुनाफा हुआ। 1983-84 में भी 246 करोड़ का मुनाफा हुआ। इसके साथ हमारे 21 लाख एम्पलाई उस में लगे हुए हैं। चार हजार करोड़ रुपये उन्हें तनखाह मिलती है। पर-एम्पलाई 21,675 रुपये सालाना मिलती है ताकि वह अच्छी जिन्दगी जी सके। पब्लिक सैक्टर हमारी बुनियादी नीति है। इसी नीति पर जवाहर लाल नेहरू कृ हिन्दुस्तान का निर्माण किया और आज हिन्दुस्तान दुनिया का एक स्पैस पावर आटोमिक पावर बना हुआ है। आज पूँजीपति लोग मोनो-पलीज हाउसेज, कैपेटलिस्ट क्लासेज के लोग उसकी प्रशंसा कर रहे हैं। आज के 'टाइम्स आफ इंडिया' में फ्रंट पेज पर मैंने पढ़ा है जिस में हिन्दुस्तान के पूँजी-पतियों ने प्रशंसा की। हिन्दुस्तान के पूँजीपति हमेशा प्रशंसा करेंगे उस कदम की जिस कदम से पूँजीपतियों को लाभ होगा या मोनोपलीज हाउसेज को लाभ होगा।

श्री अश्विनी कुमार (बिहार) : हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स क्यों भूल गए ?

श्री कल्हनाथ राय : मैं विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री रह चुके हैं। आपके जमाने में चीनी के दाम गिर गए थे। जनता सरकार के दौरान चीनी 10 रुपये किलो भी नहीं मिल रही थी। आप मुख्य मंत्री थे तो आपने 22 रुपये क्विंटल गन्ने का दाम निर्धारित किया। आपको याद होगा कि 80 से लेकर 83 तक हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों

ने 84 लाख टन गन्ना पैदा किया और हिन्दुस्तान चीनी के मामले में अल्पनिर्भर हो गया। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस बजट में किसानों को मजबूत करने के लिये, गांवों को मजबूत करने के लिये, एन आर ई पी को और पैसा देने के लिए, हरल इम्प्लायमेंट गारण्टी स्कीम को और पैसा देने के लिए, यहां से सीधा गांव से रिश्ता जोड़ने के लिए जितना पैसा आवंटित किया है उसका दस गुना आपको देना चाहिए। किसान का बैटा हल चलाता है, किसान का बैटा सीमाओं पर खड़े हों कर, अपना खून बहा कर सीमाओं की रक्षा करता है। किसानों के बैटे हल चलाते हैं, खलियानों में काम करते हैं और देश की सीमाओं पर लड़कर हमारे देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा करते हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मोनो-पली हाउसेज के बैटे सीमाओं पर खड़े होकर देश की सीमाओं पर की रक्षा करते हैं ? क्या हिन्दुस्तान में प्राइवेट सैक्टर के बैटे हिन्दुस्तान की सीमाओं की रक्षा करते हैं ? मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसान का बैटा ही खेत और खलिहानों में काम करता है और देश की रक्षा भी करता है। वह खेतों में हल चलाता है, अन्न का उत्पादन बढ़ाता है और देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा करता है। सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस बात का प्रयास किया जाएगा कि हमारी बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़े। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में 14 हजार मेघावाट बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़ा है। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में हमने 30 मिलियन टन का उत्पादन किया जिसके माध्यम से हिन्दुस्तान की अर्थ-व्यवस्था की मजबूत किया गया। हम सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में अपने कदम आगे बढ़ाते जा रहे हैं सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में हमने अपना लक्ष्य फूड, प्रोडक्टिविटी और अनइम्प्लोयमेंट रखा है। आज इस बजट के माध्यम से मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आपने सीमेंट का दाम बढ़ा दिया। गांव की आज हालत क्या है, यह आपसे छिपा हुआ नहीं है। आप भी गांव के रहने वाले हैं किसान को अपनी छत भी ठीक करनी हो तो उसको पांच बोरे सीमेंट के चाहिए। अब सीमेंट के दाम बढ़ जाने के कारण

उसकी ज्यादा दाम देने पड़ेंगे। आपने स्टील के दाम भी बढ़ा दिये हैं। आपने खेती में काम आने वाली चीजों के दाम भी बढ़ा दिये हैं। ट्रैक्टर के दाम बढ़ गये हैं, पावर के दाम बढ़ गये हैं। किसान को अगर खुरपा, खुरपी, कुदाल या फावड़ा खरीदना होगा तो उसको ज्यादा दाम देने पड़ेंगे। उसे अपनी बेटी की शादी करनी हो तो उसको वनस्पति धी के ज्यादा दाम देने पड़ेंगे। उसको कपड़े के दाम ज्यादा देने पड़ेंगे। पेट्रोल के दाम बढ़ जाने के कारण किसानों के लिए हर चीज महंगी हो जाएगी। ऐसी स्थिति में हिन्दुस्तान के सात लाख गांवों में रहने वाले किसानों को हर चीज के लिए बढ़े हुए दाम देने पड़ेंगे। हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों को प्रोडक्टिविटी का लक्ष्य पूरा करना है, उनको फूड का उत्पादन बढ़ाना है और आपको इस देश से अनइम्प्लायमेंट को हटाना है। ये तीन काम तभी पूरी होंगे जब आप एन० आर० ई० पी०, इंटेग्रेटेड रूरल डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम और लैंडलैस लेबरर्स गारन्टी स्कीम को युद्ध स्तर पर पैसा आवंटित करें। इसके लिए आप यहाँ से डायरेक्ट मॉनिटरिंग की स्कीम रखें। मैं जानता हूँ, आप उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री रह चुके हैं। आपने तीन हजार रुपये मँस खरीदने के लिए किसानों को कृषि देने की योजना बनाई है, लेकिन आप जानते हैं कि ब्लाक स्तर पर हरिजनों, निरिजनों और आदिवासियों को एक हजार रुपये भी यहाँ नहीं मिल पाते हैं। आपने इन योजनाओं के माध्यम से गरीब जनता के दिल में आशा की चिंगारी लगा दी है। इस देश की गरीब जनता के दिल में इस देश की नेता श्री राजीव गांधी के प्रति भावना पैदा हो गई है। देश की करोड़ों जनता नये प्रधान मंत्री से अपेक्षा करती है कि उनके माध्यम से भारत खुशहाल देश होगा। हमारे देश के किसान अपनी खेती का उत्पादन बढ़ाकर 151 मिलियन टन से बढ़ाकर 200 मिलियन टन करना चाहते हैं। आपने एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइस कमीशन बना रखा है। हमारे देश के प्रधान मंत्री जी ने चुनावों के समय सभाओं में यह कहा था कि एग्रीकल्चरल इनपुट्स के

दाम नहीं बढ़ने दिये जाएंगे। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ट्रैक्टर के दाम नहीं बढ़े हैं?

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : ट्रैक्टर पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटा दी गई है, सारे एग्रीकल्चरल एन्वीपमेंट पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटा दी गई है।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : हमारे देश के किसानों को राहत पहुंचाने के लिए यह जरूरी है कि किसानों के इम्प्लीमेंट्स पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटाई जानी चाहिए।

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : सब पर हटा दी गई है, इसकी कल ही घोषणा हो चुकी है।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : श्रीमान, यह बात कई बार कही जा चुकी है कि एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइस कमीशन किसानों के हित में काम नहीं करता है। आपने किसानों के लिए एग्रीकल्चरल कोस्ट एण्ड प्राइस कमीशन बनाने की बात कही थी और श्री राजीव गांधी जी ने कहा था कि किसानों को उनके उत्पादन का उचित मूल्य मिले, इसलिए, एग्रीकल्चरल कोस्ट एण्ड प्राइस कमीशन बनेगा। अब आपने इस प्रकार का कमीशन बना दिया है यह बहुत सराहनीय कदम है। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सन् 1980 में 10 रु० गेहूँ का दाम बढ़ा, फिर सन् 1981 में, 1982 में और 1983 और 1984 में गेहूँ का दाम बढ़ता रहा। हर साल 5 रु० की दर से दाम बढ़ जाते हैं। हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों के लिए, हिन्दुस्तान के खेतों में काम करने वाले किसानों के लिए, मजदूरों के लिए यह बहुत जरूरी है कि उनकी स्थिति को मद्देनजर रखते हुए सरकार की किसानों को उनकी उपज का उचित मूल्य देना चाहिए और ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए जिससे उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार हो। यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब महात्मा गांधी जी से जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी मिलने गये तो उन्होंने कहा कि यज्ञे देश के लिये काम करना है।

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

देश के प्रधान मंत्री की हैसियत से मुल्क की राजनीति को चलाना है तो देश के लिए जब भी कोई नीति निर्धारित करो तो हिन्दुस्तान के पुअरस्ट आफ दि पुअर को सामने रखकर, हिन्दुस्तान के दरिद्र-नारायण को शक्ल को अपने सामने रखकर अगर नीति निर्धारित करोगे तो अपनी नीतियों में हमेशा सफल रहोगे। ऐसा गांधी जी ने जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी से कहा था। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी, अपने ईमानदार और सच्चे वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कल बजट पर भाषण करते समय हिन्दुस्तान के 7 लाख गांवों के करोड़ों किसानों, हल चलाने वाले करोड़ों करोड़ खेतिहर मजदूर और उनके जीवन को अपने सामने रखकर जबाब देंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं बजट का स्वागत करता हूँ समर्थन करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

श्री हुसमदेव नारायण धादव (बिहार) :

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, अभी सदन में बजट पर चर्चा चल रही है। हमारे भाई कल्पनाथ राय जी सरकार की ओर से बोल रहे थे। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, 576926 गांवों में रहने वाले लोगों और हिन्दुस्तान की आबादी के जितने लोग हैं देश का कुल गेहूं अगर उनको समानरूप से बांटा जाय तो प्रति दिन 125 ग्राम चावल, 128 ग्राम दाल, 40 ग्राम चीनी प्रति दिन 20 ग्राम, खाय तेल 11 ग्राम कपड़ा प्रति वर्ष 11 मीटर और दूध 86 ग्राम पड़ता है। जिस हिन्दुस्तान में प्रति दिन खाना देने वाली सरकार हिन्दुस्तान के प्रति व्यक्ति को सवा सौ ग्राम चावल और सवा ग्राम सौ ग्राम गेहूं 40 ग्राम दाल, 11 ग्राम खाय तेल और 20 ग्राम चीनी देने वाली हो और वह सरकार बजट पेश करे और उनकी तरफ से बोलने वाले लोग कहें कि चीनी के उत्पादन में हमारा देश आत्मनिर्भर हो गया है तो न सरकार को कुछ पता है और न ही उनके सदस्यों को कुछ पता है। नारा लगाने से किसी देश की गरीबी नहीं मिटा करती, है। अगर नारा लगाने से किसी देश की गरीबी मिट सकती तो

हिन्दुस्तान में कभी की गरीबी मिट गई गई होती। यह अलग बात है कि नारा लगाने से आपको वाहवाही अवश्य मिल सकती है। हिन्दुस्तान में पंचसितारा संस्कृति का निर्माण जो आपने किया है, ऊंचे घर में पैदा हुआ, जिसने गरीबी, को कभी जनजदीक से नहीं देखा है जिसने खेतों की मेढ़ पर बैठकर पसीने से लथपथ देह लेकर अलुआ, मुन्नी, मेंटसोरानी, करहर, भामा,—कोदो, कोदो आप नाम भी नहीं जानते होंगे, जिनके परिवार के लोगों को यह खाना पड़ता होगा, 18 घंटे जिनके शरीर से पसीना गिरता हो लेकिन फिर भी जिनको भरपेट रोटी न मिलती हो, तन पर कपड़ा न हो, सोने के लिए मकान न हो, छप्पर पर घास न हो, हिन्दुस्तान में आदमी को मरने के बाद कम से कम साढ़े तीन हाथ जमीन कब्र के लिए पा जाता है, लेकिन आज यहां के जिन्दा इंसान 100 में से 60 आदमी ऐसे हैं जिनके पास सोने के लिए साढ़े तीन हाथ जमीन अपनी झोपड़ी में नहीं मिल पाती है, ऐसे लोगों के लिए हिन्दुस्तान के वित्त मंत्री जी अपना बजट पेश करते हैं। हां, आपको बजट पर वाहवाही क्यों नहीं मिलेगी।? बिरला, टाटा, डालमिया हिन्दुस्तान के ऐसे 75-80 परिवार, जिन्होंने हिन्दुस्तान की लक्ष्मी को अपने घरों में कैद कर के बंद रखा है, उनकी आय को और बढ़ाने के लिए अगर आप 100 करोड़ रुपये की छूट देंगे तो उस सौ करोड़ की छूट में उनकी पूंजी तो द्रोपदी की साड़ी जैसी है। चाहे विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह जी उसको कितना खींचते चले जायें लेकिन पूंजीपति नंगे नहीं होंगे। द्रोपदी की साड़ी दुशासन खींचता रहे लेकिन वह साड़ी बढ़ती ही चली जाय। नारी बीच सारी है कि सारी बीच नारी है, नारी की सारि है और सारि की ही नारी है। कालाधन बिरला है कि बिरला के बीच में कालाधन है या कालेधन के बीच में बिरला है, आप उसको कितना खींचेंगे, जितना छिलका उतारेंगे उसका छिलका उतरता जाएगा लेकिन गूदा आपके हाथ नहीं लगेगा। हिन्दुस्तान में बिरला, टाटा, डालमिया-जैन, इन बड़े बड़े पूंजीपति घरानों के छिलके उतरते चले जायेंगे लेकिन इनका

गुदा आप पकड़ नहीं पायेंगे। क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान की राजनैतिक गंगोत्री में गंदगी है। गंगा गंगोत्री से निकलती है। गंगोत्री से अगर शुद्ध, निर्मल जल धारा प्रवाहित होती है तो बनारस में भी गंगा का पानी पवित्र होता है। लेकिन वित्त मंत्री जी, अगर हमारी गंगोत्री से ही गंदगी निकलने लगे तो उसको बनारस में आप फिल्टर लगाकर गंगा के उस पानी को शुद्ध नहीं कर सकते हैं। प्रशासन की गंगोत्री भारत की संसद् है, प्रशासन की गंगोत्री भारत की सरकार है। जब हमारी संसद् ही अपवित्र है, सरकार अपवित्र है, सरकार और संसद् ही भ्रष्टाचार को संरक्षण देने वाली बन जायेंगी तो हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर भ्रष्टाचार और कालेधन को मिटाने की बात करना स्वप्न होगा। जैसा कि एक बूढ़ा आदमी स्वप्न देखता है कि दुल्हन उसके साथ आई है। लेकिन नींद खुलने पर पता चलता है कि न दुल्हन है और न बारात है। उसी तरह से हिन्दुस्तान में भ्रष्टाचार को मिटाने का आप स्वप्न देख रहे हो। कौन मिटा सकता है? जिसके पास दृढ़ इच्छा शक्ति हो, जिसके पास संकल्प हो, जिसके पास करने की क्षमता हो, जिसमें जोखिम उठाने का मादा हो, वही हिन्दुस्तान की आर्थिक संरचना कर सकता है और हिन्दुस्तान को सुधारने का काम कर सकता है। 5,76,926 गांवों में बसने वाले लोगों के पास आधे गांवों तक अभी कच्ची सड़क नहीं है: आधे गांवों में पीने का विशुद्ध पानी की इन्तजाम नहीं है, बिजली का इन्तजाम नहीं है, अभी आप कह रहे थे कि कृषि उपकरण पर से हमने एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटा दी है। ठीक ही कह रहे हैं आपने तीन रुपये बढ़ा दिया और अब ढाई रुपये घटा दिया, 40 पैसे बढ़ा दिया, पांच पैसे घटा दिया, यह तमाशा कुछ समझ में नहीं आ रहा है। शैतान का काम है,

Two step forward, two step backward,
Two step backward, Two step forward.

कदम ताल करते दुहो, भारत की अर्थ-व्यवस्था एक दम पीछे, फिर एक कदम आगे, जिसको मिलिटरी में मारक्टाइम कहते हैं, इस में कदमताल करते रहो, खड़े खड़े पैर चलाते रहो न आगे जाने हो, न पीछे

जाने हो, न कदम आगे जाता है और न कदम पीछे जाता। मैं नहीं कहता मैं तो कम पढ़ा लिखा हूँ और गांव के साधारण कि सान का बेटा हूँ। हिन्दुस्तान के समाजवादी नेता डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया का मैं आज भी ऋणी हूँ जिन्होंने हमें खेतों की मेड़ से उठा कर संसद् में पहुंचाया है जिसने हम लोगों को यहाँ तक पहुंचाया है सिखाया है, बताया है। मैं नहीं कहता पढ़े लिखे विद्यमान कहते हैं कि भारत की अर्थ व्यवस्था रुक गई है क्या उस में आप गतिशीलता ला सकते हैं? हां जोड़ तोड़ आप कर सकते हैं; किसी को घटा दिया, किसी को बढ़ा दिया, इधर से एक करोड़ उधर कर दिया, उधर से पांच करोड़ इधर कर दिया, आप यही कर सकते हैं। आप चैपी लगा रहे हैं, जैसे फटे हुए कपड़े पर पैंबन्द लगाया जाता है उसी तरह से आप करते हैं। मैं यह कहूँ कि आप कुरूप चेहरे को सुन्दर बनाने के लिए प्लास्टिक सर्जरी करते हैं लेकिन चेहरा सुन्दर नहीं हो सकता है। बुढ़ापे में जितनी भी प्लास्टिक सर्जरी की जाए लेकिन जवानी वापिस नहीं आ सकती है। भारत की अर्थ नीति में आप परिखर्तन करना चाहते हैं तो हिम्मत के साथ आगे आइये। मैं अधिक उदाहरण नहीं दूंगा। आप भ्रष्टाचार की बात करते हैं। मैं किसानों की लूट के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। मेरे हाथ में भारत सरकार का एक जवाब है। कितना बड़ा अन्याय है, किसानों को लूटा गया है बोरिंग में, पम्प सैट की खरीद में किसानों को लूटा गया है। इसमें यह कहा गया है, सरकार ने मुझे यह उत्तर दिया है। प्रश्न संख्या 2072, दिनांक 9 दिसम्बर, 1983 जिसका उत्तर भेजा गया है 30 जनवरी, 1985 को जिसमें सरकार ने साफ-साफ कहा है स्वीकार किया है कि मैंने जो आरोप लगाया था वह सही है। मैंने पत्र लिख कर जांच की मांग की थी 20 अक्तूबर 1983 को पत्र लिख कर यह आरोप लगाया था कि बिहार में बैंकों के जरिये जो पम्प सैट लेते हैं उसमें 4500 का पम्प सैट 5500-6500 में दिया जाता है, 9 गेज के बदले 11-13 गेज का पाइप दिया जाता है। आपन मार्किट में खुले बाजार में इस पाइप का

[श्री हुकमदेव नारायण यादव]

दाम है 11 रुपये फुट और बैंक के जरिये जब लेते हैं तो 26 रुपये फुट के हिसाब से दिया जाता है और इसके साथ साथ 9 गेज के बदले 11-13 गेज का पाइप दिया जाता है। बोरिंग होती है डेढ़ सौ फुट और नापी होती है ढाई सौ फुट, हरिजन बोरिंग करता है नहीं है, पम्प सैट मिलता नहीं है लेकिन भुगतान कर दिया जाता है। सरकार के जरिये से इसकी जांच हुई है। मैं वित्त मंत्री से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा ग्रामीण विकास मन्त्रालय, रूरल डवलपमेंट मिनिस्ट्री में जांच करवाई है जिसमें यह स्वीकार किया है कि इसमें पांच छ: बिन्दु है जो साबित हो गये हैं। उसने स्वीकार किया है कि यह सही है कि 4500 रुपये के बदले 5500 और 6500 रुपये में पम्प सैट दिया गया है। उसने यह कहा है कि यह सही है कि पाइप का दाम किसानों से ज्यादा लिया गया है। जांच में यह कहा है कि यह सही है कि 9 गेज के बदले 11-13 गेज का पाइप दिया गया है। यह सही है कि गलत नापी हुई है। यह सही है कि गलत भुगतान किया गया है। यह भी सही है कि पेटेंट लोगों का आप्रतिलिखित बना कर के बैंकों के जरिये उनकी भुगतान किया गया है। है। कहा है, यह सही है और इसकी जांच

"The Government of Bihar and the Department of Banking are being requested to take action against the officials."

के लिए लिखा है कि—

क्या आप बैंक के इतने अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही कर सकते हैं? किसानों की दारी का ढोल पीटने वाली सभ में यह चुनौती देना चाहता हूँ। नेशनल बैंक के चेयरमैन बालूजा का काम मेटिया के काम में दोषी पाए जान पर हटा सकते हैं, मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर को इंग्लैंड में गिरफ्तार कर के जेल भेज सकते हैं। रिजर्व बैंक जो देश का सबसे बड़ा बैंक है, मैंने संसद में कई बार आरोप लगाया है, इन्वेंट्री जांच करावाई लेकिन रिजर्व बैंक में चोरी को छिपा दिया था। ऐसा यह आरोप है कि रिजर्व बैंक में

लेका नीचे तक जितने अधिकारी है सबने किसानों को लूटा है दो करोड़ रुपये नहीं बल्कि एक सौ करोड़ रुपये पम्पसैट की खरीददारी के जरिये किसानों को लूटा गया है, किसानों को खून चूस लिया गया है।

क्या आप पकड़ सकते हैं, आप जांच कर सकते हैं। आपका यह रिपोर्ट मेरे हाथ में है। बिहार के अंदर पकड़िये, सेंट्रल बैंक का हो, स्टेट बैंक का हो, भूमि विकास बैंक या बंधक बैंक का हो, उन्हीते ही ये आरोप गोलमाल किया है, एक नहीं हजारों लोगों पकड़े जायेंगे। जो आपका जिला, ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसी है, उसके जरिये जांच गया है, इस आरोप की जांच करवाया गया है कि वे भी चोरी में शामिल हैं। अगर आपमें हिम्मत है तो 10-20 आफिसर्स को नहीं कहीं पकड़ कर लायेंगे? भाई कल्पनाथ जी बता रहे हैं कि यह सरकार ईमानदार है। विश्वनाथ प्रताप जी आप ईमानदार हैं और आपका ईमानदारी, किसी व्यक्ति का ईमानदारी से कुछ नहीं होता है। नेता को मत देखो, भाई कल्पनाथ जी हम और आप कहते रहे हैं कि नीति को देखो, राह को देखो, राही को मत देखो। अगर रास्ता सच्चा है, राह ठीक है, अच्छी है, समाजवाद वाली है, परिश्रमी वाली है, हिंदुस्तान में गरीबी को रोकने के नीचे बसने वाले लोगों को ऊपर उठाने की है तो चाहे विश्वनाथ प्रताप जी, राजीव गांधी जी, वे परिवर्तन कर दें। लेकिन अगर रास्ता गलत हो तो कल्पनाथ और हुकमदेव जैसे, डा० लोहिया जैसे शिष्य भी गलत रास्ते पर चलकर अपना परिवर्तन नहीं कर सकते हैं। आपका रास्ता गलत है। पूँजीवाद का रास्ता और समाजवाद का रास्ता, पूँजीपतियों को संरक्षण देने का रास्ता, समय की घंटी।

असहभाध्यता (श्रोतों कनक मुखर्जी) :
हो गया।

श्री हुकमदेव नारायण यादव : मैं एक मिनिट में दो शब्द कहकर अपनी बात खत्म कर दूंगा। आप नारा लगाने हो गरीबी हटाने का और काम करते हो अमीर बनाने

का जैसे सिमा मने गाने वाली गाती है "कहीं पे निगाहें कहीं पे निशाना" नजर तो कहीं है इशारा कहीं है, नारा किसी का लगाने हो और बढ़ाते किसी को हो।

मैं अंत में अपनी बात समाप्त करते हुए उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय का कृपया कि अगर हिंदुस्तान में परिवर्तन लाना है, समता समाजवाद की स्थापना करनी है, बेरोजगारों को रोजगार देना है तो आइये हम फिर आपके सामने न केवल निर्गुणवाद लेकिन सगुणवाद कहते हैं, हिंदुस्तान की बेकारी मिटानी है तो गांधी लोहिया की अभिलाषा "एक व्यक्ति एक पेशा खेती नौकरी, और रोजगार, खेती नौकरी और व्यापार, एक आदमी और एक रोजगार। एक रोजगार हो। नौकरी, खेती, व्यापार तीनों में से एक रहने देंगे। तीनों में से एक रहेगा नहीं तो बाकी छीन लेंगे और जिनके हाथ से रोजगार नहीं है उनको दे देंगे। है हिम्मत नहीं कर सकियेगा। आपका तो है कि ऊपर वालों को और ऊपर करो। समाजवाद का यही तकाजा है कि सो से कम, न हजार से ज्यादा समाजवाद का यही तकाजा न्यूनतम और अधिकतम देज को, हिम्मत से आया को आमदनी को एक और अंतर में बांध दो, हिंदुस्तान में परिवर्तन आएगा। क्या आर कर सकते हो? क्या आप कर सकते हो? नहीं कर सकते हो? (समय की घंटी) हिंदुस्तान के अंतर को बेरोजगार है, अशिक्षित बेरोजगार है क्या आप उनको काम दे सकते हैं? नहीं दे सकते हैं। मैं अपनी बात खत्म करते हुए इस सरकार पर सीधा आरोप लगाता हूँ कि भोग, अष्टाचार, विलासिता, जलौकता की जगह इस सरकार से हिंदुस्तान में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हो सकता है। भले ही हम कमजोर हैं, हमारी अवाज को भले ही दबा दो लेकिन याद रखो जैसे दुर्योधन की सभा में जब द्रौपदी का चीन्हा रण किया जा रहा था तो दुर्योधन के एक छोटे भाई ने अपनी आवाज बलद की थी, उसकी आवाज नहीं सुनी गयी लेकिन कुछ सत्ता का नाश होकर रहा उसी तरह से आपका भी नाश होगा, होगा।

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA (Himachal Pradesh): Madam Vice-Chairman, I rise to lend my whole-hearted support to the Budget for the year 1985-86. It is a bold, pragmatic, innovative and growth oriented Budget presented by our hon. Finance Minister. It has the potential of stimulating and invigorating the economy of the nation. He has endeavoured to consolidate the gains of the past. He has also made an endeavour to give a thrust to the productivity which, in turn, will accelerate the growth of economy of our country. He has given a dynamic package of reliefs in the shape of concessions and incentives. I can safely say that it is the people's budget. It is neither an elitist budget nor a poor man's budget; it is the people's budget. I may be permitted to quote the words of our late beloved Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, which contain the philosophy and vision which have inspired our brilliant Finance Minister, and quote those words: "No section of our vast and diverse population should feel forgotten and their neglect is our collective loss." We owe the present economic structure,

3 P. M. the infra-structure, of our nation to our leader who diligently worked very hard to build up this nation, although in between, for 20 years, the entire infrastructure was battered and blown to smithereens which was shuttered beyond recognition and her Government, after it took over in 1980, saw to it that the infrastructure was resorted. She made astounding efforts to put the Nation's economy back on the rails from 1980 onwards. It is this which our hon. Finance Minister seeks to consolidate most prudently and plan and prepare to take off for the Seventh Five-Year Plan. He has taken up this task of building up the edifice and the infrastructure for ensuring financial and monetary stability in consonance with the spirit of the times, the public mood, the public expectations

The expectations from the Government have been two-fold, firstly, tidying up of the tax structure and

[Shrimati Usha Malhotra]

secondly, freeing the economy of a whole series of non-functional restrictions, stifling the industrial growth. With the passage of time, certain corrective measures have to be taken by the Government and the policy has to be reoriented. We all know that the Budget is an instrument of socio-economic change. As was the need of the hour, the hon. Minister has risen to the occasion and has courageously given a new direction to fiscal and monetary policies. The inspiring and dynamic leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has given a new direction and dimension to our policies and programmes of action, and here I quote his words: "We have to make India self-reliant in every sphere. We have to create a dynamic country that is equal to any country in the world." His vision is to see India forge ahead with a consciousness, not to miss the agricultural and industrial revolution and also not to lag behind in entering the electronics age. We should be aware that Budget-making is an exercise to accelerate the process of economic growth. Some taxes were cumbersome, some non-existent and existed only on the statute books which were not being given any importance and they had to be done away with, and rightly so. The hon. Finance Minister saw to it that such taxes which have yielded no returns or which do not contribute towards building up of the economy, are done away with. The Budget makes a beginning in dismantling the plethora of controls from which the industry was suffering since long. It makes an attempt to bring down the capital costs and give impetus to growth-oriented industries, like the electronics. It takes care of the growth rate so that it does not slow down, and it has given a number of concessions by way of reduction in import duties on so many items in the industrial sector. This Budget has rationalised the corporate tax structure. The special concessions to small, and medium sectors will surely go a long way in trying to exploit the in-

dustrial infrastructure as it exists in order to have maximum utilisation of the installed capacity. The decision to rise the MRTPL level to Rs. 100 crores will give further spurt to the industrial development, resulting in speedy economic growth of the nation. The crop insurance schemes, if implemented properly, will be a boon to the farmers, who, earlier on, felt diffident in getting loans, in trying to invest in costly inputs because of the fear of natural calamities. A farmer would now feel more confident because his crop loan will be covered by insurance. I think, this will give him more incentives to bring out a good harvest. This again, in turn, would lead to the green revolution which we all have been looking forward to. Now, it has been provided that two-thirds of the insurance charges will be subsidised, in the case of small and marginal farmers. There will be an inbuilt insurance for the small and marginal farmers, if not the rich farmers. I would like my friends across the floor of the House to take a note of this. It was being reeled off from the other end that it takes care of the rich only. But let me point out that at all levels, it is the common man, it is the small and marginal farmers, it is the Government employee, who have been kept in view.

The Budget will be remembered for removing the hurdles from our life. Earlier on, we had to rush to the post office for paying our licence fee for T.V., radio and VCR. Now, this has gone and rightly so. The Finance Minister, when he appeared on the television the other day said, 'Whenever you see television, you will be reminded of us'. I think, every housewife is grateful to him.

The ceiling in regard to bonus has been raised from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1600 and I am very grateful to him. But I would make a request to him. Re-

taining this limit at Rs. 1600 will be counter-productive and will cause serious discontent among the skilled and highly-skilled workers who contribute to the growth of industries. They have been left out. In all organised industries, more particularly in the public sector, the skilled and highly skilled workers are responsible for productivity and growth. There has to be a pat on their back. There has to be some incentives to keep them going, which, I think, would pay rich dividends, as the public sector forms the core, the backbone, of our nation's economy.

The Compulsory Deposit Scheme, as had been promised by the Congress Party in its manifesto, has been discontinued, because, they felt very strongly about it, the Government employees, and their view-point has been taken into consideration.

The workers in bankrupt companies will get top priority; it will be ensured that their dues are paid first; it will have priority over the rest.

A social security scheme is being introduced. I would like my friends across the floor of the House to make a note of it. This social security scheme is by no means a small thing. This shows how dear is the interest of workers to our leader. The Budget has been meticulously formulated keeping in mind the welfare of the common man, providing the industrial workers encouragement by way of bonus and retrenchment benefits.

I am grateful to the Finance Minister for reducing the price of kerosene and diesel. We have seen the news which appeared today. This is a very welcome step which has been taken by the Government. In this connection, on behalf of all housewives, I would like to go on record that increase in the cooking gas price, if it could be brought down, if it could be cut down and made up somewhere else, the pinch may not be felt that much as it is being felt today by them.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: They felt in the other House. I hope you will succeed here.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Well I can appeal to my most considerate and sympathetic Finance Minister who has heard us in the other House and over here also. I am sure I will be able to make a point and he will consider this and make collections from some other items, not tax the poor housewives.

In my opinion the deficit will not trigger off inflationary trends. I remember in the 1979-80 budget we had 40 per cent increase and the economy of the nation was able to absorb that over a period of time. We have the cushioning effect of a very good situation by way of foodgrains. They have been there with the Government. The stocks are there. In addition to that, the foreign reserves that we have will also give us a lot of protection and the inflationary trends which have been contained so far will be contained even after these increases. We all know that the rate of Dollar has gone up. The more we import the more we spend. The more we spend the more deficit we would be having and a prudent Finance Minister will see to it that he does not spend more than what is really required. . . (Time bell rings). Madam, I have not even made a point so far. Well, I am coming to something relating to my state as well. Kindly allow a little more time.

The duty on crude oil has been there. The increase was inevitable. We all have to bear in mind that the imports cost a lot and, therefore, there has to be judicious consumption of crude oil. There has to be a heavy cut in its consumption and I think we will be able to do it if we build up the necessary atmosphere and environment to see that we do not consume more than what we really need to do so.

In the recent days industrial and even agricultural growth has been

[Shrimai Usha Malhotra]

mainly affected by lack of demand. In other words, demand has to be built up. A lot of money has to be pumped into the economy to see that it becomes a lever for the economic growth in our country and this has precisely been done in this budget.

Apart from this, with the rising industrial production and stability on the food front the economy should be able to absorb the deficit which irks many a mind across the floor and also the people who have not done the indepth study of the subject. The Government should also take care of one more thing. It has laid a lot of emphasis on public sector. Better management would probably give us what we really want. The profits have to commensurate with the investments made. The targeted stalled capacities are not being achieved. The maxim of 'Right man, for the right job' should be adhered to get the desired results. Here I would like to say that the planning decisions, the investment decisions and the budget decisions are all co-related. They are co-terminus to the plans that we formulate and this is precisely what has happened.

I would like to say to our Finance Minister for coordinating the industrial policy with the fiscal policy. With regard to public sector, there are certain constraints which are inevitable and which are desirable also, but there are certain constraints which lead to bureaucratic delays. The bureaucratic delays add to the production, escalation of the respect of certain projects which have been taken in hand. The Finance Minister, I hope, will take note of the fact that most of these projects are with different Ministries and there should be coordination cell to see and monitor what happens to these projects and that they do not go beyond the stipulated time.

Now I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to

one anomaly which exists in the payment of D.A. to the public sector employees and the formula which is being applied to Central Government employees. I would in all humility say that dearness affects both equally. Then why is the formula different? Just one point, Madam. Thank you very much. I am speaking for the workers. I hope you will kindly allow me to make this point. I am speaking on your behalf, Madam. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly look into the formula that rules both of them. I have led so many delegations in the past. What I feel is that this anomaly has to be done away with because this will lead to a lot of discontentment. A news item appeared yesterday that the talks in the Tripartite Committee which the Government has set up have failed. As a result there would be nation-wide discontentment. For this reason it should be not of that the formula is very defective. Whereas they get Rs. 1.3 per cent of rise in the index, the Central Government employees probably get much more. Their demand is to raise it to Rs. 2 per point.

Now I come to the C.C.A. being drawn by the Central Government employees. Now in States like Himachal Pradesh or North-Eastern States anywhere, maybe even in Bengal, Madam, if there are certain criteria fixed for the payment of C.C.A. to the employees, why is it being given a step-motherly treatment. It has been hanging for the last so many years. They have also been able to meet the Ministers at different levels. I am happy that they were able to meet the hon. Minister, Mr. Gadgil. It was with regard to the P&T workers. They met him. He was kind enough to give a special hearing. The earlier Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, also gave a very patient hearing and something was to come out after a joint meeting. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will make a note of it and see that CCA which was to be determined on the basis of altitude is

given to them, because cities like the capital, Shimla and various tourist resorts are very costly where I think year-round you need warm clothing to keep yourself warm.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Please conclude. You have already taken twenty minutes.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Just one point more. Madam, I would also like to draw the attention of our hon. Finance Minister that a lot of stress has been laid on removing the regional imbalances. Regional imbalances have to be removed if the country is to forge ahead as one united whole. And I think Himachal Pradesh which is considered to be a backward State, along with the North-Eastern States—I speak for all the backward States—should not be left out in planning. An airstrip was promised. This is the only State capital which is not linked by air to Delhi. How will I not speak about it here? This is only place where I can request, implore the hon. Finance Minister to kindly grant this. It is a strategically important State and it has been neglected. It has to be linked by air. There is no air service and as such the Central Government should pay heed to the demand that an airstrip has to be provided there. I think the Railway budget has swept away all the railway lines which were to come up there, to connect us to different States and our only hope lies in the very considerate very sympathetic, very capable Finance Minister. Kindly go into it. Madam, last but not the least, our State of Himachal Pradesh is in the grip of a severe drought and I would request the hon. Finance Minister kindly to make liberal sanctions for giving relief to the drought-stricken people from the burdens that they have.

I would like to congratulate my honourable colleague, Shri Darbara Singhji, who gave a very nice suggestion for having an Indian Economic

Service. Probably this what is required. I do not, however, underrate the Indian Administrative Service. I would say they have done the best, but they are overburdened and the Indian Administrative Service should not be treated as Indian Amrit Dhara Service like a panacea to cure all the aches—the head-aches and stomach-aches—of the nation. Generalists could man different posts but there are technocrats and other people with scientific background. This is an age of specialization and, as such, it would be in the fitness of things to reconsider and re-orientate our policy with regard to this.

In the end I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Finance Minister. He has given a lot of emphasis on growth, equity, social justice, self-reliance, improved efficiency and productivity. He has laid a lot of emphasis on agricultural production to create employment and increase its potential. With the diminished inflow of financial assistance from abroad, I think it is a very prudent thing to be self-reliant.

With these words, Madam, I thank you for giving me this much of time, and once again convey my heartiest congratulations to the honourable Finance Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Shri K. K. Birla... Not here.... (Interruptions) Shri Rameshwar Thankur.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR (Bihar): Madam Vice-Chairman, at the outset I would like to convey my heartiest congratulations to the Finance Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, for his historic budget for 1985-86. With the major structural changes contemplated, the budget encompasses Government's pragmatic and bold decisions. It initiates a process of reform to meet the economic, social, political, legal and ethical needs of all sections of the community in the coming years. The main

[Shri Ramshwer Thakur]

thrust in the budget is meant to start an era of accelerated and self-sustained growth and development.

Madam, in essence the budget represents, in clear terms, the philosophy, the direction and the determination of the new Government to march ahead under the able and dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

Economically the budget reflects sound fiscal policies coupled with accepted canons of taxation, incentives and the environment for growth, productivity, savings, investment and further development of infrastructure, agriculture, industry, science and technology and social services.

Some of the examples in the budget provisions so far as the economic measures are concerned are the large investments in infrastructure. For instance, in power the investment will be of the order of Rs. 2,090 crores in 1985-86 in place of Rs. 1,446 crores in the previous year.

Similarly, the small sector ceiling of investment has been raised from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakh, ancillaries ceiling has been raised from Rs. lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs the M.R.T.P. limited has been raised from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores. Many Members have criticised these figures. But they should appreciate the inflation rate which was in 1969 and what is there today; nearly 10 times it has increased. Therefore, the decision is bold and pragmatic. It should be accepted that way. There has been delicensing of certain industries, reduction in tax rates, for companies as well as individuals. The convertible debentures interest rate has been raised from 13 1/2 to 15 per cent, and convertible preference shares would be allowed to be issued. There is the new policy on textiles and electronics. These are some of the measures concerning the financial part of the Budget.

Socially, the Budget provides relief and assistance to all sections of the community, right from the farmers, workers, salaried employees to the common people below the poverty line. The measures contemplated are Social and community services are being raised. The amount of allocation is being raised from Rs. 1,820 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 2,420 crores, which is 33.5 per cent increase in the year 1985-86. The 20-Point Programme allocation has been raised from Rs. 4,141 crores to Rs. 4,900 crores in 1985-86. The Crop Insurance, the new concept, has come in. The crop support price has been extended to pulses as well as the oil seeds. The Social Security Scheme has been contemplated. The bonus limit has been raised. The retrenchment compensation has been raised from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000 which would be exempted. Stock option to workers will be provided to take shares of the corporations. Similarly or family welfare, a large provision of Rs. 500 crores has been made.

So far as the political part of the Budget is concerned, the Budget indicates that the Government is determined to pursue its socio-economic goals without fear and favour. In fulfilment of the promises made in the election manifesto, the Budget has been suitably framed within the democratic socialist norms of a planned and mixed economy, backed by the massive mandate of the people in the centenary year of the Congress. The examples are the abolition of the C.D.S. This was an election promise. Again, girls' education is being made free up to the Higher Secondary level. This is also an election promise which has been fulfilled, and for this a provision of Rs. 211 crores has been made. Similarly, contribution by companies has been allowed to political parties. Similarly, grants-in-aid to States has been raised from Rs. 4,313 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 6,000 crores in 1985-86 which is about 39 per cent increase. This is a bold political decision. I congratulate the Finance Minister. We know from the figures and from his own speech

that a number of States were not able to raise their own resources, and they were not able to utilise the allocations made by the Central Government, particularly for the rural development and other programmes. This will certainly help the State Governments.

Similarly, there is an additional thing, that the States have now been authorised to go in for higher borrowings, up to the level of Rs. 1,600 crores which would be 20 per cent more than that last year. This will also assist the State Governments financially. Similarly, the other example is, the ownership of sick industry will be diluted or made extinct on the basis of performance of the companies. This is also a very bold political decision, I would say.

So far as the legal aspect of the Budget is concerned, it is the first attempt towards simplification and rationalisation of the tax structure. It takes away some of the irksome and complicated provisions in connection with the several concessions and allowances which were there in the existing law, and on the whole, it speaks more than it conceals the intention of the Government. Every year there used to be, always, a hue and cry in this regard. No additional complication has been brought in any part of the Budget. There is provision for creation of special courts for trying criminal proceedings for tax-evaders and other. There is no legal ambiguity in any provision of the finance budget.

So far as the ethical aspect is concerned, I would say that a new hope to the honest tax-payers has been offered. At the same time, it provides deterrent punishments for the tax evaders and indicates after the Anti-Defection Act, another positive step towards a clean public life. Even many inequitable provisions and complicated provisions have been withdrawn. The responsibility of the sick industry has been left to the owners of the industry.

Now, the other part of the budget proposals, in fact, thrilled large sec-

tions of the community. At the same time, a number of people are rather astonished. The budget proposals have been well received by the media, different sections of the community and the economists. However, there have been some criticisms in this House and the other House.

The budget proposal provides more concessions and reliefs to the 'Haves' and not for the 'Have-nots'. Secondly, there is a concern about certain levies and deficits of Rs. 3,349 crores left uncovered and it was feared that this might lead to inflation particularly, if there is a failure of monsoon. Thirdly, the country has not made desired progress and is moving towards stagnancy.

The first criticism appears to be ill-conceived and arises out of lack of proper comprehension of the provisions of the Budget. The second one may be a genuine apprehension which may take place or not depending on a number of unforeseen circumstances, including the mood of the monsoon. So far as the third is concerned, it seems to be a motivated one and does not take into consideration the realities of actual achievements since independence and efforts being initiated to tap vast potentials in the years ahead.

The budget of a particular year cannot be looked into in isolation. In a democratic process, the budget is a continuing one. From a glance of the past Budget right from 1947-48 to the budgets presented by Shri Pranab Mukherjee 1984-85 and Shri V. P. Singh 1981-86 we can see that we had started with a legacy of the Britishers where there were acute food shortage, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, disease, etc. After Independence, our economy had to face large influx of refugees, unwarranted war and hostile, severe droughts, floods and cyclones in different parts of the country and many other upheavals from time to time, apart from a large growing population the country had to sustain.

[Shri Rameshwar Thakur]

Madam, Vice-Chairman, the entire nation is grateful to the foresight, vision and statemanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, measures were initiated for planned development, creation of large infrastructure, growth and development of public undertakings, stress on science and technology and development in other walks of life. It has been a long journey of travails of stresses and strains in our economic development, the biggest impediment being the vagaries of monsoon which have been mentioned in most of the past Finance Minister's speeches in one form or the other. For example, Dr. C. D. Deshmukh in 1952-53. I would not like to go into the details, but I would just mention their names and financial years. Shri Morarji Desai in 1967-68; Shri Y. B. Chavan in 1973-74; Shri R. Venkataraman in 1980-81 and Shri Pranab Mukherjee in 1983-84.

The present health of the economy and the achievements in the fields of agriculture, industry, rural development, education, health and social services have been possible due to political stability, planned economy, sustained efforts of the people and the long inspiring leadership provided by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. (*Time-bell rings*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAN MUKHERJEE): Please conclude. Your time is over.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I was given 20 minutes. So I said that the criticism was ill-conceived and motivated because the facts are there. We cannot deny the achievements. If we see the figures, in the case of food, in 1947-48 we were in great difficulties and we had to import foodgrains to the extent of 40.80 lakh tonnes costing in those days to Rs. 127 crores. And in the year 1979-80 when the Congress Government had taken over again, our agricultural production was 110 million tonnes, and now it has reached 153 million tonnes. Similarly in every sphere—I would not take the time of

the House in giving figures—we have made positive contribution. The figures are there and I do not think it is a fair criticism on the part of any Member of this House to say that there has been no achievement in the last 37 years.

The budget proposals for 1985-86 indicate a continuing and abiding interest in the basic policies followed and the achievement derived from them. It also takes into cognizance the economic situation prevailing in the country and abroad, the constraints of resources, the commitments to the people for removal of poverty and the necessity for a faster rate of growth and also the expectations of the younger generation for quicker social transformation for a better quality of life.

The criticism with regard to the reliefs are illconceived because some Member said that it has been done possibly by Maharaja Vishwanath Pratap Singhji. But it has been done on the basis of the experts view . . .

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH. I think my name is long enough. long enough.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I am only saying what the Opposition has said. I say that the various committees and commissions and other experts have from time to time said the higher rates of taxation should be reduced. Firstly, I may mention what the world famous economist Prof. Nicholas Kaldar said. He stated:

"A more efficient and equitable tax system is one of the most important requirements for the fulfilment requirements or the fulfilment of India's national aspirations. It is suggested that the maximum rate of income-tax should not exceed 45 per cent against the present 92 per cent and the maximum date of annual wealth tax 1 half per cent."

Our former Vice-President, Shri M. Hidayatullah had also once quoted

Noble Laureate Prof. Mead and said:

"On the whole the Revenue makes a bad bargain when taxes are too high. Quite apart from the 'substitution effect' there is a desire to hide incomes."

(Time-bell rings) I was told I would be given more time by my leader.

Mr. R. Venkataraman, our present Chairman, had also said while presenting the budget for 1981-82:

"We propose to achieve these objectives by plugging of legal loopholes and effective administration rather than by enhancement for tax rates which often leads to tax evasion and generation of black money."

As a result of the steps initiated by Mr. Venkataraman in 1981-82, about 14 lakhs of tax payers got out of the incometax net. Therefore, this is a continuing process and based on expert opinion, and will ultimately enhance the revenue base. I would not like to give figures but would only like to say that only Rs. 197 crores has been given by way of relief to the entire community, which is equal to Surcharge alone. It is seen from the figures of the Comptroller and Auditor General that out of 45,46,769 assesseees on 31-3-1983, 42,04,407, that is 92.5 per cent were within the range of Rs. 50,000 as annual income. And they are the beneficiaries of these reliefs. Mention was made about the estate duty and it was asked on whose advice it was done. The Chokshi Committee had stated very clearly that 96.8 per cent of the assessments related to estates whose principle value did not exceed Rs. 5 lakhs and therefore it should be abolished. These are experts' opinions, not the personal opinions of anybody else.

I would like to make a few suggestions for the consideration of the honourable Finance Minister. My first suggestion is that a good start has been made in regard to bringing about stability in the taxation laws. I requ-

12 RS-9.

est the honourable Finance Minister to give due consideration to the various aspects of the matter during the current year and bring about a Finance Bill which could be really compatible with the tenor and investment expanse of the Seventh Five Year Plan. There should also be rationalisation and simplification because there have been suggestions right from Mahavir Tyagi Committee of 1958 up to the Choksi Committee and the Jha Commission that the Government should bring forward a direct taxes law which should integrate income tax, wealth tax and gift tax. I would request the honourable Finance Minister to bring forward this measure within a years' time.

So far as tax returns are concerned, the Government should adopt at the earliest a single consolidated return for all assesseees, individuals, firms, HUF, body of individuals and companies for income tax, wealth tax and gift tax. It is understood that the Jha Commission has forwarded forms of such returns which are under examination by the Ministry. Recently the Departmental Committee of the C.B.D.T. has also formulated a similar return. This should be expedited.

So far as tax administration is concerned, tax administration at different levels requires comprehensive restructuring. While it is necessary that adequate hands should be provided to the Department and necessary incentives and amenities provided to the officers and staff, they should at the same time be made to work efficiently, diligently and the stigma attached to the Department should be eliminated at the earliest.

The image of the Department has to be improved substantially. Confidence should be reposed in the honest tax payers and there should be no harassment and unnecessary running about. So far as tax evaders are concerned, there should be no leniency shown to them.

[Shri Rameshwar Thakur]

I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Finance Minister to the regional imbalances. This problem is conspicuous at the global national and State level. In the Sixth Five Year Plan we had said—"The fact that there are vast areas of the country which have remained backward over the years, is both a challenge and an opportunity."

The eastern region as a whole and Bihar in particular, has been adversely affected on this account. In spite of the rich mineral resource in south Bihar with 43 per cent of the total coal reserves in the country and rich fertile soil and large number of rivers in north Bihar, the State has suffered regularly from drought and floods and there has been slow economic growth during the last six plans. At the moment Bihar's per capita income is the lowest in the country. If this situation is not remedied during the Seventh Plan and the growth rate not accelerated, Bihar would not be able to catch up with the rest of the country and the objective of reduction of poverty and regional disparities would not be fulfilled. I would, therefore, request the honourable Finance Minister kindly to make available to Bihar starting from 1985-86 adequate financial resources during the Seventh Plan on a priority basis and also consider favourably the State's request for raising royalty on its mineral resources which is helping the whole nation.

There is one more suggestion with regard to the private sector. A lot of things have been said about this sector. With the economic environment being made to be more congenial for growth, the private sector industry has a greater responsibility and in a spirit of nationalism combined with enlightened self-interest, should quickly gear itself to increased production and it should modernise not only the machinery and technology but also pass on the benefit of the lower cost of production to the consumers. In fact, the Prime Minister has posed a challenge by asking the in-

dustry to diversify, modernise and compete. It is for the industry how far it could quickly and willingly respond to the revolutionary changes that are being brought about in many policy matters. One last point. (*Time bell rings*). The public sector about which lot of talk has been going on has a commanding position in our economy and has an equal responsibility to discharge, namely, to augment capacity utilisation which is the most important factor in the public sector and to render efficient and economic services to the community and at the same time to provide a return adequate enough to keep up the growth and investment needs in that sector. The Prime Minister has initiated action in this direction to give them greater autonomy and the public sector undertakings should at the same time be accountable for their performance. (*Time bell rings*.)

One last suggestion about rural development programmes. The Government has given high priority and made substantial provision for various rural development programmes including 20-Point Programme. In order to have effective implementation of these programmes, it is necessary that the local people, the beneficiaries, the panchayat and block level committees and people's representatives including MLAs and M.Ps should be actively associated. Viable voluntary agencies as per guidelines of the Planning Commission should also be associated in implementation of the rural development programmes. Proper project formulation, efficient management and effective monitoring should be done to ensure that not only the financial but physical targets are properly achieved within the stipulated time.

I am confident, depending on the finalisation of the State Plans and the progress, the Hon'ble Finance Minister will make additional allocations as already stated in his budget speech, in paragraph 51, page 18, Part-A, since these programmes help the people be-

low the poverty line. (Time bell rings).

Before I conclude, I would like to appeal to all sections of the House and the community at large that the reliefs and other bold measures contained in the budget proposals enjoin a great responsibility on the part of all of us. Keeping in view the internal and external environment, it is our duty to respond positively and make sincere efforts so that our nation could march forward with faith and conviction to the 21st century and bring about all-round growth and development to enhance our prestige in the comity of nations.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): You have taken double your time and have thereby deprived one of your party colleagues the chance to speak. Shri Mohapatra.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA (Orissa): Madam, Vice-Chairman, I appreciate all the labours the Hon'ble Finance Minister, my friend Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has put into his budget in order to make it an elite budget. Mr. Minister, I must say, it is a grand departure from the policies followed by the late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru whom I heard at Bhuvaneshwar when he propounded the theory of democratic socialism for the Indian National Congress. He made it clear that India has accepted socialism as its creed and he propounded in later years the theory of socialist democracy. And the late Mrs. Gandhi got the word 'socialism' enshrined in our Constitution. But this is no more democratic socialism. it is socialist democracy.

When we consider the previous budgets of late Shanmugham Chetty and John Mathai and compare them with the budget of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, I am sorry to say this has made great many departures. I can only say that it is in Bombay we hear about freedom of free enterprise and *laissez faire*. Now all the industria-

lists are jubilant over this budget. But persons like us who stand for the deeming millions and swear in the names of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, are sadly disillusioned.

Your own officers have said this in the *Times of India*. It says that an official has asserted that no budget of earlier years had come out with so many changes to mark a distinct departure from the past.

"... Yours officers say that it is a distinct departure. In the process, it is true that one group of people had gained more than others. But that was inevitable."

It is inevitable because you have changed the course which was propounded by the old leaders.

Now, who are the people who are jubilant? Today, the most jubilant people are the shareholders, the brokers, who are there in the stock markets. The Bombay report says like this:

"The post-budget gallop in prices has been unprecedented, with several pivots scaling new high levels on the stock exchange this week on sustained buying and shortcovering. The last session witnessed one of the maddest rush for both specified and cash shares, in spite of stiff carry-over charges."

It is the stock market which is agog thinking that here is a Budget, here comes a Budget, which opens the door to free enterprise. But, Mr. Minister, the Indian people are not willing to budge even an inch from the road to socialism, come what may. You have done away with the Estate Duty. Whom have you benefited? Certainly not the poor people, the grass-cutters, the sharecroppers, the people who go to the *dungies*, the fishermen, the poor workers. Not these people. But you have benefited the Maharajas and the Rajas and the feudal lords, and the landed manates who roam about in the corridors of your secretariat. Madam, in the UK, in the Federal Republic of Germany

[Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra] and in France, Estate Duty has not been abolished. But ours is a country of poor people where 70 per cent of the people live below the poverty line and we cannot certainly afford to appease a particular section of the people. Mr. Minister under item 68, you say, "goods not specifically mentioned". The 20-Point Programme, as enunciated by the late Mrs. Gandhi, has spoken for the poor students in the universities the colleges, those who are down-trodden, who are to be given exercise books, who are to be given slates and pencils and for whom lending libraries are to be there and for whom other items are to be there, and now it is going to be hard for those who come for exercise books, who come for slates and pencils and who come for books. It is certainly a blot on the name of the 20-Point Programme.

Mr. Minister, the deficit will be almost Rs. 3,350 crores every year; may be it is Rs. 4,000 crores. But, by the time you end the Plan period, it will be a deficit of Rs. 20,000 crores. Remember, it will be your election year and it will be our election year and the taxpayers will not forget that they have been very heavily taxed.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: It is a long way off.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: I remember, Mr. Minister, a cartoon which appeared in one of the papers, a cartoon by a great cartoonist about your predecessor, Mr. Venkataraman, a great economist, indeed. And what is the cartoon? A housewife was kissing Mr. Venkataraman. But now I think it will be only the Birlas and the Jains and the Goenkas and the other monopolists who will be kissing the Minister, but certainly not the house wife. You know, the house wife are the real critics. Whether it is in England or in France or in the USA or any other developed country like Japan, it is the housewives who decide the fate of the party to come to power and it is the housewives and housewives only who are over hundred Mr. Minister they

are certainly not going to excuse us. Now, what has been said about the other items, about the consumer items? I have checked up from the Super Bazar and also the wholesale market. In respect of chillies, coriander, garlic, tamarind, jaggery, brown sugar, cashew nuts, pulses, the prices are on ascendancy and they are not going down. The prices are going up and not coming down, not to speak of the price of petrol, because you use a car and I probably use a car. The moment you introduced the Budget, within half-an-hour of introducing the Budget, when you increased by one rupee, we had to pay a rupee more and had to pay it through our nose because the dealers devalued it immediately. I do not know what action you have taken because they had only the old stocks and not the new stocks. But we had to pay, we the taxpayers. So, the prices are on the ascendancy and you can also know from your Government records that the prices are already on the ascendancy. I have checked up the prices of pulses, tur dal, blackgram, etc. and I have checked up the prices of these items from the wholesale market also. They are also rising. What about gold? Our women are fond of gold because the girls will have to be given away in marriage. But its price has gone up, by more than Rs. 200/-; something very strange. The housewife is shocked because the gold price has gone up by Rs. 200/- and certainly, it is the effect of your Budget. Then, Mr. Minister, whom are you going to please? The indirect taxes are going to affect the people and they are going to be robbed. Now, it is not stealing Peter to pay Paul or Hari or Shyam; not that. Now, Mr. Minister, you have to roll the pockets of the rich men. Waltair, the great philosopher, who guided the course of the French Revolution, said that if you have to have an egalitarian tax you should tax those who can pay and pay those who cannot pay. You are following the theory of Keens, not Waltair, nor Rasbis... nor Mirago. You are following the economic system of Keens who was the propounder of freedom of free enterprise. I am sorry, Mr.

Minister, telling all this because I personally believe in socialism and in an egalitarian society. But at the moment I see there is a move to another direction. Somebody should pay the price for it. I say that the direction is otherwise. Well, I appreciate that it may be a very good direction if you believe in that philosophy. But certainly it is a different direction, and not the direction which was initiated by Mrs. Gandhi or her great father, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Madam, Vice-Chairman, is it going to create inflation in this country? They said no. The officers in the Secretariat, in the Finance Ministry, say that there will be hardly 6 per cent inflation. It is a wishful thinking. Let us remember that in 1979 Budget the Minister had very fast thinking and was hopeful that there would be no inflation. But it was the failure of the monsoon, and as an economist put it, yet the failure of monsoon in 1979 set off an inflation of 21.4 per cent in 1979-80 and 1980-81 when the Congress was in power. The lessons of history are clear for those who wish to learn from them. I think you should learn this lesson that in spite of wishful thinking 22 per cent inflation came in 1979-80 and 1980-81. How can you assure this House that there will be no inflation? Already the prices are on the ascendency. And this is inflation. We need not go into the jugglery of words of your economic advisers in the Ministry. No housewife. All housewife are illiterate. No housewife. Not even myself can go into the jugglery of economic words to befool the people of this country and this Parliament. It is the housewife, who is illiterate, who goes to the market to buy. She has the pinch. She has the pinch. She has the pinch on her nose. And she knows where she stands. Cloth prices have increased. Food prices have increased. Rice prices have increased. Dal prices are on the increase. What is there? I am not going to eat mutton or chicken or cheese like rich people. Birlas, Dalmias, Goenkas, Jains, Himmatsinhas. I want to eat the

poor food, the prices of which are on the increase.

Sir, take the public sector. Are you interested in the public sector? In an interview our illustrious Prime Minister I have all appreciation for him; he is a very dynamic, very young, very charming and impressive Prime Minister—told Mr. Karanjia: we do not want controls, we want control. control has been the basis, of our economic theory. We want to control the rich magnets, the trend for black-marketing, hoarding or black money that has accumulated in this country. It is the theory which Mr. Morarji Deasi had propounded. When Mrs. Gandhi wanted to nationalise bank, Mr. Morarji Deasi said: socialisation of banks is not nationalisation. It is something like that. You do not want controls, you want control. Even countries like France or Greece are not thinking about control because without controls nothing can happen, the society will go astray and you do not know where it takes you. So you have to clarify about this interview the Prime Minister gave to Mr. Russi Karanjia.

[The Vice-Chairman, Shri R. Ramakrishnan in the chair].

Madam Vice-Chairman. . . (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Not Madam, but Mr. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: With my friend, my good friend, Mr. Mohapatra, this is the only fundamental error that he misses the reality so much. (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Mr. Thakur, who preceded me, was thinking about agricultural prosperity. The IRDP has become probably a catchword for all of us during the last five years. One of the greatest economists of our time of Poona School of Economics, Dr. Nilakant Ruth, has said:

4 P.M.

"The IRDP was expected to cover nearly 15 million poor households

[Shri Shyam Sundar Mohapatra] who were expected to be lifted above poverty by the end of the Sixth Plan period. What has been the result in these terms according to the various enquiries?"...

"In fact, putting the beneficiaries who had been able to cross the poverty line at 20 per cent of the beneficiaries (not counting those beneficiaries who were already above the poverty line) would appear to be on the high side."

He again says that hardly 6 per cent people have been benefited. Why is this? It is because of the lopsided policies and corrupt officers right from B. D. O. to Tehsildar to S. D. O., to the Collector and Section Officer, Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary. All the money that is given out to the States in the name of drought or flood or cyclone is misappropriated and you have no machinery to check it. I know about my own State, Orissa, how money has been misappropriated. You have no machinery to check it. Lot of things are coming to public notice. There is spying everywhere. Who is spying? I want to locate who is the spy, who is the Secretary who has been hauled up, who is the Additional Secretary, who is the Joint Secretary and who is the Chairman who has been hauled up. They are all P. As.; P. and small flies here and there. Our Prime Minister has said: "It is mostly industrial. There is very little of strategic or defence secrets involved." The are they economic secrets? Go to any Government office, roam in the corridors and you will find that business houses have their links in those offices. They want to know your policy. They try to assess not only from the lower strata of the people but from the high ups. Go to the Five-star hotels and check who goes there to the cocktail parties and dinners. Who attends these parties? It is the big flies and not the small or poor people. Nobody invites them. There are very few of them. Big

Government Secretaries go there. We can hardly travel in a first-class compartment in the train. They always fly in the air. They go in air-conditioned compartments. We are not entitled to it. There are persons from the multi-national and national houses. Go and find out and check them and have a break. Then only will this country move towards an egalitarian society. Thank you.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the budget that has been placed by the hon. Finance Minister. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh. I support this budget because it has heralded a new era. It has heralded an era of productivity, an era of growth and an era of employment generation. I support this budget because it has taken a very timely step in the matter of ensuring crop insurance to the farmers. With the incorporation of this provision in the budget, a long pending commitment of the Congress Party has been fulfilled. The Indian National Congress, at its session in Karachi, formulated a 10-Point Programme and the crop insurance was the first point. When the Bangalore session was held in 1969, a debate was held on this particular point. We are happy that his point has been taken care of in the budget this year. We are happy because the down-trodden sections of the society, the landless farmers, the landless workers and others are going to be covered by social security scheme. We are happy that this budget is going to give exemption to the tune of Rs. 18,000/- to the income-tax payers. We are happy that this budget is going to ensure free education to the girls all over the country up to the level of Higher Secondary education. We are happy that this budget is going to ensure more assistance to the States from 4313 crores to 6000 crores. This budget has taken care of this aspect also.

We are very happy with this Budget because this Budget has taken care of one very important aspect of our

present social problems. When the industrial units are closed, the workers who are employed in different industrial units are the worst sufferers. And the Budget says that those workers' dues should be cleared first on a priority basis before the other things are taken care of. We are happy with this Budget because this has ensured the continuation of the IRDR, the NREP and the RSEGP. We are happy with this Budget because this Budget has ensured that the rural development would be taken care of with the same vigour and enthusiasm and an amount of Rs. 9.30 crores had been sanctioned for this purpose. This Budget has encouraged us because this has taken care of the 20-point programme for which Rs. 4,9000 crores have been allotted as to against Rs. 4,141 crores that were spent earlier on this particular segment. We are happy with this Budget because this Budget has taken care of the interests of the farmers who were for some time on an agitation in the State of Maharashtra in the State of Punjab, in the State of Tamil Nadu, the farmers who were feeling that were being alienated, their causes were not being looked after. The crop insurance scheme would help them to feel that this Government is equally concerned about them.

Taking this opportunity, would like to thank our Finance Minister for reducing the price of kerosene oil, and the price of bidis. This is going to substantiate the desire of the Government to look after the cause of the poorer people. Taking this opportunity, I would also like to tell the Finance Minister that this has led me to take a decision that I will also stop smoking cigarettes and I will get into bidi from tomorrow.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: But I will be sorry my revenue will be lost.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Well, I may take the responsibility of motivating ten others to some cigarettes to enhance your revenue. Anyway, today's discussion is actually concentrated on

a particular concept which is called socialism. We have heard here many interpretations of socialism. Many views had been registered by many friends. And they are very upset that the principles of socialism have been compromised while submitting this Budget. I was remembering one book which I read long back, written by Lenin regarding the role of the feudals in a society when the revolution is going to take place. Lenin said that when the feudals apprehend that the revolution is going to take place, then they first start crying for the poorer section. They presume that they are the spokesmen of the weaker section of the society, they are the spokesmen of the poorer section of the society and they start crying for them. That is why the representatives of the kulaks, the representatives of the reactionary forces are crying today that socialism has been compromised. Who are crying today? Those who were in office for three years, those who were have got the farmers killed, those who have got the workers killed in the Pantnagar University, those who got the workers killed in the Swadeshi Cotton Mills, those who got the weaker section killed in different parts of the country, for whom the sugarcane growers had to bind their sugarcane, they are weeping today that the principle of socialism has been compromised. Who are weeping today that the principle of socialism has been compromised? It is those who are having their honeymoon in the State of West Bengal with the multinationals. Who are weeping today for socialism? It is those who were for 30 years agitating that the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation should be taken over and who have after coming to power, given permission to the CESC to put up a unit in Mulajore spending Rs. 2 crores. Those CPM friends are now weeping that the concept of socialism has been compromised. Those who are now giving permission to the Hindustan Lever to put up new units in Haldia despite the fact that the Hindustan Lever is a multinational are now weeping that the concept of

[Shri Deba Prasad Ray]
socialism has been compromised. So, I am sorry to say that many of our friends are required to be taught what the concept of socialism is. The concept of socialism they understand, the concept of socialism they have seen in the so-called socialist countries is not going to be accepted by us. We are not going to accept that concept of socialism. We are not going to accept that concept as socialism because that has led to the establishment of State capitalism.

If that concept of State capitalism is being propagated today, we are going to resent that. Who are advocating the establishment of State capitalism on the floor of the House? Those who have been rejected by the people in the recent elections? Who are opposing the Budget on the floor of the House? Those who have been opposed by the people in the recently held elections? Who are rejecting the Budget today? Who have no place in the political life today or on the streets and in the villages of the different parts of the country.

I would like to tell, Sir, that the concept of democratic socialism which had been propagated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, which had been reiterated by Mrs. Gandhi during her life-time has been further upheld while this Budget has been submitted. I would like to say that if you understand the concept of democratic socialism and if you understand the economy of our country, then you would find that this Budget has taken care of that concept while it was being formulated because in your country when the economy represents only 12 per cent of your total economy and your country which is by and large an agrarian economy, in that country you need two fundamental things. My friends should also understand one thing namely that socialism can never be achieved by distribution of poverty. Socialism has to be achieved by the distribution of wealth. So, on the one hand, you have to generate wealth and, on the other hand you have to ensure that the economic power is transferred from the affluent section

of the society to the hands of the poorer sections. So, while on the industrial front efforts have to be made to generate more money, efforts have to be made to generate more wealth, efforts have to be made to improve the growth of the economy and efforts have to be made to create employment opportunities, an effort is also being made to ensure that the economic power is transferred from the hands of the affluent sections of the society to the hands of the poorer sections of the society. That is why the 20-point programme has been further upheld. That is why a commitment has been made to implement the 20-point programme more vigorously by spending more to the tune of Rs. 4,300 crores this year. If the fourth point in the 20-point programme which envisages the transfer of land from the possession of the landlords to the landless peasant is not a socialist measure, I do not understand what socialism is. If point number six in the 20-point programme, which says that so much minimum wages must be paid to the landless, is not a socialist measure, I do not understand what socialism is. If point number nine in the 20-point programme, which envisages distribution of house-sites to the houseless people, is not a socialist measure, I do not understand what Shri Mahapatra understands by socialism. What is his concept of socialism.

Sir, I would like to tell you one thing. I belong to Bengal. I would like to tell you two or three things before I conclude my speech on the floor of this House. In Bengal there is a regular charge levelled against the Central Government. What is the charge? The charge is that Bengal is being deprived, Bengal is not being looked after by the Central Government, and that is why the people are being asked to agitate, agitate against Mr. Gandhi's Government and an impression is being created that Bengal is a colony of the Central Government. But what are the facts? What is the truth? What is the reality? The facts are that during the Sixth Plan Period from 1980 to

1985, the State Government was to spend Rs. 3,500 crores on Plan expenditure. And what was the share of the State Government and the Central Government? The Central Government was to spend Rs. 1,322 crores. While the State Government was to invest Rs. 2,178 crores. What happened when the five years had been completed? The Central Government contributed Rs. 1,685 crores as against Rs. 1,322 crores and the State Government contributed only Rs. 178 crores on the Plan expenditure and even after that they have said that the central Government is not giving the due share to the State of Bengal and the total contribution of the State Government is less than 10 per cent and even after that the friends of the CPM party are saying here that the Central Government has to look after the State more effectively.

Sir, I have a charge against the Finance Minister. I have a complaint against the Finance Minister. The State which has actually defalcated, the State which has spent only Rs. 17.25 against each Rs. 100 for the Plan expenditure, which has wasted money on non-Plan expenditure, the State which has wasted money on non-productive purpose you are going to give again Rs. 6000 crores to that State, as against is. 4141 crores. You are going to give them the opportunity to steal more. You are going to give them the opportunity to pirate in the State of West Bengal. You are going to give them the opportunity to destroy the economy of Bengal, taking advantage of the political events. I would like to say that there has been a complaint in the State of West Bengal that ever since the Marxist Government has come to power, the Central Government has stopped investing in the public sector in that State. But what do the facts say? What do the figures reveal? It says that investment of the Central Government during the period 1978-79 to 1980-83, during these 5 years, in public sector in West Bengal has gone up from Rs. 1083 crores to Rs. 2394 crores. It is an increase of 121 per cent in the investment in pub-

lic sector in the State of West Bengal. But how has the West Bengal Government been behaving? It has ensured that a thousand industries are under lock-out; it has ensured that all jute mills are closed down; it has ensured that all cold-storages are closed down. Shri Ashoke Mitra, the Finance Minister there, has stated while presenting his State Budget on the floor of the Assembly that in the State of West Bengal, there have been 12,000 cases of lock-out and 16,000 cases of strike, and that the working class is coming out. It is coming out—the working class is coming out—on the streets, being unemployed. The working class is coming out on the streets to demand employment which they are going to lose today because of the kind of anti-people Government in the State of West Bengal. I would like to tell you; you may laugh; you may enjoy; but I tell you that when your Shri Nirmal Chatterjee was speaking, he used the word, or coined the word and said repeatedly in his speech 'arrival'. But what is actually being foreseen by him or what I am foreseeing is, it is not 'arrival'; it is 'departure'. It is departure from the office of the Government there; it is departure from this House to those areas where they belong to, and that departure is going to take place and that is why they are trying to turn the eyes of the people of West Bengal by putting the blame on the shoulders of the Central Government so that people do not demand anything from them. Mr. Ashoke Mitra said that his is the Government which has submitted a surplus Budget in West Bengal. I would remind him that a surplus budget was also submitted by Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray when he was the Chief Minister, and when he presented the surplus Budget, he did not know that after some time he will prove politically surplus himself. I may tell you that today you have presented a surplus budget; in 1987 you will find yourself politically surplus in the State or West Bengal and people will make you politically surplus. I can tell you..... (Interruptions.) You cannot throttle my voice in Delhi; you cannot throttle

[Shri Deba Prasad Ray]

my voice on the floor of Parliament. You have throttled the voice of the people in West Bengal. You cannot do so here. You have killed thousands of our party workers in West Bengal but you cannot cause any harm to me. That is why I am taking the advantage of revealing truth before the Members of Parliament so that they know what is going on in West Bengal.

When our Prime Minister said that Calcutta city is dying, he was modest, because he said that it is dying. But it has virtually died. Calcutta is a port city and the port activity has thoroughly stopped. Why has the port activity stopped? It is because of labour unrest; it is because of agitations. Port activity has completely stopped and the city has because there is no law and order. . . (Interruptions). I may tell you this, though it is not relevant to the Budget but still I may tell you that when an IPS Officer went to control anti-social people, he has mercilessly beaten by the local hoodlums. And after the police went and arrested the king of the gang, Idris Mian, he was also killed . . . (Interruptions.) would tell you, . . . (Interruptions,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Mr. Gopalsamy, the point is, in the President's Address and in the Budget, anything under, below or above the Sun can be spoken. This is the past convention.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: This can be done on the Appropriation Bill. Not on the Budget.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Mr. Ray, please conclude.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: I am not using abusive language. I am using modest language because I have

not been taught in the way you have been taught, using abusive language, while addressing Government, while addressing the hon. Finance Minister. When you said, the Finance Minister is going to loot the country, when you said, the Government is going to kiss the Tatas and Birlas, were you using relevant language? Is this a relevant language you are using? But I can tell you, in regard to the concern about socialism which you have expressed, you need not be worried about that, because socialism would be established in this country, would be implemented in this country, not under the banner of C.P.I.(M) and its allies, not under their red flag, but under the tri-colour Socialism would be established in this country, would be implemented in this country, not under the leadership of Jyoti Basu and . . . (Interruptions)* You are the of the Communist Party. Why are you shouting? (Interruptions) If you have the courage, you tell the truth. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Sir, on a point of order. (Interruptions)

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: I will continue to speak . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: How can he say 'You are a'

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): I will look into the record. Now, please conclude, Mr. Ray.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Sir, I am concluding by saying this . . . (Interruptions) Mr. Gopalsamy, I can take care of you also. I am concluding by saying that socialism which is being envisaged by our party, would be implemented by our great leader Rajiv Gandhi.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

in this country, in this great country; the path to socialism will be led by Rajiv Gandhi and not by Jyoti Basu and Raniamurti. With these words. I am concluding. Thank you very much.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am on a point of order. Will you allow the deliberations of the House to go on in a language which is derogatory to the dignity of the House, which is derogatory to the great principle of Parliamentary democracy? Will it be allowed? (*Interruptions*) Secondly, Sir, is it parliamentary to call a political party* (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): I have heard your point. (*Interruptions*)

I have already said, in relation to the point of the C.P.I.(M) Member, that I will look into the records. If there is anything unparliamentary, mentioned by Mr. Ray, I will definitely expunge it. (*Interruptions*). It is a manner of speaking. There are various. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, a party has been called* Is it necessary to go through the record, to understand, to find out whether it is unparliamentary and then not allow it?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): It is a matter of opinion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Only watch-dog is allowed.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Sir, if the language is unparliamentary, I am prepared to attribute some other name* to define him.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM (West Bengal): Sir, I rise on a point of order. I fully endorse what my learned friend Mr. Gurudas Gupta has

said. Shri Deba Prasad Ray, hon. Member of this House . . . (*Interruptions*) Please allow me one minute. He was teaching the opposition, particularly the CPI(M) to use good words and when Mr. Amarprosad Chakraborty wanted to raise the point of order, he said that he was*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): That matter is settled.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: You please look into the proceedings and expunge the word.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): I have already told you about this.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: He said you are*. It is not a gentleman's word. This is the word used by a *

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: I am prepared to become a* to take care of those who are killing my people in the State.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, like the proverbial phrase that all the roads lead to Rome, now that all the praise and tributes are flowing in favour of our dynamic Finance Minister who has presented this excellent budget this year after the new Government is formed, this is the first realistic budget that has been presented. This is the realistic budget which care generate more production, more wealth in the country for the welfare of the masses.

The Union budget that is presented now, has been described by the press, industry and individuals as being innovative, bold and incentive packed, progressive, result-oriented and yet a balanced one which gave reliefs to all sections of the society. I have absolutely no hesitation to proclaim that

[Shri K. L.N. Prasad]

these proposals are quite refreshing. They should serve as shot in the arm for all round development. However, as usual, some sections proclaim that it is a rich man's budget, anti-people, anti-States, inflationary and eyewash budget. This kind of rationalisation or justification by various groups is to be expected after the announcement of any union budget in a democracy like ours.

As everyone is aware, budget is generally a compromise of various issues and shall have its own merits and demerits. To expect the budget to be everything to everyone is neither possible nor realistic. (*Interruptions*). Well, compromise is part of life.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is why you have compromised socialism also.

SHRI K.L.N. PRASAD: We have not compromised socialism. Who has said it? My friend Mohapatra might have said it, you might say it, but we have not said that. We are on the road to socialism. The more relevant question is not whether a particular group or section is benefited more than the other but whether the budget as a whole is beneficial to all sections of the society, that is the question. When viewed from this perspective, this budget is undoubtedly more comprehensive and realistic as compared to any of the previous budgets. This is the budget based on the present economy of the country and definitely not drawn for political ends. It clearly indicates the present administration's objectivity and optimism in the further growth of industrial and agricultural sectors of the country and well being of the people. This is evidenced by the fact that the Government's intent is to simplify the tax system by eliminating outdated and ineffective tax laws which cannot be enforced fully and effectively. Reduction of income tax for individuals and that of the corporate sector is really a good measure, a measure which generates more revenue for the Government. As long as you accept mixed economy

as a concept and tax every rupee almost up to 70 per cent or 80 per cent, evasion is bound to be there. However stringent laws you may make, those will not be effective and this has been proved amply.

Now the abolition of Compulsory Deposit Scheme will reduce a lot of work of the Government and a lot of harassment to the assesseees. Regarding Estate Duty, as some of our friends have been arguing, why should those who are dying not be allowed to die in peace, Not only that, after all a person who is dying will die in peace, but the people who survive him will have great problems, almost as bad as death—like harassment from the officers etc. And ultimately what is the revenue that the Government was getting? It was about 20 crore. I am sure with these measures which the hon. Finance Minister has taken, the revenue receipts shall be much larger. When taxation is kept at high rates, it does not mean that revenues will be higher. This will not only give incentive to the business community, but also reduce the proliferation of black money. Our hon. Prime Minister has been saying that a number of times. He has stated that he intends to curb black money and take all measures that are necessary towards that end. The steps which have been taken in the Budget are in that direction. To say that income tax has been reduced only to benefit the rich is not a correct argument. Reliefs have been given to the farmers. Duties on agricultural inputs, fertiliser industry and other things have been reduced. Although a lot has to be done, a beginning has been made. A beginning that had been made earlier and this is an improvement on that. Therefore those support reliefs and measures that have been brought out in this Budget will benefit all sections of the society and the Government's emphasis on growth and application of new technologies and management techniques is also to be taken note of.

Welfare measures proposed for industrial workers and crop insurance scheme for the farmers are indeed welcome features and will certainly help economic growth.

The two widely debated issues in the Budget are favourable tax reduction for the middle and upper classes, doing away with Estate Duty and Compulsory Deposit Scheme. Another is the heavy levy on petroleum products which has hit all sections of the society—whether poor or rich. In this connection, I would like to emphasise the fact that taking into consideration the present wage levels and cost of living, the exemption limit should have been raised at least to Rs. 25,000. Today 18,000 means Rs. 1500 a month which is a salary which is being drawn in most of the industrial undertakings and elsewhere by even the drivers, mechanics, supervisory staff and so on and so forth. Therefore the limit should have been raised. We were expecting the hon. Finance Minister to be more generous and to raise the limit to Rs. 25,000, which is not at all excessive in the present day conditions. By this way he may have taken away another five to ten lakhs of assesseees from his files, thereby giving a greater opportunity and more time to the Department to concentrate on the bigger assesseees where the real evasion is taking place, particularly in urban and metropolitan cities; that is where the money is. And what is the point of trying to milk a bullock? You should tackle a fatty cow which can give some milk. There is absolutely no argument in saying that these reliefs should not be given at the lower strata: in other words you are only encouraging dishonesty. Instead of that, the budget is trying to encourage the people to be more honest. If you take the loss of revenue into consideration, what is the revenue loss? The revenue loss will be a very meagre amount by this increase in the limit to Rs. 25,000. I am sure, even at this stage many sections will be happy, more people will

be happy, if the Finance Minister could consider increasing this exemption limit to Rs. 25,000 and, by this, whatever loss be is going to suffer can be made up in the higher strata of the society where income tax evasion is. Although the rate of taxation is brought down to 50 per cent, I am sure the revenue will be greater, much more than before. But still there will be some people at the highest levels who may like to avoid that also and not take the opportunity given by the Government. There the officers can use all their wisdom and try to get the maximum tax from those sections of society. This way you can contribute to bring out, at least to some extent, the black money. Objectively speaking the simplification of the tax system is justified and is in the best interests of the country's economy and certainly not just for the benefit of the few rich. These proposals have to be understood in the wider context of the conditions prevailing in our country and the world at large.

I am not one of those cynics to be alarmed at the uncovered deficit of Rs. 3,300 crores. Why I say this is because, the unaccounted money or the black money,—by whatever name you call it—is perhaps running into several thousand crores. If you can bring into account, into circulation, into production, at least a part of that money, your deficit can be easily covered. Why tax at 70 per cent or 80 per cent, why make such proposals which can not be implemented, and call it greater socialism and ultimately fail in collecting the money and produce more deficits in the budgets? It is not going to help us. Be realistic, be pragmatic and do things which are practical. I am sure that even now, since the taxation is kept at 50 per cent at the highest slab another voluntary disclosure scheme will bring in a lot of black money into the economy. The Bearer Bonds Scheme was more or less a failure because it has brought in only a thousand crores, the reasons being that it carries only two per cent

[Shri K. L. N. Prasad]

of interest. I do not think all those people who are having money will keep money in hundred rupee notes in tens, ones in their coffers. It will be invested somewhere in some shape or other, in brick and mortar, in steel and cement, somewhere in gold and jewellery or in some kind of material. Nobody will keep money as money, knowing as they do that any day a raid may take place at any moment of time. And another anomaly in this is the capital gains tax. Supposing one is having a property from his grandfather's time, he wants to sell it—naturally the prices have gone up—and if the Government wants to take away 50 per cent of that, then, the thinking will start how to save more money. Therefore, any tax that you levy should be practicable. We were hoping that some steps would be taken to reduce the capital gains tax or to give some relief in that also, but nothing has been done in this Budget. Probably, the Finance Minister did not want to give all the reliefs at one time. And that way what amount of black money is generating, if one can apply one's mind, one can easily understand. In the urban areas, in all the sales that are taking place of either houses or house-sites or lands or anything of that kind, they are under-valued for registration purposes. There are two things. One is the high registration charges and to get rid of some black money by the purchase and the other to save some tax. This way we are encouraging black money. How can we control it? I do not say that you do not tax at all. You tax, but be practicable. Take all the factors into consideration. It is all right. Somebody sells a property and invests in an industry. You say, "You will not be asked any question." (Time bell rings) What is this? You have already started ringing the bells.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): You have already taken 16 minutes.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: I have taken eleven or twelve minutes. All this galaba also you are putting to my account.

If I say that our hon. Finance Minister has generated a wave of enthusiasm in all sections of the society, it is not an exaggeration. This will go a long way in the growth. In this Budget he has tried to offer incentives as well as practical reliefs to all sections of the people. In my opinion, it is sheer perversion to attribute motives to the Finance Minister's proposals in offering the incentives to the corporate sector. I am glad that he has not gone by any narrow approach. Nor did he play to the gallery. As a matter of fact, it is a realistic approach to the affairs of the nation. One has to sympathise with the political critics in the House and outside.

If my friend, Mr. Upendra, and other friends do not mind, I would like to say that our great Chief Minister described this Budget as an eye-wash, and the next day he wanted to go by an auto-rickshaw as a protest against the increase in the petroleum prices. I do not know whether he is going by an auto-rickshaw or by a Maruti car or an Ambassador car. Tomorrow he may get into some other bigger car.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: It is a symbolic protest.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: It is a factual report. It has appeared in the Press. So you do not have to say anything.

Well, everyone has the freedom of speech. They can say what they want. But we have to talk what is practicable. What is practicable and what is not, is the question. The increase in the petroleum price, no doubt, will hit all the sections of the society. But it has become inevitable. When the petroleum bill goes up by a thousand crores, how do you produce that money

unless you tax? Where from do you get Rs. 1,000 crores? It is not Rs. 5 crores or Rs. 10 crores or Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 50 crores to pinch somebody else and meet this bill. Therefore, it has become inevitable and there is no point in criticising the Finance Minister on that account. The dollar value has soared almost from Rs. 9. Now, it has gone up to Rs. 13. There is no alternative left to the Finance Minister. The only remedy for this, is to increase our oil production which we are doing and will become self-reliant in course of time. Earlier we were importing oil at cheaper prices and we did not open our eyes. But when the oil countries have increased their prices then we have opened our eyes. We have started exploration of oil and I must say that the ONGC is doing a commendable job and I congratulate them. Any investment on oil exploration is worth spending at this juncture. There are many good features in this budget and many more have to come. There are many anomalies in the income-tax law. The citizens who pay income-tax are subjected to lot of harassment. At one time the income-tax department was one of the cleanest departments. But, now it has been completely polluted. No paper moves without money. This is the situation existing there. The Finance Minister should assure that there will not be any harassments in the future. If they harass the rich who are evading the tax is alright. We will not prevent them from doing their jobs.

I am happy that the Finance Minister has extended reliefs to the farmers by introducing crop insurance and abolishing the excise duty on fertilisers. The crop insurance scheme was talked about for a long time, but actually it has come into practice. This should be implemented vigorously. By removing the excise duties on the fertilisers, the farmers will be greatly benefited. The agricultural production will increase. In this modern age, it is only right that we should catch up with the new innovative technology both

in industrial and agricultural sectors. The relief should be given wherever there is growth without any distinction. By this way, we can take away many items from the annual tax collection and this saves a lot of administrative work. A common man is saved from the pilgrimage to various Government offices and also do away with the inspecting staff who normally tends to harass.

I am also happy that the Finance Minister has completely exempted from paying licence fee on radio and television sets. It is a good move. The revenue loss to the Government on this account is negligible. I think lot of work-load will be saved.

I am glad that the Finance Minister has announced yesterday some reliefs in respect of diesel, kerosene and bidis. These items are, to a large extent, being consumed by the poorer sections of the society and they will be greatly benefited. I do not know why the Finance Minister has not given relief on the "paan-masala" item. I do not know whether the Minister uses "paan masala" or not. I also do not know whether he smokes.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: But he has exempted "supari". It does not apply to the "supari" item.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: I do not know whether some of my friends here use "paan-masala". Now it costs them lot of money. On cigarettes the tax has already been increased very much. Although I do not smoke.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Please conclude now.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Now the cigarettes have been made a luxury item. Instead of taxing on the cigarettes why don't the Government tax on the imported alcoholic beverages. We know that millions and millions of cases are being smuggled into our country. And we should stop this

[Shri K. L. N. Prasad]

smuggling. Whatever methods you would like to adopt please adopt but stop this and allow these alcoholic beverages to be sold freely and charge Rs. 50 extra for each bottle. Nobody minds, it. That way you can get tax, we do not mind.

While appreciating all the realistic proposals made by the hon. Finance Minister; I would like to make a few suggestions. I am coming to the end of my speech. One thing that I would like to appeal to the Finance Minister is that we have many large on-going projects which are going slow, which are limping, which are not making any progress for want of money, for want of adequate budget provisions. For instance, there is our Vizag Steel Plant. Already we seem to have spent about Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,200 crores on that project and this year the budget provision is so small that I am told—I was in Vizag the other day and they were saying this—what has been allotted about 200 crores and that this money will be sufficient only for two months' work. What will happen in the rest of the ten months? Prices will increase and the cost of the project will go further up. At this rate, the escalation will go much higher and we will not be able to complete the project in time and we will not be able to reap the benefits from it. Similarly the Nagarjunasagar project in Andhra Pradesh was originally estimated to cost Rs. 65 crores and now we have spent about Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 crores or more. Still the canal work remains to be done. The canals are not fully dug. Only the project is ready.

Therefore, when we take up a large project, let us complete it as early as possible and then go to another project. Thereby you will get the benefits of the project quickly. Otherwise these projects will go on for ever, for decades. The Governments will be changing one after another, but there

will be no end to these projects. (Time bell rings).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): You have already taken 28 minutes.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): I am on a point of order.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): You have only counted the minutes—28 minutes. But you have not noted that he has spoken less words in those 28 minutes.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Thank you.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Sir, the Congress Party being the largest party has a time-limit fixed for them. If each of their speakers speaks for a longer time, then only less number of speakers from their side can speak. If they speak for a lesser time then a chance can be given to more people (Interruptions)

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Please don't count this time too.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Please conclude.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: There is mention about the withdrawal of the investment relief in a phased manner in the Finance Minister's speech. I do not think it will be a wise thing to do. We want industrial development. You know how the costs of machinery have gone up, both imported and indigenous. And you are also aware that on imported machinery a substantial amount of duty has to be paid. With all these things, if you take away the investment allowance, I am sure the desired results will not be achieved. It should be continued as before.

I am glad that the disallowance of expenditure on advertising publicity etc. has been removed. In my opinion,

it should have been made with effect from the date when this was imposed in order to be equitable and reasonable as it is likely to lead to a lot of litigation and harassment.

One or two more suggestions I would like to make.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Please conclude. Otherwise I am afraid your party will have no time. For your information, I may say one thing because Mr. Matto raised this point. The Congress-I had only 1 hour and 23 minutes and they have already used it up. Therefore, I will not allow anybody else from them now.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Then, the withdrawal of rural development allowance available under Section 35C (c) is perhaps not in the right direction. There may be some people who are misusing it. But these things can be checked. You have the machinery to check it. If you want in such schemes and programmes you can involve MLAs, MPs and other representatives of the people and Government officials, to see that these schemes work properly instead of doing away with the provision itself.

Another thing is deletion of Section 80VV and introduction of Clause 12A under Section 40A which does not permit allowance of expenditure incurred in connection with the various proceedings under the Income Tax Act. How does one represent before the Income Tax Officer? The law itself is so complicated? If the Chartered Accountants or Auditors are not allowed their professional fees, how are they to function? Therefore you will kindly consider permitting them their professional fees. Then about increasing the limit of the allowance under Section 80C in respect of payments or contributions made to LIC, Provident Fund, Public Provident Fund, Cumulative Time Deposits, Purchase of Na-

tional Savings Certificates. This should be raised considerably so that you can mop up extra resources available with the public and which can be utilised by you for development purposes.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): No, no, I cannot allow you any more. It becomes very difficult for the Chair at this rate. I am calling the next speaker, Mr. Birla now...

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Now one last thing, about newspapers; this is very important...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): That is correct, but you should have talked about it earlier. Your own party members are coming and objecting. What can I do? I can only regulate what is before me. I have been very lenient with you. Only one minute more and please conclude.

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Newspaper is a good media to convey news even to the remote corners of the country. Although TV is there, radio is there, yet newspapers play a very important role. My friend, Mr. Ramakrishnan, who is now in the Chair, has made good suggestions and I do not want to repeat the same. But I want the Minister to consider removing the duty on newsprint. Indigenous newsprint is being sold at a much higher price than imported newsprint. Even the machinery is being imported. There also no concession has been given. Newspaper is not a business. I am not talking of the big newspapers I am talking of the small and medium newspapers. You must give some consideration to them. I think the definition of "small" and "medium" newspapers should also be examined and redefined because the limit of 15,000 and 50,000 respectively was set many years ago when readership was not much....(Time bell rings).

Just one thing more. I would like to draw attention to only one aspect

[Shri K. L. N. Prasad]

and that is an observation made by our Prime Minister the other day about the functioning of banks in our country. He said the less we talk about these banks, the better it is. One can read volumes into this observation. What are the banks doing now? Look at the way the banks are advancing money, the way the banks are behaving after nationalisation. The poor country is losing hundreds of crores of rupees by way of bad debts. You will have to do something about it. If only time permits I could have said a lot of things about the functioning of the banks. If you open the cupboards of the banks, not one Rajinder Sethia who has swindled so much many many other Chota Sethias will come out of these cupboards.

Please think of appointing a 5.00 P.M. Parliamentary Committee to go into the working of the Banks. Otherwise these Rs. 60,000 crores which are in the banking sector you will not be able to safeguard touch. You cannot allow some of these Chairmen and other executives of these banks to build empires for themselves and behave in the way they are doing at the cost of the common man.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me this opportunity of speaking on the Budget.

First, I would like to offer a personal explanation. I understand that my name was called at quarter past three when I was not present. There appears to be some misunderstanding on this point. I thought I had informed our Secretariat that I had to attend an important meeting and I will not be able to come at 3-30. This appears to be a case of misunderstanding. Anyway, I take the entire blame on myself.

I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for an excellent

budget which he has presented. In my opinion it is a growth-oriented budget. There are a number of good features about the budget. First, crop insurance has been introduced. Social security scheme to cover risk of death by accident in respect of members of poor families has been introduced. A large number of industries have been de-licensed. The MRTP limit which was Rs. 20 crores has now been revised to Rs. 100 crores. In the case of small-scale and ancillary industries also the limits have been suitably revised.

Another thing which the Finance Minister has done is that he has given a sort of philosophy as to the stability of corporate taxes by indicating what the pattern of taxes is likely to be in the next two years. This is something which is very welcome.

Another welcome step he has taken is to permit companies to donate to political parties. He also raised the income-tax exemption limit from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000 taking away about 10 lakh assesseees from the net of income-tax. That is a very good feature of the Budget.

Then he has lowered the rates at all levels and this would lead, in my opinion, to better compliance. This will lead to more savings, investment, increase in output and more employment in the country.

As far as estate duty is concerned, the total revenue collected through this was not very large. It was a very bold step he has taken in removing it because this was a great pin-prick for all sectors of society and it was causing great harassment.

Reduction of the import duty on project import is again something for which the Finance Minister needs congratulations because this would really be leading the country towards lowering the cost of capital projects particularly in respect of fertilizer

where the duty has been zero. This is a very wise step. Now, I would like to make a few observations.

A question has been raised as to whether as a result of this uncovered huge deficit the situation will lead to inflation. As far as 1984-85 is concerned when the budget was presented the Finance Minister expected the deficit to be Rs. 1,773 crores. Actually the year closed with almost Rs. 4,900 crores deficit and yet the inflation in 1984-85 was only 4.50 per cent. Sir, as far as the year 1985-86 is concerned I see no risk of inflation provided we have good monsoons and there I would also like to add that even as far as the monsoons are concerned, they are no longer that big a gamble in our economy as they used to be many years back. What is necessary now is that the prices of certain constituents are to be kept under check. There are constituents which go into the cost of production of any industry and I would also plead with the Finance Minister that as far as these constituents are concerned, which would affect any industry, whether it is steel or whether it is sugar or whether it is textiles, as far as these constituents are concerned, they should be kept under check. So, these constituents are, firstly, power and, secondly, steel. Steel is needed even for such industries as sugar and textiles because if the steel prices were to rise, then the cost of production will also rise. It is because every industry needs spare parts and every industry needs capital goods. In case the steel prices were to rise, the prices of the capital goods would also rise and that would affect every industry. While talking about steel, it is with great alarm that I would like to mention that since June 1984 to February 1985, the steel prices have been increased to the extent of almost 30 per cent and this is something unprecedented and, as a result of that, as far as I know, the Indian steel has become probably the costliest steel in the world. My appeal to the

Finance Minister would have been not to have increased the steel prices like this, but to have kept them under control by better cost control, better performance and greater efficiency.

Sir, the Finance Minister said quite a lot so far as the industrial sickness is concerned and everyone is worried about the industrial sickness and that, in fact, is the nation's worry. To counter that, Sir, the Finance Minister has suggested and has proposed the constitution of a board, that is, Board for Financial and Industrial Reconstruction. That is a step in the right direction. But, side by side, the honourable Finance Minister has also said that wherever 100 per cent of the net worth of a project of a company is wiped out, the management should change. Reading between the lines, it appears that what he has said is that where bad management is responsible for this, only in such cases this should take place. I would only like to urge that there should not be any generalisation on such steps and each company's case should be considered on its own merits. I say this for the simple reason that sometimes industries lose their net worth not owing to any fault of theirs or bad management, but for many other reasons completely beyond their control. For example, take the case of infrastructure. Now, in case there are shortages in infrastructure, they may affect the industries' viability in a very big way. Now, take the case of power failure. I know of a number of steel plants which are sick and which are on the verge of collapse purely because there have been power failures in a number of States. This is one factor. Unfortunately, even diesel engines cannot be used. Diesel engines cannot be used for the simple reason that as far as power is concerned, in respect of many steel plants, this is a kind of raw material and this should be obtained at a lower price where the cost of production of power by diesel engine is very high.

[Shri Krishna Kumar Birla]

Sir, early today, when the Finance Minister was answering some of the questions—there were questions regarding the performance of the public sector—he himself admitted that in the case of the steel industry, some of the units were not doing well owing to lack of coal and owing to constant power failures. So, this is exactly my point and that is why I say that one should not judge the performance of an industry where bad performance is owing to factors or for reasons beyond the industry's control. Take the case of organised cotton textiles. Now, Sir, certain concessions are given to powerlooms. I am not trying to criticize anyone for that. But the fact remains that whereas powerlooms are doing fairly well, as far as the organised sector of the industry is concerned, it could not stand in competition against the powerlooms, with the benefits that were given to them. Apart from that, there is a large scale of smuggling which again affects the textile industry.

Take the case of jute industry. Now, Sir, there was a big shortage of jute this year. Probably many of the hon. Members might be surprised to hear that jute had touched the price level of more than Rs. 1000 per quintal, which means, more than Rs. 10 per kg. This was something unheard of. In the textile industry in Bombay, you are aware that three years back there was a strike which lasted for one year, and as a result of that the textile industry in Bombay became sick.

These are some of the cases. Sometimes, due to reasons beyond one's control an industry becomes sick.

Take the case of cement industry. Now, Sir, the cement industry, and particularly those units which started in 1984 or 1985, are facing sickness. Why? Because the cement price was last revised in 1982, both in respect of levy, as to how much levy should

be given to newly started factories and also as far as prices are concerned. So for the last three years, particularly for cement factories started in 1984 and 1985, nothing has been done, and so the cement industry which started recently is facing a crisis.

Sir, two days back I spoke about the wagons industry. Last year, wagons' order was reduced and this year, according to a proposal which has been made it appears that the wagons industry is going to get busy only for 2½ months; for 9½ months it will be forced to lay off the labour. And when the weapons industry becomes sick, a large number of ancillary industries will also become sick.

Take another case, the shipping industry. This is a world-wide phenomenon. It does not exclude the shipping industry in India. But the shipping industry throughout the world is passing through a period of great crisis, and this includes the Shipping Corporation also.

So, Sir, my submission to the hon. Finance Minister will be that as far as sick industries are concerned, please do not be in haste. It is not only the private sector but also the public sector which will be involved and the matter has to be examined from a broad angle.

Sir, a small point is regarding unit Trust. I would very strongly urge that as far as Unit Trusts are concerned, let it be promoted in the private sector also in the form of investment trusts.

Sir, one major problem is regarding the smuggling of gold. Gold is being smuggled on a very large scale. I am aware that the Government has offered certain inducements to the vigilance people who can catch hold of smugglers. But, Sir, something more is required to be done. The price of gold in the international market is something like 292 dollars. These are the figures which I collected three or

four days back. The price of gold is going up and down every day. But three or four days back it was round about 292 dollars, which in rupees and in our terminology of 10 grams works out to a price of Rs. 1750. Now Sir, gold here two or three days back was being quoted at over Rs. 2110 per 10 grams, which means that there was a profit of Rs. 360 per 10 grams. Even after providing for certain expenses carrying expenses, etc., the profit was more than Rs. 300 per 10 grams. Now, Sir, how much gold is being smuggled into the country? That is anybody's guess. But I did have a talk with certain jewellers and their estimate was that perhaps something like 100 tonnes of gold is being smuggled into the country. This means that the middlemen or the smugglers are making a profit of 300 crores per year. That is why I say that as far as gold smuggling is concerned, this is big business and the Finance Minister should apply his mind as to what ought to be done. It is giving a profit of 300 crores of rupees to the smugglers and Rs. 1700 crores worth of foreign exchange is being clandestinely drained off. For good or for bad, I would give a suggestion and hope that the Finance Minister will give it a try. My suggestion would be that the import of gold should be officially permitted. The question will be from where is the foreign exchange going to come. I would like to say that let us export silver and let us import gold on an official basis. Let the Government of India do it or let the private sector do it or there can be some sort of link between the two. There should be a kind of joint operation. I was told that if we export 50 tonnes of silver then we can import one ton of gold. There is plenty of silver in the country. The estimate is that 81 lakh tonnes of silver is there in the country. Therefore, if we export silver the stock of silver in the country would not be depleted. I would only put this proposal before the hon. Finance Minister for his kind consideration.

Sir the imposition of excise duty on some items was satisfactory. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to two or three items. One is the case of cement. It is a recognised practice that when any industry is passing through a period of difficulties, then that industry is usually saved from excise duty. We find that the excise duty on cement was formerly 205 rupees per ton. It has been increased to 225 rupees per ton even though the cement industry is passing through a difficult period.

Another case which I would like to mention is regarding marble. I would like to say that the excise duty which has been imposed works out to round about 8 rupees per square foot. I was told that people who are mining cheaper varieties of marble will be hard hit. It may be all right for people who are mining very fine quality of marble. But there are a large number of people who are working on a small scale and who are producing very inferior type of marble. This excise duty will hit them hard. I would like the Finance Minister kindly to have another look at this.

As far as tea is concerned we are grateful that the Finance Minister has given certain concessions. But he has stipulated that this concession will apply only to companies which are either exclusively tea companies or which are nearest to the tea companies. The idea is that people may be able to modernise their tea estates. I would plead with the Finance Minister that this concession be given to all the tea gardens whether they are in one company or whether the company has diversified.

This is the first year of the Seventh Plan. (Time Bell rings) Please give me three minutes more. Our outlay for the central sector in the first year is 18500 crores. The outlay for the central sector in the last year of the

[Shri Krishna Kumar Birla]

Sixth Plan which means 1984-85, was 17351 crores. That means that even though we have embarked upon a new plan, the rise has been only from 17351 crores to 18500 crores. That is no increase. Actually there has been no increase. There has been a big push as far as the economy is concerned. I know that many Ministries are really fighting for more money. I know certainly that in the case of the Railway Ministry, the capital outlay plan for the first year of the Seventh Plan is Rs. 1650 crores, exactly the same figure as of last year. And that is the reason why they say that they cannot place the order for more wagons even though they have the will to do that.

The Finance Minister, while allowing certain concessions to the corporate sector has mentioned regarding the investment allowance. I would again plead as far as investment allowance is concerned for his reconsideration. Sir, the investment allowance we fixed with a certain idea. And the idea is that since the cost of replacement was rising at such a galloping pace through out the world, the company may have some reserve built up in their balance-sheets in the form of investment allowance. Now, Sir, in case the Finance Minister could do away with this investment allowance, the company will find it hard and difficult to find resources as far as modernisation is concerned. I would plead with him that he may give a consideration to that.

Sir the last five years have been the years of thinking and examination. They have been the years of rethinking and re-examination. And there have been re-examinations and rethinking on economic theories about monetary fiscal policies, about parameters which the Government should adopt so as to boost investment, boost up economic development, and boost

up employment. Sir, it was this which really they have raised and what we commonly hear as Reaganism, it is this what we hear as Thatcherism.

I would say, Sir, that this is the first year of the Seventh Plan. And this also happens to be the first Budget under the new Prime Minister. I have no doubt in my mind that a new era has dawned which gave rise to more employment, more economic development. And, Sir, I have no doubt that in history this will probably go down as Rajiv Era. I hail our new young Prime Minister and I am sure that he is keen to prepare the country to meet the challenges that the 21st Century offers. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is not with any sense of elation that I rise to speak on the Budget. Unfortunately, I cannot agree with Mr. Birla that this Budget should entitle our Prime Minister to associate his name with some sort of a Rajiv era. Mr. Birla is not the only person who has made this interesting remark. There is a journal published in the United States of America known as the 'Wall Street Journal'. Now the 'Wall Street Journal' has come out with an editorial which is captioned, "Rajiv-Reagan". And the 'Wall Street Journal' compares India's Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Mr. Ronald Reagan, and compares him in this sense that here is another tax-cutter, another person who has reduced the tax burden on big business houses. So, on a subject like the Budget, it is impossible to have any kind of unanimity because here economic interests are involved and people representing different economic interests speak according to their convenience or according to their advantage. Now, the Finance Minister, in his speech, has referred to the democratic framework that we have in our country and even given us some lessons on democracy, how under democracy our country is progressing.

If I am not mistaken, the philosophy of democracy was formulated by

a school of British philosophers, known as Utilitarians, whose motto was that democracy should seek to achieve greatest good of the greatest number. Judged according to that criterion the Finance Minister's Budget will seem to correspond or agree to another motto, that is the greatest good of the smallest number. This is what the Finance Minister's Budget has proposed and no wonder people like Shri K. K. Birla are quite jubilant about it.

But I would like to refer to a very pertinent point raised by the Finance Minister in his reply to the debate in the Lok Sabha. The point was that in the post-Independence period our country has been trying to build an independent economy. Some development has taken place and as a result of that development new certain changes in the economy also have become necessary. I think he has remarked, we should not harp on the past but we should look to the future. I quite agree. Let us try to understand what sort of development has taken place, what problems this development has created and how these problems can be resolved and whether the Budget that has been presented by the hon. Finance Minister is likely to lead towards any solution of these problems.

Now, I may state very briefly the essence of the problem. The essence of the problem is the problem of the internal market. Now, one of the Deputy Governors of the Reserve Bank in a speech delivered some time last year which was published in the January 1984 issue of the Reserve Bank Bulletin gave certain statistics about the rate of growth of various segments of Indian industry. He gave five-yearly average from 1962-63 to 1980-81. He gave the general index and also the index for basic goods industries, then the index for capital goods industries, the index for intermediate goods industries and the index for consumer goods industries. Now, looking at these figures of nearly two decades,

20 years of development, we find that as years passed by, the rate of growth in the basic goods industries and capital goods industries started declining. Why did it start declining? Because the rate of growth in the consumer goods industries, had started declining. Why did the rate of growth in the consumer goods industries start declining? Because whatever was being produced and marketed at a particular price did not find customers. Majority of customers did not have the money. Fifty per cent of them had been pushed below the poverty line. They did not constitute part of the effective demand in a capitalist market. So, demand for consumer goods did not keep pace with the increase in production of consumer goods industries. And if demand does not keep pace with production of consumer goods, then there is a cut back in production and if there is a cut back in production, then there is also a cut back in investment. New factories are not set up; old machinery is not replaced and there is a fall in demand for the basic goods and the capital good and thus a chain starts from the consumer goods industries and it reaches up to the capital goods industries. This is what has been happening in our Indian economy. We had a certain measure of growth; we had a certain measure of expansion, expansion of steel, expansion of other metals, expansion of minerals, expansion of electricity, expansion of machine-building and chemicals but soon a point was reached when expansion came to a halt because adequate market was not available for the goods that were being produced, and, therefore, cut-back in production started. When a country is faced with such a situation, what is the solution? What could be a solution in India? What should have been the solution in India. The solution should have been to expand the home market by improving asset base and by improving the income level, the earnings of the common people, by lifting more and more people above the poverty line, by reducing the number of unemployed, by

(Shri Indradeep Sinha)

reducing inflation, by supplying essential consumer goods at fixed reasonable prices. Unfortunately, the opposite took place, as a result of which not only the internal market did not expand, but a little contraction also took place in some of these consumer goods. That is what has happened. Then what is the solution?

On the advice of World Bank and a number of international experts and experts from big business houses, like Mr. K. K. Birla, on the collective advice of all these learned and interested people, our Government struck out in two directions. One direction was to go in for an export-oriented economy because you do not find the necessary market inside the country, because the people inside the country are too poor and, therefore, you wanted to sell these goods outside the country. But since, outside the country, bigger capitalist sharks are sitting and our petty industries, ill-managed industries, monopoly-controlled industries, have little chance of competing with them, so you give them heavy subsidies, export subsidies, cash compensatory allowances, freight concessions, all sorts of subsidies, open or disguised. So, through various subsidies, we tried to push our exports. Then comes the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. I am narrating this story because I want to make a point about petroleum prices. Now the IMF delegation which visited our country in 1981, on the eve of negotiations of the IMF loan, in their report, advised the Government of India to go in for massive export orientation... and in order to push Indian goods, in highly competitive international markets, adopt a "realistic" exchange rate policy. If the hon. Finance Minister looks into the figures, he will find out whether, between 1980 and 1985, the dollar value of the rupee has increased or has declined. From less than Rs. 8/- we used to have a dollar for less than Rs. 8/- per dollar in 1980, we are paying almost Rs. 13 now. Year after year,

the rupee has been devalued in terms of the dollar, devalued in small doses, devalued secretly, devalued quietly, devalued without making any fuss about it, but devalued all the same. Today, the quantum of devaluation of the rupee is not small. It may even be larger than the notorious devaluation which took place in 1966. That was done at the instance of the World Bank. This also has been done at the instance of the World Bank and the IMF.

Because of the fall in the dollar value or the rupee what have we gained? Have our exports expanded very much? Official data speak of rise in exports, but speak of rise in terms of their value in rupees, which have depreciated. If we take the figures in dollars, we will find that the growth in exports to the capitalist world market, has not been significant. On the contrary, because of a steady fall in the dollar value of the rupee, not only POL products, but various items of machinery, intermediate goods, even some raw materials, which our country imports, have become more costly. Because the import cost of machinery, intermediates, POL products, have gone up, Indian industry instead of becoming more competitive has become less competitive. We have a high-cost economy, which is not competitive in the international market.

Unfortunately, the Government do not even seem to realise that they have pursued a policy, which has been incorrect, which has been erroneous, they have pursued a policy which, instead of curing the disease, has aggravated the malady. We are in a situation where we have to give more and more subsidies, give more and more concessions to the Indian big business houses and the foreign multinationals, in order to keep up the exports. The Finance Minister's Budget seeks to carry forward this disastrous course of policy and tries to paint it in rosy, attractive, colour as heralding a new era in Indian economy as Mr. K. K. Birla very jubilantly put it. Now the second line of thinking,

the second line of solution for this problem of the market was to make a conscious change in the direction of our consumer goods production. India is a vast country. We have 700 million people. Out of these 700 million nearly 350 million live below the poverty line. So, in term of capitalist demand they cease to be persons, they are simply non-persons. Of the remaining, 350 million there might be a small percentage, about 35 million or 40 million, of the elite in the society. They are the businessmen, the shop keepers, the high paid officials, certain other higher income group people—the educated elite. Their percentage is quit small. India being yet a backward country, it cannot afford to have a large number of bourgeois population. But our population itself is so big that even 10 per cent of our population would come to about 70 million. Even five per cent would come to about 35 million which would be equal to the population of a whole European country. So, you are now producing for and catering to the needs of this elite section of the population, not for the common man. It is only for the comfort of the well-to-do, the elite. So, during the last 15 years or so the Indian industrial economy has undergone a kind of distortion. Production of basic consumer goods needed for the common people has stagnated or declined—~~both~~, for example has shifted from the modern textile mills to the powerlooms. And Mr. Birla, of all persons, comes forward complains that the tiny powerloom is killing his giant textile mills. This is something which nobody can believe that a tiny powerloom can kill the powerful textile mills. The modern textile mills are deliberately not producing cloth needed by the common man because there the margin of profit is low. Thus, the whole production pattern has undergone a distortion. Commodities like refrigerators, air-conditioners, room coolers, radios, television sets, VCRs, scooters, motor cycles and motor cars are being produced more and more. Govern-

ment policy also seems to give more and more encouragement to this kind of production. But does this kind of production, does this development of a particular type of production catering to elite consumption, lead to any solution or even a partial mitigating of the fundamental crisis of the Indian economy? My submission is that it does not. The crisis stays where it was. Rather it gets accentuated. So, from this point of view I should consider the Finance Minister's budget to be a total failure. It would prove to be a wasted effort, because this Budget and the policies that it formulates will not lead to a solution of the fundamental crisis of the Indian economy; it will not lead to even some mitigation of the crisis. On the contrary the motto of the Budget being "greatest good of the smallest number", the main burden will fall on the common people—burden in the form of inflation, burden in the form of increased taxes, burden in the form of increased prices of petroleum products etc. So whatever has been granted to big business houses as concession, so that they may invest more in vital sectors of the economy, will not prove very fruitful because even Mr. Birla will not invest in an industry which does not have a market. He was already complaining about the wagon industry. If the railways do not allot the funds, the wagon industry does not have a market. So these concessions will not lead to any upsurge in industrial investment or industrial production. On the contrary, my apprehension is, that the crisis will continue, rather the crisis will deepen and 3 year later when we meet at the time of the next budget, probably there will be no Seventh Plan. Already the Seventh Plan has been half killed. The first year of the Seventh Plan has begun but the Plan is nowhere to be seen. Prices would have risen still further and the life of the common people will be harder than what it has been, till now.

I just want to mention one sentence about the resources position. The Finance Minister has in his speech referred to the crisis of resources. Yes,

[Shri Indradeep Sinha]

there is a crisis of resources, both internal and external. But why is there a crisis? The crisis is precisely caused by these policies of the Government, policies dictated by the world Bank and the I. M. F. And if these policies are pursued the crisis of resources will grow, even the foreign exchange crisis will grow. It is often argued that the foreign exchange crisis has arisen because of rise in the prices of POL Products. Well, Sir, in 1979-80 our total import of POL products was Rs. 3269 crore and total trade deficit was Rs. 2563 crores. Since then our own production of crude has increased very much. Now we are producing nearly 26 million tonnes. Our imports of POL products have declined. And yet the foreign exchange deficit continues to stand somewhere between Rs. 5500 to 6000 crore per year.

So, this foreign exchange crisis is certainly not due only to the rise in the international prices of petroleum products. Partly it is also due to the fall in the dollar value of the rupee, which I mentioned earlier. So, even the foreign exchange crisis, the internal resource crisis—these two—are more reflections of the wrong economic and financial policies adopted by the Government during the last five years. Now, instead of correcting those errors the Government seems to have acquired a new dynamism for moving in a wrong direction. Dynamism for moving in a right direction is a good thing—I would have welcomed it. But if the Government chooses to move in a wrong direction with a new dynamism, then it will take the country faster towards graver economic situations and acuter mass discontent. Of course, here we can only argue but, in addition to us and in addition to the few Members in the House there are millions watching from outside, and when their life is affected, when economic hardships press on them, they will take to the streets; there will be agitations, there will be governments, and what our arguments in the House probably cannot secure, the arguments of the people in

the streets may prove more powerful and compel the Government to reconsider some of its disastrous policies. I hope the Finance Minister will not choose to wait for that day but will take heed earlier and try to mend his policies before it is too late.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): I have to tell honourable Members that there are at least 27 people more who have given their names. Even if we give ten minutes for each speaker, it will take 270 minutes or four-and-a-half hours. So, I would request hon. Members to be brief in their observations and not make the same points which are already made but say whatever they want to say as briefly as they can. Now, Shri Thindivanam Ramamurthy.

SHRI THINDIVANAM K. RAMAMURTHY (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I stand here to welcome the budget and congratulate the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister for having given the country a budget which will give a new fillip to industrial development. It is a giant step towards progress and ever section of the society is benefited by the policy envisaged.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal) in the Chair]

Sir, the budget has not lost its continuity from the past but definitely the progress that the country will be making as a result of this budget cannot be underestimated.

As the budget was presented, the usual criticism and review as to whether it is a rich man's budget or a poor man's budget came in. But one can proudly say that it is a Congress budget. It is the larger interest of the country that matters and this budget is a reflection of the same.

Sir, the Finance Minister has correctly translated into action the views

of not only the Prime Minister but also that of our late leader, Madam Indira Gandhi. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, as General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, was instrumental for a seminar on "taxation" held on the 22nd and 23rd of July 1983. He himself inaugurated the seminar and several of the country's economists participated in it. This year's budget, I can say, is a true translation of the views expressed on that day. About estate duty, excise duty and the compulsory deposit scheme, Shri Rajiv Gandhi expressed his views in that seminar.

LI quote:

"One of the taxes is Estate Duty, This brings very little revenue to the Government coffers 16 lakhs of rupees spread all over the States really mounts to almost nothing. It is a source of terrible harassment to the family members of the deceased, who have to answer all sorts of questions about which they might not be knowing anything, dealers which the deceased has entered into 5 years ago or 10 years ago, and I think at the time of such bereavement, there could be nothing worse than having to face such cases. This should be simplified."

And now about the Excise Duty, I quote:

"...what we are really doing is, collecting tax to put it on to larger budget outlays. It is not good in any way. It adds a lot in collection because it adds to inflation, it makes us totally incompetent in the world market and the net result is a demoralized industry. We give some concessions but they are not really adequate. This vicious circle has to be broken somewhere."

And about the CDS Scheme, I quote:

"I think this was started as a very good venture but it seems to

be getting a little out of hands now, and although the Finance Minister finds it very difficult to stop it, I think it is time that we start slowly phasing it out'

Sir, these views were not expressed recently, but were expressed even as early as July, 1983. And my friend, hon. Member, Shri S. S. Mohapatra, today roared like anything. Is his thinking correct? He was an active member of the party and a Member of the Rajya Sabha even in July, 1983 when he chose to keep his mouth shut than to comment on this policy which the then General Secretary of the AICC, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, expressed and envisaged.

The Finance Minister has correctly placed his hands at the place from where the black money is generated. It is the black money that ruins the country's economy. This Budget spells out the concrete measures taken towards preventing the generation of the black money.

On the industrial sides, Sir, the Budget has paved the way for increased capital formation and to re-energise the capital so formed with new units and for expansion. The Finance Minister has rightly pointed out that our public sector investments so far runs to Rs. 110,000 crores and that the return we get from them is meagre. The need for streamlining is well stressed.

The Budget has equally come out to protect the interest of the agriculturists. It is true that no country can prosper by depending on agriculture alone. Our per acre yield is low in comparison to our neighbouring countries like China and Japan. Nevertheless, 6 per cent of our population is involved in agriculture. We are bound to strengthen the purchasing power of the agriculturists. Irrigational water sources in our country have already been tapped to the maximum. The chance for further water sources is very much limited and more so in Tamil Nadu. I must take this opportunity, Sir, to remain the centre to find an

[Shri Thindivanam K. Rama Murthy]
early settlement to the Cauvery water dispute. The Centre should also come forward to take up the linking of national waters, especially those of Ganga and Cauvery.

This Budget, being a deficit one, has naturally created the fear of inflation. The deficit of Rs. 3,349 crores will definitely end up in inflation if we do not effectively control the tax-evasion and increase our revenue resources. The Budget has dealt with this aspect in detail, and one can be sure that this Government is capable of arresting and controlling inflation. The Finance Minister has rightly taken up the cause of the salaried section which is much harassed in the society. Whatever concession is given to them today is once again on the basis of the views already expressed by our Prime Minister as Secretary of the AICC in July, 1983.

The concessions shown to the industrial labour and the safeguards envisaged to the labour involved in sick units go a long way in protecting their interests. Here it is my duty, Sir, to remind the hon. Finance Minister of the sorry state of affairs in Pondicherry because of the A.F.T. Mills which remains closed till date. Speedy steps are to be taken to reopen the Mills as it is actually ruining the Union Territory's economy.

There is a lurking fear in the minds of the people in the South that the proposed increase in the price of yarn will ultimately affect the handloom industry. I request the Finance Minister to take special care to safeguard the interest of the handloom industry. The increase in the support price for wheat is welcome.

6.00 P.M. paddy price also has to be reviewed and revised. Agriculturists in the south are suffering an despecially in Tamil Nadu, because the crops have failed continuously. Remunerative price only can help them.

The Finance Minister has also spelt out that we have not achieved the Sixth Plan target in power generation. The capacity utilisation of our industries is below 50 per cent and this is more because of shortage of power, coal and transport facilities. It is only under these circumstances that we are going in for new industries. The burden is heavy on the Government. Priority has to be given to the existing industries and the new industries have to be utilised. The budget rightly faces the fact and has dealt with new power generation measures. I must say, in this regard, that the Government should give top priority for a second unit in Kalpakam Atomic Power Station and for the second thermal plant in Neyveli. The Tamil Nadu State Government has expressed its grievance that its requests for new power generation units are pending with the Centre for a long time. I request the Government to clear these projects forthwith.

I must thank the Finance Minister for the provision of Rs. 932 crores for Rural Development in the Central Plan. The Integrated Rural Development Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme will get additional provision. But these schemes can succeed only with the active participation of the representatives of the people in the local authorities. Otherwise, it will be a paradise for the contractors.

Some of the States including the Tamil Nadu has not gone in for local authorities election for the past one decade and more. Everthing in the villages is being done through the Government machinery. Effective control and supervision of its implementation is lacking. The Centre should issue instructions to the States to involve the Members of Parliament in the implementation of these schemes. The same is the position in the case of the accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. There are many towns in Tamil Nadu which suffer for want of drinking water

every year during summer. I wish to suggest that when the Centre spends large sums for the social welfare schemes, it must in turn be assured of the proper utilisation and implementation of the schemes.

The Government should have strict control over people who always have a tendency to exploit on the budget. The Finance Minister has clearly stated that the prices of aerated water would be up by 5 or 10 paise only. But it has already gone up by 25 to 50 paise.

Much concession has been given to the T.V. industry. But, I am afraid that this will not automatically bring down its price. It is better the Government keeps vigil over this industry and see that the common man is benefited by these concessions.

I must thank the Government of India for the allocation of nine-crores made for the refugees from Sri Lanka. I request the Centre to use all powers at its command to settle the ethnic issue of Tamils of Sri Lanka in that country and save them from total annihilation.

Before conclusion, I must thank the Finance Minister for the proposed changes in the administrative procedures to facilitate quicker plan implementation. The idea once again was that of our dynamic Prime Minister who envisaged it even in 1983.

The budget is one which reflects the thinking of the youths of the country and that of the Congress Party. This budget is the one which is going to change the country's economy. I welcome the budget. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN. (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Scato Swu. Please try to finish in ten minutes.

SHRI SCATO SWU (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to welcome and support the budget. In modern times the world is changing fast to which we have to adapt ourselves. The major setback in our development has been for poor literacy. Education is an

eye-opener which is not made available to many less fortunate people.

Educational disparity is the father of economic disparity. The absence of education in a certain area is the most fertile ground for man to exploit man.

There is a persistent concern that the quality of education has deteriorated a great deal. We have duly realised the need for qualitative changes in our educational system. It is important to effect these changes more resolutely in practice.

The Government's introduction of a job-oriented and work-oriented education programme is congratulated. Proper knowledge and the degree of education determine human qualification and value and, therefore, imparting of right education is one of the most pressing problems of backward areas.

In view of the increasing student population, admission into educational institutions has become extremely difficult for students from far-flung non-university areas. Moreover, travelling is very expensive these days, specially for poor students. It is in the context of these difficulties that some universities should be opened in the backward areas to promote the programmes of education and to enable the backward people develop competitive life. Nagaland requires and deserves a separate university and, therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to grant it without delay.

Railways are said to be the life line of the nation. This life line had not been of much help to the north-eastern States. It is good that broad gauge had reached Guahati last year. This broad gauge should be extended up to Jorhat as the second phase, according to the programme of the Government.

Believe it or not, air passengers from Nagaland take two days to reach Dimapur from Delhi. This is an indication of negligence on the part of the Government. There should be timely arrangements to enable us to reach Dimapur by one day air journey.

(Shri Scato Swu)

Sir, my demands are very few and I have particularly mentioned about the problems of north-eastern India because we all feel that this part is a more neglected area. Political turmoil and political uncertainties are always there. The only solution of this problem is the economic development of the people. So I would make an appeal to our Finance Minister to give us more money so that we can also develop in the matters of education, railways and airport. We do not have any airport in Nagaland. At present we have a small airport at Dimapur. It is not an airport; it is only an air-strip. So, as I have already mentioned, if the Government is kind enough to people of this part, they should pay special attention to them so that we may not be behind others in matters of development.

There is a border dispute between Assam and Nagaland. About this I have made mention on earlier occasions also, but even today the problem cannot be solved by our two States. Unless a proper intervention comes from the Government of India here, we cannot solve the problem by ourselves. So I make an appeal again to the Government of India to look into this matter without delay. Otherwise it appears to us that the situation is deteriorating day by day.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:

Mr. Vice-Chairman, while making comments on the Budget one must have the total picture in view and it is not prudent on one's part to isolate one aspect of it from the other. In this connection many Members of this House have characterised this Budget as progressive, result-oriented, bold and imaginative. Some friends from the Opposition parties have called it 'anti-poor', 'elitist', anti-people, inflationary. A perennial critic of the Government Budgets has stated—

"The years of the locust are over."

He has further said—

"It represents not a breath of fresh air but a blast of fresh air in the mouldy corridors of North Block."

This is Nani Palkhivala speaking about the Budget. So, when one sees through

all these things, one has to see the real situation. Although I belong to the Opposition I characterise this Budget as "good and imaginative." The Finance Minister is faced with a dilemma. This reminds me of a Persian couplet although it was spoken in a different context which says

داین چه حالیشست که هم
طالبیم وهم مطلوب؟

"What a situation I am in; I am the seeker and I am also the sought."

ددرونه حالیشست که هم
دردم وهم در خانم؟

"It is paradoxical that I am myself the malady and myself the remedy."

Now, this is the situation our Finance Minister is faced with. The Finance Minister is facing a lot of situations. The first situation is the population explosion. The population of India increases by more than 2000 every 70 minutes, yearly 15 million people. And for these the Finance Minister has to provide—(a) additional 1.45 million tonnes of foodgrains; (b) 218 million metres of cloth; (c) 290 million houses; (d) 14,400 schools and (e) 7,900 new houses every year. This is the colossal task that the Finance Minister has to face. In the face of this colossal task I must admit, although I belong to the opposition, that the Budget that he has presented this year, is a departure from the past. It is a bold and imaginative Budget and I congratulate him on that. There are certain aspects in this Budget which need to be gone into. A lot of stress is laid that the direct taxes have been reduced. I have before me a document "Budget at a glance" which has been circulated to the Members. According to this document, the income tax about which so much is being said forms only 1 per cent—1 paise—of the total revenue of the Government. One per cent is not such a big thing that the Government should be blamed for, but because in my opinion this one paise is responsible for evasion of taxes in excise and customs duty also. What is the situation there? Excise gives us 14 per cent and Customs gives us 16 per

cent. So, if we make any improvements in this 1 per cent Budget and in return get a better return in 14 per cent plus 16 per cent, it is a welcome measure for which we must congratulate the Finance Minister. One must congratulate him for that.

He has come out with various measures regarding direct tax. But he should also come out with additional measures for rationalisation and improvements in the indirect taxes. That should be the aim before him.

The Finance Minister is facing another very difficult situation. Public debt incurred by the Government of India, funded and not funded, aggregates to a massive figure of Rs. 110,000 crores. This is colossal amount. This means that 23 per cent of the total Government's revenue receipt is consumed by just interest payment on the debt. This situation has got to be rectified and this has got to be looked into.

In the last seven years the revenue expenditure of the Government has exceeded revenue receipts. In plain words the Government has been merrily living beyond its means. The budget has to be balanced not by increasing taxes, but by curtailing non-plan expenditure. In this non-plan expenditure I find that in the budget you have provided only 6 per cent increase for 1985-86 plan budget, but 23 per cent for non-plan budget. This has to be rectified because this is unhealthy.

The time at my disposal being short, I want to make only certain suggestions. I would request the Minister of State for Finance who is present here to make a note of these points.

Crop insurance is very welcome. But only wheat and rice have been covered in the crop insurance. I would like the Finance Minister to extend the coverage to fruits also as fruit is a very important crop which is subject to the vagaries of weather. Fruits must be included in the crop insurance scheme.

Premium to be received from the growers is very important. At what point of time are the growers or farmers able to give their premium I think when the land revenue is being collected by the revenue authorities, premium should also be collected. This is the time when they can earmark some amount towards premium payment. My apprehension is this. However small may be the premium, the person whose crop has suffered will not be able to get the money unless some mechanism is devised as to at what point of time this amount has to be collected.

My third suggestion is with regard to public sector investment. According to the figures furnished to me by the Planning Commission, as on 31st March, 1984, the total investment in the public sector was Rs. 31,961.89 crores. Out of this Jammu and Kashmir gets only Rs. 23.90 crores.

This is such a small figure and this needs to be looked into. But I am emboldened by the statements made by the Prime Minister during his election speeches prior to the State Assembly elections. In many of his speeches he said that every district will now have a public sector undertaking. I would request the Finance Minister to see to it that each district gets a public sector undertaking and in that connection priority should be given to those districts and those areas where public sector investment is very small. This needs to be done immediately.

My next point is that nothing has been done or nothing has been said about the medium through which black money is generated. This is mainly land and building. Land and building prices are rising steeply. Capital gains tax exists, but everyone under states the value of property. Something has to be done in this regard. Unless there is black money, nobody can buy lands and buildings. So, something has to be done to see that this source of black money is finished in lands and buildings which is very important.

The fourth point that I want to make is with regard to the Capital Gains Tax.

[Shri Ghulam Rasu] Matto]

It appears to me that the investments in this regard are only Unit Trust and things like that. The scope of the investments of Capital Gains should be broadened. All the banks should be allowed to have deposits or some other schemes must be devised by which this thing should be done.

The fifth point is that the Government does not come out and say as to how the black money is going to be mopped up and how the generation of black money is going to be stopped. I can say with all the emphasis at my command that the Finance Minister, by rationalising the tax structure, has helped in the non-creation of black money. But whether black money is there already in circulation has to be mopped up. I hope that the Finance Minister will come up with some suggestions, some bold suggestions, as to how this black money which is already in circulation is to be mopped up.

I have only one more thing to say. The deficit in the Budget to the tune of Rs. 3,349 crores is very high and I hope that something will be done about it. I want to say one thing about the money that is being spent by the Central Government through the State Governments.

Sir, at the present moment, our State is run by a defector-Government. In the history of the world democracy, Sir, this is the only Government which consists of all the members of the part as Cabinet Ministers plus one or two more who are not members of either of the Houses. The Finance Minister has said that bad managers like bad currency have to be kept out of circulation. The State Governments are the managers of the money that the Central Government gives them and if the State Governments prove to be inept and corrupt, they should be thrown out just like a bad manager is to be thrown out, as mentioned by the Finance Minister. He has come out with this suggestion that "bad managers like bad currency have to be kept out of circulation." Similarly, bad State Governments, which have to spend the money of the Central Government, should also be thrown out in the same fashion as bad managers.

With these observations, Sir, I support the Budget.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Now, Mr. Irshadbaig.

श्री मीर्जा ईशदबेग (गुजरात) : मान्यवर उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक युवा उपसभाध्यक्ष होने के नाते इस पद पर आसीन होने के बाद मैं आपका हार्दिक अभिनन्दन करता हूँ। हमारे प्यारे प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी जी ने संसद को कहा था कि हमें एक ऐसे गतिशील देश का निर्माण करना है जो संसार के किसी भी अन्य देश की बराबरी कर सकता हो और इसी संदर्भ में देश को गतिशील बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय फलक पर यही नीतियाँ प्रतिबिम्बित हुईं हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी, श्री सिंह साहब के माध्यम से। उनके द्वारा प्रस्तावित बजट एक वास्तविक उत्पादन लक्ष्य तथा देश को आधुनिक तकनीकी द्वारा उत्पादन अभियान की दिशा में ले जाने का भरसक प्रयास है, मैं इसके लिए वित्त मंत्री का अभिनन्दन करता हूँ और इसके समर्थन में कहना चाहता हूँ कि मट्टू साहब ने फारसी में एक शेर कहा। मुझे अहसास हो रहा है कि मैं भी एक शेर कहूँ। लेकिन बजट पर बहस हो रही है, और इसके माध्यम वित्त मंत्री जी हैं, पुजारी जी भी बैठे हैं। मैं उनसे विनती करूँगा कि वे मेरे लफ्जों को वित्त मंत्री तक पहुँचा दें। एक शायर ने कहा है कि :

“हैंरां हूँ ऐ सनम तुझे क्या कहूँ, और किस की मिसाल दूँ और कब से जुदा करूँ।”

मैं इस बजट के समर्थन में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि राष्ट्र को एक नई दिशा की तरफ बढ़ने के लिए आगे कदम अभी करना है और अभी सातवीं योजना जो देश के समक्ष है उसके लक्ष्यों से हमें सिद्ध करना है। देश की अर्थव्यवस्था अगर हमको सुदृढ़ करनी है तो आर्थिक स्तर पर हमें 5 प्रतिशत की दर से वृद्धि करनी होगी तथा औद्योगिक उत्पादन में 8 प्रतिशत प्रति वर्ष की वृद्धि करनी होगी। नये बजट में मान्यवर 57 प्रतिशत

धनराशि विकास के आयोजन को देकर विकास नीति का एक दर्शन कराया है। समाज के तमाम वर्गों को प्रत्यक्ष तथा परोक्ष राहत, टैक्स के ढांचे का नया निर्माण कर जो व्यवस्था बनाई, टैक्स पेयर्स को जो राहत दी है उसका मैं अभिनन्दन करता हूँ। अन्तरराष्ट्रीय युवा वर्ष में शिक्षित बेरोजगार युवकों के लिए स्वतः रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत सहायता के लिए जो 124 करोड़ रुपये की वृद्धि की है यह एक विशेष अभिनन्दनीय बात है। किन्तु इस योजना के अन्तर्गत बैंकों के अधिकारियों द्वारा किया गया भ्रष्टाचार ध्यान में रखते हुए आवश्यक अग्रिमता लोन के वितरण के लिए विशेष व्यवस्था आवश्यक होगी। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि ये जो बातें हमारे सामने आई हैं, देश में बैंकों की जो व्यवस्था है, उस व्यवस्था में, खासकर बेरोजगार स्कीम के अन्तर्गत जो पहले योजना चलाई थी, उस में जो अवरोध पैदा हुए हैं, उसके लिए वित्त मंत्री जी कुछ कदम अवश्य उठायेंगे। किसानों, खेतिहर मजदूरों और सीमान्त किसानों को दी हुई सहूलियतों का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। परन्तु उर्वरता के साथ-साथ कीटनाशक दवाओं के दाम विशेष मात्रा में आज भी ऊँचे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा उत्पादित दवाइयाँ अधिक मात्रा में मंहगी हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसकी जाँच कराई जाय और स्वदेशी उत्पादन को तेज बनाया जाय। खेती के लिए क्राप बीमा योजना रखी गई है। यह कदम सराहनीय और अभिनन्दनीय है और इस से किसानों को अधिक सहायता प्राप्त होगी। भूमि-होन मजदूरों और कामगारों को सामाजिक सुरक्षा तथा न्याय का प्रबन्ध यह कांग्रेस की नीति को प्रतिबिम्बित करती है। खाद्यान्न का अधिक उत्पादन को तेज करने के लिए सिंचाई की सुविधा देनी होगी और इसके लिए सिंचाई योजनाओं को पूरी क्षमता से, तीव्र गति से पूर्ण करना है। नर्मदा योजना जो राष्ट्र के लिए एक नई हरित क्रांति योजना है, उसको जल्द ही पूरा करने की मांग करता हूँ। काम-

गारों को जो सुविधायें दी गई हैं वे उत्साहजनक हैं। बंद कंपनियों के बारे में कामगारों की देय राशि की दृष्टिमता, बोनस सीमा में वृद्धि तथा स्टॉक की जो विकल्प योजना है यह भारत के कामगारों के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक चीज है। मैनेजमेंट में मजदूरों को शामिल करने का निर्णय समाजवादी दिशा में एक सही कदम है। देश में जो बंद कपड़ा मिलें हैं, उन में लाखों मजदूरों के भविष्य के लिए मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से और खासकर प्रधान मंत्री जी से यह आशा करता हूँ वे इन मिलों का राष्ट्रीयकरण तत्काल करेंगे और बेकार मिल मजदूरों का जीवन-निर्वाह करने के लिए तत्काल साधन उपलब्ध करायेंगे। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उनका फण्ड और ग्रेजुडटी का जो सवाल है उसके फौरन निवारण की मैं मांग करता हूँ। कपड़ा नीति तैयार करने का जो निर्णय आपने लिया है उसका मैं हार्दिक समर्थन और स्वागत करता हूँ। इस में कपास उत्पादन करने वाले जो किसान हैं उनके हितों का विशेष ध्यान रखा है। मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि नई टैक्सस्टाइल यूनिटें जो बनाई जायें उनके अग्रिम विस्तार से सहकारिता के क्षेत्र में मजदूरों के अंकुश वाला मैनेजमेंट बने ऐसी मैं मांग करता हूँ। इसी से सम्बद्ध कपास की दीर्घकालीन नियाँ नीति की घोषणा की मैं मांग करता हूँ जिस से प्रतिवर्ष कम से कम डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होने की सम्भावना है।

बीस सूत्री कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं से ग्रामीण विकास की गति को अधिक वेग मिलेगा और अधिक तेज विकास हो सकेगा। मैं खास तौर पर टी० बी०, लेप्रोसी की दवाओं को सस्ते दामों पर उपलब्ध हो सकें इस वजह से रिकामपीसीन और दूसरी दवाओं को ड्र्यूटी मुक्त कर देने पर मंत्री जी को विशेषकर बधाई देता हूँ। किन्तु विदेशी कंपनियाँ, जिनकी संख्या अनगिनत है जो करोड़ों रुपयों का मुनाफा कमाती हैं उनकी विशेष जाँच की मंत्री जी से

[श्री मोर्जा ईशदिवेग]

मांग करता हूँ। मार्च/अप्रैल, मुझे सूचना मिली है, मेरा जो इनफार्मेशन है उसके मुताबिक मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि विदेशी कंपनियों को अनगिनत पैसा मिला है और उन्होंने अनगिनत दाम लिया है। इसके साथ-साथ मैं चाहता हूँ कि उनका यहां पर जो एक जाल है इस जाल से मुक्त करा कर इस देश में दवायें सस्ते दामों पर मिलनी चाहियें। वे दवायें सस्ते दामों पर नहीं बेचती हैं इसलिए उनकी जांच की मांग मैं मंत्री जी से करता हूँ जिन्होंने सरकार की नीतियों और नियमों के विरुद्ध जा कर अपना उत्पादन बढ़ाया है और विक्री से ज्यादा मुनाफा लिया है। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी के माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि इनकी पूरी जांच की जानी चाहिए। सरकार ने एक हाथी कमेटी बनाई थी। उस हाथी कमेटी ने जो भी सिफारिशें दी हैं इनका सही दिशा में हम अगर अमल करा सकेंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ इस देश में दवाइयों के उत्पादकों को खास कर दवाओं के लिए जो हमारे मरीज हैं उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा हम फायदा पहुंचा सकेंगे।

कागज की सस्ता बनाने पर मैं वित्त मंत्री जी का अभिनन्दन करता हूँ लेकिन वित्त मंत्री जी से मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कागज ज्यादा सस्ता है यह सोच कर कि हमारे अधिकारी ज्यादा कागजी कार्यवाही न करें, उस का खास तौर पर ध्यान रखें। लघु उद्योग क्षेत्रों को जो रियायतें दी गई हैं इन से उत्पादन बहेगा किन्तु बैंक ब्रैकेट्स और जो बड़ी कंपनियों के माल के साथ जो उनकी स्पर्धा है उसे अंकुश न करें और उस का नैचुरल ग्रोथ जो है वह कम न हो जाए। इसकी व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक होगा। मैं इसके लिए मंत्री जी का एक विशेष बात की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस पर विशेष ध्यान दे कर इनको कुछ रियायतें देने की कोशिश करेंगे।

• • •

टेरिफ आर्डर-14 (डी) में सम्मिलित स्माल सेक्टर की डाइस्ट्रिक्ट इंडस्ट्री को दी गई 15 लाख रुपये की एक्साइज कनसेशनल

लिमिट पर्याप्त नहीं है। अन्य उद्योगों में स्माल सेक्टर को जो 75 लाख रुपये की इलीजिबिलिटी लिमिट दी गई है यदि इन उद्योगों का हमें नैचुरल ग्रोथ करना है तो जो अपर्याप्त 15 लाख रुपये की एक्साइज कनसेशनल लिमिट है इसको बढ़ाने की मंत्री जी से मांग करता हूँ। अगर सही रूप में इन उद्योगों को आगे बढ़ाना है तो उसकी मात्रा को बढ़ाकर के कम से कम 40 लाख तक मर्यादा कर देनी चाहिए। इसके लिए 75 लाख रुपये की मर्यादा इलीजिबिलिटी संभाल निर्धारित करनी चाहिए। मैं विशेषकर मंत्री जी से यह कहूंगा कि यह सुविधा देने से उनके रेवेन्यू की प्राप्ति में कोई घाटा नहीं होगा। अगर आप यह मर्यादा बढ़ाएं तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि दो सौ प्रतिशत की जो इयूटी है उसमें बढ़ावा होगा। मैं जानता हूँ कि सरकार को इससे ज्यादा रेवेन्यू मिल सकेगा। इसलिए मैं यह आशा करता हूँ कि यह जो उद्योग हैं स्माल सेक्टर के दोनों को मिलाकर के ज्यादा से ज्यादा 20 करोड़ रुपये विदेशी मुद्रा देने वाले उद्योग हैं उन को अगर प्रमाणिकता के साथ बढ़ने का अवसर दिया जाए तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। मैं यह भी मांग करता हूँ और मंत्री जी भी इस पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करेंगे, सोचेंगे। जैसे कि दूसरे सदन में कुछ रियायतों की घोषणा उन्होंने की है तो ऐसी रियायतों की घोषणा यहां पर इस सदन में कर के सदन को आभारी करेंगे, मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ। प्रत्यक्ष करों में आपने राहत देकर औद्योगिक उत्पादन की क्षमता को बढ़ाया है और इस मांग व्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित किया है। कम्प्यूटर के विशेष इस्तेमाल के प्रावधान, विज्ञान और वैज्ञानिकों को प्रोत्साहन, बुद्धिजीवियों, डाक्टरों, इंजीनियरों को विशेष सहूलियतें दे कर देश को नयी दिशा की ओर प्रेरित करते हैं। इतना अधिकतम घाटा दिखा कर के आपने अधिक साहस किया है परन्तु देश बान्धवों की कार्य शक्ति और लग्न पर आपने अटल विश्वास दिखाया है। सातवीं योजना के लक्ष्यों को पूर्ण करने के लिए निर्यात की दिशा में विशेष प्रयत्न करने होंगे। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि कुछ और रियायतें वित्त मंत्री जी कर के सदन को आभारी करेंगे। मैं प्लानिंग के मामले में यह कहना चाहूंगा कि रेल प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए

जो बातें कही गई हैं मन्त्री जी से मैं विशेष कर यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे हमारे जो छोटे छोटे रेल के प्रोजेक्ट्स लिये गये हैं उन पर भी कुछ ज्यादा खर्च किया गया है।

और ऐसे प्रोजेक्ट विशेषकर मैं यह कहना चाहूँगा कि मैं जिस जगह से आता हूँ वहाँ का इलाका बहुत पिछड़ा इलाका है और मैं विशेषकर मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि नडियाड मोराण कापड़वास का जो प्रोजेक्ट है वह छोटा प्रोजेक्ट है इस पर ज्यादातर धनराशि खर्च हो चुकी है, मैं आशा करता हूँ कि नये मंत्री जी जब इसका प्रावधान करें तब रेल मंत्रालय को कहेंगे कि जो ग्रामीण विकास की नीति है वह इससे अधिक कार्यान्वित हो सकेगी और ग्रामीण विकास के कारण जो ग्रामीण जनता है उनको ज्यादा लाभ हम पहुँचा सकेंगे।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश को आशा के साथ आगे बढ़ाना है और आशा के साथ हमें कार्यकुशलता दिखानी है। इसके लिए हमें एक शक्ति से आगे बढ़ना है तब जाकर देश को उठा सकेंगे।

मान्यवर, मैं दो शब्दों में अपने वक्तव्य को खत्म करना चाहता हूँ। मेरे कई साथी मौजूद नहीं हैं जिन्होंने कि शक की बिना पर बात की है। जब जब इस देश में कोई नयी बात करने की बात आई है जब भी समाजवाद की तरफ नया कदम लिया गया है तब भी हमेशा सामने बैठने वाले लोगों ने हमारे विरोधी दलों के मित्रों ने हमेशा अवरोधक बनने की बातें की हैं। मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि विपक्षी दल के मित्रों को कि जिस दिन प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी जी ने बैंकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण की बात की थी नेशनलाइजेशन की बात की थी क्या उस वक्त आपकी ओर से सोशलाइजेशन की बात बढ़ी थी? पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने जिस दिन भाखड़ा नांगल की बात की थी, बड़े कारखाने डालने की बात की थी क्या आपकी तरफ से उस वक्त नहीं कहा गया था कि पंडित जी आप जाइगटिज्म से पीड़ित हैं। जब जब इस देश को नयी दिशा में ले जानी की बात आई है, समाजवाद की दिशा में उसको

जाने की बात आई है हमेशा ही विपक्षी दलों ने कई एक मुखोटे पहनकर समाजवाद का विरोध किया है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ मान्यवर, कि पहले से पंडित नेहरू जी के जमाने से जब वे प्रधान मंत्री थे कांग्रेस के जो भी प्रधान मंत्री आये हैं उन्होंने इस देश को सही दिशा में ले जाने का प्रयत्न किया देश को सही दिशा और समाजवाद देने का प्रयत्न किया है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज हमारे युवा प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी जी आये हैं इस देश को वे एक नयी दिशा देना चाहते हैं, विश्व के साथ कदमताल करके इस देश को विश्व के समतल ले जाने का उन्होंने कार्यक्रम दिया है। मैं विपक्षी मित्रों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि कांग्रेस जब जब भी ऐसी नीति लेकर आती है तो आइये हम मिलकर इस देश को आगे बढ़ाएँ। आपका हमें सहकार चाहिए। आपको हमारी बात सच्ची लगे तो आप हमारा सहकार दीजिए। मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ अपनी बात को खत्म करता हूँ। शास्त्रों में कई एक जगह पर कहा गया है "स्वै स्वे कर्मण्यभिः रतः, संसिद्धिं लभते नरः।"

धन्यवाद।

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT
(Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for bringing out a very imaginative, innovative and bold Budget. It is bound to give a new direction to our economy and the country. and to our economy.

Sir, the Finance Minister has done his best to provide relief to all sections of society, specially the working class as well as to the industry for its rapid development. Sir, if I may mention, the promises that were made to the people of this country have been fulfilled. Compulsory Deposit Scheme has been abolished. Attempt have been made to restructure the taxation system. Firm stand on the economic offences is highly appreciated. The policy statement by the hon. Finance Minister regarding the sick units is laudable because the sick industrial units have been greatly responsible for increasing unemployment in this country. In this connection, Sir

[Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt]

The Finance Minister has taken bold steps for a closer co-ordination among fiscal, industrial and State policies. He has proposed to notify a list of industries for delicensing so that procedural delays are out to a minimum in areas where we want additional capacity. In order to reflect the considerable increase in the cost and the economic size of the projects that has taken place since the asset limit for MRTP companies was fixed in 1969 this limit is being raised to Rs. 100 crores. Sir, this raising of the limit of Rs. 100 crores is probably going to be misused by a number of companies because by doing this 101 companies will be taken out of the purview. Naturally they will pile up more profits and assets. The Directive Principles of State Policy under the Constitution lay down very clearly that the State must regulate the economy in such a manner that more and more concentration of economic power does not take place. The concessional limit of Rs. 100 crores is much more on the higher side. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reduce it to Rs. 50 crores. By that it would be possible to control the nefarious activities of the vested interests in the industrial establishments.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, highest priority has been given to the interests of workers. Workers' participation has been announced and the Budget is production oriented and every thrust has been given to increase the overall productivity.

A new social security scheme has also been included in the Budget to cover the death by accident in the case of members of poor families and they will be given some relief. Sir, these are the measures which have been taken to give relief and boost up the morale of the workers and the poor people who are committed to implement the dynamic economic policies of our young imaginative Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.]

Madam, Deputy Chairman the pre-Budget Economic Survey that has been made available to us is quite encouraging. The Budget enlarges the scope of our

poverty alleviation programme. Provision for the implementation of the 20-point economic programme has been made in full. Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Generating Programme have been given top priority and an allocation of Rs. 865 crores is certainly an indication of the Government's determination to see that these programmes go through and bring relief to our people.

Madam Deputy Chairman, on the agricultural side the subsidies which have been given to the people in the agricultural sector are bound to boost up our agricultural production which has already shown greater improvement and the stock that we have got today is certainly quite encouraging. But, Madam, I am amazed at the frivolous statements of some of the hon. Members who are trying to place the entire situation in a different context.

Madam Deputy Chairman, the Finance Minister deserves full credit for extending the scope of pilot and experimental crop insurance scheme. It is for the first time that the farmer has been shown so much concern on the economic front in the national Budget.

I have been connected with the Committee on Public Undertakings and thus had an opportunity of studying the Crop Insurance Scheme. The Finance Minister has said that all crop loans, to begin with for wheat, paddy oilseeds and pulses will be insured. Will it not be advisable to limit the scheme to small and marginal farmers to keep out kuluk lobby building up. As far as my knowledge goes, the insurance coverage as well as settlement of claims will depend on the yield of the area has determined by crop cutting experiments. It will, therefore, appear that the success of the scheme will entirely depend upon the efficacy of the crop cutting operations undertaken by the State Government. Are they extensive enough and do they cover these crops for the whole of the country? Have arrangements been made to ensure that the crop cutting exercise is taken up seriously and on scientific basis. The Finance Minister has stated

that the insurance charges will be subsidised for the marginal and small farmers by the Central and State Governments. I wonder whether the State Governments have made adequate provisions in their respective budgets. Whether the Central Government will help them financially in this matter.

The pilot and experimental crop insurance scheme as at present is being run by the General Insurance Corporation of India. Although the Finance Minister has not made any mention, I take it that the General Insurance Corporation will continue to be responsible for the expanded scheme of crop insurance as now proposed. Will it not put undue strain on the organisation? I want to emphasise that their involvement in insurance should not lead to deterioration of the service.

Madam, one of the most important aspect with regard to working classes is grant of bonus. Here I have a request to make for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister. The entire working class will be thanking the hon. Finance Minister for raising the present ceiling of Rs. 750 to Rs. 1600 for computation of bonus but retaining the eligibility limit of Rs. 1600 for the purpose of bonus will be counter-productive and will cause a sort of discontentment among the skilled and highly-skilled workers, those who contribute to the profits of industry. In the organised industry, more particularly in public sector, skilled workers and highly skilled workers get more than Rs. 1600 as pay and their contribution to profit is also substantial. But they will be denied of bonus. While the Finance Minister has allowed such workers getting up to Rs. 1600, the benefit of bonus, others getting more than this limit are being denied and, therefore, I feel, this may prove to be counter-productive and it will be difficult to enlist the cooperation of such workers. Since bonus is profit-sharpening or a deferred wage, all those who contribute towards profit for the industry, should be allowed to share this profit regardless of the salary they draw. Already, skilled workers are leaving public sector to join private sector which is better-off. Retention of Rs. 1600 as eligibility ceiling will hasten such exodus. Private sector will

somehow compensate workers drawing above Rs. 1600 so that they do not lose their workers but public sector will have to follow the rules and this will create discontentment among the skilled workers. This may not lead to rate of development that we aim at. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to abolish this ceiling so that all employees are made eligible for bonus. After all, they get bonus from out of amounts allocated for bonus and it will not be an additional burden; it will be only a question of sharing among all workers. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, to kindly consider this matter sympathetically and either remove the ceiling altogether or raise it in the interest of industry itself.

While much has been said, I would suggest that to enthuse workers to participate in the industry and ensure more production and higher productivity it will be better that a productivity levy is imposed so that a massive programme of workers' involvement in the productivity movement is initiated and benefit can be taken of the policies that we have.

Last but not the least is a point about Madhya Pradesh. It is a big State in area but we have got very poor communication. The States Reorganisation Commission made recommendation that Madhya Pradesh should be given top priority in the matter of increasing communications. If you want to go from one part to another, it takes 3 days because of lack of adequate railway lines. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to make special allocation for giving new railway lines in Madhya Pradesh. Percentagewise also, Madhya Pradesh is the State with the least railway mileage. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister that question of large size of Madhya Pradesh be taken into consideration and steps should be taken to see that some communication facilities are provided there. Thank you.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
Madam Vice-Chairman this Budget marks the victory of the reactionary forces over the progressive forces. It is a brief of the rich man who has been amply rewarded through this Budget. The vast

[Shri Sushil Chand Mohunta]

money power entrusted to the ruling party during the elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assembly elections by the rich man has been paid back now by reduction in the direct taxes. The gap has been sought to be covered by indirect taxes with the result that the rich have been vastly benefited and the life of the poor is bound to become more miserable. Up till now, it was nobody's case that the rich needed help and protection. They already thrived and needed no help. But it is strange that the hon. Finance Minister has gone out of his way in giving unsolicited relief, by raising indirect taxes to tax the common man. I have no doubt that the Government has hood-winked the people on whose support it has come to power in such a big way. Perhaps, the ruling party wanted to give benefits to those on whose monetary support, on whose monetary contribution, it was able to finance its election campaign. The Finance Minister has taken precautions to steer a clear path for fresh financing of the offers of the Government party when he legislates and legalises contribution from industrial houses.

But while doing all these things, he has completely neglected the common man. I would like to ask him; how he proposes to help those who are fighting a losing battle for survival in an era of high prices and inflationary trends? Socialistic philosophy has been forgotten. But I must congratulate him that he will be helping the polarisation of the capitalistic forces in the ruling party and the socialist forces on this side of the House. The pace of polarisation will be accelerated and I am sure, this Budget will expose the anti-people policies of the ruling party. The gap between the rich and the poor is bound to increase further.

In this Budget, because of the heavy deficit financing and the increase in the prices of petroleum products, the prices are bound to increase. The problems of unemployment and poverty have not been tackled at all.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri R. Ramakrishnan) in the Chair]

There is no manner in which it can be suggested even that those people who

live below the povertyline, those people who are not able to have two square meals a day, those people who do not have a roof over their heads, those people who are living in slums, would be looked after. What hope we have for these people so that their standard of living could be raised. On the contrary, the rise in the price index of essential commodities is bound to strangle the already difficult life these people are leading.

In the end, I would only say this. I will not take much time because the time is very short. I will say, this Budget reflects the anti-people policies of the ruling party. This Budget only caters to a few rich people, who comprise hardly seven and a half per cent of the population of this country. The remaining ninety-two and a half per cent feel completely neglected, feel forlorn. They needed help and succour which has been completely denied by the Finance Minister. Therefore, I oppose this Budget.

SHRI THANGABAALU (Tamil Nadu)

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on the General Budget, 1985-86. At the outset, I would say that this Budget is a redemption of our hon. Prime Minister's election pledge that he would give a new orientation to the economy. This reflects the prevailing mood of optimism and self-confidence of the people. Our Prime Minister does not want to lead the people by a nose string. He is keen to make them march with him on a road that gets wider and grander with each passing step, so that they reach ultimately the citadel of progress where they are assured of a place under the Sun.

Our hon. Finance Minister has given budgetary support, shape, to the ideals of our hon. Prime Minister. Honesty, rationality, economic efficiency, simplicity, equity and social justice are the basic tenets which have been adumbrated in this Budget. This Budget is not merely a statement of Government's revenue and expenditure. As has been aptly pointed out by our hon. Prime Minister the other day, the experience of age and the enthu-

siam of the youth have brought about the innovative and pragmatic economic concepts through this Budget. I wholeheartedly support this budget. Now I would like to make some specific comments about the budget and also refute some of the wild allegations made by some of our opposition Members, which have no substance in them. The charge is that the budget is a not a socialist one. This is a totally hollow charge because the whole thrust of the budget is on giving benefits to the common man. There are specific schemes like crop insurance, relief in tax and maximum relief provided to the workers. Another thing. The growth in production which is visualised in the budget would result in availability of more goods for the common man at cheaper prices. The Finance Minister has, for the first time, made a bold breakthrough to remove all constraint on production. In this way there will be no scarcity and when the shortages or scarcity end, there will be more food, more goods available for everybody. This would also generate more and more employment. Under our Prime Minister's farsightedness a new cycle of employment orientation has been started. This will benefit the common man, lift him out of his hopeless situation of poverty and unemployment.

Now, Sir, let us turn to some specific issues relating to the country as a whole and particularly to my State of Tamil Nadu. Let us take the issue of housing. In a welfare society like ours housing gets top priority. Our Finance Minister is here, he is well aware of the conditions of the housing system in our country. It is my suggestion that our nationalised banks should change their attitude and policy towards this problem immediately. There are hundreds of cases of successful housing cooperatives in cities like Bombay, Delhi and Madras. And yet the banks in the nationalised sector have consistently refused to finance this vital national activity of housing for the common man.

I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister very strongly to issue necessary orders to the nationalised banks to finance housing activity not only in the towns and cities but in the rural areas also. Food,

shelter clothing are the basic minimum requirements for human survival. It is the duty of our State and its instruments like the nationalised banks to finance housing for the common man on a priority basis. Even the risk factor, here is far less and almost non-existent because the banks can hold the houses as security.

Coming to agriculture, our hon. Agriculture Minister is here and I would like to emphasize upon him that on the agriculture front not enough has been done for the agriculturists on whom the entire success of the budget depends. The Finance Minister has himself said, that the impact of the deficit will not be felt on prices provided agricultural production is good.

Now what kind of deal are we giving to the agriculturists? They are so vital to our economy. The farmers of this country contribute around 160 million tonnes of foodgrains in a year. But they get a raw deal, particularly the marginal and small farmers. Considering the costs of inputs, the prices are not sufficient.

I would strongly urge that a more positive approach be adopted to the problem of inputs like electricity, fertiliser etc. It is widely known that the bigger farmers and industrialists pilfer electricity directly from the lines and there is lot of corruption in which the electricity officials make money and government is cheated of its dues.

Another thing which I would like to state is, the Government is committed to cleanse out corruption from the country. This should be extended to this rich agriculturist sector which is in collusion with the corrupt electricity officials.

The saving in electricity which 7.00 P.M. would thus result should be passed on to the marginal and small farmers in the form of free electricity to them. Right now the State is giving free electricity to the rich farmers by way of theft or stealing and filling the pockets of corrupt electricity officials. My plea is that this corruption should be completely wiped out and the gain passed on

[Shri Thangabaaalu]

to the poorer sections of the farming community. This will go a long way in giving relief to the agricultural community in the country.

Our hon. Finance Minister, who is here, is spearheading the scheme for the last two or three years and he must know what is happening in the banking sector regarding the Self Employment Scheme. The issue is of national concern and I would like to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister that the Unemployed Youth Programme was first formulated and enunciated by our late beloved Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I notice that in this year's budget there is no increase in the outlay for this scheme, when it is the year of the Youth. In fact there is a 50 per cent cut in the allocation for this scheme where one would have expected an increase. Last year around 5 lakh youths were supposed to be covered by this Scheme. Even here the youth face severe problems at the hands of the bank managers. Even though they are getting the clearance from the DICs or employment exchanges, the bank managers have given them a raw deal. On the top of this, in this year's budget the allocation has been cut down to 50 per cent. I strongly urge upon the Finance Minister who is having the maximum interest in developing the weaker sections, particularly the youngsters, not to disappoint the youth of the country who stood solidly behind our young, dynamic Prime Minister and who have high expectations from us. I think the target for this year should be doubled i.e. from 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs--and the allocation must be a minimum of Rs. 300 crores. It is the youth who are the hope of this country whose enterprise must be channelised through such progressive schemes of employment. Again, I would request the Finance Minister to appoint a machinery which will monitor speedy implementation of the scheme and also correct the attitudes of bank managers who are not in tune with the policies of the Government.

Our late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, had launched a weaker sections' loan programme. She said that she was

there to look after the interest of weaker sections and she stood guarantee for the weaker sections in meeting their needs. Her intention was to uplift the poorest of the poor in the country. That programme was very much implemented. I cannot say that it was implemented throughout India, but I can say that at least in regard to Tamil Nadu. Our Finance Minister, Poojary participated in it and he saw the enthusiasm of the people and he saw the results also. Her intention was to reduce the disparities by generating self-employment at the lowest levels of our society. This was widely welcomed by the common man in their hope to get away from the clutches of the money-lenders. But unfortunately this benefit which was intended only for the poor people does not go to them because the bank officers are in the company of rich people. The weaker sections of the people are always repaying the loans, but not the big industrialists. As our Minister stated yesterday during Question Hour, in this country loans given to the weaker sections have been repaid. According to my information, in my State 90 per cent of the people have repaid the loans and still when they go back to the bank, the bank manager says: "Indira Gandhi is gone. There is no more a scheme". (Time bell rings) Sir, I want five minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): No, no, I am sorry, Mr. Thangabaaalu because we are going to adjourn the House now.

SHRI THANGABAALU: I am surprised that this scheme has been scrapped and no bank is entertaining the requests of the poor people anymore. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to give necessary instructions to the concerned bank authorities so that the public sector banks do not shut their doors on the weaker sections. The nationalised banks should not show the same disregard for the poor as money-lenders do because it is their task to bring about a social change according to the Government policy.

Coming specifically to Tamil Nadu, I would only like to state that the Salem steel plant project was cleared by the Steel Ministry and by the late Prime

Minister, **Shrimati** Indira Gandhi, long back. What has happened by now is that the steel plant project has got reduced to the level of a steel mill. This year's budget allocation only confirms this impression. I strongly feel that the promise of the steel plant should not be belied. The allocation for the Salem steel plant should be increased in keeping with the progressive plan of development which had been outlined for it at the outset. The hopes and expectations of the people of Tamil Nadu are tied with the steel plant at Salem in a big way.

Also I would like to mention that there is a long-pending request of the State Government regarding an airport for Salem but it does not figure anywhere in the budget nor is any allocation made for it ... (*Time bell rings*)... I would request the hon. Minister to please find some way to increase or allocate some more funds for the Salem steel plant so that the people of Tamil Nadu will be happy.

Last year our late Prime Minister took a personal initiative to lay the foundation stone for the Telugu Ganga project which would alleviate the water shortage particularly in Madras city and give relief also to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The water problem in Madras city is very very acute and it puts lakhs of people to severe inconvenience every year. The Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, particularly the people of Tamil Nadu, want this project to be aided by the Central Government.

Before concluding, I want to say that the hike in petrol prices is against the common man. Nowadays petrol is an essential commodity for the ordinary people. The additional income that the Go-

vernment will be getting through this hike is only a meagre amount. I would like to impress upon the Finance Minister that the Prime Minister has created a separate Ministry for the development of the womenfolk of this country and today the womenfolk are in trouble because of the hike in gas prices. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to reduce the hike in petrol price because many of the common people and ordinary workers belonging to the weaker sections also are using motor cycles and scooters and so they are also affected by this hike. They want relief to be given immediately.

The womenfolk of this country are expecting a great deal from the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. On their behalf I request the honourable Finance Minister to reduce the price like in cooking gas.

With these words, I commend the Government's initiatives and strongly support this budget. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Now I would like to inform honourable Members that an extraordinary situation has arisen in that all the parties have exceeded their time by well over one hour, 20 minutes, 30 minutes and so on depending upon their time. Most of the points have been made. I am no doubt aware that many Members are sitting from 2.30 in the afternoon, waiting for their chance to speak. As in the case of the Lok Sabha when sometimes the guillotine has to be applied when the Demands for Grants are being discussed and many Ministries are not taken up, I am afraid, a similar measure of guillotine has to be applied to this budget discussion.