

also been stated that the joint survey was started on the border without the knowledge of the State Government.

In this connection, I would request the Home Minister that since this is a delicate matter he must take the Parliament and the people of India into confidence and must tell us what is the actual position regarding these two villages. Since we have already in the past suffered losses of property and land which has come to the Chinese or even to the Pakistanis, we feel very much concerned about this matter and we want our Government to ensure that there is no further loss of Indian property in this time.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): We fully endorse what the Hon'ble Member has said.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will now take up legislative business, the Finance Minister.

#### **APPROPRIATION (No. 3) BILL, 1984**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. KRISHNA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1984-85, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Bill provides for withdrawal out of the Consolidated Fund of India the amounts required to meet the expenditure for the year 1984-85 charged on the Fund as well as the Grants voted by the Lok Sabha.

While gross disbursement of Rs. 176,930 crores are provided in the Bill after setting off recoveries and

transactions in the nature of accounting adjustments, the net provisions aggregate Rs. 42,536 crores. Of this, Rs. 25,360 crores or 60 per cent is for developmental expenditure, including Rs. 16,470 crores for Control, State- and Union Territory Plans. The provision for Defence expenditure at Rs. 6,300 crores constitutes about 16 per cent. Interest payments account for 13 per cent, statutory and other transfers to State and Union Territory Governments 4 per cent and the balance 7 per cent is for normal administrative and other expenditure.

The amount provided in the Bill is inclusive of the sums already authorised in the Appropriation, (Vote-on-account) Act, 1984.

The House has already had a general debate on the Budget, I would not, therefore, enumerate the details of the Budget provisions but shall try to deal with the points that may be made by the Hon'ble Members in the course of discussion.

*The question was proposed.*

SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I oppose this Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1984, to authorise payment, and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year, 1984-85, excluding the Ministry of Railways, as during allocation of money to the different Ministries no tangible measures have been taken to eradicate poverty, acute unemployment and sufferings of the toiling masses of the people.

While nothing else in the economy has developed or increased during this period—neither per capita national income nor industrial production nor exports—only our debts keep on piling up at the rate of Rs. 100 crores a year. These were borrowed from outside the country, mainly from IMF with their humiliating conditions which are added to our economic burden.

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against our national interests. By March 1985 these debts will amount to Rs. 25,000 crores, that is, Rs. 400/- per man or woman or child.

And now our per capita income is two thousand rupees and we are sending our proportion in relation to the value of Gross National Product. We are using the resources not for growth, but for consumption, without any aim and proper perspective to ameliorate the suffering of the masses. So, recurring deficits are there which eat into the small remaining surpluses. Recently, some crores of rupees worth of tax concessions on Excise, Customs and Income-Tax have been given. But in actual practice, these cannot satisfy the appetite of the common masses of our country who do not get two square meals a day, and their number is the maximum in the country. Their family budgets crack up and, therefore, they cannot support this Bill.

Tall claims of increase in agricultural production are made. The average food production between 1974-75 and 1983-84 is 123.32 million tonnes. The World Development Report says that between 1960 and 1981, agricultural production was stagnant. But this year's food production, Government was boasting, has surpassed all records and that it has reached the figure of 142 or 144 million tonnes. It may be 152 million tonnes. But the Government cannot boast that it is a great success. If production has increased, then the prices must come down. But the prices are not coming down. Also the per capita availability of cereals and pulses has gone down from 44.7 gm., in 1962 to 43.02 gms. In 1984. Actually, nothing has been done to augment agricultural production properly and to increase the purchasing power of the toiling rural masses. Only drastic land reforms can achieve this and this alone can lead to the amelioration of

the sufferings of the rural peasants and to increase in the purchasing power of the toiling masses. But the Government has not done anything with regard to land reforms. It has also given some incentives to the producers. For example the support price of wheat, between 1980-81 and 1984-85, has been increased from Rs. 117 per quintal to Rs. 152 per quintal. But the costs of inputs have gone up tremendously. The prices of fertilizers, diesel, seeds, etc. have gone up by two hundred per cent. The prices of tree seeds also have gone up. So, with adequate incentive to the producer how can production be expected to go up.

The claims made with regard to industrial production are all hollow. You take the span of twenty years from 1960, the World Bank Report says that it has gone down from 1 per cent to 4.4 per cent in the mill sectors, especially in the production of consumer goods industries. The Reserve Bank Bulletin of October 19 says that production in the consumer goods industries in March 1983 was 170.3 in April—169.6 in May—156 in June—151 and in July—146.5. It also says that 28,500 factories or districts were closed down in June 1982 because of demand recession, a slower growth and market depression. Only in West Bengal, 90 per cent of the man-days lost is due to closures and lock-outs. Two lakh new unemployed people are rotting in the streets. The Ministry of Industry cannot take over these industries. But it will not do that to teach a lesson to the West Bengal Government. Because of import liberalisation the multinational companies are dumping their goods in the markets. Production in our industries is being curtailed and the firms are being forced to close down. Monopolies driving out of others. Therefore, into account the assets of the large in the private corporate sector. The assets of the top industrialists were Rs. 19,150,99,00,000 crores in 1981-82. They have gone up to Rs. 11,345,45,00,000 crores. In one year their total assets

went up by Rs. 2000 crores. Take for instance the Tatas and Birlas etc. According to the reply given by the Minister to a question in the Rajya Sabha in November 1983 Tata's total assets were Rs. 641.93 crores. In 1981 they went up to Rs. 1840.16 crores. Birlas: in 1972 their assets were worth Rs. 529.42 crores; in 1981 they were Rs. 1691.69 crores. Mahatmas: in 1972 the figure was Rs. 183.74 crores; in 1981 it was Rs. 535.12 crores. This only focusses light on one aspect of the matter that because of the concessions given to MRTP companies and multi nationals, they are squeezing business of small industry and medium industry in the market\_

The long echoing 20-point program- me has become a hoax. No drastic land reforms. Land to the tiller by gratis, have taken place to enlarge the purchasing power of the rural peasantry. Even the West Bengal Land Reforms. Amendment Bill, 1981, has not yet been ready for President's assent after a series of international objections are being clarified by our Government. The Bill was received by the Centre on the 21st May, 1981.

The dangers of "Mass Loan Mela", in which the branches of nationalised banks have been involved: This scheme has been a weapon of the ruling party over the weaker sector. The constitutional legality of this scheme is open to question.

The Public Accounts Committee in their 19th Report (1931-82) has drawn attention to the fact that the National Rural Employment Programme says that there were serious irregularities on the part of most of the State Governments—except West Bengal and Tripura. Corruption, misappropriation, false debits in the accounts, diversion of food grains, etc. Thus the anti-poverty programme has a tendency to generate into pro-party programmes of the ruling party at the Centre.

Rampant inflation! At present the rate of inflation is more than 10 per cent and it seems that nothing is going to stop the inflation. Now a new policy has been introduced by the Government through Administrative Orders/Notifications and above the policy of taxation, excise duty, custom, duty, concession, to the monopolists have resulted in galloping rise of prices. The Government has itself in this way increased the issue prices of rice, wheat, sugar, cement, etc. Between 1980 and 1983, the prices of petroleum were increased by Rs. 5500 crores and railway fares and freight charges by Rs. 815.34 crores.

The price of coal was Rs. 101.18 per tonne at the pithead and it has been raised to Rs. 183.00 on 9-1-1984. In this context, I want to point out to the Minister the plight of 50 lakh State Government employees and teachers

who are suffering for non-payment of D.A., bonus, interim relief, *ad hoc* rise in pay etc. It is said that it is a State subject. But who is responsible for price rise and inflation and indirect taxes? Is it the Central Government or the State Government? The Centre should come forward to allot more funds to the States for the development of the States and to enable them to grant D.A., bonus, interim relief, etc. to the lakhs of State Government employees who are suffering like anything, as State has limited resources.

Now, I come to public distribution system. We have demanded that 13 necessary commodities like edible oil, foodgrains, cloth, coal, kerosene, pulses, sugar, etc. should be supplied at subsidised rates through public distribution system. The Government should invest money. This will help stabilisation of prices to some extent which is beyond the control of the Government and the people. In West Bengal, the monthly demand of foodgrains is 4 lakh metric tonnes. On an average, we are being given 2 to 2½ lakh tonnes. Now, we are producing jute in the paddy fields earning foreign

[Shri Arabinda Ghosh]

exchange. No adequate arrangements are there for the supply of adequate foodgrains. We are being denied our share of foodgrains. Our public distribution system is suffering a lot.

In 1983-84, balance of payment gap will be roughly Rs. 5000 crores. It is less than in the 1982-83 figure. It is being achieved because of lesser imports of crude on account of indigenous production. It is welcome. But the way you are going to export crude will exhaust the entire stock very soon. Every country of the world wants to preserve its mineral wealth.

*How, I come to black money.* According to conservative estimates by different economists, the generation of black money is approximately of the order of Rs. 16,500 crores. It is 10 per cent of our gross domestic production of Rs. 1,55,000 crores. This is more than the total tax revenue of the country. This menace of black money is corroding our national economy. No measures have been taken by the Government to check it. There is no law. This will not be done because the ruling party is getting contributions for its election funds, from the black money holders.

States are suffering. The total resources transferred to the States in this year's budget are of the order of Rs. 13,542 crores as against Rs. 13,382 crores in the revised estimates. Barely a sum of Rs. 116 crores was added. The rate of inflation is 10 per cent. Therefore, actually there is a reduction in the transfer of resources to the States.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: I will take 5 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is too much. Already you have taken 15 minutes.

SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: The States are charged with the responsi-

bility of development work which concerns the day-to-day life of the people. Take for example agriculture, special area programmes, irrigation, flood control, social services, education, health, sanitation, housing, water supply, etc. But these inadequately transferred resources will not do for the better development of the State. So our categorical demand is that as early as possible 75 per cent of the total revenue collected from the States should be distributed to the States. (*Time bell rings*), it is all high-sounding words of the Finance Minister which are used to malign the States which have taken overdrafts, specially West Bengal. But he should bear in mind that between 1980 and 1984 there was deficit financing resorted to the extent of Rs. 9,089 crores. The difference between the Central Government and the States which draw overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India, is that while the States draw overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India the Centre draws overdrafts from the Nasik Printing Press. That is the difference.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Please conclude now.

SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: The highest overdraft is now taken by Punjab and not West Bengal. The Central Government, you should bear in mind, is responsible for foreign loans and deficit financing i.e. overdrafts.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Appropriation Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Yes, Mr. P. N. Sukul.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill. Sir, I do not think that anybody should oppose this Bill because it is a very simple piece of legislation whereby we are only going to authorise the Government to draw a certain sum to meet the expenses by the services during the current financial year and all these expenses have al-

ready been approved of when we passed the Budget. As a matter of fact, Sir, after passing the Budget there was no need for this Bill and there should not have been any need for the consideration of such a Bill but it is a constitutional necessity and, therefore, we have to consider it. However, there cannot be any objection to this Bill being passed by this House.

In this connection, Sir, my learned colleague from the other side who spoke just now, Comrade Arabinda Ghosh, said that he opposed this Bill because the problem of unemployment has not been solved and poverty has not been removed. While this Bill incorporates only the expenses approved of in the Budget, how can we expect that between the passing of the Budget and the passing of this Appropriation Bill, poverty will be removed and the problem of unemployment will be solved and all these things will be done. As a matter of fact, there should not be any objection to this Appropriation Bill. However, our opposition friends are free to say anything.

Sir, the other day in the other House one very important opposition leader suggested that the Parliamentary Committee system should be strengthened so that each item of revenue and each item of expenditure can be scrutinised in detail. Sir, while there cannot be any objection to the strengthening of Parliamentary Committee system, I am afraid that even under that system we will not be in a position to scrutinise each and every item of expenditure. That simply is not possible and for doing that there is a constitutional machinery available, the organisation of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. It is his business to look into even a minor item of expenditure. So, personally, I think that we should not try to take over the obligations of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. We should be concerned primarily with laying down policy decisions, laying

down policies and making necessary laws and, of course, broadly speaking, ensure the implementation of the decisions taken in Parliament. I am amused when I find that one Opposition P.M.

Member in the other House recently said that on the one hand he wants pace of development to increase further and on the other he suggests that Government expenditure should be curbed as far as possible. How can these two things go-together. And he is a very important leader of Opposition in the other House belonging to the party of Mr. Advani, if I am not wrong. He said that Government expenditure should be curbed. Why? It is because in 1950-51, the total Government expenditure was of the order of Rs. 950 crores while in 1982-83, the Government expenditure is of the order of Rs. 52,125 crores. Sir, the hon. Member concerned, perhaps, did not remember that in 1950-51, planned development of the country had not started. We started late. All these six Five-Year Plans have been implemented or are being implemented—the Sixth Plan is being implemented—and it has all been done after 1950-51. It is because of this planned development that Government expenditure has increased to this extent. So it will not be proper to say that we should increase the pace of development and also curb the Government expenditure. Such criticism becomes meaningless and I will advise my friend not to resort to such things.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The debate will continue after lunch.

**मदन की कार्यवाही दोपहर 2 बजे तक  
के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।**

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

The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two 'o' the clock, Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We now continue with the discussion on the Appropriation Bill. Shri Sukul to continue his speech.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I was just referring to the erroneous approach of some of the Opposition parties towards the functioning of the Government. My hon. friend, Mr. Arabinda Ghosh, who spoke before me, was saying that due to a paltry increase of Rs. 4 crores in the overdrafts, the Central Government stopped the payments to the West Bengal Government. Sir, so far as I know, five States were having overdrafts; Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. When our Finance Minister convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all these States, but for West Bengal, 'all the other four States agreed to reduce their overdrafts by' 31st March. Only West Bengal did not agree to it. In fact, Sir, in December last, when I was placing their case before the Planning Commission, the West Bengal Government projected a deficit of Rs. 177 crores. But later on, the overdrafts came to Rs. 187 crores. On the 24th January, our Finance Minister had a meeting with the representatives of the West Bengal Government and he imposed three conditions. The first condition was that they should reduce their overdrafts to Rs. 90 crores by 31st March. And then the Central Government will provide you the aid amounting to almost Rs. 90 crores. Secondly, there should be no further increase in overdraft amounting to Rs. 187 crores of the West Bengal Government. Otherwise, the Central assistance will be stopped. And the third condition was that you submit monthly statements regarding what actually the Government is doing in this regard in the month of February and in the month of March. But that Government did not even furnish these monthly state-

ments. In March when the overdrafts increased from Rs. 187 crores to Rs. 191 crores, the Finance Minister was obliged to ask the Reserve Bank of India to stop payment to West Bengal. So, it will be seen that the stoppage of payment is not just for Rs. 4 crores. It is because the overdraft package came to Rs. 191 crores. There are other States also and non-Congress States also. In Andhra there is no overdraft. It is a non-Congress State. In Tamil Nadu also there has been no overdraft. It is a non-Congress State, first time perhaps they have had the first overdraft. In Jammu and Kashmir there is no overdraft. Likewise, the West Bengal Government cannot allow somebody manage its finances in a better way so that there are no overdrafts and no avoidable increase in their overdrafts. In fact, Sir, our Government, I mean the Union Government, has shown great consideration and concern in the case of West Bengal Government.

When in March 1982 it was decided that all overdrafts will be converted into loans on 31st March 1982, the biggest favour went to West Bengal because their overdrafts totalled Rs. 340 crores. So, Rs. 340 crores worth of overdrafts of West Bengal Government were almost liquidated converted into loans and in that process we still their overdrafts totalled up to Rs. 191 crores. Personally I think there is something basically wrong with the functioning of the West Bengal Government at least the finances of that Government are not being managed properly. Even with regard to Central assistance, West Bengal Government got Rs. 800 crores in four years whereas they were to get Rs. 800 crores in five years. They got it in four years. This was another favour shown to West Bengal and still our friends in West Bengal try to criticise the policy of the Union Government, I think it is not very good and it is not going to help either the State or the Central Government.

So, Sir, I have already spoken much and in pretty detail when I spoke on the General Budget. I am not going

to repeat all those things. I will only say that the entire development of the country that has taken place since independence has been due only to the Congress rule, Congress governments in the country. Whatever development we find around us, whatever infrastructure has been created, it is all the doing of the Congress Government. We know pretty well that during the 30 months of the non-Congress rule at the Centre there was negative growth in almost all the fields of activity, whether in industry or in agriculture or anywhere. It was negative.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPt DRA.  
(Andhra Pradesh): It is not correct..

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: It is. I am not talking of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Upen dra, I am talking of the Central Government; In fact, our functioning, development has been so good even international financial like IMF and World Bank, have all praise for us. Now, a situation friends do not realise?? that try to find, only fault with us; will not be correct, and that will be a very big proportion. I shall say. In this although development started with Pt. Nehru and it was his imagination and of people who were then here in the Government that we launched planned development, but it is under the Government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi as compared to the earlier period, that there has been almost a colossal development in all fields of activities. As regards development since Independence, I would like to quote only a few things. In the matter of food production - self-sufficient today. The target that was laid down for 1983-84 has now been far exceeded. So we are self-sufficient in the matter of food. We are also self-sufficient in the matter of clothing. We are also almost self-sufficient in the matter of Crude oil production. Whatever little gap is still left is going to be wiped out during the next five-six years—at the most in one Plan period. As regards education, what was our condition in 1947

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Self-sufficient in every thing.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: At that time 4.5 crore people were literate in the country when we became Independent. And Mr. Mohanarangam, what is the figure today? More than 25 crores, in terms of our population in 1947, our literacy has increased to more than 83 per cent. Of course it is the population growth that goes to neutralise our achievements to a very great extent, but that does not mean that we have not done anything, we have achieved nothing.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:  
What about population living below the poverty line?

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: I think you are going to throw light on it when you speak. Thus what I mean to say is that since Independence under the dynamic leadership of Pt. Nehru, and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, our country has undergone a great qualitative change in agriculture as well as industry.

As regards the Budget of the current financial year, in connection with which this Appropriation Bill has been brought forth before us for consideration, I will reiterate that it is perhaps one of the best budgets that we have had so far—the best and also the most socialistic budget which seeks to provide relief to people in almost all income groups. That is the beauty of this Budget. And, as has been aptly stated in this Budget, the quantum of relief that is there is much more than the quantum of levies that is there in it. So it is a very good budget and I hope this Appropriation Bill for that reason is going to be passed by all of us.

However, Sir, before I wind up I would like to make a few suggestions. While speaking on the Budget I had said that the level of exemption from income Tax must be increased to Rs. 25,000 per annum. Five per cent relief has been provided. But concerning

[Shri Parvathaneni Upendra]

the price rise that has been there during the last 35 years since Independence, this limit should now be Rs. 25,000 per annum.

The second thing that I would like to suggest is that if we cannot check prices, the compensatory allowances that are paid to the employees must be paid on time and in full. I mean, about the increase in the DA or the DA instalments that are to be paid by the Government to the Central employees or the State employees, it must be ensured that these instalments are paid to the employees only in cash and on time so that these low-paid people don't have to suffer on that account. In this connection, Sir, although the State Government employees are supposed to be under the employment of the State Governments and the Government of India may say, "Well, they are not our burden", I would like to suggest that since according to the Constitution all public servants, whether Central Government employees or State Government employees, they are all State employees. So, the Government of India must try to ensure that all State employees including State Government and Central Government employees and local body employees, they must all get the same justice and there should be no discrimination in payment of increases in dearness allowance and other compensatory allowances.

Sir, in this connection I would also like to point out that the pension of pensioners who retired 10 or 12 years ago must be raised and brought on par with the pension of those who have recently retired. Now, because of the price-rise, these people and their families are finding it very hard to make both ends meet and so the amount of their pension must also be raised.

Similarly, I want to say one thing more. We have not yet been able to make school education free throughout India though it was laid down in our Constitution that in ten years it

would be done. Therefore, I would request my Government to consider seriously to have school education made free throughout the country.

In the end, Sir, I would only say that full one month's pay should be paid to the Central and State Government employees by way of bonus, and not just 15 days' pay. Once you agree that bonus is payable to them, you must pay bonus to them at the rate of 8.33 per cent, and I hope our Government will pay one month's salary to its employees by way of bonus.

With these words, Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

MISS JAYALALITHA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir the Appropriation Bill has been discussed in the Lok Sabha and is now being discussed in the Rajya Sabha.

The hon. Finance Minister submits this Appropriation Bill to obtain the assent of the Members of Parliament to draw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for multifarious purposes, to implement various schemes. Those various schemes, we are informed, are purportedly for the benefit of the nation.

Sir, we speak of the Consolidated Fund of India. How is, this Fund formed in the first place? What constitutes its reserves? Is it not the revenue contributed in several ways by all the States of India that constitutes the Consolidated Fund of India? Though innumerable taxes the States regularly part with massive sums of money—like sacrificial obligations at the altar of the Central Government—and it is the States which keep replenishing the reserves of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Sir, we understand very well the necessity for such a Fund. But the rates of taxation are so high and the range of taxation is so all-encompassing that the Centre practically appropriates all the money that is available and the State Governments are left with little or no funds to administer the States. They are responsible for.



Even the water we drink is taxed. The only item—if I may so refer to it—that is left untaxed is the air we breathe, and even that air is not free I mean, it is not free from pollution, It is contaminated with smog and harmful oxides and poisonous fumes As such, is it not natural for the States to expect sufficient Central investment in each State in direct proportion to the contribution the State makes to the gross national revenue?

When I speak of the contribution of a State, I use the word "contribution" in a broad, general sense and I am not referring to any specific mode of contribution of any specific product or material. That varies from State to State, depending upon its natural resources, climatic conditions and various other factors.

Take the case of Tamil Nadu which I have the honour to represent in this Council of States. The Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Government of India time and again to allot 80,000 tonnes of rice per month from the Central pool. But after refusing pointblank in the beginning and then agreeing to send very meagre allotments, step by step the Centre gradually raised the allocation to the munificent total of 35,000 tonnes per month, which does not amount to even half the allotment requested by the State. For the past two months the Government of India has been even more lavish in its bounteousness and has reduced the allocation to, only 25,000 tonnes per month. Sir, please consider the circumstances which have compelled the Government of Tamil Nadu to repeatedly implore the Government of India to allot more rice to the State. For the past three years Tamil Nadu was afflicted by severe drought conditions. Due to the failure of the monsoons for three years in succession, not only was agricultural production adversely affected but people in the State suffered due to scarcity of even drinking water. The long period of drought was immediately followed by unprecedented unseasonal rains which were torrential as to

cause widespread devastation and havoc due to floods.

The honourable Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, is a very knowledgeable person. At one time he was a Professor of Economics and History, I am told. Surely the honourable Finance Minister remembers the elementary principle which every student of economics knows fully well.—that a period of depression will usually be followed by a period of prosperity. But Tamil Nadu has experienced the extreme misfortune of proving to be the exception to this golden rule. In Tamil Nadu, unfortunately, calamity followed calamity, one natural disaster has been followed by another. When a State in the Indian Union is battered by such catastrophic visitations of Nature where else can the State look to for succour and relief but to the Government of India? Is it not the constitutional duty of the Government of India to hasten to provide the necessary relief and assistance when a State is reeling under the dire pressure of such hardship? Yes, despite repeated representations made to the Government of India by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and the Finance Minister, the Centre still refuses to accede to our request for 80,000 tonnes of rice per month. For flood relief we requested the Government of India to allocate 217.73 crores of rupees, but so far the Centre has allotted to Tamil Nadu the princely sum of Rs. 77.54 crores. The Tamil Nadu Government has, on its own, spent Rs. 114.28 crores for flood relief.

Sir, the criterion for judging the progress of a nation is its industrial development. In a country like India where unemployment is rampant, further industrialisation is the only way to wipe out the scourge of unemployment. In the situation obtaining today in our country, a State Government can only encourage and aid the development of small-scale industries? To a limited extent a State Government can assist in the develop-

[Miss Jayalalitha]

ment and growth of medium and major industries. But to start any really large-scale heavy industries, it is necessary to obtain the sanction of the Government of India.

Between 1977 and 1983, 449 medium and major industries have been started in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government recognises the fact that medium and major industries are necessary for the growth and development of small-scale industries. So far, through these and various other schemes, the State Government has created employment opportunities for 30 lakh people. Despite this achievement unemployment is still on the increase. During the past three years, the Tamil Nadu Government has sent 384 applications to the Government of India for starting new industries in the State. Out of these, the Government has still not issued Letters of Intent for 123 applications. If these 123 industrial licence applications had been cleared by the Centre, by now we could have provided employment to 50,000 more people in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government is waiting and is ready to, start new industries or render all possible assistance to those wishing to start new industries in the State. The only stumbling

block is the inordinate delay in granting clearance by the Government of India. For its part, the State Government is doing everything within its power to speed up the processing of Letters of Intent. Therefore, I request the Government of India to issue these pending 123 Letters of Intent without further delay.

Recently the Government of India has issued revised guidelines for classifying areas as industrially backward. According to the recent Sivaraman Report 87 districts were declared as backward districts under the new guidelines. I am constrained to point out that not only Tamil Nadu but the entire South has been completely neglected in this regard. Except for one solitary district in Karnataka, no other district in the rest of the South

has been included in this list. What is the reason for this blatant discrimination?

The Government of India has classified backward areas into three categories, namely. Category A, B and C. Category 'A' refers to 'No Industry Districts' where the Central capital subsidy would be 25 per cent of the investment, with a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs. The reason given by the Government of India for adopting this new yardstick is that many districts in the northern States of India have no industries at all. The Government of India seeks to justify its new policy by citing this as the main reason.

Where the northern States of India are concerned, whichever political party has been the ruling party in power at the Centre, has also been the ruling party in those States—all along. If no industries have been started in those northern States all these years, certainly Tamil Nadu or any of the other southern States cannot be blamed for this deplorable state of affairs. If no industries have been developed in so many districts of the northern States, that is entirely due to the gross inefficiency and glaring acts of omission of the governments of those States. Why should Tamil Nadu have to pay the penalty for this gross negligence and maladministration on the part of those north Indian State governments? Indeed, why should all the four southern States be penalised for no fault of theirs?

The Government of India now declares "No Industry Districts" as backward. Previously the criterion adopted for classifying an area as backward was "Zero Industry Taluks". I am unable to understand the necessity for changing the earlier guidelines. Tamil Nadu does not have any "No Industry District". This does not necessarily mean that all the districts in Tamil Nadu are industrially well developed. As all the districts of Tamil Nadu are very large, Tamil Nadu has suffered in comparison with other States having much smaller districts.

Category 'B' refers to taluks where the central capital subsidy would be 15 per cent, with a ceiling of Rs. 15 lakhs. The blocks having investments of more than Rs. 30 crores would be excluded from the list of 'backward areas.

Category 'C' taluks would be the nine concessional finance districts in Tamil Nadu excluding the Category 'B' taluks—ana they would be eligible for the capital subsidy of 10 per Cent, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs.

As already mentioned, since most of districts in Tamil Nadu are extremely large, the State Government has taken up the matter with the Government of India and has requested that only taluks or blocks should taken as the unit -for declaring "No Industry Areas", rather than districts, as the size of a taluk or block is likely to be more or less uniform throughout the country. The decision of the 'Gov-ernment of India in this regard is awaited. We hope the Government of India will take a favourable decision in this matter without further delay, or else it will only harden the feeling of the southern States that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to them by the Centre in the area of industrial development.

We do not have sufficient Central investment in Tamil Nadu. In the past ten years the Central sector invest; ment in Tamil Nadu has come down from 8 per cent to 4 per cent. The State Government earnestly hopes that the Centre will correct this regional imbalance soon, or else the very firm belief in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu that the Centre has been very unjust and unfair in its treatment of the State will only be reinforced, if the Centre persists in its discriminatory policy. The Government of India should come forward to expedite the expansion of the already existing Central Government projects in Tamil Nadu.

The Hindusthan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd. was set up by the Government of India in the

year 1960 in Uthagamandalam, that is, Ooty, in Tamil Nadu. The Com-pany is engaged in the manufacture of photo sensitised films and paper. There are three new schemes under the con-sideratibn of the Centre—a cine colour positive film, project, an X-ray coating plant; and a magnatic tape plant The Tamil Nadu Government has already requested the Government of India to set up all these three projects as expansion projects in Utha-gamandalam itself since tie proj cost will be much less. If the Centre were to set up these projects in a d erent place, the cost would be' far greater since everything would have to be constructed from scratch. Because of the already functioning plant at Ooty and the, ready infrastrucluie, it would be economicali more viable ' for the Centre to treat all these three new schemes as expansion projects of the Ooty plant. Discussions have already been initiated at the Ministerial level, and we earnestly hope that the Government of India will soon announce a favourable decision in this regard.

There is the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi. The Tamil Nadu Government has urged the Government of India to set up the planned expansion project of the Factory at Tiruvallur. The proposed expansion project is a factory which will produce modern bettle tanks. The Tamil Nadu Government is prepared to extend all possible co-operation if the Centre decides to locate this project at Tiru-vallur.

The Madras Fertilizers Limited was incorporated in 1966. The naptha required' for this plant is supplied by the Madras Refineries Limited, set uP in 1965. Today the Madras Fertilizers Limited is operating extremely successfully with a very high margin of profit. The Tamil Nadu Govern-ment has been repeatedly urging the Government of India to sanction a Rs. 600 crore expansion project for this plant. (*Time bell rings*) Just a few minutes more Sir.

[Miss, .ayalalitha]

We hope, the Centre will fulfil this request without further delay.

Whenever the Tamil Nadu Government proposed this scheme for expansion of the Madras Fertilizers Limited the Centre has cited the shortage of electricity as a reason for turning down the proposal. The Tamil Nadu Government has discovered a new method to overcome this difficulty. It is proposed to generate power in co-operative sugar mills by installing high-pressure boilers and to supply the surplus electricity generated to the Tamil Nadu grid. Two such co-generation plants will be set up, one at the Dharmapuri District Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd. and another at the Kallakurichi Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., at an estimated cost of Rs. 900 lakhs each. Since this will be a project for generation of power from "non-conventional sources," it is expected that the Government of India will come forward to meet the funds required for the project.

The Tamil Nadu Cement Corporation has repeatedly been pressing the Government of India to sanction a cement plant at Palayam in Madurai district. This plant will have a capacity of 4 lakh tonnes per annum.

This is a project which the Tamil Nadu Government wants to establish by itself. I emphasise, we have not asked for any Central aid for this project. All that we have requested is the permission of the Government of India to start this project. But the Government of India steadfastly continues to deny even this clearance to the Government of Tamil Nadu. What is the reason behind this strange attitude of the Centre? What is the reason behind this consistent refusal by the Centre to grant sanction for the cement plant at Palayam? There are rumours that it is to please one particular individual, a business magnate, a private cement factory owner, that this sanction is being denied to Tamil Nadu. Is this not a bizarre situation in a democracy, Sir? Which is more important, the welfare of 5-crores people of Tamil Nadu or

the welfare of one wealthy capitalist, one single individual? I request the Government of India to sanction clearance for the Palayam Cement Plant immediately.

When the foundation stone was laid for the commencement of the Salem Steel Project in 1977, it was approved and announced by the Government of India as a full-fledged steel project. However, when the Salem Steel Plant was commissioned in 1981, the whole project suddenly underwent transformation, and just as Cinderella's coach turned into a pumpkin at the wave of a magical wand by the Fairy Godmother, the promised full-fledged steel project suddenly emerged in the shape of mere steel rolling mill. In response to the Tamil Nadu Government's repeated demand to implement the Salem steel plant as a full-fledged project, the Steel Authority of India Ltd., keeps on giving us the same stock answer—"that the question is under study." I wonder when will this study—this endless research come to an end? And when will the Government of India announce its decision in this regard?

Sandalwood trees of the finest quality are found in abundance in Tamil Nadu. There is an enormous demand for sandal wood and sandal oil from Tamil Nadu. But the Government of India has imposed a ban on the export of sandal wood from Tamil Nadu.

If the export of sandalwood is permitted the financial resources of Tamil Nadu will be appreciably augmented, and the Government of India will also obtain a lot of foreign exchange. As things stand—the State's financial resources are very limited. On the one hand, the Government of India seeks to further narrow down the State's sources of revenue by trying to appropriate the right to levy several taxes being collected by the State Government. On the other hand, the Government of India bans the export of sandalwood and blocks all avenues whereby the State Government can earn

some income through its own natural resources. What justice is there in such a policy? I request the Government of India to forth with lift the ban on the export of sandalwood. Sir, Tamil Nadu by itself is capable of meeting the entire sandal oil requirements of the whole of India. Yet in another bid to further narrow down the State's sources of income the Government of India has permitted the import of synthetic sandalwood oil. Is it fair on the part of the Centre to create a rival market which adversely affects Tamil Nadu's interests?

Why go in for artificial diamonds—when we have genuine diamonds right here in the palm of our hand? When Tamil Nadu can supply all the genuine sandalwood oil that India requires, where is the need to import synthetic sandal oil?

Tamil Nadu is perennially short of water to meet its irrigation needs. The West flowing rivers of Kerala whose waters just flow into the sea, of no use to anybody, could be diverted so that the river waters could be utilised for irrigation in Tamil Nadu. This is a proposal we have been repeatedly putting forth to, the Government of India. Will the Centre ever come forward to implement this project?

We understand the Government of India is going to start a second coach factory. The Government of Tamil Nadu has already sent an official letter to the concerned department pressing the Centre to allocate the project to Tamil Nadu. We feel Trichy is the ideal place for this project. However, it is not feasible the Centre can expand the existing Coach Factory at Perambur.

• I urge the Centre to start a second Atomic Plant in Tamil Nadu, to sanction the expansion of the Ariyalur cement plant, and to work out a long term satisfactory plan for the supply of coal to the Tuticorin Thermal Plant and find a permanent solution to this permanent problem.

Tamil Nadu has a Coastline about 450 miles long. There are many countries in the world whose entire economy is based upon deep sea fishing. Therefore, the Centre should make good use of the 450 mile long coast line of Tamil Nadu and envisage and implement a large scale major full-fledged plan for deep sea fishing, if not in the Sixth Five Year Plan then at least in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

The distance between Madras and Delhi is 2,540 kilometres. The distance between Tirunelveli and Delhi is 3,000 kilometres.

I beseech the Government of India to think of the plight of a poor man in Tamil Nadu who is compelled to seek justice in a court of law. Even if the need arises can a poor man from the South even dream of travelling all the way to New Delhi to seek recourse in the highest court in the land—the Supreme Court? Even if he somehow manages to reach Delhi—still there is the language problem. To travel to New Delhi to seek justice in the Supreme Court is not within the reach of the average middle class citizen of India either—not if he happens to live in the South. It is, therefore, essential to establish a Bench of the Supreme Court in Madras—to put justice within the reach of the common man in South India. I also request the Centre to consider setting up a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai.

I could go on and on in this vein—but I now conclude with these words of Tennyson:—

"So many words, so much to do. So little done, such things to be. But there is more than I can see, And what I see, I leave unsaid."

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do, not oppose this Bill. I reiterate that we have no objection to this Bill being passed provided the states get their fair share and what is due to them from the Central funds and the Central investment. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj. Not here. Dr. Mohd Hashim Kidwai.

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir I rise here to give my whole hearted support to the motion of the hon. Leader of the House and Finance Minister that the Appropriation Bill be passed by this august House. Sir, I was really distressed to hear from the hon. Member of the Opposition that our country has not done anything and that unfortunately this country of ours is a country of misery scarcity and poverty. Nothing can be farther from truth than this misstatement. They should not forget that we have now a Government that not only works but works, for the people, for the poor classes of people unlike the former Government which unfortunately during the days of, I must say, counter-revolution, that is during the years 1977 to 1979, did not work at all. As against that, now we have a Government which works not only for the people but actually works for the welfare of the downtrodden and for the poor classes of people. We are proud of that. And our budget is based on this principle that poverty should be removed. We stand committed to that. Therefore, this picture which is presented by the hon. Members of the opposition is completely false and it is a distortion. It is nothing but distortion. I must remind this House that during all these years we have made very considerable progress and our country is marching very quickly towards the goal of socialism. We are wedded to the cause of secularism, democracy and to the establishment of a socialist society. But don't forget that unfortunately we have got both internal enemies and external enemies. The greatest enemy which we have to fight is communal Fascism. The greatest enemy which we have to fight is the great forces of disruption. Another very strong enemy which we have to fight is casteism. Other equally strong enemies which we have to fight

with all our might are regionalism and linguism. And don't forget that if there is one party that can keep the country together that is the Indian National Congress, which under dynamic and inspiring leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi can keep the country together. We are doing our best to make this country stronger and stronger and that day is not far off when, along with our political independence, we will have economic independence. Facts and figures are there which fully illustrate that tremendous progress has been made in the field of education, in the field of industry and in the field of agriculture. But there are people who try to minimise all this. Nothing can be farther from truth. Remember that today India has got great prestige. It is there on account of the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Today if this world is safe, for peace if we have got peace, it is largely on account of the policy of non-alignment of our country under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who is the leader of the Third world. If this world is safe for peace, it is on account of our country. Remember that ours is the largest parliamentary democracy in the world, and we are rightly proud of that. And our party is doing its best in implementing the comprehensive 20-point programme and for gradient of poverty. Much is being done for the uplift of the downtrodden. We have to fight communalism and fanaticism and fascism, otherwise as has been said we will have every dark future.

“न समझोगे तो मिट जाओगे ऐ हिन्दुस्तान  
बालो ।  
तुम्हारी दास्तान् तक भी न होगी दास्तानों  
में”

we must realise that we are Indians first and everyone of us has to work for the integrity of the country, for the unity of the country, and everyone of us will have to lay down his life for the protection and for the defence of our country.

In the end I would like to make a few suggestions. One is that our aged people should be given pension. Although some state Government have done something, the need of the hour is that the pension rules should be liberalised. My second humble suggestion is—T represent teachers: as I have enced of Rs. 200 per month should be given to the unemployed graduates. And the third thing a humble suggestion I represent teachers: as I have spent my life as a teacher; therefore, my humble suggestion is—teachers Should also receive some attention of the Government. The time has come when their age of retirement should be enhanced.. Lastly, as has been, suggested by the esteemed friend who has spoken before me the exemption limit for income-tax should be further increased.

With these words I conclude and I support the Appropriation Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha and I hope it will be passed by this august House also.

SHRr M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Appropriation Bill which is before us today appears to me to have been prepared with a purpose; and the purpose is to see that the country is prepared and a suitable atmosphere is \6L for the coming election.

[The VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ' R. RAMAKRISHNAN: In the Chair] After going through the Budget I find' there is no relationship between the Budget proposals and the manifesto of the Congress Party which was placed before the country in 1930 at the time of elections.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): In the Chair] It has no relation at all with the aim and" objects of the Sixth Five Yea,- Plans it ha, no relation with the existing realities which obtain in the country. *Ad hocism* seen to be the hallmark of this Budget. I am reminded of an episode. When Benito Mussolini came to power in Italy in 1930s a journalist met him.

He saw Benito Mussolini being worried. He asked Mussolini; "Why are you worried? You have become the dictator of the country. You have got all powef, In your hands. Still you are worried. What Is your problem." • For that, Benito Mussolini answered: "Yes, I have captured power. I am all-powerful. I have got all the powers in me. But my worry is how to keep this power". Similarly seems to, be the predicament of Mrs. Gandhi here.

She has all the powers. She is the Prime Minister of India. The party to which she belong is completely subordinate to her. There is no challenge to her authority. But she is still worried. She is worried as Benito Mussolini was worried because she does not know, being very powerful, how to remain in power.

This is an election year. And she must win the election at any cost, come what may. And this is also the last year of the Sixth Piar. This is also the last budget of this five-year period. Therefore, this budget is prepared with an eye on the election. Then pervisive uncertainty. There is drift. There is confusion in the economy. This budget reflects all that. The budget reflects uncertainty, the drift and the confusion. • That is how T look - at it.

Since Mrs. Gandhi came to power in 1980, she is a different person. I have worked with her in the past as a Minister. Now she is different as I see her at a distance. I will be seeing her now more and more from close quarters as I am here. She looks to me a 'different person. She does not bother where the country goes or what hap pens to the country or what happens to the economy or what happens to the people even. What matters most for h<?r is how to remain in power and how to go on as Prime Minister of this country. What matters for her is how to win this election and how to get the maximum number of votes. This is vitiating her thinking. This is vitiating the economy. This is vitality even the Plan.

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy!]

We all know what position the Planning Commission occupied in this country in the fifties, sixties and in the early seventies. We used to look to the Planning Commission for every thing concerning our economy. Once upon a time when Jawaharlal was here the Planning Commission was looked up on with great esteem and respect. It was the heart of the economic system of this country. What is happening to the Planning Commission today? Why has it lost its significance, its glory, its rich legacy? Mrs. Gandhi and her Government regard the Planning Commission now as fifth wheel in the coach. She regards it as an unavoidable irritant and an unavoidable nuisance. I want to know from her and her Government how many times during the past four years the Planning Commission has been called into a meeting. It means the full Planning Commission, how many times the vital areas or issues of the economy have been discussed by the Planning Commission, whether there is any coordination between the Government and the Planning Commission and whether the Planning Commission is monitoring the economy. I am very sorry to say that there is a progressive erosion, devitalization, diminution, weakening, of the Planning Commission and the planning process in this country. I do not think that this Government pays even lip sympathy to the Planning Commission and its opinion. There is only *ad hocism* and it is only *ad hocism* which runs. There is no organised, and systematic planning in this country. There is only planless planning—chaotic planning, planning without purpose, a planning which suits the expediency of this Government and as seems the plan which has lost its ethos and élan. I appeal to the Government: If you want to put the economy back on its rails, restore the prestige, restore the glory, which the Planning Commission once enjoyed.

There has been devitalisation, there

has been erosion and there has been distortion of planning and the Planning Commission and that has got to be remedied and the damage caused to the Planning Commission has got to be rectified. This is one of the things which this Government should do. Another damage, the second damage, done by this Government is to the economic administration of this country. Where is the economic administration? There is the Planning Commission in one course; there is the Finance Minister; and there are the economic Ministries. But where is the efficient administration? Who is there to implement the Plan? This Government came to power on the basis of a slogan that this Government will work. Shri Mataji Gandhi said: "I am going to give a Government that works." Where is your Government working? Mrs. Gandhi is sitting at the top as the monitor treating her colleagues, her ministerial colleagues, as just boys. Is it a Government that is working? If the Government is working, if there is no collapse of economic administration, then the economy should have been booming, the targets fixed by the Planning Commission should have been achieved. Does the mid-term appraisal say? It reveals shortfall everywhere, shortfall in many vital sectors. The other day, I think here yesterday the Energy Minister was quoting figures that in vital sector like energy there has been fulfilment. It was very amusing when the Energy Minister was saying that the revised targets fixed by the Planning Commission have been or are being fulfilled. The power target has been scaled down by the Planning Commission as a result of the Plan appraisal. The Planning Commission has said that the Government cannot fulfil the targets fixed and they have scaled down the targets. And yet my friend, the honourable Minister, says that it is being fulfilled. And he feels pleased with himself. In every vital sector—transport, P.M. port, Communications, pulses, providing houses, drinking water—there has



been a failure or shortfall. What do the Government do? They find themselves in a quandary. They thought they could fulfil the targets fixed by the Planning Commission. They cut the plan expenditure by 5 per cent and also cut the non-plan expenditure by 3 per cent. And this has been done with a specific purpose of covering the deficit, "to keep the deficit low. But may I remind the Government that as a result of deficit—financing for a number of years, they have created a situation in this country in which the prices are escalating? In the other House, the Finance Minister has said, 'I have kept the price rise within 3.0 per cent, within a single digit, 8.6 per cent or so'. Is it a thing to be pleased about? Look at the entire period. For every two years, the cost of living of the common man is doubling. For every 24 months, there is an increase of 200 per cent, in the cost of living.

Take unemployment. Twenty-four million people are on the employment register. It is over increasing. Take growth rate during the last two years of planning. We have been hovering around 3.5 per cent growth. It does not meet the needs of the population. There is a fantastic gap between the supply and the population growth. Look at the other countries of the world where the conditions were far worse in the 50s than India. Look at China. Look at South-East Asia. They have abolished poverty. They have solved the problem of unemployment. The disparities there are not so large as you find them today in India. In spite of all our planning and development unemployment is growing. Prices are increasing. The quality of life is going down day by day. It is becoming impossible and intolerable for the common man to live. After I came back to this House, I see the difference in Delhi. How to live a normal life? This is the also feeling in the mind of every common man here. The whole economy is in a state of crisis. As I said, the Government has destroyed two things successfully when

it came to power in 1981. It has dismantled the Planning Commission and secondly it has destroyed the economic administration in the country. If there had been economic administration, there would be no parallel economy. *(Time bell rings)*. To day, it is the parallel economy which is ruling the roost. White market is no longer valid. It is no longer relevant to the life of the common man. It is the black market in the country is the parallel economy which is ruling. The people have even begun to think as if it is normal. They have come to that state of mind. It is the moral crisis. Unless and until the parallel economy is tackled and tackled effectively, there is no safety or stability. Official statistics are a camouflage. I do not want to go into the statistics now cause I deal with them when I am speaking on the Finance Bill. I will leave the statistics to be dealt with later. But I want to say this that unless the parallel economy and the black market in the country is tackled and tackled effectively, it is impossible to establish equilibrium in the economy. Today a large number of people are living below the poverty line. I do not want to go into that question as there is no time at my disposal. But in all these years a handful of capitalists have grown rich enormously. And, where is the slogan of socialism and socialistic pattern of society or social justice now? I am not hearing that slogan of social justice any more now. It is only on paper perhaps. The disparities are growing between classes. A very small number of people are a coterie, ruling the economy, and the Government is captive of this coterie. There is no hope for the common man and there is no programme in the Government to utilise the enormous human power, the manpower, available in this country to bring about social change and economic transformation. Social change and economic transformation can be brought about in a developing society like ours only when we utilise manpower fully. Today the people are not committed to development because they are just spectators.

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

The Government alone cannot bring up development. The manpower, that is the biggest capital that we have, has got to be utilised. The people have got to be made co-participants in development and a plan for that purpose has got to be drawn up. Unless the Planning Commission, the planning processes and development activities are brought on the rail, I am afraid, it is not possible. (*Time bell rings*).

Sir, I end by narrating an historic anecdote. The Roman empire became all powerful once. It conquered the whole world. It conquered Italy. It conquered Europe. It conquered the Middle East. It became the biggest empire of the world. This empire conquered everything but it could not conquer its own vices<sup>1</sup>. It conquered everything but it was overwhelmed by its vices. Likewise, Shrimati Indira Gandhi may conquer the entire country, she may charm the whole world, she may charm her own men in the Treasury Benches, but she has not been able to conquer her vices. Thank you.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam): Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. The learned friend of the opposition has just now said that the Budget has been made just with an eye to the coming elections. Now, Sir, I would like to point out that when he says that the Budget has been made with an eye on the next elections, I would say that this is not an objective analysis of the Budget, nor is it a real explanation of the Budget, rather it is a subjective and distorted interpretation of the Budget. That is how I like to put it. Now, Sir, I have also gone through the Budget. Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that this\* is a very balanced, discreet and wonderful Budget. Now, I should like to put forward my points as to why I call it a discreet, a wonderful Budget. First of all, I would like to say that this Budget is by all standards,

anti-inflationary. My learned friends in the Opposition may not agree; but it is anti-inflationary. The inflation, the price-rise is not only a national phenomenon; it is an international phenomenon. Price-rise, we know, is something like being in a traffic jam. We know we are in it but we don't know how to come out of it. But our hon. Finance Minister has shown the way out. The rise in the annual rate of inflation has registered a steady decline and as on 31st March, 1984, it stands at 8.8 per cent. It is not a small achievement and I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for this laudable achievement. I would also like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for the release of three more instalments of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees.

Once again, I would like to support this Budget on the score that the quantum of income-tax relief as declared in the Budget has not only given benefit to all levels of income-earners but it has also given an added fillip to investment and savings. Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, the duty reduction on some consumer goods will not only give benefit to the poor and the toiling masses but would also have a salutary effect on the price-rise. It has been announced that there will be enhancement in subsidy on the fertilizers and more funds have been allocated for agriculture. Agriculture, as we all knew, is the backbone of a nation's economy and it is so well said that if we are late in doing one thing in agriculture, we are late in doing all things. So, allotment of more funds for agriculture is also a very significant step taken and I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on this score.

There has been allotment of double fund for the 20-point programme as enunciated by our hon. Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi. This is our party's programme and this has become also a Government programme. I have seen it; I have myself visited many districts in my State of Assam and I have seen how the village people have taken this pro-

grammie to their heart. It is not a matter of lectures. When you speak in a fiery language, it becomes a sound and fury signifying nothing. I have seen it with my own eyes how the village people of Assam have taken it to their heart, and I must say that this 20-point programme is the only panacea for all the ills, for all the economic ills from which India is at present suffering. You know, all through the ages, the toiling masses of India have been the easy victims of either the crooks or the financial pirates, and this is a distinct and a definite step taken so, boldly. This 20-point programme is meant for the upliftment of the poorer classes of people who are suffering all over India,

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote certain figures. While implementing the 20-point programme, our Government upto the year 1984 have provided house-sites to 31.73 lakh families. The Government has given financial assistance to construct houses for the houseless people to 17.67 lakh families. It has provided drinking water facilities to 54,208 problem villages through IRDP; Government has helped 89 lakh families through NREP; 82 million mandays have been provided. This is no mean achievement by any standard. But we have miles to cover before we sleep. We are not a contented lot; we are not a complacent lot. We are a disgruntled lot and we are a demanding lot. We are discontented and hence we are demanding more. There is logic in it. I also know that our Government has done a lot in this regard. But in spite of so many achievements, I must also say, rather, I am constrained to say that the progress in the establishment of banks and their extending financial assistance in my State has not been that much satisfactory compared to the other States of India. Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to give his pointed and sharp attention to this matter and I would also request him to hold loan melas in Cachar, Sibsagar and Kamrup districts of Assam so that the

people of Assam can get some benefit out of it. I have heard from a reliable source—I hope my reliable source has not given me unreliable information—that it has been decided to establish 109 bank branches all over Assam and a year ago, the Reserve Bank of India has okayed these proposals and has given sanction for this. I would request, through you, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, I would beseech him, to give his attention to this matter, to give his personal attention and see that more and more bank branches are established in the economically and industrially backward State of Assam so that the people of Assam can develop. Sir, if you go through Gauhati, you will see a hearing, which means, Assam is smiling again and it is the responsibility of all concerned to keep the State smiling always. I would request the Finance Minister to liberally release more and more financial assistance to the State of Assam so that the Chief Minister of Assam will be able to undertake developmental works successfully combat the secessionist tendencies which are prevailing in the State of Assam.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, so far as my State of Assam is concerned, I would like to point out that the investment by the IDBI and ICICI has been lamentably poor. I would like to point out that these financial institutions have up till now done nothing significant to uplift the backward economy of the State of Assam. Through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to instruct these financial institutions to gear up and step up their activities in the State of Assam, so that the downtrodden, poor and backward people of Assam can get some more financial assistance and the State may be able to step up its pace of economic development.

I know our Prime Minister has got special concern for the people of Assam. Her heart goes out to the people of Assam. She always gives her special attention to the people of Assam. But for reasons best known

(Shri Kamalendu Bhattacharjee)

to the Industry Ministry, Assam has not been able to develop industrially, no attention has been paid to the development of Assam industrially. As you know, there are many other States which are much more industrially developed than Assam. This has already created apprehension\* in the minds of the people of Assam that they are being neglected. (*Time bell rings*). Please give me some more

time. I will beseech you because this is my first participation as far as the Appropriation Bill is concerned. As I said, nothing much has been done in the field of industry in the State of Assam. This sort of neglect has created a sense of regional imbalance and this has also created a certain amount of fear and apprehension in the minds of the people of Assam that they are being neglected. I would suggest that the Government of India should be more benevolent and should give more and more financial assistance to the State of Assam. My humble suggestion to the Government of India is that they should take up a master plan and a time-bound programme and see that some significant achievement is made in the field of industry within a target time.

-Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I hail from the district of Cachar. There is a paper mill at Pathgram. I would request that the Government of India should give liberal financial assistance to this paper mill so that it can start production by 1985. Now the work was going on very slowly but with the present incumbent, with the present General Manager, the work has geared up. The Government of India should give it liberal financial assistance so that this paper mill can start functioning within 1985.

I should also beseech the Government of India to take over and nationalise the Jogi Gopa paper mill. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to instruct banks and other financial institutions so that they can help the sick and under-developed tea

gardens of the district of Cachar and all over the State of Assam.

Now I feel duty bound to speak something on oil. I hail from an oil State. You know, Assam and Gujarat are oil-producing States and it is my humble submission before this august House that these States should get oil royalty and this duty should be 20 per cent of the price of the crude oil per metric tonne. It might be figuring around Rs. 1181 and I think this is a legitimate demand. Assam and Gujarat must get this legitimate oil royalty. As Assam is especially an economically backward State, I should beseech, rather it is my humble submission before this House that when a decision of giving royalty benefit is taken, retrospective effect be given.

With these words once again I do render my unqualified support to this Appropriation Bill and I conclude,

Thank you.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for having given me this opportunity to speak on this Appropriation Bill. Sir, it will be very appropriate if I recall the glorious words of Rabindra Nath Tagore in 'Gitanjali' (*Interruptions*). You have forgotten him and his words, that is why for your benefit I would like to recall those words, i.e. "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where knowledge is free, where words come out from the depth of truth, where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit, 'O' Father, let my country wake". These were the words of Rabindra Nath Tagore. This was his dream but that dream is never fulfilled. Still it is a Utopian dream. Not for political ends I am putting these questions. We have to put these questions towards our conscience. Every citizen of this country should put this question to his conscience whether we are free from fear, whether we are free from superstition, whether we are free from

illiteracy, whether we are free from ignorance. No. not at all.

Sir, after 37 years of independence people in the capital of India, under the very nose of the Central Government, have to sell their blood to earn their bread. This is a fact. Just a few months back this is what we witnessed here. When they were not able to sell their blood, they went to the police station to get a case registered against themselves. They said, you put us inside the jail so that we will have our food for three times a day.

Sir, before the 1952 elections the great "Congress Party" gave the slogan of 'socialism' and declared that this was the only panacea for India.

What happened to that? Years passed. And then the next elections came. Then they changed the form of the slogan and stated "socialistic pattern of society will solve all the problems of this country". Then some years passed and very cleverly they discovered another slogan—that with "democratic socialism" the gulf between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' would be narrowed down. What happened? The gulf, the gap got widened. And then finally during the 1971 elections, they invented another slogan very cleverly: "garibi haiao". And what happened? At some places the poor were chased. Not the poverty was chased, but the poor were chased in Delhi also. When the dark days of Emergency came, then they introduced a new programme—the 20-Point Programme—to maintain their one-point programme. And then very cleverly they stated: for one mistake we were not able to implement socialism. That one mistake we have to correct. "What is that mistake?" The word 'socialistic' does not find a place in the Preamble to the Constitution. So they introduced that word "socialistic" in the Preamble of the Constitution and stated that now the problems of the poor would be solved. After that once and for all the fate of 'socialism' has been sealed. I can say this definitely.

Sir, are our people free from fear? No. They are afraid of dacoits, they are afraid of robbers. Even in the capital city the crime rate has gone up. Even our women tremble to travel in the trains alone, when they see the cops they tremble because at times the cops misbehave. Sir, do the poor get justice from the courts? No. When I put some questions in the last Session, I got the replies from the Law Minister. How many vacancies have not been filled up in the High Courts, particularly in Madras High Court? The Minister gave the reply: 7 vacancies have not been filled up. How many cases are pending in the High Courts? Alarming news, Sir. Allahabad has 1,73,586 cases, in Calcutta 1,13,427 cases, Karnataka 1,21,812 cases, Madras 92,171 cases. A total of 9,76,791 cases are pending in the courts for the poor do not get justice. But one High Court Judge I have to applaud for his bold judgement. Many also applaud for him, praised his judgement. This is one weekly—the Week—of October, 23, 1983; it says:

Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian of the Madras High Court ordered the release of three lakh undertrial prisoners in the State. They have been languishing in prisons all over the Tamil Nadu without being charge-sheeted even after the expiry of the statutory time limit".

Here he observed:

"The courts holding the scales of justice should always remember that there may be a scale made of gold to weigh justice, but that there is no scale made of any material to weigh the injustice done to the society".

So every day injustice is being done to the society. The undertrial prisoners in Tihar Jail and many other jails are tortured and in the lock-ups people are beaten to death. Innocent persons are blinded in jails. So the poor are not able to get justice. Because throughout the country the poor

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

people are suffering, the unemployment rate is growing, particularly among the educated people. That is why the Naxalite movement also is growing, particularly in our State, particularly among the graduates who come from the down-trodden strata; they become Naxalites. Sir, now you see the country is in flames in the north-east and in the north-west, and trouble has started in Jammu and Kashmir also. The Government finds it very difficult to solve the problem. Some years back, even some months back people who held power at the Centre wanted to treat the States like municipalities or even panchayats. That is why article 356 of the Constitution is being often used as a Damocles sword. Whichever party comes to power, DMK or AIADMK, a non-Congress Government, if that does not suit its purpose, if it does not toe the line of the Centre, immediately that government is summarily dismissed. The Government of India Act of 1935 was verbatimly copied by the framers of Constitution. So the same article 93 was put in the form of article 356.

Sir, my State of Tamil Nadu has been totally neglected. Because the time at my disposal is very short, I do, not want to elaborate how much we have been discriminated, how much we have been hoodwinked, how much we have been cheated in every sector.

Sir, take the case of Civil Aviation. Our Minister gave us the promise in 1980 that Tuticorin will be connected by air with the rest of the country. Tuticorin is a big port. It could be compared with Singapore if it is properly developed. We are supplying salt to the entire country. I put this question to Mr. A. P. Sharma when he was the concerned Minister. When he came to Tuticorin, at a press interview he said to the press that within a year the aerodrome will be operational, after one year and he simply said that "it is yet to be considered". Then I had told him that we are supplying salt to the entire country. There is a

proverb in Tamil: Which means: Do not forget those who have salted your food. But what happened? In 1982 also the Minister gave the same assurance, but so far nothing has been done.

As far as the industry is concerned, a colour film unit was to be started at Ooty. My colleague is very much correct. But what happened? You are \* trying to shift it to some other place in UP., Nainital or some other place. Why? The infrastructure is only available there.

You take the case of tourism. No ITDC hotel has been started in Madras. There is no Sound and Light programme. When Dr. Karan Singh was the Tourism Minister, he assured us about it, but so far nothing has been done.

As far as the Railway is concerned —our famous Railway Minister is sitting here—he has allotted Rs. 35 crores to Calcutta. I am really proud of our Bengal; friends. For my State, he has provided Rs. one crore for the Karur-Dindigul project. We would like Mr. Krishna to take some interest in this project. I have got great respect for him because he is not only capable but he also understands the feelings of our people.

The Sethu-Samudram canal project was sanctioned in the year 1963 in the Cabinet itself. But what happened? During the British regime there were nine reports. And then in 1956 there was one committee headed by Mr. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, and that committee submitted its report. Another report was there in 1962. The project was sanctioned in 1963 in the Cabinet itself, but that project has so far not been implemented. An expert committee was appointed, and they have given their report. You are talking of viability on technical reasons. Sir, apart from our genuine demand, the Government should realise the strategic importance when Americans are forming their base in Diego Garcia and they are trying to have another base in Trincomalee. Whenever the ships

go round Sri Lanka, it will be out of the naval dock. If we have the Sethu-Samudram Canal Project, not only will the western coast and the eastern coast be linked, but the cost will also be less. Not only that. The strategic importance is very much to be realised by the Centre. But what happened? No project has been implemented, no project has been sanctioned. But at times when the people in Delhi speak to us, they advise us, they preach sermons, they shout from house-tops, "You people coming from the South, you people coming from the Dravidian movement, you do not have faith in the system, you do not mingle with the mainstream". We will never mingle in the mainstream if things go on like this. We are coming from far away, 2,000 miles away from here. You do not understand our feelings. That is why for four days we have been demanding a discussion on Sri Lanka. When our sisters and brothers are crying, shedding tears, their wailings and weepings are never heard. Those wailing and weepings fall on deaf ears. So, the projects are simply neglected. During election times you come and give promises. (*Time bell rings.*) Only two minutes, Sir.

For the Salem Steel Plant, Madam Gandhi came there. The foundation stone was laid, and promises were given. What has happened? The Salem Steel Plant has become a fabricated plant. So, on every count we are highly discriminated.

I would like to, remind you of the words of Tagore. He stated, "My country, awake. The people are in deep slumber in the countryside. Don't think like that. Awake from the slumber". At that time your oppressing power regime will collapse like anything. Do not forget, your exploiting power regime will crumble. If you want to rule the entire country with one language and with one iron hand without any respect for the ethnic groups, without any respect for individuality and originality, what will happen? Your power regime will collapse. So, I will quote a couplet by Tiruvalluvar:

"ALLALPATTU ATTATHU AZH-  
UTHA KAKWEER ANRE SELVA-  
THAI THEYKKUM PADAI"

What he said, you know is that tears of the poor who are not able to endure and are oppressed in a regime, those tears, will become the weapons to throw away any regime.

"ALLALPATTU ATTATHU AZH-  
UTHA KANNEER ANRE SELVA-  
THAI THEYKKUM PADAI"

This is going to happen. You are failing to see the writing on the wall, With these words, I conclude my speech.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA (Maharashtra): How can he become an ethnic group in his own country? He is an Indian. All of us are Indian.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I belong to an ethnic group, the Tamil group. Don't forget that.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Are you an ethnic group?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes. I reiterate my stand. This is a multinational state. Do not forget, there is not only one nationality, but there are multi-nationalities.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI (Bihar): It is a multi-nation State, you mean ... ..  
(Interruptions)

ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) :  
श्रीमान्, मैं इस विनियोग विधेयक का  
समर्थन करता हूँ ।

श्रीमान्, मैं आदिवासी हरिजन तथा  
पिछड़े इलाकों में पिछले 30 सालों से  
काम कर रहा हूँ और जब मैं हरिजन व  
आदिवासियों के पास जाता हूँ तो वह  
कहते हैं कि श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के  
नेतृत्व में एक नई क्रान्ति हो रहा है,  
और हमारा तेजो से विकास हो रहा है।  
श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व में, कांग्रेस

[ ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह ]

सरकार के द्वारा किए जाने वाले कार्यों की प्रशंसा हो रही है लेकिन जब विरोधी पक्ष के माननीय सदस्यों के भाषण सुने तो मैं महसूस कर रहा था कि मैं जिस सदन में आया हूँ वहाँ के सदस्य जो पहले से ही यहाँ आये हुए हैं वह मुझे कोई नई बात सिखायेंगे। लेकिन मैंने देखा कि यहाँ इसका उल्टा हो रहा है। जो बातें विरोधी दलों के सदस्यों ने कहीं उन पर मुझे बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ है और मुझे वह पुराना जमाना याद आया जब हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी की लड़ाई में हम लोग लड़ रहे थे। हमने महात्मा गांधी और जवाहरलाल नेहरू के नेतृत्व में हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों से जो वायदे किए थे जब उन को हम पूरा होते देखते हैं तो हमारे उन साथियों को जो हमारे साथ बैठते थे उन दिनों तारीफों के पुल बांधा करते थे लेकिन आज वे वहाँ बैठ गए तो वह गाली दे रहे हैं। इस पर मुझे आश्चर्य होता है।

[ उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा०) श्रीमती नाजमा फ़तेहपुरी ]

महोदय! मैंने वह जमाना देखा है जब हम गुलाम थे। इस देश के जो प्रदेश हैं कर्नाटक, आंध्र, उत्तर प्रदेश हरियाणा आदि, उनमें उन दिनों क्या हालत थी? क्या लोग ऐसे ही कपड़े पहनते थे? क्या ऐसी ही रेल गाड़ियाँ चलती थीं? क्या ऐसी ही फैक्ट्रियाँ थी इस देश में? वह जमाना याद करो। हम न भूलें उस जमाने को और उन महान नेताओं को जिन्होंने इस हिन्दुस्तान को आजाद कराया है और जिन्होंने इस देश में समाजवाद धर्मनिरपेक्षता एवं प्रजातंत्र कायम करने का बादा किया था, वह थे हमारे नेता प्रधान मंत्री पंडित जवाहर लाल जी नेहरू, मौलाना आजाद। आज, उन्होंने जो चलाया था, उस पर आप अपनी बिल्डिंग बना रहे हैं मेरे दोस्तों, क्या था उस जमाने में हमारे पास? (व्यवधान) आप बोल रहे थे तब हम शान्ति

से सुन रहे थे। डेमोक्रेसी में, प्रजातंत्र में सुनने का हक होना चाहिए, कहने का हक होना चाहिए। (व्यवधान) आप गाली दे रहे थे, जब आप बोल रहे थे हम शान्ति से सुन रहे थे। श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने क्या किया? मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ वाइस चेंसलरमैन महोदय आपके माध्यम से कि आज दुनिया के लोग हिन्दुस्तान की तरफ देख रहे हैं। आज वे मुल्क जहाँ आग लगी हुई है हिन्दुस्तान के नेतृत्व चाहते हैं। वह चाहते हैं कि यह हमें दिशा दे। यह किस की इज्जत है हमारी इज्जत है, सबकी इज्जत है, हिन्दुस्तान की इज्जत है, तमिलनाडू की इज्जत है, कर्नाटक की इज्जत है। जब हम दुनिया के मुल्कों में जाते थे तो वे लोग हमें क्या-क्या कहते थे। आज हम जाते हैं तो उनका सिर आदर से इस मुल्क के आगे झुक जाता है। वह यह कहते हैं कि यह उस मुल्क के रहने वाले हैं जिसमें 30 सालों में बहुत तरक्की हुई है, इतना विकास हुआ है कि उतना दुनिया के मुल्कों में इन हालत में नहीं हुआ। मैं सुनना चाहता हूँ आपके माध्यम से कि ब्रिटेन का इंडस्ट्रियल रेवोल्यूशन हुआ। जो पूँजीवाद की बात करते हैं वे जरा हमारी बात को सोचें कि 40 साल तक उनके मुल्क में क्या हुआ था। जब लोग मिलते थे तो कोई पूछने वाला नहीं था। सोशल ला था। सूई का युग था। जब रशियन रेवोल्यूशन हुआ था, हजारों लोगों का नुकसान हुआ। मर्जीन बन कर चली थी। जब हम आजाद हुए थे एटम का युग था। हमें सूई बनाना नहीं आता था। आज हम दुनिया के उन पाँच विकसित मुल्कों की बराबरी में आ रहे हैं। यह किसने किया? श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के कुशल नेतृत्व वाली सरकार ने किया। यह पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू की ठोस नीतियों के कारण हुआ। जब 77 में



हम हारे तो हमारी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अगले दिन ही सत्ता जनता पार्टी को सौंप दी थी जिसकी स्थिति ऐसी थी जैसे कहीं की ईंट, कहीं का रोड़ा, भानुमति ने कुनवा जोड़ा। मैं आपके माध्यम से वाइस चैंबरमैन महोदय, अपने लर्नड दोस्तों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जरा यह सोचें कि विपरीत दिशाओं में जाने वाले यात्री एक प्लेटफार्म पर खड़े हो जाते हैं किन्तु एक ट्रेन में सफर नहीं कर सकते। जैसे एक ही बोटल में शराब भी हो शहद भी हो पानी भी हो, तो क्या वह बाजार में बिकेगी? यह तो हर आदमी जानता है कि नहीं। आज फिर गठबन्धन शुरू हुआ है किस बात के लिये? क्या जिस तेजी से विकास चल रहा है उस विकास को रोकने के लिये और जाति धर्म प्रांत के नाम पर इस देश को तोड़ने के लिए कुछ ऐसा नाकतें इन मुल्क में हैं जो बढ़ते देखना नहीं चाहती। वाइस चैंबरमैन महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि यह सरकार और यह पार्टी वह पार्टी है जो देश से गरीबी मिटाना चाहती है, जिसके बारे में एक शेर अपने दोस्तों को सुनाता है :

यह सर वह सर नहीं जो हर दर पर झुक जाये।

वह दर, दर नहीं कि जिस पर हर सर न झुक जाये।

आज हिन्दुस्तान के लोग दुनिया के लोगों के सामने सिर ऊंचा करके चल रहे हैं। दुनिया के लोग कहते हैं श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व में इस देश में कितनी प्रगति हुई कि देश कहां से कहां पहुंच गया। यह भिलाई उस वक़्त कहां बना था, यह दुर्गापुर उस वक़्त कहां बना था (व्यवधान)... यह विकास किसने किया? मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ... जरा सहन-शीलता से सुनिये, अगर मैं कहीं गलती करूं तो माफी चाहता हूँ... वाइस चैंबरमैन महोदय मैं आपके माध्यम से पूछना चाहता

हूँ कि वह विरोधी दल जो इस देश के अंदर समाजवाद की बात कर और समाजवाद के नाम पर क्या शोषण नहीं कर रहे हैं? देश में तेजी से विकास हो रहा है, देश खुल्ल होता जा रहा है। मैं तमिलनाडु में गया, मैं आंध्र प्रदेश में गया, मैं कर्नाटक में गया। लोग मुझ से कहते थे गाड़ियाँ और बढ़ावा दीजिए, हवाई अड्डा और चलावा दीजिए। अरे भाई, हवाई अड्डा की मांग एयर कन्डीशन रेल गाड़ियों की मांग, नई नई रेल गाड़ियों की मांग, क्या यह खुशहाली की निशानी नहीं तो क्या है? यह विकास नहीं हो रहा है तो क्या हो रहा है? मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार बहुत तेजी से इस मुल्क को आगे ले जाना चाहती है।

एक बात मैं और बताना चाहता हूँ। मेरे लर्नड फ्रेंड ने अभी कुछ ऐसी बातें कहीं मैं उनकी बात सुन रहा था। जब उन्होंने कहा कि हम चुनावों के लिए अपनी नीतियाँ बनाते हैं तो मुझे बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ। मैं उनसे आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी नीतियाँ चुनावों के लिए नहीं बल्कि हमने हुक्मत देश की सेवा करने के लिए एवं गरीबी मिटाने के लिए ली है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारी हुक्मत नहीं थी तो उस वक़्त देश में क्या हो रहा था? आज वे लोग महंगाई की बात करते हैं? लेकिन मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि महंगाई इन टर्म्स आफ परचेजिंग कैपेसिटी देखी जानी चाहिए। अगर इन-कम चार आना रोज हो जाय और गेहूँ एक रुपया 16 किलों भी हो जाय तो भी वह महंगाई है। अगर इनकम एक हजार रुपये रोज हो जाये और गेहूँ चार रुपया किलो भी हो जाये तो तब भी महंगाई नहीं है? इसलिए महंगाई को इन टर्म्स आफ परचेजिंग पावर देखा जाना चाहिए। हर मुल्क की वहाँ के

[ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह]

हालात के अनुसार अपनी आर्थिक नीतियां हमें करनी हैं। जब देश का प्रोडक्शन बढ़ता है जब पोपुलेशन घटती है तो गरीबी मिटती है। जब देश की पोपुलेशन बढ़ती है चाहे प्रोडक्शन बढ़ता भी हो तो भी चीजों की कीमत बढ़ती है? हमने सोशलिज्म को भी पढ़ा है, हमने कम्युनिज्म को भी पढ़ा है, हमने कैपिटलिज्म को पढ़ा है। हम लोगों ने इन सारे बातों को गहराई से पढ़ा है और उनके बाद उन सब का निचोड़ निकाला है।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Who asked for air-conditioners?

ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह : अच्छी नीतियों को अपनाया है। सारी दुनिया की जो अच्छी नीतियां थीं उनको अपनाया है। हमने प्रजातंत्र और सोशलिज्म को अपनाया है। हमने कंट्रोल्ड इकनोमी को अपनाया है जो कि सब देशों का मॉडिंग प्वाइंट है, आज सारे संसार में स्थिति यह है कि जो वेस्टर्न कैपिटलिस्ट कंट्रीज हैं, वे कंट्रोल्ड इकनोमी को अपना रही हैं और जो कम्युनिस्ट कंट्रीज हैं वे प्रजातंत्र की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं। चूंकि मैं यहां पर पहली बार बोल रहा हूं, कुछ गलती कर जाऊं, लेकिन सोचता हूं कि धीरे-धीरे बोलना सीख जाऊंगा। मैं आपसे एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I will not interrupt you hereafter. Since this is your maiden speech, I will not interrupt.

ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह : डिप्टी चैयरमैन साहब, आपके माध्यम से मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे साथियों ने जो बातें कही हैं जिनको सुनकर मुझे

बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे देश में कोई प्रोग्रेस नहीं हुई है। मैंने एक गांव के चौबी पास लड़के से पूछा कि अरे भाई, क्या हमारे मुल्क में कहीं कोई उन्नति हुई है? वह बोला कि आज हम को बहुत मदद मिल रही है, कपड़ा मिल रहा है, अनाज मिल रहा है, स्कूल खुल रहे हैं, कॉलेज खुल रहे हैं और जहां पर अस्पताल नहीं थे वहां पर अस्पताल खुल रहे हैं। मेरे गांव में पहले लोग डाकिए से खत पढ़वाया करते थे, मेरे गांव में पहले स्कूल नहीं था, अस्पताल नहीं था, मेरा पिता (बाप) पहले खपरैल के मकान में रहते थे, मैं आज आर० सी० सी० के मकान में रहता हूं, यह उन्नति नहीं है तो क्या है? मेरा बाप फटे कपड़े पहनता था, आज मैं टेरेलीन के कपड़े पहनता हूं। यह विकास नहीं है तो क्या है?

डिप्टी चैयरमैन साहब, एक बात मैं फिर से कहना चाहता हूं कि हम चुनावों के लिए अपनी नीतियां नहीं बनाते हैं। हम देश से गरीबी मिटाने के लिए अपनी नीतियां बनाते हैं। लेकिन हमारे विरोधी यहां पर जितनी बातें कहते हैं वे सब चुनावों के लिए कहते हैं। जिस बात से उनको वोट मिल सके। आज बाहर के लोग जब हिन्दुस्तान में आते हैं तो कहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में बहुत तेजी से विकास हो रहा है। विरोधी दलों की बात तो उसी तरह से है जैसे किसी व्यक्ति की मुहल्ले के सारे लोग तो तारीफ करते थे, दुनिया के लोग तारीफ करते थे, लेकिन उसके घर का बेटा अपने बाप को नालायक बताता है। यही स्थिति आज हमें दिखाई दे रही है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता ऐसा क्यों अपने घर का बच्चा जब बड़ा हो जाता है तो घर वालों को एहसास नहीं होता

है, परन्तु जब रिश्तेदार आते हैं तो कहते हैं कि बबला बहुत बड़ा हो गया है। मैं विरोधी भाइयों से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व में हिन्दुस्तान आगे बढ़ेगा, समाजवाद इस देश में आयेगा और इस देश से गरीबी मिटेगी। हमने जो वायदे किए हैं उनको पूरा किया जा रहा है। मेरे दोस्तों ने सत्ता प्राप्ति के लिए अपनी पार्टी को छोड़ दिया, झण्डे को छोड़ दिया, नेता को छोड़ दिया और सिम्बल छोड़ दिया। क्या ऐसे लोग इस मुल्क में, हुकूमत कर सकते हैं। माननीय डिप्टी चैयरमैन साहब, श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने हारने के तुरन्त बाद हुकूमत हमारे विरोधी साथियों को दे दी थी। हमने यह सोचा था कि हो सकता है कि हम से गलतियाँ हुई हों, आने वाले लोग हम से अच्छा काम करेंगे। लेकिन ढाई साल में इस देश में क्या हुआ? गन्ने का भाव याद है, गुड़ का भाव याद है, उत्तर प्रदेश के पश्चिमी जिलों में गन्ने की खड़ी फसल को जला दिया गया, प्याज के भाव याद हैं? यह मैं आपसे इस लिये कह रहा हूँ कि आप इस पर सोचें। मैं अन्त में अपने फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और उन महान आत्माओं को याद करना चाहता हूँ जिनके तिरंगे झंडे के नीचे यह सरकार विकास की ओर तेजी से आगे बढ़ी है और बढ़ती जायेगी। मैं सब को बधाई देते हुए और माननीय उपसभाध्यक्षा महोदया जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि मुझे सदन में बोलने का मौका दिया है।

[उपसभापति महोदय पीठासीन हुए]

श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र (बिहार) :  
उपसभापति महोदय, विनियोग विधेयक

पर चर्चा चल रही है। यह लोक सभा में पारित हो गया है और राज्य सभा में, इस सदन में चर्चा के लिए आया है। लोक सभा में दिए गए वित्त मंत्री के भाषण को मैं पढ़ रहा था। इन्होंने बजट की फिलासफी पर, बजट के दर्शन पर जोर देते हुए कुछ मुद्दों का उल्लेख किया है, सेविंग की चर्चा की है, वचत की चर्चा की है, पूँजी निवेश की चर्चा की है, योजनाओं का कार्य आगे चलता रहे, इसकी चर्चा की है, देश की आर्थिक स्थिति सुधारने की चर्चा की है। मुझे एक बात समझ नहीं आती कि क्या केवल उसी लकीर के फकीर बनकर हम चलते रहेंगे? क्या इससे देश की प्रगति होगी या पूरे देश को सामने रखकर, उसका चित्त सामने रखकर, उसकी आवश्यकता को सामने रखकर, उसकी हालत को सामने रखकर बजट की प्रक्रिया का प्रारम्भ होगा। उपसभापति महोदय, मैंने कल भी कहा था कि मैं देश के उस राज्य से आता हूँ जिसकी आबादी पूरे भारत का 1/10 है, पूरे भारत की आबादी का 1/10 बिहार है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ और जो सत्त पक्ष के सदस्य बाद में बोलने के लिए खड़े हों मैं चाहता हूँ कि वे मेरे इन सवालों का उल्लेख अवश्य करें। 1/10 आबादी का बिहार है, आप उसके प्रति क्या न्याय कर रहे हैं। 1977 की चर्चा हमारे कुछ मित्रों ने की। हम लोग भी उस समय शासन में थे। मैं स्वयं बिहार में फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर था। मुझे याद है कि प्राइम-मिनिस्टर ने सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों और वित्त मंत्रियों की बैठक बुलाई थी और उसमें सबसे पहले इस बात पर चर्चा हुई कि केन्द्र सरकार के पास आने वाली जो राशि है उसका वितरण किस प्रकार होगा? केन्द्र के हाथ से कितना होगा और राज्य सरकारों को काम करने के लिए

### [श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र]

कितना दिया जायेगा। मैं दावे के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि उस समय यह प्रक्रिया चली कि आधे से भी ज्यादा राशि 56-57 प्रतिशत राज्य सरकारों को काम करने के लिए दिया जाए और केवल 44-43 प्रतिशत केन्द्र सरकार के पास काम करने के लिए रहे। यही नहीं, उपसभापति महोदय, देश के अन्दर तीन प्रकार के राज्य हैं।

ऐसे राज्यों की तीन श्रेणियाँ हैं। एक श्रेणी उन राज्यों की है जो आगे निकल गये हैं। दूसरी श्रेणी में वह राज्य आते हैं जो काफी पीछे छूट गये हैं। तीसरी श्रेणी उन राज्यों की है जो खास कर दिल्ली स्टेट्स हैं जैसे जम्मू-काश्मीर, नागालैण्ड और मिजोरम आदि जिनकी अपनी इकोनोमी बहुत कमजोर है। यह राज्य 90-95 प्रतिशत केन्द्र की सहायता के ऊपर चलते हैं। भारत में जो राज्य पीछे छूट गये इनकी संख्या लगभग 8 है जिनमें बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान आदि हैं। ऐसे कई बड़े बड़े प्रदेश मिला कर के 8 प्रदेश ऐसे हैं जो आर्थिक दौड़ में पीछे छूट गये हैं। उस समय चर्चा चली कि इनका क्या होगा। यह पूरा समाधान विचारधीन था लेकिन एक योजना बन गई जिसका नाम है, इनकम एडजस्टेड टोटल पापुलेशन। उस कारण से बिहार जैसे राज्य को प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 100 करोड़ रुपये की राशि अधिक मिल जाती थी मेरी समझ में नहीं आया दम भरा जाता है प्रगतिशील योजना का और बजट के ऊपर लम्बे लम्बे भाषण दिये जा रहे हैं; इस बजट को किसी ने प्रगतिशील बजट कहा, किसी ने लोकहितकारी बजट कहा, किसी ने अगर चुनावी बजट कह दिया तो इस पर सत्ता पक्ष में रोष की लहर दौड़ जाती है। लेकिन यह बजट क्या है? पीछे छूटे हुए राज्यों के लिए आपने क्या

किया? आप को मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। बजट की बड़ी प्रशंसा हो रही है। आई० ए० टी० सी० योजना आपने खत्म कर दी। लोक सभा में बजट पर रिप्लाय भाषण करते हुए वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने बड़ा गवं किया है और घोषणा की है, उन्होंने देश भर में 28 हजार मैगावाट बिजली की क्षमता खड़ी कर दी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ वित्त मंत्री महोदय, एक तरफ आप 28 हजार मैगावाट बिजली की चर्चा कर रहे हैं लेकिन क्या आपने जो राज्य देश का एक बड़ा दस भाग है उसको देखा है? पिछले एक महीने से बिहार के अन्तर्गत केवल 93 मैगावाट बिजली मिल रही है। चार महीने अभी निकल गये हैं राज्य के सारे राजकीय नलकूप, निजी बोरिंग, खेत की सिंचाई से सम्बन्ध रखने वाले नलकूपों की बिजली पूरी की पूरी काट दी गई है। आपको टोटल जेनरेटिंग कैपेसिटी कितनी है वह 900 मैगावाट से ज्यादा नहीं है। आपने 28 हजार मैगावाट की चर्चा कर दी है और सातवीं योजना के आते आते 42 हजार मैगावाट की योजना आपने तैयार कर ली है लेकिन इतने बड़े राज्य इतनी बड़ी आजादी का इलाका है यहाँ पर 900 मैगावाट से बढ़ कर के 2 हजार मैगावाट तक कब जाएंगे। 28 सौ मैगावाट तक कब जाएंगे, बजट के अन्दर कहीं कोई संकेत नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस राज्य के अन्दर 100 मैगावाट बिजली आज उपलब्ध है नौ-सवा नौ सौ मैगावाट की जेनरेटिंग कैपेसिटी है लेकिन 100 मैगावाट की उपलब्धि हो रही है उस राज्य के साथ आप क्या कर रहे हैं? आपने बिहार के अन्दर कितने सुपर पावर थर्मल स्टेशन बनाए हैं? फरक्का में आपने बनाया। मेरा इसमें विरोध नहीं है; मुझे प्रसन्नता है लेकिन उसी फरक्का सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन में कोयला 80-90 मील की दूरी से ले

जाना पड़ता है। बिहार के अन्दर सन्थाल परगना में कोयले की खानें हैं, लाल-मटिया मात्र 18 मील की दूरी पर है। कहलगांव के एक तरफ अपार जलराशि है, गंगा का किनारा है, नदी कभी सूखती नहीं है दूसरी तरफ 18 मील की दूरी पर कोयले की खदान है। कहलगांव का सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बच बनेगा, बच काम शुरू होगा। जब जब हम भांग करते हैं तो अखबार में एक लाइन का स्टेटमेंट आ जाता है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वित्त मंत्री, प्रधान मंत्री जो घोषणा करें कि बिहार का कहलगांव सुपर थर्मल स्टेशन बच बनेगा? अब अगर बजट के अन्दर प्रावधान नहीं है तो अलग से जल-मेट्रो बजट ला कर के अल्लोटेड दे कर के कहलगांव सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन के लिए धन को व्यवस्था करें। एक और दुर्दशा को चर्चा में करना चाहता हूँ। 23 प्रकार से अधिक मिनरल्स बिहार में पैदा होते हैं। यूरेनियम भी पैदा होता है। मुंगेर जिले के अन्दर सोने के भंडार का पता चला है। सोना भी निकल रहा है। वह सोना भी 24 करोट का है जो सब से उत्तम श्रेणी का सोना माना जाता है। यह बिहार के मुंगेर जिले में मिलना शुरू हो गया है। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ज्योलॉजिकल सर्वे आफ इण्डिया के आफिस को आपने कहाँ रखा है। कहाँ है बिहार के किसी कोने में?

कलकत्ता रख दिया; कलकत्ता रहे लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कलकत्ता के साथ जिन प्रदेशों को सूबों को आपने जोड़ करके रखा है, एक तरफ बिहार को खड़ा कर दीजिए और तराजू के दूसरे पलड़े पर बैठे हुए सब राज्यों को ले करके रख दीजिए फिर जरा देखिए, खनिज पदार्थ कहाँ कहाँ, कितने मिलते हैं। कलकत्ता में रहते हुए भी बिहार के अंतर्गत ज्योलॉजिकल सर्वे आफ इण्डिया

का एक दफ्तर नितान्त आवश्यक है। अभी तो मैंने कहा कि 23-24 प्रकार के खनिज मिल रहे हैं अगर खोज होनी शुरू हुई तो इसके दुगुने और खनिज पदार्थ पता लगेंगे। वह देश की सम्पत्ति होगी वह केवल बिहार की सम्पत्ति नहीं होगी। ज्योलॉजिकल सर्वे आफ इण्डिया का रीजनल आफिस अभी तक आपने बिहार में नहीं रखा है। आश्चर्य लग रहा है कि वहाँ मिनरल्स हैं, पर्वत हैं और जंगल भी बिहार के अंदर अच्छे से अच्छे भरे हुए हैं, वहाँ सिल्क का उत्पादन हो रहा है लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सेंट्रल सिल्क बोर्ड का रीजनल आफिस कहाँ है? हिंदुस्तान के कितने राज्यों में है? हिंदुस्तान के अंदर 10-11 राज्यों के अंतर्गत ये रीजनल आफिस हैं लेकिन एक बेचारा बिहार है जिसके अंदर केन्द्रीय सिल्क बोर्ड का एक रीजनल आफिस नहीं है। आश्चर्य लग रहा है। बंगलौर के अंदर दो दो हैं केन्द्रीय भी है और रीजनल भी है बंगाल के अंदर कलकत्ता में है और बंगाल के जब एक जोरदार केन्द्रीय मंत्री केन्द्र सरकार में आये तो 24 घंटों के अंदर (समय की घंटों) पांच मिनट और बोलने दीजिए। मेरी मेडन स्पीच है।

**श्री उपसभापति :** वह तो हो चुकी है। कालिंग अटेंशन भी लेना है। आप दो मिनट और ले लीजिए।

**श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र :** तो 24 घंटे के अंदर मालदा के अंदर रीजनल आफिस केन्द्रीय सिल्क बोर्ड का बन गया। हालत यहां तक है कि आप यहां बजट पेश कर रहे हैं लेकिन याद रखिए वहां बिहार सरकार दोनों पैरों पर कामर सीधा रखकर खड़ी नहीं हो पा रही है। यूनिवर्सिटियों के लिए 64 करोड़ रुपये का बजट बना है और अभी खटाक से 17 करोड़ रुपये की कटौती कर दी गयी है। महा-विद्यालयों के शिक्षकों को आज वेतन नहीं

[श्री जैनामणि मिश्र]

नित रहा है। सत्ताक्षर पक्ष के हनारे माननीय सदस्य जब बोल रहे थे तो उन्होंने महंगाई भत्ते की चर्चा की लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्र के अंतर्गत तिवन बना करके आपने रखा है कि जहाँ प्राइस इंडेक्स बढ़ता है, स्लैब की बेसिस के ऊपर अपने आप आपको स्वीकार करके महंगाई भत्ता देना पड़ता है, हम राज्य कर्मचारियों को, नगरपालिकाओं के कर्मचारियों को एक स्तर पर खड़ा करना चाहते हैं लेकिन राज्य के कर्मचारियों की क्या हालत हो रही है? अभी उत्तर दिया गया कि बंगाल सरकार ने ओवर ड्राफ्ट कर लिया है और हर बार उसको ओवर ड्राफ्ट की अनुमति नहीं दी जायेगी। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बंगाल के प्रति केन्द्र सरकार का यह निर्णय सरासर अस्वाभावपूर्ण है। मैं इसको स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूँ। लेकिन क्या यह बंगाल के साथ है? बिहार के साथ क्या हो रहा है? 1982 में बिहार में कांग्रेस गवर्नमेंट बनी। जनता पार्टी का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ। मैं फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर था। जब कांग्रेस सरकार गयी तो आई हुई जनता पार्टी की सरकार के ऊपर बिहार में 116 करोड़ 14 लाख रुपये का ओवर ड्राफ्ट था। पौने तीन साल जान करने के बाद जब निकली उस समय जितने का ओवर ड्राफ्ट छूट गया था? 127 करोड़ की सरप्लस पूंजी ओवर ड्राफ्ट नहीं, 127 करोड़ रुपये की सरप्लस पूंजी, 80-81 और 81-82 निकल गये, दो साल निकल गये उसके बाद क्या हुआ? 127 करोड़ रुपये हजम और 193 करोड़ रुपये का ओवर ड्राफ्ट। उसके बाद क्या हुआ? रिजर्व बैंक ने जब नोटिस दी तो मुख्य मंत्री दौड़े-दौड़े दिल्ली प्राये और 193 करोड़ रुपये का ओवर ड्राफ्ट 200 करोड़ रुपये का बर्जा दिखा करके जीरो किया गया।

मैं कहूँगा कि केवल 193 करोड़ नहीं है, पहले का 127 करोड़ का सरप्लस बजट भी है। उसको भी जोड़ दिया तो लगभग सवा तीन सौ करोड़ का ओवरड्राफ्ट पहले ही दो वर्ष में बिहार सरकार ने लिया है (समय की घंटी) और आज भी ओवरड्राफ्ट चल रहा है।

महोदय, अभी कुछ और समय देते बोलने के लिए।

श्री उपसभापति : कृपया समाप्त करिए। पन्द्रह मिनट हो गये हैं।

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र : और आप बजट बना रहे हैं।

श्री उपसभापति : बजट आया तो फिर बोलियेगा।

श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र : मान्यवर, दो मिनट और लूंगा।

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं समाप्त करिए। चार बज रहे हैं, कृपया समाप्त करिए।

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र : मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बजट का मध्य अगर प्रेरणा देने वाला हो, तो उस हिसाब से पूरे भारत को देखना पड़ेगा। गरीबों के, नौजवानों के हाथ में जो काम नहीं है, उन्हें काम देना पड़ेगा।

अभी एक मिनट ने भाषण दिया (समय की घंटी) आक्सिजन कम्पनी द्वारा प्रकाशित इतिहास 1980 का एक उदाहरण दिया। देश की पूंजी केवल बीस बड़े घरानों के हाथ में है और इन बीस घरानों ने 70 करोड़ देश की जनता का पता नहीं लगेगा और उन राज्यों का तो बिल्कुल पता नहीं लगेगा जिनकी आबादी 76-78 प्रतिशत गरीबी रेखा के नीचे चली गई है। (समय की घंटी) मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह विनियोग विधेयक मुझे तो बेकार दिखाई दे रहा है। यह बजट इस राष्ट्र को आत्म-निर्भर

बाने वाला नदी है, वह बन्द केवल इलाक़  
का मौसु बाने वाला बन्द है ।

धन्यवाद ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The debate will continue after the Calling Attention.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### Acute Shortage of Newsprint in the Country

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the situation arising out of the acute shortage of newsprint in the country and the action taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I wish to make the following statement in this connection. The overall newsprint requirement for 1983-84 was initially estimated at 3,50,000 tonnes—1,90,000 tonnes to be met by indigenous production and the balance of 1,60,000 tonnes to be met through imports. Following a review of the indigenous production of newsprint by the three domestic mills in the first half of 1983-84, it was decided to import an additional quantity of 20,000 tonnes to meet the shortfall in domestic production.

Domestic production of newsprint itself in 1983-84 was appreciably higher than in the previous years. The output of standard newsprint from the three newsprint mills in 1983-84 was 1,70,000 tonnes (approx.), which is more than 65 per cent production in the preceding year.

Arrivals of imported newsprint during the year amounted to 1,76,459 tonnes. Inclusive of the quantities

carried over from the previous year, the total arrivals of imported newsprint should have been 2,03,000 tonnes.

For most part of the year, newsprint availability position continued to be satisfactory. From the beginning of 1984, however, the availability position came under some strain because of higher monthly liftings and depletion of STC's buffer stocks. The port worker's strike further worsened the situation nearly 15,000 tonnes of newsprint had been accumulated in various ships at different major ports which could not be unloaded due to the port workers' strike.

To meet the situation, Government have taken a number of measures. These are:—

(a) The three domestic newsprint mills have been asked to make special efforts to achieve maximum production. The constraints in this respect have been identified. In this context, MSIB wrote to the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala to make available adequate power to the newsprint mills in their States. The question of ensuring adequate coal availability has been taken up with the Ministry of Energy and their speedy movement to the mills, with the Ministry of Railways.

(b) STC has been asked to step up arrivals of newsprint from Bangladesh from the present level of 75 tonnes to 150 tonnes a day and even higher, if possible.

(c) The question of priority berthing for ships carrying newsprint has been taken up with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport to ensure that the 15,000 tonnes of newsprint in various ships in different ports are quickly unloaded so as to become available for newspaper consumption.

(d) STC has been asked to ensure import arrivals at the rate of 25,000