

[Shri Sankar Ghose]

What is happening in the agricultural sector? Ninety per cent is for old, continuing schemes and the Plan's size has been reduced from 35 per cent to 17 per cent. Is there anything significant for agriculture, for the rural sector? Is there anything for land-reform? Can there be any social transformation in the economy unless there is radical land-reform? Land-reform is not merely a distributive measure. It is both a productive and distributive measure. The small and marginal farmers can increase productivity if they get more land. But there is nothing for the land-reform so far as this Budget is concerned.

How can you increase your allocation on agriculture and irrigation unless you increase the size of the Plan? How can you give a bigger slice to agriculture if the size of the cake is itself small? What the Janata Government is doing is this. You diminish the size of the cake and from that small size you give a larger size to agriculture. The people of India do not want a larger slice from a small cake. They

want a bigger cake, a bigger Plan. The people of India have the vision, have the capacity and the political leadership. The people of India are willing to take the country forward, not through this timid, nineteenth century, regressive budget or through a Budget which goes in the reverse direction, which takes the country backwards. Sir, what is happening in exports?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Would you like to continue after lunch?

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE: Yes.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 14th March, 1978, allotted time as follows for Government Legislative and other Business to be taken up during the remaining part of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha:

<i>Business</i>	<i>Time allotted</i>
1. General discussion on the General Budget for 1978-79	3 days.—14th, 15th and 16th March, 1978. The Finance Minister will reply on Monday, the 20th March, 1978.
2. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following :—	
(a) Demands for Grants on Accounts (General) for 1978-79	} 2 hours
(b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1977-78	
(c) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1975-76	
(d) Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1978-79	} 2 hours
(e) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1977-78	
(f) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1975-76	
3. General discussion on the Budget (Mizoram) for 1978-79; and	
Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to—	
(i) Demands for Grants on Accounts (Mizoram) for 1978-79	} 2 hours.
(ii) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Mizoram) for 1977-78	

1 P.M.

<i>Business</i>	<i>Time allotted</i>
Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed' by the Lok Sabha :—	
(a) The High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Bill, 1978,	2 hours
(b) The Hindustan Tractors Ltd. (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill, 1978.	1 hour
(c) The Public Sector Iron and Steel Companies (Restructuring) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 1978.	2 hours

In order to complete the Government Business, the Committee recommended that the House should sit on Wednesday and Thursday, the 22nd and 23rd March, 1978. There will, however, be no Question Hour on these two days.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

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

The House reassembled after lunch at nine minutes past two of the clock, Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL) 1977-78— General Discussion—Continued

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister is not relishing the criticism. Where is the Finance Minister?

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: (Andhra Pradesh): He is very much there.

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE: His view is the private view of the Minister of State. We want the view of the Finance Minister. With regard to agriculture, we would have welcomed if the Janata Party had really given priority to agriculture.

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SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: There he comes after You were conspicuous by your absence.

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE: The Finance Minister is very well loved by the Members, but his budget is not equally well loved. So far as the 40 per cent priority to agriculture that is made up of rural infrastructure also and if you compare it with the allocation for the previous years, there is hardly any change. But the real difficulty of the Janata Government is not in its profession that it will give priority to agriculture but in its practice in neglecting agriculture. You cannot give priority to agriculture if you neglect the Plan, you cannot give priority if you neglect the resource mobilisation. What is happening? With the 17 per cent Plan increase, you can hardly do much in agriculture and irrigation. The other neglect is the land reforms because, Sir, if the Janata Government feels that agriculture means large farmers and that the small and marginal farmers and the landless labourers have no role to play, then it will be a sad day for our country.

And linked with this agricultural allocation and the land reforms is the question of employment in the rural