

office, we have been giving anxious consideration to this matter. Keeping in view the importance of the subject and the anxiety of the Members of the House, I thought it appropriate to make a statement denning Government's thinking on the subject.

We propose to appoint a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1952 to look into all complaints of excesses, malpractices, abuse of authority during the emergency and all matters related thereto. The Commission of Inquiry will be headed by an eminent judge. The exact terms of reference and the mode of inquiry will also be determined after taking into consideration the advice of the Chairman of the proposed Commission of Inquiry.

We have already received some specific allegations which *prima facie* seem to deserve an inquiry. However, it is likely that due to the fear psychosis created during the emergency most people suffered in silence and did not have the courage to represent their grievances. It is intended hence that the Commission should be in a position to invite specific complaints within a specified time limit and decide which of such allegations should be inquired into. We would expect the Commission to give its findings within a period of six months. Also we hope that the Commission will be able to give interim reports which may enable us to initiate follow up action even before the receipt of the final report. It is my ardent hope that our policy will be welcomed by all sections of the House. In particular, I will request Honourable Members to extend all possible assistance to the proposed Commission to enable it to discharge its onerous responsibilities. II. Proposals of the Government to order an inquiry into the death of Shri Sunder Singh in the custody of Delhi Police. THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH) : Sir,

I have yet another statement to make. Some doubts have been expressed regarding circumstances leading to the death of Shri Sunder Singh, who was in the custody of the Delhi Police in connection with a case under the Indian Arms Act. It is said that he was escorted to the Tughlakabad Fort area on 24-11-1976 and some arms and ammunition were recovered on the basis of the information disclosed by him. Another case u/s 25-26/27/54/59 of the Indian Arms Act was registered at PS Kalkaji, Delhi, vide FIR No. 697 dated 25-11-1976. After the recovery, when the police party was returning to the East District of Delhi in early hours of the morning, one of the wheels of the vehicle in which Shri Sundej Singh was being escorted is said to have got punctured near the cremation ground, J Geeta Colony. The driver stopped the vehicle. Other members of the party also came down to help the driver. Shri Sunder Singh is said to have sought permission to ease himself. In order to enable him to answer the call of nature one of his hands was released from the hand-cuffs. Taking advantage of the darkness and the fact that he was at that time escorted by one SI and one Constable only, he is reported to have jerked himself free of the chain tied to the policeman's belt. He is said to have run towards the river. In the early hours of the morning of 25th November, 1976, the police found his body and took it to the hospital where he was declared dead. An inquest into his death was conducted by a magistrate. The post-mortem was conducted by Dr. Vishnu Kumar of the Maulana Azad College, New Delhi.

2. The C.B.I. has been asked to enquire into the death of Shri Sunder Singh. Necessary instructions in this regard were issued on 30-3-1977. The allegation made in certain quarters that the sister of Shri Sunder Singh had earlier been raped or molested at a Police Station in Haryana will also be looked into.

(Shri H. S. Narasiah)

श्री उपसभापति : सदन की कार्यवाही
2 बजे तक के लिये स्थगित की जाती है ।

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

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

*MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT
ACTING AS PRESIDENT—ontd.*

SHRI H. S. NARASIAH (Karnataka) :
Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, while associating myself with the noble sentiments expressed in the Address delivered by the Vice-President acting as the President about our late lamented President, Shri Fakhuruddin Ali Ahmed, and also welcoming his assurance that his Government will honour all the commitments made by the previous Government in the realm of external affairs, I deeply regret to state that the Address has failed completely to make any reference whatsoever to some of the solid and substantial gains achieved by the Indian people, their elected representatives and their Government in the last few years, in the fields of discipline, agricultural production, industrial growth, inflationary curtailment and accumulation of foreign exchange.

Sir, while the present Government had found sufficient time to enumerate and catalogue some of the aspects of the previous administration, which it characterised as 'executive arbitrariness', 'emergence of personality cult', 'extra-constitutional centres of power', and 'traumatic experience' during which many atrocities were said to have been committed on the people of India, it should have in fairness, in my opinion, also found sufficient time to see the good aspects of the same period. The excuse of the Mover of the Resolu-

tion and the Seconder that the new Government was there in the saddle only for a few days and that they had not got sufficient time to include all aspects of the administration, is, I must say, rather a lame one.

Sir, it is undeniable and admitted on all hands that discipline in all walks of life had considerably improved in the fields of education, industry and services. India had established a most successful record of curbing what was considered as the most violent inflationary pressure which had gripped many of the countries of the world in 1974. The country's foreign exchange reserves had reached an all-time record of more than Rs. 2000 crores by vigorous export promotion and import substitution. Agricultural production had gone up to 12 million tonnes of foodgrains, with a buffer-stock of 18 million tonnes. Industrial growth rose from 25 per cent to 57 per cent and ultimately to 102 per cent from stage to stage. National income rose from 0.2 per cent to 8.8 per cent. Exploitation and exploration of soil turned out to be almost a miracle and transformed the economy of the country. Scientific competence and technological capability built up and demonstrated by the explosion of the nuclear device for peaceful purposes placed India on a footing of equality with the most advanced nations of the world.

These are facts which in the language of law we say *res gestae* (things speak for themselves). Instead of acknowledging these facts with grace and gratitude, the Mover of the Resolution surprised this House by saying that they have created problems for the new Government to solve.

Sir, let me repeat that the unchallengeable achievements of the previous Government acknowledged universally by all countries, whether capitalistic, socialist