

[Shri Y. B. Chavan]

About the other points, I am sorry I am not in a position to answer as to who should be in the Cabinet and who should not be in the Cabinet. It is not a matter to which I can give any answer. Naturally, as the hon. Shri Lokanath Misra, said, Government has to be very responsible in taking decisions, and naturally we are responsible to the country. How can we be irresponsible in our decisions, etc. ?

Sir, there is nothing very specific in the points raised which require answer at this stage as far as this Appropriation Bill is concerned. So this is all that I have to say.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1971-72, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

✓ MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, I move:

“That the Bill be returned.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted. ✓

THE BUDGET (ORISSA), 1971-72

—General Discussion

~ SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Sir, how long can I speak ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How long do you want to speak? Ten minutes.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Twenty minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Fifteen minutes. Please do not worry about time. Continue.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, when I speak on the Orissa Budget I speak definitely with a heavy heart.

SHRI SHEEL BHADRA YAJEE (Bihar): Because you have lost.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Not because we have lost, as Mr. Yajee pointed out, but because I have certain grievances against the representative of the President in Orissa. The way he did everything during the period of resignation on the 9th January till the 11th January was something which never happened in a democratic history. I thought he had good advisers. But subsequently I found that he takes nobody's advice unless it belongs to his family. We have a competent Chief Secretary. We have very competent Home Secretary. We had so many other officers who belong to the Law Department of the State Government of Orissa who were never consulted to my information—I do not know. I am still subject to correction. But I was told subsequently that he confined his sphere of advice to his near relations and, maybe, to his own Secretary who had probably some grievance against the outgoing Ministry. May be, he was taken out of an important department and shunted as the Governor's Secretary because he was found incapable in that Department and, therefore, he thought that he could return the score when he was Secretary to the Governor. Anyway, whatever has happened let me come to facts. The facts are like this.

The Chief Minister, on information that the Governor was leaving Bhubaneswar on the 9th evening, saw him

at 7-30 and said that he was going to resign and he sent in his resignation immediately after, which was received by the Governor at 8-30. At 9 o'clock, or may be 8-5, the Governor sent a letter by a special messenger saying that he had accepted his resignation letter and had dissolved his Council of Ministers from 8-30 P. M. the same day.

The peculiar behaviour of the Governor must be viewed in the background as to how he otherwise behaves also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think it is not desirable to discuss the behaviour of Governors.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: If a Governor behaves unlike a Governor, he can be criticised on the floor of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not here, I think.

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated): If it is his personal discretion, it can be discussed.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I can even go to this extent that if the Governor is a senile Governor, I would not hesitate to say that he is senile, and if the Governor is forgetful, I should not be debarred from saying that he is forgetful. If he is a stoop-shouldered man, even if you debar me from saying that he is stoop-shouldered, others will say that he is stoop-shouldered. If he is short-tempered, others will say that he is short-tempered, even if I am debarred from saying that on the floor of the House. Therefore, you may kindly permit me to go on with my speech. My time also is limited.

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : बजट पर भी तो कुछ कहिए ।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: बजट प्रपोजन तो पीछे जाएगा । बजट क्यों आया है, यह पहली चीज है । Why has the forum shifted from the Orissa Assembly to

the Rajya Sabha ? This is only taking our time away. Things which could have been dealt with at the Assembly level have been sent here unnecessarily because of the unwise act of the Governor of Orissa.

Now, Sir, as I was saying, this is the first time that a Governor puts down the time—as 8-30—for the dissolution of the Ministry. Nowhere else would you have seen a Governor putting down the time as 8-30 or 9-30 or 10-30. Normally they say that the resignation of the Chief Minister is accepted. He does not even know the fundamentals of our Constitution that when the Chief Minister goes, the entire Cabinet goes. The Governor is not aware even of this basic fact of the provisions of the Constitution. So he says, “I have accepted your resignation and I have dissolved the Council of Ministers”, which was unnecessary, it is redundant. But all the same this is what he had written. But the point is, he did not ask the Chief Minister to continue. Normally what happens after the resignation is accepted by the Governor is that he asks the outgoing Chief Minister to continue till alternative arrangements are made. This is what happened in the case of the D. M. K. Government in Madras; this is what has happened elsewhere also. Wherever the resignation of the Chief Minister is accepted, the outgoing Chief Minister is requested to continue for some time till alternative arrangements are made. But this Governor, since he took advice from an expert in his household, did not know what alternative arrangements have to be made under the Constitution, did not know that there might be a vacuum if he immediately intimated the Chief Minister that he had accepted his resignation and dissolved the Council of Ministers. So, what happens is a vacuum starts being created from 8-00 p. m. on January 9. Subsequently I telephoned to the Secretary to the President. I said “You have a senile Governor and he does not understand what he is doing. Therefore, you must intervene.” I wanted to talk to the President, but the Secretary got hold of the receiver. I said this very

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sentence, "You have a senile Governor who does not understand what he is doing. Therefore you must intervene." Then he said, "We are requesting him to request the outgoing Chief Minister to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made." That was 24 hours later, and the outgoing Chief Minister was contacted urgently on the telephone by the Governor's Secretary saying "The Governor has something very urgent with you. Would you be available?" I was there in Bhubaneswar. I said that this must be the reason. Naturally, after the lapse of 24 hours, nobody can be re-sworn in because there would be other complications also.

So he cannot be as irresponsible as the Governor. My clear and categorical opinion was that we could 5 P. M. not be as irresponsible as the Governor. Therefore, let us function in a very responsible manner. Ultimately it does not matter what happens. If there is a vacuum, it is for the Governor and it is his headache. Why should we be instruments in relieving him out of his deadlock? Therefore, what happened was this. You would kindly look into these things. These are very relevant. They will go down as something very interesting in the history of this democratic country. The gist of what he says is this. He sends a wireless message, "Chief Minister met me at 19.30 hrs. on January 9 and submitted his resignation and recommended mid-term poll to the State Legislature along with Lok Sabha elections. I accepted the resignations of the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers and subsequently requested him to continue in office . . ." This particular word 'subsequently' is very significant. He resorted to definite falsehood. There is no doubt about it. And how far that man can be relied upon as a Governor, I have my doubts about it. At least we will not rely on that man. He must be recalled. I have conveyed my feelings to the President. I would not like to quote the President. At least I have that sense of responsibility. But the Gover-

nor of Orissa must be recalled as soon as the new Ministry is sworn in. I will come to that chapter later on. . .

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Orissa): Which Ministry?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Which-ever Ministry, it does not matter. I will elaborate that point again. . .

(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Sir, since he belongs to Orissa he has the right to ask me questions and I would love to reply him. Now, on the 11th he thought that a vacuum had already been created for two days. There were panchayat elections going on in the meantime for which there are cases pending in the High Court against the Governor of Orissa who had functioned without anybody's advice. The provisions of the Constitution are specific. Under the Constitution the Governor cannot act unless there is advice from the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers if the State is functioning democratically, if there is a responsible Government. If it is under the President's rule, then the Prime Minister and his/her Council of Ministers would advise the President as to how functions of the State should be carried on even if it is a State like Orissa. Therefore the provisions of the Constitution are very specific and for these two days there was no Government in Orissa. Therefore, some people have gone to the court of law to say that it is all irregular, any direction or any order passed during these two days are definitely irregular. Ultimately, it will be the Governor who would take the responsibility for it. I do not have to break my head on this irregular issue. But, I must bring it to the notice at least of the honourable Members of this House. There are constitutionalists here, there are eminent judicial luminaries here. They must know how irresponsibly a Governor could behave

in a particular State. I thought that I should bring it to the notice of this House.

The next thing is that the elections were held. The outgoing Chief Minister did all that he could in order to synchronise both the elections because he thought that two separate elections within two years would be too expensive for a poor State like Orissa. Normally he could have continued for another year. Our election would have been held only in 1972. But he wanted the elections to be held simultaneously and he resigned. Ultimately the President and the Chief Election Commissioner were kind enough to have the elections held simultaneously. The people did not give any specific verdict in Orissa in favour of any party. The respective positions of parties are like this: Congress (R)—51; Swatantra—36;—Utkal Congress—32; Jharkhand—4;—PSP—4; CPI—4; Janta Congress—1; Old Congress—1 Independents—1. The position thereafter became a little complex, particularly for this juvenile Governor. What he should have done is that he should have sent for the largest single party to form a government. In that case, he did not do real justice. What he did was to send for Dr. Harekrashna Mehtab and allowed him unnecessary time. Subsequently, when things were beyond him, he had to put in writing in his report to the President that Dr. Mehtab had assured him that he would send him the list of members who were supporting him and there were more than 70 such members. Even after two days, he did not submit the list. By then Dr. Mehtab was in Delhi conferring with the prime Minister finding out the way how he could possibly get into office. About Dr. Mehtab there were statements issued by different party leaders of both Houses of Parliament. There were allegations of grave corruption charges against him. Therefore, they were referred to Justice Mudholkar for preliminary inquiry and you know he is retired Judge of the Supreme Court. This is what he says . . .

श्री शीलभद्र याजी : जो इनके साथ हो जाय वह अच्छा है, नहीं तो खराब है।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I am coming to that one by one.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 20 minutes.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : This matter comes very seldom. Last time on West Bengal Shri Bhupesh Gupta spoke for an hour and forty-five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right, You take 3 or 4 minutes more.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : I also want to speak.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Naturally there will be others to speak. I am speaking for my Party.

श्री शीलभद्र याजी : और भी बोलेंगे।

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : याजी जी, अनन्तसे-सरीली डिस्टर्ब मत करिए।

श्री शीलभद्र याजी : आप कहेंगे, हम नहीं कहेंगे ?

डिप्टी चेयरमेन महोदय, जनता जनार्दन . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : You get on your feet and then start speaking. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, when you give me the possession of the Floor, you must literally protect me, particularly when I am dealing with an important subject. On other matters, if hon. Members go on interrupting me, I can throw back . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please don't interrupt.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : There is a Summary of findings and recommendations on page 141, Chapter XXV. This is the Report of the Hon. Mr. Justice J. R. Mudholkar, Special Judge for Inquiries, Government of Orissa. And he says :

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"That *prima facie* there was little justification for granting remission of dues to lessees from Government, that serious allegations made against Dr. Mahtab in respect of this need to be thoroughly inquired into;"

Then,

"that the grant of a lease of chromite mine to Mr. Serajuddin . . ."

My friend has come back; I am happy . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : I thought you are happy without me.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I would have been much happier with you. I told a story about you in your absence. Let me go ahead with this :

"that the grant of a lease of a chromite mine to Md. Serajuddin even after receipt of telegram from Government of India withdrawing permission to grant of lease does not *prima facie* seem to be justified and the transaction needs to be enquired into including the responsibility of Dr. Mahtab in this regard;"

Then, another:

"that there is *prima facie* evidence justifying a probe into the question relating to rapid acquisition of wealth within four years by Dr. Mahtab . . ."

Then, finally he says:

"In view of these findings, I recommend that it is in the public interest even at this point of time to constitute a Commission of Inquiry for making an inquiry against Dr. Mahtab in respect of the following specific matters :

(a) grant of remission of Government dues to Kendu leaves

contractors in 1959;

(b) grant of lease of a chromite mine to Mr. Serajuddin in 1957;

(c) rapid acquisition of wealth by Dr. Mahtab between the years 1956 and 1960; and

(d) the withdrawal of criminal prosecution against ten iron and steel dealers.

I may reiterate that not only in the public interest but also in the interest of Dr. Mahtab himself, an enquiry into these matters be caused to be made by a Commission of Inquiry, appointed under the Commission of Inquiries Act."

Sir, this is what Justice Mudholkar says. Subsequently before our Minister resigned, they appointed, by a special session of the Cabinet Committee, Mr. Justice Surjoo Prasad as the Commission to further probe into matters which had been referred to by Justice Mudholkar. Sir, during the term of the President's rule for one-and-a-half month or two months or more than 2 months, the Governor did not do anything in the matter. I had sent a telegram to the President. I received a letter from the President that the Sarjoo Prasad Commission will go on. But during the President's rule, nothing was done, because the Central Cabinet thought that further probe into Dr. Mahtab's conduct during President's Rule would jeopardize his prospects in the Election. Now when this particular Commission of Inquiry is pending against Dr. Mahtab, it was undignified for him as well as for the Government to have any dialogue with a man who had strictures from one of the Supreme Court Judges, and who is facing another inquiry, and to talk to him for Chief Ministership. Had it been anybody else I think the case of the Ruling Congress Party would have been much better . . .

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh) : But it was not proved. It

was under examination, and therefore he could not be penalised for it, unless it was proved.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : If 50 per cent is proved . . . *(Interruption)*

श्री शीलभद्र राजी : जनता जनार्दन ने उनके चार्ज को धो दिया है। दो, दो जगह से जनता जनार्दन ने उनको चुन कर निर्दोष साबित कर दिया है। जो हम बोल रहे हैं सच बोल रहे हैं।

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : आप दस जगह से उनको चुन कर ले आइये, उस से इस पर फर्क नहीं पड़ता।

श्रीमती नन्दिनी शतपथी (उड़ीसा) : उनको जनता ने चुन कर भेजा है, हमने तो चुना नहीं।

श्री सुलतान सिंह (हरियाणा) : जब तक इन्क्वायरी फाइनल न हो जाय आपको कैसे किसी को क्रिमिनल कहने का अधिकार है।

श्री शीलभद्र राजी : अभी तो जस्टिस सरजू प्रसाद बहाल हुए हैं लेकिन जनता जनार्दन ने बीच में ही निर्णय दे दिया।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : To have dialogues with such a man who is already 50 per cent criminal because of the findings of Justice Mudholkar. . .

(Interruptions). . .

श्री उपसभापति : मिश्र जी, आप अपना भाषण जारी रखिये।

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : He may have said is say. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Fortunately for this country, Mr. Yajee is not a judge yet. . . *(Interruptions).* . . nor is he expected to be.

Sir, as I was telling you, a person who had already been declared as 50 per cent criminal was not the right

person either to be chosen as the Congress (R) leader or to hold discussions with the Governor for Chief Ministership. Now, what has happened? He resorts to all types of falsehoods and political horse-trading. People know about it because, from 1952 when Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab was the Chief Minister, he never had, at any time, a clear people's mandate in favour of his party. He had been, all the time, resorting to horse-trading. In 1952 when all other States. . .

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL (Orissa) : He was not Chief Minister in 1952.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I am sorry, Sir. He is right. Dr. Mahatab headed the Ministry in 1957. In 1952 it was somebody else. He also did not have the majority. From 1957 onwards, whenever he had been Chief Minister, his only recourse to Chief Ministership has been through political horse-trading, and now also he is trying to do it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : With regard to political horse-trading, may I know how many horses are there in the Swatantra stable?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I will not go into it because that would take away my time. I am dealing with something which I consider to be serious. I will have frivolities with Mr. Bhupesh Gupta on another occasion when we shall compare how many Swatantra horses and how many CPI horses are there.

I was talking about the other thing—about the political horse-trading in Orissa. Dr. Mahatab had only a strength of 51. How dose he expect, when all other parties have publicly announced that they are not going to support him? Now, all other parties, all other democratic parties, have said. . .

श्री सुलतान सिंह : डेमोक्रेटिक कैसे हो गये ? साढ़े सतरह हजार बोटों से श्री टी० एन० सिंह हार गये। वे डेमोक्रेटिक कैसे हो गये ?

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : अगर आप सारे देश की बात मुझसे दोहरवाना चाहते हैं तो आप चेयर से टाइम मांग लीजिए दो घंटे, तीन घंटे का और फिर उसमें मैं बोलता रहूंगा और आप बोलते रहेंगे।

श्री सुलतान सिंह : तो उनको इसके साथ मत जोड़ो।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Now, Sir, with 51 members in a House with an effective strength of 136, how did Dr. Mahtab ever think—at least he has this basic mathematical knowledge—that he could carry on the administration and have a majority? So he started trying to persuade other people to join his party—maybe for some consideration—and definitely it was political horse-trading, as mentioned in the newspapers in Orissa. On the other hand, what had happened? There was a party-to-party agreement between the two other important parties of Orissa. One was the Swatantra Party and the other was the Utkal Congress. And the third party that also joined it was the Jharkhand Party.

Among them the strength came to 72 plus 2 independents. In a House of 136, 74 is definitely an absolute majority and in that case what the Governor said was that the leaders should submit the signatures of the independent Members. In a democracy, what happens is, if the leaders of the respective parties could come to an agreement and they send the letters, it should be taken for granted. Nowhere the parading is done as was done in some of the States like Rajasthan or probably in UP also. That should not be resorted to. No dignified person whether he is an MLA or MP should join such a parade. I would not have joined myself if you have called for a parading of the Members of the Rajya Sabha here, but all the same, the names were submitted with

the signatures and I hope by tomorrow, after we pass this Budget and the Appropriation, the Governor. . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If he joins a parade, he would like a mannequin parade.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I would not be lured away from my points in spite of the provocative remarks by Mr. Gupta. Such parading was very undignified wherever it happened but I was told that in Orissa also the Governor thinks of doing such a thing but they have enough signatures and hope that would satisfy the senile Governor and I hope he will send for Mr. Biswanath Das who is the leader of the new coalition tomorrow.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I would like to know what kind of irade is it, that has landed Mr. Das in the Swatantra Camp.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: It is not a Swatantra camp. It is a United Front, which my friend, Mr. Gupta, holds so high in Bengal. It is Bengal, the UF is to be hailed and shouted about.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Reference has been made to horse-trading. Now I have understood how the horses are like. They are not only dark but also old ones.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Would you give me time to answer these? When one reads the proceedings would find the interruptions and I will go down in the matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have taken 35 minutes. Please finish in five minutes.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Till to-day I was not saying anything here because I thought the Governor probably would be thinking that it would be risky to summon the new Assembly and try to get the Vote on Account passed and

the Appropriation Bill passed and it would need time. Some three days would be taken in swearing in of Members and to set the Speaker elected, etc. Now that all these are passed and the signatures of the Members have already been submitted. There is nothing to stand in-between. I hope he would send for Mr. Biswanath Das to be sworn in tomorrow.

Coming to the Budget, I would like to speak a few words. For this you would not kindly object. This is something regarding Orissa. I cannot ventilate my grievances regarding Orissa in connection with national matters. The Central Plan for 1971-72 indicated here, shows that the Central assistance to the Plan would be to the tune of Rs. 48 crores. Sir, I was amused to see another figure in connection with Delhi. The same figure in connection with Delhi is more than Rs. 98 crores. Is this difference only because of political values or because of something else? Delhi has given to Mr. K. R. Ganesh all the seven seats this time while Orissa has not given them a clear majority. Does that go to determine as to how allocations . . .

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: It has given 10 Parliament seats out of 20.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: It is not cent per cent. You rush . . .

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: I am helping you.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: You rush unnecessarily to wrong conclusions. I was saying that Delhi has given them all seven seats. It is cent per cent so far as naked mathematics is concerned. But they are not people who guided by naked mathematics because the number of Members in the Lok Sabha also counts. So far as that number is concerned, for the information of Mr. K. R. Ganesh it is now 15; it is double that of Delhi. How is it that for a population of about 40 lakhs you have given as Central assistance for the Plan for this particular year an amount of Rs. 98 crores while for five times that population in Orissa

you have given only 48 crores. It is because you want to have more *phoaras* here, more fountains here, more lighting arrangements here for decoration and for you to see and satisfy your eyes? You should be more practical about this. Sir, they should be more practical about this. If this amount were to be spent for small and medium irrigation purposes in Orissa or in other rural areas probably the food production of the country would have gone up. They have plenty of money here which is literally going down the drain because they are having these fountains every where. This huge amount is not being employed for any practical use.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I am coming to a close. Sir, Orissa is a State that gets frequently visited by droughts, cyclones and floods. Therefore, what Orissa needs is more funds. That is point No. 1. Secondly 57 per cent of the population belongs to backward classes and backward tribes. From that point of view also it needs very special attention but that attention does not seem to be anywhere near the picture in Orissa. Even though Orissa is backward even though all the arguments are in its favour, Orissa was denied the second steel plant. We agitated; we went and sat in *dharna* at the Prime Minister's house but everything went unheeded. Nothing from us is heeded while my friend here got it very easily. My friend Mr. Appan, from Madras, our esteemed D.M.K. Member is laughing at me. Naturally he would laugh at my fate, laugh at the fate of any Oriya because he got it so easily by giving his support to the Prime Minister and her party in the last general election. They got it almost free.

Sir, there was going to be a Naval Training centre in Chilka. We asked so many questions before the election and the Prime Minister was so kind as to say that she would go ahead with this project but nothing is yet heard about it. I hope that they would immediately declare that they are going to have this Naval Training Centre there,

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Sir, my last point—now that you are hustling me—is that Orissa is a spot for tourist attraction. There are many things that could be developed as tourist spots. Konarka is one; this Chilka is another.

SHRI SHEEL BHADRA YAJEE: Gopalpur.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Yes. Gopalpur is the third one. Thank you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I must say that Lokanath Misra is also be coming a turist attraction there.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : These spots of tourist attraction should be developed. Now, the greatest injustice is being done to Orissa. I was talking about the injustice done to Calcutta yesterday while Mr. Bhupesh Gupta did not even come to my rescue even though I came to his rescue. They were not having any jet plane from here to Calcutta; that was what I raised, as to why they had no jet planes to Calcutta. They have it from here to Bombay, from here to Madras but Calcutta was completely ignored. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, since he holds the tail of the Congress (R) and somehow tried to get over the election river with it, he does not say any thing that might hit the Congress (R).

I spoke about that. Wherever injustice is done, I resent it. Therefore, what should be done is that at least Orissa should be directly connected.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN(Andhra-Pradesh): We are happy that you and Mr. Bhupesh Gupta are coming nearer.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: He has not come near us. He is your bandmaster. I was saying. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My friend wants to know whether I want the flight to Calcutta to be resumed. Obviously I want it,

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Thank you. You should have said it before. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Bhupesh Gupta saying any sentence here counts, because they are hand in glove with the Congress. Congress (R) and the Communists are hand in glove. His one sentence is much more important than my speaking for one hour. Now, Sir, the last sentence. I wish to urge that there should be a direct connection and flight from here to Bhubaneshwar. There are two flights from here to almost every place, except, of course, Kerala. Kerala is a God forsaken place so far as the Central Government is concerned. Assam is another God forsaken place, so far as the Central Government is concerned. I want all the three States to be connected. Kerala should be connected directly. Orissa should be connected directly and Assam should be connected directly. I also plead their case, the weaker sections among the States of India. I plead with Mrs. Satpathy, one of our very able representatives in the Cabinet, and I would particularly urge on her that she should see that there should be a direct flight from here to Orissa so that tourists, who many times miss the connecting plane from Calcutta to Bhubaneswar, can mak use of it. They may not have to undergo all the trouble and they will have easy access to places of tourist attraction in Orissa.

SHRI P. C. MITRA (Bihar): Now, you have changed your attack from Mr. Biju Patnaik to Mr. Mahtab.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I have no quarrel with Mr. Misra, so far as his broad and endearing smile is concerned, but the difficulty is that when he talks from those Benches he talks generally many things irrelevant.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) in the Chair]

He was talking much about the Governor, about his senility and all that. When

he goes through the News paper of those times, especially Oriya papers, he will note that Governor's action at that time did not suit their purpose. Fortunately or unfortunately the Governors in different States today have become scapegoats for the misdeeds of other political people. I will not go into that. We have fought an election and that election has given a clear mandate to India. It means a socialist change, it means a dynamic policy and it means standing by the underdog. We should take things in that perspective.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON (Kerala): So many people of your party have not come.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA:

It does not matter. Some will be coming and some will be going. Now, Sir, he talks much about the Mudholkar affair. That has become a big farce in Orissa. This Mudholkar affair, how it came up and how it was handled, even if Mr. Misra conceals it, will not remain unknown to the people of Orissa. It was a type of political vengeance. Also, whatever be the issues he referred to regarding Dr. Mahatab, the position is that though Dr. Mahatab was the Chief Minister, every decision that was taken in this affair was by a collective body. Everything passed through the Cabinet and he did not take the initiative to do anything. That will come out when the affidavit is submitted to the other commission that is being set up. I would have appreciated if Mr. Misra had also referred to the Kendu Leaf scandal on which the Government of Orissa broke up and the Jan Congress had to withdraw its support.

Sir, the Kendu Leaf always plays a very important role in Ministry-making and Ministry-breaking in Orissa. That is a fact. But they overdid the whole thing during the first Ministry, it is known to everybody in Orissa, and they cannot escape the fact. Mr. Misra says that Congress was never in majority since 1952 and Congress had to build up a Ministry, to repeat his words, through horse-trading. I will give you an ins-

tance. When this Swatantra was the Ganatantra Parishad of those days, we spent more than Rs. 100 crores on the Hirakud Dam project. There is a hydroelectric plant. During that time the Ganatantra propaganda was, "What shall you do with the water from that reservoir? Electricity is drawn out of it. If the water goes to your fields, that will not irrigate and you will not get a good harvest". These are the patriots now talking today about Orissa, about Orissa's development. Mr. Misra was talking so much of Dr. Mahtab. I do not like to hold any brief for any particular person, but facts are facts. Whom have they selected to head the Orissa Government? They are thinking of building up a Ministry with Shri Biswanath Das as Chief Minister. I may remind the House that this Mr. Biswanath Das was the only Congress politician in those days of Pandit Nehru who prepared a pamphlet and campaigned against planning in India. He never wanted planning. Now the Swatantra is justified in having him. It is very right also that such a conservative, diehard, who is not prepared to accept any change, any modernity, should now be the laudable person of the Swatantra Benches. We are not sorry that we are not having a Government there. We know that we are only 51. We knew before the elections that Congress had divided itself into four parts, Congress A, B, C and D. After the elections it was a meaningful, true Congress. Suppose some people had gone out of the Congress as some friends had done. Suppose a time comes when the prestige, the traditions and the values for which the Congress stands are at stake, we are bound to unite together. Will it be called defection? Dr. Mahtab did not want to do horse-trading. On the strength of a resolution of the Congress Executive of Orissa Dr. Mahtab gave a call saying whatever differences there may have been in the past, those friends who have gone from the Congress we again invite them to come back. If that is horse-trading, that will have another meaning which Mr. Misra can only understand. It is not unfortunate that we differ in our outlook. Ever since

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

political consciousness dawned in me I have identified myself with the forces of socialism, in literature, in public life and in all other activities. Since political consciousness has dawned in the artist in him he is always with the Rajas and Maharajas of the past. We always stood by the downtrodden. I know Mr. Misra is a poor man, his conscience is with us, but his body is with the Maharajas who are a dead lot. *(Interruption)* He says he is sorry about Orissa. I am also sorry for being with them for some time. Unless you come in contact you do not know where you stand in relation to the other party. They will not touch me with a pair on tongs. They know it. During their Ministry also I have not identified myself with any of their anti-people schemes. Now we have a clear mandate. I am only sorry that this change today in the national leadership, in the personality of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the change which has come all over India has not touched Orissa as yet. If they think that Dr. Mahtab is old enough to retire, they are getting a man who is 82 years old, and I do not know whether he can sign his name. He is only a puppet. Keeping him in front they will dance behind him. But the Orissa people know that this will not go on very far, I doubt if they have still a majority to form a Government. They talk of horse-trading. I am told that some Members belonging to some party are confined somewhere and they are told that if they go out, their lives will be in danger. By this way they are thinking of parading their strength before the Governor.

Sir, we are for social changes.

(Time bell rings)

You have given him so much time. Give me five minutes more. I was not prepared to speak today because my heart is very heavy with East Bengal affairs. These Budgets will come and go. Naturally there will be democratic Government. We have come to be a stable democracy Indian people have shown their wisdom. They want stabi-

lity at the Centre and everywhere. And when they say that a particular Government is falling and that people are coming back to the Congress (R), Congress people coming back to the Congress is not a crime. If Mr. Gurupadaswamy, the Leader of the Opposition, comes back to out Benches tomorrow, he will not be termed as a defector because will only be a prodigal son coming back home. I have also come back. We have to face the challenge, and the Congress at the Centre will have to play that role.

Now Mr. Misra knows that I need not answer him because every answer to his questions will arise in Orissa, every answer that will have to be given will be given in Orissa. Will they do reforms will they have a ceiling on urban property? A Government headed by Mr. Biswanath Das who opposed planning, who opposed everything that is modern, now supported by my Swatantra friends, I know what they are going to do in Orissa, and how Orissa will prosper. They are talking so much of Orissa. These princely few, these Maharajahs, these big landlords these industrialists who wanted to carve out an empire for themselves in Orissa, are now in the picture. And we will also be there; we are not dying, and we will certainly stand by the under-dog; we will have to fight and we will have to tell the people, "You give us a clear mandate either in our favour or in their favour, either in favour of reaction or in favour of progress, either in favour of outdatedness or modernism." If a man is to be put up, one who has already been forgotten, we will not accept him as our leader.

I will tell you another instance about him. Everybody knows it. That may be forgotten, but history will not forget it. There was a trunk murder case in Berhampore. In a big family a man was murdered. I will not go into the details of that case. He was found murdered and left at the railway station packed in a trunk years ago, when probably I was in the first year in college. That is the famous trunk murder case. The police found out

the culprit. He was taken to the Sessions Court, and in order of execution was passed against him. By that time this great Mr. Biswanath Das was the Prime Minister of Orissa, as they were then called. For the commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment strings were pulled and the house where the murder was sold. That house in those days would have cost not less than Rs. 70000 to Rs. 80000. Mr. Biswanath Das's brother, Vipra Charan Das, gave a partry sum for the purchase of that house, and that sentence was commuted to life sentence. At that time Mr. Lokanath Misra may forget it—his great father, Pandit Godavaris Misra and others wrote to the Congress high Command. Dr. Rajendra Prasad held an inquiry. It was found in that inquiry by Dr. Rajendra Prasad that Mr. Biswanath Das could not be absolved from moral responsibility. And in that house, along with his family members, he started an institution of business called "Vijay Bhandar." we will be going from village to village, telling the people and reminding them of the great acts of these people who want to lead Orissa. (Interrupts) Sir, I tell him that his *Pitha Sathru* is coming and heading the Government.

Mr. Misra made a comparison about Rs. 98 lakhs to Delhi and Rs. 48 lakhs to Orissa. I have no quarrel over that. If Delhi gets Rs. 98 lakhs I am happy. I would have been a little happier if allocation for Orissa were a little more. But I want to know whether it will be utilised for the down-trodden there. It will not be helpful to them there, it will not go to the masses there. It will be spent for the "class" people and not for the masses, whatever money comes from the centre. We will be watching from everywhere, from towns and villages, how much money is being spent and who is getting benefit out of it. From bank nationalisation which he says is a bad thing—he thinks so—only these people, the landed gentry are getting benefit. We will be watching it.

We will stand by the people. If you

are 51, we are not lost. We are still a force in Orissa and we will continue to be a force because the people will give us the verdict, not the Maharajahs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Thank you.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Do not say "Thank you." You will thank me five minutes after.

Sir, I told you in the beginning that my heart is heavy with the East Bengal affairs. Therefore, practically I was not in a mood to speak. And nowadays very rarely I speak. My friend must know that when Jana Congress was in coalition with them in Orissa then I had nothing to say. Therefore, unless I have something to say I generally do not get up. I am not in the habit of Shri Rajnarain to get up every minute. Unfortunately, he has gone running to Lucknow to save Mr. T. N. Singh. He cannot save him.

I have only one more thing to refer to. In the Pakistan Embassy here there is the Military Attache whose name is Brigadier Gulam Hussain Khan. Sir, you might remember how this great leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was entangled in the infamous Agartala conspiracy case. This sub-continent is proud of two leaders: one Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Before Partition, Mahatma Gandhi did not walk that part of the sub-continent in vain. Now every Indian, every individual of this sub-continent should be proud of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Shri Rahman was arrested and tortured by this same Brig. Gulam Hussain Khan. Of course, our Government has that maturity to act as they think fit. But why should they not treat this man as a *persona non grata*? This is the man who perpetrated torture on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This is the man who tortured the Bengali nationalists. This is the man who has tried to kill nationalism among the students there. And now he is the person who enjoys our hospitality as the Military Attache of Pakistan here. I would appeal to

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

the Government to declare this Brig. Gulam Hussain, Military Attache to the Pakistan Embassy, as a *persona non grata*.

Sir, in conclusion I may say this much. We need not quarrel here. I invite Mr. Misra, my dearest friend, to Orissa. We will prepare our battlefield there and fight. Whether they stand for the people or we stand for the people will be ultimately decided by the people themselves.

श्री शीलभद्र याजी : माननीय वाइस चेयरमैन, महोदय जिस तरह से पंडा जी बोलने वाले नहीं थे उसी तरह से मैं भी बोलने वाला नहीं था, लेकिन मेरे साथी मिश्रजी ने कुछ ऐसी ऊटपटांग बातें कह दीं और बेशहनाई का बाजा बजा दिया कि मुझको मजबूरन उनके लिये ही कुछ कहना है। क्योंकि मेरे साथी के जो पिताजी थे वे मेरे फावर्ड ब्लॉक के साथी थे और कांग्रेस में भी लीडर रहे, यह कैसे निकल गये राजा महाराजाओं के चक्कर में यह नहीं समझ में आया। वैसे यह प्रगतिशील थे और जैसा पंडा जी ने कहा यह फिर आयेंगे, जरूर आयेंगे, लेकिन जब तक वहाँ है और उस गोष्ठी में बैठे हैं उस समय तक कभी कभी ऐसी बातें कर दिया करते हैं जो उनको नहीं करनी चाहिए। और इसलिए मैं सिर्फ उनको याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि उड़ीसा के बारे में हम सभी लोग जानते हैं कि उड़ीसा बैकवर्ड है और बिहार भी बैकवर्ड है और बजट में जितना रुपया उसको दिया जाय कम है। दिल्ली को जितना मिला है उसके लिए हमको अफसोस नहीं करना चाहिए। उड़ीसा को दिल्ली से ज्यादा पैसा मिलना चाहिए इसके लिए हम मांग करें, इष्प्या न करें। 7 और 14 का मिलान न करें क्योंकि दिल्ली राजधानी है। सारी दुनिया के लोग यहाँ आते हैं और इसको देखते हैं। वे भुवनेश्वर नहीं जाते हैं या गोपालपुर नहीं जाते हैं जिसको यह बनाना चाहते हैं। इसलिए यदि दिल्ली को मिलता है तो उसके लिए उनको खुशी होनी चाहिए।

एक बात उन्होंने कही गवर्नर के बारे

में। गवर्नर ने, उन्होंने जब रिजाइन कर दिया तो उनके रिजिनेशन को एक्सेप्ट कर लिया, चीफ मिनिस्टर के रिजिनेशन को। तो यह गवर्नर की मर्जी पर है कि वह उनको कांटीन्यु करने के लिये कहे या न कहे। थोड़ी सी बात के लिये मिश्रा जी बिगड़ गये और डिक्शनरी में जितनी गाली है वह उनको देने लग गये।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, I do not want to interrupt, but what I said was that under the provisions of the Constitution . . .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अकबर अली खान) : उनको बोलने दीजिये।

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : याजी साहब ठीक से समझें नहीं।

श्री शीलभद्र याजी : समझ गये हैं, आपसे ज्यादा जानते हैं। हम आपके पिताजी के समकालीन है आपके समकालीन नहीं है इसलिये मेरी बात भी सुनिये। तो यह गवर्नर की स्वाहिश पर है कि वह चाहे चीफ मिनिस्टर को कांटीन्यु करे या न करे क्योंकि वहाँ तो प्रेसिडेंट का शासन होने वाला था। तो इसलिये इतना उनको गवर्नर पर नहीं जाना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हरेकृष्ण मेहताब के बारे में उनको उन्होंने बहुत सुनाया और कुछ क्रिमिनल का शब्द भी कह दिया। चूँकि वह एक जवाबदेह आदमी है इसलिये मैं उनको याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि हरेकृष्ण मेहताब साहब आज से नहीं शुरू से कांग्रेस के एक लीडर रहे हैं और बड़े उच्चतम लीडर रहे हैं, वर्किंग कमेटी में नेताजी के वक्त भी वह मेम्बर थे, उन्होंने हमसे लड़ाई लड़ कर के उनके साथ गृहबन्दी भी किया जिससे कि हम उनको कहते थे लेकिन राजनीति भी अजीब चीज है और बहुत लोग राजनीति को तरह तरह के शब्दों से विमूषित करते हैं, इसलिये वही राजनीति वह इनके साथ खेलने लगे। कल तक तो इनके साथ मिले थे, जन कांग्रेस और स्वतंत्र पार्टी साथ थी और तब वह इनके नाक के बाल थे लेकिन जब इनके साथ

नहीं हुये तो उनके क्रिमनल कहना शुरू कर दिया और सिराजुद्दीन के केस की और पत्नी के केस की भी याद दिलाते हैं। सब तरह की बात की याद दिलाते हैं। मैं उनको कह दूँ कि बीजू पटनायक के बारे में हम स्पुटनिक कहते थे तो हम पर बिगड़ था लेकिन अब गठबन्धन है, जब इन्हीं बीजू पटनायक के साथ मिल कर गठबन्धन किया है तो वह नाक के बाल बने हुये हैं और जो इनके पहला नाक के बाल थे, जो मेहताब साहब इनके साथ थे, उनके लिये इस तरह की बात कहते हैं। जो राजनीति अजीब चीज है, जरा सा डिफरेंस आ तो इतना कह देते हैं कि जरूरत से ज्यादा आगे चले जाते हैं। इसलिये मैं इनसे गुजारा कि कइया कि जब तक इंकवायरी चलती है तब तक इतनी जल्दी नहीं दोष देना चाहिये। जब सरनू प्रसाद जी जज हैं और वह काम कर रहे हैं तो फिर यह कितने वैजियस के साथ बात कर रहे हैं, इंकवायरी हुई नहीं और क्रिमनल इन्होंने इन्क्वेयर कर दिया और इतना कह दिया। तो एक राजनैतिक नेता को इतने शब्दों से विभूषित करना ठीक नहीं और गवर्नर को जो कहते हैं वह शोभा की बात नहीं है।

अब मैं चीफ मिनिस्टर की बात कहता हूँ। पत्ते के कांड को लेकर के कौन नहीं जानता है कि कैसा कर के उन्होंने बटवारा किया, रुपया लिया।

इसके बाद यह कहना है कि उत्कल कांग्रेस ने रेजोल्यूशन पास किया है कि जो कांग्रेस है उसके साथ हम वर्नमेंट बनायेंगे, उसका साथ देंगे और उस आजा में हरेकृष्ण मेहताब साहब गवर्नर को कहते हैं कि हमारे साथ इतने आदमी हैं तो यह हार्स ट्रेडिंग कैसे हुई। वह भी हमारे आदमी है, भूले गटके से उधर हैं, उन्होंने कहा कि गवर्नमेंट बनेगी तो ऐसे बनेगी और इनके साथ रहेंगे। तो ऐसी बातों को उनको कहना नहीं चाहिये था मैं उनको याद दिलाता हूँ कि राजनीति में मतभेद होता है, मतभेद रहेगा क्योंकि जिस पार्टी को वह रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं—वह यहां अपने को रिप्रेजेंट नहीं करते हैं, वह हम ही

लोगों की तरह हैं—लेकिन गलती से वह राजा महाराजा और फ्युडल लोगो के साथ हैं, तो जो श्री विश्वनाथ दास जी है वह हमारे पुराने साथी हैं, मिश्रा जी के पिता जी उनको अच्छी तरह से जानते थे, वह कैसे उधर गये। ठीक है वह भी उस कतार से निकलेंगे, उनको भी सद्बुद्धि आयेगी, आज नहीं तो कल आयेगी लेकिन वह इस तरह की बातें इसलिये करते हैं क्योंकि वह गलत जगह बैठे हुये हैं, वह गलत वान बोल देते हैं, इसलिये मैं सिर्फ इनको नसीहत देने के लिये खड़ा हुआ, चूँकि यह उम्र में छोटे हैं। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस कांग्रेस की बात आप कर रहे हैं उसको जनता जनार्दन ने सारे हिन्दुस्तान में बिठा दिया और जहां आपकी अक्सरियत थी, बहुमत था वहां भी आपको नीचा कर दिया। तो जो कांग्रेस है उसको मिला लीजिये और हिसाब किताब कीजिये तो हम ही बहुमत में हैं और किसी दिन हमारी सरकार ही बनेगी, आप तो अपोजीशन में बैठेंगे, वहां नहीं बैठेंगे तो इधर भागेंगे, जैसे कि पंडा जी उसी तरह आपको भी सद्बुद्धि आये।

इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि हरेकृष्ण मेहताब साहब बहुत उच्चतम लीडर रहे हैं, पुराने लीडर रहे हैं, आयडियालाजिकली प्रहार करें लेकिन जिस शब्द का उन्होंने प्रयोग किया है, मैं उनसे कइया कम से कम हमको कोई हार्स ट्रेडिंग की जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि हम कम्बाइन्ड है, हम एक न एक रोज आएंगे। लेकिन राजनीति अजीब चीज है, जिनको लोकनाथ जी दिन रात गाली देते हों उनके बारे में आज एक शब्द नहीं। एक कहावत है लड़का अंधा हो, नाम उसका नयनसुख वही बीजू पटनायक उनके लिए नयनसुख हो रहे हैं। उनको लेकर ये चले, उनको मुबारक हों। लेकिन हमारी कांग्रेस में कोई गड़बड़ नहीं है। उसको सारी जनता ने देख लिया, सबने देख लिया, और आप भी देख लेंगे। आपको भी सुबुद्धि आ जाएगी और जो गलत जगह में आप बैठे हैं उसको छोड़ेंगे। जय हिन्द।

*SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, my friend, Mr. Lokanath

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

Misra, has referred to many matters in the course of the discussion and this has compelled me to say a word or two about the matter under discussion. We must congratulate the people of Orissa for the manner in which they have swept aside the Swatantra Party there. It was thought that Swatantra rule had come to stay at least in Orissa and that even in the last election it would not be possible to get rid of the Swatantra regime or the Swatantra Party from power. But the people of Orissa marching in step with the people of the rest of the country, have pronounced, I believe, the final verdict against the Swatantra Party. And we do hope that whatever else may happen in political life, this party of the Privy Purs-holders discredited rajas, tendu-leaf dealers, and of horsetraders in political life should never come back to power in Orissa. And this is the main significance of the Orissa election results and we are all glad that this pimple on the fair face of Orissa, that is, the Swatantra Party, has been removed by the powerful blows of the awakened masses of that State of ours. Now, it must be admitted that the problem of Orissa has not been solved in a manner which can be called satisfactory. No party there has received a clear majority. If I see the election results I find that the Swatantra Party and Biju Patnaik group together make still a formidable combination. And they have now brought in the dark horse of the forgotten days, that is Mr. Bishwanath Das. He was a Member of this House. We all forgot him. But today we find that he has been pitchforked, at his old age, to head the Orissa Ministry of Swatantra-Utkal Congress combined. No wonder in his parliamentary career for the first time has Mr. Lokanath Misra spoken on Orissa without referring to Biju Patnaik . . .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : Now he is their companion. How can they say anything about him now ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I was partly enthused, partly amused; enthused because he had lost grounds so much that he thinks that Biju Patnaik now has to be wooed in order to save his regime or save the party or in order to gain access to the Government. That only shows his weakness and political bankruptcy. That is why I say I was enthused about it. I was amused because this name was not mentioned by one who at least had uttered this name one million times in this House in the 6 P. M. course of his parliamentary career. Now you can see that Biju Patnaik is bad enough by himself. R. N. Singhdeo is bad enough by himself. And if you yokethem together—Biju Patnaik and R. N. Singhdeo—you can imagine what will be the fate of Orissa . . .

(Interruptions)

So it is necessary for us to save Orissa from the combination of Biju Patnaik and R. N. Singhdeo. Biju Patnaik has won the unique distinction of having lost in the General Election, by getting defeated in all the five seats he has contested. Actually he contested, not five—four Assembly seats and one Parliamentary seat; and under one Parliamentary seat seven Assembly seats—but eleven seats really he contested. In all the eleven he got defeated. Now such a General of the lost battle again is in the limelight . . . *(Interruption)* . . . and with the support of Bishwanath Das he is trying to make himself presentable to the Orissa people and to the rest of the country. But nobody is going to be deceived like that. Now, R. N. Singhdeo thought that he was Chief Minister in perpetuity for Orissa. Today he has made way for Bishwanath Das, one of the derelicts of the Congress Party to come in and occupy this position. This only shows that there is utter chaos. Sir, therefore, I hope they shall not be in a position to form any Government. That would be a sad day for Orissa. But, anyhow, nothing will be lost in that way.

Now, Sir, I don't know whether the hotel—Inter-continental Hotel or some such thing or the Five Star Hotel—is

supposed to be started or sponsored by my friend Mr Lokanath Misra along with some multi-millionaires and the Maharaja of . . .

(*Interruption*)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, on a point of personal explanation, since he has referred to that. I was the promoter only, and I hold no shares in the company nor do I intend to hold any share. I have no financial interest. I want the prosperity of Orissa, and to that extent I was the promoter . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is the trouble with my friend, Mr. Lokanath Misra. He does all the *begar* for others. He does not hold even a share in the company. Now, I think we are all for abolition of *begar*. And why should you not give up this kind of thing ? But all that I want to know is whether Biju Patnaik is going to be one of the sponsors . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : No, no.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He will not be. Then we are assured that we shall have some food there in that hotel which cannot be an adulterated food . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I have no idea whether the hotel will come into being at all.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He has no idea whether the hotel will come into being at all. He has made a frank admission. So if the Government is not in hand, the hotel does not come. Therefore . . .

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : It has nothing to do with the Government, Sir. If a wrong impression goes round, that should not be good. Even for the hotel industry in Orissa. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta may love it because he has plenty of hotels in West Bengal in which he may be having shares—I don't know.

Sir, the problem is that Orissa does not have a first-class hotel and the people of Orissa would very much like to have a hotel. But I have my own doubts, because finance is shy in Orissa, and if finance does not come, then . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Does it mean that if Mr. Singhdeo or Biju Patnaik are not in power, finance will not come ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Power or no power. It has got nothing to do with power. It is not Orissa where the Government holds everything.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : So, Sir, it is quite clear to you how the idea of a hotel was conceived in the Swatantra Party. Now if there has been a miscarriage, I am not to be blamed for it. Anyhow, therefore, leave it at that. I said that stability is yet to be achieved in Orissa's politics and I am concerned about it. After more than ten years of corrupt, reactionary, degenerate, rule of the Swatantra Party, Orissa needs to be put on a sound basis of public administration and Governance. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : For four years.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : For many years you have been there in one way or other. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : You want to distort history. Communists try to distort history in Russia. I never thought that they would do it in India. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Orissa's political life has been sullied by the pestilence of the Swatantra Party. Today it is on the way out. We should all wish that it goes as soon as possible. Now coming to the point of stability, surely Orissa must have a Government either of the Swatantra-Utkel Congress combined or of the Congress or alternatively the President's rule. The Swatantra-Utkal Congress combined with Bishwanath Das, I do not want such an arrangement nor would I like to have Presi-

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

dent's rule if I can help it because that is not also in the interests of the State. Therefore, we said if the Congress could form a Government on the basis of a minimum immediate programme, one objective of which will be an attack all along the line against the vested interests and above all, against the rajas and maharajas and the feudal elements in Orissa, a kind of support might be given for the formation of such a Government on the basis of some such concrete thing. That was all. Beyond that we are committed to nothing.

Now, my friend has brought in Harekrishna Mahatab. It is not for me to suggest as to who should be the leader of the Congress Legislature Party anywhere. I say it is for the Congress Party men to decide. But since it concerns the office of the Chief Minister I would like to humbly submit that Mr. Mahatab is eminently unsuited for the office of the Chief Minister. And I say this thing despite the fact that I would not mind a Congress Government instead of a Swatantra Government coming into power in Orissa. I am surprised that Mr. Mahatab offered himself for the leadership of the Orissa Congress Legislature Party. I do not know why he should have done it. He had been a Minister here. He had been a Chief Minister there. He had been a Governor. Almost everything on earth he had been. And now why this repeat performance? Do we have to go this circle again—Minister here, Chief Minister there, Governor elsewhere and so on? I should like to know why Mr. Mahatab be in the ring again: I cannot understand it. Now the Congress Party should be legitimately open to criticism for having put up Mr. Mahatab for the office of Chief Minister by implication, in a sense, they have elected him the leader. Surely in the Orissa Congress there are other people who can be elected the leader. Well, there should not be any difficulty. It is a fact that Mudholkar Commission of Inquiry made certain very devastating remarks against him. Let us not blow hot and cold. Let us not try to use the remarks of a Commission or a Committee against Biju Patnaik on the one hand

and support the remarks or ignore the remarks when they are made against Mahatab on the other. Double standards in public life are the worst that one can think of. When we justly pay serious attention to the observations made against Biju Patnaik, why should we not give the same attention to the serious observations which have been made by Mr. Justice Mudholkar after going through the charges against Mr. Mahatab? Mr. Mahatab has not been known as if he is the Caesar's wife. If Caesar had married a person like him, he would have been divorced her the next day. There is no dobut in it. Let us not think Mr. Mahatab as Caesar's wife. Why is Mahatab there? There are some Orissa leaders. I would urge the Congress Members, "Do not permit your party to do such a thing". It is really most unfortunate and shocking. When the youth is coming to the front when the spirit of youth is capturing some aspects of your thinking, you are digging up from the oblivion such a discredited person, Hare Krushna Mahatab and perhaps thinking of making him the Chief Minister. Why? Do I understand that the Orissa Congressmen and the Congress (N) have no people at all about whom they can think in connection with the office of the Chief Ministership? Surely then can do so.

Mr. Vice Chairman, now the traffic has started the other way. In 1969 November and the beginning of 1970, it was the traffic from the Congress (R), or Indira Congress, as they called—I never call it Indira Congress—they called. Now the traffic has started returning home again.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Gujarat Government has been defeated.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know, there will be a competition among the syndicate men to come back to the Congress. The competition has already started. I ask you, "Are we to take these people like that and make them Chief Ministers?" The reactionaries have gone out of the Congress and now you want to take them one after another. They are trying to come back.

They should not be given any place. It is not a part question because you are the ruling party at the Centre. Now you have a big majority in the other House. Today, if you have such people, implications are serious from the point of view of your own commitments to the people. People will ask various questions. Mysore syndicate people are coming back. Gujarat people are coming back. All are coming back. I say, it is a dangerous game which has started. It is not for me to make any suggestions. Only because some offices can go to them, we are entitled to say something. Therefore, I say, Mr. Mahatab, as Chief Minister, is not suited for this position.

Before I sit down, may I ask Mr. Mahatab, through you, Sir, that he should quit the office? He should declare that he would not seek the office of the Chief Ministership. The Congress Party if they want to form a Government, should search somebody else for that position.

Sir, now do not try to tax the patience and tolerance of the people too much. I had been to Orissa. During the election campaign, I had been to Bhubaneswar and I spoke against both, Biju Patnaik and Mr. Mahatab. But now I find that Mr. Mahatab is coming up as the Chief Minister or is likely to come up as the Chief Minister. Since Mr. Mahatab is now elected M. L. A., let him continue as an M. L. A. I think he has reached a sufficiently advanced age to live in retirement. I think, at his age, I would like to retire from active politics—at his age.

Now Mr. Mahatab would be well advised to take note of the feelings and sentiments of the people of Orissa and the rest of the country. You would not even remember the supplementaries that were asked here, when for the first time the Rajya Sabha met some twenty years ago. I remember Mr. Mahatab's career and his past antecedents. His political belief and his ideas cannot but cause grave anxiety and misgivings in the minds even of those who support the Congress.

I would therefore advise my good old friend, Mr. Mahatab to bow out of the contest. There are many horses that are rising in Orissa. There is no dearth of horses, black, white and not-so-white and not-so-black. Mr. Mahatab need not be one of the dark horses jumping into the scene again and lead the Orissa Government. I think he would do justice to himself, to the people of Orissa and to public standards in the light of the Mudholkar findings and now a Committee has been appointed under Justice Sarju Prasad to go into this question. So many charges are there against him. In fact he is sitting on heaps of charges to-day. Let these things be cleared. After that one can think about him in some other connection, not in connection with the Chief Ministership but for the present, let him not and let the Congress Party not try to impose Mr. Mahatab as the Chief Minister of Orissa. This is all that I have to say.

Again I will say that we would certainly be in favour of ending the President's Rule provided an alternative is found acceptable to all those people who are anti-right, anti-Swatantra and against the Swatantra-Biju combine which is the most unscrupulous combine one can think of in Orissa politics to-day.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am thankful to the Members for taking part in this brief discussion. This House is aware of the circumstances in which this Vote on Account has been placed before the House. I regret that a very senior and responsible Member like Mr. Misra should have used words like 'senile' to the Governor. I think it is his anger at the failure of his Party in his own State as well as in the entire country that is reflected in the words that he has used. It is not for me to go into the details pointed out of the time at which the Governor noted and other details. The facts are before the House that the Chief Minister resigned in January, the mid-term election was called and the mid-term election has

[Shri K. R. Genesh]

not produced a clear and complete verdict of the people as it has produced in other parts of the country. I would only confine myself to one or two other points raised by Mr. Misra. This is in reference to the Sarjoo Prasad Committee. He had tried to point out here that after the President's Rule was proclaimed there, nothing was done, with regard to the functioning of the Sarjoo Prasad Committee. For his information, I would mention here that the State Government issued a notification on 8th January 1971. Of course it is for Mr. Misra to find out why on the last days of the Ministry they issued this notification. However I am not going into that. The Ministry resigned on 9th January. The President's Rule was promulgated on 11th January and Mr. Sarjoo Prasad was appointed by a letter on 14th January. On 14th he indicated the staff required for the functioning of this Committee. On the 13th February the staff that he had required was sanctioned to him. Mr. Sarjoo Pande assumed office on 17th February. By a letter of 27th February the Commission requested the State Government to supply all the records in connection with this case. So Mr. Misra is not right when he says that after the promulgation of President's rule nothing was done as far as the Sarjoo Pande Commission work is concerned.

He has also referred to the question of Central assistance to Orissa and Delhi. He has been very ably replied by another colleague, Mr. Panda. I wish only to convey that Central assistance to Orissa is allowed on the basis of the criteria laid down by the National Development Council. During next year out of the total Central Assistance of 700 crores, Orissa's share is 32 crores.

Sir, this Budget which has been placed before this House has some special features which I wish to mention. There are six special schemes with 100 per cent Central assistance which have been included in the 1971-72 Budget proposals. These are for marginal

farmers and for giving additional employment to more than 3 lakh persons. Eight districts have been selected where the financial institutions will give concessional rate of interest with a view to attracting small and medium industries in the private sector. In addition two other districts have also been selected where cash subsidy will be available from the Government of India for setting up new industries.

Sir, this House and this Government is aware that Orissa is a backward State and it requires all help but, Sir, Mr. Misra's Government had been there for the last four years and that Government had not thought of doing anything radical to bring about a massive development of that backward area. Sir, I can only hope and wish that the President's rule introduced there will not last very long and that the democratic process will start functioning and Orissa will have a Government which will reflect the mood and temper of the people as shown through out the length and breadth of the country. The people of our country have voted for a change, for a radical and basic change, and I think Orissa also will have a Government which will reflect this mood and temper of the country. ✓

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

- I. THE ORISSA APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1971
- II. THE ORISSA APPROPRIATION BILL, 1971
- III. THE MYSORE APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1971
- IV. THE MYSORE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1971

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:—