

[श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल]

1951 के अधीन बनाए गए विनियमों को संसद् के समक्ष रखे जाने तथा तत्संस्पर्क कतिपय अन्य विषयों का उपबन्ध करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाये।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

THE BUDGET (GENERAL)
1968-69-contd

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We go on to the General Budget. Dr. Salig Ram, you get ten minutes to finish your speech.

डा० शालिग्राम (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, कल मैं रेलवे कर्मचारियों के मुताल्लिक बता रहा था कि किस तरह से वह अपने काम में ढील करते हैं और उनकी ढील का एक कारण यह भी बन गया है कि जहाँ पहले रेलवे कर्मचारियों को गाड़ियों को ठीक वक्त पर पहुँचाने पर कुछ रिवाइड दिया जाता था, कुछ इनाम दिया जाता था, कुछ पैसा दिया जाता था कि वह ठीक वक्त पर गाड़ियों को पहुँचा रहे हैं वहाँ अब उसके बरखिलाफ यह प्रथा चल रही है कि उनको ओवर टाइम चार्ज मिलते हैं और ओवर टाइम चार्ज मिलने की वजह से उनकी जो काम करने की सलाहियत है वह कम होती जा रही है और गाड़ियाँ ज्यादा से ज्यादा लेट होने लगी हैं। मैं अपने यहाँ की कांगड़ा वैली रेलवे जो है, जो कि एक बहुत छोटा सा ट्रंक है, उसकी मिसाल देता हूँ कि उसको वहाँ घाठ घंटे में अपने मंजिलेकसूद पर पहुँचना चाहिये लेकिन उसको बीस बीस घंटे लेट कर के मंजिलेकसूद पर पहुँचाते हैं, इससे जो ओवर-टाइम चार्ज किया जाता है उसका तो नुकसान

रेलवे को पहुँचता ही है बल्कि साथ साथ जो कोल का ज्यादा कंजम्पशन होता है और जो उसका वीयर एंड टीयर भी ज्यादा होता है। और जो ट्रंक भी रुका रहता है जिससे कि दूसरी बाकी पैसंजर ट्रैन्स भी लेट होती हैं, वह सब नुकसान ही होता है। तो इस तरह से जो ओवर टाइम की प्रथा है वह दूसरे महकमों में भी चल पड़ी है और इससे भी कर्मचारियों का जो दिन भर काम करने का वक्त होता है वह काफी हाउसेज और रेस्ट्रम में बीतता है या दूसरी जगहों पर बातें करने में गुजरता रहता है और जब काम एरियस में पड़ जाता है तो एक दिन आखीर में बैठकर, ओवर टाइम ले कर दो तीन दिन का ओवर-टाइम ले कर उस काम को करते हैं। तो इससे उनके काम की सलाहियत और भी कम होती जाती है और काम बढ़ता जा रहा है, काम के एरियस बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। तो उपसभापति महोदय, आपके जरिये मेरी यह दरखास्त है कि इस तरह की प्रथा को हटा कर उनको अच्छा काम करने के लिये प्रोत्साहन दिया जाना चाहिये। जो लोग अच्छे ढंग से काम करें उन्हें कुछ न कुछ रिवाइड दिया जाय। मैं हैरान हूँ कि जब उनके रिवाइड का नम्बर आता है तो वहाँ भी एक किस्म का फ्रस्ट्रेशन है क्योंकि सी. आर. और ए. आर., कैंरेक्टर रोल और एनुअल रिपोर्ट पर यह मुनहसिर करता है। जब एनुअल रिपोर्ट या कैंरेक्टर रोल लिखा जाता है तो उस वक्त को कर्मचारी देखते रहते हैं, साल भर वह काम नहीं करते और जब एनुअल रिपोर्ट या कैंरेक्टर रोल में एंट्री का नम्बर आता है तो जो उनके बासेज होते हैं उनके बंगलों का चक्कर लगाना वह शुरू करते हैं और जो कोई अच्छा दिन आता है जैसे कि दीवाली या क्रिसमस तो गिफ्ट्स की शक्ल में बड़े बड़े थाल मिठाइयाँ और फलों से भरे दूधे कुछ पैसे भी रख कर के उन बासेज के हवाले करते हैं ताकि उनको

एक्सेलेंट रिमार्क्स मिल जाय और उनके दूसरे कार्य हो जाय। इसके अलावा अब एक और भी ऐसी रीति चल चुकी है कि शिष्टाचार से भी गिरने की बातें मुनने में आ रही हैं जिसे कि इमानियत एलाऊ नहीं करती। तो इन बातों की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूँ और यह सजेशन देता हूँ कि इन लोगों के एनुअल रिपोर्ट या कैरेक्टर रोल के लिखने के वक्त जहाँ अच्छे रिमार्क्स दिये जाय वहाँ उनके साथ साथ एक कालम यह भी बनाया जाय कि क्या काम इनके सुपुर्व किया गया था, कौन कौन सी इयूटी इनके जिम्मे थी और किस किस काम को उन्होंने अच्छी तरह से निभाया है और किस को ठीक नहीं किया है ताकि बाद में पता लग सके कि जिनको आउटस्टैंडिंग दिया गया है, जिनको एक्सेलेंट दिया गया है, जिनको गुड दिया गया है उनके हक में क्या बात है और जिनको बिलो एवरेज दिया जाता है उनके बरखिलाफ कौन सी चीज है ताकि जब वह अपील करे तो इसका फंसला हो सके, वर्ना डी. पी. सी. के सामने जब एक्सेलेंट का रिमार्क जाता है तो वह आदमी आगे चला जाता है और दूसरे आदमी को पीछे रखा जाता है, इस तरह से जो ईमानदार काम करने वाले हैं, जो परिश्रम कर के सारे के सारे साल मेहनत करके काम करने वाले कर्मचारी हैं, वे पीछे जाते हैं और उनका कैरियर बिगड़ जाता है और जो काम नहीं करने वाले हैं, महज खुशामदी हैं, किसी तरह से रिश्ते देते हैं या दूसरे शिष्टाचार के काम करते हैं उन लोगों को अच्छा रिमार्क दिया जाता है और डी. पी. सी. भी उनको प्रमोट कर देती है।

अब मैं आपके जरिये इस संसद के माननीय सदस्यों का ध्यान इस ओर दिनाता हूँ कि पहले तो कहा जाता था कि हमारे यहाँ डाट है लेकिन अब तो डाट पूरा खत्म हो गया है, इस साल मानसून अच्छी हुई है और विंटर रेन आज तक हो रही है और ज्यादा

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फसल हुई है, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बाहर से मंगाने वाला जो अनाज है उस में कमी कर के जो बचत हो उसको कृषि विभाग को दे दिया जाय ताकि इसमें इरिगेशन की और दूसरे ढंग की कोशिश हो सके और उन कोशिशों में ज्यादा मदद दी जा सके और माइनर इरिगेशन वर्ग रह का काम किया जा सके। मैं आपको उस इलाके की बाबत बताता हूँ जिस इलाके में न पहले यह काम हुआ था और न अब यह काम हुआ। हमारा वह इलाका है जहाँ से पानी वह कर आता है और सारे उत्तर भारत को पानी मिलता है, उस पानीसे वह सिंचाई का लाभ उठाता है और पीने के लिये भी पानी मिलता है लेकिन हमारे यहाँ न तो पीने का पानी और न सिंचाई के लिये पानी है क्योंकि वह पहाड़ है और पहाड़ों में जो बारिश होती है वह वह कर सब कुछ नीचे ले जाती है और साथ में सब कुछ ले आती है, हमारी जमीन में जो खाद डाली जाती है वह भी बारिशों के साथ वह कर चली आया करती है। पहाड़ से निकलने वाले नमाम नाले और नदियाँ ज्यादा रफ्तार से बहती हैं और उनकी बेंड्स ज्यादा नीचे को जा रही है और आज सैकड़ों नहीं हजारों फिट की गहराई पर वे नाले बह रहे हैं और हमारी जमीन की सतह ऊपर उठ गई है और उस सतह तक वह पानी नहीं पहुँच सकता है। अब हम उनसे पूछते हैं, अपने कर्मचारियों से, कि भाई यह क्या बात है, हमारी कब बागी प्रायेगी, इरिगेशन की, क्योंकि हमारी बहुत सारी भूमि बगैर इरिगेशन के है। तो हमें जबाब देने हैं कि माइनर इरिगेशन के तहत 14 लाख रु० के नीचे वाले जो काम होते हैं वह होते हैं और 14 लाख के ऊपर के काम हम माइनर इरिगेशन में नहीं लेते। वह मेजर हो जाते हैं। उसके लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार इजाजत देती है। हम हेरान हैं कि यह जो मेयार मकरर किया यह मैदानी

डा० शालिग्राम]

इलाकों के लिये लागू हो सकता है, यह मेयार पहाड़ी रीजन के लिये नहीं दिया गया जहाँ मैदानों की निम्न काम करने के, इरिगेशन वगैरह के लिये, चार या 6 या दस गुना तक लागत आती है क्योंकि वहाँ आने जानेके साधन हैं नहीं, सामान नहीं पहुँच सकता है, पक्के पहाड़ों की खुदाई में ज्यादा खर्च होता है। इस तरह से वहाँ दस गुना ज्यादा खर्चा करना पड़ता है। इसलिये उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपके जरिये मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इस मेयार को हमारे लिये बढ़ा दिया जाय, क्योंकि तब तक वह मेयार कायम है उस वक्त तक हमारे यहाँ कोई माइनर इरिगेशन का काम नहीं हो सकेगा। सभी नदी नाले वहाँ से निकलते हैं, मील मील के बाद नदी नाले निकलते हैं जहाँ से पानी बहकर मैदानों में आता है और मैदानी इलाके की भूमि को सींचता है, लेकिन हमारी जमीन वैसी की वैसी सूखी ही रह जाती है, हम आममान की तरफ देखते हैं। हमारा किसान बड़ी मेहनत करता है, परिश्रम करता है, बीज डालता है, खाद डालता है, सब कुछ करता है लेकिन एक दिन बारिश होती है तो दूसरे दिन खेत खुश्क हो जाता है, क्योंकि पथरीली जमीन है, पक्की चट्टानें हैं, ज्यादा देर तक पानी नहीं रहता। तो जब तक माइनर इरिगेशन की स्कीमें न चालू की जायें तब तक हमारे यहाँ खेती को अच्छी करने का किसी तरह इमकान नहीं है। यह देश का वह हिस्सा है जिसने डोगरा जवान फौज में दिय है, जिसके बहादुर लोग पिछले दो कॉन्फ्लिक्ट में सबसे ज्यादा बलिदान हुए, वह देश की रक्षा के लिए शहीद हुए, लेकिन आज वह दाने दाने के लिये मोहताज है। पिछली दफा जब ये फूड जॉन्म बना दिये गये थे उस समय हमारे यहाँ के लोग दो दो, तीन तीन दिन भूखे रहे लेकिन फिर भी

उन्होंने कोई शोर व शराबा नहीं किया और न कोई विध्वंसकारी काम किया। और किसी जगह ऐसा होता तो वहाँ विध्वंसकारी कारवाइयाँ की जाती लेकिन वह समझते हैं कि देश की रक्षा के लिये मरना हमारा फर्ज है और देश के अन्दर शांति बनाए रखना हमारा फर्ज है। इसलिये उन्होंने इस तरफ कोई ध्यान न देते हुए अपने पेट पर पत्थर रखकर भी दिन काट लिये, जुल्म व सितम सह लिए। अब जब कि फसल अच्छी हुई है तो हमारा विश्वास है कि तमाम जानों को तोड़ दिया जायेगा, फूड पर से कन्ट्रोल हटा दिया जायेगा। मरहूम श्री रफी अहमद क़िदवाई ने यही किया था। तब भी आवाज उठी कि डीकन्ट्रोल नहीं होना चाहिये, बहुत मुखालिफत हुई उसकी, लेकिन उन्होंने एक नहीं मानी और कन्ट्रोल उठा दिया। उस वक्त हमने देखा वह चावल जो हमारे वहाँ 25 रु० मन बिकता था वह 12 रु० मन बिकने लगा, जिस खांड का भाव एक रु० सेर था वह 12 आने सेर मिलने लगी। इस तरीके का कन्ट्रोल उन लोगों के लिये माफिक आता है जो "वैरियस" पर बैठ हुए ट्रकों को पास करते हैं और सिविल सप्लाय वालों के लिये माफिक है यह न तो प्रोड्यूसर के लिये फायदेमंद है और न कन्ज्यूमर के लिये फायदेमंद है। अगर इन कन्ट्रोल को हटा दिया जाय तो मैं समझता हूँ कि सबके लिये मुफीद होगा और अगर कहीं थोड़ा कमी रहती है तो उस कमी को जो हमारे पास बफर स्टॉक मौजूद है उससे पूरा किया जा सकता है, यह नहीं कि बम्बई का गेहूँ हमारे काँगड़ में बिके और पंजाब का गेहूँ बम्बई जाकर बिके।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

डा० शालिग्राम : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं दो मिनट और लूंगा। अब मैं उस इलाके की बात कह रहा हूँ जो भारतवर्ष

में सबसे पिछड़ा हुआ इलाका है पहाड़ी रीजन का । हमारे इन हिमालय के दामन में बसने वाले लोगों ने इन्डस्ट्री की शक्ल तक नहीं देखी, छोटी इंडस्ट्री तक की शक्ल नहीं देखी बड़ी इन्डस्ट्री की तो बात ही नहीं । कई सालों से हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार ने वायदा कर रखा है सीमेंट के कारखाने लगाने का, लाइम स्टोन वहाँ मौजूद है, सब कुछ है, सरबे होने कई साल हो गये, उसके लिये लैन्ड मार्क कर दी गई है लेकिन आज तक सीमेंट का भी कोई कारखाना नहीं लगा । अब जो पूछा तो जवाब मिलता है कि यहाँ बड़ी रेलवे लाइनें नहीं है । बड़ी रेलवे लाइनें बनाना सरकार का काम है । छोटी रेलवे लाइनें इसलिए बनाई थी, कि जोगेन्द्र नगर पावर हाउस के लिए सामान ले जाना था । तो हम अपनी उस इन्डस्ट्री में भी आज तक महसूस रहे । फिर कागज के कारखाने बनाने का एक सवाल उठा, उसका भी जवाब मिला कि जिन लोगों से, पंजाब वालों से हमने यह ठंका कर रखा था, मुझे पता नहीं वह केन्द्रीय सरकार का था, लेकिन उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि थापर कम्पनी से हमने फैसला किया था लेकिन वह कहते हैं कि हम पहाड़ों में इन्डस्ट्री नहीं बना सकते गज यह कि हर काम हर माल पंजाब के कारखानों में बने और हम वहाँ भूखे तड़पते रहें ।

इसी तरह से हमारे ऊपर एक नया जुल्म हुआ है कि 70,000 के करीब पौग डाम की जद में आने वाले लोग बेवतन हो रहे हैं, और हिन्दुस्तान का 1894 का एक बोमीदा लैन्ड एक्विजिशन ऐक्ट बना हुआ है और उस पर अभी तक अमल दरासद होता आ रहा है । इस लैन्ड के तहत नोटिफिकेशन हो चुका है और नोटिफिकेशन हुआ 1961 में । अब हमें कहते हैं कि 1961 के हिसाब से आपको मुआवजा मिलेगा । जब कि दुनिया आजकल तरक्की

कर रही है, हर तरफ तरक्की हो रही है, खेती बाड़ी बढ़ी है, लोगों ने मेहनत की है सब कुछ किया है, लेकिन इसके बावजूद 1961 का हमें मुआवजा मिलेगा, यह हमारे साथ एक अन्याय है, इस देश के साथ अन्याय है । मेरी आप से प्रार्थना है कि इस एक्ट को खत्म किया जावे और मार्किट वेल्यु दिलाई जावे । मैं चाहता हूँ हमारे वित्त मंत्री महोदय जो उप प्रधान मंत्री भी हैं, वे हमारे यहाँ आएँ, उन्होंने वादा कर रखा है कि जून में उस इलाके में जायेंगे, तो वह जाकर देखेंगे और महसूस करेंगे कि हमारे साथ किस तरह का अन्याय हो रहा है ।

इसी तरह से मैं अग्रिकलचर मिनिस्टर साहब को भी कहूँगा क्योंकि हमारे लोगों का मुख्य धंधा ही कृषि है । सबके सब लोग हमारे यहाँ कृषक हैं, किसान हैं, लेकिन खेती के काम के लिये कोई सुविधाएँ नहीं ह । सभी लोग भूमि में खेती बाड़ी करने वाले हैं, उसी में हमारा गुजारा है । तो अग्रिकलचर मिनिस्टर साहब भी वहाँ जायें, डा० के० एल० राव साहब ने भी वायदा किया हुआ है, ताकि उन्हें पता चले कि हमारी समस्याएँ क्या हैं । हमारे रिमार्सेज तो बहुत हैं, वाटर पोटेंशियल भी है, जगह जगह पानी के स्रोत हैं, उनका उपयोग लेकर हम अपनी खेती बढ़ा सकते हैं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now you must wind up.

DR. SALIGRAM: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): Madam, I have been hearing with great interest and attention various criticisms offered on the Budget for the last three or four days. And I must thank all the Members who took part in this debate for the interest that they have shown in the Budget proposals for the appreciation that has been offered and also for the criticism, even if I do not

[Shri Morarji R. Desai] consider much of it justified, because one does learn a lot from criticism that is made, and criticism made from different points of view.

The Budget has been prepared and placed before the hon. House in difficult circumstances, as is known to everybody. I need not, therefore, go into those circumstances. We are suffering from two contradictory conditions in this country for the last two or three years, recession in our industries and inflation of prices. These are both very contradictory conditions. And when one takes measures to fight one, these measures are contrary to the measures which are required to fight the other. One has, therefore, to balance both and see that both the conditions are improved so that we can go faster ahead in order to develop programmes in future which have become sluggish for the last two or three years.

There has been a criticism from an ideological point of view in some quarters; from practical points of view from some other quarters. I must say that I have not considered ideological grounds alone in making this Budget because that would not be a safe way of dealing with such a difficult problem nor an efficient way of doing it.

Ideologically, it is possible some may call it reactionary and others may call it radical and yet nobody will be satisfied because it is not possible, under the circumstances that are obtaining in this country, to make an ideological budget by any stretch of imagination from any ideological point of view.

It has been described as a *status quo* Budget also. I have no quarrel with it. It requires more capacity, more efficiency and even more careful consideration to maintain the *status quo* when everything is sliding down, and if at that time, young people in a hurry try to deal with it, they will only commit suicide and not prolong life. Therefore, one should have greater consideration in this matter and not go merely by ideological grounds. If a person is ill for a long time and wants to be a wrestler immediately, I think he will die. He will not become even

healthy, let alone be strong enough to wrestle. This is what is forgotten by some of my friends. I do not say that they are criticising in order to criticise us out of any motive which are not friendly. But ultimately, when this Budget has got to be criticised or appreciated, one has got to do it in an objective manner considering all the circumstances which are prevailing. The problem, therefore, before me and the Government has been how to fight the recession, that is, remove recessionary conditions, and how to bring down the prices to a proper level so that conditions of life become better and more satisfying and take away the harassing thoughts which overcome practically all people because high prices affect everybody whether one is rich or poor. Of course, the poor are harassed far more. But the rich feel greater harassment because they have got greater care of money than the poor and, therefore, they feel even more harassed. I do not have much sympathy myself because accumulation of money is not a very happy trait in human nature and yet it is there. But for the bulk of the people these are the conditions which are very harassing and we have got to see that these conditions are improved.

Prices have got to be brought down to a proper level. But it is not easily done as is easily thought or easily said. Prices have risen mostly because of food prices rising in this country in the last two or three years, more than at any time in the past. In a developing country, as I said some years ago, prices do rise to some extent as conditions improve. But that is a gradual rise which is absorbed in the process of development and does not create any difficult conditions for any sections of the people. But these prices have risen abnormally and have created very difficult living conditions for many people in this country. This happened because two years have been very bad years for the agricultural conditions of the country such as were not seen in the last hundred years. People are also forgetting that it is not only these two years which have been so bad, but out of six years, after the second Five Year Plan, five years have been poor agriculturally. At the

end of the second Five Year Plan we did produce what we had targeted for; we did produce 82 million tonnes of food when we had targeted for 81 million tonnes. Therefore, the production was as we had planned. People forgot these and criticised that our Plans were not fulfilled in this matter. That is not a correct statement of facts if facts are taken into consideration. The critics have seldom, specially critics who criticise in order to criticise from an ideological point of view, any care for facts.

After that, for three years continuously we had just about or less production than in the last year of the second Five Year Plan; it was less by 1.5 to 2 million tonnes in two years. Then in the fourth year we had 89 million tonnes of food which was 7 million tonnes more than in the last year of the Second Five Year Plan. But that was immediately followed by two years of very low agricultural production because of severe famine conditions in Bihar and U.P. and several other States but on a smaller scale than in Bihar and U.P., and we "lost" 30 million tonnes of food in these two years which is forgotten.

Madam, when people say that we have harmed the agricultural economy of this country they are forgetting that the import of P.L. 480 foodgrains has not been a bar to agricultural production here because agricultural production has gone on increasing in this country from year to year except in these five years out of the last six years because of weather conditions and not because of any default on the part of agriculturists or the Government. If it is argued that Government could have done more than it had done in the past in the agricultural field, that argument can certainly be made. But even there it should be seen whether in the circumstances in which we have been working it was possible to do more than what we have done. It is not merely investment of funds which will give us agricultural production as some people seem to think. Agriculture is the concern of more than 60 million families in this country and they

are all individual cultivators and agriculturists. They are all free to do what they want, and if they are not free to do then agriculture will not even go ahead. It has been the experience even in the Communist countries where collective farming is there and individual freedom of the agriculturist has gone that agriculture has not improved. In Russia after 50 years they have not become completely self-sufficient even though that country is seven times our size and their population is half of our population.

SHRI C. D. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh):
Less than half.

AN HON. MEMBER. One-third.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Not one-third. It is less than half. One may call it 2/5ths. But in Yugoslavia where they have adopted this method, they have gone ahead and they have made agricultural production better. Therefore, in this country we have got to consider how to make the 60 million families work in a manner which will raise our agricultural production twice or thrice or four times of what we are producing today. This will be obvious from the fact that our rice production is 800 to 900 lbs. on an average from the whole country. In Japan it is 4,000 lbs. on an average, and we have land of better quality than in Japan and also our agriculturists work harder, and yet we have lapsed into bad forms of cultivation on account of some centuries of foreign domination in this country and neglect and bad treatment of the actual agriculturist population. We have, therefore, during the last 17 or 18 years taken all measures in order to make our land policy more realistic and rational and tried to see that the agriculturists come into their own and are enthused to produce the maximum that the land is capable of giving. It can be said that the measures that we have taken are not enough. But is it realised that in a free country as this is, with democratic methods, it is not possible to go with a steam-roller to make everything smooth? We have got to see that people are enabled to adjust themselves. And that is what is being

[Shri Morarji R. Desai] done. In several areas in this country, in most of the States, land reforms have been introduced and things are proceeding further, and I think within a few years we will be able to have satisfactory land conditions throughout the country. It can be made faster, but then it depends upon our capacities also; and the capacities also cannot be increased overnight simply because one asks for it. Yes, one can ask for anything, speak as best as one wants to do and that, too only in invectives, not in philosophy, not on good things of life. That requires a great amount of training for several years before one can learn it. But the other thing—to abuse—one can learn in five minutes from anybody. Therefore, these are all areas where some time does elapse before we can have the results that we want to have. Yet, we must not be complacent because of these factors. We must, therefore, constantly go on goading ourselves to faster and faster action and greater and greater dynamism, and from that point of view I value the criticism that is offered, even if it is impatient, because that will not allow the Government to rest on its oars, because there is much more to be done than what has been done. Yet, we must realise that we are producing more in agricultural production than what we have done before. Instead of 55 million tonnes of food which we were producing 15 years ago, to-day we will be producing 95 million tonnes of food. It is not all absorbed by the population increase. The population increase has been 25 or 30 per cent. The increase in food production has been 80 per cent. Therefore, it is no use saying that all of it has been absorbed by the population increase. Yet, why are you in the necessity of importing, this is a question that is asked. We must realise that we were not consuming all that a human being has to consume because the conditions were very low. We forget the conditions in which we were in 1946 and 1947 when became free. There were millions of people in this country living inside forest areas and hilly areas who did not get any foodgrains for four to six months in a year. They lived only on herbs and

roots. That was the condition when we became free. All these people are now getting cereals and foodgrains. There is not one man who is not getting it. Yet, I cannot say that all of them are getting all that they require. We have not certainly come to that condition. But to say that in the last 20 years, we have not done anything, that in the last 20 years, things have not changed at all, that we have not made any progress, is only to apply blinkers on one's eyes and to put, I think, acid in one's ears. That is all it means. It does not mean anything else. One has to see the evidence of one's eyes and if you do that, you will see that there has been progress in all directions. Yes, one can say, that the progress is not enough, that it is not satisfactory. That I can understand. But when one says that we have not advanced, I am afraid that criticism will not be helpful at all because it will not enable the person who has got to do the work to have a proper sense of proportion. It is, therefore, that I beg of my friends to be more objective and more realistic in this criticism; then it will be more effective. I am quite sure that the purpose of the criticism that is made is to have better conditions, better efforts and better progress. But if people are trying to do their level best and if that only meets with complete condemnation and no appreciation whatsoever, then it will not be possible for those who are working to put greater effort in the task in which they are engaged. This is also a factor which all of us, whatever may be our political views, have got to take into consideration, if all of us have the interests of the country at heart. It is no use trying to make somebody run when he is already running. If you make a horse run faster than it is capable of doing and go on whipping it, the horse will fall down dead, it will not draw the carriage further. This is an experience of life which everybody has. We should not forget it. One applies it to oneself, but one does not want to apply it to others. This is not a realistic way of approaching it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa); We have to change the horses,

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Nobody objects to the desire of people to go to heaven. But they must go to heaven themselves. I cannot send them to heaven. I cannot oblige my hon. friends to get them yoked to the carriage if they have not the capacity to do so. Therefore, it is for them to go. If I have stood in the way, then they can object to this Government's doing so. On the contrary, it is to the credit of this Government that it has always afforded the fullest opportunity to my hon. friends opposite to defect us and this is what has been proved in the last elections. Nobody can deny it. But if they are not capable of delivering the goods, why blame us? . . .

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa): You are not allowing.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Who is not allowing?

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: It is the Congress Party.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The Congress Party can be abused and finished. If that makes my hon. friends better, I am prepared to get out. But that will not make them better. On the contrary, it will make them more useless. It is only the Congress which has given this sense to my hon. friends. It is the Congress which has given . . .

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: That was a different Congress.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: . . . training to all these people who are renegades.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: That was a different Congress.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: They are different. The Congress is the same. That is the difficulty. It is to the credit of the vitality of the Congress that it supports all kinds of people and considers them very friendly. It is they who do not consider us friendly. We consider them friendly. I consider them all as my brothers. If they do not consider me as their brother. I am not bothered, because how can I give up my brothers? They may give me up. That does not mean anything to me. But I am certainly bound to point out to them as a brother

"Please have some more sense." If you do not want to have, all right. But if you want to destroy me, destroy me; but do not destroy yourself. That much I am entitled to tell you. I do not want to destroy you at all. On the contrary, he would be a perverse man who wants to destroy his own fellow-beings. The Congress can never do it. Therefore, this is a matter where there should be a common cause. Let democratic processes function. Here also, if democratic functioning is not being taken to who is responsible for it? It is said that in Bihar or in Bengal or in Punjab, things have broken down. Who is responsible for it? It is my friends in the Opposition who have no regard for the Constitution, who are encouraging all kinds of disruptive tendencies, who are making Speakers do things which they should never do, which no civilised country has ever seen. And they are the people who say that the Constitution is not being considered by this Government!

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): You check your Governors.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The Governors have functioned far better than my hon. friends. They are working under the most difficult circumstances. They do not want any Governors. I know that. They want anarchy. But anarchy is not a thing which will do them any good. They require even more Governors than there are at present. That is the difficulty. That is where they ought to have more wisdom in this matter. They should be helped about it. Otherwise, they run amuck. What else is happening? Who destroyed their Ministries? Not the Congress. Why are they falling out amongst themselves? It is because they differ amongst themselves far more than they differ with us. As a matter of fact, we are the cementing force for them. If the cementing force disappears, they will all fall apart and will go into the dustbin. Nothing else will happen. Therefore, this is a matter which ought to be considered. Do not try to hurt yourselves that way. Re strong but

[Shri Morarji R. Desai]

do not enable yourselves to be reduced to ashes and to dust. That is all that I want to plead with my hon. friends. Therefore, Madam, let this Budget be considered from this point of view. What have we done? Deficit financing is objected to. Well, I am also not at all happy with deficit financing. I said that last year; when I said last year that I do not want to indulge in deficit financing, I am told, today "You made a promise, you have broken that promise." I do not know whether they have any value for words. I had said in this very House in August that I could not guarantee that there would not be deficit financing at the end of the year, conditions are difficult, I am trying to see that there will not be deficit financing, but I am not able to say that at the end of the year there will not be. In spite of saying all that, if people say I had promised, I can only say that they do not understand what the meaning of the word 'promise' is or perhaps they are only attributing this to me. So, there is no justification for saying that kind of things. Today if I have come forward with deficit financing, I had to do so because, if I did not do so, our economy would have gone backwards. If you take away Rs. 300 crores from this Budget, then so many functions will not be performed and, therefore, the economy will slump further and we cannot have more development. But we have to have development to some extent and therefore we have to keep up that tempo and we cannot lessen this expenditure.

Then it is argued that there can be savings by having economies in our expenditure. Year in and year out this has been repeated. But my hon. friends refuse to understand what is non-Plan expenditure, what is non-developmental expenditure, what is Plan expenditure, what is contained in it. They still go on arguing as if non-Plan expenditure is something redundant, non-developmental expenditure is something redundant and that it can be removed as one likes; the Plan expenditure is only developmental expenditure which is taken in the Plan but the rest of the expenditure which is continuing expenditure

becomes non-Plan expenditure. How can everything go? And the biggest items in this expenditure are Defence, Police, Education and all the running expenditure which is there. Now the interest charges are to be paid. How can you lessen that? Of course, one hon. Member says "Disown debts." Well, it may be their life, it is not our life, it is not the life of this country to disown debts. I can understand an argument "Do not make debts". But when they say "Disown debts to America or to England", do they also mean that I should disown debts to Russia? There they will say "Have more debts from Russia." That they will never mind. What sort of objectives or standards they have, I do not know. Therefore, Madam, there is no question of disowning debts by this country. Even if the whole world disowns, this country will not disown. That I think is a thing of which we can always be proud. If my hon. friends do not want to be proud of the country, it is their business, but I certainly cannot subscribe to that kind of theory. Therefore that cannot be reduced.

Now there remains only administrative expenditure which one can reduce. Well, there also one cannot reduce in a manner where you will say that two-thirds or one-third or half of the establishment will be put on the streets. My hon. friends will shout louder than anybody else if I try to do that. In the present conditions where unemployment becomes a major problem I cannot increase unemployment. That also has to be considered. Then again it cannot be done by fits and starts; it has to be done on a scientific basis so that the work is done better after retrenchment than before. Therefore it has got to be studied and it is being studied by the ARC and as soon as we receive those proposals, we will certainly set ourselves to that task and economies will come about. But how many crores of rupees can be saved that way? One can save at the most Rs. 15 or 20 crores. How will that resolve my difficulties in the Budget? That is what I want to understand.

Then the Defence budget attracts the attention of many of my friends.

Well, the Defence budget has increased and everybody has asked for increasing it; everybody wants that Defence should be strengthened. Even if they do not want it, I want that the defence of this country must have first priority above everything else, because unless we exist and exist freely, what is the good of saying that we can improve? A dead man has no use for anything, and that will be the condition of this country. Therefore there cannot be any question of lessening our Defence expenditure. It can be argued that we can economise consistently with our defence capacity remaining intact or making it better. That is constantly being looked into. Last year also we had economised in certain spheres. We had certainly saved a few crores of rupees, but they have again been utilised for strengthening our Defence. That is not seen by my hon. friends. Therefore they do not know that this expenditure has been economised. We have done that also in civil expenditure, civil administration, but the Administration goes on expanding from day to day and there are expansions in every area and we have got to do it, because we are not dealing with a static community, we are dealing with an expanding community, a dynamic community; we are dealing with dynamic problems. Therefore we have got to go on having more and more activity everyday. Yet we say that the Administration should remain static and should remain confined to few numbers. I think that is not a realistic presentation of facts. Therefore whatever economies are made they are absorbed. For example, in my Ministry we have saved several items of expenditure and yet we have had some ^{or} items of expenditure where we have utilised them. We have not had new staff. So, we have done that. Therefore no economy will be seen in the Budget itself because we have utilised that. This is how these things are being done. We are going to have surplus staff in Excise because we are making new arrangements for Excise. I am taking away the Excise staff from individual units. That staff will be utilised for something else for the present; the rest will go away as people retire. But I cannot immediately

put them on the streets. Therefore it cannot be seen immediately but in course of time, in the process of doing all these things this all will be effective. That is how things are done. Therefore, there is not that much scope for retrenchment or saving any money as is argued by several hon. friends. Then what else is left?

Then it is said that there should be massive mobilisation of resources. It is a very good phrase no doubt. But how is that massive idea to be brought into effect, in what field? How is that mobilisation to be done? That also ought to be pointed out. When I have brought in some measures only for about Rs. 65 crores, one hon. Member argues for one item, another for another item, the third for a third item and like that if you take away all the items, then all should go. So how is this mobilisation to be done? The conditions today are such that we cannot have taxation which will disrupt our economy further. Psychologically or otherwise, therefore, there is no scope. There is no scope this year for having more taxation than what I have already inflicted on this country today. Therefore if we have to see that our development programme goes on to the minimum extent that is absolutely necessary, that agricultural production should go up, that our education should not suffer, that social services should not go down, then deficit financing was the only course. When prices are going down because of good season—well, it is said that prices are not going down in some quarters. That is also true, because ration prices have not gone down. But the other market prices are going down. They will have an effect also on rationing in course of time as things go by but we have seen that the index has gone down that way, by 10 per cent, and therefore, on the whole, they have come down. Therefore, if they come down precipitously, that also will be a difficult matter. That also cannot be allowed to be done because, then agriculture will suffer instead of going ahead and this also has got to be seen. Therefore, deficit financing, under these conditions, is not going to lead to inflation

[Shri Morarji R. Desai]

of prices but will be helpful in breaking the fall in prices so that it does not harm us but it helps even the going down of prices. This is how deficit financing has been considered advisable this year. If I take to deficit financing, then I am told that I have gone back on my promise. When I say: 'I do not want to have deficit financing'; my friend says: 'No, no, deficit financing should be indulged in.' When it is taken to, then it is said it is not for this or that. This will always happen. There will be always two or three theories in economic matters and therefore one cannot reconcile all of them but what I am trying to do is to benefit by all of them and take the best of them wherever I can. Then it was said that I am trying to satisfy all the parties and therefore, I have satisfied none. Please do not think that I am trying to satisfy anybody or flatter anybody. I have never tried to do that. What I am trying to satisfy is satisfying the needs of the situation to make the economy better. Beyond that I am trying to satisfy nobody and I am quite sure that at the end of it, when the results are seen, the people will be satisfied and on the whole therefore, I am happy that the Budget has been received fairly well, as well as it could be received under these conditions and as well as any Budget can be received. No budget can be praised by everybody, because then it ceases to be a budget. It is bound to be criticised in some items or the other and therefore to say that this Budget is no budget at all would be entirely wrong. It is a budget, nobody can deny. It may not be satisfactory but it is a budget. How can anybody deny it? This is the kind of criticism that one hears. Well, it is all right. It is also an education for them and it is a good thing they say that because that shows the hollow-ness of the criticism.

Then I would go on to certain measures of taxation which have been criticised. The greatest criticism has been offered to the rise in the postal rates. I cannot say, and I have not said, though it has been tried to be alleged, that it does not affect the poor at all. It does affect the poor

because the poor will have to pay more for the post cards that they write. I only said that the poor are using it less than the others. That is all that I said and it will affect therefore mostly the other people but it will affect the poor to some extent which they will have to put up with. This is a service which we are getting and the service must pay for itself. We cannot go on every year suffering losses for the services that we are giving to the people and if we want to do that, then taxation will have to be from other quarters that will have to be found. The P. & T. Department cannot go on suffering losses from year to year and we have to make it up.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Were you losing on the whole on the Department?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: We shall be losing Rs. 23 crores next year.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE (Nominated): On post card itself it is making some profit.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: On post card we are losing more than Rs. 7 crores. Even now, after raising the rates, we will be losing something. I am not going to make up the whole of it and I will take out from telephones and other things but not from post card itself. On the whole we have just increased the rates in such a manner that the loss from the P&T Department is made up and no profit is made. That is how "the rates have been increased and there has to be a relation between post card, inland letter and the full letter and this is how the whole thing has been maintained. If one raises from six paise, one has to raise it to ten, otherwise it does not become the metric system. Then the metric system goes away. It goes wrong. How long are we going to go on with the old system? The metric system has got to be brought in fully and at some stage it has to come in.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: You could have reduced it to five paise.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Even there, the expenditure on post card

is nearly thirteen paise, not ten paise. Therefore it is still within that. The metric system is very relevant. My friend seems to think that figures have no meaning. Then there will be no budget. You will not be able to understand the Budget if the figures are not all right and easily understood. The metric system enables the people to understand it much more quickly and therefore the metric system has got to be made a reality and we cannot go on into a mixture all the while. Therefore six paise had to be taken to ten paise.

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated): A great Chancellor referring to the decimals once said: 'What are these damn dots?'

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Well, Chancellors have got to say things as suit the occasion. Whatever I say today may not be applicable to what I say next year. That is always possible because the circumstances will be different and considerations will be different. The arguments will be the same. There will be permutations and combinations. That is all that will happen but the facts go on changing and therefore the remedies go on changing but the language cannot go on expanding every time. Therefore the language has a limited use and one has to give the same arguments sometimes suiting one and sometimes suiting the other. I have frankly to admit it.

That the most curious argument that I heard was about chocolates— that I am depriving the children of chocolates. How am I depriving the children of their chocolates? I am only putting more burden on the fathers who want to give them chocolates. Let them do so. They can afford it. Which poor people are giving chocolates to their children, I would like to know. I do not think and if these people want to have it, they will have it but let them pay somewhat more for it what is wrong any poor person has ever had himself any chocolates, much less the child with it? On the contrary this will take the burden on to the rich who will pay for the poor. Lemon drops are talked about. Lemon drops produced by the unorganised sector are

not taxed at all. What is taxed is the organised sector that prepares this by power on a larger scale and not the small people who prepare at home. They are not being taxed at all. Therefore there should be no feeling in this matter that I am depriving children of anything. Of course this is a very easy argument to appeal to me that I am annoying children also and there are people who have made children write to me to some extent but there have been only a dozen children and no more who have written to me. They have all come from a class which uses this and not from a class which does not use it. Therefore this also a matter where there is no question of hurting the poor people. Yes, in the matter of post cards I said it does hurt the poor to some extent but I cannot afford to take it away because of the consideration which I have put before hon. Members.

Then it was said that the rich have become richer, though the poor have not become poorer. That was said by Shri Shah. Does it mean that development means that all those who are in good condition will remain at a standstill until all other come up? How is that possible? If we want to increase the prosperity of the country which can be then snared by everybody, more money will have to be raised. Who will raise this money? Those who are capable of raising it will raise. We can take it from them but it has to be raised and it can be raised only if they share a little of it and if they are deprived of it all, why should they work and why should they raise it? It is said that it is only the working classes who produce everything. True, the workers are the backbone of the whole thing but the backbone cannot remain in isolation in a body. If the ribs, legs, hands and the mind go away, then the backbone only will be left and will be burnt; nothing else will happen. Therefore the workers also have to be supported by others. And if those others do not support, then what will happen? That is what has to be considered. If, suppose, there are a strong person and a weak person, and they both strive to become

[Shri Morarji R. Desai] stronger, the strong person has to help the weak person to become strong. But if the strong person becomes weaker, how will he help the weak? If both work together, if both take the exercises together, the strong will become stronger and the weak also will become stronger not as strong as the other man. But a time will come when the strong cannot become stronger beyond a certain limit, and the weak will go on becoming stronger and stronger till he overtakes the other person. That is how we can equalise, but we cannot chop off the heads of some so that others may have more heads. That is not possible. You cannot weaken somebody in order to strengthen somebody. Yes, you can take advantage of the strength of another man, and that is what we are trying to do. If out of an income of Rs. 20 lakhs I take Rs 17 lakhs, does it mean that I am taking less? If you take more than that, then he will not earn more than that—why has he to exert himself? And is it argued that only labour counts and brains do not count at all, or knowledge does not count at all, or technique does not count at all? All these count, more than even labour. Labour is very vital and essential and it must be cared for; it must be given its full due, even a little more than its due; I agree to that. But to say that alone should remain and others should disappear is something extraordinary. Then even the labour will disappear first of all; it won't even survive. 1. P.M.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): Labour can become the owner.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: If my hon. friend thinks that his hands and feet can govern his mind, he is very much mistaken. But that is what is happening here. He uses his hands or his feet much more than his mind. He uses his tongue even much more than his mind. That is quite true. But then what a spectacle it makes? It makes a different kind of spectacle. Therefore all have to be used in their proper sense of proportion; they cannot be used in other senses of proportion. Lungs are not the only thing.

Lungs have to be used properly; otherwise they destroy the body. That also has got to be borne in mind. Mind has greater relevance in this matter.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It is only because of that you have risen from a mere Deputy Collector to the position of the Deputy Prime Minister.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Well, I was a Deputy Collector, but my hon. friend forgets that before I was a Deputy Collector I was even a pauper. That is no shame for me. If my hon. friend was something else, he is welcome to it. This is how he values labour. This is how he values my position. As the hon. Member has become a Member of Parliament, therefore he has not become an angel. That also has got to be realised. Therefore to be a Deputy Collector was no shame for me, and if my hon. friend has only this cheap argument to give against me, it only shows how much he has been impoverished in his arguments. This is all that I can say. Why should one want to enter into an argument over this? There is a Sanskrit saying:

“यदा यदा मुञ्चति वाक्यं वाक्यं वाणम्
तदा तदा प्रयच्छति कुल प्रमाणम्”

I do not want to say - कुल प्रमाणम् I say

कुल प्रमाणम् because it is according

to that that the language is used. Then let it be used. Why have I got to say anything else? He is welcome to be honest in things he believes in. But why should he not grant that I am also honest in what I believe?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No body disputes your honesty, that you honestly believe in serving the monopolists, that you are influenced by them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The only difference between the two honesties is this that my definition of truth is one, their definition of truth is another.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: They have no truth at all.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I believe in truth, in what is fact, in what

exists in what is right, what is correct. His definition of truth is: whatever suits him is truth; whatever serves his purpose is truth.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Whatever Shri Atulya Ghosh tells you is truth.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please allow him to proceed.

SHRI CD. PANDE: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: My hon. friend, when he shouts, he is justified. If I shout, then he says I am rowdy.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, no, who says?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: This is all that he will say. But this is not the way to judge matters. Let there be equal standards applied to everything. This is what I believe in, and this is what my hon. friend does not believe in. What is the definition of people? People are those who are with them. Those who are not with them are enemies of the people. This is how they argue. It is we who are stupid if we are taken in by their honesty. This is all that we have got to consider.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The entire country now knows who are with the people.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Now it is said: Why are we not making progress and why are we coming to this grief? We are making progress. Why are we not making quicker progress? Why all these different kinds of unseemly things which are seen in this country and what comes in the way of production also? These are all things which are a result of the violence in the air, which is fostered by my hon. friends, some of them. Constantly they go on doing it, not only outside, but even in the House. That is what is being done.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Gill is your man.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Yes, yes, I know, he was first your bed mate. He was in the Ministry with you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: And you cannot control his violence.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Let my friend not forget what he is capable of before telling me anything. He alone has a right to throw a stone. He is completely innocent, and my hon. friend cannot consider that he is in the wrong. I have never claimed innocence myself, but he is trying to claim innocence. This is my worry and this is what he ought not to have done. This is all that I plead with him. I am not pleading anything else with him. I am not considering myself a better man than he, but he considers himself a better man than I. Anyway I have no quarrel in the matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I consider my philosophy better, the philosophy of communism.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: My hon. friend hides all the philosophy in his ear phones so that nothing like philosophy comes in, and he is not to hear the voice of others. He only makes others hear his voice.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Even so I have made no impression on you.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I know what impression he makes on me, and he also knows what impression I make on him. He says he runs away when I come to speak. I do not know why he came in just now. Perhaps he has forgotten. The other day he had said that I come in when he is speaking, and he goes away when I speak.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of personal explanation, Madam. I am guilty. I have committed a misadventure. Having entered I find Mr. Morarji Desai is speaking. I am so shocked that I cannot even leave now.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: If my hon. friend had not the gift of the gab he would not be where he is. Therefore he can always use words as he likes, but he cannot now get over a sentence with which he tried to produce an effect on that day, namely that I come in when he is speaking. I am therefore attracted towards him, which he cannot forget. He himself admits that I have a feeling for him,

[Shri Morarji R. Desai] and he himself admitted that when I speak he goes away, but now I am happy that I have excited some feeling in him that he has come into hear me, and I think this is a very pleasant thing that this debate has done, particularly good.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If you are provoking me to go away, I shall do so.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I only hope that the shock from which my hon. friend suffers just now will last for ever.

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

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

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock, The VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) in the Chair.

THE APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1968

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1968

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): Sir, I beg to move:

"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 1968-69, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): You can move the other Bill also and speak on that also.

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: With your permission, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1967-68, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1968 arises out of a sum of Rs. 736.85 crores voted by the Lok Sabha on the 14th March, 1968, in accordance with the provisions of article 116 of the Constitution and Rs. 2,203.90 crores in respect of expenditure "Charged" on the Consolidated Fund of India as shown in the 'Vote on Account' Statement which has already been circulated to hon. Members. As the House is aware, it is usual to seek approval of Parliament for two months' supply pending the completion of the procedure for the Voting of the Demands for Grants for the whole year and the passing of the connected Appropriation Bill. The provision indicated in the Appropriation Bill broadly represents one-sixth of the whole year's gross requirements as provided for in the Demands for Grants except in a few cases where the expenditure is not uniformly spread over the year and larger provision is required to meet the likely payments during the months of April and May. The items where larger provision is required have been detailed along with the explanations for the additional requirements in the Introductory Note to the Statement of "Vote on Account". However, I shall mention only the requirement under Repayment of Debt because a larger amount is involved.

Repayment of Debt relates to "Discharge of Treasury Bills". These Bills are issued in favour of State Governments, Banks and other parties as short term borrowings by Government and in the form of *ad hoes* in favour of the Reserve Bank of India for augmenting Government's cash balance from time to time. These bills have a maturity of 91 days and unless discharged on maturity are notionally shown as repaid and simultaneously re-invested. An "On Account" provision of Rs. 1,750 crores has been sought for discharge of Treasury Bills issued in the months of January-February, 1968. The balance of Rs. 158 crores is for discharge of 3½ per cent National Plan Bonds (Fifth Series) 1968, maturing on 12th May, 1968 and for expired rupee loans included Five Year Interest-free Prize Bonds.