5.00 P.M.

would like to know whether these children are being educated for their livelihood. Also, whether functional education is given to them at the primary school because they live in villages. They live in villages with all freeness, living with parents and in nature. But when they are brought inside the school, they are going to learn arithmetic, they are going to learn literacy. Rich schools which have students of rich parents, in cities, are educated more on literacy. They are educated only to learn what is in nature and what is in and around them. That is the system they are educated even in the topmost schools in Delhi, in Chennai or in Mumbai. The poor school children in villages, when they are taught literacy as soon as they enter the schools, they start hating the system because they live in nature. They do not know how that is going to help them in future. Therefore, the system at the grassroots-level, where Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is implemented, is very good and it makes the girl child become aware of education. The present Finance Minister also has announced that the girl child would be protected when she reaches the eighth standard. He has announced that there would be a deposit of money in her name for her future education. If that is the system, then the people should be educated on that. When you are having a plan of education at the primary school, the textbooks should show that these are the programmes which are available for them. If that is educated, then, the children would feel that this is a functional education and it is a useful education and they can know about the world which they would be entering when they attain adulthood.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Natchiappan, it is 5 o'clock. You would continue the next time. Now, we shall take up the Budget discussion. Mr. Sharad Joshi, you have spoken for four minutes and you are left with another six minutes.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL) -2006-07 - Contd.

श्री शरद अनंत राव जोशी : सर, रहीम जी का एक दोहा है, जिसका अर्थ यह है कि प्यार का धागा बड़ा ही नाजुक होता हैं, इसे संभाल कर रखों, ये कहीं टूट न जाए । अगर टूट जाता हैं तो इसको जोड़ना बड़ा मुश्किल हो जाता हैं । यदि जोड़ा भी जाता हैं तो गांठ तो रह ही जाती हैं । आपने मेरे भाषण का धागा ढाई बजे तोड़ा था । उसको जोड़ने की कोशिश तो मैं भी करने वाला हूं, लेकिन उसमें कुछ गांठ तो रह ही जाएगी । जैस टेलीविजन के सीरियल्स में पहले पूर्व कथा, बताई जाती हैं, वैसे उन आदरणीय सदस्यों के लिए, जो ढाई बजे नहीं थे, उनके लिए । will try to give a resume of what I said. I said that the Finance

[10 March, 2006]

Minister has taken a lot of credit for the booming economy and that this is not factually correct. What has happened is that the Indian entrepreneur released from the shackles of socialist or Nehruvian socialist licence, permit, quota raj, developed an ebullient spirit which was supported by the FDI and the new sources of investment, and that is where the economy has started looking up. Every Government tries to take credit for that. We saw from this side when Yashwant Sinhaji spoke. He tried to compete with the present Finance Minister as to who was the originator of the boom. The fact remains that neither the Government really has the credit for that. In fact, if you find the growth rate is higher, that means that the Government has done less mischief with the economy, and if the growth rate is lower that only means that the Government had done more mischief with the economy. For example, Sir, the rate of growth of GDP is 8.1 per cent. Congratulations to the Finance Minister for that. The question arises why it is that the agriculturists who belong to the same flock of people, they are not different people, it is not that the urban industrialist or urban service providers come from abroad, why is it that the rate of growth for the farming has become 2.1 per cent while for the GDP it is 8.1 per cent. The reason is that that kind of liberating experience that the manufacturers and service provides had since 1991 has never come to the lot of the farmers. That is why, Sir, the agricultural growth continues to be limited to only 2.1 per cent. The next point is, the situation has come to a stage where the Finance Minister was promising the Press that he will have a sweet dream Budget. Farmers were committing suicides by hundreds and we expected naturally that the Finance Minister would concentrate all his efforts and his genius for providing relief immediately to the farmers who are on the threshold of suicide. Sir, when the FM said dream or sweet dream, I was reminded of an old fable of a little girl who makes her living by selling match sticks. On a wintry night she is caught in cold, hungry and about to die, all that she does is takes out a matchbox and lights a match and in the light of that she gets some warmth and imagine that at least some of her wishes have come true. The first wish she fulfils is a shelter, a warm shelter, and the second wish is that she gets some warmth and gets some hot food. And then with the third match her mother who is no more comes back to receive her. I was just wandering, moving in Vidarbha, what would be the last dreams of the people who commit suicide, what is it that they would expect the Finance Minister to do. I must say that the Finance Minister is an extremely sympathetic and compassionate person. I have absolutely no doubt about it and I heard him on the television saying that he really wants

RAJYA SABHA

[10 March, 2006]

to do something for the farmers. In fact, having not done anything, he said that he has gone an extra mile. The question is what is it that he could have done and here I would make a statement, Sir, that the entire philosophy, in the economic philosophy of the present Government, which is trying to solve the problems on a caste basis or a community basis or a minority basis. It is not able to make an economic analysis of what the real problems of the farmers are. For example, Sir, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has given a voluminous report which has become a sort of Bible for the agricultural development for most of the country. Now, for the suicides what does Dr. M.S. Swaminathan recommend, - Sir, it is a whole page, and it says, "Immediate steps needed to prevent farmers suicides." The word is 'immediate'. What they say as first step is, "there should be a corpus on the line of Calamity Fund for assisting farmers affected by crop loss." Creating a corpus is supposed to be the immediate measure. In fact, Sir, I don't have the time to read because you have given me limited time, but you will find that this report is entirely heartless to the extent of being cruel to the farmers who are on the threshold of suicide. It is not that the Finance Minister has not done anything for the farmers. I would like to compliment him on two things. Firstly, for the food processing industry, the kind of concessions he has given in the excise duty is a good thing. Even on the import duty particularly, for packaging material and even if that means some benefit along with idlis and dosas for pasta. I don't mind, because he has to please his own bosses also. But the fact is that it will do some good to the food processing industry. Then, a very brilliant thing that he has done is the idea of an Inclusiveness Commission. I don't think anybody has talked about it. But just before the FM presented his Budget in my article I had demanded on the basis of the experience in Maharashtra where on the 10th of December, the Chief Minister announced a special package for six districts in Vidarbha and along with that the CM said that all the loans taken from unregistered private moneylenders have become void. With the result that the number of farmers committing suicides has actually increased. Now even the provision store owners don't give the farmers things on credit and I had suggested that we should find out a way because as it is the private moneylender who is giving much more credit than the formal sector. So we should try to get it incorporated into the regular agricultural credit system, of course, with a strong regulatory mechanism which would not allow high rates of interest and coercive methods of recovery. I hope that is the scope of the Inclusiveness Commission. I may be wrong, but, if this is the understanding, I must

[10 March, 2006]

congratulate the Finance Minister for this very revolutionary idea, which detaches him from the bondage, ideological bondage of several decades. On other points, there are a number of journalists who have complimented the Finance Minister on what has been done for the farmers and, I think, he has also said that he has gone an extra mile. I would very briefly, Sir, analyse each of the things for which he was given credit. The first question is: the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been referred to in his speech at least in three places. I counted it and it was at three places. What is the actual fact about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which I had said when the Bill was passed that this is what is going to happen. Sir, I will come to the facts. Sir, in Yavatmal District of Maharashtra, I have got reports that the unemployed people's cards are being prepared from the voters list with fake photos. Secondly, they are being told that they will find employment not within the radius of 5 Kms. but anywhere in the district and if they don't present themselves, then, they will not be eligible any more for getting employment in future. The third thing is, the only person on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme who gets regular wages is the lady who looks after the creche. She is getting Rs. 60, not the minimum that the Act prescribes and all other people are being engaged on a piece rate basis and they are paid according to the actual guantum of work which is assessed. This is not an Employment Guarantee Scheme at all. Then, Sir, there is a provision that seven per cent rate of interest would be charged up to. an amount of Rs. 300,000.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Joshi, I have given you whatever time you wanted. Kindly conclude.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Okay, Sir, I will try to conclude as fast as possible. M. S. Swaminathan's Commission has said that the farmers should be given loans at four per cent rate of interest. I think that has been kept aside. I see the difficulties in making four per cent rate of interest available to the farmers because that would result in black market. But what I am saying is that the Government should have stepped in definitely to see that the compound rate of interest is not charged by the cooperative societies. The villains are the cooperatives, not the commercial banks, not the private money lenders - private money lenders, of course, do - but the cooperatives banks are the ones who charge compound rates of interest and use the most brutal and coercive methods for recovery of loans.

Sir, then the thing about which Mr. Yashwant Sinha has some doubt is on two percentage points, etc. I have got reports that today in Maharashtra this has been interpreted to mean that 2 percentage points are to be provided in the form of help only up to a sum of Rs. 100,000. So, for Rs. 100,000, if the rate of interest is, let us say, 7 per cent, then we get Rs. 7,000 and 2 per cent of that will just give them about Rs. 140 the big donation that the hon. Finance Minister is making to the people who is on the threshold of suicide!

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Joshi, will you yield for a minute?

I was told that Mr. Yashwant Sinha made this outrageous allegation. I thought Mr. Sharad Joshi is more familiar with economics than the previous speaker and would not repeat this outrageous allegation. Any one familiar with English language as I have used it in the Budget Speech --

I don't claim to speak Queen's English -- will know that we have not said 2 per cent. We have said 2 percentage points. If the interest rate is 9 per cent, it will be recalculated at 7 per cent. If the interest rate is 8.5 per cent, it will be recalculated at 6.5 per cent. Even as Mr. Yashwant Sinha was making this outrageous allegation, the Reserve Bank of India has already issued orders to all the banks covered to credit 2 percentage points of the interest liability calculated on a principal up to Rs. 1 lakh. I thought, Mr. Joshi, will do me the favour of reading my Speech more carefully than Mr. Sinha.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: All that Mr. Yashwant Sinha said was that grammatically it was a confusing construction and that sticks.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes. He speaks the Queen's English. I don't know.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Possibly, the knowledge of English of the people who charge interest at the bank level is not as high as mine or Yashwant Sinha's. But that is the interpretation which is actually being made in banks.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are wrong.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister has said that the Reserve Bank of India has already issued a Circular in this regard.

on.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, i can cite a number of cases where the RBI's instructions have bean misconstrued.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, ! am amazed at this stubbornness of the hon. Member. The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions yesterday. How could anybody misinterpret it the day before yesterday?

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: They sea your speeches on TV also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: So, please accept your error and move

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: I concede your point and am glad that you are actually making it two percentage points *i.e.,* if the rate of interest is 9 per cent, then, the interest charged to them is only 7 per cent.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You compliment him. Now, please conclude, Mr. Joshi.

श्री शरद अनंत राव जोशी : सर, धागा जोड़ना बहुत मुश्किल होता हैं ।

श्री उपसभापति : आपके समय में धागा जोड़ने के लिए आपको मैंने पूरा वक्त दिया हैं ।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, I would like to talk about the figure of irrigation. The funds that were made available in the last Budget were much more than the funds that have been made available this year. In fact, there are a huge number of figures, i don't have even time to pick up the papers because that will take more time. But, I think, something like Rs. 2,250 crores was the actual utilisation and while the funds made available was Rs. 8,250 crores, including the AIBP, State funds, etc. And, this year's allocation is less. Of course, I am very unhappy about the fact that by now you have only pointed out 20,000 schemes and promised to get money from the multilateral agencies and have MoUs with the States. I think, we have done really nothing on the irrigation. There are a number of other points. But, I would make only one point with your permission.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You speak on other points when you get another opportunity. Now, please conclude.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: This is something which I have discussed with Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the hon. Minister of

Agriculture. If you want to stop immediately suicides of farmers, the only manner in which the suicides of the farmers can be immediately stopped, it is by developing a land market where farmers get a kind of an exit, taking advantage of the present high prices in the real estate market and they can got into some kind of other line where they can make a fresh beginning. I think, we have been generally disappointed to get this unkind treatment from an otherwise compassionate hon. Finance Minister. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we had allocated eight hours for this discussion, and we have already exhausted seven hours and twenty-nine minutes. So, there are 31 minutes more; and, eight more speakers are there. I would request the hon. Members to please stick to the time limit. There are, on an average five minutes per speaker.

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I will try to abide by your advice and guidance.

उपसभापति महोदय, हम बजट 2006-2007 पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। यह यू.पी.ए. सरकार का तीसरा बजट हैं और जब से इन्होंने टेक-ओवर किया हैं, आम जनता के लिए महंगाई का वातावरण प्रति वर्ष बढ़ता गया हैं। यह मैं अपनी ओर से नहीं कह रहा हूं, ओपन मार्केट के तथा इस बात को साबित करते हैं। आम जनता में यह बात आती हैं कि महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही हैं। यू.पी.ए. सरकार ने इस संबंध में रंगराजन कमेटी का गठन किया था। उन की रिपोर्ट भी आ गयी और उन्होंने अपनी जो सिफारिशें दी, उन में एल.पी.जी. को 175 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर बढ़ाने के लिए कहा गया, पेट्रोल के दाम 2 रुपए प्रति लीटर और डीजल के दाम 3 रुपए प्रति लीटर बढ़ाने के लिए कहा गया। यद्यपि ये सिफारिशें सरकार मान भी सकती हैं, नहीं भी मान सकती हैं, यह सरकार का jurisdiction हैं, लेकिन फिर भी रंगराजन कमेटी के रिपोर्ट के बाद मार्केट में उन चीजों के बारे में एक अनिश्चितता बनी हुई हैं। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि आप रंगराजन कमेटी पर एक एक्शन टेकन रिपोर्ट दें और उनकी कौनसी सिफारिशों को मानते हैं, कौनसी सिफारिशों को रिजैक्ट करते हैं, इस बारे में अतिशीघ्र कार्यवाही करें।

उपसभापति महोदय, दूसरा बिंदु "एम्स" की तर्ज पर 6 हॉस्पीटल्स बनाने का है । यह एन.डी.ए. सरकार का प्रावधान था । उस बारे में यू.पी.ए. सरकार ने भी रिपीट किया, लेकिन वर्ष 2005-2006 का जो बजट प्रावधान था, उस में इस बाबत् 250 करोड़ रुपए का बजट एस्टीमेंट रखा गया था । Surprisingly, the revised estimate was reduced to Rs. 6 crores. लेकिन वर्तमान वर्ष में इस बजट एस्टीमेट को 75 करोड़ रुपए रखा हैं । उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा यह कहना हैं कि यह 250 करोड़ रुपए से 6 करोड़ और फिर 75 करोड़ – इस तरह से यह जो fluctuation हैं, उस से ऐसा लगता हैं इस देश की जनता को उच्च-स्तरीय, स्टेंडर्ड मेडिकल फेसिलिटी उपलब्ध कराने की दिशा में हम कितने सतर्क हैं, कितने चिंतित हैं ? यह इस बात को दर्शाता हैं कि इस बारे में हम अधिक चिंतित नहीं हैं । महोदय, डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर हॉस्पीटल्स में जो फेसिलिटीज हैं, उस का मैंनेजमेंट तो प्रदेश सरकारें देखती हैं, लेकिन लोगों की आप से एक

RAJYA SABHA

अपेक्षा हैं। इस हिंदुस्तान में जो affuent class हैं, उस के लोग तो बाईपास सर्जरी के लिए भी सीधे लंदन और अमेरिका जाते हैं, लेकिन अभी दिल्ली में जो इस प्रकार का "एम्स" हैं, उस में काफी rush होता हैं, उस के ऊपर काफी भर पड़ता हैं। इसलिए वहां के डॉक्टर्स जो प्रॉपर सर्विसेस दे सकते हैं, वह भी नहीं दे पाते हैं। मैं सरकार से निवेदन करूंगा कि इस संबंध में जल्दी-से-जल्दी कदम उठाए।

महोदय, समाज का एक वीकर सेक्शन भी हैं, एक गरीब तबका भी हैं । सरकारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहने वालों की संख्या लगभग 36 करोड़ हैं और उन 36 करोड़ में से Majority of the BPL people belong to the SC and the ST communities. उनकी हालत हो सुधारने के लिए मुझे नहीं लगता हैं कि सरकार ने किसी प्रकार के कोई इतने उल्लेखनीय प्रावधान किए हो, जिससे कि हम कह सके कि यह सरकार उनके लिए बहुत कुछ करने वाली हैं ।

उपसभापति जी, एक बात जी.डी.पी. की आती हैं। जी.डी.पी. 8.1 या मूल रूप से लगभग 8 परसेंट हैं। जब एन.डी.ए. की पिछली सरकार थी, तो उसके जाते-जाते यह साढ़े सात परसेंट हो गया था। लेकिन आम आदमी में जी.डी.पी. का जो प्रभाव हैं, आम जनता, those who are wellversed in Economics या जो पढ़े-लिखें हैं, वे तो कुछ समझ भी पाते हैं कि आखिर जी.डी.पी. होता क्या हैं। लेकिन एक आम जनता पर जो उसका एक प्रभाव पड़ रहा हैं, उससे ऐसा लग रहा हैं कि जी.डी.पी. हमारा बढ़ता जा रहा हैं, यह प्रतिवर्ष बढे, यह चाहे 0.5 परसेंट बढे या एक परसेंट बढ़े, लेकिन इससे प्रभाव यह हो रहा है कि जो अमीर हैं, वह और अमीर होता जा रहा हैं और जो गरीब हैं, वह और गरीब होता जा रहा हैं। जी.डी.पी. बढ़ने का अभिप्राय तो यह होना चाहिए ...(समस की घंटी)... कि जो गरीब हैं, वह भी अमीर हो और जो अमीर हैं, वह और अमीर हो। इस प्रकार का उसका एक असर होना चाहिए कि सभी की सम्पन्नता बढ़े, वह ज्यादा अच्छा हैं।

महोदय, छोटे व्हील्स के दाम सस्ते किये गये हैं, लेकिन उसका लाभ किसको मिलेगा, जो मीडियम एफ्लुएंट क्लास हैं, उसको मिलेगा, those who can buy medium size vehicles, they will be benefited लेकिन जो गरीब हैं, जो स्कूटर या साइकिल चलाता हैं, उसके दामों में कितनी कमी की गई हैं, यह मैं वित्त मंत्रीजी से जानना चाहता हूं।

उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा लास्ट प्वायंट इन्कम टैक्स के बारे में हैं । अभी जो स्मॉल इन्वेस्टर्स हैं, उनके लिए पोस्ट ऑफिस की, सरप्राइजिंगली, एक बहुत अच्छी स्कीम थी। उसमें कोई इंडिविज़ुअल छः साल के लिए तीन लाख रुपए डिपोजिट कर सकता था, विद स्पाउस 6लाख रुपए डिपोजिट करर सकता था and after the expiry of six years' period, the account holder was entitled to have a ten per cent bonus on the total amount. छः साल के बाद उस अकाउंट होल्डर को 10 परसेंट बोनस मिलता था। इस प्रकार से जो हिसाब लगाया जाता था, तो उसमें ब्याज तो पोस्ट ऑफिस 8 परसेंट उनको देता था, लेकिन 10 परसेंट बोनस मिलने के कारण वह छः साल के बाद टोटल 9 या 9.5 परसेंट उसका ब्याज बन जाता था। यह उनके लिए एक बहुत अच्छी स्कीम थी, जो विशेष कर रिटायर्ड इम्प्लाईज़ हैं याह सीनियर सिटिजन्स हैं, लेकिन उसको विद्ड्रॉ किया गया हैं, जो कि

ठीक नहीं हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री जी यदि उस पर रीकन्सीडर करे, तो यह स्मॉल इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए बहुत अच्छी चीज़ होगी।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप प्लीज़ कंक्लूड कीजिए।

श्री राम नाथ कोविन्द : मैं कंक्लूड कर रहा हूं, सर। In a minute I will conclude, Sir इनकम टैक्स पेयर्स का नेट बढ़ाने की बात आ रही हैं, यह तो होना चाहिए। अभी जितने सैलरीड क्लास हैं, actually, they are bound to pay income tax. उनका टी.डी.एस. कटता हैं वह भी मजबूरी में। मैं उन शब्दों का उपयोग नहीं करना चाहता हूं कि जब उनका फरवरी मंथ में टी.डी.एस. कटता हैं, तो उन लोगों को बहुत पीड़ा होती हैं, बहुत पीड़ा। वह चाहे कोई भी सरकार हो या कोई भी वित्त मंत्री हो, लेकिन उनके प्रति उनकी एक अच्छी भावना नहीं होती। वह सब को अफेक्ट करती हैं। इसका नेट बढ़ाना चाहिए, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि उसके लिए डिपार्टमेंट की जो मानसिकता हैं, उसमें परिवर्तन होना चाहिए। अभी क्या होता हैं कि यदि कोई वेल मीनिंग या ऑनेस्ट टैक्स पेयर इनकल टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट में जाता हैं, तो उसको उन नजरों से देखा जाता कि कि as if he is a culprit of a guilty person. उसने कर में कुछ चोरी की होगी, इसीलिए हमारे पास आया है। उसे इन नजरों से देखा जाता हैं। मुझे लगता हैं कि ऐसे में मानसिकता में परिवर्तन करने की जरूरत हैं। A taxpayer, who goes to the Income Tax Office, must be treated with respect and with status.

सर, लास्ट में मेरा एक सुझाव हैं कि जब हम इनकम टैक्स की बात करते हैं, तो हर किसी को लगता हैं कि यह टैक्स का मतलब हैं कि something is being withdrawn from his pocket. टैक्स हैं न, इसलिए ऐसा लगता हैं। वित्त मंत्री जी, क्या हम इसका nomenctature बदल सकते हैं ? I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is listening to you.

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: I am grateful to him, Sir. My question is; Can we change the nomenclature?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If you want me to repeat all that you said, well, I am ready.

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Thank you, Sir. My humble suggestion would be this. Can we change the nomenclature of income tax? Can we replace it with 'national development contribution fund'? ...(Interruptions)... Let me clarify it. यह उसको हिंदी में हम कहंगे —"राष्ट्रीय विकास योगदान निधि" और इंग्लिश में -National Development Contribution Fund. देना हमें टैक्स ही के रूप में होगा, but every tax payer will think that he is going to contribute - this is not a tax - something towards the development of the country, as such. और मुझे लगता हैं कि जो इंकम टैक्स के नेट को बढ़ाने का है, यह जो बीपीएल और एबोव बीपीएल हैं, यदि हम एबोव बीपीएल पर कोई एक फेज-वाइज may be Rs. 100/- -- we can ask

[10 March, 2006]

those who are above BPL to contribute to this fund - we can say as a tax also. With these humble suggestions, I thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tariq Anwar, Shri N. Jothi, Shri Vijay J. Darda, Prof. P.J. Kurian.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN (Kerala): Sir, I know my time constraints; so, I will not repeat. Yet, I cannot but say a few words of compliments to the Minister. Not only from this side, I think, even the speakers from the other side have also complimented the Minister, if not directly, at least, indirectly, because he has presented, I would say, one of the best Budgets so far. It is a very balanced Budget, giving a lot of concessions to the poor and the common man, but, at the same time, sticking to fiscal discipline. I cannot but mention a few of the points which I have found to be very, very encouraging. First of all, Bharat Nirman. Our great concern is the development of the rural India. He has increased the allocation by 54 per cent. For lack of time, I don't want to repeat, everybody knows. Again, the eight-flagship programmes. In every sector, he has increased the allocation considerably. I don't want to, again mention each for lack of time. But, I have one small complaint there, that is, education is the basis for progress. If you see the States which have better education have already progressed, when compared with the States which are backward in education. Six per cent of GDP was to be allocated for education. Yes, he has increased by 31 per cent from the last year. But, I am not satisfied. It is not enough. Even today, it is only 3.1 per cent of G.D.P., I think. I want the hon. Minister to give greater consideration and increase the allocation for education. Then, Sir, since I don't want to repeat, I am coming to agriculture. There also, I submit that I am not satisfied, because, Sir, agriculture is the backbone of our country. Ours is, even today, an agricultural economy. It is going to be like that for years. Today, everybody mentioned about the plight of the farmers, farmers' suicide, and all that. I have gone through the agricultural credit. Yes, he has increased agricultural credit. He is directing the banks to increase the level of credit from Rs.1,41,000/- to Rs.1,75,000/-. That is fine. I agree. But, kindly remember, I think, last week, the hon. Minister replied in this House to a specific question. The specific question was that when loans for luxury goods like car -car is even today a luxury in India for 80 or 90 per cent of the people- are given at the rate of six per cent, why not farm loans are also given at the same interest rate.

Yes, I know, the hon. Minister was showing some concern and he has cited a Tamil poet or so, his favourite poet Thiruvalluvar. When I heard the citation, I thought something better is going to come. Yes; he has done something. I agree. It is not two per cent, it is two percentage point. It is not two per cent, as has been ridiculously represented by the former Finance Minister. I think that is a bad way of looking at it. It is in percentage points, and it is very clear. Actually, from 9 per cent, it comes to 7 per cent. Therefore, actual reduction is more than 20 per cent. I compliment you for that. But I submit -- you are an intelligent, prudent man, you are an economist, you can find it out -- please reduce it by 50 per cent from 20 per cent. That is from two percentage point, to 4.5 percentage point. Please see whether it is possible in this Budget. What is the amount that you have allotted for that? It is Rs. 1,700 crores. That means, if you work out for 4.5 per cent, the amount will be about Rs. 4000 crores only. For two percentage point, it is Rs. 1700 crores. That means, for four percentage point, it is Rs. 3,400 crores; 4.5 percentage point, it will be only Rs. 4000 crores. You can find cut that from this Budget. So, I am making this suggestion, this humble request on behalf of the farmers of this country who are committing suicide. Today, Rs. 4000 crores is not a big amount because our economy is growing at 8.1 per cent, and it is going to grow much more, Thanks to the policies adopted by this Government and the Congress Government. I have no doubt about it. Thanks to --- my Left friends may not agree -- reforms. Thanks to reforms. Thanks to liberalisation. Nobody from the Left is here to listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vijayaraghavan is there.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Yes; he is here. You should listen. You should listen. See, you want more funds for the poor. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He was sitting on the right side and you have sent him to the left side.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Sir, the Left wants more funds for the poor, more funds for all rural development programmes, but they don't know wherefrom the funds should come. The funds come because of these policies. If we had adopted policies which are being advocated by the Left ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala) : You have to do two things. ...(Interruptions)... as well as how to make the money. That also should be answered. ...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): You are talking about the Left, but Mr. Vijayaraghavan is sitting on the right. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. P.J. KURIAN: So, Sir, what I am saying is because the economy is growing at 8 per cent and we are expecting to grow at a higher rate, I am sure - and that is my point -- that you can manage this Rs. 4000. I believe, on this point, I have the support of the whole House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made the important point. I think, this important point is enough.

PROF. P.J, KURIAN: Sir, finally, I have to say that the Finance Minister has given a raw deal to my State, Kerala. Sir, that is why I have to complain. That is why I have to say. Sir, Kerala gives foreign exchange, plantation crops, rubber, cardamom, pepper, tea, etc. We plant everything. But, the Finance Minister has given Rs. 100 crores for tea only, and that too, a paltry sum will be available to us. Sir, pepper-growers and cardamom-growers are suffering. They are suffering. Pepper farmers are also committing suicides. In Wayanad, frequent suicides are there. Most of them are pepper-growers. Please do something for pepper and cardamom also. *...(Interruptions)...* Then, Sir, I thank you for considering the Rajiv Gandhi Biotechnology Institute. I thank you for that. But, Sir, Kerala is educationally advanced, literacy is nearly hundred per cent. But, in the field of higher education, in the field of medical education, we are not in the forefront. We don't have even a single national level institute. Please allow an Institute of the level of IIT, and also an institute of the level of IIM for our State.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The IIM has been started,.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN: I know. Sorry, I meant AIIMS, the AII India Institute of Medical Sciences. Sir, the reason is that in the medical field, we are advancing, but we don't have an institute of that level. Sir, I would request these two things for Kerala and I plead for your kind attention and consideration in this matter. Once again, I would submit that even if you ignore all of the other requests, I would request you to consider the farmers' case for increasing the interest subsidy from two per cent to 4.5 per cent. I hope I have the hon. Deputy Chairman's support on this issue...(interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would support all good things.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, he has my support, but he does not have the Finance Minister's support.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Sir, you can raise Rs. 4000 crores.

श्री टी. एस. बाजवा(जम्मू और कश्मीर) : उपसभापति महोदय, धन्यवाद।

महोदय, आपने मुझे वर्ष 2006-07 में बजट पर बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूं। मैं बजट के समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूं और माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी मुझे कहा हैं कि मैं संक्षिप्त में बोलूं, इसलिए मैं अपनी बात को जल्दी समाप्त करने की कोशिश करूंगा।

महोदय, जहां मैं बजट का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ, वहीं मुझे अफसोस भी हैं कि हमारे देश की 70 प्रतिशत से अधिक जनसंख्या कृषि क्षेत्र के ऊपर निर्भर करती हैं । महोदय, हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश हैं और इस बजट के अन्दर छोटी कारों पर जो रियायत दी गई हैं, लेकिन अच्छा होता अगर किसान के ट्रैक्टर पर भी कुछ सब्सिडी दे दी जाती, जिससे पूरे राष्ट्र को फायदा पहुंचता ।

महोदय, इस बजट के अन्दर भारत निर्माण के बारे में जो छ: बिन्दु रखे गए हैं, मै उनका पूरा समर्थन करता हूं । इस बजट में कहा गया हैं कि छ: लाख हैक्टेयर जमीन तक पानी पहुंचाया जाएगा, एक तरफ तो भारत निर्माण के अन्तर्गत यह कहा गया हैं कि हम एक करोड़ हैंक्टेयर ज़मीन को पानी देंगे, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ अगर इस वर्ष केवल छ: लाख हैक्टेयर ज़मीन को ही पानी मिल रहा हैं तो एक करोड़ हैक्टेयर ज़मीन तक पानी पहुंचानने में बहुत देर लगेगी। इस चीज़ में थोड़ा तेज़ी लाने की आवश्यकता हैं।

महोदय, मैं जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्य से आता हूं और पूरा सदन इस बात को जानता हैं कि जम्मू-कश्मीर पिछले 15-16 वर्ष से आतंकवाद की चपेट में हैं। मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूं जिन्होंने हमारे जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्य के लिए 24000 करोड़ रुपये का स्पैशल पैकेज दिया हैं। आज पूरा देश इस बात से अवगत हैं कि जम्मू-कश्मीर के हालात पहले से काफी सुधरे हुए हैं।

सर, जब वहां पर इन्फिल्ट्रेशन होती थी, उस समय पूरे बॉर्डर पर तारबंदी कर दी गई, जिसमें हमारे किसानों की हज़ारों एकड़ ले ली गई थी। कुछ ऐसे भी किसान हैं, जिनकी पूरी जमीन उस फेंसिंग के प्रोसेस में ले ली गई, लेकिन आज दो-तीन वर्ष बीत जाने के पश्चात् भी उन्हें कम्पन्सेशन के रूप में एक भी पैसा नहीं दिया गया। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से ये कहना चाहूंगा कि इसकी तरफ पूरा ध्यान दिया जाए और उन किसानों को मुआवज़ा दिया जाए।

महोदय, मैं पाक ऑक्युपाइड कश्मीर से हूं और 1947 में जब हिन्दुस्तान एवं पाकिस्तान का बंटवारा हुआ, उस समय वहां से लगभग 35000 परिवार यहां पर रेफ्यूजी बन कर आए । चार-पांच वर्ष तक वे कैम्पों में ही रहे और उसके बाद कठुआ से लेकर जितना भी बॉर्डर का क्षेत्र हैं, जैंसे कठुआ, हीरानगर, बाजीपुरा, सांभा, रणबीरसिंहपुरा, अखनून और नौशेरा, यहां

[10 March, 2006]

तक इन्हें बसाया गया। आज दिन तक उन लोगों को एक भी पैसा कम्पन्सेशन के रूप में नहीं दिया गया और आज भी सरकार के पास यह केस लम्बित पड़ा हुआ हैं। मैंने पहले भी स्पैशल मैन्शन के जरिए दो-तीन बार इस केस को रेज़ किया हैं, लेकिन आज दिन तक भी इस पर कुछ नहीं किया गया । आज माननीय मंत्री जी यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं, मैं उनसे यही कहना चाहता हूं कि इसके ऊपर पूरा-पूरा गौर किया जाए।

जैसा कि मैंने पहले कहा कि हमारे जो किसान हैं, जो अनाज पैदा करते हैं, इनके लिए जो न्यूनतम सतर्थन मूल्य निर्धारित किया जाता हैं, यह बहुत ही कम होता हैं । गंदम का मूल्य कम से कम 900 रुपये क्विंटन होना चाहिए, तभी जाकर उन्हें कुछ फायदा पहुंच सकता हैं, क्योंकि आज खाद का मूल्य प्रति क्विंटन 1000 रुपये से ज्यादा हैं । खेत में यूरिया भी डाला जाता हैं, पोटाश भी डाला जाता हैं । डी.ए.पी. खाद डाली जाती हैं और उसके बाद उसमें जो दूसरी केमिकल दवाइयां वगैरह होती हैं, वे भी उसमें डाली जाती हैं । कुल मिलाकर हम इसका खर्चा देखें तो साल के बाद बहुत कम आमदनी होती हैं । तो इसलिए जब इसकी प्राइस फिक्स की जाती हैं तो उसमें कम से कम यह देखना चाहिए कि आज ट्रेक्टर का युग हैं, किसान ट्रैक्टर चला रहा हैं । दो साल पहले डीजल की जो प्राइस थी वी 18 से 20 रुपए प्रति लीटर थी और आज बढ़ करके 32 रुपए प्रति लीटर हो गई हैं । इस तरह से जब किसान ट्रैक्टर में डीजल डालता हैं तथा खाद का भी इस्तेमाल करना है और साल के बाद जब वह अपना नफा-नुकसान निकालता हैं तो वह जीरों पर आता हैं । आज यही वजह हैं कि पूरे देश में किसान आत्म हत्या कर रहा हैं । तो सरकार को इस ओर विशेषध्यान देना चाहिए ।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का और सरकार का पूरा-पूरा समर्थन करता हूं कि जो सर्वशिक्षा अभियान चलाया गया हैं, उससे हमारे नौजवानों को एक लाख पचास हजार के करीब नौकरियां मिलेगी। इसका भी मैं पूरा-पूरा समर्थन करता हूं। सर, अभी-अभी जैसा मैंने कहा कि जम्मू कश्मीर में मिलिटेंसी हैं। मैं उसके लिए भी बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि इससे पहले एन.डी.ए. सरकार थी और अब यू.पी.ए. की सरकार हैं, जिन्होंने पूरी कोशिश की जम्मू कश्मीर में हालात नॉर्मल लाने के लिए तथा जम्मू कश्मीर को पूरी-पूरी सपोर्ट की।

पाकिस्तान आने — जाने के लिए जो अभी 5 रूट खोले गए हैं, तो मैं चाहूंगा कि 1947 के पहले यहां से सुजेतगढ़ और स्यालकोट के लिए ट्रांसपोर्टेशन होती थी, बिजनेस होता था, लेकिन पार्टिशन के बाद वह सब बंद हो गया । इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जो अभी 5 रूट आने-जाने के लिए खोले गए हैं, इनसे दोनो देशों के लोगों का मेल-मिलाप बढ़ेगा । इसी प्रकार से जो जम्मू सूबा हैं, वहां से जो स्यालकोट-सुजेतगढ़ का रूट हैं, इसको भी खोलना चाहिए, ताकि वहां के और इधर के लोगों का मेल-मिलाप हो सके । धन्यवाद, सर ।

श्री उपसभापति : श्री सुरेन्द्र लाठ, आपकी पार्टी का समय पूरा हो गया हैं, तीस मिनट ज्यादा लिए हैं। आप सिर्फ दो-तीन मिनट में कर लीजिए।

श्री सुनेन्द्र लाठ : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे कुछ समय दिया । महोदय, 2006-2007 का स्वीट ड्रीम बजट सदन में प्रस्तुत किया गया है और हम उसकी आलोचना कर रहे हैं । महोदय, समय बहुत सीमित होने के कारण मैं केवल एक-दो बिन्दुओं तक अपनी बात को सीमित रखूंगा।

महोदय, मैं अपनी बात आरम्भ करने से पहले, कांग्रेस ने 2004 के चुनाव में जो बात कही थी –आम आदमी की बात, और हम आम आदमी के नाम पर वोट लेकर यह सरकार सत्ता में आई थी और आज आम आदमी की जो स्थिति हुई हैं वह आप समझ सकते हैं कि सभी चीज़ो के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं और जो अत्यावश्यक रूप से लोगों के कंज्यम करने की चीज़े हैं, उन सबके दाम बढ रहे हैं। महोदय, वैसे में बहुत कुछ कह सकता हूं लेकिन कहने के लिए अभी समय नहीं हैं। मैं एक और बात कहना चाहता हं कि नेशनल कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम में सरकार ने जिन दो बातों पर अधिक ध्यान दिया है, उसमें एक हैं कृषि और दूसरा रोजगार हैं । यह सरकार किस प्रकार इन दोनों में विफल हई हैं, इस बारे में मैं सदन को बताना चाहता हूं । महोदय, कृषि के बारे में बहुत कुछ कहा गया हैं । सारे वक्ताओं ने कहा हैं कि इस प्रकार कृषि के उत्पादन में लगातार गिरावट आ रही हैं, किस प्रकार आज किसान आत्म-हत्या कर रहे हैं तथा इन सारी योजनओं को करने के बाद भी किसानों के जीवन में सूधार नहीं हो रहा हैं, किसानों का आर्थिक विकास नहीं हो पा रहा हैं। अगर यही स्थिति बनी रही तो हम देश के कोई भी विकास की कल्पना करें तो यह सम्भव नहीं हैं । मैं विस्तार से इसको इसलिए नहीं कहना चाहता हूं कि बहुत से लोगों ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला हैं, मैं फिर इनको दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूं। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध जरूर करुंगा कि इस बारे में गंभीरता से विचार करें । मैं बधाई देता हं माननीय मंत्री जी को, जिन्होंने शॉर्ट टर्म की ब्याज को 7 प्रतिशत पर रखा, और मुझे आशा हैं कि आने वाले दिनों में इसे 7 परसेंट से भी कम किया जा सकेगा, जिससे किसान भाइयों को इससे अधिक लाभ मिल सकेगा ।

उपसभापति महोदय, मैं अब रोजगार की बात पर आता हूं, क्योंकि दूसरा जो सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण विषय हैं, वह रोजगार से जुड़ा हुआ हैं । महोदय, हम सब जानते हैं कि आज कृषि के बाद सबसे अधिक रोजगार का सृजन किसी क्षेत्र में होता हैं, तो वह छोटे-छोटे उद्योगों से होता हैं, ग्रामीण उद्योगों से होता हैं । लेकिन दुख की बात हैं कि इस बजट में इन छोटे-छोटे उद्योगों के लिए कोई भी इस प्रकार की बात नहीं कही गई हैं जिससे कि इन उद्योगों को लाभ मिल सके, इन उद्योगों को बढ़ावा मिल सके । जो एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्ट्स की यूनिट्स हैं, उनको भी बहुत कम लाभ दिये गये हैं । मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि गत वर्षों में जिस प्रकार से एसएसआई सैक्टर्स में क्रेडिट फ्लो में कमी आई हैं, वह चिंताजनक हैं ।

महोदय, 1998 में उद्योगों को टोटल नेट क्रेडिट 218219 करोड़ रुपये मिला था, उसमें से लघु उद्योगों को 38109 करोड़ मिला था, आज 718722 करोड़ रुपये नेट क्रेडिट में से टोटल 67634 करोड़ रुपये लघु उद्योग को दिया गया हैं जो कि नेट क्रेडिट का केवल 9.4 प्रतिशत हैं, जबकि उस समय वह 17.5 प्रतिशत था। इस प्रकार लघु उद्योगों को क्रेडिट प्लो कम हो रहा हैं। इसके अलावा इन छोटे-छोटे उद्योगों को बड़े-बड़े उद्योगों के मुकाबले ब्याज अधिक देना पड़ रहा हैं। इसके अलावा इन छोटे-छोटे उद्योगों को बड़े-बड़े उद्योगों के मुकाबले ब्याज अधिक देना पड़ रहा हैं। रिजर्व बैंक ने गाइड लाइन दी है, उस गाइड लाइन के मुताबिक पीएलआर जो हैं, प्राइम लेंडिंग रेट, उससे दो परसेंट अधिक देना हैं किन्तु आज भी बैंक्स रिजर्व बैंक की गाइडलाइन्स को न मानते हुए 13 परसेंट, 12 परसेंट तक ब्याज लगा रहे हैं जिससे छोटे-छोटे उद्योग बंद होते जा रहे हैं और उसके कारण रोजगारों में कमी आ रही हैं। महोदय, जब तक छोटे-छोटे उद्योग खड़े नहीं होंगे, तब तक रोजगार की समस्या की समाधान नहीं हो सकता हैं। आप जितने बड़े-बड़े कारखाने लगा लीजिए, बड़े-बड़े उद्योग लगा लीजिए, इनसे रोजगार की समस्या का समाधान नहीं होगा, जब तक ग्रामीण उद्योग, छोटे-छोटे उद्योग इस देश में नहीं

RAJYA SABHA

[10 March, 2006)

पनपेंगे। महोदय, इसके बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से और अधिक विचार करने के लिए अनुरोध करता हूं। आखिर में महोदय, मैं समय के अभाव के कारण कुछ अपने प्रदेश के बारे में कहने के लिए आपका दो मिनट का समय लूंगा । मैं उड़ीसा से आता हूं और उड़ीसा एक पिछड़ा प्रदेश हैं । हम सब जानते हैं कि उडीसा के लगभग पचास प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहते हैं । आज उडीसा की जो जनसंख्या हैं, उसका चालीस प्रतिशत भाग एससी, एसटी हैं । उड़ीसा देश का सबसे पिछड़ा प्रदेश है, वहां पर बहत से खनिज पदार्थ उपलब्ध हैं । आज भारत के सबसे अधिक खनिज पदार्थ उडीसा में उपलब्ध हैं । सात सौ किलामीटर कोस्ट लाइन हैं, जंगल का बहुत बडा भाग हैं, इसके अलावा महोदय, पानी की भी कमी नहीं हैं। फिर भी, क्योंकि वहां पर इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर का डेवलपमेंट आज तक नहीं हो पाया, उसके कारण और इन खनिज पदार्थी का दोहन ठीक ढंग से न कर पाने के कारण उडीसा आज सबसे गरीब प्रदेश की सीढी में आ गया हैं। महोदय, जब तक हम देश के इन अति पिछडे प्रदेशों की उन्नति के बारे में नहीं सोचेंगे, तब तक देश के संपूर्ण विकास की कल्पना करना गलत होगा। महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करता हूं कि हमारे माननीय मुख्य मंत्री जी ने बार-बार आपसे स्पैशल पैकेज के लिए अनुरोध किया हैं – मैं स्पैशल पैकेज की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं। स्पेशल पैकेज आप देंगे या नहीं देंगे, वह अलग चीज़ हैं किन्तु उडीसा के बारे में सोचने के समय आप इस बारे में जरूर सोचें कि उडीसा एक ऐसा प्रदेश हैं, जो सबसें पिछड़ा हुआ हैं और जिसमें विकास की अपार संभावनाएं मौजूद हैं । उसके बावजूद यह प्रदेश उन्नति नहीं कर रहा हैं । महोदय, इसके बारे में, इसके विकास के बारे में कुछ अधिक चिंता करें और इसी प्रकार देश में जितने भी पिछडे प्रदेश हैं, उनके बारे में कोई अलग योजना बनायी जाए जिससे ये पिछड़े प्रेदश, देश के जितने उन्नत प्रदेश हैं, उनके समकक्ष आ सकें और देश में समग्र विकास हो सके । मैं और अधिक समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूं । महोदय, मैं आपसे और एक अनूरोध करते हुए अपनी बात को समाप्त करूंगा । महोदय, एनडीए की सरकार के समय में कुछ योजनाएं ली गयी थी, जिनको अभी धीमा कर दिया गया हैं या बंद कर दिया गया हैं । एनडीए की सरकार के समय में उडीसा में नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस की घोषण की गयी थी, वहां उद्घाटन हो चुका था, आज आपने लेफ्ट पार्टी के दबाव में या बंगाल के दबाव में इसको कलकत्ता में शिफ्ट कर दिया हैं। ऑल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यट ऑफ मेडिकल साइंस, जिसका उद्घाटन हो चका था, उसके काम को धीमा कर दिया गया हैं, काम आरंभ नहीं हो रहा हैं, बजट में उसके लिए कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया गया हैं। महोदय, जब हम पिछडे प्रदेशों का विकास करना चाहते हैं, तो ये जो योजनाएं हैं, इनको बंद करने से पिछड़े प्रदेशों का विकास नहीं हो सकेगा । आवश्यकता हैं कि इन योजनओं को जल्द से जल्द आरंभ किया जाए जिससे इस प्रकार के पिछड़े प्रदेशों को इसका लाभ मिल सके और इससे सारे देश का विकास हो सके । इन्हीं बातों के साथ मैं अपना वक्तव्य समाप्त करता हं । धन्यवाद । भारत माता की जय

श्री उपसभापति : श्री शांताराम लक्ष्मण नायक । आपको समय का मालूम हैं, पांच मिनट से ऊपर समय नहीं दिया जाएगा ।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I stand here to support his Bill. One of the criticisms which has been levelled against the Finance Minister is that the present Budget is an uneventful Budget. They say so. Perhaps, it is so in one way. In one way it is so because the Budget was so nicely crafted that there was hardly any scope for any

criticism. When a Budget is presented, if there is a scope for criticism, there is an all-round criticism, all over the country and that becomes an event. This time, it was not an eventful Budget because it is very good, nicely crafted and everyman in the street has accepted this. That is it. Sir, actually, this Budget has put the country in top gear and the Opposition out of gear. And, that is why, there is envy. They are jealous of this Budget and hence the criticism. I will not analyse the Budget, as I don't have time. I am satisfied with various allocations, by and large, given to every sector. I would restrict myself to some of the suggestions.

Sir, as far as Employment Guarantee Scheme is concerned, sometimes States like Goa get punished because you say that your literacy rate is high, you are elite and all those things. Therefore, we are not included. Now, Sir, in Goa, the position is like this. There for Rs. 150 you can get a labour at any time. But, non-manual jobs for young girls and boys, people are ready to work even for Rs. 50 a day. Therefore, some scheme has to be worked out for this class of people, who are in lakhs and lakhs in a State like Goa. Therefore, some amendment has to be made in the Employment Guarantee Scheme for this class of people.

As far as IT sector is concerned, I congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, because you have provided wi-fi connectivity. You have made us IT-conscious. In this field also, the Finance Minister has laid a lot of stress. But, the question is we have to practically implement the IT policy in every nook and corner of the country. Finance does not matter. Even with few crores of rupees, if proper implementation is there, IT sector can be taken to villages. For example, all the orders of the Government, notifications, tenders, all the schemes are made available in the villages, in small kiosks, then, IT sector will obviously get flourished, the common man will get the benefits of the IT sector. Therefore, it is in the implementation of the IT sector that this whole matter lies, not in finance as such. Even if finance is comparatively less, and if the administrative implementation is better, then, the effect will be more.

Then, I will come to the National Highways. The question is not, again I am saying, of funds. But, what has been provided to the Ministry, I think, the Finance Minister should use his good offices with his colleagues, who come from the same State, to give Goa something. For the last several years, we have not been able to bring a small stretch of highway in Goa to the standards of National Highways. Now, there is a proposal from Paden to Polen in Goa. I expect that it should be accepted, Directions

should be given to the Ministry concerned to provide necessary funds for the purpose of upgrading this National Highway in Goa.

Sir, as far as the Rural Health Mission is concerned, rural health centres and district hospitals should be standardised. Standard norms should be fixed. Today, in one of the discussions, we came to know that even in the matter of cleanliness, we were far, far behind. Therefore, whatever money is allocated to the health sector, that should be utilised.

Again, I am pointing out to an issue, which relates to all of us. As far as the Central Government Health Services are concerned, there is a talk that it is going to be scrapped. We don't know what is going on. If this whole scheme is going to be dropped, then what is going to come in its place? I am not sure about it. But presuming that it is going to continue, it should be ensured that whatever agreements that the CGHS authorities or the Government of India has with private hospitals should be made in time. When the contract expires, the beneficiaries and their family members will be in trouble because of some gap between one agreement and another, and they have to pay hundreds and thousands of rupees. I think this matter should be looked into by the Finance Ministry.

Another point is about Central Excise Duty. In February, 2005, the hon. Finance Minister taxed the pharmaceutical industry with 16 per cent tax on MRP, which actually, according to them, became 30 per cent to consumers. Various associations have made representations to bring down the Central Excise Duty from 16 per cent to 8 per cent not only to get a level playing field but also with a view to make drugs cheaper and affordable to consumers. Sir, if it is not done, a number of industries in the SSI sector in Goa will suffer, and they will not be able to survive as they are manufacturing products of large companies on contract or loan-licence basis, and these multinational companies will obviously transfer their business to Himachal Pradesh or Uttaranchal in order to take an advantage of tax sop given to them which was taken away from us. This aspect has to be looked into.

Sir, riots, etc., at various places take place over land issues. Computerisation of land survey with maps and index has to be stressed. If this aspect is dealt with, there would be less number of quarrels. Small quarrels take place due to this, and even mass murders take place because of defective land reforms. It has to be tackled with.

RAJYA SABHA

6.00 P.M.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister in his speech talked about the Maritime Policy. I am not aware whether this National Development Programme, which has been approved, is the same Draft National Development Policy, which was to be approved by the Cabinet. I would like to know whether these two things are different or they are the same. In any case, Sir, in the Draft National Maritime Policy, there was a talk of two universities to be established in the country. Now, it is learnt that the National Institute of Port Management, Chennai, is being converted into Central Universities, and Mumbai, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam will have the campus. Goa is on the West Coast and lakhs of people are there who are the most experienced in seafarer jobs. Therefore, Sir, whether you call it campus or a unit of some universities, whatever it is, Goa is also entitled to have a campus under the Central University to be established under the Maritime Policy.

Lastly, Sir, if the administration is proper, our results will be good. I recollect, many years back, when I was a Member of the other House, I was a Member of the Consultative Committee of Ministry of Public Grievances and Pension, and the hon. Minister was also there. At that time, a policy was chalked out that Grievances Cell should be established in all the Central Government Offices. Late Rajivji had taken initiatives. Now, all the State Governments should be persuaded to establish this machinery, so that people's grievances are addressed in a timely manner, and a legislation should be enacted to regulate the machinery of public grievances. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaramji, for presenting a fine, well-balanced, and innovative Budget which has taken care of every section of the society. Sir, with business confidence at an all time high and economic growth broad based, revenue performance in the last two years has been very good. In spite of increase in international oil prices *vis-a-vis* indigenous price of petroleum products, inflation has remained low. The economy has been managed very well and for this all rewards go to the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji. The Budget has set a step further in achieving the objectives of growth, stability and equality spelt out in our National Common Minimum Programme.

We are maintaining a growth rate of seven to eight per cent per annum. The growth rate, which was 7.5 per cent in 2004-05, has increased to 8.1 per cent in 2005-06. Promoting investment, accelerating fiscal consolidation, focussing on agriculture and industries with employment potential infrastructure both in rural and urban areas are the key objectives of the Budget. The thrust is mainly on agriculture and rural development through Bharat Nirman and several flagship schemes and programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, total sanitation campaign, National Health Mission and Integrated Child Development Programme. These schemes are targeted towards the rural masses.

Sir, the budgetary support for Bharat Nirman has been increased by 54 per cent; likewise, for education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, one lakh fifty thousand additional teachers and five lakh additional class rooms under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. This should be appreciated. Likewise, the increment in Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, rural sanitation campaign, Rural Health Mission - all these have to be appreciated. Also, the old-age pension, where Rs.430 crores is kept. Sir, the old ladies and the old people who were getting Rs.75 per month are not benefited and are getting Rs.200 per month. Short-term credit is provided at seven per cent interest. All these have been appreciated by each and every one in the country.

Sir, assured irrigation, credit diversification and creating market for agriculture products are the thrust areas so far as agricultural sector is concerned. What is important is to ensure that the benefits of various schemes and programmes reach the small and marginal farmers.

The Finance Minister has rightly identified industries for providing incentives, which have employment potential. Here, Sir, it is important that higher rate of growth in GDP spread by growth in industrial sector should generate employment. It should be employment-oriented growth. Rs.11,700 crores to be spent to create rural employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

The Budget has rightly placed its emphasis on infrastructure sector. With a developed infrastructure sector we can attract more foreign direct investment. This has to be appreciated.

The Finance Minister has opted for significant tax reforms. These have helped in not only raising tax revenue but also helped in increasing

tax-GDP ratio. Indirect tax has declined and direct taxes have increased. All these are positive features.

Sir, another novel feature which is going to help us, is Gender-Budgeting. Sir, in this, there is a need to provide more funds under various women-oriented schemes so as to empower women.

Sir, I don't want to take more time. You have already told me. Sir, to conclude, I must say that this Budget is growth-oriented and will surely boost the economy of our country. Thank you, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति : अग्रवाल जी, आपका नाम नहीं हैं । ...(व्यवधान)... अच्छा चलों आधा मिनट में जो बोलना हैं, बोलिए ।

श्री जय प्रकाश अग्रवाल (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली) : सर, मेरा फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब से केवल यही कहना हैं कि आपने व्यापारियों से वैट लागू करते समय वायदा किया था कि आप सैंट्रल सेल्स टैक्स खत्म कर देंगे और उसे आपने क्वार्टरली कर दिया हैं। उसके फार्म्स कहीं मिलते ही नहीं हैं। जो आपने वैट लागू करते समय वायदा किया था कि आप उसे खत्म कर देंगे तो मेहरबानी करके आप सैंट्रल सेल्स टैक्स खत्म कर दें। दूसरे, जो स्मॉल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, उसमें आज-कल लोग बहुत परेशानी में हैं। चीन से उनका बहुत competition उनको आप जो फायदा दे सकते हैं, Financial Institutions से उनके interest और lians बगैरह जो माफ कर सकते हैं, वह करा दीजिए, इससे उनको फायदा होगा।धन्यवाद।

श्री राजीव शुक्क (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं एक छोटी सी बात कहना चाहता हूं कि बजट इतनी गंभीर चीज हैं कि बजट के लिए लोगों को बहुत जागरुक होना चाहिए, लेकिन विपक्ष का हाल देखिए कि सब गायब हैं, सिर्फ दो लोग बैठे हैं । यह इनकी बजट के प्रति गंभीरता हैं । बाहर टेलीविजन पर सब byte दे रहे हैं, यहां सब गायब हैं । इससे लगता हैं कि विपक्ष बजट के प्रति कतई गंभीर नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेन्द्र लाठ :आपके लोग भी कहां हैं ?

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आपसे दस गुना हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the discussion on the Budget (General), 2006-2007 is over, and except Mr. Sitaram Yechuri, who has been permitted to speak on Monday at 12 noon, after the Question Hour, before the Finance Minister replies, no other names will be entertained.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

The House then adjourned at six minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Saturday, the 11th March 2006.