

**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): महोदय, मैं उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय (खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग) की "अनुदान मांगें (2010-11)" के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित खाद्य, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के चौथे प्रतिवेदन (पन्द्रहवीं लोक सभा) में अंतर्विष्ट समुक्तियों/सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई के संबंध में समिति (2010-11) के ग्यारहवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we resume our Budget discussion. Shri Elavarasan to continue his speech on General Budget.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2011-12 - contd.

SHRI A. ELAVARSAN*: Sir, it is said that Rs. 12,57,750 crore has been allocated in this budget. A deficit of 4.5% is announced. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that last year the fiscal deficit was 5.5% and that this year it is 5.1%. It is said that fiscal deficit is comparatively less this year than in the previous year. Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, I would like to state that this figure is imaginary according to the view of the economic experts. Last year, the value of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was more than rupees sixty nine lakh and thirty five thousand crore. This year, the value of GDP is more than rupees seventy eight lakh and seventy eight thousand crore.

Deputy Chairman Sir, what does this figure show? It clearly shows increase in inflation level, not in GDP value. If the fiscal deficit of a nation exceeds 5%, it shows the economic backwardness of the nation. Sir, it is my duty to point out this characteristic here.

Hon'ble Vice Chairman Sir, in this year's budget nothing was allotted for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Sri Lankan Tamils. In last year's budget, rupees five hundred crore were allotted for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Sri Lankan Tamils. Sir, I would like to request the External Affairs Minister and the Minister of Finance for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils. Sir, it is said that the Sri Lankan Tamils are our relatives. They are our brethren. They are our umbilical cord relatives. The Minister of State for Finance is sitting in this august House now. He is also a Tamil. He also hails from Tamil Nadu. I do not understand how his heart has allowed non-allotment of even a single rupee for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

The Tamils in Sri Lanka are attacked by the Sri Lankan army, the Sri Lankan Government, the Sri Lankan chauvinists and the Sri Lankan elderly men. Our Tamil women have lost their kumkum, their flowers, their arms and legs. They are living in deep agony. They are subjected to sexual harassment. They remain in various kinds of fetters. They are handcuffed. Their legs are fastened with rigid fetters. They are incarcerated in thorny fences like animals. Due to rigid confinement, they have no food to eat, no shelter to reside in, no mat to sleep on. Inside the fences, the women are sexually harassed. Their life has become very tragic. I really feel very sad that in this year's budget not even a single rupee is allotted for the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils. The Minister of State for Finance, who hails from Tamil Nadu has to give reply for non-allocation of fund for Sri Lankan Tamils. He has to give explanation about the protection of livelihood of Sri Lankan Tamils. Our hands should be extended to wipe the tears of Sri Lankan Tamils, if we are really interested in the welfare of Tamils.

Sir, next, I would like to speak about the plight of fishermen. Our Indian fishermen are killed by neighbouring countries. Their life and property have been destroyed. The fishing boats were destroyed. The loss incurred was estimated to be around rupees 25,000 crore. Nothing was announced in the budget for compensating this loss.

I am really apprehensive about the compensation to be paid to our miserable fishermen. Our founder leader and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchthalaivar M.G.R. has sung about the plight of fishermen in a song. I quote,

'We are made to be born on shore,
But we are destined to earn our livelihood in water,
We go one day and return some other day,
Each day is tragic in our life
We risk our life in search of livelihood,
But others have taken our life for granted.

Hon'ble Vice Chairman Sir, all the leaders, renowned statesmen, men of wisdom and eminent scientists who are present here, taste dishes like chicken curry, chicken fry chicken 65 etc. We relish

fish curry, fish fry etc. But to bring this fish for our food, they risk their lives. They face so many troubles and tribulations. They have to cope with many insults. Proper compensation has to be given to them.

Next, I would like to speak about agriculture. India is a country of agriculture. Farmers are the backbone of our nation. If the backbone of a person is not healthy, he can neither eat, nor walk, nor run, nor sleep nor converse in a healthy way. Similar is the fate of agriculture. If agriculture does not flourish, economy of India will not flourish. If agriculture is affected, our nation's entire economy will be affected. In this budget speech, short term crop loan to farmers have been announced at the rate of 7%. Moreover, 3% incentive is given to those farmers who repay their loan on time. That is, the effective rate of interest is 4% applicable only to such farmers as repay their loan on time. Hon'ble Vice Chairman Sir, I humbly request you to extend this facility to all farmers. Due to various factors such as failure of monsoon, flood, cyclone, tsunami, drought etc., farmers are affected. They could not get proper yield due to such natural calamities. After harvesting, they could not get proper procurement price for agricultural outputs. In such a situation, it is desirable that short term crop loan may be given to all farmers at the rate of 4%.

Sir, I would like to speak about weavers. A loan of Rs. 3,000 crore, given to weavers, is waived off. I welcome this gesture. At the same time, the loss incurred by weavers' societies throughout India also has to be taken into account. Thousands of cooperative societies of weavers have become sick and have incurred loss. Proper initiatives need to be taken to waive off the loan of weavers' cooperative societies also.

Sir, next I would like to speak about black money. The generation and circulation of black money is of serious concern. In India, poor people are exploited by the rich. An amount of rupees seventy five lakh crore is deposited abroad as black money. If that money is brought back to India, our economy will flourish. No proper steps are announced in this budget to bring the black money that was deposited abroad, to India. I would like to seek clarification whether the Government supports the generation and circulation of black money. If not, what are the steps proposed to be taken to bring the black money deposited abroad to India. It may please be clarified by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance with respect to this issue.

On the whole, this budget benefits neither the farmers, nor the poorer sections of people, nor the people living below poverty line, nor the middle class people, nor the unemployed youth. No plan has been announced for the welfare of weavers. No steps have been announced for bringing back black money deposited abroad. No action is taken to reduce price rise. No plan has been announced for the welfare of Tamils. No plan has been announced for the educated masses. Nothing has been announced for self-employment of educated youth. In brief, this is a deficit budget. I would like to concisely point out that this budget narrows down the economic progress of the nation. Price rise has to be controlled. New schemes have to be announced to provide employment to the Indian youth. All these issues have to be taken into account by the Government. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to give my party's views on this Budget. Sir, the Budget will have to be scrutinized in the light of the stated positions of the Indian Constitution.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [PROF. P.J. KURIEN] in the Chair

The Constitution in its Part IV, which deals with the Directive Principles of State Policy, makes it very clear 'the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting, as effectively as it may, a social order in which Justice — social, economic and political — shall inform all the institutions of the national life'. Then it states, Sir, that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment. This is the position of the Constitution.

Now, the Budget is nothing but a statement of economic policy that is being pursued by the Government of the day. The Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has given a Budget which, in fact, betrays the commitment given in the Constitution. In fact, I can say, it is a violation of the commitment given to the people of this country through the Constitution because this Government, the Congress-led UPA-II Government, by pursuing such policies is strengthening the corporation capitalism. All others are calling it crony capitalism in the country. Even some people tried to present it as corporate socialism. I do not know socialism has become such a denigrated word in the

parlance of some people. But what Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has done is to strengthen corporate capitalism in the country. Sir, the country is passing through a challenging period. There is a challenge to the political credibility of the Government; there is a challenge to the morality and values in the public life and there is a challenge to the economic stability of the country. That challenge is because of the anti-people policies pursued by the Government today.

Sir, the Government, which has given such a Budget, has failed to address very crucial issues of the people such as poverty, unemployment, the growing inequalities, price rise and inflation. Even though Government indulges in rhetoric, there is no appropriate action to match the rhetoric of the Government. This Government speaks in terms of inclusive growth; this Government speaks in terms of faster growth and this Government talks about Aam Aadmi, but what the Government does in the field of economy is nothing but against all these claims. Sir, the continuing Budget of the UPA-II Government even the last Budget and even the present Budget - is a slow and steady march towards corporate capitalism and without declaring India as a capitalist country.

The Constitution says, "India is a secular, socialist, democratic Republic." But, whatever the Government does through Budget is nothing but to promote the corporate interest, the crony capitalists' interest. This is what everybody says 'neo-liberal paradigm of economic development'. While presenting the Budget, the Finance Minister said that the Government had overcome the crisis in a spectacular way. But, the Government really leads the country nowhere but towards a path where we have seen that the European countries and the U.S. have been beaten black and blue. This Government really takes the country towards that path only. Then, the Government talks about the liberalisation of finance sector. That is the main thrust of this Budget - liberalising the finance-sector. We know what will be the result of finance sector liberalisation. The attempts are being openly made by the Congress-led UPA Government towards getting Foreign Direct Investments in our banking and insurance sectors. The Government is talking about *aam aadmi*, but the Government does not want to promote public sector banking industry; the Government does not want to promote public sector insurance companies.

We know what happened in European countries, what happened in the United States of America, and this is what I call detrimental to the country's interest, detrimental to the economic

sovereignty and economic stability of the country. Sir, instead of promoting the public sector banks, the Budget announces giving new licences to private banks and inviting the Foreign Direct Investments in banking and insurance sectors which is going to affect the country's interest in the coming days. Despite the opposition to the reckless programme of the Government to disinvest public sector undertakings, even this Budget makes it very clear that the Government will go ahead with disinvestment programme in public sector undertakings. Sir, here, I must quote what hon. Prime Minister has said. He said, "The global recession has not affected Indian economy." What is the reason, Sir? Everybody should acknowledge, at least, here that it is because India has got a strong public sector banking and insurance industry and it has got strong public sector undertakings. Because of the strong public sector, India could withstand the global recession, the financial crisis which hit all the countries in the world.

Now, what the Government does is to dismantle this public sector and the Finance Minister claimed that in any case, the Government would not bring down its equity to less than 51 per cent. What does it mean? It is not the question of percentage; it is the question of policy. What is the policy of this Government? This Government's policy is to dismantle the public sector which is going to hurt the country's interest. It is going to be detrimental to the country's progress and prosperity, and the Government fails to understand this fact. That is why, I am saying that this Government has moved, drifted away from the stated positions of Indian Constitution, our own Constitution.

This Government, * promotes corporate interest, and that is why, the Government has failed to go for genuine resource mobilisation.

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, the word * is unparliamentary. It should be expunged.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will look into the record.

SHRI D. RAJA: Without shame ...(*Interruptions*)...

Sir, I give the example. It is for all Congressmen to make introspection. I give the example. Even Mr. N.K. Singh was speaking about revenue foregone. What is the revenue foregone? On account of concessions to the private sector in exports, the revenue forgone is Rs. 58,590 crore,

*Expunged as ordered by Chair.

and, on account of corporate taxes, it is Rs. 88,263 crore. The Government has also foregone Rs. 1,98,291 crore of excise duty and Rs. 1,74,418 crore of customs duty. These are some of the concessions to the corporate houses. Now, because you talk in terms of *aam aadmi*, I must tell you what happens to the *aam aadmi*. If you see the *aam aadmi* programmes, there is a decline in every *aam aadmi* programme. Most of the social sector expenditures have seen a decline in real terms, and, even in nominal terms in some cases. Take for example, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. In fact, there is a decline of Rs. 100 crore. Tell me, have you increased the money for MGNREGS? No. There is a real decline of Rs. 100 crore in food subsidy. The budgeted food subsidy is Rs. 60,573 crore as against Rs. 60,600 crore last year. So, there is a decline in food subsidy also. Then, you take the case of 'storage and warehousing'. There also, we see a decline of Rs. 6,000 crore in a year while the rhetoric has been of increasing food subsidy. Take the case of Indira Awas Yojana. Its budget declined from Rs. 9,334 crore in 2010-11 (RE) to Rs. 8,996 this year. The National Rural Livelihood Mission has seen its budget declined from Rs. 2,675 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 2,621 in 2011-12.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You have only one minute more.

SHRI D. RAJA: There is a decline everywhere. Take for example the tax collections. If you minus the education cess, there is only a small increase of Rs. 200 crore for education. So, what I am saying is that on the one hand, the corporate houses are being given massive concessions, tax exemptions, and, on the other hand, we find steep decline in the allocations for all *aam aadmi* programmes. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... This takes me to another point. The Government talks of inclusive growth.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am concluding. Sir, the Government talks about 'inclusive growth'. What is 'inclusive growth'? You will have to talk about Minorities; you will have to talk about Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. What is the money allocated for these sections? It is notional; but see what happens if you calculate it in real terms keeping in view the inflation. In the case of minorities, there is an increase but in real terms, it will be - 3.5 per cent. That is the reality.

See the total Budget for SC/ST. It is a huge figure; I am not interested in quoting it. Now, I come to SC Component Plan Allocation. The Scheduled Caste people should get 16.2 per cent whereas the allocation is only 7.25 per cent; and, the Budget Estimate is 8.98 per cent. How does it talk about the Scheduled Castes, and, you claim that it is the Government of *aam aadmi*! You are not giving them their due share, their fair share. Even in the Tribal Sub Plan, the percentage of allocation as per Plan Outlay is 4.13 per cent. I would like to ask Mr. Mungekar, who was in the Planning Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is no time for asking questions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am concluding, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is it proper on the part of the Government to mislead the country and the Parliament with regard to the money given for the Scheduled Caste Special Component Plan, or, for the Scheduled Tribe Sub Plan? It is not true at all. Same is the case for minorities and also the OBCs. That is why, I am saying that something is wrong with the entire approach.

I am saying that this Government has drifted from the stated position of Indian Constitution. I am making it as a charge. You are allowing the concentration of wealth, concentration of economic power in the hands of corporate houses. You are betraying the *aam aadmi*; you are betraying the country. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... This country will have to face the challenge. That is why we have strong reservations on the Budget. This Budget needs further scrutiny and amendments. Thank you.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA (Nominated): Thank you, Sir. Before we analyse the proposals and the policy pronouncements in the Budget for 2011-12, it might be worthwhile to just take a short look back and set the right context for such an evaluation. Over the last two decades, India has transformed from a largely state-driven, slow-growing economy to a mostly capital investments-led enterprise which is ranked amongst the world's fastest-growing economies. There was a time when the Government accounted for over 80 per cent of the economy. Today, it is only a little over 15 per cent and that is the new reality wherein the state's ability to influence broader economic direction is somewhat limited.

But, Sir, there are still some old lingering challenges which can hold new India back. Over 300 million people are still below the poverty line. Almost one-third of our population cannot read or write

and do not have access to basic healthcare. Disparities are growing and only worsening with inflation. These areas need the Government redressal. Also to be kept in mind is the recent economic slowdown across the world where India has tided over it rather well, but still there are areas which require hand-holding by the Government. Seen against such a context, it is a growth-oriented, well thought-out Budget, and I would like to compliment the Finance Minister for the same. Nothing works better for a stable economy and its stakeholders than a stable fiscal environment. Over the last two years, the fiscal deficit had somewhat doubled because of a host of fiscal stimuli that the Government had given to insulate businesses and consumers. But now that the fears of a double dip recession have somewhat receded, it is time for the Government to take stock of fiscal consolidation. And it seems to be doing just that by keeping expenditure under control and trying to raise greater revenues on the back of a buoyant economy. Sir, the Finance Minister is attempting a serious fiscal correction. He has also tried to ease the pressure on interest rates and given a roadmap for reducing fiscal deficit over the next few years. This is a very clear indication of the Government's decision to go ahead with reforms. However, they have not completely stopped on the fiscal deficit as the basic excise duty and service tax remains unchanged at 10 per cent which will help industry and consumers as reverting to the earlier 12 per cent would have brought with it some inflationary pressures. There are some concerns, Sir. While the Government's revenue is supposed to grow at eighteen-and-a-half per cent, which, I think, is very realistic, because it had grown 26 per cent this year, on the expenditure side, I think, they are being a bit ambitious with increase in expenses only amounting to 3 per cent in the last year. This entire projection can go completely haywire because if the crisis in the Middle East continues, there will be pressure on the fuel subsidy with fuel prices expecting to go northwards. That said, Sir, the Minister has addressed the concerns, of those who need the Government the most. But all the gains of economic growth stand to be lost because of inflation and more because of food inflation. In this context, the Government has done well to protect the wage-earners and the fixed income earners from wage increases by also linking the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA to inflation based wages. The Government has also taken a very realistic view and tried to have a longer term solution in terms of trying to create more sustainable responses to food inflation. In this context, the viability gap funding, for capital investment in cold chain and post harvest grains and giving infrastructure status to this is a very welcome move. But such moves have been

announced in the past also and not met with great success. So, I think, somewhere the fault lies in execution. So, the Government needs to ensure that execution of these schemes is faultless. Another welcome move, Sir, is to give loans at the rate of 4 per cent to the farmers who have been repaying their loans on time for short term crops. This once again reinforces the Government's inclusive growth agenda.

Sir, one of the sterling announcements of the Budget is direct cash transfer instead of subsidy for fuel, kerosene, and fertilizers. If this is implemented well, I believe, it can become a very successful format to try and subsidize food subsidies as well. This model is being followed in countries like Brazil. There is no reason why we can't attempt and successfully do the same. It will also plug all the loopholes in the current PDS.

Sir, this year's Budget has brought about greater clarity on economic reforms. But it is somewhat disappointing in what had grown to be identified as UPA's inclusive *aam aadmi* agenda which are the areas of health and education. This Budget only gives an increase of 19 per cent from the Revised Budget Estimates in the area of education. The increase last year was almost 42 per cent. Sir, with the Government's decision to enact the Right to Education legislation, their marquee programme 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' becomes extremely important. This particular scheme had an allocation of Rs.15,000 crore last year. The Government had then given an *ad hoc* increase during the last financial year. This year, I believe, Sir, the HRD Ministry wanted an outlay of almost Rs.30,000 crore. Against that, the Government sought to give it only about Rs.21,000 crore. It is an important scheme. Without proper allocation of funds over here, the Right to Education will remain a distant dream. Moreover, a lot of the increases have actually gone to pay the salaries and wages of teachers and staff. And the quality of education in the Government institutes remains very abysmal.

An area of greater concern is healthcare where our basic parameters are very, very alarming. Only 31 per cent of Indians have access to decent, clean sanitation, a figure that compares with Sub-Saharan Africa. If you look at the corresponding figure for China, it is over 50 per cent. If you look at the developing countries, this is even more. We are fast becoming the diabetic capital of the world. We have the largest incidence of lifestyle diseases. Only 50 per cent of our Eleventh Plan expenditure

has actually been spent. Much of it is lying unspent. Even though this Budget gives a 20 per cent increase, I don't know how the Government is going to make up the shortfall of not having spent enough money that has been put aside in the Plan or even in the Budget. Sir, there is no innovation in the health sector to try and address the concerns of many who are going without adequate medicare.

The most disturbing part of the Budget - and I will end with this - is the decision to impose this five per cent service tax on diagnostic centres and hospitals. It is a fallacy if people believe that any air-conditioned hospital is catering to the well-off or to the elite. It is not a fact. We know that it is a prerequisite for every hospital; you have to have air-conditioning for the OPD and for many other places. The way the budgetary proposals have come is that they say either it is air-conditioned or partially air-conditioned. Now, every place has to be partially air-conditioned for it to be called a hospital. Twenty-five million people are pushed below the poverty line every year because of medical expenses. This move, I am afraid, will even push a greater number of people and also prevent from seeking preventive health care. It is going to actually encourage roadside hole in the wall places, which don't have adequate facilities and people will go and try the cheaper places. Sir, my appeal to the Finance Minister would be to please reconsider this, because at stake is not only new India's prospects but also our health. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Next is Dr. Bharatkumar Raut. Shri Naresh Gujral has requested to speak before you, because he has to catch a flight. If you agree, I would give him the chance first.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Okay.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Sir, since the time at my disposal is very short, I would only like to make a few specific suggestions to the hon. Minister for his consideration.

Sixty per cent of our population lives off agriculture. But our policies are anti-farmer. This Government claims that it has done so much for the welfare of the farmer by increasing the MSP of wheat from Rs.630 to Rs.1,100 and rice from Rs.550 to Rs.1,000 since it came to power. Basically,

Sir, it means an increase of only seven and a half per cent annually compounded for wheat and nine and a half per cent compounded for rice.

Today, Sir, the international prices are, at least, double that of the MSP that you are offering. There will be shortage in China because there has been crop failure. There is shortage in China, Russia and Australia. So, everybody knows that the food prices will go up phenomenally. Yet, we do not allow our farmer to export his produce. Our godowns are full. We have no place to stock what we have. The new crop is about to come which is going to be a bumper crop. Sir, I come from Punjab. Frankly speaking, we have no storage space at all. So, I would suggest that the four per cent interest that you are talking about for the farmer for production should also be extended for storage facilities. If any farmer or any private party wants to make storage space, give them loan at four per cent so that we do not waste our precious produce. Sir, we have Dr. Swaminathan sitting here. His report is before the country. I don't know why we don't implement it. Be fair to the farmers. Respect what he has said. If you implement that, at least, the farmer will get some succour.

Sir, today, international oil prices are creating a very serious problem for us and our trade balance is going to be affected very adversely. Why don't you barter food for oil? Not the way * did it, but, you can find a better way.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. That name is expunged. It cannot come on record.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: I am sorry, Sir. I withdraw that name. Sir, I am also concerned about the way you want to reduce or cut down subsidy on fertilisers. Shrimati Brindaji just now mentioned what will be the effect. We know our delivery system. Basically, if the farmer is not going to get his fertilisers at subsidised rate, he will reduce the consumption and if the consumption is reduced, it will affect the production and it will affect what will come in the market and obviously, the prices will rise.

Sir, 40 per cent of the post-harvest fruits and vegetables go waste because we do not have enough cold storage facilities or adequate food processing capacity. We must allow multi-brand

*Expunged as ordered by Chair.

entry of FDI into retail if we want to save this wastage. This will be a win-win situation for the farmer, the consumer and the retailer because these large companies have the technical know-how, the IT systems and the deep pockets. Also, this country requires an FDI. So, this is desperately needed to save the farmers.

Sir, I would also urge you to fast forward the reform process. Bring in GST as quickly as possible. I would even say that please amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act. I know you will say that my State is going to object or my Chief Minister is going to object. He will not object and no State will object if you also allow the States to levy tax and not ask them to forfeit their right to levy taxes. Why don't you introduce State income-tax on the lines of what is done in the USA? I would request the Minister to kindly consider that.

Then, Sir, talking of skill development, I would urge upon the Government to incentivise private and public sector companies to set up skill development centres....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Gujral, you have two more minutes.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Okay, Sir. Now, I come to my State of Punjab. For long, we have been discriminated against. We supply you the food; we feed the nation. Yet, when we ask for something in return, an amount of Rs.3500 crore that we keep asking for, to modernise our dilapidated canal system, it is not given. Sir, we are subsidising our farmer by giving him free electricity so that he can produce something for the nation.

If you increase the MSP, we will not have to give the support. So, kindly give a realistic MSP to the farmer so that he can survive.

Sir, our economy was destroyed by terrorism. We fought a proxy war for ten years with Pakistan. That led to our industry shifting away from the State and no new industry came to our State because you gave 100 per cent tax incentives to our neighbouring States. That is a faulty policy because these kinds of incentives should be given to the most backward districts of the country or to the border districts of the country, but not to a whole State *per se*.

We are in a debt trap. The Finance Commission has suggested that the Centre should restructure our debt. I would urge the Finance Minister to do it expeditiously. Kindly give us a

moratorium on interest for, at least, ten years. We are a proud people. We don't live on charity and we don't wish to live on charity. We shall pay back every penny of the loan that you have given to us. The mess that we are in is not our own making. It is the Centre's faulty policy that led to it. So, kindly do it. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

There is one more thing. In the end, I will say that 50 per cent of Punjab's youth has fallen prey to drugs. These drugs are being pushed in by Pakistan and they are destroying a whole generation. Please set up an anti-drug police force on the lines of the BSF. You need to help Punjab in that and thereby you will be helping the country. Give us liberal grants so that drug rehabilitation centres can be set up and also we can unleash a sports movement because that is the only way to fight the drug war,

Lastly, Sir, Malwa region of Punjab has become the cancer area of Punjab. It is a very serious problem. Kindly direct or give money to the State or you set up an All India Medical Institute there only for cancer patients. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you very much, Gujralji, for sticking to the time. Shri Vikram Verma. You have 12 minutes because there are eight speakers from your party.

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे कहने में संकोच नहीं है कि वर्तमान बजट पूरी तरह से निराशाजनक और दिशाहीन है। यह बाजार, कृषि क्षेत्र और सार्वजनिक जीवन में कहीं भी उत्साह या किसी भी प्रकार से दिशा देने वाली बजट नहीं है। महंगाई और भ्रष्टाचार से त्रस्त जनता ने जब से समाचार पत्रों और टेलीविजन पर प्रधान मंत्री जी के इस वक्तव्य को सुना है कि मैं गठबंधन के कारण मजबूर हूँ, तो लोगों ने उसी दिन से उम्मीद छोड़ दी, क्योंकि एक मजबूर सरकार से हम क्या उम्मीद कर सकते हैं। इसीलिए इसमें भी कहीं कोई बहुत उत्साहजनक स्थिति देखने को नहीं मिली है। केवल थोड़ा सा उछाल दलाल स्ट्रीट में जरूर आया। अब आप भी जानते हैं कि दलाल स्ट्रीट में ब्लैक मनी लगती है, इसलिए दलालों और दलाल स्ट्रीट में उछाल आया, बाकी पूरे देश के अंदर कहीं भी इस बजट को लेकर कोई उत्साह देखने को नहीं मिला है। उल्टे एक निराशा का वातावरण पैदा हुआ है। मैं लंबे-चौड़े आंकड़ों में नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ।

कल सिंघवी जी बता रहे थे कि हमने हेल्थ सैक्टर, एजुकेशन सैक्टर, सोशल सैक्टर और 'मनरेगा' में इतनी बढ़ोतरी कर दी, लेकिन यदि आप देखेंगे तो पाएंगे कि पिछले 5 सालों में 'मनरेगा' में भी रोजगार मांगने वालों की संख्या घटी है। अब इससे आप अंदाजा लगा सकते हैं। इसके सिस्टम में कहीं इतनी गड़बड़ी है कि 'मनरेगा' योजना

के अंतर्गत मजदूर काम करना नहीं चाह रहा है। इसके आंकड़े बिल्कुल स्पष्ट हैं। अभी सर्वे होने के बाद 'मनरेगा' के संबंध में जो figures आए हैं, उनसे यह पता चलता है कि एक तरफ सरकार कहती है कि हम 100 दिन का रोजगार उपलब्ध कराएंगे, लेकिन राष्ट्रीय औसत अधिकतम 54 दिन का आया है। केवल 54 दिन का और यह तो मैंने आपको 2009-10 का बताया, लेकिन इस वित्तीय वर्ष में जनवरी, 2011 तक रोजगार मुहैया कराने वालों का राष्ट्रीय औसत केवल 36 दिन ही है और यदि फरवरी-मार्च में इसको थोड़ा और बढ़ाएं, तो कुल मिलाकर यह 40-45 दिन तक होगा। इसलिए मनरेगा को जो आपने केवल वोट के लिए, राजनीति के लिए उस समय इंट्रोड्यूस किया और इसके norms पैने किए, उनके कारण यह मनरेगा सफल नहीं हो पा रहा है। मजदूर काम करने नहीं आता है क्योंकि इतनी प्रकार की शर्तें उसमें लगी हुई हैं कि आपको एक दिन में इतना लंबा, इतना चौड़ा गड्ढा, इतना-इतना वर्ग काट करके देना पड़ेगा। अब यदि इतना वर्ग फीट उनको पूरा करना है, तो वे उतना पूरा कर ही नहीं पाते हैं, इसलिए सारी परिस्थिति में एक बार आपको उसको स्टडी करना चाहिए था कि अगर इसमें day by day लोग कम हो रहे हैं, तो आखिर क्यों कम हो रहे हैं? आप इसका एक सर्वे करें और जानकारी लें और उसमें आपके norms यदि कड़े हैं, तो उन norms को ठीक करने की कोशिश करें। अन्यथा आप कहेंगे कि हमने इतने हजार करोड़ रख दिए, इतने हजार करोड़ बढ़ा दिए, लेकिन जब लोग मजदूरी करने नहीं आ रहे हैं, तो फायदा क्या हुआ? वह पैसा तो आपका वापस आ रहा है, सरेंडर हो रहा है।

महोदय, फिर दूसरी चीजें भी हैं। अभी उन्होंने कहा कि हमने हेल्थ सेंक्टर तथा अन्य में बढ़ाया, मुझे कहने की जरूरत नहीं है कि खाली आंकड़ों की बढ़ोतरी से गरीब की थाली में एक भी रोटी नहीं बढ़ी है, बल्कि रोटी कम हुई है। उसकी कटोरी में दाल नहीं बढ़ी, बल्कि गायब हुई है। आप आंकड़े बढ़ाते जा रहे हो कि हमने इतना बढ़ा दिया, इतने प्रतिशत कर दिया, यदि इतने प्रतिशत बढ़ा दिया तो फिर आर्थिक समृद्धि आम आदमी तक क्यों नहीं पहुंची? फिर आखिर यह गरीबी क्यों है? यह दरिद्रता क्यों है? क्योंकि उसको महंगाई खाती चली जा रही है। इसलिए माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हेल्थ सेंक्टर की बात की थी कि हमने इतना बढ़ा दिया, लेकिन दो दिन पहले माननीय हेल्थ मिनिस्टर ने इस सदन में स्वीकार किया कि हमारे यहां किस प्रकार से mal nutrition है, किस प्रकार से शिशु मृत्यु दर ज्यादा है, तो आखिर यह किन कारणों से है? यदि आपने बढ़ाया था, तो सुविधाओं का लाभ मिलना चाहिए था, फिर हमारे यहां यह सब क्यों है?

महोदय, हमारे एक अर्थशास्त्री डा. विष्णुदत्त नागर ने बहुत अच्छा लिखा है कि "आशाएं धोखेबाज होती हैं, लेकिन आशंकाएं मिथ्या नहीं होती।" लोगों को सरकार के प्रति आशंकाएं थीं और वे मिथ्या साबित नहीं हुईं, वे सही साबित हो रही हैं। इस सरकार से उनका भला होने वाला नहीं है। जिस प्रकार से खाद्यान्न में मुद्रा स्फीति है,

राजकोषीय घाटा है, विदेशी कर्ज है, इस सबके कारण लंबे समय में यह अर्थव्यवस्था घातक हो सकती है। अब कर्ज की बात आई है तो आप जरा बजट देख लें - प्लानिंग के लिए सेंट्रल प्लान बजट में केवल 22 पैसे हैं, only 22 percent. यदि आपका एक रुपया आ रहा है, तो एक रुपए में सेंट्रल प्लानिंग के लिए आपके प्लान बजट में केवल 22 पैसे हैं, जबकि जो आपने कर्जा ले रखा है, जब उसका ब्याज चुकाना है, तो ब्याज में आपको 18 पैसे देना है, 18 प्रतिशत उस बजट का आपको ब्याज में चुकाना है, यानी ब्याज चुकाने में प्लान बजट से केवल चार परसेंट से कम है। इस ब्याज को चुकाने के लिए आप बाजार से 27 पैसे का कर्जा लेंगे। यदि एक रुपया आ रहा है, यदि आपने इस बजट में एक रुपए की आय दिखाई है, तो उसमें से 27 पैसे तो आप ऋण तथा अन्य मदों में लेंगे। इसका मतलब यह है कि हम ब्याज चुकाने के लिए फिर कर्जा लेंगे। 18 पैसे हमको ब्याज चुकाना है, हम 27 पैसे का कर्जा ले रहे हैं अगली बार यह 18 पैसे के बजाय 22 पैसे हो जाएगा, फिर 22 पैसे को चुकाने के लिए यह 30 और 35 पैसे हो जाएगा, तो हमारा टोटल बजट जिस प्रकार से है, वह प्लान बजट कम होता जाएगा। बाकी की चीजें भी कम हो रही हैं, तो कर्ज के मोर्चे पर सरकार bold हो गई, ये headlines आज सारे अखबारों को सीधे-सीधे लिखनी पड़ी हैं और यह जो स्थिति बनी है, इसके कारण भविष्य की कोई बहुत अच्छी आशा नहीं की जा सकती।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, वित्त मंत्री जी को मैं धन्यवाद दूंगा कि उन्होंने देश में प्रतिदिन यू.पी.ए. सरकार के भ्रष्ट क्रियाकलापों से देश की बिगड़ती छवि के प्रति चिंता व्यक्त की है। उनका स्वयं का जो बजट भाषण है, उसमें आप पेज दो पर देख लीजिए, उन्होंने स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में कतिपय घटनाओं से शायद शासन में पतन और सार्वजनिक जवाबदेही में कमी की छवि बनी है और अंत में लिखा है कि भ्रष्टाचार की समस्या से हमको सामूहिक रूप से निपटना होगा। तो भ्रष्टाचार को सरकार स्वीकार कर रही है, वित्त मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया है। अब सामूहिक रूप से कैसे निपटना होगा, यह आपने बताया है क्या? क्या सामूहिक रूप से निपटने के लिए अपोजिशन यह बात आपके ध्यान में नहीं लाई? क्या सीवीसी कमिशनर के पद पर श्री थॉमस के बारे में लीडर, अपोजिशन ने आपको नहीं चेताया था? उसके बाद आपने क्या किया? मैं उस सारे संदर्भ में नहीं जाना चाहता, क्योंकि जिस प्रकार से प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यह स्वीकार किया है, उससे ज्यादा और क्या अपेक्षा की जा सकती है? मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी के पद की गरिमा को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस संबंध में और कुछ नहीं कहूंगा। जो बाकी की सारी बातें हैं, वे सब आपके सामने हैं, सर, विपक्ष चेता रहा था, उसके बावजूद आप ऐसे तंत्र में उनको बैठाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं! 2जी स्पेक्ट्रम के बारे में सारी discussion हो चुकी है। क्या उसके बारे में आपोजिशन ने आपको नहीं चेताया था, क्या मीडिया ने आपको नहीं चेताया था? फिर भी आप उसे करने देते रहे। एक तरफ तो आप कह रहे हैं कि हमें सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए, दूसरी ओर विपक्ष आपको चेताता है, देश की जनता आपको चेताती है, मीडिया आपको चेताता है, लेकिन आप वह सब मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। सर, कॉमन वेल्थ गेम्स में क्या

हुआ? कॉमन वेल्थ गेम्स के बारे में जब निर्णय होना था, उस समय मैं स्पोर्ट्स मिनिस्टर था, जमाइका मैं गया था, मैंने उस एग्रीमेंट पर सिग्नेचर किए। उसके बाद जो स्थिति बनी, आयोग के अध्यक्ष सुरेश कलमाडी, अपने आप इसकी ऑरगेनाइजिंग कमेटी के चेयरमैन बन गए। आप प्रोविजन देख लीजिए, एग्रीमेंट 37 को उठाकर देख लीजिए कि उसमें क्या प्रोविजन है। वे अपने आप ऑरगेनाइजिंग कमेटी के चेयरमैन बन गए, उन्होंने I.O.A. के अंदर अपना इलेक्शन कर लिया, पीएमओ को सूचना दे दी और पीएमओ ने उठाकर स्पोर्ट्स मिनिस्ट्री में भेज दी। इस संबंध में एक विधिवत् ऑर्डर नहीं है। नॉमिनेशन का ऑर्डर, जो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से, यूनिशन गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से होना चाहिए था, वह नहीं है।

महोदय, इतना बड़ा भ्रष्टाचार, इतनी बड़ी चूक सरे-आम हो रही है, लोगों ने इसके बारे में चेताया, लेकिन उसके बाद भी आप कुछ करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। महोदय, एक कहावत है, "खेल खत्म, पैसा हजम", लेकिन यहां पर उल्टा हो गया है - खेल चालू भी नहीं हुआ और पहले ही पैसा हजम हो गया - खेल चालू होने के पहले ही पूरा पैसा खत्म हो गया, यह स्थिति सरे-आम बनी हुई है, लेकिन आज की तारीख में जिसके ऊपर सबसे ज्यादा दोष है, वह आदमी आज भी बाहर घूम रहा है और कह रहा है कि मुझे क्लीन चिट मिली हुई है, मुझ पर कोई हाथ नहीं डाल सकता और वह दूसरों पर आरोप लगा रहा है। यह बात सही है कि उसके आरोप में दम है कि दिल्ली सरकार भी इसमें उतनी ही जिम्मेदार है, दिल्ली सरकार के बारे में भी कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए थी, यह देखना चाहिए था इसमें कौन-कौन जिम्मेदार हैं? जिन लोगों के ऊपर इसकी जिम्मेदारी थी, जिन्होंने सारी जिम्मेदारियां लीं, उनके संबंध में कुछ नहीं किया गया। महोदय, मैंने अपना भाषण भ्रष्टाचार की बात से इसलिए प्रारंभ किया, क्योंकि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने और माननीय राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने अपने अभिभाषण में इस बात का जिक्र किया था। इस संबंध में चर्चा करना इसलिए भी जरूरी है कि यह भ्रष्टाचार देश की प्रगति की राह में नासूर बन गया है, एक प्रकार से यह सारे देश की प्रगति को निगलता जा रहा है।

महोदय, कालेधन की बात आयी। वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा कि इसको वापस लाया जाएगा, लेकिन आप इसको कैसे वापस लाएंगे? आपने कहा कि इसके लिए आप सिस्टम डेवलप करेंगे। उसके जो प्वाइंट्स आपने दिए हैं, उनमें आपने कहा है कि हम इसके लिए अवेयरनेस लाएंगे, हम जनता को अवेयर करने की कोशिश करेंगे, देश के बाहर और देश के अंदर रखे गए धन के संबंध में एक अध्ययन शुरू किया जाएगा। महोदय, अभी आप अध्ययन ही शुरू करने की बात कर रहे हैं, आप अवेयरनेस लाने की बात कर रहे हैं। जैसी जानकारी मिली है कि आप जो ऐक्ट और प्रोविजन ला रहे हैं, वह 1 अप्रैल, 2011 से प्रारंभ होगा, यानी इसके पहले के धन के बारे में हाथ नहीं लगा सकते। इस बीच में वह सारा का धन इधर से उधर ट्रांसफर हो जाएगा, उसका क्या होगा? इसलिए मेरी मांग है कि प्रोविजन यह होना चाहिए कि पिछले तीन-चार साल से, जब से यूपीए की सरकार बनी है, तब से जितना धन है, वह कहां-कहां निकला, किस-किस जगह ट्रांसफर हुआ, उस सबको भी जांच के दायरे में लाया जाए, तब जाकर हम वास्तव में काले धन की तह तक पहुंच पाएंगे और तब हम इसमें सफल हो पाएंगे, अन्यथा अगर हमने इसको 1

अप्रैल 2011 से लिमिट कर दिया, तो मुझे लगता है कि इसका जो उद्देश्य है, शायद हम उसको पूरा नहीं कर पाएंगे। महोदय, यही काला धन बाद में दूसरी कंपनियों के माध्यम से यहां आता है, फिर यही काला धन दूसरी कंपनियों के माध्यम से शेयर मार्किट में जाता है और महंगाई को बढ़ाता है। इसीलिए माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट को हसन अली के मामले में कहना पड़ा कि "आखिर इस देश में क्या हो रहा है?" महोदय, इस प्रकार के शब्दों का प्रयोग यदि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय करे कि आखिर देश में यह क्या हो रहा है, तो इससे ज्यादा बड़ी टिप्पणी इस सरकार के बारे में, इसके कार्यकलाप के बारे में और क्या हो सकती है?

महोदय, वित्त मंत्री जी के बजट भाषण में लक्ष्मी जी को प्रसन्न करने की बात है। मुझे लगता है कि शायद वित्त मंत्री जी कोलकाता के बड़े बाजार में किसी सेठ की दुकान पर गए होंगे, जहां लिखा रहता है "लक्ष्मी सदैव प्रसन्न रहे।" उन्होंने सोचा कि इससे अच्छा और क्या होगा, यही लिख दो, लेकिन "लक्ष्मी सदैव प्रसन्न रहे" - ऐसा केवल लिखने से नहीं होगा, उसके लिए क्या आयोजन है, उसके लिए क्या किया जा सकता है, यह कहीं भी दृष्टिगत नहीं हो पा रहा है। सर, महंगाई का इंडेक्स बढ़ा। दिसम्बर 2010 से पहले महंगाई 13.6 परसेंट थी, जो बीस परसेंट तक पहुंच गयी थी। और उसके पास तक हम जाने की कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं, इसका कारण है इस देश के अंदर फॉरवर्ड मार्केट, यह जो वायदा बाजार है, यह मुख्य जिम्मेदार हैं, इसके लिए आपने एक कमेटी बनाई। श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, मुख्यमंत्री ने कमेटी की रिपोर्ट दी। इस वायदा बाजार की आप जरा स्थिति देखें कि यह वायदा बाजार किस प्रकार से खोखला कर रहा है। इस बार कितने का बिजनेस हुआ? वायदा कारोबार 100 लाख करोड़ के पार 2010-11 में है। 15 फरवरी तक देश के जितने भी एक्सचेंज हैं, इन एक्सचेंज में पिछले साल की अवधि में 51 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा कुल मिलाकर सौ लाख करोड़ कारोबार हुआ। यह इस प्रकार से गए। इसमें से अब सौ लाख बाइस हजार आठ सौ पचपन करोड़ रुपए का कारोबार हुआ। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, मैं अभी दो-तीन मिनट और लूंगा।

यदि यह सब चलता रहा तो आप सोच लें कि क्या स्थिति बनेगी। अभी कृषि की बात हुई थी। आप कृषि की स्थिति देख लें। एग्रीकल्चर में हमारी स्थिति कम हुई है। गरीब के बारे में बात है, ये गरीब, गरीब की बात करते हैं। आप जरा आर्थिक समीक्षा देखिए। इसमें सीधा-सीधा लिखा है, - देश में आय में लगभग 60 प्रतिशत प्रति व्यक्ति की वृद्धि हो जाने के चलते औसत भारतीय बेहतर हैं, असल में कुछ गरीब लोग बदतर स्थिति में हैं, क्योंकि उनकी अनुमानित आय में न के बराबर वृद्धि हुई। मुद्रा-स्फीति की वृद्धि ने उसको व्यर्थ कर दिया। विकास के घोषित उद्देश्य को देखते हुए यह चिंताजनक है। अंत में लिखते हैं, - घरेलू उत्पादन की वृद्धि के बावजूद ये लोग अब बदतर स्थिति में हैं। कृषि के बारे में इतनी बात हुई है लेकिन कृषि में आप देख लें कि कृषि की स्थिति क्या बनी हुई है। तो इतनी बातें कृषि के बारे में हुई हैं, लेकिन आप थोड़ा सा देख लें कि कुल मिलाकर कृषि के क्षेत्र में हमारी जो स्थिति बनी है, हम माइनस में जा रहे हैं। कृषि क्षेत्र का विकास घटकर 2008-09 में माइनस 0.1 प्रतिशत नकारात्मक जोन में

4.00 P.M.

पहुंचा और कुल मिलाकर यह पंचवर्षीय योजना में 2.03 प्रतिशत औसत विकास दर की स्थिति बनी है। एक तरफ हम बात कर रहे हैं कृषि के क्षेत्र में और जब यह एग्रीकल्चर की ऐसी स्थिति है, जिसमें किसान आत्म-हत्याएं कर रहे हैं तो उस सैक्टर को आपको देखने की आवश्यकता थी। लेकिन आपने कृषि बीमा योजना के बारे में ध्यान नहीं दिया, मैं केवल इस पर बात करके समाप्त करूंगा।

किसान की फसल बीमा योजना है। हमारे यहां केन्द्र ने गत साल पूरे देश में पायलेट प्रोजेक्ट लागू किया। मध्य प्रदेश के दो जिले हैं, जिनमें एक मेरा है। एक इंदौर और दूसरा धार जिले में यह पायलेट प्रोजेक्ट हुआ, मौसम आधारित बीमा योजना। 15 जून से 15 सितम्बर तक यदि दो दिन में इतने मिलीमीटर बारिश होगी तो माना जाएगा नुकसान है। यदि चार दिन या छः दिन तक बारिश नहीं हुई तो माना जाएगा कि इतने प्रतिशत सूखा है। यह मौसम आधारित बीमा को किसान क्या जानेगा। इसमें पैसा इकट्ठा हुआ, इसमें यहां से नोटिफिकेशन है। इसमें ऋणी सदस्य अनिवार्य रूप से आएगा। मैं मेरे गांव का मेरी सोसाइटी का ऋणी सदस्य हूं। मैं अनिवार्य रूप से इसमें आ गया। मेरा वहां का अंश कटा है, राज्य का अंश कटा है, सेंटर का अंश कटा है। लेकिन आज तारीख तक बीमा कंपनी ने, इसमें आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. बैंक एंड नाबार्ड कंपनी को बीमा करने की छूट प्रदान की गई। खरीफ की फसल में कुल मिलाकर 60 से 120 करोड़ रुपया दोनों जगह का हुआ, लेकिन किसान को आज एक नया पैसा नहीं मिला। क्या इसके आधार पर हम कहेंगे कि हम कृषि के क्षेत्र को आगे लाएंगे?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उद्योग के क्षेत्र में भी यही स्थिति है। बाकी के क्षेत्र भी ऐसे ही हैं। आप सब्सिडी की इतनी बात करते हैं तो कुल मिलाकर सब्सिडी कितनी है? 2004-05 से आप कह रहे हैं कुल मिलाकर टोटल का केवल 2 परसेंट है। इस सब्सिडी का अधिकतम लाभ मैं केवल गरीब को तो खाद्यान्न में जाता होगा लेकिन जो आप कहते हैं कि पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ वगैरह, लेकिन इसका उपयोग तो धनी लोग भी करते हैं। यदि यह दो परसेंट की सब्सिडी है तो गरीब के पास यह आधा-एक परसेंट ही पहुंचती होगी। इसलिए इन सब चीजों को ध्यान में रखते हुए मेरा कहना है कि इन सारी चीजों पर पुनर्विचार हो। कृषि के बारे में, गांव और गरीब के बारे में विचार करेंगे और हम आम आदमी के बारे में विचार करेंगे, तब जाकर हम कह पाएंगे कि बजट की उपयोगिता है, अन्यथा केवल औपचारिकता मात्र होगी। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH (Haryana): Sir, you have rightly said that I should not take more than twenty minutes. But, this is my second attempt to make a maiden speech in this House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): This time, you are successful.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, if you think so, then you may give me more time to be successful.

Sir, I am bringing to this House almost 35 years of my experience in Lok Sabha and my State Legislative Assembly. Before coming to this House, I was of the opinion that I would share with the luminaries sitting here my experience and I shall be enriched by them. Sir, learning is a process which is life long. Sir, before I go to the Budget, I must share with you the state of my mind when I could not speak for the last six months. I was keen to speak in the last Winter Session of the House. But, the entire House, for 23 sittings, could not transact any business. It really hurt me. If we talk of Parliamentary democracy and a strong nation, a strong nation can be built only when there is a Parliamentary democracy, the system in which we believe.

When the negotiations were going on for the release of a Collector in Orissa and a junior engineer who were kidnapped by the Maoists, the very start of negotiations — though they proclaim that they do not believe in this system, that the system is not meant for the poor man, they want to have their own system — when they started negotiations, my belief in the Parliamentary democracy was strengthened more because still, somewhere, in the back of their minds, they believe that this system is better than any other system.

Sir, I must express my gratitude to the founding fathers of our Parliamentary democracy. It has been a tiring journey, yet satisfying one. It is nothing less than a modernage miracle. Why, Sir? Because, most of the problems and the issues or crises are reconciled and it has further enriched our diversity and we have emerged as a vibrant, stable, democratic State. This is no mean achievement especially if you look around the neighbourhood, the turbulences and the chaos that prevails. I still remember Mujibur Rahman when elections were held in Pakistan after a long gap and the great man managing majority sitting in Bangladesh, then East Pakistan. But, the other part of Pakistan, the West Pakistan did not agree to that type of democracy and they had to suffer. The nation was bifurcated.

Sir, my belief is, when the entire House was of the view to form a JPC, why not discuss in the House before forming the JPC? What is the harm? If they do not believe in discussions, then they cannot think of a strong nation. They feel very proud and say that they are the only Desh Bhaktas.

This is not the Bhakti of the Desh, Sir. By their stand, even the common man may be thinking that stalling proceeding is a stand for vote catch. But, actually, it has gone against them.

Even the common man was of this view that if there is a Parliamentary Democracy, then, the House must function. And, that is my pain, Sir. That is the pain which I am feeling because I was not given the opportunity to speak in the House. I would say, Sir, this is a time to do some serious soul-searching. Are we not deviating from the democratic ideals of our founding fathers? Are we not witnessing the wilting of our Parliamentary Institution? Are we not, I would say, even collectively responsible for the stalling of the Business of the House? This is the weakening of the institution and ultimately, if the system is weakened, then, it is not good. I must say, Sir, there have been aberrations in the past 63 years. I must admit it. We have been debating various issues in the Parliamentary democratic system. Those aberrations are because of Maoists or under-ground activities or under-world or anything. But, this cannot be sorted out; this cannot be resolved, if we are not of this view that the system must prevail. If the aberrations are there, then, we are responsible for it, not the nation, not the forefathers of the Constitution, Sir.

Sir, if the Parliament does not function effectively, it breaches public trust, Parliamentary Democracy too will begin to wilt. Parliamentary Democracy is the fountainhead of the people's aspirations and their desire. In order to raise Parliament's esteem in the eyes of the people, increasing tendency to stall Parliamentary proceedings should be stopped. Sir, I come from a State Assembly, and I have been there for long 23 years. The system which every State Assembly is having is, when there is stiff opposition and when the Opposition does not want to function or they do not want to see the House works, there is a system of just throwing them out. So, if the Opposition is for the sake of opposition, then, there are occasions when they can draw the attention of the House, they can compel the Government to take certain decisions when they are protesting. But that is not the way that the House does not function. But, still, I hope and believe that the system, which is being threatened, maybe in certain districts of Central India where Maoists forces are there, maybe by other areas of under-ground activities on the borders of our country, can only be sorted out through this system.

Sir, India is a country of 1.2 billion people. They want to draw inspiration from our proceedings, from our debates, and especially the youth. Sir, you won't believe that this large section of the youth, in particular, seems to be developing some kind of aversion to our body politic. So, Sir, before I come to the Budget, I am sorry, I am hurt on this account that I have not been heard for six long months. When I talk of the Budget, Sir, to start with, I would say that my subject, my interest and my politics is only agriculture. I have been Finance Minister for five years of my State. I am not an economist. I am a simple law graduate. I have seen both the aspects as to how to deal with jugglery of words and as a simple common man, as having the interest in farming how to deal with and how to show or express our feelings. So, Sir, as far as I am concerned, this is a very peculiar situation. So, while talking about the Budget, I may be talking on the periphery of the Budget because on certain things we don't want to go out of that.

Sir, when we talk of agriculture, it is a very vast subject. There have been discussions on this why not there should be two Finance Ministers. Why should not there be a separate Finance Minister for agriculture? According to the figures which have been received by me, still 58 per cent of the population is of agriculturists. But I don't believe and I still maintain that it cannot be 58 per cent; it must be near about 70, if you talk of agricultural labour and all that. In the last 60 years, in spite of the best efforts of the Government, especially the efforts in four-five years efforts made by our Government, the UPA Government, the hands involved in the agriculture, if I go by the figures, it is still 58 per cent. Our share which used to be about 50 per cent of GDP 50 years back, it has now reduced to 14.6 per cent. About the hands involved in the agriculture, the reduction is not correspondingly of that nature. So, why is it so? That means there is something wrong where we cannot give correct justice to the peasantry of this country. Sir, regarding the MSP, even the hon. President's Address and the Finance Minister have also talked about it. The MSP, we have been able to raise almost by 100 per cent. When I was a boy of six or eight years, the iron chain with which we use to tie buffalos, at that time, it cost only three rupees. But you go to the market and you will find that the cost is Rs.200, which is 70 times more than what it used to be 50 years ago. So, when we started MSP, it was Rs.63 per quintal. Now it is Rs.1100. So, correspondingly, can you say that we have been given the justice by the rise in the MSP and the rate at which we purchase? Sir, I have

been thankful to the Minister that he has after three years talked for the second time about giving fertilizer subsidy direct to the kisans. It is a welcome step. But, on the other hand, in the opposition, they say that the subsidy amount has been reduced.

Sir, if you talk of food subsidy or consumer subsidy, this also comes to our account. This we are doing to facilitate the kisans so that they do not have the problem of withholding their crop. Sir, as I have told you I am talking of something which is different from the system. We have to see the agriculture hands in the developed countries. The hon. Finance Minister at the end of his Budget Speech on para 197 made a statement which was also referred to by Mrs. Karat that as an emerging economy with a voice of global State, India stands at the threshold of the gate which presents immense possibilities. We must not let the recent strains and tensions hold us back converting these possibilities into realities. With oneness of the heart, let us all build an India which in not too distant a future will enter the comity of developed nations. I totally agree with it. If we achieve more than 9 per cent growth rate for another five years, our total asset would be double than what it is today. But, Sir, what advantage will we be having as 70 per cent of the population?

I have gone through a news items published three or four months back that the money in circulation - these were the figures given by the Reserve Bank that four years back it was Rs. 63 lakh crore - has now gone up to Rs. 93 lakh crore. That means there is more than fifty per cent additional money in circulation according to the Reserve Bank. But, can we say that 50 per cent increase has gone to the poorest of the poor and has gone to the peasantry of this country? No, Sir. It is because this is the only profession in the world where income grows but it does not multiply. The other profession in this world maybe business, maybe industry, maybe even political system where the income grows like anything. But kisans cannot grow and in the system he has no place to grow like that.

Sir, sometimes I feel that it maybe a laudable thing for me to say to the great man sitting here, Prof. Swaminathan that kisans have the highest respect for you. Why don't we have a dual currency for farming and anything which is produced in the field or in the village? It maybe ghee, it maybe butter, it maybe milk, it maybe poultry, it maybe anything and if we have a marketing system, every man would go to the market and sell his commodity. He gets the currency which is not applicable to other than the agricultural sector and if he goes with the same currency to purchase his needs in the

market he must be given three times of the currency. Then, we don't need your fertilizer subsidy, we don't need your seed subsidy, we don't need anything except you relate to our MSP with the price index. That is what we want and you would be saving at least Rs. 1,50,000 crores by that means. Sir, I want to say one more thing. Sir, I belong to a State which gives nearly 23 per cent of foodgrains to the State kitty, and if we put Punjab, Haryana and Western UP together, it comes to about 82-83 per cent of the total national kitty.

Sir, while sitting under cozy atmosphere in air conditioned rooms; we propose that we increase the storage capacity. Sir, why do we have storage at two places? You can lift the entire foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana within one month's time. You don't need to have any storage capacity. We should create storage capacity where there is a need.

सर, वह बोलते हैं न कि दाढ़ी से मूछ भारी, I don't know the present situation. But, say about seven years back, one bag of wheat was for Rs. 650 and the cost of handling and interest part comes to about Rs. 350. You are dealing with 100 kg of wheat, and for taking that from the market to the consumer you are spending Rs. 350. So, you must find out. We should not be happy on this account that there is 18 per cent growth and indirect tax collection is more than that. The spending should also be looked into. Where are the leakages? Where is the system at fault? Where has the system gone rotten? Sir, we must take care of these things. But, one thing which comes to my mind and the entire Opposition does not agree to this is: this is sustainable and inclusive growth. Sir, sustainable growth, as I pointed out, is possible only when three conditions are met with.

When there is no reasonable increase in international commodity prices, including oil prices; timely and adequate monsoon; and, recovery of world economy from recession. Sir, these three things cannot run together smoothly. At least, one thing would falter somewhere and at some point of time. But, I still hope. In fact, there is a little chance for full recovery of the world economy as the Euro Zone crisis is still on and the world recovery is still fragile. On the other hand, oil prices in the world market are shooting up due to political crisis and uncertainty in Africa and the Middle East. And, as usual, the monsoon is always unpredictable. But, what I see is this. Even if we are able to

sustain the growth of 9 per cent, $(-/+)$ 0.25 per cent, in 4-5 years, which we are targeting, our overall economy will go up, as I mentioned, by 100 per cent in different sectors. Therefore, we should have the capacity to absorb this and fully optimize and benefit this growth.

Sir, I come to capacity building. We are spending a huge amount on pulses. The Government of Punjab came with a proposal seven years ago when Capt. Amrinder Singh was the Chief Minister. He said that we are ready to diversify our cycle of paddy and wheat. But, he asked to make sure that the farmer of Punjab or any other farmer, who takes two crops a year, should be protected. It is because growing of pulses and oilseeds is a gamble with kisan. It may be a bumper crop or it may not be a bumper crop. It cannot be in between. That is not the nature of these two types of crops. So, we should give, on a trial basis, the amount, say about Rs. 5,000 per acre, to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana and wherever there is a chance of production of good pulses and oilseeds and they should be given liberty to sell it at any price. This will be saving a lot of foreign exchange.

Sir, you are looking at me. My thought process has started just now. You kindly allow me to speak...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That is a much delayed start.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, it may be a delayed start. But, Sir...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): You have taken 22 minutes.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, I will finish in five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): There are a number of speakers from your party.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, I will take five minutes and for the next 15 days I will not ask for any time. This is my promise to you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): You finish it in two minutes.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, I now come to the very revolutionary step taken of the UPA-I when we waived of the loan to the tune of Rs. 65,000 crores. It is the only instance where such a huge amount and to such a large extent of relief has been given to about 4 crore families. Sir, you would not believe, the main opposition came from the so-called economists of this country. They

say, बैंक तो बंद हो जाएंगे, बैंकों का तो भट्ठा बैठ जाएगा। मैंने कहा, as Finance Minister, कि अगर चार करोड़ गरीब किसानों की फैमिलीज उभरकर आती हैं और उससे बैंकों का भट्ठा बैठता है, तो बैठ जाए। This is no argument, Sir. Even instructions were given by bankers. Mr. Joshi is here. He would bear me out. There is a clear-cut instruction from of the Government that those who have been benefited by this step they should be given fresh loans. At least, I can say that commercial banks tried to avoid them. They just tried to avoid them. They do not want that they should get another benefit.

Sir, you are looking at me again. This is not fair. अभी तो 20 मिनट ही हुए हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आपके 24 मिनट हो गए हैं।

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, let me finish it.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): ठीक है, आप फिनिश करिए।

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Let me finish, Sir, if you allow. Articles 14 and 16 of the Indian Constitution give equal opportunity to all the citizens of the country. But where do kisans stand, in the light of these two articles. There are two lines in this country - one is the forward line, where only a few lakhs or a few crores are standing; the second line is the back line where 58 per cent population of the country, that is, the peasantry is standing. Here, I would like to request the Government, "Please, for God sake, stop categorizing farmers as small farmers, marginal farmers, and *kulak* farmers." After sixty-three years of independence, eighty-five per cent of the land holding is below one hectare of land. So, how can one be called a *kulak* farmer? Just to hide their intention not to help them, they go to that extent. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... Let me finish, Sir. I am speaking something that nobody would speak. ...(*Interruptions*)... They are talking of price rise because it suits them for vote-catching. But, if there is rise in prices of agricultural commodities, the farmers would be benefited. And, we would welcome such price. We would not mind price rise. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I will take just one more minute. The price rise may disturb the household budgets. But who is responsible for it. This is international environment; this is international condition that is responsible for it. Here, I would like to quote the example of the President of Indonesia, Mr. Susilo Yudhoyono. He urged the Indonesians to grow foods and chillies in their backyards. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay.

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह: सर, एक मिनट और दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): एक मिनट कितनी बार होगा? ...(व्यवधान)... आपकी यह मेडन स्पीच है। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बहुत बोले, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... You have covered so many points. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, I would like to make one suggestion here. ...(Interruptions)... The hon. Finance Minister has given concession to the tune of 3 per cent for agricultural crop loan, if the farmers pay their installments in time. This is also an anomaly. As I said in the beginning, those who are not able to pay, they are not willful defaulters. They should not be ignored on this ground. They may be 5-10 per cent only. He has not mentioned about the reduction of the. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You have taken 28 minutes.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Just one minute, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No; no, every time I ask you to finish, you ask for one more minute.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: There is another loan given by the NABARD at the rate of 9.25 per cent. The banks are not able to lend at this rate, and it goes to 13 per cent. This loan is also the need of farmers. It should also have additional 3 per cent. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. You have already taken twenty-nine minutes. ...(Interruptions)... Thank you. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Why do you say 'thank you', Sir? Let me thank you. Thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak here.

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity. Many things have been said; I won't like to repeat them like exemption in the tax on infrastructure bonds, subsidy, age limits, scholarship schemes for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe students, integrated schemes for naxal areas, low-cost housing, etc.

Women's Self-Help Group Development Fund allocated a corpus of Rs.500 crores. Sir, the handloom industry has got almost Rs.3,000 crores. Remuneration of anganwadi workers has been raised from Rs. 1,500/- to Rs. 3,000/-. Sir, many things have been done. Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar and also the Finance Minister, as everybody has spoken about it, for allocating Rs.300 crores for oilseeds and pulses. As the country has been facing shortage of milk, Rs.300 crores have been allocated for the Fodder Development Programme. Rs.300 crores have been allocated especially for bringing 60,000 hectares of land under palm oil plantation.

Sir, various programmes have been undertaken in the agriculture sector. Then, as many of the hon. Members have pointed out, the short - term loan has been increased by Rs.1,00,000 crores - raised from Rs.3,75,000 crores to Rs.4,75,000 crores. Sir, a three per cent rebate has been given to the farmers, that is, previously, it was two per cent, now it is three per cent. Sir, I would also like to point out that though the credit has been increased by Rs.1,00,000 crores, whether the number of farmers has also increased. क्या इसमें किसानों की संख्या बढ़ी है? पिछले साल जितने किसान कर्जा लेते थे, क्या इस साल उनकी संख्या में वृद्धि हुई है? अगर उनकी संख्या में वृद्धि हुई है, तो यह अच्छी बात है। जिनको 7 परसेंट, 3 परसेंट, 4 परसेंट पर कर्ज नहीं मिलता है और Nationalized and Multi-National banks जिनको कर्ज नहीं देते हैं, क्या इनके लिए micro-financing के माध्यम से गवर्नमेंट कुछ सोचेगी, ताकि उनको कर्ज मिल सके? मेरी विनती है कि सरकार इस बारे में कुछ सोचे। Sir, I would also like to say that यह सब करने के बाद भी जो crop insurance है, उसमें कुछ reduction किया गया है। पिछले साल यह 3,162 करोड़ रुपए था, लेकिन इस साल के बजट में यह 1,150 करोड़ रुपए किया गया है। National Agriculture Insurance has been reduced from Rs.2,662 crores to Rs.550 crores. Modified insurance has been increased from Rs.50 crores to Rs.150 crores; thereby, the total insurance scheme for the agriculture has been reduced from Rs.2,700 crores to Rs.700 crores. I would like to know why this has been reduced.

हम यहां इश्योरेंस कम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन किसान के लिए सिर्फ एक बात की गारंटी होनी चाहिए कि उसके लिए सही weather forecasting हो, तब किसान किसी भी चीज के लिए मेहनत करने में पीछे नहीं रहेगा। Sir, 15 days back, through CII, a delegation had gone to Japan. I was one of the Members. When we were discussing with the Tokyo Mayor, I asked him, "What is your major concern?" He just said, "our major concern is weather forecasting." They don't have any other issue. Their only concern is weather forecasting. So, for the developed nations, the issues are different, but we must cope up

with them. Ours is an agrarian country. About 60 to 70 per cent of our people are dependent on agriculture. The Budget allocation for weather forecasting is Rs.15 crores. And, crop insurance has been reduced. If the farmers get timely weather forecast, then, they can save their crops and we will have enough production for the country.

At the same time, Sir, I would like to say that MGNREG Scheme is doing very well. इस योजना के अंतर्गत वहां पर मजदूर सरकारी प्लॉट पर काम करते हैं और उनको मजदूरी मिलती है, यह अच्छी बात है, लेकिन वहीं दूसरी तरफ किसान को खेती के लिए मजदूर नहीं मिल रहे हैं। विशेषकर वहां पर horticultural farms में काम करने के लिए मजदूर नहीं मिल रहे हैं। इसके कारण वहां पर खेती के काम में बहुत दिक्कतें आ रही हैं। अगर इसी स्कीम में किसानों के खेत में काम करने के लिए भी प्रावधान हो और किसान पर ज्यादा accountability फिक्स की जाए, तो इसके लिए खुद किसान मजदूरी देने के लिए ज्यादा accountable रहेगा तथा इससे निश्चित रूप से किसानों को भी इस स्कीम से फायदा मिल सकता है। यह मेरी विनती है।

सर, इस बजट में शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में अच्छी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। India is a young nation. Around 40 per cent of our people, students, young generation, is under 25 years. We can build infrastructure, construct buildings, school buildings, toilets, etc. Everything can be done. Sir, a few days back, a survey was done and it says that 40 per cent of the Vth Standard students can't read the textbook. So, Sir, this is the situation. The Budget allocation for infrastructure is good; the outlay is good but we should get a proper outcome because students are our human resource; that is our manpower. So, this is the other suggestion that I want to give.

At the same time, Sir, मैं विनती करता हूं कि हमारे देश के जो चार महत्वपूर्ण डिपार्टमेंट्स यथा Power Generation, Transport, Communication and Water Management हैं, उनमें सरकार अच्छा काम कर रही है, लेकिन Power Generation के अंतर्गत Renewal Energy के लिए अभी तक policy clear नहीं है। Private Industry Renewal Energy में काम करने के लिए तैयार है, लेकिन अभी तक उसकी policy frame नहीं हुई है। अगर हुई है, तो इसकी जानकारी नीचे तक अभी नहीं पहुंची है। Sir when I interact with my senior colleagues, they say that in the '60s, India was a leader in ideas. So, we were leading in providing ideas in '60s. I might be sounding hypothetical but I would like to say here, Sir, हम River Interlinking जैसे ambitious project को हाथ में ले सकते हैं। आज General Budget पर बहस हो रही है, लेकिन रेल मंत्री और वित्त मंत्री, दोनों को साथ मिल कर ऐसे ambitious project को हाथ में लेना चाहिए। Coastal areas में जो environmental issues हैं, जिनके कारण वहां पर एजिटेशन होता है तथा वहां पर विरोध है, so, why can't we take the railways from

coastal areas to dry-land areas? Prof. Swaminathan is sitting here. He must have identified some dry-land areas. जहां पर कभी भी अनाज नहीं पैदा हो सकता है और पानी नहीं आ सकता है, अगर हम ऐसे areas में रेल and pipeline के माध्यम से पानी पहुंचा सकें, वहां पर industrial hub बना कर power generation कर सकें, तो इसके निश्चित रूप से देश को फायदा होगा। मैं इन्हीं सुझावों के साथ इस बजट का समर्थन करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you Mr. Patil for adhering to time. Thank you very much. Now, Shri Mangala Kisan; you have only five minutes.

श्री मंगल किसान (उड़ीसा): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, वर्ष 2011-12 का वार्षिक बजट 12,57,729 करोड़ का है। इसमें प्लान एक्सपेंडिचर के लिए 4,41,547 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है और नॉन-प्लान एक्सपेंडिचर के लिए 8,16,142 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है। यदि हम इसे रकम के आधार पर देखें, तो यह बजट आजादी के बाद का सबसे बड़ा बजट है। इस बजट में हम लोग सोच रहे थे कि Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs - इस सेक्टर में और unemployment sector में सरकार कुछ विशेष ध्यान देगी और देश की जो unemployment problem है, इसके चलते देश में जो internal problem है, उसमें कुछ परिवर्तन होगा। मगर जो लोग बजट तैयार करते हैं, वे हर साल, हर डिपार्टमेंट में रकम का कुछ परसेंटेज बढ़ा देते हैं, जबकि असल में देश में आम जनता की जो प्रॉब्लम है, जिस प्रॉब्लम के लिए आम जनता सरकार से दूर भागती जा रही है, उसके बारे में सरकार को सोचना चाहिए।

महोदय, मुझे बड़े दुख के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि Ministry of Tribal Affairs के लिए सिर्फ 3723 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, जिसमें Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities हैं, इसके लिए सिर्फ 5453 करोड़ रुपए और एग्रीकल्चर, जिसके बारे में इस हाउस में ज्यादा चर्चा हो रही है, जिससे हम सब affected हैं, Water Resources Department के लिए, सिंचाई आदि के लिए, जो एक state subject है, उसके लिए लगभग 1222 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है। जैसे पानी बिना मछली नहीं होती, वैसे ही पानी बिना खेती कभी संभव नहीं है। Fertilisers के लिए हम लोग पैसा दे रहे हैं, अच्छे सीड्स के लिए हम पैसा दे रहे हैं, agriculture machinery के development के लिए पैसा दे रहे हैं, मगर बिना पानी के खेती कैसे होगी? बिना पानी के खेती कभी संभव नहीं है। कुछ साल से erratic rains के कारण, हिंदुस्तान में जैसे उड़ीसा, झारखंड, बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़ जैसे पिछड़े प्रदेश हैं, ये पिछड़े भी हैं और इनमें भगवान का कोप भी है कि यहां वर्षा ठीक से नहीं होती है, इसलिए सिंचाई के प्रबंध के बिना इस backward region का development कभी संभव नहीं है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि समाज में आदिवासी, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities के लोग समाज के आखिरी तबके में आते हैं, आखिरी लाइन में हम खड़े हैं। हम पूरे समाज से कटे हुए हैं। हम लोग समाज से बहुत दूर हैं और समाज में जो रेस है, जो प्रतियोगिता है, इसमें शामिल होने के हम काबिल नहीं हैं या फिर हमारे शरीर में उतनी ताकत नहीं है, मगर आप लोग बोलते हैं कि नहीं, हम लोगों के साथ दौड़ो, हम लोगों के साथ compete करो। हम लोग तो खड़े होने के लायक नहीं हैं, how can we compete with you, with the forward class? तो जब बजट बनाते हैं, जो बड़े experts पीछे बैठे हुए हैं, ये बजट में बहुत योगदान करते हैं और उधर भी लोग बैठे हैं, लेकिन हम तो सदन में गरीब आदमियों की बात को ठीक तक से नहीं रख पा रहे हैं, इसलिए आप लोगों को सोचना पड़ेगा कि यदि 75 परसेंट लोगों को सरकार के साथ, समाज के साथ जोड़ने के लिए प्रावधान नहीं किया जाएगा..... तो समाज में और देश में जो प्रॉब्लम होगी, उसका समाधान करने के लिए, उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार को उससे ज्यादा पैसा खर्च करना पड़ेगा। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... इसीलिए जो वंचित हैं, जो गरीब हैं, जो unemployed हैं, जो देहात में रहते हैं, उनके बारे में सरकार को सोचना पड़ेगा। अगर आप उनके बारे में नहीं सोचेंगे तो आगे चलकर आपको इसका परिणाम भुगतना पड़ेगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): टाइम adhere करने के लिए आपको स्पेशल धन्यवाद।

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY (Nominated): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, may I make a few points through your august Office? First of all, I wish to compliment through you, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister and his colleagues for a mature Budget which in turn reflects the maturing of the Indian economy. Unfortunately, as soon as the Budget was announced, there were knee-jerk reactions from the media and the public even before they had the time to study the substance of the Budget. There were some rumours speculative profit-taking in the stock exchange and fluctuations in the stock exchange. But, eventually, the nation realized with all its strengths and infirmities that this country is making impressive progress in spite of many areas where significance progress is yet to be made. I think, I am going to share with you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and through you, the Minister of State, who is present in the House to carry the message that the inflation conundrum remains with us.

There is a red light flashing towards us signalling the imminent rise of crude prices will have a cruel impact on our economy for which we should be prepared. Secondly, there is an amber light flashing on the horizon as to what is may be the state of the next monsoon. The hon. Finance Minister always prays to the God of Rain, Varuna. Will that prayer be answered again this year.

Another amber light which is flashing is the failure in Russia, in China and in Australia of the major wheat crop of which they are the principal producers and consequently food inflation is going to stare at us unless we convert the bounty of our grain production into a national wealth and which we are not prepared for. For example, in China, there is a whole region which is suffering from repeated droughts. As a consequence, China is laying a pipeline from its flood-prone areas into the area which is drought-prone covering over a thousand kilometers at the cost of 60 billion dollars. We have to have large imaginative programmes in this country in order that those areas which are drought-prone are equally treated with the seriousness. Somebody mentioned about that Railways and the Finance Minister getting together.

I think we need much more mega projects in order to manage the drought and flood that we will face because of the climate change. I believe, the food security as the biggest challenge, but I do not see any light on the horizon that we are doing something serious about it. We have to take up challenge of food security on a war-footing. We produce, Sir, enough food in this country to control both inflation and meet the challenge of hunger. We will fail in our duty if we do not take food security on a war-footing. I request the Finance Ministry through you, Sir, to look at this in a far more bigger and imaginative way than we are doing at present. India must involve all sections of the society in the war on wastage of food production and storage.

Sir, annually 40 to 50 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables rot and are wasted on their way to the marketplace. Unless we increase the involvement of the private sector and the public sector to remunerate the farmers who are growing fruits and vegetables and satisfy the consumer by providing them fruits and vegetables at a reasonable price, food, inflation will not come under control.

The next point I wish to raise, Sir, is the delivery of credit in the rural areas. This remains is one of the biggest weaknesses in our banking system. I believe the UID Scheme, Aadhar, is going to give the right to identity to the faceless millions of Indians who do not have access to credit. Secondly, I believe, the money that we are spending quite rightfully on the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme must be made more productive. It must not just give employment; it must create assets as well. I believe we need a whole new way of looking at the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, its supervision and its use in a much more purposeful manner. We must reduce the human intervention between providing

subsidy and the recipients of subsidy, and I believe, Aadhar scheme is going to allow us to reduce the human intervention and the cost and the wastage of the money that we wish to reach the real recipients.

I believe that the biggest neglect in this country is our neglect of water. Water is going to be even a bigger threat than food and shelter. Unless major provisions are made to raise ground water levels, especially in granaries of India, in Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, etc., in a purposeful manner, the water-table will not drop and eventually disappear. Poisoning of water will continue to take place. The rising cases of cancer in Punjab have been talked about. There is arsenic poisoning in Bengal. Water is going to be even a bigger challenge than the food challenge that we are facing. I believe the Finance Bill must make special provisions for investment in regeneration of India's water bodies, with the help of ISRO in order to purposefully demarcate the country in order to make use of the water resource more effectively.

Next thing I want to talk about is migration of people, because of which urban degradation is taking place rapidly. You cannot prevent people from going anywhere in India. But, we cannot make India's cities misery centres as a consequence of migration. The JNNURM has to be implemented even more powerfully and more purposefully and the States must be made more strongly accountable for rapid urban regeneration in a far more productive manner than is happening at present.

I think, next to water, the biggest failure has been the slow development of infrastructure and the slowing down of Foreign Direct Investment. Some steps have been announced in the Finance Minister's proposals to encourage more national and international investment in the infrastructure. But, I think, specific and large plans during the period of the Twelfth Five Year Plan must make up for the shortfall during the last two Five Year Plans in the development of the infrastructure sector. On the positive side, I have to compliment the Finance Bill on the balance between manufacturing, services and foreign trade. We have made much progress, but let us not rest on our laurels; much more remains to be done.

Then, Sir, we have huge task in skills development if we are to employ the millions of people who are entering the job markets so that they can add to the wealth of India rather than to the misery of themselves. And, the skills development programme, next to water and infrastructure, is the third

biggest priority in the allocation of money in this country, not only allocation of money, but also converting that allocation into productive resources.

I believe the introduction of the GST is going to be the crowning glory of the financial initiatives of the Government of India. However, given all the positives and negatives, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would request the Finance Ministry to keep a Plan 'B' ready. Don't take the Finance Bill as a Plan 'A' only. There has to be a 'Plan B' We must be ready for emergencies.

Finally, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I conclude by saying that if governance and corruption are not brought under control in a purposeful and determined manner, if the Lokpal Bill is not introduced, none of our grand schemes are going to see the light of the day. I feel very positively disposed to the development in this country and what the Finance Minister has described in the budget but we must balance it with the dangers that lurk around the corner.

I am extremely grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Finance Minister's budget proposals and, I support all the major initiatives, and, I hope that some of the minor suggestions that I have raised will be taken into considerations. Thank you.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Discussion on the General Budget, 2011-12.

Sir, inflation and corruption have been the major issues, which are hunting the present Government. People are coming out on the streets in large numbers to make protests. The Budget 2011-12 has completely failed to tackle these issues rather it is silent on inflation, black money and corruption. The Government seems inclined to exploit present high food prices to promote Foreign Direct Investment in multi-brand retail trade on the flimsy plea that this would improve food distribution and stabilize prices. This speaks of utmost cynicism.

There is absence of inclusive pro-poor growth, and, it is directly attributable to pro-rich and pro-corporate. In the Budget, one can see the proper reflection of reluctance to intervene to bring down prices.

The Union Budget eloquently speaks about the virtues of the flagship schemes of the UPA Government but the Budget keeps a tight fist while allocating funds whether for the MGNREGS or those under the umbrella of *Bharat Nirman*.

Development projects in so-called Left-Wing-Extremism-affected Districts have got big grants, that is, 100 per cent block grant of Rs. 30 crore per District to 60 selected Districts under the Integrated Action Plan. We welcome the steps taken by the Government but at the same time, there should be a policy of providing 100 per cent job security to the youth of those areas of the country, which are affected by Maoists or any other extremism. There should be 100 per cent reservation of Grade III and IV posts for the local youth in the services of Central Government, State Government and Railways apart from the corporate sector.

In this regard, this Budget is a major disappointment. Health treatment becomes costlier as the Government has sought to levy tax on all services including diagnosis offered by a hospital or a nursing home, which is centrally air-conditioned, and, which has more than 25 beds. This comes at a time when the health care sector is already bearing the brunt of an inflationary spiral. The customs duty cut on certain medical product including Life Saving Drugs has been done with a view to make drugs affordable but it will take another six months for the benefit to pass on to the consumers.

Sir, coming to my region, the North Eastern Region needs special assistance in the Budget. But, it is completely silent in this regard. Special task has to be done for critical flood control scheme in the Brahmaputra as well as erosion wherein thousands of acres of land have been washed away by the Brahmaputra, including agricultural land. People are dwelling on the embankments. Even after years they have not been given any relief regarding their rehabilitation. We need special funds to address such issues.

There is no industry in our region, Sir. We are under developed. Youth are engaged only in insurgency groups. The Budget is completely silent, rather, I should say, it has been completely failed to address the issue of enhancing or encouraging coming up of new industries. In the North Eastern Region, the Government has even failed to open up the industry like Ashok Paper Mill which

was promised in the Assam Accord in 1985, which was signed by the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, 25 years back. The North Eastern Region needs special package in the Budget. For growth of industry, there is no reflection in the Budget.

Sir, we are rich in tea cultivation. Now, many tea estates have been abandoned by the owners or the workers have not been paid their dues for several years pushing them on the verge of starvation. Thousands of small tea gardens have been established by the educated unemployed youth in Assam which needs special attention for encouragement for tea cultivation and needs special fund provision to address those issues. But this Budget has not reflected on such issues in the North East. Sir, there is a need of minimum of Rs. 400 crores for wages and gratuity to be paid to the tea garden workers in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Orissa collectively. Base line survey of the small tea growers in Assam has been done by the Government. But no provision has been made for allocation of funds in this Budget. This Budget is silent in this regard. I hope the Finance Minister will take necessary steps to announce some special schemes for the North Eastern Region. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

Sir, I want to raise one issue with regard to development in Assam. In Assam, the development trumpeted by the Government has been far from being commensurate with the flow of funds. Massive leakage of Central funds and sanction for development works have hamstrung the development process. It will be pertinent to mention here that periodical assessments of impartial agencies like CAG, Planning Commission have shown the implementation of most of the Central projects in the State to be tardy and corruption-riddled. This is true even in the case of flagship programmes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, MGNREGA, NRHM, etc. Now, it is known to everybody that the politicians, bureaucrats and militant nexus was responsible for siphoning off central funds to the tune of thousands of crores in NC Hill district of Assam. It is the outcome of the first case of investigation done by recently-constituted National Investigation Agency. Again, the recent Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report exposed the Assam Government's excessive expenditure of over Rs.2,316.67 crores which has brought it under criticism and protest. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... The CAG has also detected fraud and embezzlement of funds in 19 offices of the eight departments. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... Sir, special attention from the Finance Minister is needed to

address such issues. These issues have not been covered in his Budget speech. I think, Government's commitment for zero tolerance against corruption will cover these issues. Thank you, Sir.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I rise to express my deep disappointment over the Budget that has been presented by the hon. Finance Minister in Parliament.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You have only seven minutes.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, I will not give you the opportunity to ring the Bell. Don't worry.

This Budget neither fulfills the minimum expectations of the rural poor or urban middle class nor does it provide any effective instruments to overcome fiscal problems.

Sir, the Budget is full of contradictions and anomalies and thus directionless. In an attempt to * the people, the Government seems to have * itself at the end of the day.

Sir, there are many issues which one can raise about this Budget proposition. For example, the Government has raised income-tax limits. Whom are you trying to *? When the minimum income-tax limit has gone up, have you checked how much the inflation has gone up? A middle-class family, say, from urban city like Mumbai or Delhi, is saving around only Rs.179 a month because of your relief. What is the rate of inflation? With this Rs.179, if even husband and wife go to a restaurant on a weekend, their bill would come around Rs.1,000. What are we talking about? Does it give any respite to the rural poor? It does not. Therefore, you need to have a re-look at what you are doing. As Mr. Dave said, you should get out of the North Block and the South Block and go to the people and see what their aspirations are, what their ambitions are; what their frustrations are; what their resolutions are; and what their dreams are. Why are you * people like this?

Sir, on the other hand, we are talking about issues of influx in the cities. India is urbanizing, and, therefore, city like Mumbai needs extra attention from you. That is not given. Yes, you give some funds for flyovers. What about slums? More than half of the city's population, which is more than seventy lakh people, live in slums in Mumbai. What are you doing for them? That belong only to

*Expunged as ordered by Chair.

the State of Maharashtra or the BMC. It is a national issue, because people from all the States, and different walks of life, from different religions and different languages come and live in slums. I think we need to give extra attention to this.

Sir, everybody talked about air-conditioned hospitals and everybody asked to reduce the duty. I would say, go the other way round. If you have to provide proper medical treatment to the people in the rural or semi-rural areas, air-conditioned hospitals provide better facilities, give them relief so that our medical conditions improve. What we need to do is, we have to go the other way round. This is my suggestion. You give them extra benefits and don't reduce their benefits.

Another issue is the housing loan. This is a sugar-coated bitter tablet. You are saying that you are giving one per cent interest subsidy on housing loan up to Rs.25 lakh. People will think that you are pro-poor or pro-middle-class. You are not. By doing this, who is benefited? It is the builder who is benefited. Because if there is interest subsidy on housing loan, more people will go for loan and builder gets his benefit. And if the demand increases, definitely the price of houses will also increase. So rather it is the builders' lobby, and I make a statement, that has operated in getting this clause come in the Budget. The Government should come clean on this.

On anganwadi, everybody is praising the Government.

Yes, I am happy that you have really doubled their honorarium. What is needed is not the honorarium but you need to absorb them in the Government service. Here, the answer given was that because they are part-timers, they are not entitled. Sir, who says that they are part-timers? Who made that definition of part-timers? They are not part-timers. Rather, they work more than full time. Only, technically, they are part-timers because the Government wants to shirk the responsibility. There are women in rural areas who are working for more than 15 years and still they do not get any benefit of leave, provident fund and other benefits. It is the responsibility of the Government to absorb them or create some mechanism by which they get all the benefits of Government employees. How to do it, is left to you.

Now, I come to an issue which nobody has touched. So, I would like to make a mention of that. It is the development of Indian regional languages. The society does not work only on finance; it works on culture. When we say that we are proud of our culture and we believe in unity in diversity, then, our regional languages play a very important role and we need to make some provision in the

Budget for the development of the regional languages. Sir, in my language or Gujarati, Oriya, Kannada or any other language, we get translated books from French, German and all other languages. I am from Maharashtra. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Sir, I still have one-and-a-half minutes to go. Sir, if I have to get a translation from Oriya, that is not possible. If I have to get a translation from Tamil, that is not possible. This is not good. You need to do something by which the regional languages are developed, Hindi is developed. You think that English is the best language. But, what about these languages? They are heritage. The languages are India, not English.

Sir, the last point I would like to make here is on education. I am happy that you have increased 40 per cent funds on education, on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Last year, we had given the Right to Education to all. Is Rs.21,000 crore enough for them? There are schools which still do not have good teachers. There are one-teacher schools which are in maximum number. There are no school buildings; there are no books; there are no note-books. I think, in the near future, our maximum attention should be on primary education. If we do that, we will be creating a new India. Since these things are not done, with great grief and sorrow, I wish to oppose this Budget. Thank you.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held today, the 10th March 2011, allotted time for Government Legislative and Other Business, as follows:

Business	Time Allotted
1. Discussion on the working of the following Ministries:	
• Minority Affairs;	
• Tribal Affairs;	Four Hours each
• Defence; and	
• Civil Aviation.	