

[Shri S. Mahanty.]

hundreds of pilgrims under a stampede were closed to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would ask you to stop for the time being. Though it is unusual to interrupt a discussion on the President's Address, the Budget Estimates are to be laid at 3 o'clock in the other House and we may have them here also.

3 P.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) FOR 1953-54

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement of the Supplementary Demands for Grants for expenditure of the Central Government (excluding Railways) for the year 1953-54. [Placed in Library, see No. S-29/54.].

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PEPSU) FOR 1953-54

I also beg to lay on the Table a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants for expenditure of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union for the year 1953-54. [Placed in Library, see No. S-28/54.].

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1954-55

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 1954-55 in respect of Railways. [Placed in Library, see No. IV-4 (114).]

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—continued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahanty.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Then, Sir, there is another point. The Prime Minister has said that the Opposition was making capital out of this calamity. But I would like to ask this question. How is the Prime Minister or the Government of Uttar Pradesh or the Government of India going to justify the party that was held, even though the news of this calamity was on the A.I.R. and the whole of the Calcutta Press was full of this story by the evening? If it is argued that there was some lacuna, then who is responsible for it? Is the Opposition responsible for it or the gentleman sitting over there and thumping for every nonsense? Really it is a matter of great tragedy—not the incident that occurred, but the manner in which the Government have behaved. Viceroy Willingdon cancelled a tea party at the news of Quetta earthquake. Now it is being suggested that since the Congress was fighting against all those Willingdons, the symbols of British Imperialism, they should also discard that human gesture of cancelling a merry-making programme in the face of such a calamitous incident.

Having said that much, I should now come to another subject. It is very well and good that the President, in paragraph 5 of his Address, has invited the attention of this House to the formation of Andhra State. The formation of Andhra State is a matter of major importance and we had all welcomed it. But if this House would remember, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Andhra Bill, which was presented in this House, the words "linguistic State" were very carefully omitted. At that time it was said that though Andhra State was formed on a linguistic basis, still the Government would not concede it as a linguistic State. As you know, Sir, two plus two never makes four with powers. It is either five with the Food Ministry or three with the Home Ministry. Though it was a linguistic State, the Government of India would not concede it as a linguistic State for

reasons best known to them. However, after having conceded the demand for Andhra State and after bringing the Andhra State into existence, what was the logical conclusion implied? The logical conclusion was that other linguistic States would also come into existence without any further delay. In fact there was strong public opinion in favour of other linguistic States, and it was gaining momentum every day. But the Government would not concede that demand but would set up another Commission. I take strong exception to the manner in which this Commission has been announced. You know, Sir, in the last session the Commission was announced while both the Houses of Parliament were busy in debating foreign affairs. The setting up of this Commission was announced in the meeting of the Congress Working Committee which was being held at Delhi at that time, and you know, we made repeated requests to the Government that this Parliament should be given an opportunity to discuss the terms of reference, the procedure and the composition of the Commission itself. But the Government would not give us an opportunity. The Government announced the setting up of the Commission with its terms of reference left vague and its terms of procedure left unindicated.

Having said that much, I should like to say that another problem of still more fundamental importance is linked up with the formation of linguistic States, namely, rectification of the frontiers of the existing linguistic States. It is no exaggeration, if I say that the linguistic minorities in several States, particularly in Bihar, are now living under shadows of intimidation, and to them that inalienable right of freedom of expression and association is being denied, whether in Manbhum or in Singbhum. I say with all seriousness and with all sense of responsibility, that linguistic minorities are almost face to face with extermination.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: You may question and question till your doomsday, but you are not going to give a reply. Question your conscience. Sir, there is a gentleman here who says, "Question". I have got the photographs here with me. If he wants to see them, he can do that. I can lay all these on the Table. Can you imagine, Sir, a peaceful assembly in Seraikella under the very nose of the police and a Magistrate who had been there armed with police constables, etc. would be thwarted and attacked by goondas shouting the slogan of *Bajrang Bali ki jai*? That was the slogan which the Hindus in Bihar raised against the Muslims. I, therefore, urge, with all seriousness, upon this Government to stop all this vandalism. Otherwise, it will open up a vista of lawlessness and terrorism, which will do no good to anybody.

SHRI T. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh):

श्री टी० पांडे (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, राष्ट्रपति ने जो भाषण दिया है, उसके लिये मैं उन्हें धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। मुझे ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि भारत की शिक्षा पद्धति के सम्बन्ध में शिक्षा सचिवालय की जो नीति है उस पर कुछ प्रकाश नहीं डाला गया है। वर्तमान समय में हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार की जो शिक्षा नीति है वह बड़ी लचर है और देश को आगे बढ़ाने वाली नहीं है। मैं अमर भारती का उपासक हूँ। मैं इस बात को देखता हूँ कि मध्ययुग के चार पांच सौ वर्ष के ग्रन्थ, मकबरे, राजभवन आदि संगृहीत और सुरक्षित किये जा रहे हैं परन्तु "अमर भारती" के पुराने ग्रन्थ, पुराने राजभवन, वास्तुकला के अद्भुत प्रयत्न आदि, आज अन्धकार के गर्त में पड़े हुये हैं और उनकी कोई खोज खबर लेने वाला नहीं है। मेरा यह निवेदन है कि भारत सरकार को इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये। यह देश जो इतना पुरातन और महान है, उसकी पुरातन

[Shri T. Pande.]

संस्कृति और परम्परा की रक्षा करने की जिम्मेदारी केन्द्रीय शासन पर है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दी को हमने राष्ट्रभाषा स्वीकार किया है। मैं प्रति वर्ष निवेदन कर रहा हूँ कि हिन्दी के प्रति—मैं नहीं कह सकता कि उपेक्षा की भावना है—जितनी उन्नति और जितनी तरक्की की भावना होनी चाहिये उस भावना से काम नहीं किया जा रहा है। मुझे यह देख कर अत्यन्त दुःख हुआ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कुछ भाई उर्दू को राजभाषा घोषित कराने का प्रयत्न पीछे के पीछे से कर रहे हैं। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की एक बहुत बड़ी संस्था में काम करता हूँ और मुझे प्रत्येक जिले में जाने का अवसर मिलता है, शहरों में और गांवों में भी मैं जाता हूँ। मुझे किसी भी स्थल पर ऐसा नहीं दिखाई दिया कि कोई भी भाई उर्दू के लिये हस्ताक्षर करा रहे हैं। मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि रात्रि में अंधकार में, मस्जिदों में या और जगहों में इस तरह के हस्ताक्षर कराये गये हैं और राष्ट्रपति के समक्ष पेश किये गये हैं। मैं इस भावना की निन्दा करना चाहता हूँ और मैं इस महान सदन के समक्ष स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूँ कि इस किस्म के कार्यों से भारत कमजोर होता है, भारत मजबूत नहीं होता है। उर्दू भाषा का मैं आदर करता हूँ और मैं चाहता हूँ कि वह बढ़े और तरक्की करे लेकिन साथ ही साथ यह भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो भाई राष्ट्रपति के समक्ष प्रस्तुत हुये थे उन लोगों ने यह कहा था कि वे हिन्दी के भी सेवक हैं, उसकी उन्नति चाहते हैं। मुझे आश्चर्य है कि उनमें से, कई भाई ऐसे हैं जो हिन्दी का ककहरा भी नहीं जानते हैं। सेवा की दुहाई देना दूसरी बात है और सेवा करना दूसरी बात है। इसलिये मैं सरकार को आगाह करना चाहता हूँ कि इस किस्म के प्रयत्न से देश कमजोर होता है उसकी तरक्की नहीं

होती है और मैं शिक्षा सचिवालय से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि उसे ऐसा प्रयत्न करना चाहिये जिस में कि भारत की राष्ट्रभाषा हिन्दी जीवित और जागृत हो और शीघ्र ही अपने उस स्थान को प्राप्त कर ले जिसको कि संविधान ने स्वीकृत किया है।

अब एक दा शब्द कुम्भ के सम्बन्ध में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। इसकी बड़ी चर्चा हुई है। प्रधान मंत्री के निवेदन करने के पश्चात् अब उसमें कुछ बाकी नहीं रह जाता है परन्तु प्रधान मंत्री उसके दर्शक थे और मैं सनातन धर्मावलम्बी उसमें स्नान करने के निमित्त गया हुआ था और मैंने अपना एक सप्ताह का समय साधु सत्संग और राम कृष्ण की चर्चा में व्यतीत किया। मैं जानता हूँ कि भारत की भावना क्या है। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि गिद्ध भावना से इस विषय की चर्चा करना उचित नहीं है, हमारे भाइयों को मृत्यु के उपरान्त इस तरह मंडराने से कोई लाभ नहीं होगा। इसको गिद्ध भावना कहते हैं। मेरा निवेदन यह है कि शायद बहुत से भाई उस मेले में गये भी नहीं और न उस स्थान पर आगे जाना भी चाहते हैं लेकिन यहां चर्चा करना और बहस करना चाहते हैं। मैंने स्वयं कुछ समाज सेवी संस्थाओं और पुलिस के सिपाहियों को सेवा का काम करते हुये देखा। हिन्दुस्तान में बहुत से दल हैं, कांग्रेस पर भी हैं और जनता के दिल में भी हैं लेकिन किसी दल को मैं ने वहां नहीं देखा। जिनमें जनता की सेवा की बड़ी भावना है वह अपने वालंटियर (volunteer) और अपने सिपाही वहां भेजते जो कि सेवा का काम करते। केवल कांग्रेस के, जो राजनैतिक दल है, उत्तर प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी के स्वयंसेवक वहां उपस्थित थे और उन्होंने अपनी छोटी बड़ी साधना से सेवा का कर्तव्य पालन किया। अब आगे मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ, जैसा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा

कि गंगा का बहाव जो कि झूमी के समीप था दारागंज के करीब आ गया है और मुख्य मेला झूमी और गंगा के बीच में ही था । वहां पर कल्पवासी थे, बड़े बड़े अखाड़े थे, वही पर अपनी छोटी छोटी झोंपड़िया लगाये हुये थे और वहां पर आमतौर से मेले का समारोह था । यह बड़ा श्रद्धालु देश है । मैं नहीं कह सकता कि किसी व्यक्ति का क्या मही अंदाजा हो सकता है कि वहां कितने आदमी रहे होंगे परन्तु मेरे अपने मन में यह चसर पड़ा कि वहां ६० लाख से कम व्यक्ति न होंगे । जिस स्थान पर मैं ठहरा हुआ था वह एक ब्रह्मचारी का आश्रम था, एक महात्मा का आश्रम था । मैं उनके आश्रम की चर्चा आपको बताना चाहता हूं । यह आम चर्चा थी कि आज तक इतिहास को जितना मालूम है उसमें इतना बड़ा कुम्भ स्नान कभी नहीं हुआ और वहां पर यह भी चर्चा थी कि आज तक इतना सुन्दर प्रबन्ध कभी नहीं हुआ । यह आम जनता की चर्चा मैं आपके सामने बता रहा हूं । घटना क्यों घटी ? यह देश बड़ा श्रद्धालु है । २ फरवरी की रात को ही यह चर्चा चली, आम तौर से मेले भर में यह शोहरत हो गई कि यदि ६ बजे के करीब हम स्नान कर लेंगे तो जो अमृतवृष्टि होती है उसमें हमारी मुक्ति हो जायेगी । शास्त्र में वर्णन है कि जहां धवल जल हो और नीलम जल हो और दोनों जिस स्थल पर मिलते हों उस स्थल पर स्नान करने से मुक्ति मिलती है । यह भारत की कल्पना है । कोई सस्था इसको मिटा नहीं सकती, वह अमर कल्पना है और उसी पर भारत जीवित है । इसी आधार पर ५० लाख व्यक्ति प्रयत्न करते रहे कि ६ बजे के पूर्व ही स्नान करे । मैं भी प्रयत्न करता रहा परन्तु सफल न हुआ । तो इस वक्त साधुओं का जलूस निकला उसे रोकना नहीं जा सकता है, वह सदा से चला आ रहा है । उसे रोकने का प्रयत्न करना सूरज से लड़ना है, वह अनुचित होगा, उसे

कभी नहीं रोकना चाहिये । कुछ मेरे भाई कहते हैं कि यह सेकुलर स्टेट (Secular State) है, इसमें धार्मिक भावनाओं को प्रोत्साहन नहीं देना चाहिये । मैं तो भारत सरकार की और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार की सराहना करता हू कि उसने भारत की जनता को स्नान करने का सुन्दर अवसर प्रदान किया और सुन्दर प्रबन्ध किया । मेरे पास शब्द नहीं हैं कि मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार की सराहना कर सकू । तो स्नान करने के लिये लाखों व्यक्ति एकत्र थे । साधुओं का जलूस भी था, चारों तरफ से लोग आ रहे थे, दारागंज की तरफ से लोग आ रहे थे, झूमी के तीनों पुलों से लोग आ रहे थे और इधर प्रयाग से लोग आ रहे थे और कुछ नावों पर आ रहे थे और कुछ स्नान कर के लौट रहे थे । तो ऐसे स्थान पर, ऐसे मोड़ पर, ऐसे स्थल पर जहां पर कि चारों तरफ से व्यक्ति जमा हो रहे थे ऐसी दुर्घटना हो गई, इसका मुझे अत्यन्त दुःख है । मैं भी उस स्थल पर था और, जैसा कि मैंने कहा, मैंने बहुत प्रयत्न किया कि मैं ६ बजे से पूर्व स्नान करूं । मैंने धक्कम धक्का मे बहुत प्रयत्न किया कि मैं तीनों पुलों को पार कर लू परन्तु मुझे उसमें सफलता नहीं मिली और मैंने नाव पर चढ़ कर स्नान किया । उस वक्त तक इस बात की कोई चर्चा नहीं थी । मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की पुलिस में परिचित हू, स्वयं मेरे घर के, मेरे परिवार के, मेरे सगे सम्बन्धी उसमें काम करते हैं, उसमें हमारे ही देश-बन्धु हैं लेकिन उस समय मुझे ऐसा मालूम हो रहा था कि उत्तर प्रदेश की पुलिस भी वहां श्रद्धालु हो गई है । मुझे ऐसा मालूम हुआ कि उनके मन में यह भावना हो गई थी कि यात्रियों में से किसी भी व्यक्ति को किसी भी प्रकार की शिकायत न हो, उनके विरुद्ध कोई एक शब्द भी न कह सके, वह भी धर्मात्मा हो गई थी । तो वहां लाखों आदमी थे, जिनमें विद्वान भी थे, मूर्ख भी थे श्रद्धालु भी थे, स्नान करने वाले भी थे

[Shri T Pande]

और लोकरदर्शन के लिये गये हुए लोग भी थे। इस रेल-पेल में कुछ भाइयों का शरीर छूट गया। यह बड़े दुःख की बात है। अब इसमें मरने वाले कौन लोग हैं, यह मैं निवेदन करता हूँ। मैंने जाच कमेटी को भी लिखा है कि इस सम्बन्ध में मैं अपनी गवाही प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जिस स्थल पर यह घटना हुई उस स्थान पर दोनों तरफ भिक्षा मागने वाले लोग बैठे हुए थे, उनकी मख्या चार पाच सौ से कम न होगी। उनमें कुछ कोढ़ी भी थे कुछ अंधे भी थे, कुछ लंगड़े भी थे, कुछ लूले भी थे, कुछ बूढ़े भी थे, कुछ स्त्रियाँ भी थी, कुछ बबूल के काटो पर बैठे थे, कुछ सर बालू में गाड़ कर सोये थे आदि आदि। वे वहाँ पर कतार लगा कर बैठे हुए थे। इस के अतिरिक्त स्नान करने के निमित्त, और स्नान करने के बाद उसके अगल-बगल कुछ लोग कहीं झोपड़ियाँ लगाकर, कहीं कपड़ा तान कर बैठे थे। तो उस स्थल पर जितने भिखारी थे सब मारे गये। उस स्थल पर जितने स्नानार्थी स्नान करने के बाद पहुँच गये थे, या स्नान के निमित्त बैठे थे, वे सब मारे गये। मेरा अनुमान है कि इस रेल-पेल में सब से ज्यादा व्यक्ति वही मारे गये जो उस स्थान पर थे या जो उस चपेट में आ गये। मेरा यह विश्वास है कि ऐसे समयों में जो सरकारी कर्मचारी वहाँ काम करते थे या करते हैं, उनमें श्रद्धा और विश्वास का भाव था और उन्होंने बड़े परिश्रम से, मनोयोगपूर्वक काम किया है, जिसकी मैं सराहना करता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश के निवासी हम हैं, हमको इस दुःखद घटना पर बड़ा दुःख हुआ। वहाँ शायद जनता में एक भी व्यक्ति ऐसा न होगा, जो उस प्रबन्ध में दिलचस्पी रखता हो या जो कांग्रेस में काम करता हो, जिसको इस बात का दुःख नहीं है कि इस कुम्भ मेले का इतना सुन्दर आयोजन हुआ,

इतना सुन्दर प्रबन्ध हुआ, फिर भी यह एक दुर्घटना घटी। इसका हमें दुःख है और मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाता हूँ और इस सदन से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यदि कोई ३ तारीख के बाद ४ तारीख के प्रबन्ध को देखता तो ज्ञात होता कि कितना सुन्दर प्रबन्ध किया गया था। कुछ भाई हम को बहुत अच्छे अच्छे उदाहरण पेश करते हैं। खास तौर से मुझे बड़ा दुःख हुआ अपन वयोवृद्ध और अनुभवी राजनीतिज्ञ श्री कुजूरू साहब की बात पर, उन्होंने कुछ सजेशस (suggestions) दिए कि अगर इन बातों को किया गया होता तो यह दुर्घटना नहीं होती। मैं उनसे बड़े अदब से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ—वह एक महा-पुरुष हैं, प्रयाग के निवासी हैं और कुम्भ के मेले में उनका भी हिस्सा था—कि जो सुझाव उन्होंने सदन के समक्ष आज उपस्थित रहिये उनको २ तारीख को क्यों नहीं दिया, अब इस वक्त उन्हें कहने से क्या लाभ? गिद्ध-बुद्धि और राजनीति प्रयोग, ये दोनों अनुचित हैं। इससे देश आगे नहीं बढ़ेगा, पीछे ही हटेगा। इसलिए मैं कांग्रेस पक्ष के लोगों से और विरोधी पक्षों के लोगों से जो स्नान करने के लिये गए थे, उनसे, और जो स्नान करने के लिये नहीं गए थे उनसे और जनता से भी यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस दुर्घटना के लिये सबको दुःख है। इसमें किसी का दोष नहीं है, भगवान की ऐसी इच्छा थी। ऐसे अवसरों पर कभी कभी इस प्रकार की घटनाएँ घट जाती हैं। और मैं तो यह समझता हूँ कि जो प्रबन्ध किए गये थे उस पर भी जो दुर्घटना हुई है आगे के प्रबन्धक अब भविष्य में उसके कारणों को ध्यान में रखेंगे।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं राष्ट्रपति जी को जिन्होंने अभिभाषण देने के लिए कष्ट उठाया, धन्यवाद देता हूँ। जय भारत, जय हिन्द।

[For English translation, see Appendix VII, Annexure No. 29]

SHRI PRASADARAO (Andhra): Sir, when I read the President's Address, I was thoroughly disappointed with it. Several Members on the Congress side have used superlative terms about the Address, but none of them has noted that the President's Address has missed the most essential problem that the country is facing today—the problem of agriculture. Of course, some Congress Members, particularly Mr. Hegde, used superlative terms in praise of the Address. Of course, as a new Congress Member, he is bound to do that. He said so many things about the Party to which I belong and used some filthy abuses. Of course, as an ex-Public Prosecutor, he has done his job, but I think that he does not deserve any reply from this side. I only wish to say that the President's Address has thoroughly missed the most essential question that is facing the country today. Everybody has said so much about the Five Year Plan, as if it is going to solve all the problems that are facing the country. This reference to the Five Year Plan, almost for everything, has more or less become a fashion with them, a sort of magic charm. But what is this Five Year Plan, in reality, giving us? Of course, it speaks of the tenancy problem, of tenancy reforms. But what are the tenancy reforms that we are having in practice today? We find that there were certain tenancy reforms in the Punjab. But what is the position in the Punjab today? Precisely because of these tenancy reforms, eviction notices in the case of more than one lakh and fifty thousand tenants were issued very recently. The same thing is happening in Bengal. Similarly also in U.P., precisely because of the tenancy reforms thousands and thousands of tenants have been evicted. Recently it happened in Azamgarh district and Satyagraha had to be offered. Similarly in Rajasthan, thousands of tenants are being evicted; not only are they being evicted but the landlords are resorting to violence. They are shooting down the peasants. This is the kind of tenancy reforms that

the Five Year Plan has got us. Similarly in Hyderabad also some tenancy reforms were introduced but even Congressmen—there is a Congress Ministry there—about 22 of them were dissatisfied with it. It was only because of the Party discipline that they had to keep quiet. So, the tenancy reforms, that we are having under the Plan, are only resulting in thousands of peasants losing their lands.

Similarly, the Five Year Plan promises some land reforms also, but recently the Union Minister, Mr. Deshmukh, even though the Plan promises us ceilings on land holdings, in a conference of State Ministers cautioned them against it. It seems also that a circular was recently issued by the same Union Minister saying that the ceilings should not be low. These are the land reforms that we are getting under the Five Year Plan. We see that the peasants are not, at all, satisfied with these reforms and that is why we find that in many States they are resorting to *satyagraha*. Even today we are seeing that in Nasik a *satyagraha* is going on. Very recently in Pardi there was a *satyagraha*. In Hyderabad also, in Aurangabad District, the Harijan peasants had to offer *satyagraha* not only to get land but also to save the lands under their possession now. In practice, this is the kind of land reforms that we are getting under the Plan.

Similarly, we find that in the name of getting more finance for implementing the Plan, taxes are being increased daily. We know that multi-point sales tax is being imposed in one State after another, and we know also how people are reacting to this tax. The Saurashtra people have opposed it. The Bombay people have opposed it. And if it is going to be levied in other States, I am sure a similar fate will await it there also. Similarly, we find that in the name of construction of new projects, canal and irrigation rates are being increased. At least in five States—

[Shri Prasadarao.]

Punjab, PEPSU, U.P., Bihar and Bengal—wide agitation is going on against them today. The irrigation rates have gone up by about 50 per cent.

Similarly about the tobacco excise duty. Even though tobacco prices are falling down, even though the peasants are getting very much less than they used to, for their tobacco, we find that this excise duty is more than the price of tobacco, and that is why on the agitation of the peasants in Rajasthan, the collection of arrears of this tobacco excise has had to be postponed. When recently the Commerce Minister went to Guntur, the tobacco growers complained to him and represented that at least on the lower grades of tobacco the excise duty should not be levied.

With regard to the food situation also, in the President's Address, great claims have been made. But what is the reality? Even though five million more tons have been produced, we see that millions and millions of people are hungry. It is said that there has been increased production, but still we get only 13 ounces and nothing more, which is less than the jail ration that is being given today. This is the Five Year Plan in practice. Therefore, it would be good if this Five Year Plan is not repeated every time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Pushpalata Das. She is the last speaker before I ask the Leader of the House to wind up the debate.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hyderabad): The Opposition has had very little time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the first lady speaker in the whole debate.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS (Assam): Sir, while taking my stand to support the motion moved by Shri Deshmukh, I feel like congratulating

ourselves whose views have been expressed in the speech delivered by the First Citizen of India. The External Affairs Ministry of the Government of India which has been the main target of attack from the Opposition has become a theme for my admiration. While summarising the internal and external achievements of the Government of India, the President is not complacent. He begins and ends his speech with a note of caution. We know that the international situation today, is hanging in the balance. War-mad countries, ignoring India's message of peace, are trying to compete with each other in rearming their forces. The race of armament is going on in the world, but India, with her age-old tradition, is crying for a halt, because she believes in peace, truth and justice. She has got a healthy policy, which can never be termed as weak, though many want to term it as such. India never allows her voice to remain calm and quiet when she sees any nation groaning under the heels of oppression. In branding China as an aggressor India was not a participant: in signing the Japanese Peace Treaty she was not a signatory because she felt that it would give no real freedom to the Japanese people. Today also she raises her voice of protest against the Korean affairs. She tried her best to do her duty, as she felt that the Korean issue is the only issue where her impartiality and neutrality could be put to the acid test. If she has failed in achieving the final objective, the fault lies not with her but with other blocs where a competition in armament is going on for the utter destruction of humanity, its culture and its sublimity. Anyhow, we are proud of our Custodian Force sent by us to Korea, and the members of the Force deserve congratulations not only from our side but from the other side also, and actually they got it. It is the first time in the history of the world that a force has left its shores on a peaceful mission. Much talk is going on about the American military aid to Pakistan and Turkey.

Pakistan has been committed to it but Turkey has not yet. Turkey has enough time to pause and think what she is doing. Every one knows that Turkey has a more vocal and strong Opposition Party than Pakistan. If Turkey agrees to take military aid, it would be to her own ruin and to the ruin of the whole of Asia. Let us not be guilty of the charge that we have sacrificed our tomorrow for our today. One must never sacrifice the means to the ends. One must have the right means to attain right ends. The Asiatic countries have got a heavy responsibility towards world peace. Till the other day many of her countries were the exploitation ground of the foreigners. Most of these countries have got their independence only recently. If they want to show short-sightedness no one can help, but India must stand firm as a rock against all aggressions with her traditional message of non-violence and peace. If she is going to be challenged from any quarter of the globe, I am sure India will rise to a man to defend her honour and self-respect. War clouds are thickening in the western and southern horizon of Asia. Let them be swept away by the angelic influence of India before they darken the whole of Asia.

I feel, India's security depends not on her defence forces alone but on her economic strength in raising the standard of living of the masses. For that the Government of India has got a Five Year Plan—a new experiment in world's democracies—and I am proud to say that we have not failed in our first attempt and we are also glad that a second Five Year Plan is going to be formulated by the people and executed by the people. The Community Projects are showing a happy sign of progress. The book "Building For Tomorrow", that has been circulated, states that the money value of public co-operation amounted to nearly 1.51 crores as against a total expenditure of 1.95 crores by the Government. Anyhow, it is not a bad business.

The President also says that there has been a continuous improvement in the general economic situation. There is improvement in the food situation, and industrially also we are progressing, but let not our industrial progress be a headache to other nations. We do not want to exploit others nor do we want to be exploited by others. If we concentrate upon bigger industries and neglect our cottage industries, it would never solve our vital problems. In the last war we had seen how Germany brought its ruin and now we see how Japan is able to rebuild her economy on the ruins of Hiroshima. It is her cottage industries, which saved her honour, and I feel sorry when the President has to mention that we in India are not progressing in this direction. We, as Congressmen, must be self-analytical. We must question ourselves where lies the fault. Our country may be poor in anything but not in man-power. If we cannot absorb man-power in nation-building activities, we can never do away with our unemployment problem. That is why we have to devise man-absorbing machinery rather than man-saving machinery. Our agriculture is still in a primitive stage. Random Sample Survey conducted by the Statistical Department in Assam revealed some telling figures. In some districts of my State, 13 per cent. of the cultivators are landless—cultivating on others' lands—and they are mere share-croppers. So in the rural areas the problem of under employment is very acute. It requires a thorough examination of our land policy. We must thank the Government for the agrarian reforms contemplated. I am not pessimistic as Mr. Prasadarao, who mentioned about it. But I am optimistic about it.

The President also mentioned in his speech about the reorganisation of States. It is a long-felt desire of many States and the Congress Party also is pledged to it. The Commission which has been appointed for this purpose consists of men of un-

[Shrimati Pushpalata Das.]
questionable ability. We hope their judgment will satisfy all.

Some charges were hurled against the Government of India that she is not interfering in Nepal's affairs and that the Gurkhas are sent to Malaya through India. But India cannot interfere with the affairs of other independent States. She can put moral pressure as she is putting in the case of Ceylon, where they have come to an agreement in regard to the status of the Ceylonese of Indian origin. We also welcome the Big Four agreement on Korean issue. Let India's dream be fulfilled. We are grateful to the President for his mention about those bills which are pending before us. He says: "Among these are the Bills dealing with reform of the Hindu law to which my Government attach considerable importance". If in no way it is inconvenient, the Government can use the inter-session period for disposing of these Bills. The Children Bill and the Special Marriage Bill are before the Select Committee and they can be discussed in the inter-session period and the Hindu Code Bill can come and can be debated and sent to the Select Committee. Of course, everything depends on the convenience of Government. The President at the close of his Address says:

"In this crisis of human destiny, we can serve both our own country and the larger causes of the world only by adhering to the principles that have guided us in the past and by remembering the message of peace, tolerance and self-reliance of the Father of the Nation."

Let us be true to this creed and let us be true to our heritage. Let our country shine in her full glory and splendour in the Council of Nations.

With these few words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
(SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Mr. Chairman, this is the third day that we have

been discussing the President's Address. The discussion has covered a wide field. The Address also covers a wide field but there has been some criticism that the Address is, perhaps, not quite so full or complete as it might have been. And in the course of the debate, from certain sections of the House, strong words were also used in regard to certain matters touched upon in the Address, and strong adjectives have been used. But as we know, the adjective is the worst enemy of the substantive. So, that need not worry any of us. That is, perhaps, part of the game, which some hon. friends feel they are called upon to play. However, that may be, the Address, as I have said, covers a wide field. It is a record, in brief compass, of the outstanding events of the past year. It does give us in outline also some of the important problems which still face the country and which the legislatures will be called upon to deal with. The problems are many and it will not do to be very very impatient. After all, let us see what we have been able to achieve during the few years of independence, we have had. Is there something or is there not something of which we can legitimately feel proud? In the space of these seven years, has not India advanced a great deal? Compare the situation in 1947 with the position of India today, and then ask yourselves the question whether your Government failed during these years to serve the country in the only way in which any government worth its name ought to serve.

There are so many sectors of national life. Problems arise in every one of these sectors. The problems are momentous, grave, important. They cannot be solved overnight.

SHRI B. RATH (Orissa): Are these adjectives or not?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: They are a statement of facts, not unmeaning criticism. And I am asking my hon. friends who delight in indulging in carping criticisms to consider in their

sober moments what exactly has been done within the last seven years. What the President's Address does is to call attention to what has been achieved, to call attention to what still remains to be achieved. And certainly what has not yet been achieved is much bigger than what has been achieved. Therefore, everyone of us has to put his shoulder to the wheel. It will not do merely to be critical. We have a great part to play in bringing about the future which we are all anxious for. And the question is whether the problems that are indicated in the President's Address are not of sufficient importance to engage the attention of the whole country. That is the problem. And must we not all stand for the Government whose sole aim is to bring about the consummation which is visualised there? After all, we are face to face with many dangers and many difficulties. The international situation is there. I need not go into the details. You are all aware of them and of the dangers that face the country. The question is how are we to meet them. The first thing we have got to do is to unite. That is the first requisite. We ought to come together. We ought to learn to stand upon our own resources, upon our own legs, and not to indulge in mutual quarrels among ourselves. I must say that it is not by piling up armaments upon armaments that we can add to the national strength. The strength lies in ourselves more than in outside equipments. I do not suggest that military equipment is not necessary. For the defence of the country it is very necessary, but at the same time that is not the be all and end all of national safety. National safety requires something much better, something much more, and that is what the President's Address has shown the way to. Therefore, I say the President's Address is a balanced statement of the situation as it stands today. Therefore, it is the paramount duty of all citizens to unite in their endeavour to bring about the fruition

of all the objectives that have been stated in the Address.

Many questions were asked in this House and they have been answered to a large extent by other speakers. One of the main points that was raised, possibly I might say that that point covered the largest part of the debate, is the Kumbh Mela tragedy. It is, undoubtedly, a tragedy which the whole country and the whole world deplores. The question is: How did it happen? That is now the subject-matter of an enquiry and whatever might be our own opinions or our own information, we should wait and see what the findings of that Enquiry Committee are; and it will then be for us to criticise the administration. Accidents will happen. Accidents are bound to occur, but the question is whether the causes which led to the accident could be foreseen or not. Most often they arise from factors which were not foreseen. What we have got to ask is: Were they foreseeable and still they had not been foreseen? If that is found to be the case, then, of course, there will be persons who have got to account for their remissness in this direction. But as I have said, let us assume that it must have been so, that somebody had blundered. Who that somebody is, that has got still to be found. But it is no use throwing out wild suggestions, as if members, who were connected with the Government, were people without a spark of human feeling, that they only take delight in merrymaking in the face of such a tragedy. That is not human nature. Even the worst amongst us would not do so. If they knew that there was this tragedy, they would not indulge in these things thereafter with that knowledge in them. Therefore, let us make the only presumption, which it is fair to make, in favour of human beings, that they did not know that such a disaster had taken place. Otherwise, they would not have done what they are accused of having done, as persons with callous hearts and so on. I re-

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fuse to believe that any man is capable of such conduct. Therefore, we ought not to be in a hurry to condemn people in this way unless we have the facts before us. It is no doubt true that there is a good deal to explain. How is it that high and responsible officers of Government had not been informed about this tragic occurrence long before? That certainly is a point which requires explanation but so long as that explanation is not there, let us not make all sorts of assumptions and throw out wild accusations against people who do not deserve them. It is not my purpose to defend anybody. As I said, in the language of Tennyson, somebody had blundered. There is no getting away from that position. Let us wait and see.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Let them accuse? Why are you bothered? The accusation will be always there in this House.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: If that is the conception of duty of my hon. friends in the Opposition that they must accuse, well, then there is no help for it. I am only making an appeal.....

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Rajah does not owe any duty to anybody.

SHRI B. RATH: Somebody must be accused.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS:.....to hon. Members and they are free to have a different conception of their responsibility. I need not dilate upon this question.

Then there was this other question of military aid to Pakistan. That question has been discussed so often in the last few months that I do not think that we can usefully add anything to it by our remarks in this House. So far as India is concerned, India's attitude has been made sufficiently clear by the Prime Minister on many an occasion and even the other day he referred to it. So, I do

not think that we need spend more time referring to this particular matter. The President has, in his Address, also dealt with it and that ought to be enough. There has not been one word of criticism in respect of what is to be found on this subject in the President's Address.

Then, some other questions were also raised, for instance, about the Indo-Ceylon Agreement. Dr. Kunzru raised some points on which he felt some doubts. The doubts were justified. As the Prime Minister has himself explained, the agreement is not intended to achieve something spectacular or some immediate results. The great merit of it is that it has produced an atmosphere of cordiality and friendliness which, it is hoped on both sides, will lead to more fruitful results. That is all that can be claimed for this agreement. The Prime Minister of Ceylon has made certain statements there, but so far as we are concerned, the agreement will speak for itself and we are not bound by any explanations which any person in authority might give. The agreement is there and it is binding on both the parties.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: The External Affairs Ministry may have something to say in respect of this Indo-Ceylon Agreement in a more detailed manner. So, we want the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister, who is the head of the Government, has spoken.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Then, reference has been made to Kashmir and specially to the decision of the Constituent Assembly. Apparently there seems to be an inconsistency between the two; the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir has declared that the accession to India is final and irrevocable, while the Prime Minister there says that the date by which a Plebiscite Administrator is to be appointed shall never come. Well,

we need not bother ourselves with that. As our Prime Minister has explained, the Constituent Assembly is free and is perfectly justified in saying what it has said in the resolution which it passed unanimously, but that does not absolve India of the commitment which India has made in the international forum. So far as India is concerned, India will stand by the promise it made to the Security Council. Dr. Mookerji—he is not here—I believe, quoted Campbell Johnson's 'Mission with Mountbatten' and gave us the history of the circumstances which led to the offer of a plebiscite to Kashmir. It is not exactly a plebiscite that was offered. The offer was that the accession would have to be ratified by the people of Kashmir, as the people of Kashmir are the only persons who can determine their future. That was the offer. Of course, there are methods of ascertaining the wishes of the people of a State; you can have a plebiscite; you can have a referendum; you can have public meetings and parliamentary decisions and so on. That is so but then the undertaking which was given to the Security Council was for a plebiscite and, therefore, we have to stand by it.

Reference was made to the question of linguistic states. I do not think that that question ought to be raised, having regard to the fact that the Government have already appointed a Commission to consider the whole question of reorganisation of States and the linguistic aspect of it will be taken into consideration by that Commission. Therefore, if we, in the meantime, go on, in different States, indulging in these mutual bickerings, that only will make things worse. My appeal to every one will be to do his best to see that such questions are not raised at this juncture.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: How can you avoid it?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Exercise a little self-control.

Then, Sir, reference was made to unemployment. We had a debate on unemployment in the last session. Government are fully alive to the situation and are trying their very best to tackle it. As you know, the Five Year Plan is going to be expanded and that will provide employment. That is the hope and expectation of Government and I hope that that hope and expectation will be realised. So long as you find that the Government are seriously addressing themselves to this question—and—the problem is a very vast one, and Government are themselves not very happy over the fact that there is so much unemployment—well, you must rest assured that they are very much alive to it and that they are doing and will do their utmost to solve it as far as possible in the circumstances.

I forgot to mention in connection with the international situation the reference made by my learned friend Mr. C. G. K. Reddy to the necessity of formation of a Third Bloc and so on. The Prime Minister has referred to it and I need not, therefore, go further into that.

Before I sit down—there are only two minutes left—I would just refer to a remark which came from my friend Dr. Kane regarding the Hindu Law reforms. He was the only one who drew attention to it and his grievance was that the President, in his Address, made rather a brief reference to it. The fact that the reference was contained in one short sentence does not minimise the importance of the subject. There were so many things that the President had to cover in his Address; and, after all, he was only drawing attention to the legislations pending before Parliament. You could have gained nothing by adding a few more sentences because the matter is already before Parliament. Members know about it. The suggestion that was made was that there should be a special session of Parliament. If hon. Members want

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it then they ought to be prepared for it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Yes, we are prepared for it.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Only let not the House, towards the end of the day, thin away as it does even now.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What does it matter?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: If this matter should be taken up in a separate session, I would suggest that the Members should be prepared to devote their time and attention fully to a consideration of this problem.

4 P.M.

As a matter of fact the Bills have been introduced and the earliest steps have been taken to bring them before both the Houses. One reason why.....

SHRI B. RATH: Why should the Law Minister complain about our going away after you relieve us?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Because hon. Members are so anxious to go away, Select Committee meetings cannot always be held during inter-session periods.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (Madhya Pradesh): Why does he bring in these motions on the last day of every session?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: That explanation has been given on the floor of the House—how many times, I cannot say—and that explanation has been vouched to the lady Member—how many times I do not know—outside the House also, and if these do not carry conviction, I cannot say anything which will make the position better.

SHRI B. RATH: But your practice belies your profession.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: There is not much more to say. With these words I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: If the Leader of the House is really anxious to get on quickly with Hindu social reform Bills, may I suggest to him that the House need not be given a recess after the 18th of March for a month but continue in session without any break so that we can finish all these reform Bills?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: May I tell the hon. Member that this House is not the only authority to pass Bills and place them on the Statute Book?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: May I draw attention of the Leader of the House to a provision in the Constitution that if any one of the Houses passes a Bill then the other House must finish it in six months, otherwise there will be a Joint Session in which the question has to be finalised? So let us continue without any recess.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I also think that we can utilise this inter-session period for the purpose.

*Amendments Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31, were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now all amendments except two are withdrawn with the leave of the House and the amendments which are to be pressed are Nos. 8 and 13. No. 8 with the consent of the House will be slightly modified and will read thus:

8. "That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:—

'but regret that while cursorily referring to the unemployment problem, the Address contains no adequate appreciation of the

*For text of amendments, see columns Nos. 229-234 *supra*.

growing unemployment problem nor of the growing agrarian and industrial crisis in the country, nor any indication of satisfactory measures to solve them'."

The other amendment which Principal Devaprasad Ghosh would like to have put to the House is No. 13 in the following form:

13. "That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:—

'but regret that—

(a) no explicit opinion is expressed in the Address about the reported intention of Pakistan to enter into alliances, military and otherwise, with U S A., Turkey and other Middle East countries; and

(b) no condemnation is expressed of the official bungling, mismanagement and callousness that were responsible for the appalling Kumbh Mela tragedy on the *Amavasya* day (February 3, 1954)'."

I will put Principal Devaprasad Ghosh's amendment first. The question is:

13. "That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:—

'but regret that—

(a) no explicit opinion is expressed in the Address about the reported intention of Pakistan to enter into alliances, military and otherwise, with U S A., Turkey and other Middle East countries; and

(b) no condemnation is expressed of the official bungling, mismanagement and callousness that were responsible for the appalling Kumbh Mela tragedy on the *Amavasya* day (February 3, 1954)'."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The other amendment that is to be put now is this.—

8. "That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:—

'but regret that while cursorily referring to the unemployment problem, the Address contains no adequate appreciation of the growing unemployment problem nor of the growing agrarian and industrial crisis in the country, nor any indication of satisfactory measures to solve them'."

The House divided:

Ayes: 22; Noes: 108.

AYES—22

Angre, Col. C S R.

Arman Ali, Munshi.

Bhanj Deo, Shri P. C.

Deshmukh, Shri N. B.

Dube, Shri B. N.

Dwivedy, Shri S. N.

Ghose, Shri B. C.

Ghosh, Principal Devaprasad.

Kakkilaya, Shri B. V.

Kishen Chand, Shri.

Mahanty, Shri S.

Mathur, Shri H. C.

Mazumdar, Shri S. N.

Misra, Shri C. G.

Narasimham, Shri K. L.

Prasadarao, Shri.

Rajah, Shri H. D.

Ranawat, Shri M. S.

Ranga, Prof. G.

Rao, Shri Bhaskara.

Rath, Shri B.

Sundarayya, Shri P.

NOES—108

Abdul Shakoar, Molana.

Abid Ali, Shri.

Agnibhoj, Shri R. U.

Ahmad Hussain, Kazi.

Ahmed, Shri Gulsher.

Aizaz Rasul, Begam.
 Akhtar Husain, Shri.
 Alva, Shrimati Violet.
 Amolakh Chand, Shri.
 Anant Ram, Pandit.
 Anup Singh, Dr.
 Barlingay, Dr. W. S.
 Bhatt, Shri N.
 Bisht, Shri J. S.
 Biswas, Shri C. C.
 Budh Singh, Sardar.
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.
 Chandravati Lakhanpal, Shrimati.
 Chauhan, Shri N. S.
 Das, Shri Jagannath.
 Deogirikar, Shri T. R.
 Deshmukh, Shri R. M.
 Dharam Das, Shri A.
 Doogar, Shri R. S.
 Dube, Dr. R. P.
 Dube, Pandit S.
 Gupta, Shri R. C.
 Gupte, Shri B. M.
 Gurumurthy, Shri B. V.
 Hans Raj, Shri.
 Hardiker, Dr. N. S.
 Hathi, Shri J. S. L.
 Hegde, Shri K. S.
 Hensman, Shrimati Mona.
 Inait Ullah, Khwaja.
 Indra Vidyavachaspati, Shri.
 Italia, Shri D. D.
 Jain, Shriyans Prasad.
 Jalali, Aga S. M.
 Kalelkar, Kakasaheb.
 Kane, Dr. P. V.
 Kapoor, Shri J. R.
 Khan, Shri A. S.
 Khan, Shri P. M.
 Khan, Shri Samiullah.
 Kishori Ram, Shri.
 Lakhamshi, Shri Lavji.
 Lakshmi Menon, Shrimati.

Lall, Shri K. B.
 Leuva, Shri P. T.
 Lilavati Munshi, Shrimati.
 Mahtha, Shri S. N.
 Maithulisharan Gupta, Shri.
 Maya Devi Chetty, Shrimati.
 Mazhar Imam, Syed.
 Misra, Shri S. D.
 Mitra, Dr. P. C.
 Mookerji, Dr. Radha Kumud.
 Mujumdar, Shri M. R.
 Mukerjee, Shri B. K.
 Narayan, Shri D.
 Narayanappa, Shri K.
 Nausher Ali, Syed.
 Nihal Singh, Shri.
 Obaidullah, Shri.
 Onkar Nath, Shri.
 Pande, Shri T.
 Parikh, Shri C. P.
 Parmanand, Dr. Shrimati Seeta.
 Pillai, Shri C. N.
 Prasad, Shri Bheron.
 Pushpalata Das, Shrimati.
 Raghu Vira, Dr.
 Raghubir Sinh, Dr.
 Rahmath-Ullah, Shri.
 Rajagopalan, Shri G.
 Raju, Shri A. S.
 Rao, Shri Krishnamoorthy.
 Rao, Shri Rama.
 Ray, Shri S. P.
 Reddy, Shri A. B.
 Reddy, Shri Channa.
 Reddy, Shri Govinda.
 Reddy, Shri K. C.
 Saksena, Shri H. P.
 Savitry Nigam, Shrimati.
 Shah, Shri M. C.
 Sharda Bhargava, Shrimati.
 Sharma, Shri B. B.
 Shetty, Shri Basappa.
 Shrimali, Dr. K. L.
 Singh, Capt. A. P.

Singh, Shri R. K.
Singh, Sardar Swaran.
Sinha, Shri B. K. P.
Sinha, Shri R. P. N.
Sobhani, Shri O.
Sumat Prasad, Shri.
Surendra Ram, Shri V. M.
Tajamul Husain, Shri.
Tamtia, Shri R. P.
~~Thanka~~, Pandit S. S. N.
Thanhlira, Shri R.
Vaidya, Shri Kanhaiyalal D.
Valiulla, Shri M.
Varma, Shri C. L.
Venkataraman, Shri S.
Vyas, Shri K.
The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now let us take the main motion.

The question is:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of the Council of States assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 15th February, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

THE ABDUCTED PERSONS (RECOVERY AND RESTORATION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 1954

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act, 1949, be taken into consideration."

Sir, a little over a year ago, the subject-matter of this Bill was discussed in this House and I do not want to take up the time of the House by referring to the subject-matter of the Bill again. The work, which we have been carrying on for the last six or seven years, yet remains unfinished and it is desirable that this work should continue to be done. Therefore, I pray that the House may agree to allow us to let this law continue to be in force till the 31st day of May 1955.

I may mention that in Pakistan this work is being carried on on the authority of a permanent Ordinance and that Ordinance is still in force. Therefore, it is very desirable and reasonable that we should have this law here. With these few words, I commend the Bill to the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act, 1949, be taken into consideration."

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): Sir, we want some information. What is the exact machinery we have for this purpose? What recoveries have been effected since we last extended the Act? What amount are we spending per year for our organisation? Unless we have all this information, no proper discussion is possible.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Has the Minister any information?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Sir, I do not exactly know how to tackle the various points which have been raised, but I can well appreciate the natural desire of hon. Members to know something about the working of the Act. It has been enquired as to what the provision in the Budget is and what is the extent of expenditure which is