

into the system so that more income is generated and more jobs are created. If there is money, jobs can be created, and we will not have this sort of unemployment problem today. It is not the population explosion alone that is haunting us. Actually, the educated unemployment is a very big problem in our country. Last week, I was in Cochin University. They told me that a block in Kerala had the highest rate of suicides, that is, 30 suicides per one lakh of population. That is the highest in the world. We are facing this type of a problem. Today, the youths, both boys and girls, the educated unemployed, are committing suicide. Tomorrow, they will not commit suicide. Tomorrow, they will become aggressive and start shooting you and me. They will get into the hands of anti-social elements and they will start a lot of anti-social activities that will destroy our economy and our country. Therefore, I urge upon the Finance Minister to come out with some innovative methods to get this black money into our system. The former Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, had done this. He thought out some method, and a lot of money came into the system. Similarly, you should try to do something. That will help the economy. Since there is not much time, I conclude with these words. Thank you.

#### **MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA**

#### **THE FINANCE BILL, 2002**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha: -

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Finance Bill, 2002, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2002.

2. The Deputy Speaker has under article 95(1) of the Constitution certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India.'

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table of the House.

**THE APPROPRIATION (NO.3) BILL, 2002 -Contd.**

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN (Assam): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has said in his Budget speech that he wanted to complete the so-called second-generation reforms. That means he has tried to open up the economy completely to the big business houses, both foreign and domestic. He has done it at the cost of the common people. Now, everybody knows that this is a pro-rich and an anti-poor Budget. This Budget has not satisfied the people of the country as a whole. Reforms are good if they help the poor people of the country. But if they are at the cost of the poor people, they should be discarded. The hon. Finance Minister is boasting about what he has been doing when our economy is in recession and is in the process of slowdown. Every speaker has said this. This is right also. Our economy is in recession and it is slowing down completely. Let us take the case of reforms. The opening up of our economy and liberalisation have hit the agriculture sector and the industry very badly. Take the case of the agriculture sector. The peasantry is facing problems to get remunerative prices for their products. The coconut growers in the South and in the coastal regions have been hit very badly. They are all victims of the opening up of our economy. The tea industry has been hit very badly, tea export is one of the important means which gives us a lot of foreign exchange. Now the opening up of the economy and liberalisation have hit these areas very badly. . In Assam, many tea gardens are being closed down. Particularly, the small tea growers have been hit very badly. The textile industry has also been hit very badly. But our Finance Minister is boasting that this Budget is for reforms. These reforms are for what? Are these reforms there to hit the peasantry; to hit the workers; to hit the middle class people? This Budget has affected all these people, whether it is the peasantry or the working class or the middle class. The common people in six lakh villages have been hit by the rising price of kerosene. The peasantry has been hit by the abolition of support price. The middle class has been hit by the many devices proposed in the Budget. What is wrong in saying that this Budget is anti-people? The hon. Finance Minister is adamant in regard to removing certain things which have hit the common people. On the other hand, he is boasting of opening up of the Indian economy to foreign capital and to the MNCs. He does not want to protect the foreign exchange earners like the tea industry, the textile industry, etc. He does not want to give incentives to the Indian peasantry. Sir, another thing is, the Finance Minister is for disinvestment of all PSUs, though some

of them may be profit-making concerns. He does not think of national interest, of the economic independence of the country. He wants revenue. I want to know what has happened to our country. What is the state of our financial affairs? Is it that our country has gone bankrupt? The Minister of Disinvestment, who is also the Minister of Development of North-Eastern Region, while addressing the North-Eastern MPs, said that the Central Government is facing financial problems. Is this a fact? Will the Ministry come out frank on this matter? After the four Budgets that you have presented, is the Central Government facing a severe financial trouble? Is it not the result of opening up, liberalisation, of the economy? Will the Minister answer all these queries?

Lastly, in the case of North-East, the Government declared creation of a Non-Lapsable Pool. What is the current position of this Non-Lapsable Pool? How much money has come to this Non-Lapsable Pool? It is known that certain Ministries have not sent even a single pie to the Non-Lapsable Pool. Also, we note that the money that has been so accumulated in this Pool is not being spent properly every year. We have more than Rs. 1,000 crores in this Pool, but the money has actually not been spent. Also, the Science and Technology Ministry, which is a very important Ministry, in the present context of the world situation, is exempted from giving 10 per cent of its Budget to the North-East. This only goes to show the kind of negligence shown to the North-Eastern Region as a whole. Science and Technology is very important, and I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he will see to it that there is contribution from this Ministry for the development of the North-East in this field.

**श्री गांधी आजाद ( उत्तर प्रदेश ) :** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विनियोग विधेयक के समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूँ। विश्वव्यापी आर्थिक मंदी के दौर को ध्यान में रखते हुए माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने बजट भाषण के पैरा 3 में जो आर्थिक परिदृश्य को प्रदर्शित किया है, वह काफी संतोषप्रद है। आर्थिक वृद्धि 5.4 प्रतिशत होने की आशा व्यक्त की गई है, मुद्रास्फीति की दर गिरकर 1.1 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच गई है, विदेशी मुद्रा का आरक्षित भंडार 50 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर की सीमा पार कर गया है और खाद्यान्न भंडार बढ़कर 60 मिलियन टन हो गया है। इस आर्थिक परिदृश्य के लिए मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी आर्थिक वृद्धि का 8 प्रतिशत का जो सपना संजोए हुए हैं, उसके लिए आप कोई कारगर उपास करके, सब लोगों का सहयोग लेकर उनके उस सपने को पूरा करने का भरपूर प्रयास करें। महोदय, चंद लोगों के आर्थिक विकास से या आंकड़ों और औसत से काम चलने वाला नहीं है, हमें सम्पूर्ण देशवासियों के विकास का संकल्प लेना चाहिए।

महोदय, हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है, हमारी 70 प्रतिशत जनता कृषि में लगी है। यह देश गांवों का देश है, यहां की 80 प्रतिशत आबादी गांवों में रहती है लेकिन हमारे देश में कृषक की आर्थिक दशा दयनीय है और कृषि से उसे उत्पादन की लागत भी प्राप्त नहीं होती है। वर्ष भी किसान को रोजगार भी नहीं मिलता है, उसमें शिक्षा का भी अभाव है, स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा का भी अभाव है और कृषि से संबंधित कुटीर धंधे भी प्रभावित है, इसीलिए लोग गांवों से शहरों की ओर पलायन कर रहे हैं, जो एक चिंता का विषय है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इस पलायन को रोकने के लिए कारगर उपाय करने की जरूरत है। इसके लिए मेरी राय है कि जो कृषि योग्य बंजर भूमि है, वह अगर भूमिहीनों में वितरित कर दी जाए तो इससे उन्हें रोजगार का अवसर भी मिलेगा और देश की आर्थिक समृद्धि में भी सहायता मिलेगी।

ग्रामीण रोजगार के लिए प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा घोषित सम्पूर्ण ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना, रोजगार आश्वासन स्कीम, जवाहर ग्राम समृद्धि योजना, जयप्रकाश नारायण रोजगार गारंटी योजना, प्रधान मंत्री सड़क योजना, इंदिरा आवास योजना, निर्बल वर्ग आवास योजना आदि जो योजनाएं बनाई गई हैं, इनसे रोजगार का सृजन होगा जिससे क्रय शक्ति बढ़ेगी और देश का विकास होगा। यह एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है

महोदय, संविधान के 93वें संशोधन द्वारा 6 से 14 वर्ष के आयु समूह के सभी बच्चों के लिए मुफ्त और अनिवार्य शिक्षा को मूलभूत अधिकार बनाकर सरकार द्वारा एक सराहनीय कार्य किया गया है। किन्तु मेरा कहना है कि केवल अधिकार दे देने मात्र से काम बनने वाला नहीं है, इसे कार्यरूप में क्रियान्वित कराना सरकार के साथ-साथ हम सब लोगों की भी जिम्मेदारी है। अतः मैं आशा ही नहीं भरोसा करता हूं कि सरकार इसके क्रियान्वयन हेतु जल्द ही कारगर उपाय करेगी जिससे अब तक सामाजिक रूप से वंचित अनुसूचित जाति व अनुसूचित जनजाति को विशेष लाभ मिलेगा।

आजादी के इतने अरसे बाद भी देश के लगभग 25 प्रतिशत अनुसूचित जाति व अनुसूचित जनजाति की आबादी की आर्थिक व सामाजिक दशा में अपेक्षित सुधार नहीं हो पाया है। मेरा कहना है कि केवल नीतियां बनाने से ही काम चलने वाला नहीं है बल्कि उन्हें दृढ़ संकल्प व सच्ची नीयत से लागू भी किया जाना चाहिए। इसलिए मैं सदन के माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि आर्थिक विकास और सामाजिक परिवर्तन के लिए बनाई गई नीतियों को दृढ़ संकल्प एवम् सच्ची नीयत से लागू किया जाए ताकि बरसों से दबा-पिछड़ा दलित वर्ग देश की मुख्य धारा के साथ चलकर देश के समुन्नत विकास में सहयोग प्रदान कर सके। जनहित व देश के विकास की प्रत्याशा में मैं इस विनियोग (संख्याक 3) विधेयक, 2002 का समर्थन करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I am grateful to all the Members who have participated in this discussion and made very important contributions to the debate and to the understanding of the economic problems of this country. I would like to briefly touch upon some of the

points which have been raised -- I find that Jibonbabu is coming back; but Shri Prithviraj Chavan is not here. He raised the important point about the finances of State Governments. And I would like to repeat here what I had said in the other House yesterday, that the finances of the Government of India -- and this is relevant to the point which Jibonbabu also has raised --and the finances -of the State Governments have been very severely impacted upon by the famous dole-out after the Fifth Pay Commission, by the then Government in 1997. I just quote one figure because you were talking about the bonus of the employees and the fact that this Government is acquiring an image of being anti-worker. No Government would like to acquire the image of being anti-worker. I would like to say that we are not anti-worker; we are very much pro-worker. There is a communication gap between you and us; and we will, certainly, do our best to bridge that communication gap. But, I will draw the attention of the House, through you, to the fact and let us look at the domestic savings. As you are aware, the domestic savings consist of three elements, household savings, public sector savings and private sector savings. As far as the household savings are concerned, we have the figures up to 2000-2001, at 20.9 per cent of the GDP, that was the highest achieved so far. That was the household saving. The private sector saving was at 4.2 per cent, which was not bad, compared to the fact that the highest that we had achieved was 4.5 per cent and 4.3 per cent in two years. So, at 4.2 per cent, I will not say that we are doing badly, as far as the private sector saving is concerned. Where is it that we are taking a beating, as far as domestic savings, as a whole, are concerned? Because the domestic savings has touched, as you are aware, a high of over 25 per cent, 25.1 per cent in 1994-95. After that, there has been some deceleration. The latest figure that we have is 23.4 per cent in 2000-2001. It is on account of public sector dissaving of 1.7 per cent, the highest ever in 2000-2001. The whole public sector consists of public authorities which is the Government administration, department of commercial enterprises, non-departmental enterprises which include the Government companies and statutory corporations. Sir, Jibon Royji will be glad to know that it is not because of the losses of the public sector undertakings that the public sector savings have gone down and become so much in the red. It is entirely on account of the Government administration. The Government administration went into the red for the first time in 1986-87. We had a plus of Rs.15 crores in 1985-86. That was the last plus. Pranababu will recall because he is an old hand at all this. After that, it has been downhill, all the way, starting from 1986-87. But, it was not so bad

until we came to 1997-98 and 1998-99 where the Government administration minus the deficit on account of Government administration went up from Rs.31,821 crores in 1996-97 to Rs.42,515 crores in 1997-98 to Rs.88,618 crores in 1998-99; and in 2000 it was Rs. 106521 crores. This one jump from Rs.31,000 to Rs.88,000 represents the impact of the Fifth Pay Commission on the Government administration. So, if the State finances are bad, if the Government of India finances are bad, if domestic saving has contracted, it is entirely on account of the amount of money that we are spending on ourselves. The means have become the end. We are the means. Why are we here for? We are here in order to serve the people of India, but we are serving ourselves. We are not serving the people of India. This" is a classic case where the means have assumed the dimension of the end. We are only interested in ourselves; we are not interested any more in the lofty purpose of the State, in the business of the welfare of the people. This situation has to be corrected. I entirely agree with Shri Prithviraj Chavan when he said that this situation has to be corrected. If I am allowed to share a secret, I had a long meeting with the Finance Minister of West Bengal this morning. He is the Convenor of the Group of State Finance Ministers. He came to represent to me on behalf of the State Governments, and I have agreed with him. I will have a meeting with the State Finance Ministers. We are going to seriously discuss this issue of how we can solve this problem, because this problem is becoming untenable. This problem is becoming unsustainable. Let me tell you with all the responsibility at my command that if we go on like this, then, we are surely taking this country towards ruination. We have to stop this. We will have to realise that we can extend our coat or cut our coat only according to the cloth. We can't go beyond that.

When we talk of organised labour, whether it is in the Government or the public sector, we demand more money for them. Sir, I will plead with Jibanbabu, let us remember our capacity to be able to pay. Which Government would not like to become popular by such give outs? But, anyone, who is responsible for the finances in any organisation-whether Government of India, State Government, public sector undertaking or even the private sector undertaking-has to take these things into account.

The other point which Shri Prithviraj Chavan has said, I welcome him to the club. He made a very good speech. But the danger is that when somebody from the Congress Party makes a speech and criticise the

present Government for some acts of omission and commission, he runs the risk of being reminded of what they did themselves. I have no particular reason to join the issue, but this is what I have said, "Well, I am a rollback Finance Minister." But, if you raise the price of urea by 40%, then you are pro-farmer. If I raise it by 5%, I am anti-farmer. Let us have some norms, some consideration, for what one does when in Government and when out of Government. I will just remind you that 40% increase was effected by your Government in 1991, which was rolled back to 30%. I had also quoted in the other House when we discussed the Finance Bill and this issue was raised. I will quote you again the number of times and the number of proposals which have been rolled back by the previous Finance Ministers. I would not like to go into that, but the point remains, and I would like to emphasise that. By rolling back or revising or amending some provisions of the Budget, we are only responding to the proposals, representations, which are received after the Finance Bill is presented, and every Finance Minister responds to it. This is the normal practice and there is nothing unusual about it.

That is what prompted me to say that I am neither the first Finance Minister to do, nor will I be the last Finance Minister to have done it.

On the question of growth rate, Shri Prithviraj Chavan expressed a great deal of concern on it. I have the figures from 1991-92, the first year of the Congress rule in the liberalised environment. The growth rate was 1.3% of GDP in 1991-92. In 1992-93, it was 5.2% of the GDP. In 1993-94, it was 5.9% of the GDP. Two years of 1994-95, 1995-96, it was 7.3% of the GDP. Even in the United Front Government, in the first year it was 7.8%, the highest in the decade of 1990. In their last year, 1997-98, it was 4.8%. In 1998-99, my first year, it was 6.5%. In 1999-2000, it was 6.1%. In 2000-01, definitely, according to the CSO, it has gone down to 4%. And, provisionally, for the last year, it is 5.4%. But, when a glib comparison is made, it is read as if it was over 7%, closer to 8%, in all the years of the Congress rule and it has been 4% in all the years of the NDA. That is not the situation. It is in the world context that you have to look at the growth rates of India. We are not in isolation any more. There are situations; there are developments across the globe which affect this. Only yesterday, Sir, Morgan Stanley came out with a research paper in which they have said that were it not for the resilience of China and India, the world economy would have been in deep recession in 2002. This is their assessment. I

was recently in Washington attending the meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. The Chief Economist of the IMF went on record to say exactly what Morgan Stanley is saying that it was on account of robust growth rate - this was the expression that he used - in China and India that the growth rate of the world economy was sustained. The growth rate not only of Asia but also of the world has been sustained because of the growth rate that we have achieved in India. You must have seen the United Nations' projections, the ADB projections, and the IMF projections. They are all projecting a better growth rate for 2002 than was the case in the previous year. So, while we are concerned that we are not yet able to achieve an 8 per cent growth rate, I would like to say that 8 per cent growth rate when the Prime Minister talked about and I talked about it, we were looking at the growth rate over the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was not that we are going to achieve it next year. We are looking at a decadal growth rate of around 8 per cent so that India could overcome the problem of poverty. A point which I made in my speech, Sir, to the World Bank also, that globally also it is for the first time that it appears that the conquest of poverty is within our grasp. If we were all to work together, then it will be possible for us to achieve that growth rate. So, while criticism is fine, the impression which I get and I will share with the House is that when I go abroad I find that I am being complimented as the Finance Minister of India, for India having done well in the context of global growth. When I come back home I am pilloried and I am driven from pillar to post. I am criticised for not having achieved a substantial growth rate. We are definitely trying to do our best. I would like to assure you that such a growth rate is not beyond our grasp. We can achieve that kind of a growth rate. Therefore, when the Prime Minister told the CII conference 'believe in the Finance Minister', he was not trying to rekindle their confidence in me. I would like to say that I am here as the Finance Minister not on account of the confidence that I enjoy of the CII or the FICCI. I am here because I am an elected Member of Parliament and I am here because of the confidence of the Prime Minister. Therefore, it was not in that context. It was in the context of a higher growth rate that the Prime Minister said that the Chamber should believe in me. Sir, a question was raised again by our friend, Prithviraj Chavanji, about the impact of Gujarat. I am taking a little time of this house. There is a debate going on in the other House on Gujarat. But I thought I should mention because he referred to it. I am unable to understand, I am unable to comprehend, I am unable to appreciate this attitude where we are telling foreigners, do not come to India because we



are a very bad place for investment, we are telling the foreigners please come and interfere in our internal affairs, we are in a very bad way, please come and interfere. I cannot understand this attitude. Again I will go back to tell you Sir, when I was in Washington only about a week ago, I had an occasion to interact with US businessmen, I had an occasion to interact with the NRIs, I had an occasion to have bilateral meetings with many Finance Ministers and Development Ministers and I had the opportunity of meeting the Finance Ministers of the earlier interim Committee of the IMF and the Development Committee of the World Bank which I used to chair until the last weekend. I am telling you, Sir, and I would like to share this with the House that neither in the meeting of the businessmen nor in the meeting of the NRIs nor in any of these bilateral or multilateral meetings was the question of Gujarat and the impact of Gujarat was raised with me. If there was such a concern, surely, the American businessmen would have asked me or somebody would have asked me about this, because there was a question-answer session. Somebody would have got up and asked me, 'what is happening in Gujarat?' But, I think, we are so obsessed ourselves with Gujarat that we forget that the world could be obsessed with what is happening between Israel and Palestine, that the world could be obsessed with what is happening in France where Le Pen of the Right Wing is coming at number two in the Presidential race. At the moment, these are the issues which are occupying the global attention and not Gujarat.

Therefore, again, Mr. Chavan was referring to the OPEC and saying that the OPEC has blacklisted India. I am not aware of it. Sir, OPEC has investment in India. They have guaranteed the investment in Dhabol Power Company. They have some concern. But let me also tell you that in any of my interactions -- inducing bilateral interactions with the officials of the US administration - nobody raised the issue of Enron with me. Nobody told me that OPEC has to be protected. The law is taking its own course as far as the Enron is concerned in the U.S. The law is taking its own course as far as the Dhabol Power Company is concerned in India. And the law will take its own course. We will do whatever is just and fair and, OPEC, to the best of my knowledge, has not blacklisted India. It has not said, 'do not go and invest in India.' So, let us not exaggerate the situation. Let us not create a fear-psychosis in the mind of the foreign investor, as far as India is concerned. I have this newspaper - The *Economic Times* — with me. Yesterday it carried out a news report which says, 'Gujarat riots hit volumes only marginal.' And, it talks of trading volumes in Gujarat Stock Exchanges

and says that there is a very marginal decline, if at all, and that also one does not know whether one can ascribe it to the violence in Gujarat. So, as far as the impact of Gujarat is concerned, I have gone on record because I honestly believe that Gujarat is a very important contributor to the GDP of this country. Gujarat is a progressive State. Any disturbance in Gujarat, or, in any such State is bound to have some impact. We were concerned about the Gujarat earthquake which we thought would have some impact on us. Similarly, what is happening now in Gujarat will have some impact. But, let us not go beyond that and say that the economic future of this country is dark today, because of what is happening in Gujarat. It is not so unless not exaggerated beyond a particular point.

In regard to food stocks, Sir, you know what is happening. I only make a short point. Last year we had been able to clear 30 million tonnes of foodgrains which was the highest ever. This includes distribution through the Public Distribution System, including Antyodaya and Annapoorna Schemes. It includes free open market sale. It includes exports. It includes Food-for-Work Programme. Our friends are here from Andhra Pradesh. They will say what a tremendous job is being done in Andhra Pradesh through the Food-for-Work Programme. Sir, any State which is asking foodgrains under the Food-for-Work Programme, we are making foodgrains available to them free of cost.

And then, you have talked about godowns and said there are large stocks of foodgrains in godowns and people are dying of starvation. Let me tell you that in this Budget I have talked of grain banks. I said that each Panchayat will have a grain bank. We have said that Panchayat can take it, or, a well-reputed NGO can take it up. If they are prepared to open a grain bank, we are prepared to make foodgrains available for use of that grain bank at free of cost. So, we are as liberal as one can be with these stocks, despite the fact that we have paid for it. These stocks are not free. Sir, today, Rs. 54,000 crores of bank funds are locked in the stocks which are lying in our godowns. These stocks have been purchased. There is a cost attached to it. But the Government of India does not mind. Despite the mounting food subsidy bill, we have gone ahead and done it.

Sir, Shri Jibonbabu talked about the technical manpower of this country. It is a serious situation because we would like the supply to go on. And, therefore, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has

adopted a very ambitious plan. We are admitting more students in the IITs. We are admitting more students in the Regional Engineering Colleges. We are expanding capacities elsewhere. You are aware of the fact that Roorki Engineering College has now become an Indian Institute of Technology.

Therefore, we are taking care to ensure that the supply of technical manpower, skilled manpower is not abated, and that we are not only able to meet our own requirement, but we are able to supply technical manpower, skilled manpower, to the rest of the world also.

Sir, Mabelji raised the issue of social sector. She is not here. But I would like to draw the attention of the House to only one thing, and, that is; just look at the progress that we have made on the social sector front, which is borne out by the figure of the latest Census of 2001. If you look at any indicator, whether it is poverty, literacy, population growth, infant mortality, child mortality, these are all indicators of social sector improvement. We have done extremely better, and this includes not only the three years of our regime, it includes the five years of Congress regime, it includes the two years of the regime of the United Front Government. The point that I am making is that the decade of 90's has been a better decade for India from all points of view than the record in the past. Self-help Groups are being promoted. We are doing very well. I am myself very encouraged when I go to my constituency and see how the women self-help groups are doing well in that backward area. Therefore, I was surprised when she said that the self-help groups were not doing well. Andhra Pradesh is another example, Tamil Nadu is an example, Karnataka is an example, many of the northern States are examples, where self-help groups are doing well. The NABARD is helping that movement, and will continue to do that. Sir, I am very grateful to the support that has been extended by Shri Gandhi Azad to the Appropriation Bill, and to the various things that this Government has proposed to do. I would only like to draw the attention of the House that the world is now recognizing that the recession that we experienced last year has been one of the shallowest recessions. There is an upturn, now, in the American economy. There is some hope, now, for the Japanese economy, for the European economy. The Euro zone is now supposed to be doing well. All this has created a new sense of optimism. I was looking at our own figures, I found that though we reached a low in economic growth in the third quarter of 2000-2001, after that, we have been moving up, thanks, largely, of course, to a

better agricultural performance. Jibonji raised a question about the demand. He asked, "Where is the demand going to come from?" It is a very important question. It is a very relevant question. The demand, as far as the Indian economy is concerned, will come from the 70 per cent people who live in the rural areas. If their income goes up, if agriculture does well, if the rural economy does well, we will have a better demand. There is empirical evidence to suggest that whenever agriculture has done well, it has had cascading effect on the services sector, on the industrial sector. And, whenever agriculture has done badly, we have seen the Indian industry also performing badly. Now, fortunately, agriculture has done well in the year 2001-2002, and we should be able to see the beneficial impact of that in the coming year. That is what is giving us hope that the industrial production will pick up; that the services sector will do better. Therefore, I suggest to the House that self-criticism is fine. I am prepared to accept any amount of criticism, especially, if it is constructive criticism. But for God's sake, Sir, let us not indulge in self-condemnation. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I want to make a very small request to the Finance Minister. How long will we keep on cribbing about the disastrous decision taken by the Gujral Government, of implementing or partly implementing the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations? Kindly correct this decision by another Cabinet decision by implementing the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in toto. There were a number of other suggestions like six-day week, downsizing of the Government, slashing the number of holidays, and increasing the user charges. If we implement these decisions, I think, that decision can be corrected.

SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKARAN (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Finance Minister. Sir, he has just now mentioned that more emphasis is being given to agriculture. He also said that about 72 per cent of our population lives in the rural areas and their main occupation is agriculture. Sir, in this connection, I would like to know, in terms of percentage, how much has been allocated for agricultural research. Sir, agricultural development depends entirely on the findings of new technologies and researches. I want to know how much amount has been allocated for this.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: . Sir, there has been a considerable step up in the allocations for agricultural sector. As far as agricultural research is concerned, though I don't find the figures here, I recall that the allocation is Rs. 750 crores. I am saying this from my memory; it might be Rs. 725 crores also.

SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKARAN: Sir, I want to know the figures in percentage terms.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This House is going to discuss the working of the Agricultural Ministry immediately after this. I am sure, my hon. colleague, the Agriculture Minister, will give all the figures at that time. But, as I said, there has been a considerable step up in the figures of outlay for agricultural R&D. In regard to the percentages, I don't have the required figures here.

In response to what Shri Rajeev Shuklaji said, I would like to mention that I had some discussion with the Finance Minister of West Bengal. We have agreed to meet the Finance Ministers of various other States also. This is an issue which will have to be jointly discussed by the Finance Ministers of all the State Governments and by the Central Government. I can only say that these are all very complex issues. These are not simple issues. But, there is a need to arrive at a consensus; a national consensus, on this issue. We shall try and do our best.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक ) :** अब मैं विनियोग ( संख्यांक 3 ) विधेयक , 2002 को आप की राय के लिए रखता हूँ । प्रस्ताव यह है :  
कि 2002-03 के वित्तीय वर्ष की सेवाओं के लिए भारत की संचित निधि में से कतिपय राशियों के संदाय तथा विनियोग को प्राधिकृत करने वाले विधेयक पर, जिस रूप में वह लोक सभा द्वारा पारित किया गया है , विचार किया जाए ।

**प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ ।**

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक ) :** अब हम विधेयक पर धारावार विचार करेंगे ।

**क्लाज 2 से 4 तथा अनुसूची विधेयक का अंग बने ।**  
**क्लाज 1 , अधिनियम सूत्र और शीर्षक विधेयक का अंग बने ।**

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

'That the Bill be returned.'

**प्रस्ताव पर मत लिया गया और पारित हुआ ।**

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल :** सर, लोकसभा में आज एक महत्वपूर्ण डिबेट चल रही है अगर आप हाऊस स्थागित कर दें तो हम लोग वहां जाकर जो वहां के माननीय सदस्यों के अच्छे अच्छे विचार डिबेट में आ रहे हैं , वह सुन लें । सर, यह जरूरी तो नहीं कि कृषि मंत्रालय पर आज ही यहां चर्चा हो, कल भी यह हो सकती है ।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक ) :** इसके लिए तो मुझे सदन की राय जाननी पड़ेगी । क्या माननीय सदन की राय है ? माननीय सदस्य अपनी राय दें ।

**एक माननीय सदस्य :** ठीक है, सर।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक ) :** ठीक है , जब पूरे सदन की राय है तो अब हम बृहस्पतिवार, दिनांक 02 मई , 2002 के पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे तक के लिए सदन की कार्यवाही स्थागित करते हैं ।

The House then adjourned at fifty-five minutes past three of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2002.