

पर देश बंटना नहीं चाहिए । हम आशा करते हैं कि अभी भी समझदारी वापिस आएगी, बुद्धिमत्ता से काम लिया जाएगा । युद्ध का रास्ता छोड़कर, समझौते की गली में आगे बढ़ने के लिए कोशिश की जाएगी ।

सभापति महोदय, हम ने अपने नागरिकों का प्रबंध किया है । वह प्रबंध आवश्यक है, पर स्थिति कोई घातक रूप भी ले सकती है । हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि नहीं लेगी और इसलिए हम अभी इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर नहीं दे पा रहे हैं कि अगर ऐसा हो गया, वैसा हो गया । जब जैसा होगा तब हम करेंगे । क्या करेंगे ? जो देश की प्रतिष्ठा के लिए उचित होगा और विश्व की शांति के लिए होगा । इस के बारे में किसी के मन में संदेह नहीं होना चाहिए ।

सभापति जी, आप ने मुझे समय दिया, मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-one minutes past two of the clock, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2003-2004 (CONTD.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Nilotpal Basuji, you have to start now. Your party has been given 35 minutes.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Yes, Madam, I am the only speaker from my party.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can speak for 15 minutes more.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : I might take one or two minutes more.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Madam, Deputy Chairman, I was talking about the five priorities about which the hon. Finance Minister had elaborated in the very opening paragraph of his Budget Speech. I think, there is absolutely nothing in the actual Budget provisions to substantiate that these are the priorities. As I have already stated, the basic problem of the economy, today, is that there is no demand. And unless we can get over this demand compression, and empower the people, invest them with a certain amount of purchasing power, things will not look up. Unfortunately, we had certain possibilities in terms of what I was stating; liquidation of the huge food stocks that we have build over the last couple

of years, launching a massive employment programme; Food-for-Work Programme, that is not seen here. And the kind of pittance, in the name of expanding the Antyodaya Scheme, is so meagre that it will not have the desired kind of effect.

Now, the other question is: Where will employment be generated? I was listening intently to Shri Dina Nathji, who was speaking just before me. Now, there is no doubt, world over we are seeing that so far as employment is concerned, there is a shift from the organized sector to the unorganised sector. There is a shift away from organized employment to self-employment. But the difficulty is that for employment to grow, you have to make better investment. For example, certain positive signs were noted earlier in the Mid-Year Economic Review in terms of the Road Project. Now, the major point that he made as the second priority is about infrastructure development. We are seeing that the question of mobilization of resources for funding these projects -- whether it is road projects, or, airports, or, ports -- Rs. 60,000 crores are, generally, loosely, being talked about. But when I tried to look into the Budget papers there were, actually, only Rs. 2,000 crores of allocation this year. Now, the entire thing is open-ended; where from money will come, how it will be allocated, and how employment will be generated. There is nothing in the Budget that addresses these points. On the other hand, from the Economic Survey, we can see that there is no scope for growth of employment either in the private sector or in the public sector. In the public sector, there is, actually, a lowering of employment opportunities, and the situation is very difficult. Here, I would like to say it is also interconnected with our expenditure budgeting, because the allocations that we are making for different heads under national security will also progressively look much small in a situation, where due to growing unemployment you have an explosive social situation. Therefore, by addressing the question of employment and by making public investment in those areas, we can, actually, reduce the allocations relating to national security as well. Then, the hon. Finance Minister also talked about education. In the run up to the Budget, we also passed a Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, enshrining education as a fundamental right in the Constitution, in this august House, and comensurate to that Constitutional Amendment, we launched what we would call the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. But, the actual allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is much less than what is actually required. In fact, public statements were made by the Minister of Human Resource Development that, in the budgetary allocation, there was not enough money available for

this Programme. The other aspect which comes in is the question of State finances. Some series of meetings have taken place. A cordial atmosphere has been created, but let us not deflect from the actual reality that debt swapping has been suggested in this Budget. But, for a State like West Bengal, which I represent, the amount that we have to forego -- in spite of the debt swapping, where we get a little concession -- in terms of writing off our claims on the small savings is very large. This amount would have otherwise been available to the State. I mean, the net negative accruing to the State is a huge; it is around Rs. 2,000 crores. Madam, Budget after Budget, we are observing that at the end of the year, there is a slash. There is a downturn from the budgetary figures to the R.E. figures. And, there also, the break up is like this. In the revenue account, there is a slight increase and in the Plan account there is a decrease. So, whatever we budget at the beginning of the year, is not actually spent. Therefore, this last moment attempt is made at doctoring the figures, to take care of the figures, so that fiscal deficit remains at an acceptable level. We find that the Central Plan fund which is, actually, there for public investment, which could create employment opportunities, is, actually, on the downward curve. Here, the Finance Minister has talked about health. Unfortunately, there is a need to strengthen our public health care system. Because, in our country, still, that access to health care facilities is not there. Because of inadequate allocations, the health care delivery system suffers in a big way. Unless we actually strengthen the public health care system, by having more flexible kind of arrangement by the health insurance companies, we cannot address the health care needs of our people. That claim can be made. It presumes that you have to have a very efficient private sector health care system functioning in our villages. But, unfortunately, in the present situation, the reality is -- this is at an imaginary level, -- and I think that with the kind of provisions that are there in the Budget, with the kind of financial requirement that is there for our public health care system, we cannot address the question of the health care.

Now, the major impetus for unemployment could have come in the area of agriculture. Unfortunately, agriculture has been failing over the last couple of years; the figures are also coming down, and we see a very crucial provision in this Budget of cess on diesel. Now, this will have a tremendously deleterious effect on the agricultural scenario. I have come to know through the newspapers that the Finance Minister now have said that the hike in fertilizer prices would be withdrawn. He has kept up to the

tradition of this Government to roll back its original proposals. But the fact remains that the diesel prices will have most crucial negative influence on agriculture and the agricultural development, and the possibility of employment generation in that sector.

Finally, he has talked of fiscal consolidation. Now here also, I am surprised, because actually, the tax GDP ratio is not increasing. We have to mobilise our own resources. We understand the problem that a huge part of our revenue is actually going into paying of our interest, certain requirements in defence and certain other vital sectors. Therefore, unless we are in a position to increase our resources, and for increasing resources, you have to have taxes, because, in a situation where increasingly, we have a shift away from the direct taxes to indirect taxes, and there are very many empirical studies made which will show that indirect taxes are essentially against the poor, the poor actually subsidises the rich, if the quantum of indirect taxes go up. Therefore, in this kind of a situation, the foot dragging that the Finance Minister has indulged in, in terms of his tax proposals, is not going to provide with the kind of resources that we need to step up our public investment so that it could address the concerns of demand and employment generation.

Madam, I think, this Budget actually, in terms of the excise and customs proposal that they are making, I mean, we are really not being able to make any head or tail out of it as to what the Government wants. I was a part of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which was going into the share market Scam. We have presented our report. Now, with the kind of proposals that have been made, if the Finance Minister thinks that these proposals will encourage investors to come into the capital market, he is sadly mistaken. And today, there is recognition, even internationally, in this respect. I was referring to a meeting where I had the opportunity to hear firsthand the Managing Director of the IMF. He was delivering a speech that one of the major flip-side of the globalization that we are seeing, is the vulnerability of the capital markets in the entire world, because of the fluctuations of some major countries and major exchanges. Now, we had a situation where the American stock exchange had triggered off a crisis and a situation in all the other stock markets. Our investors had lost money in our stock market, and this is due to complete irresponsible behaviour of the corporates there. Now, in such a situation, will mere sops attract our investors, without addressing a central question of how you can regulate the stock markets properly; how to a certain extent, you are trying to insulate

them from these shock-waves? Where are the proposals? The situation is, yesterday, all over the world, the index was the lowest in these 20 years. In that kind of a situation, where you have a tailor-made situation, the regulatory questions are not being addressed to the extent that they should. Actually, we are proposing certain measures, which we think, will take away small investments from the banking channels and other secure channels to the stock market. In a way, that is also having a debilitating effect on the States, because the question is chiefly of the States. If you look at the Budget, in most of the Central outlays -- more than 350 Centrally-sponsored schemes -- wherever there is a question of matching grants by the States, the States are not in a position to mobilise that money. Therefore, at the end of the year, you will find either the problem of diversion, or the problem of that money remaining on paper, unutilised. Therefore, it is worsening the situation of employment, and whatever services we want to give to the more vulnerable sections of our people, we are not able to give. So, I think that this Budget is going to really create very many problems in the areas of employment and investment, because unless we find resources, methods and means to increase our resources for investment, so that it can lead to employment generation, I think we cannot stick to the programme of growth that we are targeting in the Tenth Plan Period.

I think there are certain other things, which have to be taken care of, like the whole question of hike in oil prices. Now, the inflation rate is already quite high and we are saying that oil prices are on the upswing. If the situation remains like this for long, what will be the effect on the inflation and interest rates? Will our people, who are investing their money, get the returns? Because, it may so happen that interest rates will be less than the rate of inflation. Therefore, these are very important questions, which need to be properly addressed. Unless we are in a position to improve the lot of the weaker sections of people in economic terms -- the labourers, the agricultural workers -- provide them livelihood and improve their quality of life, and create demands of these vast sections of the people, the economy is not going to get the kind of fillip it needs to come out of the present crisis.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Thank you, Madam. First of all, I would like to compliment the hon. Finance Minister for presenting his maiden Budget Speech. Though he is a veteran in this House as well as the Government, so far as the presentation of the Budget is

concerned, it is his first exercise. Quite naturally, during the Budget Session, volumes of comments are being made in the media, and one comment, made by the Editor of *Business World* has attracted my attention. I quote, "I did not harbour too many expectations about this year's Budget, so close to the election season, and Finance Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, did not disappoint me." But, Madam, I harboured a lot of expectations from the hon. Finance Minister, especially, in the context that he had a very useful innings in the Planning Commission, and this being the second year of the Tenth Five Year Plan, his Budget proposals relate to the first year. The first year is already over; 2002-2003 is going to be over. I expected, as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, the Finance Minister, would do justice to the developmental requirement of this country, and, especially, in the context of eight per cent GDP growth, which the Government and the representatives of the Government are tirelessly quoting. There is no dispute about the desirability of having eight per cent GDP growth. Everybody, on this side of the House, or on that side of the House, agrees to that. But the question is how to achieve this eight per cent GDP growth. And, here, with your permission, Madam, I would like to quote the observations made by the Planning Commission itself, where it has been pointed out that

"The Tenth Plan can only succeed in achieving eight per cent growth if sufficient political will is mobilised, and a minimum consensus achieved, which will enable significant progress to be made in the critical areas."

And also, it has emphasised:

"Improvement in efficiency can only be realised if the policies are adopted, which ensure such improvement."

This is para 1.17 of the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan. And it has been suggested--I am not going into the whole exercise of the Plan documents, but only to three critical areas; one critical area is the fiscal consolidation--that our revenue deficit should be 0.5 per cent of GDP at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan--that is the target--and our fiscal deficit should be 2.6 per cent during the Tenth Plan. I tell you about the performance of the Government in the first two years. In the first year, the revenue deficit is 4.3 per cent; in the second year, it is projected as 4.1 per cent. And, as it has been pointed out, yesterday, by Dr. Manmohan Singh,

from the track record of the performance of this Government, one can safely assume that another half-a-per cent will be added to this.

Similarly, the fiscal deficit against the targeted objective of 2.6 per cent, in the first year, it is 5.9 per cent; in the sixth year, it is 5.6 per cent. When the Planning Commission, categorically, explained the need of improving the tax GDP ratio, even at the level which was achieved by this country in the year 1989-90--I am not going to far off, just a decade ago--which was more than 11 per cent, which has, continuously, come down, over the years, and even in respect of the budgeted target of the revenue receipts, unfortunately, Madam Deputy Chairperson, not in a single year--and I repeat 'not in a single year'--since the NDA Government has assumed office, they have been able to reach the target fixed by the Finance Minister himself, as the Budget Estimates of the revenue receipts, as was expected. Every year he had to revise it. I have some figures. In the year 1998-99, the first year, the net tax revenue was projected as Rs. 1,16,857 crores. It was down by Rs. 7,000 crores at the RE stage to Rs. 1,09,537. In the year 1999-2000, it was Rs. 1,32,365 crores. It was down by Rs. 6,000 crores to Rs. 1,26,469 crores. In the year 2000-01, it was Rs. 1,46,209 crores. It was down by Rs. 2,000 crores to Rs. 1,44,403 crores. In the year 2001-02, it was an exceptionally bad year, I must say, the projected BE was Rs. 1,63,031 crores and there was a whopping shortfall, to the extent of Rs. 21,000 crores. It came down to Rs. 1,42,348 crores. This year also, there is a shortfall. As against Rs. 1,72,965 crores, it is 1,64,177 crores. The moot question is: What is the primary responsibility of the Finance Minister in this country? The primary responsibility is to realise its own share, its own revenue, and the revenue projection which he himself is making, nobody else is making. There can be exceptions in one year. I have the figures and I can quote it. Dr. Manmohan Singh presented five Budgets. There has not been a single year from 1992-93 till 1995-96, which was the last full year of his presentation of the Budget, every year the revenue projection was more at RE stage than that at the BE stage. Therefore, something is seriously wrong in our revenue projections. I would like to submit most respectfully to the Finance Minister that this over projection must be avoided. It is not merely in the area of the revenue projection, it is also in the projection of SSE, the internal and extra budgetary resources (IEBR) in the Plan outlay, which the public sector is expected to realise, during the year when the Annual Plan is being finalised; and, year after year, I am finding the IEBR, which was expected to be for the years from, almost every

3.00 p.m.

year, in the year 1998-99, the projection was Rs. 62,723 crores, it came down to Rs. 50,219 crores. In the year 1999-2000, the projection was Rs. 59,521 crores which came down to Rs. 52,649 crores at RE stage. I am quoting the Central figures, not the States', for which the Central Government and Finance Minister is responsible. In the year 2000-01, the projection was Rs. 66,058 crores. It was short by Rs. 6,000 crores to Rs. 60,318 crores. In the year 2001-02, the projection was Rs. 70,725 crores. Against that, the actual was Rs. 67,580 crores. And, in the year 2002-03, against Rs. 77,167 crores, it was Rs. 68,648 crores. Now, the question comes, if it was one year, one can understand that because of some unforeseen situation, this situation has arisen, but how is it that year after year, there is huge shortfall in the revenue projection. In the estimates of the internal and extra budgetary resources by the public sector to fund the Plan, there is a serious shortfall. Then, what is the meaning of the planning?

I remember that--Mr. Alexander is present here--at one point of time, when we were in the Government, a suggestion was made that the Finance Minister should be made *ex-officio* Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Minister of Planning also. Mr. Alexander gave the advice, as Principal Secretary to the then Prime Minister, that this should not be done and that the Planning Commission must retain its independent identity because it is the responsibility of the Planning Commission to make the planning, not only for the Union Government but also for the country, as a whole. That is why it has been conceptualised that the Planning Commission would remain accountable not only to the Union Government but also to the NDC, which consists of State Chief Ministers and Union Cabinet Ministers. Though it is an organisation created by an Executive Order, and not by the Constitution or by a law passed by the Parliament, till date it has exercised a lot of influence. My complaint, most respectfully, to the hon. Finance Minister is that whatever has been suggested by the Planning Commission to achieve 8 per cent growth rate, unfortunately, when we are at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan--the first year is going to be over shortly; and the Budget for the second year has already been projected--we are nowhere near the target. I have the report of a Committee, which was appointed by the Planning Commission, with me. The other day there was a debate in the other House also. The Prime Minister had mentioned that the objective of the Tenth Five Year Plan was

that we must generate ten million jobs, one crore jobs, a year so that at the end of the tenth year we could achieve a nearly full employment scenario. This Committee, Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities Per Year, has clearly pointed out, on pages 12 and 13 of this report, that even if we assume to achieve 8 per cent growth with the present economic policies, it will not be possible to generate more than 5-6 million jobs a year and we are entering into a situation which may lead us to a jobless growth and as a consequence of that, we are starting with a backlog of 35 million job seekers. Assuming that every year there will be an addition of 7 million job seekers, at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, we will not be able to absorb the new entrants because the number of job seekers is 7 million per year whereas the job creation is 5 million per year, and the difference between demand and supply would be about 2 million job seekers per year. In the same report it has been suggested, in the present international and domestic environment, assuming that in the organised sector there will be employment shrinkage, which has actually taken place in the organised sector, both in public and private sectors--there has been a shrinkage of employment opportunities in the last five years from 1998-99 onwards and if we go further back from 1991 onwards there has been an shrinkage of employment opportunities and job creation in the organised sector--where it had to be substituted. The Committee pointed out, in the same report itself, the whole area of agro and agro-based industries. I will just quote a few sentences:

"If identified the activities where there is a major potential of large new job opportunities as in agriculture including social forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, horticulture and related areas, small and medium industries, construction, tourism, information technology, financial sectors, education and health.....".

There comes the role of the Finance Minister. But, what has been your direction, what has been your allocation? These are the areas which require massive investment, but where is that investment? Where is investment in agriculture and what directions are you giving? If you expect that the State Governments should be in a position to make massive investment in the areas like agriculture, fisheries *etc.*, then, I am afraid, it would not be possible. Even the targets which you are going to have in the Tenth Five-Year Plan, which is more than Rs.15,00,000, crores, there too,

we find that though nearly Rs.9,00,000 crores are coming to the Central sector; States and Union Territories are taken together, about Rs.6,00,000 crores over a period of five years, but from the allocation of this year itself, we are finding that nowhere we can reach the target. And perhaps you are living in some sort of a make-belief world. How does it help us? Yes, Prime Minister very correctly pointed out that we should not lose hope. But we must have hope on certain realistic assessment, on a credible work programme. On a credible action programme which is to be implemented. Where is the focus in the Budget? It is not expected that the Finance Minister will allocate in each and every section, but he must give a major thrust. It is expected that it is just not merely an accountant's scrap-book to balance the debit and credit, and present it before the House to comply with the constitutional requirement under article 112. Budget is a living document to deal with the problems of a growing society, taking all aspects into account, and because of this exercise, everybody expects on the D-day, the last working day of February. What is the basic problem of our economy today is that we have slid down, so far as GDP growth is concerned, consistently. We are nowhere, even what was the figure during the terminal years of the Seventh Plan, and it is known to the Finance Minister very well, with the vast experience and expertise of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in the field of planning, that the yield of the first two years have already been determined from the level of investment which has taken place two to three years ago, because there is a time lag. And what has been projected in the Plan document that if we want to achieve growth rate of 8 per cent, then 32 per cent of the GDP will have to be invested, assuming that the high-core incremental capital output ratio remaining at 4.1 per cent, then only, we can achieve growth rate of 8 per cent. But where this 32 per cent of the investment will come from? Surely, it will not come from our wishes or intentions, it must come from a credible package of action, and there comes the important role of the Budget specially when it is being formulated in the beginning of the Tenth Five-Year Plan; and Madam Deputy Chairperson, I am disappointed in that respect. It has been indicated in the Plan document itself. Our rate of savings should be 29 per cent. The Government must reduce its expenditure. These questions have never been addressed properly and squarely. If we cannot do it, we should admit that in the present political environment, we are unable to do it. We cannot achieve that target. Fair enough. But, if we want to achieve it, there must be the demonstration of the will. I am happy that the fertiliser prices have been rolled back, but I

am equally unhappy the way it has been done. It is not unknown to the Finance Minister, keeping the complexity of the situation, compulsions of running a coalition Government and having divergent interests within the ruling coalitions. What was the fun of making a proposal two weeks' ago and thereafter undoing that proposal after two weeks? Was it absolutely necessary? Is it to be repeated year after year? Can't we take a firm decision that yes, if we cannot do it, we will not do it. On the subsidy, it has been pointed out repeatedly that you are not in a position to cut certain subsidies. Let us admit it; let us assume it; and work out your strategy; work out your action plan around that, that these are the difficulties; these are the compulsions within which we shall have to function. But why cannot the cross subsidy be abolished? If we cannot afford 15 per cent or 16 per cent of our GDP as subsidy, then why can't certain areas be identified where subsidy could be reduced? Which are those areas? Why can't you float a discussion paper? It was actually done during Mr. Chidambaram's time; thereafter it gathered dust; and nobody took it up. Why can't it be updated and a discussion be held, instead of taking it casually and bringing sometimes a proposal just like the disinvestment proceeds? If during the last five years you have not been able to reach your target so far as disinvestment is concerned, how do you assume that to fund your Plan, to the extent of Rs.15 lakh crores, you will assume that Rs.78,000 crores will come from the disinvestment proceeds during the next five years? In which year we have been able to reach the target, except in one year when we had huge funds from the NRI-India Bonds, and perhaps in one year by disposing of certain shares in the telecom sector? Never has it been possible for us to reach the target. Therefore, the short point I am trying to drive at is this. I would not like to consume more time as there are other speakers from my party. Yes, I understand, rather I appreciate his Paanch priorities. But this is the area where every year we are making the mistake. We are attempting to do too many jobs with the limited resources available to us. Therefore, our priorities are no priority because we are trying to spread our resources so thinly that ultimately it does not yield any result which will help us to boost the economy. Fiscal consolidation should get the priority. We cannot afford to have fiscal deficit. The economists may have different views, I am not a professional economist, I am not going into that aspect. Dr. Manmohan Singh, yesterday, very clinically, with professional precision had analysed the whole gamut of this. But the fact remains that a country cannot live on borrowings indefinitely from external sources; and a Government cannot live on borrowings indefinitely on domestic sources. I

am happy that, at least, you have listened to one of our advices as you have utilised some amount to have premature retirement of international debt to the extent of three billion dollars. My complaint is that you have not properly utilised those basic strong points to give momentum to the economy. Inflation rate is moderate; having huge buffer stock of foodgrains; more than 75 billion US dollars are in your exchequer as the foreign exchange reserves, with a very high rate of interest. Your predecessor borrowed money externally to the extent of 10 billion dollars through the India Bonds. But, these are not just merely to show us the statistics. These are to be put into effective use so that it can generate the necessary momentum in the economy to achieve higher growth. If we want to have these fiscal distortions to be corrected, is there any way, except augmenting our own revenue, our own resources and tax-GDP ratio must improve.

I am not suggesting that the Finance Minister would be able to do it over a year or two, but from the present level of 9% to 14% or 15% of GDP, which is a desirable level. But, surely, some attempts should be made. Has there been any attempt? I do appreciate that you have pressed into service Mr. Kelkar, for his professional expertise; but at the same time, it really appears to be inexplicable that some of the major recommendations, you have not taken into account. Then, what is the point of appreciating his report if it can't be implemented, or, if you are not in a position to implement it. If you want to achieve that, the expenditure must be controlled. In which areas are you able to do it?

Subsidy is one of the areas we are very often talking. But are we serious? I understand it is not possible for a Government which is consisting of so many political parties, so many divergent interests; but you can try to evolve a consensus, have a discussion, have a structured debate on it, to come to which are the areas.

The other day, the Petroleum Minister was replying, "Yes, the subsidy on the LPG is made up by the oil companies through the cross-subsidisation route. Everybody is pointing out that subsidies must be direct, it must come direct from the exchequer, but no hidden subsidy or implicit subsidy or cross-subsidy. They are grossly abused and nobody gets benefit out of it. Why this can't be corrected? This is one of the major recommendations of the Kelkar Committee, in regard to subsidies. In regard to improvement of the tax : GDP ratio, why can't we do it? Surely, I am not going to bring an amendment to the agricultural sector; because, simply, it is not possible at this juncture. It may not be desirable also, because the

basic problem, which we are suffering, over the years is less investment in agriculture.

I conclude by drawing the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to an observation made by one of the illustrious Finance Ministers of this country, Shri C. Subramaniam. He was the Finance Minister when he presented his first Budget in 1975-76. I was his junior and Dr. Manmohan Singh also worked with him. He identified only two areas, not Panch Priorities, nor six priorities nor seven priorities. He pointed out that agriculture and food are the basic points on which our economy is moving around. Therefore, the entire Budget he presented, structurally, investment-wise, and you shall have to keep in view, in that year, after having a very bad year, in 1974, when we had almost a runaway inflation, at one point of time the inflation reached 24%, the second Budget was to be presented in the month of July, 1974 and Shri Y.B. Chavan was the then Finance Minister; dividend was impounded, Dearness Allowance was impounded; that was the type of critical situation; and for overcoming that situation he laid emphasis on 2 items: agriculture and energy. Mr. C. Subramaniam, as Finance Minister, could give the direction to the economy, as a consequence to which, in the next year, the annual Plan allocation he could provide a step up to the extent of 31.7% to the Central Plan outlay. That was the period of Fifth Five Year Plan.

Therefore, if you feel seriously that "My target is to achieve 8% GDP growth, my target is to bring the fiscal consolidation, to reduce the revenue deficit to the extent--if not 0.5%, at least 1.5%--the fiscal deficit to a manageable-level", you must begin. There must be some beginning at some point of time. The first year is gone, the second year is gone. Only three years remain for the Tenth Five Year Plan. And, at the end of the Plan if you will come and show your hands, saying "sorry, we fixed a target but we could not reach that", it is not good. Financial profligacy, financial indiscipline, is one of the major reasons of the ruination of many civilisations, starting from the days of the collapse of the Roman Empire, which has been very pictorially depicted by Gibbon in his famous book, "Rise and Decline of Roman Empire", to the collapse of Indus civilisation, everywhere, the financial profligacy is one of the important reasons. Are you indulging in it? Do you seriously believe, Mr. Finance Minister, that the type of swapping which you have provided to the State Governments by buying short interest bearing coupons, they can manage their financial crisis? Consecutively three Finance Commissions did not take into account the problems of the

States' finances, especially, the debt burden. From First to Eighth Finance Commission, each Finance Commission took into account the States' finances and especially their debt burden. But unfortunately, the Ninth, Tenth and the Eleventh Finance Commissions did not take it into account. The Twelfth Finance Commission has been set up. I do not know whether they will make in their final recommendations something about it. But if the States' economies collapse simply by providing this type of swapping arrangements or as you have suggested very correctly and I would be happy if the banking system can accept, purchase that the type of high cost borrowing, and even they can manage. But can they? But, is the financial strength of our banking system in a position to do that? Or you shall have to give a very strong signal and there my area of disappointment comes. I expected that the Finance Minister would give a strong signal for savings, incentives for savings, disincentives for expenditure. The Finance Minister would really determine his priorities to achieve the growth of 8 per cent of the GDP per year and that growth should be in such a manner, with certain necessary policy changes, to ensure that our growth is not jobless growth, but our growth must generate jobs. Ultimately, at the end of which, at the end of ten years, we can reach near full employment situation which is our objective. With these words, Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to make my observations. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Virumbi, are you the only speaker from your side?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Madam Deputy Chairperson, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to make my observations on the Budget for the year 2003-04. Madam, already observations on this Budget have been made by economic experts as well as parliamentarians like Pranabji. The Tenth Plan has projected a GDP growth of 8 per cent for which we feel that domestic resources, our internal resources or deposits should be between 28 and 32 per cent. But now the situation is that our savings rate remained only at 24 per cent. In 2002-03, the nominal GDP growth rate was 6.7 per cent. After having subtracted the inflation, the real GDP growth rate finally comes to 4.4 per cent. For 2003-04, our expectation, according to the Budget, is that nominal GDP growth rate will be 11.3 per cent, inflation is expected to be between four and five per cent and GDP growth to be between five and seven per cent. Madam, last year's experience was that even though the capital expenditure, including Plan and Non-Plan, was estimated to be about Rs.70,000 crores,

finally, there was a shortfall of Rs.7462 crores, nearly ten per cent of our target.

If this is the scenario, now, what we feel, according to the Budget, is, this year's fiscal deficit would be around 5.6 per cent. I feel, if things happen as estimated, this 5.6 per cent can be maintained, because, if you compare the present excise duty with the previous year's excise duty, the target now set is low. It has not gone upward. Madam, the excise duty, which is the single largest contributor to our kitty, is projected to grow by 11 per cent. But, last year, the growth rate was 20 per cent. From 20 per cent growth rate, it has been brought down to 11 per cent! Then, the customs duty has been brought down from last year's 13 per cent to 8.5 per cent. Except, I think, personal income tax, the targets set for other things are less than the last year's achievement. We expected that on excise, customs and on other duties, we not only reach the targets but even get past the targets and get more revenue from these areas. Therefore, if other things go as it is, this fiscal deficit can be improved. But, at the same time, we have to congratulate the hon. Finance for having tried to make some fiscal consolidation. He has concentrated on some areas -- eradication of poverty, infrastructure development, to do something for the BPL families and also health sector.

In this situation, the Government is trying to do something for senior citizens. The Government has restructured the Pension Scheme. Mr. Minister, there is some apprehension in the minds of the people in the society that for the restructured Pension Scheme, which is in operation in the organised sector, about Rs. 40,000 crores has to be diverted. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact or is it an imagination of the press. I hope the hon. Minister would enlighten us on this.

Madam, regarding V.A.T., the hon. Minister has stated that the Government of India will compensate the States for three years. But the problem for the States is, for Sales Tax concession, when the new entrepreneurs come in, they would be given more assurances. Once the State Government gives assurances to the new entrepreneurs, they have to fulfil those assurances. For the first three years, you are giving concession of 100 per cent or 75 per cent or 50 per cent. But the point is, once the three years are over, how the assurance given by the State Governments to the new entrepreneurs are going to be fulfilled or addressed? Because, you

are, after three years, not going to compensate the States. I hope the hon. Minister will explain to us on this.

Madam, as far as the drought-hit areas are concerned, I would submit that fourteen States are affected, for which, of course, there is the National Calamity Contingency Fund. Now, the Government has introduced a cess called the Natural Calamity Contingency Duty. I hope this will further strengthen the hands of the Government in providing help to the State Governments. But, at the same time, you have identified three or four areas under the physical infrastructure facilities development. The first one is road; the second one is rail; the third one is airport; and, the fourth one is seaport. Madam, Deputy Chairperson, as far as providing infrastructural facilities at airport is concerned, the Chennai Airport has escaped the attention of the hon. Finance Minister.

Then, another thing is, in the infrastructure, our ports are not up to the international standards. It is a known fact. When the hon. Minister can allocate funds for other projects, under package scheme, we expected some assistance, under package scheme, for the Sethu Samudram Project. Once it is completed, the whole India would be benefited for centuries together. So, we expected allocation of a considerable amount for this but in vain. My second request is that the amount, which you have allocated for the Sethu Samudram project, should be non-lapsable. That should not be diverted to any other account. We are confronting some other problems also. Some good things are happenings, while some mixed things are also there. I congratulate the Finance Minister for deciding to roll back the hike in prices of fertilizers. The Hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, has also accepted that the benefits of the declining rate of interest has not percolated to critical sectors, such as, agriculture and the SSI. This is the truth which has been accepted by the Government of India also. That is why, they have come forward that hereafter premium lending rate, plus two per cent will be charged. The reality is that the interest paid by the people, those who take loan from the banks under the priority sectors, is more than what the corporate sectors pay. In simple terms, our people, those who are not able to pay in lumpsum, are the people who are actually struggling from dawn to dusk for the sake of poor dried husk. They are paying more interests than what the rich people are paying in this country. This is what is happening here. I hope, the Finance Minister will look into it.

Sir, the fiscal management means two things -- first, the sustained growth; and, second, the high employment. For this purpose, a project worth Rs. 60,000 has been envisaged. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much amount has really been allocated, out of Rs. 60,000, for this project. Sir, we are expecting a fiscal deficit of 5.3 per cent. Now, as far as tea is concerned, you have said that the reduced one per cent excise duty -- which had been reduced from two per cent in the last Budget -- has, now, been converted into cess. I appreciate it. I appreciate it because, after 1997, the whole world market has crumbled. It has affected many things. Even, in India, we had done something -- the sales-tax had been reduced from 8 per cent to 4 per cent; the CST was reduced to two per cent from four per cent. Then, we had given the full facility to the tea growers to sell their entire tea produce either in the auction centre or in the market. Also, we had given some sort of subsidy for tea. In fact, we had given Rs. 5/- for one kg. of tea. For that purpose, we had passed supplementary grants worth Rs. 35 crores, and given it. After that, in the first half of 2002, this was about 36 per cent less than what it was in the first half of 2001. So, this is the situation. I am not accusing anyone. But, I have come to know that Iran has recently, about a fortnight back, desired to purchase tea. Now, they are going to place orders in the world market. Therefore, Madam, through you, I request the hon. Finance Minister to take it seriously and see to it that it is actually purchased. They also put the purchaser's name on that, that is, India's key market. Gremi, the President of the Polish Gulf FG, is one of the most prominent UAE packers and re-exporter of tea. He is going to buy and resale it to Iran. If it is so, I hope that the Government of India will take some interest to sell our tea to Iran. They are going to decide it within fourteen days, within a fortnight. We should also try to sell our tea to Russia.

Sir, then, I come to sugar. In our tax system, there are two different definitions. One is as per the Customs Act. Here, the definition for 'raw sugar' is different. The definition, as per the Bureau of Indian Standard Act, is different. The people who are buying with a margin of 20 per cent, if they want to re-export one lakh tonnes, they can import 1,20,000 tonnes. Also, in the case of raw sugar, they can buy 95 per cent raw sugar from foreign countries; they can keep a margin of 20 per cent. They can sell one lakh tonnes. For example, I may tell you, if they re-export one lakh tonnes, and they are interested in introducing this 20,000 tonnes -- which they had bought at a very low rate, as compared with local market -- in the Indian market. It will affect the Indian sugar market. Therefore, I would request the

hon. Finance Minister, through you, Madam, to just see why two different definitions are there in two different Acts. He should look into it.

Then, I come to excise duty on edible oil. Previously, in 1998, the Edible Oil Packaging (Regulation) Order was introduced. It was thought that in the loose form, adulteration takes place. The Edible Oil Packaging (Regulation) Order was passed to avoid adulteration. If the oil is sold in the loose form, then, no excise duty is charged. So, if an excise duty of eight per cent is charged on branded oil, it might, again, lead to adulteration in the market. And, ultimately, it will affect the consumers.

Now, I come to the modernisation of police force. Previously, for modernisation of police, there was a matching-grant, which was in the form of 50 per cent contribution from the Centre and 50 per cent contribution from the States. Now, the Government has decided that 75 per cent of the expenditure would be borne by the Centre, and 25 per cent would be borne by the State Governments. But what is the problem? This particular scheme of modernisation of police has to be bifurcated into two areas; one, the development of amenities for the police personnel, and secondly, upgrading their equipments, weaponry and other things. What is happening now is that the amount given to the States is not being used for upgradation of the weaponry. It is being used for providing amenities to the police personnel. I am not against providing amenities to the police personnel. What I want to say is, for amenities, you allot a separate fund, and for upgrading the weaponry and other things, you keep a separate fund. Otherwise, the amount given by the Centre would be utilized for construction of houses and other things, and the weaponry will not be modernized. The Government has to take note of this. Your strategy for bifurcation should be such that for amenities, and development of arms and ammunition should be separated. This should be bifurcated into two.

Then, I come to the SSI sector in South India. Sir, the Defence Ministry is purchasing all the parts only from North India. We don't want to discriminate between North India and South India. I say this as an Indian, not as a South Indian. Why is the Defence Department purchasing all the items from the North India? Why can't they purchase them from South? When Mr. Somu was the Minister of State for Defence, he used to conduct exhibitions in South India. He used to conduct an exhibition of the items required by the Defence Ministry in South India also. I request the hon. Finance Minister to convey this to your colleague to purchase...(Interruptions)... Madam, it is a very important thing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I fully support you. But, there is somebody behind you, who is saying that he does not support you.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Madam, in this case, we are all one. *...(Interruptions)...* As far as the State's development is concerned, there are no party politics. This is an economic issue.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am sorry; he is not supporting you. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, they will stand by me. The SSI sector in South India will thrive if the Defence Ministry purchases their equipments from South India.

Madam, I now come to the long-term capital gains regarding exemption of all listed equities. I welcome it. I congratulate the Finance Minister for having taken a wise decision in this regard.

Madam, in textiles, an excise duty of eight per cent on pure cotton yarn has been retained. Please re-consider it. Otherwise, you do one thing. I humbly request you to invite officials from the handloom sector, the powerloom sector and the textile sector; you invite all the three sectors, and interact with them. Previously, it was five per cent, then, an additional duty of 15 per cent on this 5 per cent was levied, which comes out to 5.75 per cent. Now, the effective excise duty is 9.2 per cent. When the effective excise duty is nearly ten per cent, it means, it is very difficult to compete in the international market. It is very difficult for them. The duty on textile was previously 5 per cent. I had requested the Government to reduce the duty from 5 per cent. But instead of reducing, they enhanced it to eight per cent. Last year also, I had requested for this. This is the third time that I am requesting for a reduction. You should not enhance it. You just please reconsider it.

Now, I come to customs duty on textile machinery. You have reduced it from 25 per cent to 5 per cent. I agree with you on this, and I appreciate it. Regarding the customs duty, I want to know from the Finance Minister, whether you have reduced the excise duty for the textile machinery commensurate with that. That I want to know. Another important point is that the Government has decided to set up a National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities at Chennai. Since it has been set up at Chennai, I welcome it. But I want to know what amount you have actually allocated for this. Then, I come to

wasteland development. It should not be distributed to corporate sector; it should be distributed to block level cooperative societies. Wasteland should be distributed to the landless labourers. Then only, it will succeed in India. This is my humble submission. Then, I come to education. A rebate of Rs.12,000/- for two children has been announced by the hon. Finance Minister. You have given this rebate, it is okay, but, at the same time, you have put the service tax on it. So, the rebate which you have given will be offset by this service tax. So, you are giving by one hand and taking away by another hand. I want to know whether it is necessary to put service tax on education. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this issue. In the same way, in the housing sector, you have given some concession for house construction. I welcome this proposal by the Government, but, at the same time, I would like to point out that including SAIL, all the private steel manufacturers have enhanced the steel price. They have increased the price by Rs.1500 per tonne. As regards cement, it has been quoted in the Budget that Rs.50 per tonne would be increased. But, in reality, it is not Rs.50 per tonne. It is further Rs.50 per tonne. It is in addition to what was existing. And, what was existing has not been mentioned in the Budget. If we include this excise duty further, it will increase the price per bag -- including the excise duty announced in the Budget -- by 30-36 per cent. It is not merely an increase of Rs.2.50 per 50 Kg bag. It comes to one-third of the total amount. Therefore, excise duty on the cement is very high. Steel prices have already been increased. With this amount of excise duty on cement, the cement price will also increase. Therefore, the concession which has been given to the housing sector, has been taken away in this way.

Then, I come to banking industry. You said that a ceiling of 10 per cent for voting rights in public sector banks has been removed for foreigners. They can invest any amount of money. According to the investment they have made, they can exercise their voting rights. At present, in the Government banks, that is, nationalised banks, scheduled banks, the Government equity is 51 per cent. There is an apprehension in our mind that this 51 per cent equity may go down to 33 per cent in due course. I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister of Finance that the Government equity in the public sector banks will not be reduced on any account. Why? Suppose 51 per cent Government's equity comes down to 33 per cent. If the foreigners make an investment of 74 per cent in public sector banks, then, I feel, public sector banks can be taken over by the foreigners. I would like the Government to look into this matter in an

impartial manner. The Government should give an assurance that in public sector banks, the Government equity will not be reduced. Madam, I would like to suggest two things for increasing the revenue of the Government. Firstly, as regards cigarette, excise duty is charged on length basis. It is not charged on the basis of quality of the tobacco. If the quality of the tobacco is also taken into consideration, then, the Government will get Rs.1500 crores more. Secondly, the Government can get another Rs.3000 crores if the Railway Department -- they sell the iron scraps -- instead of selling it as a scrap, if four steel re-rolling mills are established in different parts of India, North, South, East and West, or through a joint venture with already existing steel companies, it can be sold at the rate of Rs.4,000 crores as a value added product. Presently, we are selling this scrap and getting Rs.1000 crores per annum. Madam, if the Government venture into these two things, I feel, it will get an extra benefit of nearly Rs. 5000 crores on the revenue side. Therefore, I think, the Government can go in for that.

Madam, the Posts and Telegraph employees have already given their notice for a strike. I request the Government to go through it. They are in a hurry. They are going to stage a strike. I think they have already announced it. Therefore, the Government has to look into this aspect.

Now, Madam, I would like to say something about river interlinking. It is a very important thing. In this connection, I would like to suggest that we should start this project from the Southern Region, and then we should go to the Northern Region. I think, that would be a better way. I request you to kindly consider it. The river interlinking should be started from the Southern Region, and then the Western flowing rivers are also there. If all these are connected together, I think the Government will be benefited further.

Madam, the figures of population increase and the employment generation are not commensurate. Between 1987-88 and 1993-94, the population increase was 2.29 per cent, but employment was 2.43 per cent. Between 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the population increase was 1.03 per cent, but the employment generation was 1 per cent.

Madam, before I conclude, I would like to make two-three points pertaining to my State, and they are non-controversial as well. The first point is regarding the Salem Steel Plant. The SAIL has miserably failed. I accuse the SAIL in this regard. So far, I did not accuse it. But, here, I say,

"I accuse the SAIL." Madam, while they have given money to the other steel companies from their internal resources, they have directed the Salem Steel Plant to borrow from the bank. What is this? When we say that the South Indians are being discriminated, people say, "You are narrow-minded, you have a parochial approach, etc." But what is this? For other steel factories, they are giving money from their own resources, but for the Salem Steel Plant, they are not giving any money. What crime have we committed? What sin have we committed? I feel, Madam, that by taking temporary measures, this problem is not going to be solved. We want a categorical assurance from the Government that it will not be privatised. Madam, the Government has actually invested only Rs. 1100 crores in the Salem Steel Plant, but they have repaid it by way of certain taxes like sales tax, customs duty, excise duty as well as CSD. To put together all this, they have given back Rs. 1400 crores. The Salem Steel Plant has saved Rs. 900 crores in the foreign exchange. You have invested only Rs. 1100 crores in the Salem Steel Plant, but it has saved to the nation Rs. 2,300 crores. How can we give such a type of thing to the private people? The people of Tamil Nadu will never accept it. That is why I tell that it has to be reconsidered. There should not be any privatisation.(Interruptions)..... It is a fact that the people of Tamil Nadu will not accept its privatisation on any ground. We will not accept that because this is actually a sensitive issue. We fought for it for 20 years. The late lamented Prime Minister, Indiraji, had accepted that proposal, and only then it came into being. Therefore, it is a very sensitive issue. The Government has to see that it is not privatised in any manner.

Madam, the second thing is about the Hindustan Photo Films. The Government has look into this also. Madam, I know that my time is limited. I would wind it up now. Regarding the Hindustan Photo Films, I would like to say that the Government has to see that adequate money is given to it. Some vested interests want to take over the Hindustan Photo Films. A letter had actually been sent to the hon. Prime Minister. It had been sent by the former Whip of the Tamil Nadu Assembly. I want to quote a small portion of that letter. It is said. "Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd. (HPF) - a Government of India Undertaking is the only integrated manufacturer of Photosensitized products in India catering to the requirements of Government Hospitals (Medical X-ray Films), Ordnance Factories (Industrial Films), Air Head Quarters (Aerial Films), Magnetic Films (All India Radio). This company is before BIFR and declared sick during 1998 but continuously producing goods worth Rs. 30 crores per annum." This is the only

company in India of its kind but that is also going to be privatised. It is not good for the nation. Therefore, I request the Government of India to look into all these things not in a political manner but these are economic issues that need to be dealt with a broader outlook.

With these words, I support the General Budget, 2003-04 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But with a rider that the Salem Steel Plant and the Hindustan Photo Films should not be privatised. Now, Shri J. Chitharanjan.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I rise to oppose this Budget. According to me, this Budget is anti-poor and pro-rich. In fact, this Budget is giving several concessions to the corporate sector, and also to the multinationals. Madam, I oppose this Budget not only because it is anti-poor, but also because this Budget is introduced at a time when our economy is in a very crucial stage. Our industry has been stagnating for quite some time; our agriculture production has been going down; our revenue realisation has been going down, our capital expenditure has been going down, and the problems of unemployment and poverty are increasing. In such a critical situation, naturally, when a Budget is presented, the Budget shall give a clear direction for saving the economy from this critical situation, and to carry forward the same to a path of speedier development and sustained development. Unfortunately, this Budget does not show the path for that. Madam, in the Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister has said that the Government, therefore, addresses the following five objectives, as 'Panch Priorities'. Out of these five priorities, the most important priority is the poverty eradication, addressing the life-time concerns of our citizens, covering health, housing, education and employment, and of course, the development of infrastructure, fiscal consolidation, agriculture and related aspects, including irrigation, all are mentioned, and finally, he has stated the main subject that they would like to attain these objectives, is further acceleration of the reform process. Madam, the reform process programmes were being implemented for the last 11 years, and we had very bitter experience during these 11 years. Did it help us to take our country to the path of speedier and sustained development? Did it help us to solve the crucial problems being faced by millions of our people? In actual experience, it has not taken care of all these problems. Therefore, it is high time that, on the basis of the bitter experience of the past, the Finance Minister, the Government as a whole,

will have to reconsider the whole programmes. You will have to go through it critically; you have to review it. But, unfortunately, neither the Finance Minister nor the Prime Minister nor the Cabinet is reviewing it at all. At the same time, two days ago, Shri K.C. Pant, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, has said that the current form of globalisation needs to be critically reviewed, and new programmes designed to tackle the challenges of the new environment, need to be developed. This is what the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has said. But, neither the Finance Minister nor the Prime Minister nor the Cabinet have at all considered those things. Instead of that, they are going ahead with the same programmes that they have been advocating or implementing for the last eleven years. And if they insist on continuing like that, I am afraid, they will be leading our country and our economy to a disaster. Madam, now, the main question is, how to solve these problems? Why is the industry stagnating? It is mainly due to the fact that the purchasing power of people has gone down. The internal market is shrinking. That is one of the main reasons, and poverty and employment are the main factors leading to that. Therefore, while we are trying to find a solution to these problems, what we should mainly attempt is, to create jobs and employment opportunities.

In March 2000, in our country, in the organised sector, the number of jobs was 28 million. But in March 2001, the number had gone down to 27.8 million. This fall of 1.7 lakh jobs in an year were the steepest decline, in at least, three years. The organised sector altogether represents only about 10 per cent of the total workforce. More than 90 per cent of the workforce belongs to other categories. In the organised sector, whether it is the public sector or the private sector, the job opportunities have gone down. Employment opportunities have gone down and are further going down. At the same time, what is the condition in the other areas or sectors? Take, for example, the traditional industries, such as weaving, weeding, cashew farming, coir or *khadi* industries; it is these industries, which provide employment to millions of workers. But, unfortunately, these industries are in a serious crisis. This Budget does not say or refer to anything about them. It does not come forward with any solution to revive these industries, to save the workers engaged in those industries, which are the traditional industries.

There is another sector -- the small-scale industries. The small-scale industries have been rendering a very good service to the economy. They were providing greater employment opportunities; they were

4.00 p.m.

contributing to export and increase in the national GDP. All these contributions have been made by the small-scale industries, and here, the only two things that are mentioned are, certain areas or sectors, which are reserved for the small-scale industries, about fifty or so, they will be taken away. The second thing that they have said is, the interest rates will slightly decrease by two per cent or so. But, at the same time, in the Budget Speech itself, the hon. Finance Minister admits that even though the interest rates were being brought down for the last two years in different stages, in different phases, in the agricultural sector, the farmers were not at all benefited by that. He has admitted in the Budget Speech that the reduction in interest rates was not applicable to the farmers in the country. There are millions and millions of peasants in the country. In the same way, the small-scale industrialists were also not allowed to enjoy the benefits. And they are being given the benefits only now. Why has the Government behaved like that?

Coming to agriculture, agriculture is the only area where the largest informal employment is being given. There also, the employment opportunities are coming down. They are decreasing, firstly, due to a continuous fall in the prices of agricultural commodities, which has been taking place for the last few years. Because of that, several peasants have been ruined. They have met with continuous losses and they are caught in a debt-trap. Therefore, a section of the people are not in a position to carry on the profession of cultivation. Along with that, when this crisis develops, the most hard hit is the agricultural labour. The agricultural labourers were getting only partial employment. They were under-employed. They may get a maximum of 150 or 160 days' work in a year. Now, even that is being reduced. Then, how can they sustain their life? Therefore, the unemployment is increasing, and, naturally, poverty is also increasing. In order to solve this problem, of course, it is necessary that we should aim at a speedier growth in the country. It was good that the Government had prepared a plan which aimed at an eight per cent growth in the economy. Of course, eight per cent growth is being adopted only on the basis that if this rate is not attained, it will not be possible for us to offset the backlog in employment in the near future, say, within the next five or ten-year period. Therefore, it is highly necessary that we should attain that growth rate. But, unfortunately, one year has passed. The first year of the Tenth Five Year Plan has passed. What is the result? The result is very

miserable and disappointing. Instead of attaining eight per cent growth, the maximum that we have attained is 4.4 per cent. At this rate, we cannot achieve a higher rate of growth. Madam, if we do not attain a growth rate of nine per cent, for the next four years, it will not be possible for us to achieve the target. How are the resources going to be raised? The main thing to be done for the economic development of a country is to utilise its own natural resources, human resources and financial resources. This is the main thing which is to be done. This is what is being done by various countries of the world. We used to talk about the developments in the South-East Asian countries. We used to talk about the developments in China. How have they attained their targets? Madam, in those countries, they have tried to mobilise the national savings. Some of them had already attained 40 per cent. In the case of China, it is between 30 per cent and 40 per cent. But, in our case, what has happened? The maximum that we have raised is only 26 per cent, and from there, we have gone down to 23 or 24 per cent. We are lagging behind in mobilising the national savings.

It was pointed out by several Members that, in the Budget itself, it has been made clear that we had not achieved the targets regarding revenue realisation, tax realisation; we fall short of thousands of crores of rupees in each item. Not only that, about one lakh crores of rupees of taxes have already been realised. People have become defaulters; they have not paid taxes. There is no earnest effort to realise that money from those defaulters. Therefore, the question of realisation is there. Another thing is that in a country that is having more than a billion people, those who come under the tax net, is a very meagre percentage. In fact, there is a possibility of bringing more and more people under the tax net; but no attempt is there. Then, another thing is that there are so many other amounts, say, in the case of the banks, the so-called NPAs. That also comes to Rs. 1,00,000 crores. No serious and determined efforts are being made to realise these amounts. So, if we fail in raising resources for implementing the Plan, we are not going to succeed. If we are not going to succeed, that will be a misfortune for the whole of the country. Our people will have to suffer.

Another thing that they have mentioned is structural pension scheme. What is it? In the case of those employees who are being recruited newly to the Government service, they will not be entitled to get pension at the rates that are prevailing now. Instead, for them, another pension scheme will be introduced for which they will also have to make a

contribution and, in general, the benefit they are getting by way of pension will be lesser than what they are getting now. It is not a concession to the Government employees. It is an attempt to deprive them of what they are getting now. Therefore, that cannot be claimed as a victory or as a gain.

Then, in order to develop the health services, to provide easy access for the ordinary man to the health schemes, what is the main thing that they are doing? The main thing that they are doing is giving umpteen concessions to those people who come on a commercial basis in the field, who start new hospitals with hundred beds or more than that. They are being given enormous concessions. Will the ordinary people in our country be benefited by that? You look at the major hospitals that have been started in the country. If somebody goes there, at least, he should have, for a minimum thing, an amount of Rs. 60,000 or Rs. 65,000. If he wants to go from there, Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 1.5 lakh or Rs. 2 lakh have to be paid. How many people will be benefited by that? If the poor people are to be benefited, what is to be done, is the entire health services will have to be re-organised in such a way that there is easy access for the people to the hospitals in various areas. There should be a network; efficient doctors should be there and the machines that are required for diagnosis should be there. They should get some help by way of medicine, testing, and all that. But, now what is the situation of health services, even in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences? If you go and look at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, it is a disgraceful and shameful thing.

Of course, a good number of doctors are there. There are very efficient doctors. But it is just like a market. There is no cleanliness. Two years ago, when Comrade Kodiyan was admitted in the Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital and died there, I took his dead body to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. His dead body was kept in the mortuary for two or three days.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Will you please conclude? Your time is over. You have exceeded your time. I have many people sitting in queue.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN : I will conclude within a minute, Madam. When I went there, I could not even go 150 feet near the mortuary. The freezer in the mortuary was not working at all. There was no current. A lot of dead bodies were kept there for days together and they were degrading. That is the case with the All India Institute of Medical

Sciences. It may not be different in other cases, from Government hospitals and medical colleges to district hospitals, taluk hospitals and primary health centres. What the Government has to do is to improve the situation. Those who are entering in this field on a commercial basis can mobilise the money themselves. They can get the money from the banks. The Government has to help not these people, but the other people, the common man. That is what I have to say.

Finally, what I want to say is this. As Shri Virumbi has said, you give some concessions to some people somewhere by one hand, at the same time, you take away the same by the other hand. That is what is being done. The real concessions are being given to the corporate sector, the multinationals and others. Therefore, what I have to say is that the Finance Minister, and the Government as a whole, will have to critically review the whole thing, the whole approach, as has been suggested by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. With these words, I conclude, Madam.

SHRI EKNATH K. THAKUR (Maharashtra): Madam, I rise to support the Budget and congratulate the Finance Minister for his percipient approach to India's economic problems. I have been listening to this debate for more than six hours. I would like to say that out of every six persons on this planet, one is an Indian. We are the sixth largest economy in the world. We are a very huge economy. We are a great nation of 110 billion people. In 1947, we started as a fledgling democracy. Prior to that Winston Churchill wondered whether we will every function as a democracy, whether the democracy of India will reduce to mobocracy. But democracy has taken roots and we see the nation is on the march. We are in the 21st century. If one has an objective view of what is happening all over the world, I believe, the Indian economy has shown tremendous flexibility and resilience, and we have withstood many challenges during our immediate past. As we saw this afternoon, we have one of the best and most respected statesman as our Prime Minister and we have a very honest person as our Finance Minister. Why I am saying this is, if we, as a nation, indulge in self-flagellation and self-recrimination, the morale of the people will be lost.

Millions of people are working in their respective areas. Millions of farmers, millions of workers and our scientists are working. And, we have been achieving great strides in many areas. Our entire debate, in our highest body, centres around certain flaws and foibles. The suggestions that

have been made are unexceptionable. I believe, the morale of the people, the working people, and those who contribute to recession, will be lost. I personally believe that we should try to criticise where criticism is necessary, and we should try to compliment where compliments are necessary. Unfortunately, democracy was chosen as the best form of Government by world, but democracy has also its flaws. And one flaw is, just as we have created an adversarial system in our courts, we have an adversarial and partisan system in debates, in our national democracy. Therefore, even good and great men cannot praise a good initiative, cannot, really, look at a good Budget. Madam, I wish to say that no Finance Minister is a magician. No Finance Minister has a magic wand. Every Finance Minister tries to make, in my opinion, the best of a bad bargain. Madam, the interest that the Government pays is so heavy. Our establishment costs are so heavy. That die is already cast. And, all that the Finance Minister can do is to make do with whatever he can raise during a period of one year. Our present Finance Minister has been in office only for six months, and during these six months, he has obtained a substantial whip over the issues and the economic problems, which this nation is facing. He has been criticised and the Budget has been criticised on many grounds. One of the grounds is that the GDP growth rate of 8 per cent cannot be achieved. But the critics forget that for the first 30 years of India's Independence, these very same people were managing the economy, and we used to have what is known as the Hindu rate of growth of about three-and-a-half per cent. For the last 20 years, our economy has moved down to an average of 5 per cent and, even now, the economy has shown a lot of vibrance and there is every hope that the economy will improve in the current year because of the business confidence. I come from the business commercial capital of India, the city of Mumbai. Now, the confidence of businessmen is very high after the presentation of this Budget. Therefore, I am sure, because of the business confidence, confidence of the industry and the 'concessions which so generously the Finance Minister has given to the agricultural sector and the SSI sector, particularly in making available cheaper credit, I am sure, the economy will look up and we will be able to achieve a growth rate of about 8 per cent. Now, the Budget has been criticised because there was repetition of certain figures which were there last year. I compliment the Finance Minister for keeping the figures as they are, because if the figures were not achieved last year, there is no point in raising them any further. It appears, the Finance Minister has put its foot down and kept the figures as they are because if they were not achieved last year there is no question of increasing

them further. The inflation has been managed very well. For all those years - in the first three to four decades -- inflation wavered between 10-15 per cent. Our inflation, for the earlier two years, has been in the range of two to three per cent. Now, it has been picking up, as you know, because of global factors. If the financial rectitude is to be told to the present Government and to the makers of the Budget, I think, first we should have taken care to see that the greatest damage to India was not done in the form of the Fifth Pay Commission. All the State Governments are facing difficulties only because of the Fifth Pay Commission.

And this Fifth Pay Commission was imposed by the same people who are talking of financial rectitude of theirs and profligacy of the present Government. Therefore, they should have considered this at the time they declared the imposition of the Fifth Pay Commission. In my opinion, Madam, the litmus test of any Budget is whether it is people-oriented; whether it takes care of those sections of the society which today need help -- the farmers, the workers, the poor, the weak, the sick, the elderly, the ex-servicemen and the senior citizens. Madam, this Budget has given relief to everyone. I admit, it has not given relief in abundance because we don't have the kind of resources. Someone pointed out, after all what is this Antodyaya Anna Yojana? It gives food to 50 lakh families at cheaper rate. ...*(Interruptions)*... And that is not so much

श्री दत्ता मेघे (महाराष्ट्र) : किसको दिया है?...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Two crore people have already been covered, and further now in this Budget 50 lakh families have been covered. With that, more than 25 per cent of the total poor in this country will be covered.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it Maharashtra politics?

श्री दत्ता मेघे : आइडेंटिफाई करो । ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : I am talking of families. Fifty lakh additional families will be covered. I personally believe that care has been taken, concern has been expressed for the poor. For the aged, pension schemes have been announced; for senior citizens, income up to Rs.1.53 lakh is tax free. Has it happened any time in the history of our economic movement till now? It has been done now. For the sick, so many welfare schemes and health schemes have been introduced. For the ex-servicemen, certain schemes have been included in this very Budget. Madam, here is a

Budget which is people-oriented; here is a Budget which takes care of the needs of many sections of the society and therefore, this is a Budget which helps. I have had the occasion of studying many former Budgets. Many of those Budgets were carpenter budgets; but this is sculptor's Budget. Everywhere the Finance Minister has tried to give a shape to a vision which has been outlined in the hon. President's speech. There are certain critics who said that that vision is not there. The vision is outlined in the hon. President's Address -- vision 2020. Everywhere the Finance Minister has taken care to see that that vision is given shape.

Madam, the requirements of this country are so great that if we have to look at all the demands that come from 14 drought affected States of India, if we total all their demands, they will exceed more than Rs.25,000 crores. Therefore, all the demands cannot be met. We are speaking here about beedi workers; industrial workers and agricultural workers. For all that, we will be requiring a gargantuan Budget, the size of which we don't have. Several direct subsidies have been given. In only one way, the fertiliser rise was the only blot on this Budget. But the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister have now taken care to see that even that complaint is dealt with.

Madam, people have been speaking here of GDP growth, of fiscal deficit, current account deficits. These are all relevant issues. But the first relevant issue is whether the benefits directly go to the poor and to the neglected sections of the society. Garibi hatao, eradication of poverty is a principle accepted in the Fifth Five Year Plan. It was the vision even of Panditji and Indiraji adopted it in the Fifth Five Year Plan. But, still we are talking of garibi because we have 26 per of the people living Below Poverty Line today and that issue cannot be addressed in one single Budget. We have to see the direction of the Budget and I personally believe that this Budget is in the right direction. This Budget is under attack. The per-capita growth, GDP growth, we will achieve all that. But our past economic experiments in this country have shown that there is no trickle down effect, there is very little direct effect of GDP growth in our economy. It doesn't happen that the GDP growth goes to 8% and then to 9% and directly the poor people will benefit. And, that is why, target-oriented poverty alleviation programmes were introduced. This Budget also takes this movement of target-oriented poverty alleviation programmes further. If this target-oriented poverty alleviation programmes are not taken further, then, probably, we will achieve certain growth rates, but it will result in what is known as 'operation successful but the patient is dead.'

Madam, I want to say one more thing, it is more of a suggestion. The whole country was demoralised because, the issue of taxes on agriculture was discussed. I compliment the Finance Minister that, for the time being, at least, this agricultural taxation issue has been set aside. Madam, my father was a farmer, and I am sure, everyone in this House or the other House, himself, or his father or his grandfather, was a farmer. But in this nation, there is a conspiracy against farmers; I don't know why. The farmer pays indirect taxes on excise and other Central Sales Taxes, etc. on every input he purchases. The farmer faces a lot of problems. He is otherwise having such a small holding, that half a hectare is the average land holding. The rainfed areas are more than 65%. When the conditions of drought and their consequences continue for 2-3 years in succession, in spite of that, the farmer is fighting a battle; but we, sitting here in Delhi, and our bureaucracy, our babus, and our buffoons, have been speaking about levying tax on agriculture. I for one would recommend to the Government in power that they should bring Constitutional amendment--I don't know whether it be in the form of Fundamental Right or by an insertion in the Directive Principles of the State Policy--saying, "This Government and all future Governments would ensure that agriculture is not taxed." I think, this should come from the Government. Or, it can be moved as a Private Members' Bill, here in this Parliament, because taxation of agriculture is one issue...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Who are the people who are asking us to withdraw subsidies from agriculture? It is the Americans, it is the Europeans, it is the WTO. In May, 2002, the President of the U.S.A. signed a ten-year Subsidy Bill of US\$ 190 billion. When he signed that Bill in May, 2002, what does it say about his farmers? He says, "The farming is the first industry of America--the industry that feeds us, the industry that clothes us, and the industry that increasingly provides more of our energy." This is what the American President said while speaking. He has less than one million farmers in the whole of America. He says, "It is the first industry of America, the industry that feeds us, the industry that clothes us."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Thakur, your party's time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : The farm subsidy accounts for half of the European Union's 90 billion Euro Budget. The 90 billion Euro Budget,

more than half of its annual Budget is for farm subsidies. This is the situation in Europe. The European Union, in its statement to the U.S. has recently said, "The U.S. is increasing trade-distorting support for the U.S. farmers, that will harm the developing countries." All over the world, all the Governments are supporting their farmers. Yet, in this country, there is a debate on taxing the agriculture.

Madam, I personally believe that this one thought has to go out of the minds of our rule-makers, of our law-makers, of our Parliament. I would urge the Finance Minister, through you, and the Government, that they should bring a change in the Directive Principles of the State Policy whereby the taxation on agriculture is gone for ever. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, the whole problem before me is that everybody wants to speak. But the question is how one can expand time. राजकुमार जी आपका कैसे करे? अभी दूसरे लोग लाइन में बैठे हैं। बड़ी देर से बैठे हैं। उनका भाषण हो जाए, फिर देखते हैं, आपके लिए क्या करते हैं। We will try to accommodate you. Now, Mr. Lalit Suri. But before that I must announce that there are ten speakers and there is a list of others. So, everybody would just get 15 minutes. Okay. If you abide by time, I think, you will be doing great justice to your friends.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal) : I am very happy because normally we get only three minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I do not mind if everybody gets three minutes each. I will finish the discussion on Budget today itself.

SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY (Nominated) : But, Madam, I will finish it in ten minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But not now. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let Mr. Lalit Suri take his time.

SHRI LALIT SURI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me time to express my views on the Budget 2003-2004 presented by the Finance Minister on 28th February 2003.

The Finance Minister has come up with an extremely structured Budget. His primary focus has been on the priorities underlining the Indian economy. He has concentrated on issues of Health Care and Education. The concept of Social Security has been introduced for the first time in India with schemes for insurance of senior citizens. In terms of poverty alleviation

he has extended the Antodya Scheme to 50 lakh more families. Thus poorest of poor in India would get ration, wheat for Rs. 2/Kg and rice for Rs. 3/Kg which other countries in the world gives a ration for the family at a rate of US \$ 2 a month. The Finance Minister has concentrated on the core areas as far as economy is concerned.

The concept of public/private participation in the Highway programme is highly successful. It has now been extended to rural roads. The creation of the corpus fund for infrastructure development of roads, through the levy of cess at Re 1 per litre on oil and Rs 1.50 per litre on diesel, is very important and highly successful. This fund has assisted in faster development of highways and roads. A strong network of highways and roads are an essential aspect of physical connectivity. Rs. 80,000 crores worth of contracts have already been awarded to various contractors - the business is booming.

The National Highway Programme has been a huge boon for the construction industry. Cheaper housing loans have also provided a boost to housing construction. We must bring the interest down further. The construction industry is also the largest generator of unskilled labour. Since March 2002 the number of people registered with Employment Exchange has started declining slowly. The single most important factor for this is the absorption of unskilled labour in the National Highway Programme. The construction industry has also generated enhanced economic activity for the cement and steel industry. Even though the excise duty on cement has gone up a little, the industry has been compensated by increase in demand. 25% of the national highways will be constructed by using cement and steel. The cement industry has been greatly encouraged. The Finance Minister has therefore provided an all round impetus for the cement industry - for the consumer of cement, taking care of the profitability of the industry and this also ensured increased revenue for the exchequer. The construction activity in the country has also assisted the steel industry, and made it possible for it to come out of the red. The Finance Minister also has come up with high concessions for the textile industry. The concessions in the form of reduced excise duty on machinery imported for the textile industry are very encouraging. The textile industry is also the largest employer in the organised sector. India today is globally recognized in the textile industry. This year we are hoping to do the business of USD 15 billion (70,000 crores) in the export of textile. This USD 15 billion is suppressed because of the

textile quotas, which are still prevalent in the world. The quotas will get abolished on 31 October 2004 and we need to prepare ourselves, for that date. This US \$ 15 billion (Rs.70,000 crores) figure of export should be doubled in the next 3 to 5 years to 1,40,000 crores. For this we need to increase capacity output. For building the capacity we need machinery which should be made available at cheaper rates. We also need a competitive taxation structure. If you have higher excise duty, your exports become costlier. If exports became costlier then you price yourselves out of the international market. Therefore you need cheaper exports. This is one area on which we require to concentrate.

Besides the construction and textile industries, the other greater generation of employment, both directly and indirectly, is Tourism. This is the first time, in fifty years, initial steps have been taken to encourage tourism in this country. In tourism, we have to concentrate on volume of tourism. Tourists will come in volumes if our hotels, our restaurants, our transport, airlines are cheap. Increased volume does not only mean a greater inflow of tourists, but also gives a buoyancy to the related industry, for example, supplies to institutions will increase. Our traders will be benefited. A healthy tourist industry will generate more jobs and generate greater volumes of taxes. We need, however, to be able to offer hotel rooms at a competitive price. The hon. Finance Minister has done well to abolish the expenditure tax. It is now the challenge of the day that, following his advice, the State Governments must remove the luxury tax. Taxes will, anyway, come to the State Governments, if the tourists come. If hotels are costly and taxes are high the tourists will find destinations elsewhere. The taxes on tourism is a State policy. If you abolish these taxes, provide cheaper rooms in hotels, volumes will increase and increased volumes will lead to a higher economic activity and more foreign exchange earnings to the State. Tourism alone can, to a large extent, wipe off the Budget deficit in the country. Our neighbouring country -- China -- has 80 million tourists. Out of this, 50 million are travellers of Chinese-origin and 30 million are foreigners whereas India gets 2.4 million tourists! Out of this, only 0.75 million are, actually, foreign travellers. By just doubling this figure to 5 million tourist arrivals in the next 6 to 7 years, we can generate 33 million jobs by 2010 against 17 million jobs that are prevalent now. It means, 1.5 million jobs per year, or, an average of 2800 jobs in every Parliamentary constituency. Our foreign exchange earnings can increase to US \$ 10 billion with an in-bound tourist of 5 million people. If you calculate it, it comes to

about Rs. 50,000 crores. Modernization of two major airports at Delhi and Mumbai to the international standards is another step for attracting tourists to the country. Further, another important move is the allocation of Rs. 2,000 crores for two major convention centres in Delhi and Mumbai for holding big conventions in this country. All these will give a huge boost to the Tourism industry. Our country is the only country in the world that can offer both international and domestic travellers the culture, heritage, religious places, wild life sanctuaries, beaches, mountains, ancient historic palaces and forts. We have in-bound traffic of 2.4 million and outbound traffic of 6 millions. We earn about Rs. 14,000 crores as foreign exchange and spend over Rs. 50,000 crores on tourism. This is the cause of worry and we must do every thing possible to encourage our people to visit different places within the country by offering them connectivity rail, road and airfares at a reasonable rate. We must offer them the world-class accommodation at reasonably priced hotels with clean hygienic surroundings. The Budget has given the necessary concessions in the right direction and it is up to us to put our act together and do the rest.

Madam, in order to achieve efficiency in the country, we have to have the labour reforms. All the State Governments, along with the industry, are feeling the need for amendments in labour laws. Labour law reforms are required to boost efficiency. Efficiency will lead to profitability. And, profitability will lead to more jobs. Efficiency is, therefore, has to be pro-labour. Absence of labour law reforms will lead to inefficiency and closure of industry. The single most important deterrent to the flow Foreign Direct Investment into the country is the prevailing labour laws. There should be some law or legislation whereby the units, which are earning substantial foreign exchange or have substantial Foreign Direct Investment, should be exempted from implementing these laws. We, the Members of this august House, must think seriously what we have to do. Our country is passing through a very critical phase. The world is moving ahead at a very fast pace and we have to keep pace with it. Today's world is the world of survival of the fittest. This can be seen with the happenings in the Middle East. It is very easy to criticise. Nobody is perfect and there is always scope for improvement. I admire the Leader of the Opposition Dr. Manmohan Singh who initiated the process of liberalization and disinvestment 12 years ago. However, the need of hour is to rise above our personal interest and party line to work together and make India totally a self-reliant, strong and a developed nation. We owe this to our Motherland. Let us send a message

to the world that we are a united nation and determined to lead our country into the next decade as one of the most advanced economic power in the world.

'Tan Man Dhan kar Balidan - Rakhni hai Bharat ki Aan.

Thank you.

उपसभापति : श्री दत्ता मेघे । आप भी इन्ही की तरह संक्षेप में बोल दीजिए ।

श्री दत्ता मेघे (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी, द्वारा प्रस्तुत वित्तीय वर्ष 2003-2004 का बजट किसान विरोधी प्रतीत होता है । बजट में कृषि संबंधी समस्याओं की अनदेखी कर, खाद्य, डीजल की कीमतों में वृद्धि की गयी है । अभी उन्होंने खतों की कीमत में कमी की जिस के लिए मैं फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर का आभारी हूँ । हालांकि पहले उन्होंने कहा था कि किसी भी हालत में खतों की जो कीमत बढ़ायी गयी है, वह कम नहीं करेंगे । लेकिन यह उन को कम करनी पड़ी । इस के लिए उन की पार्टी और सभी लोगों पर प्रेशर था । खासकर हमारे देश के 70 प्रतिशत आबादी वाले किसानों का प्रेशर था, ऐसा मैं मानता हूँ । इसलिए यह उन्होंने अच्छा निर्णय लिया कि वह खतों की कीमत को बढ़ाने वाले नहीं हैं ।

महोदया, इस वर्ष जो बजट पेश किया गया है, वह 4 लाख, 38 हजार 795 करोड़ रुपए का है जिस में योजना व्यय 1 लाख 20 हजार 974 करोड़ रुपए और गैर-योजना व्यय 3 लाख 17 हजार 821 करोड़ रुपए का है तथा बजट घाटा 1 लाख 53 हजार 937 करोड़ रुपए का है । महोदया, पिछले कई सालों में बजट घाटा बढ़ता जा रहा है जिस का बोझ जनता पर पड़ता है । फिलहाल डेफिसिट 5.3 था जो कि बढ़कर 5.9 हो गया है । यह वास्तव में एक चिंता का विषय है । इस की तरफ सरकार को विशेष ध्यान देना पड़ेगा ।

उपसभापति महोदया, भारत देश एक कृषि प्रधान देश है और कृषि हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था का मुख्य विषय है । कृषि उत्पादन में 13.6 प्रतिशत की कमी देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को प्रभावित कर रही है । बजट में खेती पर 3 हजार 6 सौ करोड़ रुपए खर्च करने का प्रावधान है जिस में 483 करोड़ सिंचाई पर और 8181 करोड़ ग्रामीण विकास पर खर्च होंगे । मेरे मतानुसार कृषि पर किया जाने वाला खर्च बहुत कम है । ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार कृषि पर उचित ध्यान नहीं दे रही है । सरकार ने डीजल की जो कीमत बढ़ाई है, इस से आम जनता को जो भी चीजें लेनी पड़ती हैं, उन की कीमत तो बढ़ेगी ही । वह तो कम होने वाली नहीं है । उस का उद्देश्य चाहे कितना भी अच्छा रहे, चाहे रोड बनाएं या कुच और बनाएं, लेकिन इस देश की जनता की रोजमर्रा की आवश्यकता की चीजों के दाम डीजल के दाम बढ़ने से और बढ़ेंगे ।

महोदया, मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान कृषि सिंचाई की ओर भी दिलाना चाहता हूँ । हमारे देश में 37 परसेंट भूमि सिंचित क्षेत्र में है तथा शेष जमीन मानसून एवं प्रकृति पर निर्भर करती है । इस बजट में सिंचाई योजनाओं की ओर समुचित ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है । त्रिप हरिंगेशन योजना के लिए धन उपलब्ध किया गया है, लेकिन वह पर्याप्त नहीं है । इस के लिए बहुत बड़ा काम राज्य सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार की मदद से ही पूरे देश में और खास तौर पर

राज्यों में होना बहुत जरूरी है। क्योंकि आज हम देखते हैं महाराष्ट्र में पीने के पानी की समस्या है। जैसा बोल रहे थे, हमें बहुत खुशी हुई थी कि टैंकर मुक्त किया है, लेकिन वह टैंकर अभी भी मुक्त नहीं हुआ है और जो पानी आना चाहिए वह आ नहीं रहा। आज पूरे देश के अंदर किसानों और लोगों को पानी नहीं मिल पा रहा है। जो मेन सोर्स है, जब ऊपर से पानी नहीं मिलेगा तो लोगों को उतनी सुविधा हम नहीं दे पाएंगे। इसलिए इसके बारे में ध्यान देना जरूरी है कि लोगों को पीने का शुद्ध पानी मिले और किसानों को सिंचाई के लिए पानी मिले। इस दृष्टि से केन्द्र को प्रावधान करना जरूरी है। ऐसा मैं मानता हूँ।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) पीठासीन हुए]

मान्यवर, सरकार ने जो घोषणाएँ की हैं, उसमें हमारे साथी बोल रहे थे, जो सही बात है, कि जो इंडस्ट्रलिस्ट लोग हैं उनको सहूलियत मिली है, उसकी जरूरत भी थी। जब हम उन्हें सहूलियत नहीं देंगे, हमारी आय नहीं बढ़ेगी और हम लोगों को सुविधाएँ नहीं दे पाएंगे। जहाँ आपने मोटर लेने वालों को, ऐसी लेने वालों को सहूलियत दी है, वहीं आपके लिए गरीब लोगों को भी और ज्यादा सहूलियत देने का काम करना जरूरी था, जो नहीं हुआ। इस बजट में सरकार ने कारों की कीमतों में कमी की बात की है, लेकिन यह तो धनी लोगों की वस्तु है। उसकी कीमतों को कम करने बजाय कृषि के काम में आने वाले ट्रैक्टर तथा कृषि उपकरणों के लिए कीमतों में कमी कर देते तो बहुत अच्छा होता। ऐसा मुझे लगता है। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि किसानों के लिए अधिकतम सबसिद्धी देना उचित होगा ताकि व्यापार की प्रतिस्पर्धा में आगे आने का उनको मौका मिलेगा, उसमें वे टिक सकेंगे। किसान का जो उत्पादन होता है उसके खर्च में कमी होगी तो वह अपना उत्पादन गेहूँ, धान, चवल, और दूसरा उत्पादन हो उसे बाहर भेज सकेगा। वित्त मंत्री जी ने कृषि क्षेत्र सबसे अधिक ध्यान फलों, फली की खेती, शक्कर उद्योग, कॉफी, रबर आदि को दिया है। यह काफी अच्छी बात है। निर्यात की सूची में भी केले, आम, चीकू, अनार आदि का समावेश किया है, लेकिन इसमें कहीं भी हमारे विदर्भ में जो कपास होती है या संतरा होता है उसका उल्लेख नहीं किया है। इस देश में कपास काफी है, विशेषकर हमारे महाराष्ट्र में सबसे ज्यादा हम पैदा करते हैं, लेकिन कपास के उत्पादक काश्तकार जो हैं उनकी हालत बहुत खराब है, यह बात आप सब लोगों को मालूम है। जो यहाँ विदेश से कपास मंगवा रहे हैं उसके ऊपर झूटी कम रखी है। केन्द्र सरकार का प्रमुख काम यह देखना होना चाहिए कि आयात किस चीज की करें, उस आयात पर कितना टैक्स हो। मैं तो यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कपास के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा टैक्स आप लगाइए ताकि हमारे यहाँ की कपास का यहाँ के किसान को अच्छा मूल्य मिले, लेकिन हमने देखा है कि यह जो कॉटन मिलों की लॉबी है यह बहुत पावरफुल है। दिल्ली में हम सब लोगों से मिलते हैं, देखते हैं कि यह जो कपास और गाँठी बाहर से आयात होती है इसके ऊपर आपका उतना दखल नहीं है। इस पर आपको दखल देना चाहिए और ज्यादा से ज्यादा टैक्स लगाकर हमारे किसानों, कपास उत्पादकों को राहत पहुँचानी चाहिए।

मान्यवर, शिक्षा क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत इस वर्ष बजट में प्राथमिक शिक्षा और साक्षरता पर किए जाने वाले खर्च की व्यवस्था वास्तविक खपत से बहुत कम है। देश में 87 फीसदी बच्चे इंटरमीडिएट तक जाते जाते अपनी पढ़ाई छोड़ देते हैं। सूचना और प्रौद्योगिकी की शिक्षा विशेष वर्ग तक ही सीमित रह गई है और आम लोगों को इसका लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है। सरकार को इसके लिए कुछ नई नीतियाँ बनाकर इस ओर विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए और बजट में इसके लिए

अधिक धन की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। हमने देखा है कि जो प्राइमरी शिक्षा है वह भी आज 40-45 फीसदी बच्चों तक सीमित रह गई है, आम लोग अपने बच्चों को शिक्षा नहीं दे पाते हैं। मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि हमारा महाराष्ट्र प्रगतिशील राज्य है, मगर उसमें भी कुछ जिले हैं - जैसे अमरावती, चन्द्रापूर, रायगढ़, यहां पर 50 फीसदी बच्चे ही स्कूल में जाते हैं। आज जो प्राइमरी शिक्षा है, जो मौलिक अधिकार है बच्चों को पढ़ाने का, उसके लिए भी आज उतने पैसे नहीं लगा पा रहे हैं। इस दृष्टि से प्राइमरी शिक्षा और अन्य शिक्षा पर अधिक प्रावधान करना चाहिए।

मान्यवर, शिक्षा में अब एक नई बात हुई है कि शिक्षा का प्राइवेटाइजेशन हुआ। मेडीकल कॉलेज, इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज, अन्य कॉलेज जिसमें शिक्षा होती है उसका प्रबंध सरकार की ओर से होना चाहिए ताकि जो गरीब लोग हैं वे भी शिक्षा ले पाएं। प्राइवेट कॉलेज में तो गरीब बच्चे शिक्षा नहीं ले पाएंगे। उनकी शिक्षा पर जो खर्चा आता है, जो प्राइवेट कॉलेज में उनका खर्चा निकलना चाहिए, वह गवर्नमेंट को करना चाहिए। अभी पूरे देश के अंदर प्राइवेट इंजीनियरिंग कालेज, मेडिकल कालेज खोले जा रहे हैं, कोई सरकारी कालेज नहीं खुल रहा है। हमारा कहना है कि जब सब प्राइवेट कालेज खुल रहे हैं तो इस देश के गरीब लोगों को सब प्राइवेट कालेजों में मुफ्त शिक्षा देने का बंधन होना चाहिए क्योंकि यह गरीब भी इस देश का आदमी है, वह भी फर्स्ट क्लास आना चाहता है। वह 50,000 या एक लाख रुपये फीस नहीं दे सकता है और प्राइवेट कालेज उसकी पढ़ाई फोकट में कर नहीं सकते हैं। तो गरीब लोग भी शिक्षा से वंचित न हों, यह देखना सरकार का काम है। हमारी जो आने वाली पीढ़ी है उसमें कोई इंजीनियर बनना चाहता है, कोई साइंटिस्ट बनना चाहता है, लेकिन उसके पास पैसे नहीं हैं और प्राइवेट वाले उसको फ्री में नहीं पढ़ा सकते हैं। ऐसे बच्चों के लिए कुछ होना बहुत जरूरी है। यह केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकारों के सोचने की बात है वरना जिसके पास पैसा होगा वही पढ़ेगा और जिसके पास पैसा नहीं होगा वह नहीं पढ़ पाएगा। यदि ऐसा हुआ तो यह हमारे देश के लिए बहुत शर्म की बात होगी, मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ।

स्वास्थ्य योजना में इन्होंने कहा है कि जो प्राइवेट डाक्टर हैं, छोटे-छोटे अस्पताल हैं, यह उनके लिए है लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे बहुत सीमित हैं। हमने देखा है कि मुम्बई जैसे बड़े शहरों में जो बड़े अस्पताल हैं जैसे बाम्बे अस्पताल है, जसलो अस्पताल है, वहां की भूमि सरकार ने उनको बहुत कम कीमत पर दी थी और उनको कहा था कि 10 प्रतिशत या 15 प्रतिशत जो गरीब मरीज आएँ, उन गरीब मरीजों का आप फ्री इलाज कीजिए। लेकिन पूरे देश के अंदर जितने भी प्राइवेट अस्पताल हैं, ऐसा नहीं करते। जब प्लॉट लेते हैं, गवर्नमेंट से फेसिलिटी लेते हैं तब तो आप ऐग्रीमेंट करते हैं, लेकिन आप जाकर देखें बड़े अस्पतालों में तो आप पाएंगे कि गरीब आदमी वहां पहुंच नहीं सकता है। गरीब आदमी के लिए यह पूरी सुविधा नहीं है। तो जो बड़े अस्पताल हैं, वहां प्राइवेट डाक्टरों पर पूरी जिम्मेदारी डालकर यदि आप उनको फेसिलिटी देंगे तो जरूर आपका नियंत्रण होगा। हमारे गांवों में जो प्राथमिक सेंटर्स हैं, तालुका प्लेस में छोटे-छोटे सेंटर्स हैं, इनमें सुविधा देना और गरीब लोगों को स्वास्थ्य की सुविधा देना सरकार का दायित्व है, मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ। यदि आज हम सब प्राइवेट लोगों पर छोड़ देंगे तो इस देश का गरीब और अनपढ़ जो आदमी है, उसको इस सेवा से वंचित होना पड़ेगा, जैसा कि हम पिछले 50 सालों से देख रहे हैं। हमारी जो बेसिक चीजें हैं - अन्न, वस्त्र, निवारा, आरोग्य और शिक्षा, ये गरीब लोगों को हम कैसे दे सकते हैं, इस बारे में मुझे इस बजट में कुछ दिखाई नहीं दे रहा। इसलिए पूरा काम प्राइवेट सेक्टर पर छोड़कर सरकार अपना दायित्व पूरा कर पाएगी, मुझे ऐसा नहीं लगता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं वेट के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहूंगा। वेट का कानून पूरे देश में लग रहा है, अच्छी बात है। राज्य सरकारें भी इसे लगाने वाली हैं लेकिन हमारे देश के अंदर जो व्यापारी वर्ग है, चाहे वह गांव का हो, तालुका का हो, जिले का हो, शहर का हो, ... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : एक मिनट दत्ता मेघे जी।

Hon. Members, I have to take permission from the House that since it is 5 o'clock, I have to raise a discussion on the rise in telephone rental; so, in the meantime, I will ask Shri Ram Deo Bhandari to chair the House.

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. राम देव भंडारी) पीठासीन हुए]

श्री दत्ता मेघे : मान्यवर, मैं कह रहा था कि वेट के बारे में पूरे देश में व्यापारियों का जो असंतोष है, उसका एक खास कारण है। वेट तो लगना चाहिए क्योंकि पूरे देश में इसकी बहुत चर्चा हो गई है, पूरे राज्यों के लोग इसके लिए तैयार हैं। पूरे देश में, सभी राज्यों में यह एक साथ लगना चाहिए। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए कि महाराष्ट्र वाले करें, छत्तीसगढ़ वाले नहीं करें या जहां-जहां चुनाव हैं - राजस्थान में नहीं होगा, एम.पी. में नहीं होगा, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। जब भी लागू करना है, करना जरूरी है, एक साथ करना है क्योंकि हर राज्य को इससे फायदा है और हर राज्य में, सभी जगह टैक्स बराबर होता है तो इसका फायदा होगा। लेकिन आज चुनाव का माहौल देखते हुए कुछ राज्यों ने इसका जो बिल लाना था, वह भी नहीं लाया जबकि हम एक अप्रैल से इसे लागू करने जा रहे हैं। तो इस बारे में सोचना जरूरी है और इसमें खास तौर से जो काम हुआ है और इसमें जो सजा, जुर्माना, जेल और मनमाने ढंग से जो अधिकारी लोग करने वाले हैं, ...

उसका पूरा हिसाब रखो, उसका पूरा एकाउंट रखो नहीं तो उनके हाथ काट दो। यहां हफ्ते का राज है, इन्स्पेक्टर राज और हर व्यापारी पैसे देकर, यह काम करता है। इसको भी सरल और अच्छा बनाओ। जुर्माना वगैरह जो कर रहे हैं, वह बोलना बड़ा आसान है लेकिन जो सीरियस बात है, वह ...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. राम देव भंडारी) : कृपया समाप्त करें।

श्री दत्ता मेघे : बस मैं दो-तीन मिनट में खत्म करता हूं। महोदय, यह जो मुद्दा है, यह हमारे महाराष्ट्र में लागू हो रहा है। उसमें से आप देखिए आज महाराष्ट्र में दवाओं पर एक टका बिक्री कर है। नया वेट लागू हो जाएगा तो 12 टके देना पड़ेगा। ग्राहकों को पोस्ट ऑफिस से 15 टके देना पड़ेगा। ये जो बातें हैं, जब हम इंप्लिमेंट करते हैं तो इन पर ध्यान देना बहुत जरूरी है, ऐसा मैं मानता हूं। मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि इस बजट में खाद की सबसिद्धी समाप्त करके आपने...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. राम देव भंडारी) : कृपया समाप्त करें।

श्री दत्ता मेघे : यह मुद्दे लेकर मैं अपनी बात खत्म कर देता हूं। मैं समाप्त करता हूं, टाइम का हम ख्याल रखते हैं लेकिन महोदय, मैं यही कहना चाहता था कि यह बजट अच्छा तो है, लेकिन जो बेरोजगार हैं, जो गरीब हैं, जो मजदूर हैं, जो कामगार हैं, इनकी जो लंबित

5.00 p.m.

प्रकरण पड़ी हैं, उनको ठीक करके इसमें लोगो को राहत मिलनी चाहिए क्योंकि लोगो के लिए ही यह बजट है और उस दृष्टि से आप काम करें, धन्यवाद।

श्री आर.पी. गोयनका (राजस्थान) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद। मैं पूरे बजट पर नहीं बोलना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि हमारे पक्ष के नेता डा. मनमोहन सिंह ने कल जो स्पीच दी है, उसके बाद हमारे बोलने के लिए कुछ नहीं बचता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर का ध्यान एग्रीकल्चर की ओर ले जाना चाहता हूँ। आप जरा देखिए, एग्रीकल्चर को आपने 3868 करोड़ रुपया दिया है। इस राशि से आप एग्रीकल्चर में क्या करने वाले हैं? पिछले साल भी जो बजट का प्रोविजन था, वह भी आप पूरा नहीं कर सके। आप समझते हैं कि 50 मिलियन टन आपके गोदामों में आता है, तो काफी है। उसमें से कुछ तो सड़ गया और अगर उसको आप लोगो के बीच में वितरण करें जिनके पास खाने को नहीं है, खुदा जाने, आपको कितने वोट मिलते हैं? ... (व्यवधान) ...

प्रो. रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : वितरण तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की जिम्मेदारी है।

श्री आर.पी. गोयनका : जब यह दरकार होती है तो वहां सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट आ जाती है और जहां नहीं करना हो, अपना बचाव करना हो तो स्टेट पर डाल दिया जाता है। और वह आपकी बात है। पिछले चार सालों में तीन साल एग्रीकल्चर में कमी होती रही।

इस रकम से क्या आप लोगो को संभाल सकेगे? 60 परसेंट औरतों में आयरन की डेफिसिएन्सी है। जिसके कारण वे एनिमिया की शिकार हो जाती हैं। 30 हजार बच्चे हर साल अंधे होते हैं क्योंकि विटामिन-ए की कमी है। उसकी तरफ तो आपने ध्यान नहीं दिया। मेरा तो एक सुझाव है और घड़ी की तरफ ध्यान दे रहा हूँ कि जो आज-कल की मॉडर्न फ्रंटियर टेक्नॉलोजी हैं, जैसे बायो टेक्नॉलोजी है, प्रोडक्शन बढ़े, क्वालिटी बढ़े और खाद्य में विटामिन ज्यादा हो, इसकी तरफ हमें देना चाहिए। एक बड़े दुख की बात है। लेकिन वह मुझसे कनेक्टेड है, इंडिविजुअली है, फिर भी कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं एक बायोटेक्नोलॉजी इंस्टीट्यूट जयपुर में लगाना चाहता था। उसमें आधा पैसा एमपीलेड का लगता था और आधा पैसा हम अपना लगा रहे थे, परमिशन नहीं दी गई। हमने वहां पर जो मंत्री मौजूद हैं, उनका एग्जाम्पल दिया कि उन्होंने भी एमपीलेड से कानपुर आईआईटी को एक नया यीवन दे दिया। लेकिन कोई सुनाई तो है नहीं। मैंने यह बात प्रधानमंत्री तक पहुंचाई, एघआरडी मिनिस्टर तक पहुंचाई कि आप कुछ करिए। बिल्डिंग आप बनाएं, मशीनें हम लाएंगे, जमीन हम देंगे, लेकिन नहीं। यह सरकार कुछ चीजों में अगर अच्छी है तो कुछ चीजों में, आँख से देख नहीं सकते, मैं वह शब्द यूज नहीं करूंगा, लेकिन वह देखती नहीं है। मैं तो अपना दुखड़ा रो रहा था कि बायो टेक्नॉलोजी की जब आप बात करते हैं, उसको बढ़ावा देना चाहते हैं तो आपको यह काम करने को मिलता। अरे साहब, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी पूरा ध्यान नहीं देंगे। वे कहते हैं कि उपसभाध्यक्ष को बोलो। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी मेरी तरफ ध्यान दें तब तो मैं उनको बोलूँ। नहीं तो किसको बोलूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. राम देव भंडारी) : मैं सदन का ही काम कर रहा हूँ। आपकी तरफ भी मेरा ध्यान है।

श्री आर.पी. गोयनका : सर, आप एक साथ दो-तीन जगह ध्यान दे सकते हैं। यह आपकी खूबी है, मैं मानता हूँ और इन शब्दों से।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. राम देव बंजारी) : मैं पूरा ध्यान आपकी तरफ लगाता हूँ।

श्री आर.पी. गोयनका : बायो टेक्नॉलोजी पर ध्यान दीजिए। उसको बढ़ावा दीजिए। उसमें यदि कोई कमी है तो उसको हटा दीजिए। यह मेरी आपसे विनती है।

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपने मुझे सामान्य बजट पर बोलने का अवसर उपलब्ध कराया, इसके लिए मैं आपका हृदय से बड़ा धन्यवाद करता हूँ। मान्यवर, यह जो वर्तमान बजट आया है, इसका सब जगह स्वागत हुआ है। स्वागत इसलिए हुआ है कि इतना संतुलित, आम जनता से संबंधित समस्याओं के निराकरण के लिए दिया हुए सुझाव, प्रत्यक्षरूप से कार्य करने की मानसिकता और समाज का कोई भी ऐसा वर्ग नहीं है जिसको इस बजट के अंदर समाहित न किया गया हो। सबसे बड़ी चीज तो यह है कि मैं पहली बार देख रहा हूँ कि इस बजट में समाज और क्षेत्र सभी के बारे में बड़ी समग्रता के साथ विचार करते हुए नियोजन किया गया है। प्राथमिकताएं सुनिश्चित की गई हैं। जो भी बजट प्रस्तुत करता है वह हमेशा प्राथमिकताएं सुनिश्चित करता है। प्राथमिकताएं भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार की होती हैं। उसके आधार पर लोग उस दृष्टि से व्यवस्था करते हैं। इस बजट में पहली बार इस प्रकार की प्राथमिकताएं सुनिश्चित की गई हैं जिसमें आम गरीब आदमी को केंद्र में रखा गया है। जहाँ सर्वाधिक लोग निवास करते हैं उन्हें हर प्रकार की मूलभूत सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हो सकें इसलिए उन्हें केंद्र में रखा गया है। साथ ही साथ सर्वाधिक उत्पादन का जो स्रोत हो सकता है, चाहे कृषि हो, उद्योग हो, उसे भी प्रमुखता के साथ लिया गया है। दोनों के द्वारा उत्पादित माल को व्यवस्थित तौर पर बाजार उपलब्ध हो सकें, उपभोक्ता उसे सस्ती दर पर ले सकें, उसकी व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित तौर पर की जाए, इसे भी ध्यान में रखा गया है। इस प्रकार से सारी बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया है। इसीलिए मैंने कहा कि यह सभी वर्गों के लिए बड़ा ही उपयुक्त, बहुत ही संतुलित और सबको समाधान प्राप्त कराने वाला बजट है। इसमें पांच प्राथमिकताएं सुनिश्चित की गई हैं। मैं वित्त मंत्री को साधुवाद देना चाहूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री ने प्रारंभ में ही अपनी प्राथमिकताओं को लोगों के सामने प्रस्तुत कर दिया। मान्यवर, शासन क्या करना चाहता है, बजट के माध्यम से उसकी नीयत का पता चलता है। आम जनता यह महसूस करती है कि शासन किस दिशा में हमें ले जाना चाहता है। वित्त मंत्री ने जिस तरीके से पांच प्राथमिकताएं सुनिश्चित की हैं उन पांच प्राथमिकताओं को सुनिश्चित करने के बाद सरकार की नीयत को लोगों के सामने प्रस्तुत कर दिया है। मान्यवर, मैं गरीबी उन्मूलन के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा। गरीबी उन्मूलन की बात बहुत पहले से की जा रही है। एक बार सन् 1971 में गरीबी उन्मूलन की बात कही गई थी। उसके आधार पर चुनाव भी लड़े गए थे लेकिन गरीब तो गरीब ही रह गया। उसकी गरीबी नहीं हटी लेकिन दूसरे लोगों की गरीबी हट गई। गरीबों की संख्या, गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जीवन व्यतीत करने वाले लोगों की संख्या लगातार बढ़ती गई। मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि यह संख्या बढ़कर एक विकृत रूप धारण कर चुकी थी। एक दशक पहले यह संख्या 45 फीसदी थी। आज जो आंकड़े हैं उसमें यह संख्या 30-35 प्रतिशत के बीच में है। जब से यह शासन वर्तमान सरकार ने सम्भाला है तब से निश्चित रूप से इसमें कमी आई है। इसकी पहली प्राथमिकता गरीबी उन्मूलन है। इस गरीबी उन्मूलन में अंत्योदय अन्न योजना है। अंत्योदय का अर्थ होता है जो अत्यधिक गरीब है उसके पास अन्न पहुंचे। गरीब के

पेट में दाना पहुंचे। उस प्रकार की योजना देकर पचास लाख परिवार इससे लाभान्वित हो, इस दिशा में एक बड़ा क्रांतिकारी और महत्वाकांक्षी कदम बढ़ाया गया है।

दूसरा प्रयास मूलभूत ढांचे का विकास है। मूलभूत ढांचे की ओर जरूर ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) पीठासीन हुए]

जो अवस्थापना सुविधाएं होती हैं, उन अवस्थापना सुविधाओं के अंतर्गत विशेष रूप से आवासीय व्यवस्था, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, सड़क, पेय जल, विद्युत, मूलभूत ढांचे के अंतर्गत आती हैं। मान्यवर, इस का निराकरण बहुत पहले हो जाना चाहिए था, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य यह रहा कि आज उस की व्यवस्था करनी पड़ रही है। इस को प्राथमिकता के अंदर केन्द्र बिंदु मानकर उस मूलभूत ढांचे के विस्तार के साथ उसे आम जनता के पास कैसे पहुंचाया जाए, इस बजट के माध्यम से इस प्रकार का नियोजन किया गया है और उस के लिए समुचित धन के आवंटन की व्यवस्था भी की गयी है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मूलभूत ढांचे के अंतर्गत ही जिस तरह से वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने आवास व्यवस्था के बारे में कहा है, वह भी सराहनीय है। हमारे यहां आवास की बड़ी कमी है। इस संबंध में उन्होंने आयकर की पूरी छूट प्रदान की है। चाहे खरीद करो और चाहे बनाओ, निर्माण और खरीद दोनों के हिसाब से पूरी छूट दी गयी है। यह एक बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR

Postponement of Half-An-Hour Discussion

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : Hon. Members, I have just now noticed that there was a Half-an-Hour Discussion at 5 o'clock. That was the order of the day. Since we did not take it up, it was wrong. So, do I have the permission of the House--and I have discussed with all concerned that we will take it up tomorrow at 1 o'clock, during the lunch hour, and we continue with this--for this? Is that all right? Does the House give permission for this?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : Thank you. Go ahead now.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2003-2004 --(Contd.)

श्री कलराज मिश्र : मान्यवर, स्वास्थ्य की दृष्टि से गरीब आदमी के लिए सामुदायी चिकित्सा सार्वभौम बीमा योजना निश्चित रूप से एक बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाया गया है। इतना ही नहीं जीवन रक्षक दवाओं के लिए छूट पहले 25 फीसदी थी, उस को बढ़ाकर 40 फीसदी कर दी गयी है अर्थात् मूल्य और कम हो जाएगा, इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था की गयी है। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के माध्यम से जो आंकड़े आए हैं, उन के आधार पर कहा जा सकता है कि हिंदुस्तान में