

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

**श्री गांधी आज़ाद ( उत्तर प्रदेश ) :** महोदया, मैं इस बजट के समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूँ। वर्ष 2003-2004 का बजट पांच उद्देश्यों को लेकर, पंच प्राथमिकताओं का नाम देकर प्रस्तुत किया गया है। देश के नागरिकों के लिए और देश की आर्थिक सुरक्षा को बढ़ाने का बजट में जो प्रयास किया गया है, यह एक सराहनीय कदम है। महोदया, गरीबी उन्मूलन हेतु, स्वास्थ्य, आवास और रोजगार को शामिल किया गया है। यह भी एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है। बजट के पृष्ठ चार में अंकित किया गया है कि 1 अप्रैल, 2003 से अंत्योदय व अन्य योजनाओं का विस्तार किया जाएगा ताकि अतिरिक्त पचास लाख परिवारों को इसके अंतर्गत लाया जा सके। वर्ष 2003-2004 के दौरान गरीबी रेखा से नीचे के सभी परिवारों के एक चौथाई से अधिक को लाभान्वित किया जा सकेगा। इस पर होने वाला अतिरिक्त बजटीय व्यय 507 करोड़ रूपए का होगा। यह भी एक सराहनीय कदम है। आवास के संबंध में, स्लम्स का विकास, नई आवासीय योजनाओं का विस्तार, इनके द्वारा रोजगार का सृजन होगा। महोदया, इस बजट में कुछ नया किया गया है जैसे शिक्षा में दो बच्चे के लिए प्रति बच्चा बारह हजार रूपए तक के शिक्षा व्यय पर, आयकर में छूट देने की घोषणा की है। यह सरकार का एक सराहनीय कदम है। नौकरी पेशा वालों के लिए तो यह व्यवस्था बहुत ही अच्छी है लेकिन मैं एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि जो गैर सरकारी नौकरी वाले हैं, उनके बच्चों के लिए भी शिक्षा का कोई इंतजाम सरकार द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए। महोदया, इस बजट में पहली बार 55 वर्ष की उम्र से ऊपर वाले वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को अनेक सुविधाएं देकर सम्मानित करने का काम किया गया है। इसके साथ ही इस बजट में वेतनभोगी कर्मचारियों को काफी रियायत दी गई है। यह एक सराहनीय कदम है। महोदया, हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है। आज भी साठ से सत्तर प्रतिशत आबादी कृषि पर निर्भर है। कभी मानसून, कभी बाढ़ और कभी सूखे से ग्रस्त होने के कारण हमारे देश के किसान बहुत सारे संकटों को झेला करते हैं। संकटों को झेलकर, अपना खून-पसीना बहाकर देश की जनता को अन्न का भण्डार प्रदान करते हैं। खुद भूखे और अधनंगे रहकर देश की जनता को पेट भर अच्छा भोजन देने का काम करते हैं। इस बजट में किसानों को राहत दी गई है। खाद के दाम को वित्त मंत्री ने स्वीकार कर लिया है इसलिए ये बधाई के पात्र हैं। इससे किसानों पर काम बोझ पड़ेगा। मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इसमें उन किसानों का जिक्र नहीं किया गया है जो भूमिहीन खेतिहर मजदूर हैं, जो दिन-रात अपने परिवार सहित खेती के कार्य में लगे रहते हैं। उन की ओर इस बजट में थोड़ा ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है।

**SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN (Kerala) :** Madam Chairperson, none of the Finance Ministers is present here.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** He is coming. He will come, and in any case, the Cabinet Minister is here, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. Some of the Ministers are sitting at the back. But two of them are here, दो लोग हैं। लिख रहे हैं। आपका जवाब आएगा।

**श्री गांधी आज़ाद :** खेतिहर मजदूर, जिनके पास भूमि नहीं है, उनकी ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। आज जो अंधाधुंध मशीनीकरण का प्रयोग हो रहा है उससे आज ये खेतिहर मजदूर अपने हाथों में काम नहीं पाते हैं। वहां से शहरों के लिए पलायन होता है। ये यहां भी शोषण का शिकार होते हैं। हमारा सुझाव है कि इन खेतिहर मजदूरों के प्रति सरकार संवेदनशील होकर विचार करे। आज कृषि योग्य जितनी भूमि है उससे ज्यादा बंजर और खाली पड़ी जमीन है। हमारा सुझाव है कि उन भूमिहीन कृषकों को सरकार एक कानून बनाकर भूमि आवंटित करने का काम करे ताकि वे आजीविका का लाभ ले सके और देश को समृद्धिशाली बनाने में योगदान कर सकें।

इसके साथ हमारा सुझाव है कि कृषि पर आधारित कुटीर उद्योग धंधों को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए। ये कुटीर उद्योग-धंधे पूंजीवाद, आधुनिकीकरण तथा मशीनीकरण के कारण दिन-प्रतिदिन समाप्त होते जा रहे हैं। इससे बेरोजगारी की समस्या भी बढ़ती जा रही है। मैं सरकार से चाहूंगा कि इस पर भी विचार किया जाए। कृषि पर आधारित उद्योग धंधों को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए। साथ ही साथ उत्पादन के साधनों पर श्रमिकों की भागीदारी भी सुनिश्चित की जाए।

महोदया, विनिवेश प्राप्ति का लक्ष्य हजार तीन सौ साठ करोड़ रखा गया है। वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में यह स्पष्ट किया है कि विनिवेश सरकार के लिए केवल राजस्व जुटाने का माध्यम नहीं है बल्कि यह सरकार को व्यापार से दूर रखने और अच्छे अनुशासन की ओर ध्यान देने की दृष्टि से मुख्य रूप से इन उपक्रमों की उत्पादक क्षमता को स्वतंत्र करने के लिए है। मैं इस निर्णय से संतुष्ट नहीं हूँ। महोदया, मैं आप के माध्यम से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार और व्यापार में अंतर है। सरकार का नाम व्यापारियों के जैसा नहीं है। व्यापारी का उद्देश्य केवल लाभ अर्जित करना होता है जब कि सरकार का मुख्य उद्देश्य जन-हित और कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का क्रियान्वयन होता है। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि अंधाधुंध विनिवेश न किया जाए और राजकीय घाटा पूरा करने के लिए अन्य किसी उपाय की भी खोज की जाय। केवल विनिवेश से इस घाटे का पूरा करने का मार्ग उचित नहीं होगा क्योंकि विनिवेश के कारण निजीकरण को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा, विनिवेश के कारण पूंजीवाद को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा और विनिवेश के कारण जो निजीकरण होगा, उस में खास तौर पर आरक्षित वर्ग के अनुसूचित जाति, जन जाति व अन्य पिछड़ी जाति के कर्मचारियों को निजीकरण के कारण लाभ नहीं मिलेगा। इस से उन का सब से ज्यादा नुकसान होगा। इसलिए मान्यवर, मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि विनिवेशीकरण पर सरकार को थोड़ा गंभीरतापूर्वक चिंतन करना चाहिए और कर्मचारियों के हितों को भी सर्वोपरि रखने की आवश्यकता है। यदि सरकार की बाध्यता के कारण विनिवेश करना जरूरी ही है तो मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि विधेयक ला कर के आरक्षित वर्ग के कर्मचारियों, अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जन-जाति व अन्य पिछड़ी जातियों के लिए निजीकरण के क्षेत्र में भी आरक्षण की व्यवस्था लागू की जाए। तब विनिवेश का लाभ इन वर्गों के लोगों को मिल सकेगा।

उपसभापति महोदया, वैसे यह बजट नौकरी-पेशा लोगों को काफी रियायत प्रदान करता है, लेकिन मुझे आशा ही नहीं पूरा विश्वास है कि माननीय मंत्री जी किसानों व आरक्षित

वर्ग का भी ध्यान रखेंगे। अभी उन्होंने किसानों के हित को ध्यान में रखते हुए खाद के दाम कम करना स्वीकार कर लिया है जिस के लिए मैं वित्त मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूँ। साथ-ही-साथ निवेदन करता हूँ कि डीजल के दाम करने पर भी माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी पुनः विचार करेंगे और विनिवेश के द्वारा आरक्षित वर्ग के हितों को ध्यान में रखकर कोई-न-कोई ठोस कदम उठाने का प्रबंध करेंगे, इस प्रत्याशा में, मैं इस बजट का समर्थन करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. P.C. Alexander. I am sure, you will abide by your time. I would not like to ring the bell.

DR. P.C. ALEXANDER (Maharashtra): Thank you, Madam.

During the last one fortnight, after the Finance Minister presented the Budget in the Lok Sabha, we have been observing the reaction in the country to the various proposals, reaction among the consumers, the middle classes, the salaried classes, pensioners, agriculturists and manufacturers. No Finance Minister can ever expect to have uniform support for all his proposals, but judging from the general support that has been extended to his Budget by the majority of the people who have chosen to express their views, I think, on the whole, the Finance Minister should feel very happy at the reception that has been given to his Budget.

There have been some comments in the Press, and also in this House, about the increase in the growth rate that has been projected by the Finance Minister. Some people have held a view that a growth rate of six to seven per cent, which he has projected, is unrealistic, taking, particularly, into account what has happened during the current year.

There have been also some criticisms about the under-funding of certain projects, particularly, the most important project, if I may say so, about roads and ports, for which sixty thousand crores of rupees are to be spent in three years. I am not going into all these details because I would like to refer to three or four other main issues which are of concern to me, and, therefore, I feel, should be placed before the House. But I wish to express my personal view that a growth rate of six to seven per cent will not be an over ambitious target, provided two conditions are fulfilled. One is, the international situation, particularly the situation in Iraq, should not worsen and create situations which may be outside our control; and the second, of course, is, let us hope, there will not be a repetition of the drought situation we experienced during this financial year. Given these two

conditions, I feel confident that the growth rate of 6-7 per cent is a reasonable one and within our reach.

Madam Deputy Chairperson, I wish to place three main issues before the House. The first is about the strategy that has been adopted for poverty eradication. The Budget has provided 507 crores of rupees to cover additional fifty lakhs of families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana next year. What I have to say on this occasion is, we seem to be just repeating the projects, or the basket of projects, which have been under implementation all over the country during the past several decades without pausing for some time and finding whether the direction that we have taken or given to the country is the right one in the situation of 2003 and the years to come. The money that has been spent, thousands of crores of rupees that have been spent during the last few decades, ever since we started this big fight against poverty, has been well-spent and is likely to be well-spent in the coming years. I am saying that in spite of the commitment which all the Governments in India had, ever since Independence shown to the cause of poverty alleviation and eventual eradication, in spite of the will that has been displayed by the successive Prime Ministers and Governments, we have not succeeded in this programme to the extent that we thought we would, though 45-50 years have elapsed since the schemes, one after the other have been implemented. I would, therefore, suggest that there has to be a critical review of the strategy and the questions which are generally raised from the field should be brought to some place for sharp attention, discussion, deliberation, and, eventually, decision. We are just repeating year after year the schemes which have been introduced 20 years ago or 30 years ago. And, the additional schemes which have been introduced in the recent years, without bothering whether this type of investment, massive investment, in these schemes will take us further in the achievement of our goal. Certainly, if we take into account the fact that we are still ranked 124 in a list of 174 countries by the UNDP based on HDI, we really have to admit the fact that our attempts at poverty eradication or the strategy that we have been following for the last 40-45 years has been really not the right one. More important than that is that this strategy has brought out a very serious new menace, a new hurdle, a very important obstacle to the progress of our nation as a whole. We are trying to reduce the disparities between communities and communities, castes and castes, but we are not noticing the fact that we have created additional disparities in the process between States and States and between regions within the States which are

supposed to be even advanced. This is a very serious problem, Madam Deputy Chairperson, and I wish that this had been given some attention in the Budget Speech by the Finance Minister.

I referred to the ever increasing disparities between States and States as a new phenomenon. We referred to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, U.P. and Rajasthan in- a very condescending manner as Bimaru States, as sick States. Those of us who belong to other States seem to be adopting a very condescending attitude towards these States which are now sick. Generally, it is argued and believed by the ordinary people that bad governance is the only reason why they are getting sick, or, why their sickness is getting worse. I don't have the time at my disposal to go into this theory. But, I say, with great earnestness that good governance alone cannot be a remedy to rectify the difficulties, the problems and the imbalances that we find in these States. Now, the Planning Commission has come out with its own human development index. Two more States have been added 'to this list. In addition to the so-called Bimaru States, we find Orissa and Assam also added. In their survey that has been brought out, on HDI basis, the Planning Commission has listed Bihar, of the 15 large States of India, at 15<sup>th</sup> rank, Assam at 14<sup>th</sup> rank, UP at 13<sup>th</sup> rank, Madhya Pradesh at 12<sup>th</sup> rank, Orissa at 11<sup>th</sup> rank and Rajasthan at 9<sup>th</sup> rank. Therefore, there are six States which, by any standard, can be adopted, on the basis of primary education, health care, per capita income, quality of life, etc., and can be considered to be really very backward States. That is why I say the problem of disparity between some States and other States will have to be accepted as a real problem of the whole nation and very seriously dealt with. Can we dismiss these six backward States and say they will look after themselves, comfortably look after our own States and think the nation will grow in spite of the sickness of these six States? Or, do we accept this fact that very special programmes have to be devised for these six backward States and these six backward States should be owned up as a responsibility of the whole nation? I add to this particular point, a second point, that is, the backward regions of the so-called forward States. As regards the State from which I have been elected, Maharashtra, I would like to particularly mention the sad plight of Marathwada and Vidarbha. Well, Western Maharashtra is at the top of the list of developed regions in the country, as a whole. But Marathwada, Vidarbha and certain districts in these regions are far behind the States which are now listed as backward. There are many backward regions like that. In Andhra Pradesh, there is

Rayalaseema. There are other regions in other States also. Therefore, I am suggesting, with all the seriousness, for the consideration of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and, particularly, the Finance Minister, that we should appoint a Commission for backward States and backward regions. Let it go into the problems of these backward States and backward regions, identify the programmes which would be suitable in the short run and in the long run, in two segments, which would tackle these problems effectively and also, more importantly, devise a delivery system. What is happening to the Poverty Alleviation Programme in many States today is that the money gets dried up on the way. There is no lack of funds. There is no lack of schemes. But the funds that are provided in the Budget, with all good intentions and earnestness, get dried up on the way, either through rampant corruption at the levels at which these projects are to be implemented or through excessive bureaucratic infrastructure meddling with these schemes. The bullock-carts or buffaloes exist only on paper.- If you go to the remotest villages and try to check where the bullock-carts are, they will not be able to produce them. The same is the case in respect of goats and other animals. Why only that? Even houses, which are supposed to be financed and completed, do not really exist. Therefore, we have to have a new commission called the Backward States and Backward Regions Commission to address the problems of these States. These six States, Madam, added together, account for 42 per cent of the population of the country, and, if we add to that the backward regions -- Rayalaseema, Vidharbha, Konkan and other places which are really backward -- they will account for roughly 62 to 65 per cent of the total population.

How do we hope to reach the level of the advanced countries of the world by the year 2020? I think it will be big joke if we think of 2020 as the year we will reach the level of developed countries, forgetting that 42 per cent of the people live in these backward States and another 12 to 13 per cent live in these backward regions. This is my first point.

My second point is directly addressed to the Finance Minister. He has been very liberal in his cuts on interest. Of late, I think, he has been indulging in an interest rate-cutting spree almost. The theory is very good. I cannot dispute the soundness of the economic argument that in a regime of low inflation, if the interests are not brought down, there will be no inducement for investment. But, Madam, this theory should be applied with some caution in developing countries like ours because if we do not allow

the middle classes, who have some surplus funds, to save, they will forget their saving habit. Madam, our savings are very low as compared to China or other advanced countries in our region.

If we still do not take adequate measures to encourage savings by those who can afford to save, the saving habit itself may go out and our savings themselves may come down and the objective which the Finance Minister has rightly placed in his speech, namely, "further inducement to investments", may prove to be counter-productive. I would also like to say that, as a nation, we do not believe in investing in the capital market. What is the number of people who have stocks and shares in this country? In India, for some reason or the other, people have no faith in the capital market. They think that, that is a market where they are unequal with the others who can manipulate it to their advantage and they are afraid to go near that.

They are used to put their money in banks, the Government banks and if you cut the interest rate below a particular point, it will affect the investment objective, which the Finance Minister originally mentioned. In this context, I wish to thank the Finance Minister for allowing the concessional terms to senior citizens, the salaried class and the pensioners. I belong to all the three categories and, therefore, I am more qualified than others to thank you for these concessions. But apart from this group, there are many others who find that they have some surplus. They do not want to put it into the capital market. They do not have the courage to do so. They want to go back to their post-offices and banks.

There is a statement in the Finance Minister's speech with which I have some difficulty to agree. He says, dealing with interest rate it is, therefore, important that the administered interest rates on public provident fund and other small savings schemes be adjusted in line with the market rate. I respectfully wish to say to the Finance Minister that this is not true always' about India. Actually the administered interest rates are setting the tone and the road map for the market. In the advanced countries, it is the other way. Here, the market is regulated in a way, guided in a way by administered interest rates. So, if we go on reducing the administered interest rates, the objective, which is very good may not be realised. This is a point, which I wish to place before the Finance Minister. The third point is again in regard to the statement by the Finance Minister to which I would

like to raise a minor objection. He would not have meant what I am going to say. But I am sure, he would like to clarify it. He has dismissed NPAs, much to my disappointment in one and a half sentences. He says, "As the hon. Members know the Government is determined to contain the problem of Non-performing Assets and ensure a credit market that functions efficiently". My point is, today the problem of credit market is not merely inefficiency. Today, NPAs have become a problem not merely because of the lapses on the part of the banks to monitor the loans that had been given or to be careful even in giving grants. All these are reasons. But the most important and the most serious reason for NPAs and the whole credit market is not inefficiency, but dishonesty. Corruption, I say with great frankness and anguish, is at the root of most of these NPAs. Not all of it, but quite a large chunk of it is because of corruption. There we find a great nexus between the business community and the corrupt bureaucrats. NPAs have been caused in our country -- Rs. 70,000 crores or something like that -- largely because of people who want to indulge in wilful default. Not that they became sick in spite of their attempts. Many of them become sick because they want them to become sick, place their sickness or the sick child before the BIFR and prevent all thv. legal proceedings against it, pending the decision by the BIFR. That is exactly what is happening not only in the banking sector but in other financial sectors also. I was trying to find out what are the steps that we are going to take or to which we commit, to eradicate the leakages and the wrongful leakages at that in customs, excise, income tax and various other sources of revenue. It would be no exaggeration if I say that if these leakage's are plugged, if we collect what should be collected, if these people pay what should be paid, like customs duty, excise duty and other taxes, we will not be a developing country. We do not have to wait till 2020 to become an advanced country. If we have honest collection of these revenues, we will certainly be as good as any advanced country. With a big market like burs, unfortunately, the problem of NPAs and the problem of corruption, in these areas has not been fully dealt with. I am sure, he would deal with it in a manner that an administrator will have to do when he is through the Budget.

Madam, I spoke about corruption. I consider the corruption of these people who defraud the banks or the stock markets or the institutions as worse than what a robber does on the highways. What a robber does on the highways with a Sten gun is what the smart men do with a fountain pen. If we condone that as an inevitable aberration or as smartness on the



part of some people, certainly we are not looking for a way out. We have to deal with these acts of corruption in a more serious way than we deal with other acts like robbery, theft or defalcation by poor people who cannot afford to pay.

Why can corruption permanently destroy our progress to a developed status? For this purpose, I would like to remind you what Mehabul Huque, the famous economist of Pakistan, had to say about corruption in South Asian countries. What he said is particularly true of the situation in India today. He says, "Corruption in South Asian countries -India, Pakistan, Bangladesh - occurs upstream and not downstream. If corruption is only downstream, it would be on a very small scale, if it is upstream it will pollute the whole saga of progress." Secondly, he says, "In South Asian countries, corruption moves on wings, while in other countries, corruption moves on wheels." Black money, the corruption-created money, does not stay in this country. Not that I wish black money should stay here; I wish black money should be eliminated. But corrupt money moves on wings and travels to the Swiss banks or to the safe banks in islands and that is the second feature of our economy. And, thirdly, he says, "Corruption leads to promotion in India and other South Asian countries rather than depression." A very pregnant statement. Officers, who indulge in corruption, can get out of the consequences of corruption by a series of acts of delay and which will go unnoticed. And, even their promotion takes place in spite of the fact that action has been pending against them somewhere or other. And, finally, he concludes and this is the most significant statement and that is most relevant to our situation. He says, "Corruption in South Asian countries occurs in and generates poverty. It generates poverty and permanently retards our chance of progress." Therefore, I would earnestly request the Finance Minister that N.P.A.s, which he refers to, custom duty collection, excise duty collection, tax collection, and the procedures should deserve his attention, but corruption involved in all these things, should be given the top most attention on his part. With these words, I feel great pleasure in supporting the Budget proposals of the Finance Minister.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, people of India today actually are awaiting the reply of the hon. Finance Minister regarding the prices of diesel and L.P.G. I hope he will take it into

consideration while replying. The entire nation is expecting the reply from him regarding these two features.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I do not know whether his reply is going to be any different from what it was in Lok Sabha.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN (Nominated) : Madam Deputy Chairperson, I do not know whether I rise to support the Finance Bill or oppose it because I always get confused. When I hear the speech of the Finance Minister, the Budget Speech, I think it is an excellent speech and I support the Budget. But, when I hear the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, I find that I am not quite sure whether I do support the Budget. And, I think that is a sort of sentiment that prevails all around. It was always so, Madam. In the days of late Shri Palkhiwala, whenever the Finance Minister, howsoever eminent, gave a speech, Shri Palkhiwala on the lawns of the Brabourne Stadium in Bombay, with a crowd of 30,000 people, would tear it to bits the next day. So, it is all very confusing as to how we see the rosy picture and then we see the thorns on the 19e.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fali Nariman, when you are arguing in the court and when your opponent is there, do you get confused and start talking like your opponent?

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN: We try not to, Madam. But, the Judge is there and, at least, the Judge has more power than the Presiding Officer here. In the past few days, I have read in the papers and I have heard on television, some criticisms of the Budget. And, when you hear criticisms, you are always convinced that anyone, almost anyone, can present a better Budget than a sitting Finance Minister. But, let me tell you, Madam, what pleased me most about this Budget was the manner of its exposition. I happened to be in Mumbai on 28<sup>th</sup> February, I heard and saw, for the entire session, the Finance Minister speaking. And, I can tell you that it was a presentation worthy of emulation; a clear exposition in as simple terms, as complicated financial matters would permit, and the Finance Minister took leave from the prepared text from time to time, and simplified where simplification was required, and even answered interruptions which are quite frequent in the other place. He had, in fact, the persuasiveness of a Palkhiwala in Court; if he does not mind my saying so.

Madam, just as we are worried about the external crisis in Iraq affecting our future financial stability and the need for peace and security about which the Prime Minister spoke yesterday, I believe, we must pay a great regard to the concluding remarks of the Leader of the Opposition because they are basic to all fiscal governance and fiscal prosperity. His words are golden words and the best in his Address. He spoke of the need for a strategy and a vision which, of course, the Budget also speaks about. And, then, he said, and I must quote this: "If we have to realise this vision of India emerging as a power house of global economy, we need peace and amity at home. All of us have an obligation to set aside the communal divide which is sought to be fostered out of narrow partisan concerns, if the vision of India, as a front-ranking nation in the world, needs to become a reality." It is not good policy, hon. Finance Minister, to treat minorities badly. The official spokespersons of the parties in power are now openly writing about Christians as if they are foreigners, and the Muslims feel uncomfortable, and they have said so. How can we have financial and economic progress if we are a house divided by communal passion? How are we going to persuade other nations in the world to support our stand for a seat in the Security Council, which is in charge of world peace, if we cannot ensure peace within our own country? I believe, Madam, that it is peace that brings progress and confidence of the people. The people must believe that what we are saying here also reflects the dignity of Parliament and Parliamentary institutions. And I regret to say that we did not exactly cover ourselves with glory in the debate on the MPLADS as we ought to have. The purpose of that debate was entirely different; namely: What are we going to do about it? How are we clearing up the Augean stable? And, unfortunately, we did not address that question at all. And we have given the impression to the public that we, in this House, or, maybe, some of us, are willing to pick the public pocket for the purposes of our own concerns. This is something that we ought to have investigated. And, we cannot talk of financial prosperity and financial acumen without addressing ourselves to our own finances that we ordinarily take, or, are permitted to take, from the public exchequer.

On the Financial Bill itself, it is too late in the day, Madam, to make any specific suggestions. The Budget has already been passed in the other House. But I do wish that the Kelkar Committee Report had not been ignored. I wish the Opposition had expressed its whole-hearted support to that Report. The hon. Leader of the Opposition said, "He did not endorse

Kelkar's recommendations of a tax on agricultural income", and he said that it is not 'a feasible proposition'. With great respect, what he means is, it is not politically wise. Why should rich agricultural farmers not pay tax, as everybody else? And, I see no logical reason except a desire not to displease a particular vote bank.

Madam, one last point and I will conclude. Madam, the Finance Minister quite rightly said that we have the vision of abolishing poverty. But, unless we are serious about population containment and population control, unless we solve this great problem, I cannot see the removal of poverty, not even, if the present or any future Finance Minister is a magician. Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Cho S. Ramaswamy absent. Shri Devdas Apte absent.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra) : Madam, a lot has been spoken on the Budget. But, one area of concern is Defence. Unfortunately, whenever there is any deficit, the axe has fallen on the Defence Budget. This time, I thought that a former army personnel, army officer is the Finance Minister of the country and he will not do such a thing. Unfortunately, not only he has cut the Defence Budget, but has cut it much more than any other time. Last year, about Rs.7,000 crores were returned by the Defence Ministry. This year, it is a whopping Rs.9,500 crores, and if you take into account the various other things which have been given to the HAL etc., over Rs. 10,000 crores have not been utilised by the armed forces. The hon. Finance Minister knows better than me what the combat ratio between India and Pakistan is. We have two fronts, Pakistan and China. I am not talking about Chinese front. I am talking about Pakistan. The combat ratio of India and Pakistan during 1971 war was 1.75:1, and last year, it has come down to 1.1:1. This is the combat ratio. Again, we are not talking about the manpower superiority; in Pakistan, the cream of youth goes to the armed forces. So, it is a very, very alarming situation. And one would have thought that the defence forces would get their due this year, but that has not been seen. Over 40 per cent of the Budget, which was on account of modernisation and on acquisitions, have been sought to be cut. We have been saying in the Standing Committee on Defence that if for some reasons, things do not go through, the defence budget should be a non-lapsable Budget so it could

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not go to next year. I understand the hon. Finance Minister has made a commitment to the Three Service Chiefs of the armed forces that whenever you want, it will be there, even in the next year. Every year, it is the same story. In the Ninth Five-Year Plan, 50 per cent of what was needed for modernisation and for acquisitions, was not carried out. How do they expect the armed forces to fight? I am very, very surprised on this aspect of it. There was a thing called Procurement Board, which was made because things were not going fast enough. Now, still we have a procurement board in place. Why things are not moving in a right direction? Is it because of Tehalka? Is it because of Tehalka that things are not materialising? The Defence Minister is not ready to take decisions, and the bureaucracy is definitely not ready to take decisions. They are saying that they are going to retire in another six months, or one year, and they do not want to come back in a wheelchair back for any Commission of Inquiry. Is the Government applying its mind? There is no modernisation of armed forces. What are we going to do about it? Or, is this going to be a perennial circle? Will the Finance Minister ensure that, from now onwards, whatever money from the Defence Budget remains unspent, becomes non-lapsable so that our Armed Forces have the confidence to carry on their activities and make long-term plans, five year plans, ten year plans and so on?

Now, what are the things that are required by the Army? We require night-vision equipment for T-72S. They have been crying hoarse for it. We thought that the whole process would start this year. But that has not happened. The Choate guns and other guns were supposed to be there. But that has not happened. The rocket systems haven't come. The electronic surveillance system, which was supposed to be brought, hasn't come. The electronic warfare equipment, which is needed in a modern warfare, hasn't come. There is a large-scale ammunition deficiency. God help if there was a war! Major schemes regarding the communications system, which is needed to be improved in our Armed Forces, have been held up because money has been returned.

As far as the Air Force is concerned, there have been hundreds of MIG crashes. Over 50-60 pilots have died in the last five years. The wives of those pilots have formed an association and they are planning to go

round the country. There has been a crying need for the Advance Jet Trainer. It has been going on and on, and still we are where we were. I do not understand this. In the Standing Committee on Defence, we have been bringing up this matter for the last so many years. The La Fontaine Committee Report was submitted ten years back. Why is the Government not taking a decision on this vital thing? What about the AWACS? We have been hearing that we are going to have them this year, that year and so on. Our operational capability is going down because of the nonavailability of the much-needed AWACS. What is the matter? When are we going to fund them? Everything is ready, but there is no money to purchase them. Then, take radars. There are so many types of radars that we require. But we are still not getting them. LLTR is still hanging fire; SREs are still hanging fire. So, this is a grave situation. It is all right that, on the one hand, we are looking after our widows, but, on the other hand, if we do not have all this equipment available for future wars, there will be many more widows; and who will be responsible for that?

As far as our Navy is concerned, now we have been hearing about the aircraft carrier. Madam, the aircraft carrier, the INS Virat, is going to be phased out in the next two to three years. We will be in a position that there will not be one aircraft carrier in the Indian Navy, after three years, unless we go ahead for a carrier immediately. Why are we keeping quiet on that? The Mazagaon Docks have been lying empty. Five hundred technicians are sitting there just idle, doing no work. There is no submarine there. We keep on hearing about some submarine programme coming up; but still there is no submarine programme. This is the state of affairs. We thought that all these schemes will be implemented and we would have a real fighting force. Madam, we have a very long border; so, we must have the naval support in a big way. That is not happening. Also, we are doing nothing about the electronic warfare system for our Navy. There has been just a lip-service.

The other thing is about the budget for the cantonments. Today, 90 per cent of the people living in cantonments are civilians. The Cantonment Boards have been buried, and all the civilian members have been removed. It has become an all-Army thing. I do not know why. The Cantonment Act was supposed to be in place. Today, there is not one civilian on the Cantonment Board. The cantonments are being run by the Army; and they are in very pathetic conditions because there is no budget

provision, at all, for the works. You have the old 1944 drainage system in most of the cantonments. We are not improving them at all. Earlier, there was a voice, a civilian voice. That also has been throttled in the BJP regime. We thought that they would actually bring in more democracy in the cantonment areas. But that is not happening. It is a very, very unfortunate thing.

As far as civil aviation is concerned, we find that there is not much in the Budget. We need to upgrade our aircraft, whether it is Air India or the Indian Airlines. We need to upgrade our airports. We need to upgrade the equipment at our airports. We are talking about modernisation. You have to see the airports in China, and how they are modernising. You see how all the other global giants in Asia like Hong Kong, Singapore and so on have modernised their airports. And look at our measly airports? Take the infrastructure. Of course, something has begun this time. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister. Something has started. But we need to modernise all the international airports in a much bigger way, in a much better way, and with a lot more equipment, especially because landing during foggy and difficult conditions becomes very risky; most of the international flights are cancelled. India is getting a very bad name in this regard. I think much more needs to be done in the field of civil aviation also. The defence airports also need to be upgraded. There is no money for that. Defence is being treated as a holy cow. All over the world, defence airports are also allowed to be used by civilians, but here somehow that does not happen. Unnecessarily, we are going in for new airports which is totally civilian and wasting a lot of money in that. So, in the same Budget, you could have defence and civilian airports together.

Madam, I now come to the last part of my speech which is sports. Actually, the President in his Address to both the Houses of Parliament has praised the performance of the Indian team in the Asian Games as well as in the Commonwealth Games. From seven gold medals, we went to 30 gold medals.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Actually, he wished.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Pardon!

THE DEPUTY CHIRMAN : Instead of praising, he wished them well, and their wishes have come true.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Madam, if you read the President's Address, you will find it. I would not go wrong in that, at least. He has praised the Indian team for its performance in the Commonwealth Games and in the Asian Games. But, he has wished the Indian team well for the Olympics. That is my exact point. We have to go to the Olympics. The Prime Minister has promised -- the Finance Minister is aware -- that the Budget for the sports would be increased by five times. It was said in the meeting convened by the Prime Minister, wherein the Finance Minister was due to come, but he did not come. But, a commitment was made there. It was a meeting called by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, and in that meeting it was said that the Budget for sports would be increased by five times. So, how do you expect good results, when we are doing well, with meagre allocation of funds to the Sports Ministry? We need money for international competitions; we need money for coaching; we need foreign coaches; we need diets; we need a lot of things to win medals in the Olympics. This time, Madam, we can win medals in the Olympics. The way we are going, we can win medals in the Olympics. But, if you do not get funds, how will you do it? It has been increased by about Rs. 100 crores. It is, at least, a step in the right direction. But, we need much more money for sports. It is not in the private sector. The incentives, which were there for the private sector three Budgets back, have now been withdrawn. I mean, this is a land of cricket and more cricket, but cricket is played in only ten countries of the world. All over the world, it is the Olympic sports. Unless we have a social change, we cannot do much.

Madam, Doordarshan also was paying all the Federations some amount of money. The Budget was hardly about Rs. 1 crore. But, that also has been withdrawn for Olympic sports. They get Rs.500 to 600 crores from cricket, but they are not going to subsidise Olympic sports even to the tune of Rs.1 crore. This is the sad part of the thing. All over the world, it is the Olympic sports. But we seemed to be contend with cricket and more cricket, and the whole Olympic sports is getting a go-bye, which is a very unfortunate thing. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will have a relook on it, and he will raise the Budget much more in the times to come.

I would also like to request that from the Budget for Education, some part should be kept for schools and colleges because all over the world, schools and colleges are getting money for promoting sports. But, there is no money in the Education Budget, specifically for sports. There are



no playgrounds, when we go to schools and colleges. All over the world, there are university games. But, here in colleges, there is no money at all for sports, which is why today we are not doing the way we should have been doing. We have a lot of talent. We are not able to exploit that talent because there is no money for it. It is a very unfortunate thing. So, I hope the hon. Minister would look into it. Being an exserviceman myself and the hon. Finance Minister also, the Services were playing a leading role in all the Asian Games. General Roy Chowdhury is also here, 25 per cent of medals in the Asian Games used to come from the Services. But, in the last Asian Games only one bronze medal came in Rowing from the Services. So, a lot of Budget needs to be allocated for the Armed Forces itself for developing good athletes. Coaching should be done by the Armed Forces. If it is done, then, I am sure, India will be in the hunt for gold medals. Thank you very much.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Madam, I think there are many speakers to speak on the Budget. If you feel so, you can adjourn the House for lunch, and the House can reassemble after one hour.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We can adjourn for lunch. If you like, we can cut a bit into the lunch hour, eat fast. So, 45 minutes are okay for lunch? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI (Madhya Pradesh) : Madam, you can adjourn for half-an-hour.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, you can adjourn the House up to 2 o'clock, for fifty minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned till 2 o'clock.

**The House then adjourned for lunch at nine minutes**

**past one of the clock.**

**The House re-assembled at four minutes past two of the clock, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.**

श्री ललिताभाई मेहता ( गुजरात ) : उपसभापति महोदया, हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी द्वारा वर्ष 2003-2004 के अर्थ-संकल्प का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ, उसके लिए इन्हें बधाई देता हूँ और उसका समर्थन भी करता हूँ।

महोदया, वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो पांच प्राथमिकताएं अपने अर्थ-संकल्प में बताई है, वैसी ही पांच प्राथमिकताओं की बात उद्योग जगत के लिए भी एनडीए की सरकार ने की थी और उसे आगे बढ़ाने की बात वित्त मंत्री जी ने इन बजट प्रस्तावों में की है। जो पांच बातें उद्योगों के क्षेत्र के लिए कही गई थी, उनमें पहली थी आधारभूत संरचनाओं का विकास, कंटीन्यूड प्रोग्रेस आफ इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर। हम देख सकते हैं कि 60,000 करोड़ रूपए की राशि इस आधारभूत संरचनाओं के लिए रखी गई, जो पिछले साल के ऐलोकेशन से ज्यादा है। पावर के क्षेत्र में पिछले साल जो 12,268 करोड़ रूपए रखे गए थे, उसे बढ़ाकर इस साल 14,668 करोड़ रूपए कर दिया गया है। राजमार्गों के लिए 9,896 करोड़ थे, उसे बढ़ाकर 10 बंदरगाहों का विकास भी इसमें आता है, हवाई अड्डों का विकास भी इसमें आता है, राजमार्गों का विकास भी इसमें आता है। मैं एक सुझाव यह देना चाहूंगा कि हमारा 57,000 किलोमीटर के करीब का राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग है, उस पर 40 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा परिवहन चलता है और वहां पर जो अकस्मात दुर्घटनाएं होती हैं, लोगों की मृत्यु होती है, इसके कारण एक अनुमान लगाया गया है कि 68.850 करोड़ रूपए का नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यदि राजमार्गों का जाल विस्तृत रूप से बिछाया जाए तो वह हमारे लिए अधिक लाभकारक होगा।

( उपसभाध्यक्ष ( प्रो० राम देव भंडारी ) पीठासीन हुए )

दूसरी बात उन्होंने उत्पाद शुल्क और आयात शुल्क में कमी की कही। इसमें निरंतर कटौती होती जा रही है, मूवमेंट आफ ड्यूटीज़ टूवर्ड लोअर रेट्स। यह बात कहकर उन्होंने यह बात कही थी। आप देख सकते हैं कि उत्पाद शुल्क 8 प्रतिशत और 26 प्रतिशत करके उसका रेशनलाइजेशन किया गया, कई चीजों पर से उत्पाद शुल्क घटाया गया। आयात शुल्क में भी, ज्यादा से ज्यादा 25 प्रतिशत आयात शुल्क रहे, ऐसी बात उन्होंने इस अर्थ संकल्प में कही है।

तीसरी बात जो उद्योग क्षेत्र के लिए थी, वह थी मूल्य वृद्धि कर की ओर जाना। मूव टूवर्ड्स वैट। इस बजट प्रस्ताव में यह बात कही गई है कि एक अप्रैल से सारे देश में, सभी राज्यों में वैट लागू हो जाएगा। सभी राज्यों ने इसका स्वागत किया है, सभी राज्यों के अर्थ मंत्री, जो इनके सभासद हैं उन्होंने इसका स्वागत किया है। इस ओर भारत सरकार का ध्यान गया है और इस ओर और आगे बढ़ने की बात इस अर्थ-संकल्प में है।

चौथी बात लघु उद्योग के क्षेत्र में जो आरक्षण है, उसको हटाए जाने के बारे में थी। इस बार भी 75 ऐसे लघु उद्योग हैं जिनको कि आरक्षित श्रेणी में से हटाया गया है और सारे विश्व के साथ हम अपना लघु उद्योग का माल भी, सेवाएं भी कम्पिटिशन में ला सकें, इस दृष्टि से यह प्रावधान किया गया है।

श्रम कानूनों में सुधार की बात सभी पार्टियों के साथ सर्वसम्मति बनाने के लिए चल रही है और क्रमशः यह भी लागू कर दी जाएगी। इस दृष्टि से उद्योग क्षेत्र में जो बात थी, उसको आगे ले जाने के लिए अर्थ संकल्प में प्रावधान किए गए हैं। दूसरी स्वागत योग्य बात यह है कि राज्यों के वित्तीय संसाधनों में लगातार जो कमी आ रही है, उसमें वृद्धि हो, इस दृष्टि से एक साल में 52,000 करोड़ रूपए राज्यों को ज्यादा मिलें, इसका प्रावधान इस अर्थ संकल्प में

इस दृष्टि से किया गया है कि राज्यों के पास जो 13 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा ब्याज दर का ऋण था, उसको कम करने के लिए, उसको वापिस लौटाने के लिए और कम ब्याज दर का ऋण उनको देने के लिए प्रावधान किया गया है। इसके माध्यम से 27,000 करोड़ रूपए की बचत राज्यों को होगी और राज्यों को जो केन्द्रीय आय में से हिस्सा मिल रहा है, वह निरंतर बढ़ाया जा रहा है। 2001 में राज्यों को 1,38,178 करोड़ रूपए दिए गए थे, 2002 में 1,65,497 करोड़ रूपए दिए गए थे और इस बार 2003 में 1,85,326 करोड़ का प्रावधान किया गया है। इसका सीधा अर्थ यह है कि 25 हजार करोड़ रूपए राज्यों को ज्यादा मिलेंगे और 27 हजार करोड़ की राज्यों को बचत होगी। ऐसे राज्यों के वित्तीय संसाधन ज्यादा हों, मजबूत हों ऐसा ध्यान भी रखा गया है। एक और स्वागत योग्य बात यह है कि आय कर के अधिनियम 132 और 133 ए में जो प्रावधान था उसको हटा करके सर्वे, सर्वे और सीजर के लिए सरलीकरण किया गया है। स्टॉक की जब्ती नहीं की जाएगी। दस दिन में बुक्स आफ अकाउंट से वापिस करनी पड़ेगी और किसी भी व्यापारी या उद्योगपति को कोई भी प्रकार का निवेदन, स्टेटमेंट देने के लिए मजबूर नहीं किया जाएगा। एक और बात है। विदेशी बंधन युक्त सहायता पिछले कई सालों से इस देश को मिलती आ रही थी। लेकिन इस बार पहली बार वित्त मंत्री जी ने ऐसी बंधन युक्त विदेशी सहायता हम नहीं लेंगे बजट में ऐसी घोषणा करके हमारे देश के स्वाभिमान और सम्मान की रक्षा करने की बात इस बजट में बताई है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश के 17 राज्यों में अकाल चल रहा है? कृषि का विकास इस वर्ष में नकारात्मक रहा है, हम सब जानते हैं। कृषि के बारे में सभी माननीय सदस्यों ने चिंता भी व्यक्त की है। कृषि और लाभकारी होती जा रही है। कृषि में फसल घटती जा रही है, पैदावार घटती जा रही है। हम जानते हैं कि कृषि का क्षेत्र और कृषि का विकास आर्थिक विकास की गंगोत्री है। कृषि के विकास के कारण ही रोजगार का सृजन होता है, गरीबी और बेकारी उन्मूलन करना है तो कृषि का विकास हमें चाहिए। माल और सेवाओं की मांग कृषि के विकास के कारण ही हो सकती है। घरेलू, छोटे और बड़े उद्योगों का कच्चा माल कृषि के विकास के कारण ही हमें मिल पाता है। अगर कृषि का विकास है तभी लोगों के पास आय आती है, लोगों की क्रय शक्ति बढ़ती है। इसलिए हमारे आर्थिक चिंतन का मूलधार कृषि को बनाना चाहिए। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं कुछ बातें सदन के सामने रखना चाहूंगा कि आज देश में 14 करोड़ हेक्टेयर जमीन कृषि लायक है और 4 करोड़ हेक्टेयर ऐसी जमीन है जिसको हम कृषि के दायरे में ला सकते हैं और लाई जा सकती हैं। यह भारत का बड़ा सौभाग्य है कि दुनिया में कृषि लायक अरेबिल लैंड जिसको बोलते हैं, वह कुल भूमि का सिर्फ 11 प्रतिशत है। लेकिन हमारे देश की कुल भूमि में 51 प्रतिशत भूमि ऐसी है जो अरेबिल है और कृषि के लिए इसका उपयोग कर सकते हैं। 1970, 80 और 90 के दशकों में कृषि में जो पूंजी निवेश होता था वह करीबन 15 प्रतिशत था। 90 का दशक आते-आते वह 11 प्रतिशत हो गया आज 2000 के साल में कृषि पर जो पूंजी निवेश हो रहा है वह सिर्फ 7.66 प्रतिशत ही है। यह चिंताजनक बात है। कृषि में निवेश कैसे बढ़ाया जाए यह हमें सोचना होगा। देश में कृषि के उपयोग में आने वाली जो जमीन है उसमें सिर्फ 5 करोड़ 40 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन पर ही सिंचाई की सुविधा उपलब्ध है। सिंचाई की सुविधा उपलब्ध न होने के कारण कृषि के उत्पाद पर इसका असर होता है और कृषि की पैदावार पर भी इसका असर होता है। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए हमारे देश में जो 1869 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी बहता है और उसमें से 690 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी जो हमारी नदियों में उपलब्ध रहता है उसका भी हम पूरा उपयोग नहीं कर पाते हैं। इसके लिए योजना बनाई जा रही है। लेकिन अगर इसका पूरा-पूरा उपयोग हो तो

कृषि के लिए सिंचाई की व्यवस्था मजबूत बनाई जा सकती है। लेकिन मैं एक और सुझाव यह देना चाहूंगा कि देश में बड़ी नदियों को जोड़ने की जो व्यवस्था सोची जा रही है उसके साथ-साथ छोटे-छोटे चैक डेम बनाए जाएं, स्टॉक डेम बनाए जाएं, तालाब बनाए जाएं। हमारा गुजरात का अनुभव भी यह कहता है कि दो सालों में 25 हजार से ज्यादा छोटे-छोटे चैक डेम स्टॉप डेम जो आपने बनाए इसके कारण किसानों को, कृषि को और ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को बहुत ही बड़ी मदद मिली है। इसीलिए इस साल गुजरात में एक लाख से ज्यादा चैक डेम बनाने की योजना गुजरात सरकार ने बनाई है और उसमें आगे बढ़ रही है। इस दृष्टि से इस बजट में सिंचाई के लिए 443 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है, मेरे विचार से उसे बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए।

महोदय, मैं एक और बिंदु पर सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। पिछले 55 सालों में कृत्रिम बीज, रासायनिक खाद और रासायनिक कीटनाशकों के कारण जमीन की उर्वरा शक्ति खत्म हुई है, भूमि बंजर होती जा रही है। यह बात दो विद्वानों ने कही है। मैं उसको यहां पर उद्धृत करना चाहूंगा। उनमें से एक है **Mr. Melvin D. Saunders**, उन्होंने यूनाइटेड स्टेट आफ अमेरिका का अपना अनुभव बताया है। उन्होंने यह कहा है, "Initially, fertilizers and pesticides were foisted upon innocent farmers to provide an agricultural boost to their harvests for a few short years. But such a short-term goal leaves an eroded soil, contaminated groundwater and a weakened crop resistance to pests and disease as a result."

Every year modern agricultural methods are destroying the long-term ability of American farms to produce decent food, because 98% of American farmers are farming with chemical pesticides and fertilizers."

महोदय, एक बात और बताई गई है, "The introduction of hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and synthetic pesticides have completely degraded the soil, which was known for its fertility for ages. They have polluted the drinking water and all foods, such as grains, vegetables and fruits. They destroyed earthworms and honeybees, besides many other useful organisms, of nature, which are responsible for the health of the soil. The tragedy is that the chemicals have even destroyed our ability to think about the right way to go forward. All agricultural community developed implicit faith in the hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides and refuse to accept that none of them was ever necessary for normal agricultural production. Even today, they are not required, provided we are able to think afresh on sustainable alternatives."

महोदय, ऐसी परिस्थिति होने के कारण मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि आज देश में किसान एक लाख 72 हजार करोड़ रुपये का निवेश प्रति वर्ष रासायनिक खाद में, कृत्रिम बीज में, पेस्टीसाइड में, इनसेक्टीसाइड में कर रहा है। इसके बारे में अगर हम नये सिरे से सोचें, कृषि में

आमूल-चूल परिवर्तन करने की बात हम सोचें, तो हमारे यहां जो कृषि के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण है, उसका पूरा लाभ उठाया जा सकता है।

महोदय, यह कहा गया है कि land, vegetation, insects, animals, and human beings are all indivisible parts of the nature. By coordinating them, sustainable, equitable and stable development can be attained, ये जो पांच चीजें हैं, इनको कोआर्डिनेट करने की बात हमको करनी पड़ेगी। इस दृष्टि से भारत सरकार के कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा कृषि मंत्री द्वारा, दो टास्क फोर्स बनाये गये थे। एक टास्क फोर्स श्री शरद जोशी के नेतृत्व में और दूसरा टास्क फोर्स डा० कुवंरजी भाई जाधव जी के नेतृत्व में बनाया गया था। इन दोनों ही टास्क फोर्स ने, स्पेशली जो डा० कुवंरजीभाई जाधव के नेतृत्व में था, उन्होंने आर्गेनिक फार्मिंग पर जो अभ्यास किया और रिपोर्ट दी है और शरद जोशी जी ने भी जो कृषि क्षेत्र के लिए सिफारिश दी है, उसमें उन्होंने यह कहा है कि पूरे देश में जैविक खाद का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए, जैविक खेती की ओर हमें आगे बढ़ना चाहिए। आज हमारे लिए सुनहरा अवसर है, क्योंकि आज देश में अन्न का भंडार भरा हुआ है, चीनी का भंडार भी भरा हुआ है, कपास का उत्पादन हम स्वावलम्बी नीति से कर पाये हैं। यह अनुभव हमारे देश में विदर्भ के किसानों ने भी किया है और जैविक खाद और जैविक खेती के कारण इनकी कृषि की उपज कपास की उपज बढ़ी है।

महोदय, जो इंडोनेशिया ने एक साथ एक नीति विषयक निर्णय लेकर के पेस्टीसाइड्स की 58 फैक्टरियों को बंद करने का आदेश दे दिया इसके सुपरिणाम हमें इंडोनेशिया में देखने को मिलें हैं। देश में अगर हम जैविक खाद और इसके उपयोग के कारण जैविक खेती की ओर बढ़ेंगे और छोटे-छोटे जो जमीन के टुकड़े हैं, जहां पर बड़े ट्रैक्टर से खेती करने के बजाए बैल से खेती करने की जो पुरानी व्यवस्था थी, वह लागू कर दी जाए तो मुझे लगता है कि आर्थिक दृष्टि से भी खेती की लागत में कमी आ सकती है। ट्रैक्टर से खेती के बजाय अगर बैल से खेती की जाए तो चावल के उत्पादन में 17 प्रतिशत लागत कम आती है, मकई में 20 प्रतिशत लागत कम आती है, कपास में 25 प्रतिशत लागत कम आती है, गन्ना में 32 प्रतिशत लागत कम आती है और बाजरा में 50 प्रतिशत लागत कम आती है।

महोदय, देश के पास 28 करोड़ 80 लाख का पशुधन है। अगर हम ड्रॉट ऐनीमल्स के बारे में सोचें और इनके गोबर का उपयोग करने की बात सोचें तो देश में प्रति वर्ष 440 करोड़ टन के लगभग जैविक खाद हम बना सकते हैं। हमारी आवश्यकता सिर्फ इतनी है कि एक हैक्टेयर जमीन पर हमें सिर्फ दस टन खाद चाहिए, यानी डेढ़ सौ टन से ज्यादा खाद की हमें आवश्यकता नहीं है, जबकि हमारी क्षमता 440 करोड़ टन की है। इसको हमें ध्यान में रखना चाहिए। आज रासायनिक खाद का दाम किसान को देना पड़ रहा है। सब्सिडी देने के बावजूद भी यूरिया का दाम 4 हजार, साढ़े 4 हजार, 5 हजार रुपये प्रति टन है। उसकी लागत तो 12000 रुपये प्रति टन है लेकिन सरकार सब्सिडी देती है। लेकिन जैविक खाद की जो एक टन की लागत आती है वह 1600 रुपये से ज्यादा नहीं आएगी। महोदय, देश में आज प्रति वर्ष 1 करोड़ 38 लाख कैटल और 1 करोड़, 22 लाख भैंसों का कत्ल किया जाता है, कतलखानों में भेजा जाता है। महोदय, कतलखाने हमारे देश की संस्कृति नहीं है, पशु के वध का हमारा

इतिहास कभी नहीं रहा है। मांस का व्यापार हमारी सभ्यता कभी नहीं थी न होनी चाहिए। पशुधन को बचाया जाना चाहिए और इस पशुधन का उपयोग अगर हम खेती की दृष्टि से करेंगे, जैविक खाद की दृष्टि से करेंगे तो मुझे लगता है कि एक नया प्रयोग करके लाभ पा सकते हैं।

महोदय, आज कृषि को जो ऋण दिया जाता है, वह ऋण भी बहुत कम दिया जाता है। जो बैंकों के ऋण का आंकड़ा है, वह यह कहता है कि कुल ऋण का 17 से 18 प्रतिशत ऋण इनको दिया जाता है लेकिन कृषि पर निर्भर रहने वाली इस देश की 66 प्रतिशत जनता और इसमें से आने वाले 25 प्रतिशत जी.डी.पी. को अगर हम देखें तो कम से कम 25 प्रतिशत ऋण इनको मिलना चाहिए। इसके अतिरिक्त कृषि पर जो ब्याज की दर लगती है उसके लिए फोर टाइप स्ट्रीम है। नाबार्ड स्टेट के कोऑपरेटिव बैंक को देता है, स्टेट का कोऑपरेटिव बैंक डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोऑपरेटिव बैंक को देता है, डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोऑपरेटिव बैंक मंडल को देता है और फिर मंडल किसान को देता है। इस प्रकार इनकी वजह से पांच प्रतिशत वाला ऋण बढ़ते-बढ़ते वहां जाकर 13-14 प्रतिशत हो जाता है। इसको कम किया जाना चाहिए। आज अगर उद्योगों को आठ प्रतिशत ब्याज की दर पर ऋण मिलता है तो कृषि को भी 8-9 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराया जाना चाहिए।

महोदय, मैं दो-तीन और सुझाव देना चाहता हूं। देश में 300 प्रोजेक्ट ऐसे हैं जो निर्धारित समय में पूरे होने के बावजूद भी आज चल रहे हैं। कॉस्ट ओवर रन के कारण, जो प्रोजेक्ट डिलेड हैं, 20 करोड़ से ज्यादा लागत है, ऐसे 300 प्रोजेक्ट्स के कारण देश के 41 हजार करोड़ का नुकसान हो रहा है। इसको कैसे बचाया जाए, यह बात हमें सोचनी होगी। महोदय, वह आज एक जिक्र यहां पर हुआ था कि देश में करप्शन बढ़ा है। करप्शन पर जो अभ्यास हुआ है, वह अभ्यास यह कहता है कि 26 हजार 728 करोड़ रुपये का करप्शन इस देश में हुआ है। यह लो रिस्क और हाई रिटर्न बिजनेस है लेकिन इसको कैसे प्लग किया जाए, करप्शन कैसे समाप्त किया जाए, इसके बारे में भी सोचना पड़ेगा। तीसरा फिसिकल डेफिसिट और रैवेन्यू डेफिसिट कम करने के बारे में है। देश में यह बात कई बार कही जा चुकी है कि सरकारी खर्च में कटौती की जानी चाहिए। जो पांचवा वेतन आयोग था, उसने यह सिफारिश की थी कि वेतन की नई दरें लागू की जाएं और साथ-साथ सरकारी कर्मचारियों की संख्या में 33 परसेंट की कटौती की जाए। इस पर अमल नहीं हुआ और इसी कारण परिस्थिति हमारे सामने है। मैं चाहूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री जी इस बारे में सोचकर कोई कदम उठाएं।

महोदय, मैं इस बजट में गुजरात के संबंध में आई एक दरखास्त के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा। एक करोड़ रुपए तक के जो ग्लेज्ड टाइल्स उद्योग हैं, उन पर अभी तक उत्पाद शुल्क नहीं लगता था लेकिन अब इनको भी उत्पाद शुल्क के दायरे में लाया गया है। इसका परिणाम यह होगा कि जो छोटे-छोटे टाइल्स के कारखानों हैं, उनको बड़े कारखानों के साथ कंपीट करना पड़ेगा। वे कंपीट नहीं कर पाएंगे क्योंकि जो बड़े कारखाने हैं, मॉडवेत का लाभ उठाते हैं। इफेक्टिव उत्पाद शुल्क उनका 6 प्रतिशत आता है और 16 प्रतिशत में से 10 प्रतिशत उनको मॉडवेत मिल जाता है। लेकिन छोटें कारखाने ऐसी वस्तुओं का इंधन के लिए कोई उपयोग नहीं करते हैं, उसके कारण इनको घाटा ही घाटा रहेगा। मैं चाहूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री जी इस पर पुनर्विचार करके इनके साथ न्यास करने के लिए आगे आए, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I must say that in the Budget for the year 2003-2004, it has been skillfully exhibited as if it is a pro-people and a balanced Budget. It is not a very good Budget. The truth is far away from the reality. In this Budget, much thrust has been given on the urban elite and the organised sector. It has totally ignored the 75 per cent of the population living in rural areas and the 80 percent workers of the unorganized sector. Therefore, I am tempted to say that it is rather a deceptive Budget. At the time of adoption of structural reforms and liberalisation, the Budget was provided a human face by laying emphasis on social sectors such as education, health, women and welfare of the weaker sections of the society. But, now, it seems that the Indian economy has been converted to a market economy. It is a hands-off policy of the Government. I want to bring to your kind notice that if you look at the provisions made in the Budget, you will find that there is hardly any appreciable increase as compared to the Budget of 2002-2003. The Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh, rightly mentioned that not much exercise has been done while preparing the Budget. By and large, it is a true copy of the Budget of 2002-2003. The nominal increase which has been made in the agriculture sector and rural sector can also not be justified. The Budget claims that it has earmarked certain money for the Poverty Alleviation Programme. How do we judge the reality of the spirit? Out of the total Budget outlay of Rs. 450,00,000 crores, a meagre amount of Rs. 45 crores is provided for the Poverty Alleviation Programme. Sir, what is the percentage? If you work out the percentage, you will find that it comes to hardly one per cent. In scientific language, it can be designated that it is a negligible outlay, which has been given for the Poverty Alleviation Programme.

Sir, the present status of the financial position is that near about 40-50 per cent of the revenue receipts are being spent on the interest payment. So, the question arises, where are the sources for financing the Plan and programmes mainly related to the poorer sections of the society. The Government could have made efforts to mobilise the resources through tax and non-tax sources. There are certain guidelines and principles for imposing the tax policy. The irony here is that the Government has chosen to tax the edible oil and given a concession for the imported wine. Generally, the tax policy gives a message to the public at large. What sort of message will this particular item of taxation give to the masses? I do not want to go into the details. The message will be that 'people should drink

more imported wine and consume less edible oil.' I think, this is a bad message.... (*Interruptions*)...

Sir, agriculture is a basic and key industry. The real economy of the nation lies with the agriculture. Sir, round about 80 per cent of the population including the agriculture labourer, small and marginal farmers are dependent on agriculture. What is their fate? It is true that the agriculture economy is the lifeline of the total economy. Sir, it is a matter of great concern that, for the first time, a negative growth is being indicated in the agricultural sector. It is a matter of great concern. We do believe and designate the agricultural economy as a monsoon economy, sometimes, rural economy which deals with 80 per cent population of the country. As I mentioned earlier, there has been a slight increase in the outlay for the industry. I do not want to repeat that. Many hon. Members who have spoken before me have mentioned about agriculture. The real problem is that agriculture in our country has certain limitations. Whatever efforts we make, the percentage of irrigation cannot increase by more than 30 percent. It does mean that 70 per cent of the cultivable land remains unutilised. So, what efforts have we made to change the crop pattern? I want to know whether we are going in for dry cultivation or not; and whether the new crop system for the dry cultivation, which is very essential, has been developed. The Budget has nothing to say about agriculture. I request, through this House, the hon. Finance Minister that he should come forward and bring out a White Paper on agriculture dealing with all aspects of agriculture. But I must thank the Finance Minister for having withdrawn taxes as far as the price of fertilizer is concerned, particularly urea. But diesel is an essential commodity for cultivators and farmers. What about the price of diesel? The present Agriculture Minister, being an agriculturist -- he practised agriculture; he knows the agonies of farmers -- should come forward and withdraw the increase in the prices of diesel also.

Sir, so far as the financial position of the nation is concerned, today a majority of States are in a very poor and precarious economic condition. They are not in a position to finance the development programmes. How can they afford development expenditure? Is it not the duty of the Government of India to cope with the problem? The financial position of the Central Government is also not sound. The foreign exchange worth Rs.70 billions is of no use. How is this foreign exchange being utilised? The Budget has also nothing to say in this respect.



I want to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards the most important aspect regarding huge saving to the tune of Rs.1.12,292 crores. ' The capital receipts are Rs. 1,84,860 crores, while the capital expenditure is Rs.72,00,568 crores. Why such a huge saving and for what? On earlier occasions also, I requested the then Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, to clarify the position in this respect. He assured me on the floor of the House that he would clarify his position in this respect by sending me reply. I am sorry to mention that I have not received any reply in this context. Again, I earnestly request the Finance Minister, at least clarify the position to add to our knowledge.

Sir, the Tenth Plan aims at achieving a growth of 8 per cent of the GDP. However ambitious it may be, I do not want to have any dispute in this respect. But the hon. Prime Minister has taken a very practical outlook. He said, "It is rather impossible, not possible." In fact, if we have to achieve the targeted growth to the tune of 8 per cent, then a huge investment ought to be done in agriculture and industry, particularly in agriculture. Much more thrust has to be given on agriculture. The agricultural economy is the heart and life of the total economy. Thank you, very much.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( प्रो. राम देव भंडारी ) :** धन्यवाद गवई जी। श्री शंकर राय चौधरी।

**श्री शंकर राय चौधरी ( पश्चिमी बंगाल ) :** धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय। आज के इस बजट डिसकसन में, मैं बहुत सिमित क्षेत्र पर बात करना चाहूंगा और वह है डिफेंस। महोदय, डिफेंस बजट कोई खास दिलचस्प सब्जेक्ट नहीं है और इस पर ज्यादा चर्चा भी नहीं होती है। डिफेंस बजट, नॉन प्लान एक्सपेंडीचर में है। इस के साथ मुल्क की सीधी तरक्की का कोई सीधा कनेक्शन नहीं है, लेकिन हम को यह समझना चाहिए कि डिफेंस बजट के साथ चाहे मुल्क का कोई सीधा संबंध न हो, लेकिन डिफेंस बजट, डिफेंस एक्सपेंडीचर या डिफेंस पर जो पैसे खर्चे होते हैं, यह मुल्क के लिए जीवन बीमा है। जैसे हम लोग अपनी पर्सनल लाइफ में लाइफ इंश्योरेंस देते हैं और जितना प्रीमियम देते हैं, उसी के मुताबिक हमें कवरेज मिलता है। डिफेंस बजट भी मुल्क के लिए लाइफ इंश्योरेंस प्रीमियम है और मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि डिफेंस बजट जैसे बढ़ता है, उतरता है प्रीमियम अच्छे देते हैं, बुरे देते हैं, उसी के मुताबिक हमें कवरेज मिलता है। हमें ख्याल रखना चाहिए हमारे पड़ोसी चीन के अपने चार पहलुओं के माडर्नाइजेशन के बारे में बात की साइंस, टेक्नॉलोजी, इंडस्ट्री और डिफेंस। इन चार पहलुओं पर विशेष ध्यान दिया। लेकिन हमारे यहां ऑनरेबल फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर का भाषण जैसे एक मंत्र पाठ होता है, हर साल होता है। महोदय, मैं सिर्फ इन्हीं के बारे में नहीं कह रहा हूं, यह हर साल होता है, सालों से होता है कि जब जरूरत पड़ेगी पैसे दे देंगे। अब इस का नतीजा क्या होता है, वह मैं थोड़ा बाद में बताऊंगा। हमारे देश का जो डिफेंस बजट है, डिफेंस एक्सपेंडीचर है, इस में एक अजीब सा माहौल बन गया है कि पैसे बढ़ाते जाओ, लेकिन डिफेंस की हालत

खराब होती जा रही है। क्यों? क्योंकि ये पैसे खर्च नहीं हो रहे हैं। अब ये पैसे खर्च क्यों नहीं हो रहे हैं, इस के बारे में मैं थोड़ा शुरू में जिक्र करना चाहूंगा। महोदया, मैं आप का ध्यान थोड़ा पीछे की ओर ले जाना चाहता हूँ जब कि 1986 में बोफोर्स का सौदा हुआ। यह 1500 करोड़ का सौदा था और इस में 62 करोड़ की घूस के इल्जाम लगे थे। हालांकि वे इल्जाम अभी तक साबित नहीं हुए हैं, लेकिन इन इल्जाम से हमारे राजनीतिक माहौल में जो बातचीत और गरमा-गरमी हुई थी, उस का और कोई फायदा हो न हो, लेकिन एक सरकार गिर गयी थी। महोदय, उस सरकार के गिरने के बाद बहुत सी सरकारें आईं, लेकिन बीच में उन्होंने एक अलिखित, अघोषित उसूल बना लिया कि बाकी सब ठीक है, डिफेंस के सौदे में मत जाना। यह मुझे प्रत्यक्ष पता है। यहां हमारे कई साथी हैं जो कि अभी हाजिर नहीं हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने एक अलिखित, अघोषित सिद्धांत बना लिया कि डिफेंस के सौदे में नहीं जाना जिस की वजह से डिफेंस फोर्स पर तो बुरा असर पड़ा ही, पैसे भी कटते गए। फिर जो पैसे कम मिले थे, वह भी पूरे खर्च नहीं हुए और जो ह मारी गवर्नमेंट्स थीं, उन का एक ऐसा नजारिया हो गया कि डिफेंस बजट मिले, न मिले, ठीक है। ये बेवकूफ लोग मरते रहेंगे। ठीक है, स्ट्राइक पर नहीं जाएंगे। महोदय, इस का असर हमारे ऊपर सालों-साल पड़ता रहा। उस के बाद वित्तीय वर्ष 1999-2000 में यहां पहली अप्रैल, 1999 से 31 मार्च, 2000 के दरमियान में एक छोटा सा हादसा हो गया। वह हादसा क्या था? पाकिस्तान ने कारगिल पर हमला कर दिया। उस हमले में हमारे 524 जवान मारे गए, उस के दोगुने घायल हो गए। ठीक है, उस को चलने दीजिए। उस साल, 1999-2000 में बजट एलोटमेंट 45,694 करोड़ रुपए था। उस कारगिल धमाके में जो एलोटमेंट था उससे ज्यादा सरकार ने देकर तकरीबन 2800 करोड़ ज्यादा खर्च किया, लेकिन यह खर्चा सालों बाद, दशकों बाद किया गया, जो सामान मांगे जा रहे थे दस साल से, पन्द्रह साल से, उनकी भगदड़ में खरीद की गई। उसमें जरूर, जो नियम हैं खर्चे के, उसमें कुछ न कुछ गलतियां हुई होंगी। यह होनी थी, होनी होती है खैर इसका असर उस वक्त नहीं पड़ा। वर्ष 2000-2001 का जो बजट था, जिसको हम पोस्ट कारगिल बजट कहते हैं, उसमें राशि बढ़ा दी गई, लेकिन उस साल भी यह बढ़ाई हुई राशि खर्च नहीं कर पाए। फिर अगले साल वित्तीय वर्ष 2001-2002 में रकम और बढ़ा दी गई, लेकिन उस साल महोदया, तीन बारूदी सुरेंगे फट पड़ी। वे बारूदी सुरेंगे क्या थीं। वे थीं-13 मार्च, 2001 को तहलका टेप, 11 नवंबर, 2001 को सीएजी रिपोर्ट और 11 दिसंबर, 2001 को कॉफिन गेट जिसको कहते हैं। इसमें क्या सच है, क्या सच नहीं, मैं इसके अंदर नहीं जा रहा हूँ। लेकिन सिर्फ यह कह रहा हूँ कि इनका असर जो यहां पर डिबेट चली, डिसकशन चला, उस पर पड़ा। इस सारी डिसकशन का पोलिटिकल कंट्रोवर्सीज का सिलसिला जो बोफोर्स से चलता आ रहा था, इसका असर बाहर पड़ा, जिसके तहत वर्ष 2001-2002 में 5000 करोड़ रुपए सरेंडर किए गए और यही सिलसिला अभी जारी है। पिछले साल वर्ष 2002-2003 में 9000 करोड़ रुपए खर्च नहीं कर पाए क्योंकि लोग डरे हुए हैं। वे इस पर अपनी जिम्मेदारी नहीं लेना चाहते, जो स्वाभाविक भी है।

महोदया, इस तरह यह वर्ष 2002-2001 से आगे चलते चलें 2002-2003 तक, तो टोटल आंकड़ों के हिसाब से तकरीबन 1800 करोड़ रुपए वापस किए गए। इसका असर क्या पड़ा? इसका असर पड़ा जो पड़ना था, जो आर्म्ड फोर्स का मोडर्नाइजेशन होना था वह नहीं हुआ। मैं कोई बड़ी चीज की बात नहीं कह रहा, एडमिरल गोशकोव, टैंक, हवाई जहाज की बात नहीं कर रहा, छोटी छोटी चीजें जो थीं, जो रोजमर्रा की चीजें थीं, उन पर भी इसका असर पड़ा और जिसका असर अभी आप देख रहे हैं। पराक्रम हुआ। पराक्रम में माइन्स बिछाई गई। उसमें

सौ से ज्यादा जवान हमारे मारे गए हैं। क्यों? क्योंकि पुरानी माइन्स, टाइम एक्सपायरड फ्यूजेज फट पड़े और हमारे जवान मारे गए। जो माइन्स बिछाई गई थीं, अब उनको उठाते वक्त भी मुसीबत आ रही है। मेरी फिगर से माइन्स उठाते वक्त 5 जवान मर गए हैं और 59 जवान घायल हुए हैं। मैं अपने एक्सपीरिएंस से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि माइन्स एक्सप्लोजन से जो आदमी घायल होता है, शायद बेहतर है वह मर जाए। तो यह बात हो रही है।

महोदया, अभी चर्चा हो रही थी कि हमारे किसान उस क्षेत्र में काश्त नहीं कर सकते। यह क्यों हो रहा है? यह बहुत छोटी चीज है माइन्स क्लीयरेंस हेलमेट और माइन्स क्लीयरेंस बूट के लिए, इसके बाद भी एक्सीडेंट्स नहीं होंगे। यह नहीं कह सकते, लेकिन कम से कम उनके पास प्रोटेक्शन तो हो। इसका जो असर पड़ रहा है, उसमें एक असर यह पड़ रहा है, उसमें एक असर यह पड़ गया है कि पोलिटिकल कंट्रोवर्सी का असर हमारे डिफेंस के माडनाईजेशन प्रोसेस पर पड़ रहा है, हमारे इस लाइफ इन्शोरेन्स प्रीमियम के अंदर आ रहा है। और यह आ रहा है। और बार-बार जब हमारे ऊपर धक्के आएंगे एक कारगिल आया तो हम दौड़ पड़े, उसके बाद फिर कंट्रोवर्सी हुई। अभी "पराक्रम" के बाद मैं दावे से कह सकता हूँ कि अगर आप सी०ए०जी० रिपोर्ट करवाएं जल्दी में जो कुछ खरीदा जाता है, जरूर ऐसे कुछ होंगे। मैं यह नहीं कहता हूँ कि जान-बूझकर किए होंगे। करना पड़ा है। तो इसका हमें कोई हल निकालना पड़ेगा।

हर स्पीच में वित्त मंत्री जी, सिर्फ माननीय जसवंत सिंह जी ही नहीं, इसके पहले वाले भी, हर साल एक लफ्ज जरूर इस्तेमाल करते हैं "Money will be provided, whenever required." बहुत अच्छी बात है। यह सी०ए०जी० रिपोर्ट है, जिस पर इतनी चर्चा हो रही है, लेकिन जो असली चर्चा होने वाली बात है उस पर एक लफ्ज भी नहीं बोला जा रहा है। सी०ए०जी० रिपोर्ट का मुद्दा जो गवर्नमेंट ने दिया था और जो इसमें दिया हुआ है, उसे मैं आपकी इजाजत से पढ़कर सुनाता हूँ।

"Scope of the audit based on this request, the Government's request the audit decided to assess the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of the defence procurement system in an emergent situation."

कारगिल जैसा और Macro analysis में सी०ए०जी० साहब क्या कहते हैं :-

"Negligible receipts during operation; 81 per cent of the total expenditure materialised only after January, 2002, i.e., six months after the operation was over."

दूसरा क्या कहते हैं:-

"Majority of the contracts concluded after the operation was over." तीसरा क्या कहते हैं "long leave time", तो इसका मोटा, बहुत मोटा कन्क्लूजन यह है कि लास्ट मिनट में जो हमको हर साल सुनाया जाता है कि "Money will be provided, whenever required." यह जरूरत के वक्त काम नहीं आएगा। जब खतरा हमारे ऊपर है वह खतरा खत्म हो जाने के बाद ही यह ही यह पैसा काम में आएगा। इसलिए

3.00 p.m.

"Money will be provided, whenever required", इससे काम नहीं चलेगा। जो पैसा देना है शुरू से ही देना है। ... (समय की घंटी)...

अंत में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इसके बारे में हम कर क्या सकते हैं। या क्या करना चाहिए, कर सकते हैं या नहीं, यह तो नहीं पता लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर बताना चाहूंगा कि क्या करना चाहिए। सबसे पहली बात क्या हम कुछ उपाय निकाल सकते हैं कि हमारी जो पोलिटिकल कंट्रोवर्सीज हैं इनका असर डिफेंस प्रियोरमेंट प्रोसेस पर न पड़े? यह पता नहीं हो सकता है या नहीं लेकिन इसके अलावा कोई चारा नहीं है।

दूसरे जो हमारे ऐक्विजिशन प्रांसिपलर्स हैं, अभी डिफेंस प्रियोरमेंट एजेंसीज बनाई गई है, अच्छी बात है लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी इतने हजारों करोड़ रुपये खर्च नहीं हो रहे हैं। डिफेंस प्रियोरमेंट ल्वेंन्सी भी डाल रखा है। आप यह बताइए कि कौन अफसर इन हालात में कागजों पर दस्तखत करेगा? इसके लिए भी कोई हल होना चाहिए। जो हमारा केपिटल ऐक्विजिशन फंड है, जिससे माइनाइजेशन होता है, जैसे हमारे साथी श्री कलमाड़ी जी ने बताया था, यह नॉन लेप्ससेबल होना चाहिए। एक दफा ये हजारों करोड़ रुपये अगर कंटेंजेंसी फंड आफ इंडिया में गए, तो वे वापिस नहीं आते। वह तो खाई है, उसके अंदर जितना डालो वह गुम हो जाएगा, वह वापिस नहीं आता। मैं भुगता हुआ हूँ।

पांचवे पे कमीशन को लागू किया जाए। आपको शायद सुनकर ताज्जुब होगा क्योंकि पांचवां पे कमीशन लागू हो गया है, लेकिन उसका जो मोटा रिकमेंडेशन था, वह लागू नहीं हुआ। उसका सबसे मोटा रिकमेंडेशन था कि गवर्नमेंट को डाउन साइज किया जाए। हमारे बारे में, डिफेंस फोर्सिस के बारे में पांचवे पे कमीशन ने यह बोला था कि हमारा जो रिक्रूटमेंट और ट्रेनिंग सिस्टम है, मिलिट्री पैरा मिलिट्री और पुलिस आरगेनाइजेशन को मिला देना चाहिए ताकि एक ही सोर्स से, एक ही तरीके से ट्रेनिंग हो। सात साल तक नौकरी करने के बाद वह चाहे पैरा मिलिट्री में जाए, चाहे सीपीओ में जाए, यह नहीं हुआ है। आखिरी सुझाव। इनडिजिनाइजेशन पर जोर देना पड़ेगा। हमारे 0आर0डी0ओ0 काम कर रही है, अच्छा काम कर रही है। इनसे जो इक्विपमेंट्स निकल रहे हैं उसका प्रोडक्शन देश के अंदर करना चाहिए क्योंकि इससे हमारे देश का इण्डस्ट्रिलाइजेशन बढ़ेगा, चाहे इसमें थोड़ा ज्यादा पैसा क्यों न लगे इण्डस्ट्रिलाइजेशन बढ़ेगा, इण्डस्ट्रिलाइजेशन देश में फैलेगा, उसमें पब्लिक सेक्टर भी काम करेगी, प्राइवेट सेक्टर भी काम करेगी और देश की ओवर ऑल बढ़ोतरी होगी। धन्यवाद।

MISS MABEL REBELLO (Madhya Pradesh) : Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. As I rise to speak on the implications of the hon. Finance Minister's Budget proposals, I am conscious of the fact that I will not follow the beaten path. Budget speeches are usually replete with figures, statistics, growth patterns, deficits and other economic indices that are supposed to reflect the economic health of a nation. But, my emphasis

today will be on the different aspects of development and the scant regard that has been paid to them by this Budget. Sir, statistics, tables, Budget proposals, what relevance do they have to the common man, who goes to bed hungry today? About 30 crore of people may be going to bed hungry today. What does this Budget mean to them? Maybe the same number or more than that are today sleeping on the hard, cold footpath, without home, without bed, hungry. What do these Budget proposals of lakhs of crores of rupees mean to them? Sir, any policy formulation -- Budget proposal is a policy formulation -- that contents itself with addressing macro problems, without looking at the nitty-gritty of everyday life of the common man, is doomed to fail. It will not bring cheers to the people, and if it does not bring cheers to the common man, to the smallest of the small man, what does that Budget mean? This is what I am afraid will be the fate of the empty Budget proposals and the proposals that touch the surface but don't tackle the heart and soul of India's developmental needs. Sir, six months ago, here, in this very House, the Education Minister had brought the proposal to declare Right to Education for children from 6 to 14 a Fundamental Right. If you see the Budget proposals, the Education Minister has announced Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Can it be realised? Can it be actualised? It cannot be actualised, because that Budget proposal, that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, require something like Rs. 8,000 crore annually. This is what the HRD Minister demanded and the Planning Commission has said that Rs. 7,960 crores should be given annually to achieve this objective, the laudable objective, of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Universalisation of Education. But, what have they given to them? They have given only Rs. 4,900 crores for primary education. How will you achieve these objectives? There will be backlogs, and that will go on. What they say, what they promise, the Bills that they bring here, the promises they make from the pulpits, from the stages, all these things have no meaning at all. They were all promises. That is all. There promises are to fool the people of India, to fool the common man, to fool the poor man. Same is the case with regard to higher education. They have hardly allotted any money for higher education. But then, this Finance Minister has given income tax rebate to the rich people to educate their children in big schools. He is giving something like Rs. 1,000 per child for two children, that is, Rs. 24,000 rebate for two children to educate them in big schools. So, whom is he catering to? He is catering to the rich persons. All the promises of the Finance Minister are meant to make the rich man richer and the poor man poorer. That is what is he doing.

Now, I come to the 50 per cent of our population, that is, the hapless women folk. What has he done for them? He has not even mentioned women. The women have not found any mention in the Budget Speech of the hon. Finance Minister. He has chosen to ignore the women altogether. We are 50 per cent. Still, there is no mention of us in the Budget. Why is that? Before the Budget, there were pre-Budget consultations and pre-Budget exercises. Whom did he call? He called all the big industrialists, the corporate giants, CII, ASSOCHAM, FICCI, etc. He called all these people for consultations and asked them what they wanted. They asked for income-tax free dividend and some other concessions and he granted all those concessions that they wanted. It means that this is a Budget for the corporate sector, the big man. What did he give to the women of India? He has given the women of India a reduction in duty. On what? He has given a reduction in duty on utensils, kitchen knives and tablewares! What is he planning? What does he want the women of India to do? To go to the kitchen, stay in the kitchen, cook and feed these men? After 55 years of our independence, this is what our Finance Minister wants us to do. He does not want to do anything for us. He does not want to empower us at all. This is what I feel. This is what he has given in his Budget to us.

Today, a lot of women have started getting educated and they have joined the workforce. They have to move from place to place and stay elsewhere other than their home. We have been fighting for working women's hostel. The Finance Minister in his Budget has chosen to reduce the allocation for working women's hostel. The allocation for working women's hostel has been reduced by three-and-a-half crores rupees. It is a shame. He does not bother about the welfare of the women at all. He just does not. Similar is the case with maternity benefit allocation. He reduced it by Rs. 22 crores.

In the Labour Department, there is a scheme where women need to be trained and their skill has to be upgraded constantly. The Finance Minister has chosen to reduce the allocation for this by Rs.8 crores. He has mentioned one thing in his Budget and he thinks that he is doing a big favour to women. Almost 15-20 per cent women are in the Self-Help Group for the last, at least, ten years. A large amount of money has been saved by them. A saving habit has been inculcated in these women and they had saved a large amount of money. On the next day of the presentation of the

Budget, he has brought down the rate of interest on savings of bank deposits from four per cent to three-and-a-half per cent. This is the gift that- he has given to the women. If women have to take advances from banks for gainful enterprise or consumer loan, how much do these nationalised banks charge from women? They charge 12 per cent and above. How much do they charge from the corporate sector, which has got a loud voice and an access to the people who matters? They charge 6-8 per cent. For the big men who take crores of rupees of loan and create NPAs worth of Rs. 65,000 crores in this country, he gives a bonanza and charges them 6-8 per cent! And for the poor woman who starts a tiny enterprise, he charges 12 per cent! The small-scale sector has failed. In spite of that, you say women should be in gainful enterprise and, therefore, they should go to the tiny sector, which cannot generate any profit. Still, women are charged more than 12 per cent. Ninety-nine per cent of the women, because of peer group pressure and societal pressure, pay the loan which they take from banks. In spite of that, this is the way the women are being treated. Because women have a conscience, they want to pay it back. Sometimes, succumbing to the pressure, they borrow money from alternative source, at a higher rate of interest, exorbitant rate of interest and pay off. Thus, the women are getting into a debt trap. Instead of empowering women, we are creating problems, societal problems for the women and the Finance Minister has coolly forgotten this. I request -- the Finance Minister is not here; he does not want to listen to women at all -- whoever is here, please take cognisance of this and convey it to the Finance Minister.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( प्रो० राम देव भंडारी ) :** राज्य मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं।

**कुमारी मैबल रिबेलो:** बैठे हैं मगर नोट्स नहीं ले रहे हैं। वे बीच-बीच में बात भी कर रहे हैं। उनको कोई परवाह नहीं है, महिलाओं को कुछ हो जाए, महिलाएं सुसाइड करें, उनको क्या परवाह है ? उनको कोई मतलब नहीं है। Sir, I would now like to speak about the health sector. Sir, India is among the twenty countries, which spend less than one per cent of the GDP on health sector. Sir, look at this that less than one per cent of GDP we spend on health sector. Only 0.8 per cent of the GDP is allocated. Now, to whom is it allocated? Sir, there is a Report of the World Bank which says that in India, every year, 22 lakh people slip below poverty line because of the lack of health facilities. And the Finance Minister has chosen not to enhance the budgetary allocation for the public health infrastructure. What has he given? He has given duty benefits.' To whom? To start 100 bed hospitals. And where? In big cities.

Whom will these big hospitals cater to? The rich, the middle class, those who have money and it will be only 10 per cent of India who will benefit from these hospitals. Sir, the other factor, which he has coolly forgotten is the NGO sector.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( प्रो० राम देव भंडारी ) :** आपकी पार्टी के दो और सदस्य बोलने वाले हैं।

**कुमारी मैबल रिबैलो :** सर, मेरी पार्टी ने मुझे 15 मिनट बोलने की इजाजत दी है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( प्रो० रामदेव भंडारी ) :** आपका जो समय है, उसके अंदर ही आप अपनी बात समाप्त करें।

**कुमारी मैबल रिबैलो :** सर, अभी मेरा समय बचा है। I would like to take him back to Kerala State. If the State of Kerala has got a very good health system, it is because of the charitable organisations, non-profit organisations. They do not make money but they render very good quality health services and the Finance Minister has not done anything for this sector. He has forgotten about it. I would like to tell him that almost 35 per cent of the cataract surgery in India is done by non-profit organisations. Therefore, he should give additional amount, at least some amount, to these charitable organisations like Ramakrishna Mission and others, just to encourage them so that the poorest of the poor can have good quality health facilities.

Sir, the Health Minister has said somewhere that for polio eradication, immunization, establishing sub-centres, no additional money has been allocated. The money allocated earlier has not been enhanced and the same amount continues. Sir, he has made big promises of starting infrastructure of Rs. 60,000 crores. But, budgetary allotment of Rs. 2,000 crores has been made. In fact, his predecessor, Mr. Chidambaram, former Finance Minister has recently called this Finance Minister the greatest magician of modern India; P.C.Sorkar of the BJP Government. You can make out what it means. Let him understand it himself. I do not want to say anything more.

Sir, now I come to the social justice and empowerment sector. We have in this country around 5 per cent of people who are physically and mentally challenged. And what has the Finance Minister offered them? He has offered them customs duty reduction of tricycles, crutches and hearing



aids. Can't we manufacture these crutches, tricycles and hearing aids in our own country? Is this something high-tech that we cannot manufacture? We can. How many people can afford to import these things? Hardly anybody. But what is the allotment the Finance Minister has made for their skill upgradation and -- as they are physically handicapped -- to make them use certain devices so that they can walk, they can hear and help themselves. If they are mentally handicapped, how can they be helped? Have you ever thought about it? Have you made any Budgetary provisions for them? There is nothing at all. He has kept the same amount which was existing. It is stagnant. Similarly for the SCs and STs, there is nothing. He has kept whatever was there. There is nothing beyond that. In the days of liberalisation and globalisation, when reservation has got no meaning, the SCs and STs, without skills, will not be able to compete with others and they will face a lot of problems. This Government does not pay any attention to it.

Now I come to the shipping sector. The size of the Indian shipping sector is shrinking. We had a fleet of seven million tonnes five years ago. But now the fleet has come down to 6.25 million tonnes. Why is it happening? It is happening because the Indian ship owners have to compete with the international ship owners where 85 per cent of the world's fleet has to pay only nominal tax of hardly one per cent; whereas, our ship owners have to pay 35 per cent corporate tax. This is one area where a lot of jobs have been created. If our ship owners are not encouraged in this area, one avenue of jobs for the educated people will be lost.

Sir, today I read in the newspapers that the interest rate on the General Provident Fund has been reduced. This money belongs to the workers. You have reduced the interest rate on that money also. Why has the Finance Minister done it? He is not getting hold of the rich people. He is giving all sorts of concessions to the rich people so that they can become richer and richer. But he is trying to hammer the poor people from all sides. The Finance Minister and many others have said that there is constraint of resources. But what happens to the black money in this country? Our country has 40 per cent of its wealth as black money. It is concentrated in the hands of only three per cent people. There is Rs. 10,00,000 crores black money in our country. Just now Dr. Alexander was saying that whatever black money is generated moves on wings and flies out. Why don't we get all that money back to the country? Why don't we

convert that black money into white money? Why doesn't he use his *danda* that he has, the power that he has, to bring this money back to the mainstream? If it is done, the country will get Rs. 4,00,000 crores annually. It can bridge the Budget deficit and increase your collection towards direct and indirect taxes which you are not able to get. It can cover all that and still you can have surplus also. This country can become rich and can become a developed country very soon. You will have ample money for the social sector. Otherwise, what will happen to this country? The rich man is becoming richer. Yesterday, my colleague, Shri Nilotpal Basu was speaking. He was saying that the people do not have purchasing capacity and because of that we have mounds of grains in our godowns. Isn't it a shame that after 55 years of Independence, people do not have the purchasing capacity; they do not have skills? They do not have avenues to work.

Similarly, we have NPAs worth Rs. 65,000 crores. What is the Finance Minister doing in this regard? He has been the Finance Minister for the last six months. Has he got any money out? Who has created these NPAs? All the rich people in the corporate sector have created these NPAs. What is their intention? They took the money from the banks and other financial institutions to create wealth for the nation, to create jobs. But they have stealthily taken away this money and have created NPAs. Because of that, neither jobs have been created nor anything has happened. Today the biggest problem that we are facing is in regard to educated unemployed youth. All this black money, all these NPAs can be brought out and can be put for productive use in order to solve the problem of unemployment, particularly the educated unemployed youth. I request the hon. Finance Minister to look at the poor people, the neglected people, physically handicapped people, socially backward people, unemployed people and try and devise some ways so that all these people can live happily and can have a better quality life. Thank you.

SHRI C.PERUMAL (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Budget for 2003-2004 on behalf of AIADMK. I welcome the several concessions extended to the common man and the middle class people. The Universal Health Insurance Scheme at a low premium of 1

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\*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

rupee per day for individual and Rs. 1.50 per family is appreciable. This will benefit the poor people.

The original budget proposal envisaged an increase of Rs. 12 per 50 kg. bag of Urea. In deference to the appeal from several sections of the society that the hike in the price of urea will adversely affect the farmers, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has rolled back the price. As one hailing from an agrarian family, I thank him for this gesture. The concessions on income tax will benefit the salaried class. The decision to give tax rebate on the amount spent on children education to an extent of Rs.12, 000 per child is a welcome one.

Sir, it is said that 38 new roads would be laid at the cost of Rs. 40,000 crores. This will definitely boost industrial growth. Exemption of life saving drugs from excise duty is also appreciable. I am happy to note the reference that the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission shall take steps to reduce the debt burden of the states. I wish to make a pertinent point here. When AIADMK came to power in 2001, the financial condition was such that there was difficulty even in paying interest for the loans. But soon after taking over, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has taken effective steps and the economy had begun looking up. But unfortunately, unprecedented drought has affected the entire state. In the beginning of the current year alone, an amount of Rs. 142.80 crore has been distributed as drought relief. Under food-for-work scheme 50,000 tons of rice has been distributed through public distribution system. Twenty eight districts of the states except Chennai have been declared drought-hit. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister to kindly give more Financial assistance to Tamil Nadu.

Sir, injustice is being done to progressive states like Tamil Nadu. The implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Report has brought loss to Tamil Nadu to the tune of Rs. 2946 crore during the period 2000 to 2005. I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to see that this justice is done by the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.

The reduction of interest on small savings will adversely affect the common man and also the States. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already referred to this in the National Development Council meetings. The interest on small savings should not be reduced. The tea growers of

Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu are affected due to unpredictable fluctuations in the price of tea. To alleviate the hardship of tea growers, our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalivi has directed the sale of Ooty tea through public distribution system. So far, 4075 metric tons of tea leaves has been sold fetching Rs. 30.56 crores. The Centre should formulate a scheme in order to standardize the price of tea leaves since frequent fluctuations affect the small tea growers.

I wish to make an important point. Our leader, Amma had decided to take the GSDP to 8 % during the Tenth Plan period. She has formulated a 15-point programme to translate this desire. She is also working towards doubling the per capita income of the state. Sir, His Excellency the President of our Republic made a point in a function held at the Anna University campus in Chennai recently. I once again request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to accept the genuine demands of Tamilnadu and allocate adequate funds. Thank you.

SHRI S.VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Sir, I think the points from President's Speech should not be quoted here. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you go through the Rules, and if the Rules do not permit, these should be deleted.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष ( प्रो० राम देव भंडारी ) :** ठीक है, देख लिया जाएगा। अगर नियमों के अनुसार नहीं होगा तो निकाल दिया जाएगा। श्री हरेन्द्र सिंह मलिक।

**श्री हरेन्द्र सिंह मलिक ( हरियाणा ) :** धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी द्वारा प्रस्तुत बजट पर बोलने का अवसर प्रदान किया है। मान्यवर, मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी द्वारा प्रस्तुत बजट का समर्थन करता हूँ और उनके द्वारा की गई कुछ घोषणाओं के लिए जिनमें विकलांग के लिए जरूरी उपकरणों पर शुल्क घटाना, स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना लागू करना, वेतनभोगी कर्मचारियों के लिए आय कर में छूट, वी.आर.एस. से मिलने वाली पांच लाख रूपए तक की रकम पर छूट, अंत्योदय योजना, दो बच्चों की शिक्षा पर आय कर में छूट, आय कर से पांच प्रतिशत सरचार्ज समाप्त किया जाना, सरकारी कर्मचारियों की एल.टी.सी., बहाल करना, जीवन रक्षक दवाओं की ड्यूटी पर छूट, स्वच्छ पेय जल, जल शोधन, मशीनों के सीमा उत्पाद पर हंड्रेड परसेंट छूट, मरुगोधर योजना और सर्वशिक्षा अभियान हैं- मैं बधाई देता हूँ, साधुवाद देता हूँ। मान्यवर, माननीय मंत्री जी का प्रयास तो सराहनीय है परंतु जो अनुभव इस मुल्क के सामने हैं वे बहुत गंभीर हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का हानआकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ

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\*\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

कि इस बजट और पिछले बजट में भी, जब पिछले माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपना बजट प्रस्तुत किया था तो पचास वस्तुओं को, उत्पादकों को लघु उद्योग से बाहर कर दिया था इस बार पचहत्तर उत्पादकों को बाहर वर्ष पचहत्तर से अस्सी लाख बेरोजगार बढ़ते हैं। लघु उद्योग, जो इकतीस लाख हैं, वे सबसे ज्यादा रोजगार देने का काम करते हैं। कम सुविधा लेकर भी कुटीर उद्योग से ज्यादा रोजगार मिलता है। सत्यता तो यह है कि हमारे पास हाथ हैं लेकिन उन्हें काम नहीं मिल पाता। इन्हें काम देने का काम केवल लघु उद्योग करता है। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि इस पर पुनर्विचार करें। जापान और चाइना की नकल करके छोटे-छोटे उद्योग-धंधों को बढ़ावा देने का काम करें न कि लघु उद्योग की सीमा से कुछ वस्तुओं के उत्पाद को बाहर करने का काम करें। हमारे गांव का गरीब चर्मकार, जो गरीब घर में जन्म लेता था, चमड़े को काम करता था उसे भी लघु उद्योग से बाहर किया गया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि इस पर गौर करें। मान्यवर, बेरोजगारी घटाने का यह एक साधन है, कुटीर उद्योग एक साधन है।

दूसरा सबसे बड़ा स्थान हमारे यहां कृषि क्षेत्र का है। मुल्क का साठ से सत्तर सैकड़ व्यक्ति कृषि पर आश्रित है। इस बजट में कृषि के लिए कम प्रावधान किया गया है। जो प्रावधान किया गया है उसका सदुपयोग हो सके, इसके लिए मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि जो पैसा आपने कृषि विभाग को दिया है उस पर कड़ाई से नजर रखें। मेरी जानकारी है, ऐसी सूचना है कि पहले बासठ करोड़ का एक घोटाला हुआ। बोफोर्स काण्ड हुआ। बहुत बवाल मचा। अब रोज घोटाले होते हैं। उन घोटालों को रोकने का काम भी करना होगा। नेफेड को उठाकर देख लें। नेफेड में घोटाला हुआ है। कितना बड़ा घोटाला हुआ है। मेरी जानकारी है कि एक जिम्मेदार व्यक्ति ने बारह रूपए किलो सरसों की दो लाख बोरी खरीदकर पच्चीस से छब्बीस रूपए में बेच दी। मैंने इसी सम्माननीय सदन में जिम्मेदारी के साथ यह आरोप लगाया था। जांच भी गवारा नहीं हुई। जो पैसा किसान के उत्पाद को खरीदकर बाजार के भाव को बराबर करने के लिए लगाया गया था उसका व्यापार में उपयोग कर लिया गया।

हमारी सहकारी संस्थाओं का क्या हाल है, माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी इस पर भी गौर करेंगे। मैं समझता हूं कि संस्थाएं अधिकारियों के द्वारा चलती हैं, उनके संचालक मंडल के द्वारा चलती हैं। मेरी जानकारी है कि एन.सी.डी.सी. मे, जिसका उपायुक्त भारत सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव स्तर से कम का अधिकारी नहीं बनाया जाता था, बिना कैबिनेट की सब कमेटी की एप्रयूव के पच्चीस के बैच के एलायड सर्विस के अधिकारी को बना दिया गया। यह ऐसी बात है कि जब हम योग्यता को छिपा देंगे। योग्य व्यक्ति को नहीं लाएंगे तो निश्चित रूप से हमारी प्रगति प्रभावित होगी। मान्यवर, मेरा आपके माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि कृपया यह भी देखें कि कृषि इतना बड़ा क्षेत्र है, इसमें किसान को क्या सुविधा मिल रही है। हमारे जितने भी बीज संवर्द्धन क्षेत्र हैं उनमें कितने नए बीज बढ़ाए हैं? हमारे कृषि क्षेत्र की यील्ड क्यों नहीं बढ़ पा रही है, इस पर ध्यान देने की बात है।

एक दैविक उपलब्धि हमें यह प्राप्त है कि हमारा जो भूभाग है वह आधे से ज्यादा उत्पादक है। ऐसा शायद दुनिया के कम मुल्कों में होगा। यह हमें प्रकृति की एक देन है परंतु

उसके बावजूद भी हमारी उत्पादकता कम है। इसका कारण टेक्नोलॉजी का अभाव है। टेक्नोलॉजी के अभाव में हम लोग अच्छी फसल उत्पादित नहीं कर पाते हैं। मेरा अनुरोध है कि इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिए। इस के साथ ही अगर बैंकों द्वारा दिए जाने वाले ऋणों का आकलन करें तो पता चलता है कि ये बैंक सब से ज्यादा सूद किसान से वसूलते हैं। अब जो पैसा आप किसान को फायनेंस करते हैं, वह "नाबार्ड" से 5 पर सें पर लिया जाता है और हम को 13 या 14 परसेंट पर देते हैं, पहले 18 पर देते थे। अब माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने घोषणा की है कि पी0एल0आर0 से 2 परसेंट ज्यादा या कम से नहीं दे सकते। अब देखते हैं कि इस के नतीजे क्या होंगे, परंतु जहां संभावनाएं हैं, वहां ऋण नहीं दिया जाता और बड़े उद्योगपतियों को पैसा दे दिया जाता है जिसे वसूलने में भी बैंक्स कामयाब नहीं हो पाते हैं। इसलिए मेरा अनुरोध है कि इस मुल्क की यह विषमता खत्म होनी चाहिए। जहां कार 5 परसेंट पर फायनेंस होती है और ट्रैक्टर 13 से 18 परसेंटर फायनेंस होता है, निश्चित रूप से आप को गौर करना

महोदय, इस बजट में सोने पर सीमा शुल्क घटाने की घोषणा की गयी। यह हमारी गंभीर विषमताओं का नतीजा है कि हमारा सोने का निरर्थक गैर-उत्पादक आयात जो हमारी उत्पादन क्षमता और विदेशी मुद्रा का गंभीर आपराधिक दुरुपयोग है, उस की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं थी, यह दूसरे और तीसरे नंबर का सब से बड़ा आयात है। हम आयात का 9 प्रतिशत सोने पर खर्च कर रहे हैं, आखिर इस से हमें मिलने क्या जा रहा है ? माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से मेरा अनुरोध है, आप ने डीजल पर पैसे बढ़ाए हैं, पेट्रोल पर पैसे बढ़ाए हैं, अच्छा आप कलर टी0वी0 पर पैसे बढ़ाते। आप ने तो ब्लैक एंड व्हाइट टी0वी0 पर पैसा बढ़ाया है। महोदय, गरीब इस मुल्क में ज्यादा है, इसलिए अमीर को नहीं आप को गरीब को देखना होगा। महोदय, अच्छा होता अगर ट्रैक्टर की कीमत घटती, जो हमारे एग्रीकल्चर के इनपुट हैं, उन की कीमत घटती, किसान को प्रोत्साहित किया जाता। आज भी हमारे पास हारवेस्टर अच्छे नहीं हैं, हमारे पास अच्छे बिजाई के साधन नहीं हैं और सब से बड़ी बात यह कि हमारे यहां ब्लॉक में जो दूर एंड विजिट प्रोग्राम चलाया जाता है, उस की ओर कोई देखता नहीं है। जो पैसा आप अनुदान के रूप में देते हैं, वह आधा अफसरों की जेब में चला जाता है और बहुत थोड़ा पैसा किसान को मिलता है। इसलिए जरूरत है कि जूलखर्ची रोकने की।

मान्यवर, मेरा आप के माध्यम से अनुरोध है कि विदेशी मदिरा पर शुल्क घटा है जबकि विदेशी मदिरा मंहगी होनी चाहिए, डीजल सस्ता होना चाहिए, ए0सी0 मंहगा होना चाहिए, पंखा सस्ता होना चाहिए। महोदय, आप को प्लांटेशन पर जोर देना होगा क्योंकि आप का एनवायमेंट बिगड़ रहा है। उस के लिए हम ने कुछ नहीं किया है। आप टॉफी सस्ती कर रहे हैं। लोगों को खाद्यान्न नहीं मिल रहा है, हालांकि आप के खाद्यान्न भरे पड़े हैं और इस मुल्क की 25 फीसदी आबादी कुपोषण का शिकार हो रही है, लेकिन आप टॉफी पर टैक्स घटा रहे हैं। अब यह टॉफी कौन खाएगा? जो रईस का बेटा टॉफी खाया करता है, जो बिस्किट खाता है, उस के लिए पैसे की कोई मान्यता नहीं है। वह तो पांच सौ का नोट जेब से निकालता है और रेजगारी नहीं देखा करता है। मेरा आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि इसे भी देखें।

मान्यवर, सरकारी दफ्तरों की फिजूलखर्ची के बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी ने ऐतिहासिक कदम उठाया है। मैं उन को इस बात के लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने मासिक और त्रैमासिक समीक्षा की बात कही है और उस के साथ साथ फिजूलखर्ची को रोकने के लिए वह निश्चित रूप से आगे कुछ कदम अवश्य उठाएंगे ऐसी मुझे आशा है। मान्यवर, इस बजट में अभी निजी अस्पतालों को करों की राहत दी गयी। अभी निजी अस्पतालों को, बड़े अस्पतालों को जो करों में राहत दी गयी है, जो उन्हें ड्यूटी की राहत दी गयी है, उन्हें मशीन इम्पोर्ट करने पर ड्यूटी की राहत दी गयी है, अगर आप जाकर देखें तो पाते हैं कि क्या गरीब मरीज को वहाँ बिलों में राहत मिलेगी? महोदया, फाइव स्टार होटल से ज्यादा अगर कोई बिल वसूलता है तो ये निजी अस्पताल वसूलते हैं।

**( उपसभापति महोदया महोदया पीठासीन हुई )**

महोदया, आज की तारीख में सब से बड़ा उद्योग धंधा जो आज कर तारीख में है, वह निजी अस्पतालों का है। साथ ही निजी शिक्षा संस्थाओं को जो छूट दी गयी है, मेरा आप से अनुरोध है कि उन पर बाउंडेशन भी लगाइए कि वे फीस में भी छूट देंगे। महोदया, मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि इस मुल्क की आबादी के हिसाब से जो 60-70 सैकड़ा गरीब लोग हैं, उन के बच्चों को पढ़ाने की बाध्यता भी इन बड़े स्कूलों पर लगाइए जो आप से अनुदान पाएंगे, जो आप से सुविधा पाएंगे। उन के ऊपर यह बाध्यता होनी चाहिए कि इतने परसेंट बिलो पावर्टी लाइन के बच्चों को ये दाखिला देंगे, इतने परसेंट गरीब किसान के बेटे को अपने यहां एडमिशन देंगे। महोदया, सत्यता यह है कि उन को यह अछूत की तरह ट्रीट करते हैं। अगर कोई गांव के छोटे किसान का बेटा, मजदूर का बेटा, छोटे दुकानदार का बेटा दाखिले के लिए जाता है तो उस को ग्रामीण, गंवार कह कर एडमिशन नहीं दिया जाता बल्कि उन के मां-बाप को बुलाकर उन का इंटरव्यू लिया जाता है। जब उन को बच्चा वहां पढ़ने जाता है, तो उस की पोशाक देखकर, को धक्का देकर बाहर निकाल दिया जाता है। इसलिए बजट के माध्यम से ऐसी संस्थाओं को निश्चित रूप से रोकना होगा और उन पर अंकुश लगाना होगा।

महोदया, मैं आप के माध्यम से एक अनुरोध वित्त मंत्री जी से और करना चाहता हूँ। आज पूरे विश्व में युद्ध का खतरा है। अमेरिका इराक पर हमला करने की तैयारी कर रहा है। इसलिए हम यह नहीं कह सकते कि हम उस से अछूते रहेंगे। आज हम को बांग्लादेश भी धमकाता है, चाईना भी धमका रहा है, पाकिस्तान भी धमकाता है। वह जब चाहता है तब विस्फोट करता है, जब चाहता है सीमा पर गोलाबारी करता है। मेरे पूर्व वक्ता जो कह रहे थे, मैं उन की बात का समर्थन करता हूँ कि हम ने अपने सुरक्षा बजट में कोई बढ़ोतरी नहीं की है। और जब हमला होता है तो हमारा बजट बढ़ा देते हैं और बाद में उसे लैप्स कर देते हैं। मेरा आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से यह अनुरोध है कि वह निश्चित रूप से ऐसी व्यवस्था करें कि पैसा लैप्स न हो और हमारे देश की सीमाएं सुरक्षित रहें और इसके लिए हमारे जो हथियार हैं उनका आधुनिकीकरण किया जाए।

महोदया, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा कि जो मरुगोचर योजनस आपने राजस्थान में चलाई है उसे हिन्दुस्तान के दूसरे भागों में भी चलवाया जाए। इसके अतिरिक्त जो पैसा किसान को ऋण के रूप में दिया जाता है उसको देखने का काम करें, एक या

[13 March, 2003] RAJYA SABHA

डेढ़ परसेंट से ज्यादा नाबार्ड और बैंक के बीच में नहीं रहना चाहिए। ऐसा आपके माध्यम से अनुरोध है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**उपसभापति :** प्रो० अलका बलराम । टाइम तो आपकी पार्टी का नहीं है, लेकिन आप बोल लीजिए।

**श्रीमती जमना देवी बारूपाल ( राजस्थान ) :** मैडम, मैंने भी नाम दिया था।

**उपसभापति :** आपका नाम तो नहीं है।

**श्रीमती जमना देवी बारूपाल :** मैडम, मैंने कल चिट दी थी।

**उपसभापति :** चिट देने से नहीं होता। सवाल यह होता है मिक आपकी पार्टी का टाइम हो तो जरूर बोल सकती है अन्यथा नहीं।

**प्रो० अलका क्षत्रिय ( गुजरात ) :** उपसभापति महोदया, आपने मुझे बजट पर अपने विचार प्रस्तुत करने का जो मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करती हूँ। बजट सरकार की नीतियों का, अर्थव्यवस्था का आइना है, जो समाज-व्यवस्था, अर्थव्यवस्था और विकास की गति को दर्शाता है, लेकिन यह बजट उसमें खरा नहीं उतरता है। यह बजट निराशाजनक है।

उपसभापति महोदया, हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है। देश की 70 प्रतिशत जनता कृषि पर आधारित है, गांव में रहती है। इसलिए जरूरी है कि हमारे द्वारा कृषि, कृषि से जुड़े लोगों और कृषि के क्षेत्र के ऊपर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए, उसके लिए ज्यादा प्रावधान दिया जाना चाहिए, उसे प्रोत्साहन दिया जाना चाहिए, लेकिन इस बजट में गरीबों, किसानों, महिलाओं, मजदूरों, आदिवासियों और जो पिछड़े वर्ग के लोग हैं उनका ध्यान नहीं रखा गया और इसलिए यह बजट उनका विरोधी बजट है। मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह बजट अमीरों, मल्टी-नेशनल कंपनियों और कारपोरेट सेक्टर के लोगों के लाभ के लिए बनाया बजट है।

उपसभापति महोदया, मैं अब इस बजट के कुछ मुद्दों पर अपने विचार प्रस्तुत करना चाहती हूँ। बच्चे इस देश का भविष्य हैं। इस देश का भविष्य जिनके साथ जुड़ा है उन बच्चों के आरोग्य पर, उनकी शिक्षा पर कितना खर्च करते हैं? इस देश के 35 मिलियन बच्चे स्कूल नहीं जा सकते हैं। प्राथमिक शिक्षा के लिए सरकार को 14000 करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत है, लेकिन सिर्फ 4900 करोड़ रुपया ही उनको दिया गया है। सरकार जब सौ रुपया खर्च करती है तो बच्चे की शिक्षा के पीछे एक रुपया, हैल्थ के पीछे 34 पैसे और बच्चों के डवलपमेंट के पीछे 45 पैसे खर्च करती है। इससे अंदाजा किया जा सकता है कि इस देश का भविष्य क्या होगा। उच्च शिक्षा के लिए ग्लोबल डिमांड बढ़ी है। आज भारत, चीन, पाकिस्तान, और मिडिल ईस्ट के स्टुडेंट्स उच्च शिक्षा के लिए अमरीका, ब्रिटेन, आस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा, फ्रांस और जर्मनी की तरफ जा रहे हैं। वर्ष 2010 तक विश्व में उच्च शिक्षा लेने वाले 9.7 करोड़ युवा होंगे, लेकिन इस बजट में उनके लिए कोई प्लान नहीं है, कोई पोलिसी नहीं बनाई गई है, कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। हमारे युवाओं की हालत आज क्या है? आज जो विद्यार्थी, युवा रिसर्च करना चाहते हैं उनको योग्य



वातावरण नहीं मिलता, साधन नहीं मिलते। इसलिए हमारा युवा-बल, हमारा बुद्धिबल विदेश की ओर चल पड़ता है। इसके बारे में सरकार को सोचना चाहिए। आईआईटी, आईआईएम, मेडीकल और इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों का व्यय बढ़ाने के बारे में भी सोचना चाहिए।

उपसभापति महोदया, इस वर्ष भी वास्तव में पिछले वर्ष के जितना ही आवंटन किया गया है। बजट में दो बच्चों की शिक्षा पर प्रति बच्चा 12 हजार रूपए तक जो शिक्षा पर खर्च किया जाता है उसको इन्कम टैक्स में छूट दी गई है। यह अच्छी बात है, लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि हमारे देश में इन्कम टैक्स भरने वाले लोगों की संख्या कितनी है? बाकी लोगों के बच्चों के लिए आपने क्या प्रावधान किया है? इसके बारे में कभी आपने सोचा है। यह गरीब बच्चों के साथ एक छल है, दिखावा है। सरकार इससे सिर्फ वाहवाही लेना चाहती है। यह सरकार इस देश के बारे में इस देश के भविष्य के बारे में बिल्कुल चिंतित नहीं है। तो इसके में सरकार को गंभीरता से सोचना चाहिए। माता-पिता बड़ी मुश्किल से अपने बच्चों को शिक्षा देते हैं और इसलिए कि शिक्षा पाकर बच्चा अच्छी नौकरी पा लेगा, उसकी आर्थिक स्थिति अच्छी सुधरेगी, अच्छी परिस्थितियाँ हो जाएगी। लेकिन पिछले चार साल से शिक्षित, अशिक्षित और कृषि क्षेत्र के 40 मिलियन लोग बेरोजगार हैं। प्रधानमंत्री जी हर साल एक करोड़ लोगों को रोजगार देने की बात करते हैं। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या आपने इसके लिए कोई सिस्टम बनाया है? क्या आपके पास फार्मल और इन्फार्मल सैक्टर का कोई डाटा है? यदि नहीं तो फिर आप ऐसा दावा कैसे कर सकते हैं? सरकार इसके बारे में गंभीरता से प्रयास नहीं कर रही। इतना ही नहीं वीआरए लेने पर मिलने वाले पाँच लाखरूपए तक इन्कम टैक्स नहीं लगेगा, ऐसा मंत्री जी ने बजट में प्रावधान किया। मेरा मानना है कि इस तरह से सरकार लोगों को वीआरएस लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रही है और बेरोजगारी में बढ़ोतरी कर रही है। सरकार को इस बारे में गंभीरता से प्रयास करना चाहिए क्योंकि बेरोजगारी हमारे देश की सबसे बड़ी गंभीर समस्या है।

हमारे बैंकों की स्थिति क्या है? बैंकों का एनपीए दिन-ब-दिन बढ़ता जा रहा है। आज लगभग डेढ़ करोड़ रूपए का एनपीए है। हमारे गुजरात के विकास में जिनका बड़ा योगदान है ऐसे सहकारी, कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों की हालत बहुत खराब है। प्रधानमंत्री रोजगार योजना, ग्रामीण विकास योजना या कृषि विकास योजना के अंतर्गत दिए जाने वाले ऋण में कमी आई है। इससे भी रोजगार पर बड़ा गंभीर असर पड़ा है।

देश की कुल जनसंख्या में 50 प्रतिशत संख्या महिलाओं की है, लेकिन महिलाओं के लिए आपने बजट में क्या प्रावधान किए हैं? महिलाओं के लिए आपने कोई अलग से प्रावधान नहीं किया, इससे देश की महिलाएं बड़ी निराश हुई हैं। गरीब, आदिवासी, ग्रामीण और कृषि क्षेत्र से जुड़ी महिलाओं के लिए कोई विशेष प्रावधान नहीं किया गया।

एक तरफ कार, कम्प्यूटर शराब और अन्य लगजरी वस्तुओं के दाम घटाकर पूंजीपतियों का फायदा किया गया है, दूसरी तरफ रिफाईंड तेल, बिजली रसोई गैस महंगी कर दी गई हैं। पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतें बढ़ा दी गई हैं। लघु और कृषि उद्योग पर भारी बोझ डाल दिया गया है जिसके कारण आम आदमी की जरूरत की सभी चीजें महंगी हो जाएंगी। फिर

गृहणी के पर्स में पैसा कैसे रहेगा? हीरा-जवाहरात और सोने पर कस्टम ड्यूटी कम करने से सिर्फ धनिक वर्ग की महिलाओं को फायदा होगा। गरीब वर्ग की महिलाओं के लिए आपने क्या सोचा है?

लघु बचत योजनाओं और भविष्य निधि का ब्याज आपने एक प्रतिशत घटा दिया है। इससे गरीब, मध्यम वर्गीय महिलाएं विधवा और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में काम करने वाली महिलाओं को आपने आघात दिया है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की महिलाओं की स्थिति सुधारने के लिए ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की सरकारी योजनाओं में 30 फीसदी योजनाएं महिलाओं के लिए बनाने की जो मांग की गई थी, उसके बारे में आपको सोचना चाहिए।

सेवा शुल्क में बढ़ोतरी के कारण बुनियादी सेवाएं महंगी होंगी। शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा मिलेगा जिससे गरीब लोग बुरी तरह से प्रभावित होंगे।

55 साल से ज्यादा उम्र के वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए "पेंशन बीमा योजना" शुरू की जा रही है, यह आनन्ददायक बात है जिसका मैं स्वागत करती हूं। लेकिन विधवा, परित्यक्ता और ब्याज पर अपना जीवन व्यतीत करने वाली महिलाओं को भी इसमें शामिल किया जाए तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

मंत्री जी, सीनियर सिटीजन के बारे में एक बात की ओर मैं आपका विशेष ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूं। इंकम टैक्स के सैक्शन 88 (बी) के अंदर टैक्स रिबेट के लिए सीनियर सिटीजन की उम्र 65 साल रखी गई है जिससे रिटायर होने के पांच साल बाद रिबेट का लाभ मिलता है और उस उम्र तक उन्हें वेट करना पड़ता है। इसलिए वित्त मंत्री जी से मेरा यह अनुरोध है कि इंकम टैक्स एक्ट में सीनियर सिटीजन की उम्र 65 साल से घटाकर 60 कर देनी चाहिए।

वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि एग्रीकल्चर इज दि लाइफ एंड ब्लड आफ अवर इकॉनमी। लेकिन हकीकत क्या है? एक तरफ आर्थिक बेहाली और भुखमरी से परेशान होकर हमारे किसान आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर हो रहे हैं, दूसरी तरफ फूड कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 20 मिलियन टन अनाज सड़ जाने के कारण नालियों में फैंक देना पड़ता है। अंत्योदय योजना के तहत केवल 50 लाख और परिवारों को शामिल किया गया है। अगर इस अनाज को ठीक तरह से प्रिजर्व करने के बारे में सोचा जाए तो बाकी लोगों को भी इसमें शामिल किया जा सकता है। देश की 70 प्रतिशत प्रजा जिस पर निर्भर है कृषि के विकास के बारे में सरकार को सोचना चाहिए, उनको मदद करनी चाहिए। लेकिन उल्टा सरकार डीजल की कीमतें बढ़ा रही है। इसके बारे में भी पुनर्विचार करने की जरूरत है। कृषि विकास के लिए सिंचाई योजनाओं को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। ड्रिप इरिगेशन योजनाओं को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए। नदियों को जोड़ने की जो योजना बनाई गई है वह लाभदायक है किन्तु उसको पूरा होने में काफी वक्त लगेगा। वहां तक रीवर लिंकिंग प्रोजेक्ट में मदद हो सके ऐसे डेम और कैनाल बनाने चाहिए। एग्रो बेस्ड इण्डस्ट्री की हालत ठीक नहीं है। उसके लिए सरकार को सोचना चाहिए। फूड प्रोसेसिंग इण्डस्ट्री के विकास के लिए ठोस कदम उठाने चाहिए। सरकार को हरियाली क्रांति

लाने के लिए कुछ नए कदम उठाने की जरूरत है। लघु उद्योग के हालात भी ठीक नहीं हैं। 750 लघु इकाइया बंद होने जा रही हैं। लघु उद्योग के विकास के लिए नई टेक्नॉलोजी की जरूरत है? लेकिन बजट में रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट के लिए जो फंड प्रोवाइड किया गया है वह कम है। टेक्नॉलोजी को इंपोर्ट करने के बजाए अपनी परिस्थिति के अनुरूप नई टेक्नॉलोजी डवलप करनी चाहिए। इसके बारे में भी सरकार को गंभीरता से प्रयास करना चाहिए। बजट में 8 प्रतिशत की औसत विकास दर प्राप्त करने की बात कही गई है। लेकिन हम देख सकते हैं कि जी0डी0पी0 ग्रोथ रेट 5.6 प्रतिशत से घटाकर 4.4 प्रतिशत हो गई है। **The Prime Minister himself has agreed that h© could not go beyond 4.4%.** एग्रीकल्चर ग्रोथ रेट 5.7 परसेंट से घट कर 3.1 परसेंट हो गई है। फूड ग्रेन प्रोडक्ट रेट 212 मिलियन टन से घट कर 181 मिलियन टन हो गया है। गत 4 वर्षों में औद्योगिक उत्पादन की वृद्धि दर लगभग 5 प्रतिशत है। ... ( समय की घंटी )...

बस दो मिनट। आयात वृद्धि दर 6 प्रतिशत से कम है और निर्यात दर 10 प्रतिशत है। राजकोषीय घाटा बढ़ता जा रहा है। यह देखते हुए 8 प्रतिशत विकास दर कैसे हासिल कर पाएंगे। यह लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना असंभव है। लघु उद्योग की आरक्षित वस्तुओं की संख्या लगातार कम की जा रही है जिसका उन उद्योगों पर प्रतिकूल असर पड़ने वाला है। कृषि और लघु उद्योग के विकास के साथ इण्डस्ट्रीयल सैक्टर के विकास के लिए कर राहत के अलावा सरकार को विशेष मदद करनी चाहिए, ठोस कदम उठाने चाहिए तभी हम ग्रोथ रेट बढ़ा सकते हैं। उद्योगपति और गरीबी रेखा के नीचे के लोगों के अलावा मध्यमवर्गीय, सर्विस क्लास और आम आदमी के बारे में भी सोचना चाहिए। उनके लिए बजट में क्या है? आम आदमी को बजट में टैक्स में जो राहत दी गई है वह भी आभासी है। डायरेक्ट टैक्स में दो हजार नौ सौ पचपन करोड़ रूपए की राहत दी गई है जबकि दूसरी ओर इनडायरेक्ट टैक्स के रूप में तीन हजार दो सौ चौरानवे करोड़ रूपए का कर बोझ डाला गया है। जिसका सीधा सा मतलब यह है कि कुल मिलाकर तीन सौ उन्तालिस करोड़ रूपए का नया कर बोझ होगा। इतना ही नहीं जो कर राहत दी गई है इसका लाभ देश के सिर्फ एक प्रतिशत इंकम टैक्स भरने वाले लोगों को ही होगा जबकि इनडायरेक्ट टैक्स का बोझ भारत के तमाम लोगों पर पड़ने वाला है जिसके कारण प्रोडक्शन खर्च बढ़ने वाला है। कुल मिला कर यह कहना चाहिए कि बजट के मनौवैज्ञानिक फायदे ज्यादा हैं वास्तविक कम हैं। वित्त मंत्री जी एक हाथ से दकर दूसरे हाथ से वापिस ले रहे हैं या यों कहिए कि एक जेब से निकाल कर दूसरी जेब में डालने का जादू दिखा रहे हैं जिससे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था का विकास नहीं हो पाएगा। धन्यवाद।

**श्री टी. एस. बाजवा ( जम्मू और कश्मीर ) :** धन्यवाद उपसभापति जी। मैं धन्यवाद करता हूँ कि मुझे यहां पर बोलने का मौका मिला। सबसे पहले मैं अपना परिचय कराना चाहता हूँ कि मैं जम्मू और कश्मीर से हूँ और पीपुल डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी की तरफ से यहां चुनकर आया हूँ मुझे इस बजट चर्चा में भाग लेने के लिए समय दिया गया है, इसके लिए मैं एक बार फिर से आपका धन्यवाद करता हूँ। जो बजट पेश किया गया है, जिस पर चर्चा चल रही है, हम भी यह मानकर चलते थे कि इस बजट में जो एग्रीकल्चर है, उसको दूर रखा गया है। लेकिन माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने घोषणा की है। जो खाद पर सबसिडी कम की गई थी, उसको दुबारा बहाल किया गया, इसके लिए मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

मैं ज्यादा चर्चा में न जाते हुए, जम्मू और कश्मीर की तरफ माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। हम जानते हैं कि जम्मू और कश्मीर उग्रवाद से प्रभावित रहा है और पिछले 14-15 साल से वहाँ पर उग्रवाद चल रहा है। जम्मू-कश्मीर की जो सीमा है, पंजाब से शुरू होकर कठुआ, ऊधमपुर, जम्मू, पुंछ, राजौरी और कारगिल तक जाती है। चाहे 1947 में हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान का डिवीजन हुआ, चाहे 1965 की जंग वहाँ पर हुई, चाहे 1971 की वहाँ पर जंग लड़ी गई, चाहे कारगिल में युद्ध हुआ, सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान जम्मू-कश्मीर की जनता को उठाना पड़ा है। इसलिए मेरी वित्त मंत्री से प्रार्थना है कि जम्मू-कश्मीर के लोगों के लिए स्पेसिफिक पैकेज देना चाहिए। जो जम्मू-कश्मीर के लोग है, लगातार 15 साल से उग्रवाद से प्रभावित हुए हैं, वहाँ पर जो टूरिज्म था, वह भी खत्म हो गया है। जम्मू-कश्मीर में बेरोजगारी बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ चुकी है। वहाँ रोड्स वगैरह पर कोई कामकाज नहीं हो रहा है।

मैं माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी का भी धन्यवाद करता हूँ जिन्होंने जम्मू से कश्मीर तक रेल ले जाने का फैसला किया है और उसके लिए 500 करोड़ रुपये हमारे जम्मू-कश्मीर को दिए हैं। इसके लिए हम माननीय रेल मंत्री जी का भी धन्यवाद करते हैं। लेकिन इसके संबंध में, मैं कुछ कहना चाहूँगा। जम्मू से उधमपुर तक जो रेल है, जो 52 किलोमीटर लम्बी रेल है इसको पूरा करने में 20 साल लगे और माननीय रेल मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि हम 2007 तक वहाँ रेल पहुँचायेंगे। लेकिन मुझे ऐसा नहीं लगता है। जो 52 किलोमीटर की लाइन है उसको पूरा करने में जब 20 वर्ष लग गए तो यह कैसे मुमकिन हो सकता है कि 257 किलोमीटर लम्बी लाइन है, उसको पांच साल में पूरा करेंगे। इसके लिए भी मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि काम जल्दी से होना चाहिए।

जब हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान का बंटवारा हुआ, जिसको आजाद कश्मीर कहते हैं, हम भी उस इलाके से माइग्रेट होकर 1947 में जम्मू में आकर बस गए। हमारे जो पैरेंट्स थे, वे भी वहाँ के रहने वाले थे। लेकिन जब 1947 में बंटवारा हुआ तो उस वक्त रिहेबिलीटेड करने के लिए गवर्नमेंट की तरफ जो लोग माइग्रेट होकर आये थे, रिफ्यूजी बनकर आये थे, उनके लिए 25-25 हजार रुपये की घोषणा सरकार की ओर से की गई थी। मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि आज तक उनकी वह डिमांड पूरी नहीं हो सकी है। इसीलिए मैं विशेषतौर पर कहना चाहता हूँ कि जितनी भी हमारी सीमा है जो कठुआ से लेकर उड़ी, पुंछ तक है। खासकर जो बॉर्डर एरिया है, वहाँ पर जितने भी लोग बसे हुए हैं, वे 1947 के आजाद कश्मीर से आए हुए लोग हैं लेकिन आज तक उनकी 25-25 हजार की वह समस्या वहाँ की वहाँ पड़ी हुई है। जब 1965 की जंग हुई, उस वक्त जितने भी बॉर्डर पर बसने वाले लोग थे, उनको अपने घर छोड़कर आना पड़ा। यहाँ तक कि हमें भी वहाँ से अपना घर छोड़कर कुछ समय के लिए जगाधरी में आना पड़ा। महोदया, जिस वक्त 1971 की जंग हुई, उस वक्त भी उन लोगों को घर छोड़कर पीछे आना पड़ा। अभी रीसेंटली जो कारगिल की जंग हुई, उसमें भी उन लोगों को काफी परेशानी उठानी पड़ी। इसके बाद जो पार्लियामेंट पर हमला हुआ, उस वक्त भी हम लोगों को बहुत ज्यादा परेशानी उठानी पड़ी। आज भी हमारा जो वहाँ का किसान है, वह बहुत ज्यादा परेशान है। इसलिए मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि वे इस तरफ गौर करें। जितने भी हमारे जम्मू-कश्मीर के रहने वाले लोग हैं, जिस दौर से वे गुजर रहे हैं, हम सब उससे अच्छी तरह से वाकिफ हैं। मैडम, जब से जम्मू-कश्मीर में सत्ता परिवर्तन हुआ है, जम्मू-कश्मीर में नयी सरकार का गठन हुआ है, हमें ऐसा लग रहा है कि जम्मू-कश्मीर के माहौल में तबदीली

आयी है। ... ( समय की घंटी ) ... मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि वे जम्मू-कश्मीर की तरफ ध्यान दें और वहां के लिए कोई पॉलिटिकल पैकेज या कोई ऐसा पैकेज जरूर बनाएं ताकि जो वहां की इंडस्ट्री है, उसको दुबारा जिंदा किया जा सके, वहां के जो पढ़े-लिखे नौजवान हैं, उनको सर्विस मिल सके, वहां का जो टूरिज्म था न केवल हमारे देश से बल्कि विदेशों से भी वहां पर टूरिस्ट आते थे उसको बहाल किया जाए, इसके अतिरिक्त 15 साल लगातार मिलिटेंसी की वजह से वहां की जो सड़के, इंडस्ट्रीज, ट्रांसपोर्ट को नुकसान पहुंचा है, उनको दुबारा जिंदा किया जा सके। माननीय मंत्री जी से यही अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि जम्मू-कश्मीर में अब ऐसी सिचुएशन बनी है। जब वहां पर कारगिल की वार हुई, उस वक्त अरबों खरबों रूपया उस वार में खर्च हुआ। वह भी मैं कहता हूं कि उग्रवाद की वजह से ही ऐसा हुआ। इसलिए अब जम्मू-कश्मीर की तरफ तवज्जो देने की जरूरत है। आज जम्मू-कश्मीर में एक नया माहौल बन रहा है। वहां पर जो नौजवान मुख्य धारा से दूर हो गये थे, वे अब उस धारा में वापिस आने लगे हैं। हमारी जो जम्मू-कश्मीर की सरकार है, उसने वहां पर कारगिल में जो हमारे नौजवान शहीद हुए थे, उनके परिवार को नौकरी देने की व्यवस्था की है। मिलिटेंसी के हाथों जो सिविलियन मारे गये थे, उनके लिए नौकरी का प्रावधान रखा है। इसके अतिरिक्त हमारे जो बी.एस.एफ. एवं सिक्कोरिटी के जवान कश्मीर में मिलिटेंसी के दौरान मारे गये, उनके परिवार के लिए नौकरी का प्रावधान रखा है। इसलिए मैं अंत में यही कहूंगा कि यह जो बजट पेश हुआ है, जिसकी हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं, इसमें आम जनता के लिए कोई खास बढ़ोतरी नहीं की गयी, इसलिए यह आम जनता के लिए ठीक बजट है। लेकिन अंत में एक बात मैं कहूंगा कि जो हमारा हिन्दुस्तान है उसके लिए हम किसी वक्त यह कहते थे कि किसान हिन्दुस्तान की रीढ़ की हड्डी है। क्योंकि हमारे ज्यादा हाथ इसी फील्ड में काम करते हैं, इसलिए ऐग्रीकल्चर की तरफ ज्यादा तवज्जो देनी चाहिए। ... ( समय की घंटी ) ... हमारे जो किसान हैं, उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा रियायत मिलनी चाहिए ताकि हमारा देश खुशहाल हो सके। मैडम, जब मैं दस साल का था, उस वक्त मैंने सुना था कि अमेरिका से हमने कनक मंगवाई, बाहर से हमने कनक मंगवाई। लेकिन आज हमें खुशी होती है। लब हम यह देखते हैं कि हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में लाखों टन अनाज गोदामों में पड़ा हुआ है। किन्तु जिस तेजी से हमारे देश की जनसंख्या बढ़ती जा रही है, उसी तेजी से हमें ऐग्रीकल्चर के फील्ड में काम करना चाहिए। ऐसा न हो कि आने वाले दस-बारह साल में हमें अनाज की कमी हो जाए। आखिर मैं मैं यही कहता हुआ कि जो बजट पेश किया गया है, वह अच्छा बजट है, इसमें जो कर वगैरह किसानों पर लगाए गए थे, वे वापिस लिए गये हैं, अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

**उपसभापति :** अनाज जो सड़ रहा है, उससे आपको खुशी हो रही है? वह लोगों में बंट जाए तब ज्यादा खुशी होगी। श्री मनोज भट्टाचार्य। आप संक्षेप में बोलिएगा क्योंकि टाइम नहीं है।

**श्री मनोज भट्टाचार्य ( पश्चिमी बंगाल ) :** मैडम, कोशिश करूंगा।

**उपसभापति :** कोशिश तो आप कर सकते हैं, आप कैपेबल हैं।

**SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal):** Madam, I have developed a good habit because whenever I start speaking you caution me that I should be precise.

Madam, thank you very much for providing me this opportunity. I am also grateful to the hon. Finance Minister, who is also the Leader of the House, that he is present over here, when I am speaking. I would just make some points in short. To my mind, the Budget is necessarily a political document. And, it is a political document of the Government. I am told that the language of this political document has been very carefully and personally drafted by Shri Jaswant Singh. It has been very carefully prepared, exactly in conformity with the dispensations of the neo-liberal economy, which the Government of India, as on today, is hotly pursuing. One of the main dispensations of the neo-liberal capitalism, or, neo-liberalism is to reduce the Government's spending, which in turn affects the deflation. And, that allows the metropolitan capital an unchallenged or unhindered opportunity to dominate in the domestic economic scenario, and systematically destroy the financial health of the public sector undertakings, subvert these into most unworthy establishments and advance the cause of indiscriminate and rampant privatisation, as if that is the only panacea of the present ills. This way, the domestic financial situation gets irreversibly complicated; and, the Government finds it impossible to continue its spending for public good. Madam, my very revered colleagues from the Treasury Benches -- yesterday, I was hearing very carefully -- were commenting that this Budget is not only a very good pro-people budget, but, at the same time, it is a *krantikari* Budget, it is a revolutionary Budget, it is a radical Budget. I was thinking why did this radicalism not prevail with the Central Government for the last four years? Why has this radicalism come this year only? I was trying to find an answer to that, how the Government of India has become revolutionary, so *krantikari* after almost four years of being in power. And, I could find out an answer that it is because they are contemplating an election, to go to the people and deceive the people, the gullible people of our country, they have prepared this Budget very carefully so that people can further be deceived. Ever then, I comment that I wonder. I wonder really that it is an excellent Budget. Somebody was saying that it is an excellent pro-poor Budget. And, what are the signs of being pro-poor? What are the indications of being pro-poor? The indications are that the prices of the motorcars, A.C. machines, and soft drinks have been reduced. Yes, the poor people of this country, where more than 26 per cent people who live Below the Poverty Line, definitely sport motorcars; certainly sport air-conditioner machines, certainly go for soft drinks very regularly. What is more, the import duty on gold has been reduced from the existing Rs. 250 to only Rs. 100. Yes, the poor

4.00 p.m.

people of this country sport gold. They go for purchasing gold very frequently. Those who are dying of starvation; those who are living Below Poverty Line, they certainly go for purchasing gold. So, the Finance Minister has been very kind to the poor people. The Government of NDA is very kind to the poor people. They have reduced the prices of commodities which are mostly used by the poor people! But, additional cess has been imposed on diesel and petrol to fetch an additional whopping amount of Rs. 2600 crores. The prices of urea have been shot up; of course, in conformity with the good name that this Government has, over the years, earned the name of 'roll-back Government'. They have also rolled back the additional price of Rs. 12 per 50 kg., bag of urea. But, I do not know what about DAP and MOP, which have gone up by Rs. 10 per 50 k.g. bag.

What about the corporates? It is a pro-poor Budget. That is why, the corporate tax structure remains the same, there is no increase in the corporate tax. And, what is more interesting, the surcharge will be halved; it will become half. So, it is pro-people! The corporate is being given more preference, more advantage. So, it is pro-poor people Budget!

Madam, I would like to say that this Government is committed to the upwardly mobile middle class, that is their constituency. That is the constituency of the BJP, and they wanted to address their problems, they wanted to address their aspirations. What are the aspirations of the upwardly mobile middle class, who want to imitate the Western world life, who want to imitate the Western developed countries like, America, Germany, France, England, U.K. Italy, etc. Madam, I will just put some interesting figures here. This is very interesting. What is the condition of the bathroom fittings? It has been reported that in India there is a huge market for bathroom fittings. They don't call them bathrooms, they call them glamour rooms.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is it?

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: They are not called bathrooms, they are called glamour rooms; for further beautification. These glamour rooms are costing not less than \$ 100 to \$ 4,000/-, and, in India, there is a

\$700 million market for them. And who are enjoying this market? The upwardly mobile middle class, who blindly imitate the Western world, are enjoying this market.

What is more pro-people; the FDI limit in the banking companies has been raised from 49 per cent to 74 per cent. And instead of making the internal domestic financial institutions strong, the Government has paved the way for Foreign Direct Investment. This would lead to further unemployment. That has been the experience in Brazil, in Argentina, and in different Latin American countries. And, for all this what is the fiscal deficit? The projected fiscal deficit has been placed at 5.6 per cent of the GDP, at a whopping cost of Rs. 1.53,637/- crores. Madam even then it is a pro-people Budget! It is pro-employment, and because it is pro-employment, the SSI reservation has been withdrawn from 75 items. As you know, Madam, millions of poor people earn their livelihood from SSI units. And once this reservation is withdrawn, this reservation on 75 items is withdrawn, many of the SSI units will be further closed down. As such, lakhs of SSI units have been closed down, and they will be further closed down.

Madam. I now come to interest on the Public Provident Fund. It is a very serious matter. I would like to draw the kind attention of the revered Leader of the House, Shri Jaswant Singhji. who is, incidentally, the Finance Minister now, to the interest on Public Provident Fund and on small savings, particularly, PPF. Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to this. He must be knowing that In the informal sector, a number of employees don't have the provision of Provident Fund. Whatever they can save, they save through the Public Provident Fund. And once the interest on PPF goes down - in Provident Fund, uptill now, they have maintained an interest of 9.5 per cent, whereas in the PPF, it is 9 per cent -- who are being hit? It is the poor workers in the informal sector who are being hit. So, I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to kindly consider this. The PPF interest should not be less than the interest on Provident Fund as such. Sir, many people believe - even though I don't believe it -- that God created man and some diseases. But, now-a-days, it is being believed, 'God commanded that let there be a pharmaceutical industry.' And what type of an industry is the pharmaceutical industry? My friend, Shri Ekanath Thakur, who is from Mumbai, would be knowing better about the plight of the pharmaceutical industry, and how much they care for the life of the common people, and what is the attitude of the



pharmaceutical industry towards the common people. Madam, it is somewhat deplorable. And there, the sops have been given. The pharmaceutical industry, which does not spend even more than three per cent of the turnover towards research and development, they have been given sops; they have been given advantages. With these advantages, under the broad bracket of life saving drugs, anything and everything will be termed as life saving and import will be liberalised. And when import will be liberalised, it will have an adverse-effect on the domestic market. Not only the domestic market, but, at the same time, it will also hinder the growth in research and development. Madam, I was surprised to see that the import duty on glucometers has been reduced. I, personally, have been shouting, and many of my friends from the Opposition Benches were shouting since a long time that once somebody is proved to be a diabetic, he has to go for medication, essentially, for insulin. The price of bovine insulin was much less earlier. Over a period of time, the bovine insulin has been withdrawn from the market, and, instead of that human globulin insulin has come. Shri Shatrughan Sinha has been the Health Minister. He must be knowing that the cost of insulin has gone up manifold. But, no action has been taken. Mostly, this insulin is being imported from outside. We have been shouting that the DNA-recombinant method of production is possible in India. Many indigenous companies are interested in that, but the Government has not given any sop for that. So, the Government is interested in helping the people to determine their level of blood sugar, but, it is not interested in providing the treatment to them so that the poor people or the ordinary people can be cured of their diseases. Madam, please don't ring the bell. I am just concluding. Madam, the most serious concern of the nation is that agriculture has recorded the sharpest decline in growth, over a decade - a 3.1 per cent decline in GDP compared to the 5.7 per cent growth in the last year -- and pulled down the country's overall GDP to 4.4 per cent from the expected 5-5.5 per cent. The drought should not be considered as the sole reason for this. It is of a more serious concern that there is a tremendous shortfall in oilseeds where even a normal year's production has not been able to meet the domestic demand, growing at 4-5 per cent annually. The output is expected to be a quarter less than last year's 20.5 million tonnes. I do not like to derive any satisfaction whatsoever from the availability of 48 million tonnes of buffer stock of foodgrains. Today, in the morning, during the Question Hour, we had had a discussion on this and the hon. Chairman was also of the opinion that it does not mean anything. People are dying of starvation. Though we have a

buffer stock of 48 million tonnes of foodgrains, it is of no use. Food availability has been dropping sharply. It is less than 142 kg per head, per year, the lowest since 1960. This is a report I am quoting from the 'Economic Survey', prepared by the Ministry of Finance.

Now, I come to recovery of the fiscal deficit. A good amount of recovery will be done by Shri Arun Shourie. Shri Arun Shourie will go for further indiscriminate disinvestments. Even the profit-making public sector undertakings will be disinvested. As a result, this whopping amount of a few lakhs of crores of rupees will be compensated. They are, simply, expecting it. Though shady deals have been made; though indiscriminate disinvestment has been undertaken by this Government, yet they have not been able to fulfil the target which was set by Mr. Arun Shourie. Now, since Rs. 13,200 crores have to be managed by Shri Arun Shourie, he will go for further indiscriminate disinvestment of profit-making public sector undertakings. Madam, I am sorry to say that we are landing to a more precarious situation. This Government may not be in power in the days to come. They are forfeiting their right of being in power. The people will certainly reject them. But the next Government, whoever takes over from the ruins, will have nothing seeing the way this Government is functioning, the way the economic plannings are being undertaken, the way unemployment is growing. If we look at the figures of unemployment, it is, simply, a horrifying figure. I am quoting from the reply given by the hon. Labour Minister. On 27.2.2003, during Question Hour, the hon. Minister while replying to a question said, "The approach of the Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force, and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond." Madam, if I ask the hon. Finance Minister what is the plan to give quality work, gainful high quality employment, I think, his reply will be that it is only in infrastructure development. Madam, now a peculiar phenomenon has come in. Earlier, it was only public; then, only private; and, now it is peculiarly private and public. So, this peculiar, funny, very interesting and more deceiving terminology has come in the Budget, this year. It is an innovation. I do not know whether it is an innovation of Shri Jaswant Singhji or not, but it is a very interesting innovation - public-private enterprises. And public-private enterprises will go for Rs.60,000 crores of investment in infrastructure development. Some time ago, I was in Thailand when the tigers were in peril in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. I was, incidentally, there to attend a seminar of trade- unions in

Thailand. The infrastructure in Thailand is fantastic. There are huge buildings, sprawling buildings, they have imported money, they have imported technology, they have imported skilled labour and they have converted everything into something what cannot be exported. So, the infrastructure is there, but no investment did come, no investment could come. Thereafter, the Thailand, as you know, had plunged itself into a serious crisis, irreversible crisis. They had to toil so much and what has happened there. I do not like to comment on that. What has happened to the public life of the Thailand, what has happened to the cultural life of Thailand, I do not like to comment on that because it is a different discussion. But, Madam, through you, I would like to caution this Government that if this Government does not desert this path of ominous disaster, it will force the country in a very, very serious and complicated situation. The country will be nowhere. The international situation is very, very bad. It is quite alarming. The Iraq war is almost imminent. And, unfortunately, this Government could not take a stubborn stand that no war on Iraq, we are not going to lend any support to the US. That is what I am told. I do not know whether it is a fact or not. In Mumbai, the American war planes have been allowed to refuel in Bombay Airport. Shri Eknath Thakur is here. He will kindly verify that. India could not take a position. What would be its impact? This 5.6 per cent of fiscal deficit will go up further. This 5.6 per cent will go up further and we do not know where would we stand.

So, Madam, I would once again request that the Finance Minister should give a further consideration to this Budget proposal of his, which is necessarily a political document, and should come out with a real pro-people Budget, what will benefit the people, what will really address the *panch* priorities -- what he has identified. By this sort of document of deception, this Government is not going to alleviate the poverty. This is not going to alleviate the perennial problem of unemployment. This is not going to help the poor people of this country in any way.

With these words, Madam, I conclude. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The discussion on the General Budget, 2003-04 -is concluded. Now, the Finance Minister will reply.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion. The level of

discussion has been uniformly high. I have benefited from it, and I am informed, Madam, that almost fifty hon. Members participated in the discussion which is near about almost a quarter of the strength of the Rajya Sabha. I do believe that such a large participation, perhaps, has not taken place earlier. I am particularly grateful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh, as also to Pranab Babu and the Leader of the CPM and other hon. Leaders who have put so much of efforts, including, of course, some Independent Members like Dr. P.C. Alexander and the eminent jurist Mr. Nariman who took so much interest in participating in this discussion. Dr. Manmohan Singh and, of course, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee bring their life-time experience in the management of the country's finances and economy, and, I defer to their opinion. I respect to their views. I am relatively an outsider to this world of economic management and hi-finance and, therefore, I must give due consideration and utmost seriousness to whatever they say. But, I am sure, even the hon. Leader of the Opposition will appreciate that one of the reasons as to why we discuss the General Budget and all the other Legislative Business -- financial and otherwise -- in the Parliament is because Budget is, after all, a political document. Of course, it is an economic document too. That is why it is here. Otherwise, we would very easily leave it to economists to come together and formulate a model unique Budget though, at times, I doubt whether economists would be able to come to a unanimity in regard to what Budget proposals ought to be. I would, therefore, address all the principal issues that have been raised by the leaders of the Opposition, particularly, the Principal Leader of the Opposition and Shri Pranab Babu. You will appreciate, Madam, that it will not be possible for me to touch each and every single point that hon. Members might have raised in this House, but I will endeavour not to leave out any important point in my response. The first point that has been referred to by a number of speakers is on the question of the GDP growth. The Leader of the Opposition and other hon. Members have pointed out that during the tenure of the Government, the National Democratic Alliance Government, the rate of growth of the GDP has not been the same as in the earlier years, particularly in the period 1991 onwards. I do not want to go into the dialectical analysis as to how the GDP growth figures are arrived at, or why on the basis of high agricultural produce, etc., and how this particular year has a combination of unique set of circumstances that resulted in the GDP growth, what it was or is. Let me, however, share one or two aspects of it. I did say while presenting the Budget that the GDP growth at 4.4 per cent in the net of inflation is a consequence of a

combination of circumstances that have come together, or, conjuncted really in an exceptionally or almost unique circumstance. We had a drought that the country had not witnessed for the last three decades. That had its consequences. We had a standoff which continues in the Gulf and that had a spiralling effect, particularly on the hydrocarbon sector that continues. We had the military standoff with our neighbour for the last 9-10 months and the forces there resulting certainly in an influence upon the total economic activity in the country.

**[MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair]**

We continue to face the kind of assault of terrorism upon us that we did. There was a global downturn and that global downturn continues. I also wish to mention one more factor. In the Budget of 2002-03, there was an assessment made of the receipts that we will have from disinvestment. Those receipts were short by almost Rs. 10,000 crores. We felt short not because of any lack of effort ever by the Government to achieve the target, but because there was a continuous barrage of difficulties that the Government faced in its execution. You could well say, this is your fault, yes, it is. I accept it. These deficiencies or these difficulties or circumstances combined and came together and created a circumstance and that, I believe, is exceptional. Take agriculture. Sir, on account of this unprecedented drought, from a height of 5.7 per cent growth, it came down in the current year to -3.1 per cent, a slide of almost 8.8 per cent. Despite that 8.8 per cent slide, the GDP growth continued to show 4.4 per cent. I do believe, Sir, that if the agriculture sector had even remained levelled with the earth even this year we would have imagined well beyond 5.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent. It is on the basis of this strength of fundamentals that I had made the assertion that I did. The hon. Leader of the Opposition found fault with me, and perhaps some other hon. Members too, that I had not shared explicitly in the Budget Speech the projections of rate of growth or rate of inflation for the year 2003-04. Yes, I have not. I have only abided by a long-standing tradition in this regard, because, when I found this observation against my Budget Speech, I diligently went through the speeches of the hon. Leader of the Opposition too, if he had, in fact, shared with the Parliament, as Finance Minister, such projections. I am not scoring a point because you did not share it, but I think, it will not be easy for the Finance Minister to project these in advance, and I am sure, you will appreciate that this is not on account of any lack of diligence on my part that we did so. Sir, there is, and quite rightly, an apprehension voiced by

the Leader of the Opposition and various others, on the fiscal deficit. We are very concerned, the Government is very concerned about the fiscal deficit, and despite these factors that I have just cited, it is not easy for any Government to lose a projection worth Rs. 10,000 crores that we had, for instance, on disinvestment, or to lose what we lost on account of agricultural produce, and not have an impact on the fiscal deficit. We have had an impact on the fiscal deficit. But I do believe that if despite these adverse circumstances, the fiscal deficit has been kept at 5.6 per cent, that is, by itself not unsatisfactory. Is it satisfactory enough? Of course, not. We have to come up. We have to manage better. But I will be coming back repeatedly to this question of fiscal deficit. How are we to manage better? I appeal to you, Sir, I appeal to the Leader of the Opposition and Pranab Da to please tell me how am I to manage the fiscal deficit better, if simultaneously, the collectivity of a political community tells me, you must not do this, you must not do that, you must not cut this, you must give more and you must not tax this. The resources are finite. The ability of any Finance Minister of the country is limited. In the face of that, to continue to say that you must, through some magic wand, manage the fiscal deficit, is really not possible. Both of you certainly had experienced this when you have had your hand on the tiller, as it were, and I am not putting out excuses. But I do say that if the fiscal deficit is at 5.6 per cent, despite these adverse circumstances, it is not an unsatisfactory performance.

Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition said that no effort has been made towards containment of expenditure. I took that observation very seriously, because it is a very serious observation, when it comes from the Leader of the Opposition. I will not go into that fact. The Finance Minister's job, as both of you certainly know, is possibly the most lonely job in the entire hierarchy of governmental jobs, and it falls to the lot of the Finance Minister to most unfortunately continue to have to say no to all his colleagues, and to everybody, and to earn the ire of the entire political community. I don't say this for any other reason, but really to point out that, in circumstances, in which one is required to manage the finances of a country of a continental size, like India, having a rich diversity, vividity and the federal structure that we are, and the zealous demands of the State Governments,-- and quite rightly, why not?;- the States are zealous of their prerogative; they demand what is to be done to balance all these requirements--it is not an unsatisfactory performance, that despite all this, despite all these adverse factors in the current year, despite a stand-off of

the Army, the global downturn, the Gulf, the rise in oil prices, the drought, we saved Rs. 7,000/- crores in expenditure. This is a figure, which has been cited. You know very well, Sir -- both the hon. Leader of the Opposition and hon., Shri Pranab Mukherjee know very well -- we have said it already that we are currently spending 50 per cent on interests, about 50 per cent cost on just interests. I am not finding fault with anybody; this is not the interest on something, which this Government, or my Prime Minister, has arranged to be borrowed in the last five years, and therefore, suddenly the interest bill has gone up to 50 per cent. It is a legacy that I have inherited, and, therefore, I have made an effort on interest. I shall come back to that in a minute, Sir, as to how I must attack this point. Today, 50 per cent of my revenue is going on interests, 20 per cent is going towards subsidies; thus, 70 per cent is gone. Another 25 per cent is spent on Defence; what am I left with, Sir? Therefore, as all my distinguished predecessors have done in the past, we had to resort to borrowing. Luckily, we do not borrow abroad; we borrow internally. And, Sir, my borrowing bill this year, that is, till April 2003-2004, goes up to Rs. 153,000 crores. I know, I would, much rather, not have these figures. But, what does this do? When I am borrowing Rs. 153,000 crores, as Government, I am soaking up the available savings, the domestic savings, and that saving is not available thereafter for investment in the private sector, or for others to invest in. How do I break free of this? I endeavoured, Sir, I endeavoured for the debt sop, and I will come to the details of the debt sop. Quite rightly, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, said, 'please, explain how are you going to do it?' I will try.

On subsidies, Sir, now we are paying as much as we are on subsidies front, and I shared it in the other House, when I said that it is a total of Rs. 50,000 crores that we pay annually as subsidy bill. Out of that subsidy bill of Rs. 50,000 crores, we are spending about Rs. 28,000 crores on food, or agriculture-related things. I do not think we can touch it at the moment. We spend between Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 13,000 crores on fertilizers. Fault was found with these. Quite rightly, the Prime Minister said - what I said, I don't think we should go over that entire ground once again. It is not out of cussedness that we said, 'please reduce the fertilizer bill'. There is no such intention. I ask, how can you possibly accuse any Government of acting against the interests of the farmers? It is a very convenient political stick to beat anybody like that. And I do not want to actually repeat what I said in the other House, but Sir, we cannot afford that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I say it with all sincerity and all sense of responsibility, to all sections of the political community of this House, as also the larger political community outside - I know that the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and everybody here, in their heart of hearts, accept what I am saying -- we can no longer continue to afford 50 per cent revenue going into interest, and about 20 per cent to the kind of subsidy bill that we continue to have. We will have to address it; when we address it, is a decision that the collectivity of the political community will have to break. And it is for that reason that we have to bring to this whole endeavour, the management of the country's economy - the country's economy is a continental-sized economy. Somebody or the other will have to manage it, and that somebody or the other will have to belong to a political party. Otherwise, he or she will not reach that position, and irrespective of who is in that position, these are the problems that are there. We can, of course, continue to play a political *ping-pong* with it, that is fine; but, the ultimate sufferer continues to be the country and the citizens. Therefore, I welcome the fact that the hon. Leader of the Opposition raised this issue on inflations. The Leader of the Opposition said, "Inflation is a nudging five per cent." I recognise it. I am concerned about it. I am very mindful of inflation. In a society like ours, nothing touches the citizens more directly and more acutely than inflation. Sir, it is slightly a technical point for the economists to consider. Therefore, I read out the things which I asked my Chief Economic Adviser to analyse--Sir, I do not go long on the details of it. Sir, on March 1, 2003, the average annual inflation was modest at 2.99 per cent. It is considerably lower than the 3.89 per cent observed in the corresponding period of the previous year; almost one per cent lower than the previous year. There has been acceleration of the rate of inflation since early September, mainly on account of two factors-drought and uncertainty in the Gulf. For example, petroleum and other mineral oil prices have increased by 11.1 per cent, on a point-to-point basis, during the 52 weeks, ending on February 22. As a result, on a point-to-point basis, inflation peaked at 5.4 per cent on February 7. More than two per cent points of this inflation of 5.4 per cent were accounted for by drought and the Gulf-related factors. There has been some reprieve, Sir, in the last few weeks, and inflation, again on a point-to-point basis, came down to 4.9 per cent on February 22, 2003, and, further, to 4.69 per cent on March 1, 2003. According to the data which have been released just today, while we expect inflation to remain low, particularly, I believe, Sir, once the factors relating to drought and the Gulf are mitigated, I will take this very seriously. I am



mindful of my responsibilities in this regard; I am continuously in touch with the Reserve Bank of India. We have a very able man, who is the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Between the Government and the Reserve Bank of India, we are monitoring the situation, and I assure you of that, Sir. How can I possibly, with a sense of responsibility, permit it to completely go out of control?

Sir, the other issue raised by a number of hon. Members, including, of course, the Leader of the Opposition and Pranab Babu-- both of whom have graced the Chair of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, is regarding the Budget support. Let me share this with the House that the Budget support to the Plan of 2003-2004 is Rs. 1,21,000 crores. This has to be seen in the context of balancing various competing pulls for development and requirement of fiscal consolidation. The average annual increase in Budget support for the two years, *i.e.* 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, works out to be about 11 per cent. Now, notwithstanding the requirement of fiscal consolidation, as mentioned by a number of hon. Members, major steps have been provided for the development of fiscal infrastructure, which is Rs.2,000 crores for roads, railways as well as other sanitary sectors, etc. I do share, Sir, that in the first year of the Tenth Plan, the jump from the previous year was 20 per cent in the Plan Allocation. This year, it is, rather, modest. But if you analyse the Plan Allocations in the whole Ninth Plan and the earlier Plan, you will find that the average is between 8 to 11 per cent and 12 per cent. And, at that average, in a two-year cycle, in the first year, it was 20 per cent and if in this year we have Rs. -1,21,000 crores, which, in fiscal terms, is actually an enhancement of Rs. 7,500 crores, then, it is not unreasonable, considering the various other requirements. I must share one more fact again with you to highlight this point which, I am sure, the Leader of the Opposition and Pranab Babu have fully experienced, have earlier experienced, and will now appreciate. Sir, Rs. 1,21,000 crores is the Plan and our total borrowings are Rs. 1,53,000 crores. It has been done earlier. We are continuing to do it. We cannot continue to carry on down this path. We are funding the Plan through borrowings and this is the reality. I am not the first Finance Minister to be doing it. I am doing what earlier Finance Ministers had had to do, not because they wanted to do. And, at this rate, if we are going to continue to have to borrow annually to fund the Plan, we have to sit down together, all of us, and address this question. Sir, a number of queries were raised about agriculture, poverty and WTO. I will be very brief and because a number of these issues have already been

covered, I have had an occasion to say it in the other House, I do wish to share that on this Minimum Support Price, between 1997-98 to 2002-03, this Government has increased the Minimum Support Price of paddy by 32.5 per cent. It is from Rs. 515 to 550. In case of wheat, it is from Rs. 455 to Rs. 630, that is, 38 per cent. In case of groundnut, it is from Rs. 980 to 1375 which is 40 per cent. In case of mustard and rapeseed, it is from Rs. 940 to 1340, an increase of 42.5 per cent. And, in case of gram, it is from Rs. 815 to Rs. 1225, which is 50 per cent increase in a timeframe of just about five years. I don't want to take the time of the House, Mr. Chairman, Sir, and repeat all the various steps that this Government has taken for the agricultural sector, including the initiatives that have been taken in the present Budget. It is again very easy to say "it is anti this or anti that". In fact, we question reality by saying this and I will then be entering into a long discussion of proving how on the agricultural front, this Government has taken steps which perhaps have not earlier been taken. Let me just cite you the example of the rural roads. In the agriculture front, one of the biggest difficulties, I must admit that I am astonished how little we recognise the fact that we have the largest irrigated arable land mass in the world! We have more irrigated land than any other country in the world. In total gross land mass, we are second only to the United States of America. If we have the largest arable irrigated land mass and we are the largest producer of milk on earth and today we are exporting grain and gram, the one thing that we require, or the two or three things that we require, is to move away from the mentality of want and shortage and to instil in ourselves as country, as countrymen and women, that if as a country we have the largest irrigated land mass on earth, why we are not in the forefront of every agricultural produce. It is because of, I accept, an absence of timely sufficient capital investment and technological input. We have to continue to move up the value change and the technology change. Technology is not limited only to the industrial sector. It is vital that we recognise that with land holdings getting fragmented, as families are getting larger and larger, we will have to move into the high technology areas of agriculture. This is not elitist. This is a recognition of a reality. That is why, when we speak even of a small fund to start working in that direction, it is a recognition. That is why the Prime Minister has initiated it. Some hon. Members have asked: Why drip irrigation? I say this, Mr. Chairman, Sir, because you know the reality of my life, perhaps, better than anyone else here. How on earth can India continue to afford flood irrigation today? We have acute shortage of water. We are profligate in the use of water for

irrigation. In our fields, how can we use flood irrigation when there are such water shortages staring us in the face? We have the largest irrigated arable land mass. We are flooding our fields from canal irrigation. Even if it is not canal irrigation, and even if it is a borehole from where you are lifting water, it is still flood irrigation. The disadvantages of this kind of irrigation are obvious and more obvious in such parts of the country, which are arid prone, like parts of Andhra Pradesh, parts of Rajasthan and other parts. If drip irrigation is introduced there, which is actually conserving water, which is highly economical, which is of high efficiency, what is wrong with that? How much of the total agricultural produce are we able to preserve, leave alone utilise? Fruits are produced in plenty in the hill States of India and they rot in the fields because marketing is not there. Therefore, when the Prime Minister introduces a scheme of a 50-paise cess on diesel for rural road network, we are finding fault with that. Unless a rural network of roads is available, there will be no marketing of agricultural produce. This is the first requirement. I appeal to the political community to recognise that we have to move, on the agricultural front, into a new technological era and that we have to build on the asset, that is, India.

There is a war cry that though India produces the largest quantity of milk in the world—that fact remains; I will share those figures with you in a minute—a large quantity of milk is being imported. Milk cannot simply be imported. Liquid milk cannot come into India. This is borne of a mentality of shortage and borne of lack of confidence in ourselves. It is with a view to instilling a sense of confidence even among the agricultural community why should a farmer not have the benefit of the best possible technological inputs.

Let me share about the WTO because this was voiced. Sir, I will not take too long. Those who, from the other side, had been in the Commerce Ministry know it very well. Let me share some essential facts. Monitoring of 300 sensitive product imports has so far revealed that such imports, that is, imports of WTO stipulation, agriculture-related imports, are limited and in the aggregate constitute only a very small portion of the total agri-imports. Secondly, India has considerable flexibility to counter any possible flooding of the Indian market by cheap agri-imports through imposition of tariffs, that is, bound rates, which is under WTO. Thirdly, the WTO permissible tariff rates are high—110 per cent on nuts, 150 per cent on sugar and coffee, 100 per cent on tea, 70-100 per cent on foodgrains,

45-300 per cent on edible oils, 40-50 per cent on fruits and so on. This provides, I believe, a fairly adequate level of protection to Indian agricultural produce. In 2001-02 Budget, the import duties were raised on many agricultural products such as coffee, tea, pulses, edible oils, etc. In the Budget for the year 2002-03, the import duties were raised for pulses from five to ten per cent; and similarly for tea, Coffee, Natural Rubber, Pepper, and Cardamom, Cloves and so on. Why? These duties were raised because these plantation industries were in difficulties. Countervailing duties thereafter can also be imposed. On the specifics, even though, certainly the Government has reduced the total customs duty and the peak duty from 30 to 25 per cent, this reduction is not applicable to agricultural products or dairy products. On garlic, for example, the import duty has been raised from thirty to hundred per cent.

Anti-dumping duty has been imposed on -- we did it because certain States faced these difficulties in sericulture - raw silk from China. The anti-dumping duty has been so adjusted that the minimum landed cost, inclusive of all duties, becomes \$ 33.19 per kg. There is no import of liquid milk. The total value of the imported milk powder is only Rs. 3.5 crore till the end of September, 2002, compared to about Rs. 2½ crores in the previous year. The data on agriculture imports is available in numerous documents of the Ministry of Commerce and can always be accessed. Then why do I cite these figures here? I cite these figures here, Mr. Chairman, we should, as a collectively of Members of Parliament not every now and then raise the scare about these things because this scare travels very wide. If the scare starts from here, instantly it travels through out the country. It is not, therefore, wise to be spreading this scare when the facts run counter to it.

Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition also said that the *paanch* priorities were tokenism. The hon. Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, asked why *paanch*', and he cited an earlier example where only two priorities had been cited, and agriculture was not there. That was very wise, I am sure, but that was wise in the context of when that was presented. In my judgement, I found that these five priorities are necessary. You can, of course, call them tokenism. I do not think that they are tokenism. I think the initiative that we have taken, for example, for the first time in the health sector, however inadequate you may find it in its totality, is still an initiative taken for the first time. We have done what we think is necessary.

I do think that Re. One a day insurance policy is a step forward. Is it a perfect step forward? Possibly, not. We will improve it as we go down the lane. But, where nothing existed and you have taken this step, I do believe it is not tokenism; it is a step forward; it is a step in the right direction as a step taken with regard to textiles. What have we done in the textile sector? We have moderated the entire duty structure. I would have liked to have moderated it further but I am bound by the limitations of also taking care of the revenue. What have we done in this sector? We have moderated the duty rates of entire textiles and completed the MODVAT chain. We are completing a chain when the chain was broken.

In 2004, the Multi-Fibre Agreement comes to an end. Sir, from a position when we were leaders of textile industry — and global leaders -- we have come to a situation where our neighbours like Thailand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are all giving us competition. It is necessary that we wake up. This industry is also the highest employment generating industry; so is tourism; so is gems and jewellery. And, so is the case, equally or ideally, with the three knowledge-based industries of information technology, pharmaceuticals and bio-technology. It is not tokenism, Sir! We have endeavoured to do our best in this regard. On the infrastructure aspect, the overriding criteria is that the assistance covers only the viability gap. It is not an open-ended guarantee of any kind. It is only after the physical verification of the project and the detailed project report that it will be taken up. There are 48 roads that will be taken up, of which seven to eight are now ready for tendering. I said so in the other House. The progress between the announcement and today is about seven to eight of these 48 road projects are already ready for tendering. They will be tendered. The Ministry will finance them. On BOT, the Ministry will handle these things. What does the Government of India cover? The Government of India has made a provision for Rs. 2,000 crores. That is finite provision. We are making a provision because we provide only the viability gap part of it. It is not as if there is any hidden clause in it. The railways special purpose vehicle has a loan arrangement with the ADB. We meet its equity.

So also in the case of Ports, the Port Trusts themselves, both the Cochin Port Trust and the Navi Mumbai Port Trust are, in fact, ready to tender. Very shortly they will be ready to tender. As I said in the other House, we spoke of modernising the two airports. I have no other way in which I can modernise these airports. The Parliament, and the collectivity

of the political community, in its wisdom, has said, these are the limitations upon what you can do in regard to airports. Within those limitations what can I do? Can I continue to not modernise and upgrade my airports? I cannot leave them as they are. Therefore, in which direction do I move? The Airports Authority of India and the Finance Ministry have devised a mechanism. Global tendering is sought to be done. These two airports, to start with Delhi and Mumbai, will be taken up for modernisation and upgradation to international standards. As there is considerable excitement at this possibility, I, therefore, receive a request from the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, "Why not Kolkata?" I receive similar request from Tamil Nadu, "Why not Chennai?" Why not Kolkata and why not Chennai? If Delhi and Mumbai become a success story, why not Kolkata, Chennai and other airports? But simultaneously, we have to be very clear in our minds that it is no good modernising airports if no aeroplanes land there. Aeroplanes cannot land, even the most modern aeroplanes cannot land, if we simultaneously do not address ourselves to the policy in regard to, what is called, open sky. If we continue to sit on something that is neither being utilised by us, nor by anybody else, then the modernisation of airports amounts to nothing. It is in its totality that we have to address these things. We are making a beginning. Hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke about debt swap schemes. He said, "I must explain how is it possible that you are going to do Rs. 81,000 crores." At a conservative estimate, virtually all debts, bearing average coupons of 14 per cent would be swapped over a three years period. The average coupons on fresh loans would be around 8 per cent. Therefore, the interest differential on a rough estimate is assumed to be around 6 per cent. While in the current year 20 per cent of the net small savings from September, 2002 will be used for swaps; in 2003-04, 30 per cent and in 2004-05, 40 per cent of the small savings will be so used. In each year, additional market borrowings of around Rs. 10,000 crores or possibly more could be used to supplement the swap. The debt swap would facilitate a saving of Rs. 41,045 crores on account of principal repayment and Rs. 40,000 crores on account of savings on interests during the tenure of the existing lot. Therefore, on this basis, the gains of the States of the Union, on this account alone, would be of the order of Rs.81,305 crores, which is one-and-a-half times that of the revenue deficit of all the States put together. For the first time, Sir, we are making a beginning. It is not all; more needs to be done. We have made a similar beginning about paying external debt before time. We repaid three billion dollars two weeks back. The dollar-rupee rate did not even flutter. That

aspect is the reflection of the confidence that the international community and everybody else seems to have about India. We are also making similar efforts in regard to high interest bearing debt of banks. And, in respect of banks, we are hopeful of buying out from the banks high-cost debt of around Rs.40,000 crores. If you buy out the total debt management, therefore, we are engaged in just now is roughly Rs. 1,20,000 crores. Therefore, for the first time, we are trying to do so. It is to address that, first part of the charge, which is that 50 per cent of the revenue is going on interest. Will it cure everything? No, it won't? But, it will move towards curing the things.

Sir, the other point is of employment, on which a number of hon. Members spoke that what the hon. Prime Minister had said. Let me share with the hon. Members what the manifesto of the N.D.A. said in 1999. The manifesto talks about new investments and institutional thrust to agriculture, the self-employed, the unincorporated sector, infrastructure development and housing. It is another sector that we have to develop and promote. It will act as the vehicles for employment creation at all levels. The Economic Survey, which was pointed out by several Members, is an integrated document, as the Leader of the Opposition and Shri Pranab Babu certainly know. And, the figures of unemployment have to be seen not only of the organised sector, but also of the unorganised sector, because only a small percentage, that is 8-9 per cent of the total workforce of the country, is employed in the organised sector. Employment in the unorganised sector is expanding and expanding smoothly. The Economic Survey, on page 215, reports the physical performance of special employment and poverty alleviation programmes. In 2001-02, the mandays of employment created under the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, merged into Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana with effect from ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Sir, the sound system is not working properly.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Can you hear me? Well, sound is not a part of the Budget arrangements. I will carry on, Sir, to save time. The point I am trying to make, Sir, is that under all this, the total was almost 523 million-mandays. You could dispute, you could go into detailed\_esoteric argument, how mandays do not really calculate employment generation. Employment is generated when you start constructing roads.

[13 March, 2003] RAJYA SABHA

5.00 p.m.

**श्रीमती सरोज दुबे ( बिहार ) :** आप ने “मैन-डेज” कहा, लेकिन इस देश में 50 प्रतिशत महिलाओं की आबादी है, उन के लिए आप ने एक लाइन भी नहीं कही।

**श्री जसवंत सिंह:** यह मैं मानता हूँ “मैन-डेज नहीं “वर्क-डेज कहना चाहिए। वहाँ दूसरे सदन में मैंने कहा था। मैं माननीय सदस्यों को बता दूँ कि “जनरल बजटिंग” होनी चाहिए। मैं मानता हूँ। मैंने प्रयत्न भी किया “जनरल बजटिंग” के बारे में पहला कदम इस बजट के दौरान उठाएँ, लेकिन बजट स्पीच बहुत लंबी हो गयी थी। मैं जितना चाहता था, उस से ज्यादा लंबी हो गयी थी। इसलिए उल्लेख नहीं कर पाया। अगर अवसर मिला तो यह जो मिड-इयर रिव्यू होगी, उस में जनरल बजटिंग का भी ब्यौरा आप को दे दूँगा। सभापति जी, कुछ अन्य पॉइंट्स आए थे।

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH :** Some other points were raised by Dr. Alexander and also by Mr. Nariman. I do wish to share with everybody, - I have no scientific basis to say what I am saying -- we have to understand what the biggest obstacle to rapid growth is. Firstly, what I wish to sincerely appeal to everybody is this; let us not talk India down. India deserves to be talked high. You can talk my party down; you can talk my Government down; but, in the process, let us not talk India down. The second thing I do appeal to everybody is to recognise that one of the principle obstacles to rapid growth -- there is no time to waste -- is really our own systems; Unbelievably, it is too complex, lethargic and impossible to unravel the systems that we have devised over the last 50 years. When the former eminent civil servants like Dr. Alexander or even the Leader of the Opposition and others bemoan this very ill, I appeal to all of you; you bring your lifetime's experience in this. I think, if we reform the bureaucratic system, we will, without any other effort, add, at least, two-three per cent to our GDP growth. I have no scientific basis to say this. But we, all of us, feel this. We say this when we meet in such assemblies; but, thereafter, we forget. Let us not forget it. This is the difficulty that all of us are facing in our daily life as citizens. We lead rather a closeted life because we live in distinguished assemblies. But, then, there are difficulties, and please reflect on the plight of the citizen. The citizen is now frightened of going to the State,, because he feels, "The minute I approach the State, the State will strangle me, instead of massaging me or applying balm on my difficulties." It is vital that we address these issues as important political and economic issues, as important as what Dr. Alexander said, namely, about corruption. There is only one thing left with us..(*Interruptions*)... It is that I see that I apply the criteria to myself, in as long as I can take care of myself.



Madam, I have come to the end of what I have to say. I have to make just two points. One is on defence. As some hon. Members said, I should not have done what I ought to do to defence. I want to make one thing clear. The management of defence budgeting will have to be on a 24-month's cycle.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : The sound system is not working.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will speak louder.

You can have defence budget on a 12-month basis, but the management will have to be on a 24-month basis because the weapons' procurement, particularly, the capital equipment, given the complexity of weapon procurement in the current situation, is simply not possible in a 12-month cycle,. And, therefore, what I wish to assure all the hon. Members is that we will allow any defence requirement to fall short of what is needed. There is no question of any money lapsing as such. Whatever the Armed Forces require, the Government is committed to provide them. But it is not as though simply money allocation should be the measure of it. We must have a judicious utilisation of funds. Now, acquisition of capital equipment is a complex process. It takes time. That is the basis of these issues.

Madam, I have one more thing to say and then I am finished. There is a very important announcement which I wish to make, and I am making it because the Prime Minister has specifically directed me to do so. Some time back, during the visit by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, our Prime Minister had announced that we would undertake the construction of Sethu Samudram Project. We are committed to complete the Sethu Samudram Project. We will undertake it on a time-bound mission-mode basis for execution. I wish to further share with the House that since the Prime Minister had directed, in fact, he had directed some months back, the Indian Navy had already been entrusted with the task of conducting a detailed survey and studies. I have enquired as to what the status of those surveys and studies is. The surveys and studies will be completed before the onset of the monsoon this year so that the rest of the work can commence in this regard. I wish to assure the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu that I have a commitment to the completion of the Sethu Samudram, as early as possible.

**श्री सुरेश पचौरी :** सभापति जी, आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जी0पी0एफ0 के ब्याज दर में जो कमी की है, जो डीजल की कीमतों में वृद्धि की है और डिफेंस की अनयूटिलाइज्ड जो मनी है, उसके बारे में उल्लेख नहीं किया है। यदि वे इस बारे में कुछ प्रकाश डालें तो इनकी बड़ी कृपा होगी।

**श्रीमती सरोज दुबे :** सर, मेरा भी एक सवाल है।

**श्री सभापति :** आपका तो महिलाओं का सवाल है।

**श्रीमती सरोज दुबे :** नहीं। सर, महिलाओं को सवाल आप नहीं पूछने देंगे? महोदय, मैं एक छोटा सा सवाल पूछना चाहूंगी। मुझे केवल इतनी सी बात पूछनी है कि हमारे देश में 50 प्रतिशत महिलाओं की आबादी है लेकिन बैंक जो प्रियारिटी देता है, वह केवल 5 परसेंट है।

**श्री सभापति :** बैठिए, आपने कह दिया।

**श्रीमती सरोज दुबे :** मैं इनसे पूछना चाह रही हूँ कि क्या उसको 30 परसेंट करेंगे। लोन लेन के लिए डिफाल्टर उद्योगपति यदि जाता है तो उनको वह 8 परसेंट पर देते हैं और महिलाओं को 12 परसेंट पर देते हैं। मैं इसका कारण जानना चाहती हूँ ? मेटरनिटी बेनिफिट भी ... ( व्यवधान ) ...

**श्री सभापति :** माननीय सदस्या, बैठ जाइए। ... ( व्यवधान ) ...

**श्रीमती सरोज दुबे :** मैं इनसे यही जानना चाहती हूँ, वे कुछ आश्वासन दे दें तो अच्छा है।

**श्री सभापति :** ठीक है, आप बैठ जाइए।

**SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) :** Sir, I just have a small question. Actually, a lot of funds have been collected under USO levy for the expansion of the telecom network in the rural areas as compensation from the private telecom operators. Now, already there is a very disturbing information that about fifteen lakh basic telephone users, who are under the BSNL, are actually leaving the BSNL. So, this fund should be transferred to the BSNL particularly because they have a good record of going to the rural areas. I think this will also supplement your idea of the 'paanch' priorities though, I still think, it is tokenism. But, of course, this will improve your record by transferring the USO levy funds to the Telecom Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Finance Minister to move the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003, the Appropriation Bill, 2003 and the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003 Bills for consideration.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, before I do so. firstly, I would like to say that I will convey, what the hon. Member has said, to the hon. Minister of Telecommunication. महिलाओं के साथ हम कोई भेदभाव नहीं होने देंगे। ... ( व्यवधान ) ...

कुमारी मैबल रिबैलो : भेदभाव हो रहा है। ... ( व्यवधान ) ...

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे : उद्योगपतियों को 8 परसेंट पर देते हैं और महिलाओं को 12 परसेंट पर देते हैं। ... ( व्यवधान ) ...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : सर, इन्होंने जी0पी0एफ0 की ब्याज दर में कमी की है और जो डिफेंस की अनयूटिलाइज्ड मनी है... ( व्यवधान ) ...

श्री सभापति : पचौरी जी, आगे चांसिज हैं, ऐसी बात नहीं है कि चांसिज नहीं है। ... ( व्यवधान ) ...बैठिए, मैं अलाऊ नहीं करूंगा। ... ( व्यवधान ) ... मैं अलाऊ नहीं करूंगा। ... ( व्यवधान ) ... Nothing will go on record. ... (Interruptions)... मैं हमेशा महिलाओं को प्रोटेक्शन देता हूँ, मेरी बात सुन लीजिए, और वित्त मंत्री जी से भी कहूंगा कि वे भी महिलाओं को प्रोटेक्शन देते हैं।

#### THE APPROPRIATION VOTE ON ACCOUNT BILL, 2003

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move :-

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2003-2004, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*the question was put and the motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

**Clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill. Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.**