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First session



TENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 12, 1991/
Asadha 21, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN
(Betul)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up the questions.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, may I request you to club my question—Question No. 11—with Question No. 1 which covers more or less identical grounds?

MR. SPEAKER: I think we may take it up later.

—19 Electoral Reforms

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*1. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the disturbing use of money and muscle

power and also abuse of administrative machinery during the recently held elections for Lok Sabha and some assemblies;

(b) the measures suggested in the past by the Election Commission as the needed electoral reforms to minimise the malpractices, the expenditure involved and the dates when these proposals were received by the Government;

(c) which of these proposals are under the Government's active consideration and what is the action plan in this regard; and

(d) whether these reforms would be introduced before elections for certain assemblies/Lok Sabha constituencies are held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement listing out the measures suggested by the Election Commission for elected reforms in the past and the reforms which have already been implemented by the Government is placed on the Table of the House.

The Government is committed to electoral reforms. However, in view of certain incidents in the last general elections, a greater indepth study is required and, therefore, no time-frame can be given as at present.

STATEMENT

The measures suggested by the Election Commission for electoral reforms in the past are listed in Annexure-I. It is not possible at this stage to work out exact expenditure involved in implementing these measures. The proposals from Election Commission have

been received from time to time. Major proposals were received from the Commission in the years 1977, 1982 and 1990.

The reforms listed in Annexure-II have already been implemented. The other major reforms suggested by the Election Commission and other bodies were considered by the Committee on Electoral Reforms constituted on the 1st February, 1990, and based on the accepted recommendations of the Committee, four Bills mentioned below, were introduced in Parliament in May, 1990, by the previous Government:—

1. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990
2. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990
3. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990
4. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1991, which has since become an Act. (Act No. 11 of 1991).

ANNEXURE I

Main recommendations made by the Election Commission on Electoral Reforms

1. Introduction of Multi-purpose photo-identity cards to voters.
2. Amendment in the ceiling on election expenses.
3. Delimitation of constituencies and rotation of reserved seats.
4. Introduction of electronic voting machines.
5. Elimination of non-serious candidates.
6. Speedy disposal of Election Petitions.
7. State funding of elections.
8. Registration of political parties and compulsory audit.
9. Reduction of voting age.

10. Ban on candidates contesting from more than two constituencies.
11. Disqualification of persons with criminal records.
12. Prevention of disturbances at election meetings.
13. Prevention of fraudulent filing of nomination papers.
14. Measures to control the offence of booth capturing.
15. Countermanding of elections not to be resorted to on the death of an independent candidate.
16. The expenditure incurred by a political party to be included in computing the election expenses.
17. Separate electoral machinery under the control of Election Commission.
18. Statutory backing for observers of the Election Commission.
19. Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers etc., to be on deputation to Election Commission.

ANNEXURE II

Recommendations already implemented

1. Reduction in voting age from 21 years to 18 years.
2. The Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers and other Election Staff to be deemed to be on deputation to Election Commission for the period of election and to be subject to the control, superintendance and discipline of the Commission.
3. Disqualification section made more stiff by including offences under various laws.
4. Definition of political parties and provisions for their registration.

5. Provisions for use of electronic voting machines at elections.
6. Booth capturing made an offence with provision for countermanding of election.
7. Enhancement of punishment for causing disturbances at election meetings.
8. Number of proposers increased for election to Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I regard it as a happy coincidence that the very first question that the Tenth Lok Sabha is taking up, pertains to a matter in respect of which my senior colleague Shri Vajpayee and our Party have been campaigning since over two decades. And this is the question of electoral reforms.

Sir, the answer given by the Government has referred to three or rather four specific Bills that have been introduced following the deliberations of the Goswami Committee. It was a Committee on which I had occasion to serve alongwith other senior Members of this House, including S/Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Indrajit Gupta.

In pursuance of that Committee's recommendations on electoral reforms, the Constitution 70th (Amendment) Bill, Constitution 71st (Amendment) Bill and the Representation of Peoples (Amendment) Bill, 1990 were introduced in Rajya Sabha. The fourth one has been passed. I would like to know specifically what is the Government's position in respect of these three Bills pending in the other House.

Constitution 70th (Amendment) Bill relates to the mode of appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, a mode which would ensure that the kind of controversies that the present Election Commission has involved itself in would never arise again. Constitution 71st (Amendment) Bill relates to delimitation of constituencies and rotation of Scheduled Caste seats.

Representation of Peoples (Amendment) Bill, 1990, of course, is a comprehensive Bill which seeks to deal with various electoral offences and malpractices.

I would like to know the new Government's stand on these three specific Bills because what is suggested in the answer seems to put off this whole question once again. When it says that the Government is committed to electoral reform, it is a platitude which makes no commitment. It goes on to say, "However, in view of certain incidents in the last general election, a greater indepth study is required. Therefore, no time frame can be given at present." This seems to suggest that the Government is keen to push the whole issue beneath the carpet. Now, I am concerned with three Bills which are pending in the Rajya Sabha. I would like to know where does the Government stand on these.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): Sir, the Government has no objection.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: There is no mention about the electoral reforms in the President's Address also. What is the Government's intention in regard to this?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: That is a different thing. The intention of Government is to go through the Electoral Reforms Bill as early as possible. We are also particular that this should be done.

As far as these three Bills pending before the other House are concerned, we broadly agree with them. The indepth study which we have mentioned in the answer is for the number of incidents that have cropped up in the recently held election like the money power, booth capturing and so on. We are trying to get report from various States and also from the Election Commission so that we can come before the House with a comprehen-

sive reform. As far as these three Bills that are pending before Rajya Sabha are concerned, we have to go through some process and we will take them as early as possible.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Is the Government committed to passing these three Bills?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Yes.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Another aspect in which no amendment of law is necessary because the necessary amendment has taken place, relates to use of electronic voting machines. There are one-and-a-half lakh electronic voting machines manufactured at the cost of around Rs. 75 crores. They are all lying idle. Election Commission failed to use them because they say that elections have come upon them very suddenly. I would like to know what is the Government's approach in this regard because according to an assessment made by the Election Commission itself, if these electronic machines are used it would mean a saving of Rs. 40 crores for the Lok Sabha election and another saving of Rs. 40 crores for the Assembly elections as it would eliminate printing of ballot papers and such other things. I would like to know what is the Government's approach in this regard and if the Government's response is positive does it propose to use these electronic machines at the forth-coming by-elections. Does the Government propose to use them? This is my second question.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: The process which has been started takes quite a long time to extend it throughout the country. It is quite costly affair also.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: But the machines are already manufactured; the amount has already been spent.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Machines have been manufactured but they are not enough for the entire country. It will take three to four years. According to us, it

is a costly affair. We want to introduce it as early as possible but it will take three to four years. We need six lakh voting machines. The cost is very abnormal and it will take three to four years to implement them.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I have asked him about byelection and perhaps the Minister is not aware that even the Congress Party Manifesto has committed itself to the use of Electronic Voting Machines. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, I am not bothered about the use of Voting Machines. In fact we are going to the Election Commission to find out how many Machines they have got so that they can be used in the byelections. We have no objection. But that is the concern of the Election Commission. We will come before the House..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the new Government has not said anything new in its reply to our question. I have gone through the record of past proceedings. A similar question was asked in this House on 23rd March, 1990. Barring two points the entire answer has been repeated. Sir, I would like to draw your attention to these two points.

[*English*]

'Main recommendations of the Election Commission on Electoral Reforms'

[*Translation*]

The Election Commission has made these recommendations after the recent elections. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to two of these recommendations given is Annexure 1—

[*English*]

(1) Statutory backing for observers of the Election Commission, (2) Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers etc., to be on deputation to Election Commission.

[*Translation*]

Apart from these, has the Election Commission made any recommendations in view of the elections held recently? As the hon. Minister has said in his reply and as mentioned by Shri Advani—

[*English*]

These were certain incidents in the last General Election. What are those incidents?

[*Translation*]

Sir, do these incidents include the actions of the Election Commission which have become the subject of controversy leading to talk of initiating impeachment proceedings against the Chief Election Commissioner? If this is not included then which are the incidents?

Sir, both of us have been elected, but our First task is to take stock of the election expenditure. I am sad to say that newly-elected M.Ps. have to start their Parliamentary life by accounting for expenditure incurred in their election. Elections cannot be contested within the existing limits set on expenditure. The amount spent by the party is not taken into account. Elections are contested on the strength of black money. Ours is no more a democracy because money is playing a dominant role in elections but the Government has not taken any decision with regard to electoral reforms. May I know Government's view in this matter? Will the hon. Minister give an assurance that the reforms will be implemented before the next elections which may be held anytime?

[*English*]

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, this is the first day of the Tenth Lok Sabha and the hon. Member wants us to do all these things in a day. We will need some time for amending the People's Representation Act and also so many

other things. We want time to study and will come before the House with a comprehensive Bill.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: How much time do you need?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: We cannot tell this because we want the requests to come from various States and also from the CEC. Then only we can go through that. After going through that we will see that a legislation that can stand for 20-30 years be brought forward. Merely bringing in a legislation is no use. What the hon. Member says is correct. The expenditure involved on elections is much higher than the limitation. Unfortunately that is a fact. We have to amend it. It will take quite some time to go through all these things.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Can you club Q. No. 11 with this question?

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you a supplementary.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: In order to avoid the abuse of the administrative machinery, the main recommendation has been practically accepted by all the parties. The main recommendation is the introduction of multipurpose-photo identity-cards to voters. That will avoid the impersonation and what is popularly known as bogus voting. Why is the Government not thinking of immediately introducing it or accepting it or implementing this proposal?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: This is one of the methods where we can avoid that; and that is one of the points that has been accepted by the Government. But, as I told you earlier, it will take some time. These machines have to be manufactured for the whole country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE: What machines?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: It will take some time. We are considering seriously this aspect also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, the question asked by Shri Advani and Shri Vajpayee during Question-Hour relates to misuse of administrative machinery, money power and muscle power during elections. My contention is that this time, besides misuse of administrative machinery, cases of misuse of its powers by the Election Commission have also come to light. I think this is an extremely serious situation. The code of conduct should not be limited to the administrative officials and candidates but should also be applicable to the Election Commission. The Election Commission postponed the Punjab elections at the last moment without consulting any of the Opposition leaders. I don't know whether those sitting on the Treasury Benches were consulted. I am afraid that with the postponement of elections by three months the election process may come to sought because in the meanwhile one candidate is likely to be killed in each of the constituencies. Following the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi the second phase of the elections was postponed to 12th and 15th June. The Election Commission may have postponed the elections for a genuine reason but it should have consulted the leaders of all parties before fixing the dates. It seemed as if we were fighting an election against the Election Commission. In these circumstances the Election Commission should not be allowed to continue its present attitude. Will a code of conduct be laid down for the Election Commission also? Considering the way in which electoral irregularities were allowed by the present Chief Election Commissioner*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Will he be asked to tender his resignation? Otherwise we shall have to think of taking some other steps.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The name may not go on record.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR-RAMANGALAM: Actually, the question posed by the hon. Member is little beyond the scope of this question. However, we have observed that there should be some sort of guidelines also for the conduct of the Election Commission and its Officers, etc. When we go through the reforms issue, we can go through it also. But on the specific observation regarding postponement of Punjab elections, that is a matter in which the Chief Election Commissioner has taken a conscious decision keeping in mind the various reports that were at this disposal. Our Government was not there at that time. Our Government was formed only the next day. The Government at that time had ensured ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: But the decision was taken on the previous night. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR-RAMANGALAM: I said, the next day. They were not willing to hear the words: 'the next day.' (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: What is according to your statement? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR-RAMANGALAM: I said, the next day.

But the issue is whether or not that was a proper decision or improper decision, we can categorically say that it is argued, that it was a right decision and it was based on information that was collected and available at the disposal of the Chief Election Commissioner. Whether or not

there should be some norms laid down for functioning, definitely that would be considered when the in-depth study is done on electoral reforms.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I am shocked to hear the observation of the Minister of State for Law. The Election Commission never consulted the Government, the Government that was there at that time. Nor was there any report with the Election Commission based on which the elections of Punjab could have been postponed. The elections were postponed because of a decision of the Election Commission which took on its own prompted by whom, I do not know. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was an observation that was made and it was not a question. It was a statement of fact from the former Prime Minister. Let me go on record to say that I have never said that the Chief Election Commissioner had consulted the former Government or not. All I said was that the CEC took a decision, a conscious decision, on the basis of the information that was available at his disposal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: For the Lok Sabha elections and also for the Assembly elections a lot of independent candidates have been filing their nominations. When an independent candidate gets killed or dies then the election process will be postponed. I want to know from the Government whether it is contemplating any change in this procedure.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: How can there be any change in the procedure? (*Interruptions*) About independent candidates it is under the consideration of the Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first question is, in view of the fact that more than 100 left activities of Tripura were murdered by the ruling party

before the elections, whether the Government is prepared to set up a committee of all parties from Parliament to enquire into the situation and report back. And secondly, he has said that impeachment is not possible. We would still demand it. And the withholding of the result of Munger seat is definitely an act of vindictive nature. I want to state it clearly. He should take note of it.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly I am constrained to say that we have not taken any decision on the question at all, whether an all-India Committee should enquire into it or not. But we are of the opinion that the CEC happens to be a constitutional authority. It is not an authority which is under the Government, for us to stand by and say that this is right or wrong. But one thing is certain. With regard to the observation made on the Munger election, I understand that the Chief Election Commissioner called for reports, that he is looking into the matter and he would take a decision at the proper time. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: It was done after the counting had been completed.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARANGALAM: It is true that counting had been completed but after the counting you..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

It is for the CEC to decide. The decision of the CEC is awaited. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Actually, these are very important questions relating to the very fundamental basic principles which govern the whole conduct of democracy in our country. I think that the Government will take it very seriously because all the reforms have been suggested in view of the past experience. What I am specifically asking is this.

Besides many electoral reforms, if the Chief Election Commissioner himself becomes a matter of universal controversy and if he not only behaves arbitrarily but also dictatorially by countermanding elections, by postponing elections, by even not consulting on very basic issues ... (*Interruptions*) I am not naming any person. The office can always be put to question. I am not taking the name of the person. Will the Government, before appointing the Chief Election Commissioner, consult the leaders of the main parties in Parliament and also may be the Chief Justice of India so that he can function with impartiality, which is the crux of our democracy?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Constitution Seventieth Amendment Bill 1990 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 30th May 1990. In fact, the leader of the Opposition Shri Advani had specifically asked a question, whether the Government is going to press for those Bills and get them passed. We have made a commitment just now saying 'yes'. That Bill specifically provides for the manner of the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. That Bill provides for that the President would, after in consultation with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the leader of the Opposition, etc., appoint the Chief Election Commissioner. The Chief Justice is not provided for in that Bill. This was the decision that was arrived at after the All Party Committee went into it and gave its specific recommendations. We stand by this. This was the consensus of all parties put together. We are going to press this Bill to be moved and passed. Once this Bill becomes a law, the Chief Election Commissioner's appointment would not be only in the hands of the Government but definitely it would be done in consultation with the Rajya Sabha Chairman, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the leader of the Opposition, etc. and also the leaders of the largest groups. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*].

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to Begusarai and Munger ... (*Interruptions*)... On what ground the case of Begusarai has been cleared, while that of Munger has been with held... (*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the name of Shri Buta Singh. You should ask only when your name is called.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the very first question asked in the Lok Sabha by the Leader of the Opposition and two great leaders of the BJP, shows a very good development, that the original question has been asked in English. I think that BJP's attitude towards English has... (*Interruptions*) This question concerns a very important national issue. It states that the use of money and muscle power have given a severe setback to the electoral system in India and we are very much concerned about it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that in the elections which were held recently, religion was misused more than money and muscle power. Are the posters depicting election symbol alongwith the picture of Lord Rama, pasted on the walls, of less concern? If these things are serious threat to the unity, integrity and democracy: will the Government—whenever an amendment is introduced—see to it that religion is not misused. What would the hon. Minister like to say in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: It is for this reason we said that we need an indepth study. After getting reports from various States and also CEC, all aspects which affect the elections will be considered. This aspect also will be considered along with money power and booth capturing. We will consider all aspects and come before the House with a comprehensive Bill which will provide for all these things in order to have free and fair elections.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Advani's question concerns the proposed reforms in elections and the corrupt practices during elections. The Election Commission has laid a ceiling of Rs. 1.50 lakh as election expenses. At places where elections were postponed in order to look into the alleged use of corrupt practices election campaign had to be prolonged for twenty days. Has the Election Commission clarified whether the expenses incurred during this period would be included in the expenditure or not for the purpose of ceiling? It is also an example of corruption. Secondly, I would like to submit that...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government the directions issued by the Election Commission in this regard?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Though the question is quite relevant in the sense that there was in fact extension of time for the elections, the law as it stands will apply...*(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has already taken half an hour. My submission to you is that a separate Half-an-Hour discussion should be allowed on this question, because a number of Members have yet to put their supplementaries on this question...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DILEEP SHINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear that there has been widespread misuse of administrative machinery during the tenth Lok Sabha elections. After the Election Commission declared dates for elections, many State Governments ordered transfers of

district level Officers. In spite of the directions given by the Election Commissioner, these transfers were not cancelled. Which State Governments have disobeyed these directions and what action is being taken against them? Whatever law may be enacted in this regard, no State Government will obey the directions. I would like to know from you whether the Government would enforce the norms strictly on administrative side?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The hon. Member's observation on misuse of official machinery and administrative machinery is quite relevant because there have been instances where transfers have been made after the CEC had indicated that it would not be in the interest of free and fair elections. But we have not got all the information. We will need a separate notice really to reply to this.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the number of non-serious candidates, i.e. independent candidates is ever increasing election after election which is leading to very big ballot papers and confusing the illiterate voters and more time for counting process. The serious candidates will purchase the voters list but non-serious candidates will not purchase the voters list. So, the Election Commission has itself suggested that non-serious candidates should be eliminated. But, they have suggested that the security deposit should be increased. I want to ask the Government whether the Government will take necessary steps so that the independent candidates should purchase at least one copy of the voters list and file that receipt before scrutiny.
(Interruptions)

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, this is a point which is under the consideration of the Government. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Shri Buta Singh asked the hon. Minister whether it was true that besides the use of money and muscle power, votes were sought in the name of Lord Rama. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister and all the political parties whether it was not true that except the Bhartiya Janata Party, leaders of all other political parties contacted Maulana Bukhari and requested him to issue a directive to Muslim community to cast votes in their favour...*(Interruptions)*... In the last elections, all of them requested Maulana Bukhari and he issued the directive and said that...*(Interruptions)*... He asked the people to cast the vote in a particular manner and made an appeal to defeat BJP. Was it justified? Will the hon. Minister treat it as misuse of religion and take steps to check such malpractices?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR RAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a question, but an observation. I used to go on record to say that this system is unfair and untrue.

Export of Handloom and Powerloom Textiles

*2. **SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to export of handloom and powerloom textiles during the last two years;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the export of the handloom and powerloom textiles has declined due to the recent Gulf crisis; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the exports?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, Cotton handloom and powerloom textiles exports during the last two years were as under:—

	(Rs. in Crores)	
	1989-90	1990-91
Cotton Handloom Exports . . .	342	407
Cotton Powerloom Exports . . .	412	529

(c) and (d) The recent Gulf crisis did not have any significant impact on our cotton handloom and powerloom textile exports.

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by the Government...*(Interruptions)*... it has been stated that the textile exports during 1990-91 increased considerably...*(Interruptions)*... Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the increase in exports is because of rise in the prices or increase in the quantity exported? If the information is available with him, he may please let us know...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complete details about exports have been given in the reply. There is continuous increase in exports since 1988-89, therefore it can be said that the Gulf crisis did not have any significant impact on the textile exports.

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Gulf crisis did not have any effect on the exports, but as per my infor-

mation the Gulf crisis adversely affected the textile exports as well as textile manufacturers. Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether there is any proposal to provide relief to such manufacturers? The money of few manufacturers is blocked in the Gulf countries. The hon. Minister may please tell us whether the Government has any plan to help the manufacturers.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as stated earlier, the Middle East market is of no significance in regard to export of textiles whether handloom or powerloom. During last year, our exports to Dubai alone were worth Rs. 45 crores. Therefore, if the hon. Member has any other information, he should give us, we will take action.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister might be aware of the fact that in Bihar thousands of weavers are dependent on handloom industry. The Central Government exports the textiles produced by the handloom industry in the states but as far as the question of Bihar is concerned, the textiles produced by the weavers of Bihar are not exported by the Central Government and due to this, the weavers of that State are facing great hardship. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will give an assurance that Bihar will also get its share in exports and the textiles produced by the weavers of that State will also be included in the export-list of textiles.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, it is the policy of the Government to encourage the handloom industry in every State. In regard to the issue raised by the hon. Member that Bihar is not getting necessary assistance in respect of handloom industry, I would like to say that if the details are made available to us we will definitely take action. I want to assure you that every facility will be provided to the weavers of Bihar to encourage the export of goods produced by them.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given an assurance that on receiving details, he will provide every facility to the handloom industry in Bihar. Sir, you as well as the whole nation is aware of the superior quality of silk produced by handlooms in Bhagalpur in Bihar. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will provide any special facility to weavers of Bhagalpur keeping view the hardships faced by them due to riots during the last two-four years.....

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about handlooms.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I am coming to the issue of exports. Will any arrangements be made for export of silk produced in Bhagalpur.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of the information provided by the hon. Member. I will give instructions to the Ministry to make necessary arrangements for exports.

[English] 22

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, handloom industry is an important foreign exchange earner to the country but, unfortunately, the steps that the Government have taken to promote the exports are quite inadequate. For example, after the Government has announced the new policy with respect to the export, the cash compensatory support and some other incentives have been taken away. But, at the same time, some of the exporters have already entered into trade agreements with some foreign countries on rupee basis. On the one hand, they are not getting any incentive from the Government and, on the other hand, they are incurring a heavy loss in respect of their export of handloom products. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have any idea or any programme or policy to assist the exporters, es-

pecially from State like Kerala from where they will be exporting products like handloom crape to the Western European countries and to Japan. The importing materials like hank yarn, because it is very difficult for them as import restrictions on hank yarn under the new licensing policy, especially under the new conditions that the Government has now imposed. So, I would like to know whether the Government has any other special programme to promote the export from the country, especially from places like Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy of the Government is to encourage the handloom industry and on the basis of this policy recently the Government has taken some steps. As a result thereof, some doubts have arisen in the minds of the people. I would like to say that the new steps have created favourable conditions in the handloom industry but as far as the issue of export of handloom goods is concerned, I would like to make it clear that the issue raised by the hon. Member comes under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce. I would like to assure him that the Government will do its best to protect the interests of handloom industry. Handloom industry has made great progress in the Southern States and Government will encourage the export of textiles from other States also and take steps to promote the exports of these goods.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Sir, I come from the weaver community of Gujarat. Weavers are there in a large number in Gujarat but they are not getting remunerative prices for their products. They have not been provided facilities for exporting their products. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether Government will provide special facilities to them at the Government textile markets in Gujarat and whether Government also proposes to provide financial assistance to these weavers?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are already being given facilities and steps are being taken to provide more facilities to them. Many schemes are being formulated for the export of their products and to remove hardships they are facing.

24-3 / Sale of Gold

[English]

*3. **SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISSH-NAN:**

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of gold sold recently by the Union Government;
- (b) the details of the terms and conditions of the sale;
- (c) the reasons for selling the gold; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken to retrieve the gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Union Government leased 20 metric tonnes of confiscated gold held in government account to the State Bank of India as per lease agreement.

In turn, the State Bank of India entered into a sale transaction with repurchase option with Union Bank of Switzerland.

(b) (i) As per the lease agreement dated 16th May, 1991 entered into between Govt. of India and SBI, GOI leased to SBI, 20 metric tonnes of gold to raise foreign exchange reserves expected to be of the order of \$ 200 million. The period of lease is six months; extendable by mutual agreement. The consideration for lease is

Rs. 25 lakhs. As per the agreement, the State Bank of India could move gold outside the country and could lease, pledge, sell or use it in any other manner. The financial terms and conditions of the lease were determined as per advice of the Reserve Bank of India.

(ii) State Bank of India had, in turn, entered into a sale with repurchase option with the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS). UBS bought the gold from SBI at the London fixing price prevailing on the day after day of delivery, for each consignment, at the UBS refinery. SBI was paid 95 per cent of the value of the gold, at the prevailing market price, the balance of 5 per cent being retained for price protection to be settled at the end of six months. At the end of the six-months period, SBI can repurchase gold from UBS for a consideration equivalent to the outstanding loan plus interest at LIBOR flat (London Inter Bank Offered Rates). The procedures in regard to the above transactions were finalised, as indicated by the Government of India, through mutual consultations between SBI and RBI, as per prudent banking practices, keeping in view the need for secrecy and urgency.

(c) India has a perfect and unblemished record of meeting all international obligations. Government's strategy to manage the difficult balance of payments situation is aimed at maintaining this perfect record and protecting the foreign exchange reserves at a reasonable level. To this end, Government have taken several measures to compress imports, to accelerate receipts of export earnings, and to obtain special bilateral assistance. The dialogue with multilateral institutions is also continuing. However, when there was a serious threat of foreign exchange reserves levels falling below what may be perceived as a reasonable level by the international financial community, and as a last resort, Government had leased gold held in Government account to the State Bank of India.

(d) It is the intention of the Government of India to have the gold repurchased in accordance with the agreements, provided the balance of payments situation improves.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, it is the most disturbing and disquieting report that came a few days ago. But the responsibility of the previous Government as well as this Government has been, treating it something like the concept of Sankara's Maya. It changes according to Pandits. The first communique of the spokesman of the Government said in a cryptic manner that this sale of gold is not from reserves. Then they circulated the word "mortgage", which is an absolute figment of imagination and then later it was said—now they admitted in the Statement that this is a sale by the SBI and there has been a transaction of a kind of lease to SBI. Now, I would like to know what motivated them. In general terms they have specified in section (c) of the Statement about the difficult balance of payments position. But what specifically motivated them? I would like to know, when the price of gold was US \$ 11.7 million per tonne at that time, what motivated them to enter into this very disturbing transaction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this transaction which the hon. Member is referring to took place when our party was not in power. But I understand the reasons why this was done and the situation in which our country was and then it is now, is a grave situation in which there is a very great weakening of international confidence in our currency. We have almost next to no reserves and we have been borrowing short term loans to finance even essential articles of mass consumption like petroleum products, fertilisers etc., and it was in that stage that we had also to repay our loans. We are committed to honouring all our commitments. We want to keep this economy going; we do not want to hurt our people by denying to them the

essential things like petroleum products, fertilisers etc. But when we have no reserves, when exports are down, when Non-Resident Indians are no longer sending money but instead are taking their money out, there was no other option. It pained me greatly and I know it pained the then Prime Minister. But in that situation, there was no other option.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, the distinguished Finance Minister for whom I have respect, regard and affection was also the Chief Economic Advisor at that point of time. I share his pain as well. If it is only for the petroleum products, then the supply of it was available and an agreement also has been entered into. I would also request him not to quibble around and acquire the habit of politicians and to be straight forward in this House and tell us the truth. If necessary, he can come out with a White Paper on the BoP situation and explain it properly so that the whole country, not only the Parliament, knows it. Now, it continues ever after the new Government has come. There has been another transaction. It is said that it had been taken for safe custody to Bank of England walls as though our walls are not protected. A former Reserve Bank Governor, his former colleague has called it as national humiliation. I would like to know why was the second transaction necessary.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, now the hon. Member is raising a question which relates to a different transaction. I think it would be proper that that question should be raised separately. He has made a reference to the statement of my distinguished predecessor as the Governor of the Reserve Bank Dr. I. G. Patel. I had spoken to him this morning; he has told the RBI Governor who contacted him that he had been grossly misquoted. He had not said that what we have done is dishonourable or humiliation. What he has said is that all of us should feel very said that we have brought our country to

this pass that these transactions have to be done. I share that perception and all of us in this House and our people outside must reflect as to what has gone wrong with this country that we have to do such painful things. But about the sale of RBI gold, I do require a separate question which, I think, I will be able to answer separately.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, the question is very clear. You must protect me; you must protect the interest of the House and the nation. The question does not refer to one particular transaction. It is a continuous habit now. So, we are certainly entitled to know from the Finance Minister as to what has been done.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the question reads as follows:

(a) the quantity of gold mortgaged recently by the Union Government.

I think, what the Union Government sold was from its own stock. Therefore, if you want to discuss anything else the sale by the Reserve Bank within its reserve, I do require a separate notice.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: For RBI also, you are answerable here in this House. Obviously RBI has sold it. You cannot sell it from the bunk of the Finance Ministry.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Reserve Bank of India is a great national institution. It would be a sad day if anything were to be said in this House or outside which lowers the dignity and respect of the institution.

I do require a separate notice. I can assure you, I will satisfy all Members of this House as to what was done and what was unavoidable in the situation.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Actually, it is a matter of great national concern. I must say that the Government and the Finance Minister are making so many state-

ments that they seem to be creating an economic panic in the country. We admit that the situation is bad but the whole approach of the Govt. seems to be creating economic panic in the country.

I would like to know a specific thing about the sale of 20 m.t. of gold. It is said in this statement that it is expected to be of the order of \$ 200 millions. I would like to know:

- (a) What exact amount the Government has received by selling 20 m.t. of gold.
- (b) It is being said in the statement—However, when there was a serious threat of foreign exchange reserve level falling below what may be perceived as a reasonable level for international financial community...

I would like to know what the international financial community thinks is a reasonable level that the foreign exchange we should have?

Otherwise, the Finance Minister is refusing to reveal. What we have gathered from the newspapers is that already 25 tonnes of gold have been pledged to the Bank of England. They are also negotiating with the Bank of Japan to put in security more gold. We have 332 tonnes of gold in our reserve. If you do not have information, I have it.

May I know how much gold you are going to keep as security with different banks in different countries? Is it the situation of the country?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know the precise value of the gold that was sold out of Government stock. I have that figure with me. I am very pleased to give that figure. It is \$ 200.4 millions. That was the value of the gold sold.

3—9 LSS/ND/91

Now the hon. Member has raised several other issues about safe level of reserves. I would say that I would like to work to a system where this country's level of reserves is not less than two to three months input.

Now why are we here? Our Party was in Opposition. In January, 1990, there was a change of Government. In January, 1990 there was no lack of confidence about our country. Our country was considered credit worthy. There was a positive net inflow on account of non-resident Indians remittances. There was positive net inflow on account of foreign commercial loans. Our economy was considered highly credit worthy. But then, something happened.

AN HON. MEMBER: What has happened?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Well, the type of Budget that was presented, the loan waiver scheme that was launched which eroded India's credit worthiness, which destroyed India's banking system.....

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Is that the only cause? You should clearly say what exactly is the reason. By all these things, we can show that India's credit-worthiness is destroyed. *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: There should be Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We want to have a full discussion on this.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): What exactly does it relate to? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. I have something to say. We are being accused of going to the IMF. But,

this House should know that the Government in power from January-December went to the IMF twice and they took large amounts of money from the IMF. In spite of that, the things they have done weakened our credit-worthiness abroad. Now, it is our responsibility.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Election

Countermanding of Elections due to certain Irregularities

*4. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Lok Sabha constituencies where elections were countermanded due to irregularities committed in the elections; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) Five.

(b) Election Commission takes all possible steps to prevent electoral malpractices and irregularities. It is, however, for the concerned State Government to make arrangement for law and order and to ensure that incidents of booth capturing etc., do not take place. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 introduced in Rajya Sabha in May, 1990 by the previous government seeks to make the offence of booth capturing a cognizable one and to enhance the punishment for the offence where such offence is committed by a person in the service of Government. The Bill also provides for strengthening of section 58A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 so that Election Commission

could take a decision to countermand the poll on a Report from the Returning Officer or otherwise. However, in view of the incidents in the last General Elections, the Government, being committed to bringing in electoral reforms, feels that the matter requires further indepth study before any concrete steps are proposed.

[English] 32

Textile

Reduction in prices of Cotton Sarees and Dhotis

*5. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have fixed any time limit for reducing the prices of cotton sarees and dhotis of 40s count or below to those obtaining in July 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) In an economy like ours, the price levels are determined by a number of factors. The price level of any single commodity cannot be viewed in isolation. Government are constantly reviewing the price levels of sarees and dhotis of 40s counts and below. Government will take appropriate measures in this regard keeping in view the overall economic policies of the Government and also the critical economic situation the country is facing

Indian Econ
32 **Economic Situation**

*6. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian economy has suffered badly during the last one and a half years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring out a White Paper on the State of economy; and

(d) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) and (b) The trends of some important economic indicators during the last three years are given in the following table:

<i>Economic Indicators</i>	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91 (Provisional)
1. Growth of Gross Domestic Product at factor cost at 1980-81 prices (%)	10.4	5.2	5.0*
2. Growth of Agricultural Production (%)	21.0	1.7	4.5*
3. Growth of Industrial Production (%)	8.7	8.6	8.4
4. Growth of Exports (%)	29.1	36.8	17.5
5. Growth of Imports (%)	26.9	25.4	21.9
6. Rate of Inflation			
(a) WPI (1981-82=100)	5.7	9.1	12.1
(b) CPI (1982=100)	8.5	6.6	13.6
7. Gross Fiscal Deficit as per cent of GDP at Current market prices	7.8	8.0	8.4
8. Foreign Currency Reserve at end of the year (Rs. Crores)	6605	5787	4388

*Estimated.

Economic performance during 1990-91 has been characterised by considerable growth in agricultural output and industrial production. However, taking into account the growth of fiscal imbalances and the balance of payments deficit, the sustainability of growth was seriously in doubt. There was a sharp deterioration in terms of price inflation. The consumers faced a double digit inflation and the economy faced a serious balance of payments crisis. The situation was further aggravated by the Gulf crisis and the consequent constraints on the supply of petroleum products and infrastructural facilities.

(c) Economic Survey for 1990-91 will be presented to the Parliament on July 22, 1991.

(d) Steps being taken by the Government to correct the basic macro-economic imbalances include a strict fiscal and monetary discipline and certain other measures to modernize import growth, to promote exports and to protect foreign exchange reserves. In order to improve the international competitiveness of our exports and to restrain demand for imports and to check capital flight, the value of rupee was adjusted in relation to the major international currencies on July 1 and July 3, 1991. In a bid to curb imports and domestic demand, the RBI also raised the bank rate from 10 to 11 per cent alongwith increase in banks deposit and lending rates. The Government also announced major structural reforms in the area of trade policy on July 4, 1991 under which REP rates were increased, CCS was

suspended and supplementary and additional licenses were abolished. Some other policy measures including industrial policy reforms are expected to be announced during the current session of the Parliament.

Unemployment
Loans to Unemployed Youth

*7. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of persons who were sanctioned loans by commercial banks under the Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth Scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the rate of interest charged on such loans;

(c) the present financial limit upto which loans can be sanctioned for different sectors under this scheme and when this limit was fixed last;

(d) whether the Union Government have any proposal for upward revision of this limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The commercial banks sanctioned loans to 1.20 lakhs, 1.92 lakhs and 1.08 lakhs beneficiaries during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 under the scheme.

(b) The rates of interest with effect from September, 1991 will range from 10 per cent to 14 per cent per annum depending upon the size of the loans. Prior to that date, the rate was 10 per cent in backward areas and 12 per cent in other areas.

(c) The ceiling on loans for industrial ventures is Rs. 35,000/-, for service ventures Rs. 25,000/- and for

business ventures Rs. 15,000/-. These limits are in force from the year 1986-87.

(d) and (e) No change is contemplated at present.

36 Export of Jute Goods

*8. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export earnings from jute goods have been on the decline since early eighties;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to step up the export of jute goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Exports of jute goods declined from the level of Rs. 327.4 crore in 1980-81 to the level of Rs. 298.8 crore in 1990-91 due to a variety of reasons including, inter-alia, high cost of production due to low productivity of both machine and labour, lack of modernisation, increased usage of synthetic substitutes and competition from Bangladesh.

(c) Government have initiated several measures to promote modernisation and diversification of the jute industry with a view to increasing exports. These measures include setting up of a Jute Modernisation Fund, import of specified items of jute machinery on concessional rates of duty, waiver of excise duty on the manufacture of diversified jute products, marketing assistance for export of diversified jute products, introduction of export obligation on mills given DGS & D orders, implementation of Export Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme for securing global tenders for supply of jute bags, etc.

Loan from Italy

***9. SHRI ASHOK ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with the Italian Government for the grant of a loan of rupees ten crore;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and

(c) the particular industry in which this loan is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir, However, a Memorandum of Understanding for grant assistance of Italian Lira six thousand two hundred eighty three million equivalently at the then prevailing exchange rate was signed between the Government of India and the Government of Italy on 24th April, 1991.

(b) The main features of the agreement are:—

(i) Cooperation between the Central Power Research Institute of India (CPRI) and Centre Electrotecnico Sperimentale Italiano of Italy (CESI) for the realisation of R & D plan on the EHV/UHV AC/DC Power Systems in India.

(ii) This is the second phase of an on going collaboration programme between these two organisations.

(iii) The agreement envisages:

(a) visits of experts from Italy to India,

(b) use of CESI laboratories and other facilities and also CESI experts services in Italy,

(c) training of Indian engineers in Italy,

(d) transfer of equipment developed under the agreement.

(c) The grant assistance is to be utilised in the Power Sector.

Import of Rubber

***10. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import rubber during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the import of rubber will have any adverse effect on the rubber cultivators; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Import of natural rubber for each year is decided on the basis of the expected demand-supply gap for that year and also keeping in view the stocks available. The projections of the demand-supply gap and the stocks of natural rubber available in the country are being reviewed from time to time. Suitable decisions will be taken at the appropriate time. Since the imports of rubber are made to meet the demand-supply gap, such imports, if any, are not expected to have adverse effect on rubber cultivators.

Violence during recent elections

***11. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale violence has taken place during the recent mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported, State-wise; and

(c) the number of people killed/injured in each of these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) to (c) The information regarding violent incidents is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House. Only after, such details are known, it would be

possible to say whether large scale violence has taken place during recent elections in different parts of the country or not. However the details of the incidents occurred in various States and Union Territories during the period commencing on the 19th April, 1991 and ending with 16th June, 1991, as evidenced from the reports received from time to time has been listed in the Statement given below:

STATEMENT

Poll related incidents reported from April 19, 1991 (Date of poll Notification) upto June 16, 1991.

State	No. of incident	Killed			Injured		
		Clashes	P.A.	G.total	Clashes	P.A.	G.total
Andhra Pradesh	391	37	8	45	275	7	282
Assam	244	5	0	5	92	14	106
Bihar	421	57	0	57	277	8	285
Gujarat	111	9	1	10	130	3	133
Goa	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	66	1	0	1	54	2	56
Himachal Pradesh	2		0	0	8	0	8
Karnataka	44	5	0	5	77	2	79
Kerala	85	1	2	3	149	0	149
M.P.	147	14	0	14	90	96	186
Maharashtra	287	1	0	1	129	2	131
Manipur	9	0	0	0	2	0	2
Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	141	7	0	7	175	0	175
Punjab	29	33	0	33	21	0	21
Rajasthan	150	2	0	2	115	18	133
Sikkim	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	272	23	0	23	399	64	463
Tripura	61	20	1	21	93	3	96
U.P.	457	99	0	99	600	52	652
West Bengal	299	19	3	22	518	29	547
Arunachal Pradesh	4	0	0	0	1	0	1
Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	3	0	3
D. & N. Haveli	14	0	0	0	11	0	11
Delhi	28	6	0	6	80	0	80
Pondicherry	18	2	0	2	26	0	26
Total	3302	341	15	356	3325	300	3625

Balance of payments position

*12. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the short term and long term measures taken for improving the balance of payments position; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to increase production and improve the quality of export goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A number of measures was initiated through 1990-91 and in the current financial year, to manage the balance of payments position, by way of import compression, export promotion, including faster realisation of outstanding export proceeds and augmentation of capital flows.

(b) The Government have recently introduced far reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing bureaucratic control through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings. These are designed to improve the export environment which will lead to increase production and improvement in the quality of export goods.

Debt burden on Union Government

*13. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total debt burden on the Union Government as on 31st March, 1991;

(b) the details of the different components of this debt burden; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to meet the repayments responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

(c) The repayment of internal debt is being made from fresh borrowings. Government's endeavour, however, is to reduce dependence on borrowings by a combination of revenue and expenditure measures.

External loans are repaid mainly from the country's exports and invisible earnings.

STATEMENT

Components of Debt of Union Government at the end of 1990-91 (RE)

(Rs. in crores)

(i) *Internal Debt*

Market Loans	70565
91 Days Treasury Bills (including conversions into dated securities)	70542
182 Days Treasury Bills	974
Compensation and other Bonds	723
Special Bearer Bonds	876
Other Securities issued to RBI	1102
Securities issued to International Financial institutions	6570
Small Savings	49071
Provident Funds	11576
Special Deposits by Non-Government PF etc.	33866
Reserve Funds Deposits etc.	33363
Total—Internal Debt	279228

(ii) *External Debt (On Government Account and IMF borrowings)** 70471

Total **349699**

*Converted at the exchange rate prevalent on 31st March, 1991.

73 Advances
Review of Loan Waiver Scheme

*14. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to review the working of the loan waiver scheme introduced by the previous Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The working of the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme is monitored regularly by the Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to make any changes in the scheme.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise. 43-45

Investment by NRIs

*15. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government's plan to attract maximum investments by NRIs for speedy development of the country;

(b) the areas offered to NRIs for direct investments;

(c) the details of the NRI proposals with total investment, approved by the Government during 1989-90 and 1990-91

(d) the areas/investments schemes where NRI's response has not been according to the expectations; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Many Schemes/facilities to attract Non-resident Indians (NRI) investment are in existence. Government attaches great importance to investment by NRIs and has taken a number of steps to make such investments attractive.

Direct Investment with full repatriation benefits can be made by NRIs in new issues made by all companies (Non-FERA) upto 40% and upto 74% in specified priority industries. 3, 4 and 5 star hotels, air taxis and advanced diagnostic centres. In other areas, investment is permitted with an export commitment of at least 60% and 75% for areas reserved for small scale. Investment upto 100% can be made in 100% export oriented projects including 3, 4 and star hotels and in the revival of sick units. Direct Investment on non-repatriation basis can be freely made by NRIs except in projects related to real estate, agriculture and plantation.

(c) the details of NRI proposals approved by RBI in 1989-90 and 1990-91 are given below :

Scheme	Amount in Rs. crore	
	1989-90	1990-91
1. 40% Scheme	187.27	209.70
2. 74% Scheme	8.90	7.44
3. Direct Investment (Non-repatriable)	48.52	15.85

(d) and (e) Policies and schemes for NRIs are continuously reviewed by Government, and, from time to time, new schemes and facilities are devised in areas where response is not as encouraging as expected. This is a continuing process and views and

suggestions from NRI, and NRI organisations are welcomed. Government is considering additional measures which will encourage non-resident Indian to send more money to India.

[Translation]

Construction of Border Road from Darbanga to Farbisganj

*16. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a border road from Darbanga to Farbisganj via Nirmali and Veerpur was sanctioned in 1963;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in constructing the road;

(c) whether the amount of Rs. 1500 crores allocated for this purpose in the defence budget for the year 1989-90 remained unutilised;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) when the construction work of this road is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such allocation was made for this road.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Expenditure incurred on Elections to Lok Sabha

*17 SHRI ABHINAV CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The total expenditure incurred on holding the General Elections for the Tenth Lok Sabha by the Union and State Governments; and

(b) how it compares with the expenditure on the general elections to the Ninth Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) and (b) The total expenditure incurred on holding the General Elections for the Ninth Lok Sabha was Rs. 154.22 Crores according to provisional figures available with the Government. The information regarding expenditure incurred on elections to the Tenth Lok Sabha is being collected from the State Governments and Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

[Translation]

World Bank assistance for Steel Plant in Bihar

*19. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Bank assistance is proposed to be provided to set up a steel plant in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Ownership Pattern of IFCI

*20. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the ownership pattern of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government is presently not considering

any proposal to change the ownership pattern of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI).

(b) Does not arise. *47-48*

Free Sale of Gold

2. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Free sale gold buying limited to the wealthy" appearing in the 'Business Standard', Calcutta dated May 26, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any estimate of the black money converted into yellow metal by the wealthy; and

(d) the follow-up action being taken to mop up the black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Calcutta main branch of State Bank of India has sold 32,030 grams of gold comprising of 780 grams in 10 grams bars, 15,350 grams in 50 grams bars & 15,900 grams in 100 grams bars to 136 persons during the period 1-4-1991 to 9-7-1991. The sales were effected as per the extent of stock of 10 grams, 50 grams & 100 grams bars received from Hutti Gold Mines Ltd. through the Government mint & distributed by the Bombay main branch of the State Bank of India.

The gold has been sold through a proper procedure without any discrimination. There are no cases of withholding of stocks of 10 grams bars.

Commission on sale of gold is recovered by the State Bank of India from Hutti Gold Mines Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Whenever any specific instances of unaccounted money invested in any assets, including gold and jewellery, come to the notice of the Income-tax Department through searches, surveys or other enquiries, appropriate action under the Direct Tax Laws is taken. *48*

Delhi
Loss incurred by D.T.C. due to Anti-Mandal Commission Agitation

3. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss incurred by the Delhi Transport Corporation due to anti-Mandal Commission agitation last year;

(b) whether some employees of the Corporation were also suspended during the agitation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) During anti Mandal Commission agitation last year, D.T.C. incurred an estimated loss of Rs. 10.08 crores.

(b) and (c) One Driver and one Conductor of Peeragarhi Depot were suspended during the agitation due to negligence of duty and non-compliance of instructions on their part which resulted in the burning of a bus, by the agitators.

48-50
Conditionalities for IMF Loan

4. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

PROF. K. V. THOMAS:

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to all conditionalities put

forth by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before it gives loan to India;

(b) if not, the conditionalities which the Government have not agreed to;

(c) the present annual interest paid on the foreign loans and what will be the amount of annual interest after the loan is received; and

(d) the steps being taken to pay back the loan if sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) and (b) Does not arise. While taking external loans from IMF etc., it is always ensured that they do not in any way impinge upon our freedom in the matter of policy formulations.

(c) The interest on existing foreign loans is as under:

	(Rs. in crores)	
	1990-91 (Prov.)	1991-92 (Est.)
Government A/c.	1842	2002
Non-Government A/c.	114	151
ECB.(External Commercial Borrowing)	1869	2017
IMF Borrowings	344	563

(d) The question will arise once a decision is taken on the loan amount.

⁴⁹⁻⁵¹
Establishment of Export Processing Zones

5. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement to be satisfied for establishing export processing zones;

(b) the details of investment made so far in the existing zones;

(c) the quantum jump in exports and export earnings due to each of the export processing zones; and

(d) the feasibility of establishing one such zone in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) The following determinants are kept in view while establishing new Export Processing Zones:—

- (i) Proximity of an international sea-port or air-port;
- (ii) existence of an industrial infrastructure;

(iii) availability of commercial infrastructure such as banking, insurance, warehousing etc.;

(iv) linkage with hinterland for inputs;

(v) existence of communication facilities; and

(vi) availability of community infrastructure (housing, health, municipal services etc.)

(b) Details of Government investment in each of the existing six Exports Processing Zones as on 31-3-91 are as below:—

Zone	Investment (Rs. in crores)
Kandla Free Trade Zone	10.98
Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ)	23.27
Madras Export Processing Zone	16.64
Noida Export Processing Zone	21.88
Falta Export Processing Zone	17.32
Cochin Export Processing Zone	14.17
Total	104.26

(c) Details of export performance after establishment of the new Zones at Madras, Noida, Falta and Cochin are indicated below:—

Zone	Exports (Rs.in crores)	
	1986-87	1990-91
Kandla FTZ	236.26	456.55
SEEPZ	102.36	389.02
Madras EPZ	10.04	61.32
Noida EPZ	7.01	44.58
Falta EPZ	3.18	24.95
Cochin EPZ	0.94	5.46
	359.79	981.88

The possibility of establishing additional Export Processing Zones in the country can be considered only after assessing the performance of the existing Zones, and subject to the availability of additional financial resources.

	Value in Rs. Crores		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Cotton Garments	1698	2285	3018
Synthetic garments	498	1067	1575
Woollen garments	82	121	47
Silk garments	54	78	105
Total	2332	3551	4745

Import of garments is not allowed.

(c) Several steps are being taken to increase garment exports from India. These include development of production base and product quality through modernisation, improvements in the Import-Export Policy, removing infrastructural bottlenecks and evolving a marketing strategy with a view to exploiting untapped non-traditional products and markets.

Textiles
[Translation]

52—

Export and Import of Garments

6. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of garments exported and imported during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 separately;

(b) the foreign exchange earned due to export of garments during these years; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to promote the export of garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Varietywise garments exported during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are as follows:—

	Value in Rs. Crores		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Cotton Garments	1698	2285	3018
Synthetic garments	498	1067	1575
Woollen garments	82	121	47
Silk garments	54	78	105
Total	2332	3551	4745

Import of garments is not allowed.

River

[English]

52-53

Hooghly Fairway Development Scheme

9. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dutch-aided Hooghly Fairway Development Scheme to improve the navigability of the Hooghly river has come to a halt;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to resume the dredging operations in Hooghly and implement the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Work relating to dredging in the Jiggerkali Flat in the Reach of the Hooghly River has come to a halt.

(b) The dredging work was discontinued by the contractor on 15-3-91 after encountering technical difficulties during execution. The contractor has also served notice of termination of his employment under the contract on the grounds of non payment of his bills by Calcutta Port Trust.

(c) The work may restart in December, 1991 and be completed in September, 1992.

Share market 53-54

Abridged Reports by Companies

10. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Abridged co. reports mislead shareholders" appearing in "The Indian Express", New Delhi dated 25 April, 1991;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the measures the Government propose to take to set matters right and safeguard the interests of shareholders, a vast majority of which cannot afford to attend Annual General Meetings of the Companies held at far off places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY

AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the amended provisions of Section 219 of the Companies Act, 1956, as brought into force from 17th April, 1989, in the case of a company whose shares are listed on a recognised stock exchange, copies of the balance sheet and related documents or a statement containing the salient features of such documents in the prescribed form are required to be sent to every member of the company. The form of abridged balance-sheet prescribed in this regard is designed to disclose information of interest to the share-holder. However, every member of the company is entitled, on demand, to be furnished free of cost, with a copy of the last balance sheet of the company and related documents. At the time of Recodification of the Companies Act, an indepth study about adequacy of these provisions will be undertaken.

54-55

Agreement with Germany for Extension of Export Promotion Programme

11. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with Germany for extension of the export promotion programme by another three years; and

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indo-German Export Promotion (IGEP) Project envisages promotion of exports of a range of products from India to FRG through specialised expert assistance rendered in the fields of product development and market promotion. The project

provides for the stationing of one expert in FRG, another German expert in India as also for the hiring of specialists in different fields. It also provides for an increased German funding from DM 5 million in the first phase to DM 11.12 million with the counterpart funding of Rs. 15 lakhs from the Government of India.

Indo-German Agreement on Financial Cooperation

12. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-German agreement on financial cooperation was signed in the last week of February, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the industries in which the financial aid is likely to be utilised; and

(c) the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The financial aid will be utilised for the following:—

(i) DM 14 million credit is for import of capital goods mainly for private sector enterprises;

(ii) DM 100 million credit is for import of fertiliser from FRG;

(iii) DM 60 million credit is for financing local currency costs in respect of project "Dadri Combined gas-steam Power Plant".

(c) DM 14 million for capital goods credit was an advance allocation for 1991 annual allocations. DM 100 million for fertiliser credit and DM 60 million for Dadri project were provided by reprogramming of the funds which were lying unutilised from allocations of the previous years.

Delegation of Powers to CCI & E under Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947.

13. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 22 February, 1991, to Unstarred Question No. 132, regarding delegation of powers under the Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and state the time by which valid delegation of powers to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports will be made and Delegation Orders placed on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The matter is still under active consideration and as soon as a decision is taken, the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Setting up a Bench of Orissa High Court at Sambalpur

14. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a bench of Orissa High Court in Western Orissa at Sambalpur;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this bench is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The State Government intimated in March this year that in view of the persistent demand from the legal practitioners and general public they had taken in principle

a decision favouring establishment of Circuit Benches of the Orissa High Court at Berhampur, Sambalpur or Bolangir. The High Court of Orissa, in the full Court, does not favour setting up of Benches. The Court is of the considered view that hearing of cases in circuit would be more burdensome and harassing for the litigants and is not conducive to proper administration of justice. The suggestion of the State Government is also not favoured as they do not meet general important principles and criterion evolved by Jaswant Singh Commission set up to consider establishing of Benches of High Courts.

Confiscation of Smuggled Gold

15. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the quantity and the value of smuggled gold confiscated by various Government agencies during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The quantity and value of contraband gold seized throughout the country by various Government agencies under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 during the last 6 months from January to June, 1991 are given in the table below:—

Quantity in Kgs.	Value (Rs. in crores)
2926*	102.24*

*Figures are provisional.

Merger of Regional Rural Banks with Commercial Banks

16. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the regional rural banks with the Commercial Banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

IMF Loan

17. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI:

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought a loan of seven Billion U.S. Dollars from the International Monetary Fund (IMF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of this loan and other facilities to be availed of from the I.M.F.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) No, Sir. However some preliminary discussions are being held with the IMF to explore the possibilities of assistance to reduce the strain on the balance of payments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

18. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and different High Courts as on 30 June, 1991, Court-wise; and

(b) the number of vacancies filled up, if any by the Government after the notification for the General Elections was issued and the details thereof, Court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINI-STER OF STATE IN THE MINI-STRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANG-ALAM): (a) A statement showing the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 30-6-1991 is enclosed.

(b) None.

STATEMENT

Vacancies of Judges as on 30-6-1991

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>High Court</i>	<i>Vacancies</i>
1.	Allahabad	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5
3.	Bombay	7
4.	Calcutta	4
5.	Delhi	1
6.	Gauhati	2
7.	Gujarat
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir
10.	Karnataka	4
11.	Kerala	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6
13.	Madras	2
14.	Orissa
15.	Patna	6
16.	Punjab & Haryana	1
17.	Rajasthan	3
18.	Sikkim	1
Total		50
I Supreme Court		3

Price Rise Inflation

19. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISH-NAN:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRAD-HAN:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUK-HERJEE:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest consumer price index for essential commodities;

(b) whether the price rise continues unabated;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring down the prices to July, 1990 level within 100 days as promised;

(d) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The latest All-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI) (Base: 1982=100) is 204 for May, 1991. The up-trend in prices manifest in the last financial year still persists. The CPI has increased by 1.5 per cent during the current financial year upto May, 1991 as against the increase of 2.8 per cent during the corresponding period last year. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base: 1981-82=100) has increased by 2.0 per cent upto June 22, 1991, as against 3.9 per cent during the corresponding period last year.

(c) to (e) The Government attaches the highest priority to control inflation as it hurts everybody, particularly the poor whose incomes are not indexed. Various steps have been taken in this regard which include

fiscal discipline, check on expansion of money supply, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities and a strict action against hoarders and profiteers. These measures are expected to have desirable effects on prices.

[Translation] 61—64 Election

Recommendation regarding electoral reforms

20. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of recommendations made by the Election Commission in regard to electoral reforms;
- (b) whether the Government propose to implement these recommendations; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINI-STER OF STATE IN THE MINI-STRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAN-GARAJAN KUMARAMANGAL-AM): (a) to (c) A statement listing out the measures suggested by the Election Commission for electoral reforms in the past and the reforms which have already been implement-ed by the Government is given below.

The Government is committed to electoral reforms. However, in view of certain incidents in the last general elections, a greater indepth study is required and, therefore, no time-frame can be given as at present.

STATEMENT

The measures suggested by the Election Commission for electoral reforms in the past are listed in Annexure-I. It is not possible at this stage to work out exact expenditure

involved in implementing these mea-sures. The proposals from Election Commission have been received from time to time. Major proposals were received from the Commission in the years 1977, 1982 and 1990.

The reforms listed in Annexure-II have already been implemented. The other major reforms suggested by the Election Commission and other bodies were considered by the Com-mittee on Electoral Reforms consti-tuted on the 1st February, 1990, and based on the accepted recommenda-tions of the Committee, four Bills mentioned below, were introduced in Parliament in May, 1990, by the previous Government:—

1. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990.
2. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990.
3. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990.
4. The Chief Election Commis-sioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1991, which has since become an Act. (Act No. 11 of 1991).

ANNEXURE I

Main recommendations made by the Election Commission on Electoral Reforms

1. Introduction of Multi-purpose photo-identity cards to voters.
2. Amendment in the ceiling on election expenses.
3. Delimitation of constituencies and rotation of reserved seats.
4. Introduction of electronic vot-ing machines.
5. Elimination of non-serious candidates.
6. Speedy disposal of Election Petition.
7. State funding of elections.

8. Registration of political parties and compulsory audit.
9. Reduction of voting age.
10. Ban on candidates contesting from more than two constituencies.
11. Disqualification of persons with criminal records.
12. Prevention of disturbances at election meetings.
13. Prevention of fraudulent filing of nomination papers.
14. Measures to control the offence of booth capturing.
15. Countermanding of elections not to be resorted to on the death of an independent candidate.
16. The expenditure incurred by a political party to be included in computing the election expenses.
17. Separate electoral machinery under the control of Election Commission.
18. Statutory backing for observers of the Election Commission.
19. Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers etc. to be on deputation to Election Commission.
3. Disqualification section made more stiff by including offences under various laws.
4. Definition of political parties and provisions for their registration.
5. Provisions for use of electronic voting machines at elections.
6. Booth capturing made an offence with provision for countermanding of election.
7. Enhancement of punishment for causing disturbances at election meetings.
8. Number of proposers increased for election to Rajya Sabha and legislative councils.

~~64~~
Pay Scales of Regional Rural Bank Employees

21. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accepted the recommendations of Hyderabad Tribunal Award for bringing the pay scales of the employees of Regional Rural Banks at par with those in other nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, since when the enhanced scales of pay have been given to the employees of Regional Rural Banks as per the recommendations of the said Award?

ANNEXURE II

Main changes made in the Election Laws

1. Reduction in voting age from 21 years to 18 years.
2. The Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers and other Election Staff to be deemed to be on deputation to Election Commission for the period of election and to be subject to the control, superintendence and discipline of the Commission.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Industrial Tribunal for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) set up at Hyderabad, *inter-alia*, recommended the grant of pay scales to the employees of RRBs at par with those applicable to the employees of sponsor banks with effect from 1-9-1987. Government have accepted the recommendations of the Tribunal, and has asked National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to implement the same.

Meat Export

22. ~~SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR~~: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether meat is exported from India; and
- (b) if so, the places from where meat is exported and the names of the animals whose meat is exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Meat is exported from Bombay, Delhi, Trivandrum, Madras, Cochin and Nhavashiva. Bulk of meat exported is of buffalo, though some small quantity of meat of sheep and goat is also exported.

[English] *Bank 65-66*
 Merger of public sector banks incurring losses

23. ~~SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL~~:
 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of public sector banks in the country have suffered heavy losses recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to merge such banks with other public sector banks earning profits;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to improve their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Out of the 26 public sector banks

which have finalised their accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1991, only one bank has shown a loss.

(b) UCO Bank has shown a loss of Rs. 42.96 crores during the year 1990-91. Deficiencies in credit administration both at appraisal and post sanction stages and unsatisfactory recovery performance have affected the earning capacity of the bank. Factors like high Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), administered interest rate structure, priority sector lending at concessional rates of interest etc. have also had an adverse impact on profitability of the banks including UCO Bank.

(c) No such proposal for UCO Bank is under consideration at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government and Reserve Bank of India have taken a number of steps for improving the profitability of the banking system to ensure its viability and self sustained growth. The measures taken include strengthening of the capital base, rationalisation of service charges and interest rates structure and containment of staff growth. For reinforcing the financial viability the banks have been advised to ensure better credit management, raise productivity and effect economy wherever possible. To provide the competitive edge to banks new money market instruments like certificates of deposits and commercial papers have been introduced. Banks have also been permitted to diversify their activities.

65-67
 Recognition to stock exchange at + Chandigarh

24. ~~SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL~~: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether a proposal for recognition of Stock Exchange at Chandigarh is pending with the Government for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in granting the recognition; and

(c) the time by which the said exchange is likely to be recognised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) and (b) Government have received proposals for establishment of a Stock Exchange at Chandigarh. A decision on these proposals was not taken by the Government pending receipt of the Report of the Study Group set up for suggesting a policy for establishment of new Stock Exchanges.

(c) The proposals for establishment of new Stock Exchanges will be considered in the light of the decisions taken on the recommendations made by the Study Group and taking into account other relevant factors.

Court 67-68
Establishment of Advocates' Welfare Fund

25. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN-SAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to establish an Advocates' Welfare Fund for new entrants to the profession;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this fund is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government was of the view that the advocates themselves establish their welfare fund. How-

ever the govt. is to review the earlier stand in this regard. *67-70*

Cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

26. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN-SAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 31 December, 1989 and 31 March, 1991 Court-wise; and

(b) the steps the Government propose to expedite the disposal of pending cases and clear the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) (a) The available information is furnished in the Statement given below: and

(b) The Judge strength is being increased from time to time. Procedural improvements and modifications to speed up disposal of cases are being made. The various courts are taking suitable steps such as rearranging the business by measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, giving priority to cases requiring quick disposal, constitution of specialised benches, increased use of modern office equipments, etc. The various recommendations contained in the Report of the Arrears' Committee (Malimath Committee) which went into the problem of arrears in the High Courts, have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Govts; Central Ministries and all the High Courts for suitable follow-up action.

In the Supreme Court, the Benches are being so constituted that they function for longer periods and the work so allocated that similar matters get posted before the same Bench, thus loading to expeditious hearing of cases.

STATEMENT

Pendency of Cases in The Supreme Court and High Courts

<i>Name of the Court</i>	<i>Pendency as on 31st December, 1989</i>	<i>Pendency as on 31st December 1990</i>
Supreme Court	203183	185108
HIGH COURTS		
1. Allahabad	468242	499748*
2. Andhra Pradesh	72891	82647
3. Bombay	156454	173106
4. Calcutta	200925	200528*
5. Delhi	109495	124242
6. Guwahati	21708	21014
7. Gujarat	74491	83040
8. Himachal Pradesh	12712	12333**
9. Jammu & Kashmir	42099	Not available
10. Karnataka	79492	87853
11. Kerala	82240	73411
12. Madhya Pradesh	61160	67946
13. Madras	224417	236579
14. Orissa	37330	33303
15. Patna	66857	60077
16. Punjab & Haryana	91769	95240
17. Rajasthan	70472	78927*
18. Sikkim	45	62

*Shows the pendency of High Court as on 30-6-90.

**Shows the pendency of High Court as on 30-11-90.

Textiles Units Under N.T.C.27. **DR. A. K. PATEL:****SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:**

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of textile units functioning under the management of the National Textile Corporation at present;

(b) the units which have shown profits and those which have shown losses during 1990-91 and the reasons for losses;

(c) the profit/loss incurred by the National Textile Corporation during each of the last three years and also the cumulative losses incurred so far; and

(d) the steps taken so far to improve NTC's performance and the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Statement I showing the names of textile mills under the National Textile Corporation is given below.

(b) Statement II showing the mills which made net profits and the mills which incurred net losses during 1990-91 is given below.

The main reasons for losses in these mills are given below:—

- obsolete machinery
- low productivity
- surplus labour
- low capacity utilisation
- power cuts
- labour absenteeism
- low value added products

higher percentage of grey sales and competition from Powerloom Sector.

(c) The net loss incurred by NTC mills during the last three years and the accumulated loss upto 31-3-91 is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Nationalised units (Audited)	Managed units (Prov.)	Total
1988-89	—244.96	—66.70	—311.66
1989-90	—148.64	—54.89	—203.53
1990-91 (prov.)	—138.37	—56.47	—194.84
Accumulated losses upto 31-3-91	—1640.16	—397.37	—2037.53

(d) The following steps have been taken to improve the profitability of the mills under NTC:—

- modernisation
- pruning uneconomic capacities
- optimising economic capacities
- selective modernisation
- higher productivity
- labour rationalisation
- competitive purchase of raw materials
- higher yarn production.
- lower cloth production
- price optimisation
- product upgradation.

As a result of the measures taken by NTC/Govt., the losses of mills were reduced by about 35% during 1989-90 and further by about 5% during 1990-91.

STATEMENT I

<i>Name of the State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Name of the Mills</i>
<i>Punjab</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dayalbagh Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Amritsar. 2. Suraj Textile Mills, Malout. 3. Kharar Textile Mills, Kharar. 4. Panipat Woollen Mills, Kharar.
<i>Rajasthan</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri Bijay Cotton Mills, Bijay Nagar. 2. Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur. 3. Mahalaxmi Mills, Beawar. 4. Edward Mills, Beawar.
<i>Delhi</i> (<i>Union Territory</i>)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi.
<i>NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd., West Bengal</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bengal Textile Mills, Murshidabad. 2. Luxmi Narayan Cotton Mills, Rishra. 3. Arati Cotton Mills, Dassnagar. 4. Bengal Fine Spg. & Wvg. Mills, No. II, Kotagunj. 5. Kanoria Industries, Konnagar. 6. Central Cotton Mills, Howrah. 7. Bengal Fine Spg. & Wvg. Mills No. I, Konnagar. 8. Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills, Serampore. 9. Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills, Palta. 10. Rampooria Cotton Mills, Serampore. 11. Bangasri Cotton Mills, Sukchar. 12. Jyoti Wvg. Factory, Calcutta. 13. Manindra Mills, Cossimbazar. 14. Sodepore Cotton Mills, Sodepur.
<i>Bihar</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills, Gaya. 2. Bihar Co-operative Spg. Mills, Mokamal
<i>Orissa</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagatpur.
<i>Assam</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Associated Industries, Kamrup.

*Name of the State/
Union Territory*

Name of the Mills

NTC (TN&P) Ltd. Tamil Nadu

1. Om Parasakthi Mills, Coimbatore.
2. Combodia Mills, Coimbatore.
3. Krishnaveni Textile Mills, Coimbatore.
4. Sri Rangavilas Ginning, Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Peelamedu
5. Pankaja Mills, Coimbatore.
6. Pioneer Spinners, Kamudakudi.
7. Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit, Kalyanarkoil.
8. Coimbatore Murugan Mills, Coimbatore.
9. Somasundaram Mills, Coimbatore.
10. Kaleeswarar Mills, 'A' Unit' Coimbatore.
11. Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Coimbatore.
12. Sri Sarda Mills, Coimbatore.
13. Balaramaverma Textile Mills, Shencottah.
14. Sri Kothandrum Spg. Mills, Madurai.

Pondicherry (Union Territory)

1. Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Pondicherry.
2. Sri Bharathi Mills, Pondicherry.

Uttar Pradesh

Nationalised

1. New Victoria Mills, Kanpur.
2. Muir Mills, Kanpur.
3. Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur.
4. Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini.
5. Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Maunath Bhanjan.
6. Sri Vikram Cotton Mills, Lucknow.
7. Lord Krishna Textile Mills, Saharanpur
8. Bijili Cotton Mills, Hathras.
9. Raebareli Textile Mills, Raebareli.

Managed Mills

1. Laxmirattan Cotton Mills, Kanpur.
2. Atherton Mills, Kanpur.

<i>Name of the State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Name of the Mills</i>
<i>NTC (APKK & M) Ltd., Andhra Pradesh</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Azam Jahi Mills, Warangal. 2. Adoni Cotton Mills, Adoni. 3. Anantapur Cotton Mills, Tadpatri. 4. Natraj Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Nirmal. 5. Netha Spg. Mills, Secunderabad. 6. Tirupathi Cotton Mills, Renigunta.
<i>Kerala</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alagappa Textiles (Cochin) Mills, Alagappanagar. 2. Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Cannanore 3. Kerala Lakshmi Mills, Trichur. 4. Parvathi Mills, Quilon. 5. Vijaymohini Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Trivandrum
<i>Mahe (Union Territory)</i> .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Mahe.
<i>Karnataka</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minerva Mills, Bangalore. 2. Minerva Processing Factory, Bangalore. 3. Mysore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Bangalore. 4. M.S.K. Mills, Gulbarga. 5. Sree Yellamma CW and Silk Mills, Devengere.
<i>N.T.C. (Gujarat) Ltd.,</i> .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rajkot Textile Mills, Rajkot.
<i>Gujarat</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Mahalaxmi Textile Mills, Bhavnagar. 3. Patlad Textile Mills, Patlad. 4. Ahmedabad New Textile Mills, Ahmedabad. 5. Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills, Ahmedabad. 6. Jehangir Textile Mills, Ahmedabad. 7. Rajnagar Mills No. 1, Ahmedabad. 8. Rajnagar Mills No. 2, Ahmedabad. 9. Viramgaon Textile Mills, Viramgaon. 10. New Maneckowk Textile Mills, Ahmedabad. 11. Himadri Textile Mills, Ahmedabad. 12. Fine Knitting Mills, Ahmedabad

*Name of the State/
Union Territory*

Name of the Mills

*N.T.C. (MP) LTD.,
Madhya Pradesh*

1. Indore Malwa Mills, Indore.
2. Kalyanmal Mills, Indore.
3. Swadeshi C & F Mills, Indore.
4. Hira Mill, Ujjain.
5. Burhanpur Tapti Mills, Burhanpur.
6. Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, Rajnandgaon
7. New Bhopal Textile Mills, Bhopal.

STATEMENT II

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Mills</i>	<i>Net profit (Prov.) (Rs. in crores)</i>
1	2	3
1.	Suraj Textile Mills, Malout	0.31
2.	Bijai Nagar Cotton Mills, Bijainagar	0.26
3.	Kharar Textile Mills, Kharar	0.74
4.	Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur	0.38
5.	Mahalaxmi Mills, Beawar	0.25
6.	Edward Mills, Beawar	0.08
7.	Barshi Textile Mills, Barshi	0.80
8.	Nataraj Spg. Mills, Adilabad	0.33
9.	Tirupathi Cotton Mills, Renigunta	0.35
10.	Sree Yellamma Cotton Mills, Devengere	0.16
11.	Cannanore Spg. & Wg. Mills, Cannanore	0.86
12.	Kerala Laxmi Mills, Trichur	1.44
13.	Vijay Mohini Mills, Trivandrum	1.08
14.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Mahe	0.76
15.	Adoni Cotton Mills, Adoni	0.12
16.	Alagappa Textile Mills, Alagappanagar	0.91
17.	Om Parasakthi Mills, Coimbatore	0.04
18.	Combotia Mills, Coimbatore	0.94

1	2	3
19.	Krishnaveni Textile Mills, Coimbatore	0.60
20.	Sri Rangavilas Mills, Peelamedu	1.03
21.	Pankaja Mills, Coimbatore	1.30
22.	Poineer Spinners, Kamudakudi	0.49
23.	Balramvarma Textile Mills, Shencottah	0.79
24.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit, Kalyanarkoil	1.89
25.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills, Coimbatore	1.47
26.	Somasundaram Mills, Coimbatore	0.63
27.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' Unit, Coimbatore	0.07
28.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Coimbatore	0.93
29.	Sri Sarada Mills, Podanur	0.90
30.	New City Mills	0.38
31.	Podar Mills	1.56
32.	Podar Processors	0.24

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Mills</i>	<i>Net loss (Provl.) (Rs. in crores)</i>
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1	2	3
1.	Dayalbagh Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Amritsar	—0.04
2.	Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi	—2.74
3.	Panipat Woollen Mills, Kharar	—2.71
4.	Hira Mills, Ujjain	—4.25
5.	Swadeshi Cotton & Flour Mills, Indore	—3.51
6.	New Bhopal Textile Mills, Bhopal	—1.22
7.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills, Burhanpur	—0.62
8.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, Rajnandgaon	—2.23
9.	Indore Malwa United Mills, Indore	—4.82
10.	Kalyanmal Mills, Indore	—2.33
11.	Sri Vikram Cotton Mills, Lucknow	—1.81
12.	Bijili Cotton Mills, Hathras	—1.15
13.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Maunath, Bhanjan	—0.02
14.	Raebareli Textile Mills, Raebareli	—0.59
15.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	—1.14

1	2	3
16.	Muir Mills, Kanpur	-7.13
17.	New Victoria Mills, Kanpur	-7.67
18.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills, Saharanpur	-3.78
19.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	-9.44
20.	Apollo Textile Mills, Bombay	-0.79
21.	Bharat Textile Mills, Bombay	-0.18
22.	Digvijay Textile Mills, Bombay	-2.02
23.	Jupiter Textile Mills, Bombay	-3.13
24.	New Hind Textile Mills, Bombay	-3.41
25.	Mumbai Textile Mills, Mumbai	-3.38
26.	Aurangabad Textile Mills, Aurangabad	-0.82
27.	Chalisgaon Textile Mills, Chalisgaon	-0.21
28.	Dhule Textile Mills, Dhule	-0.70
29.	Nanded Textile Mills, Nanded	-2.53
30.	India United Mills No. 1, Bombay	-2.31
31.	India United Mills, No. 2, Bombay	-2.08
32.	India United Mills, No. 3, Bombay	} -2.53
33.	India United Mills, No. 4, Bombay	
34.	India United Mills, No. 5, Bombay	-1.25
35.	India United Dye Works, Bombay	-1.22
36.	Model Mills, Nagpur	-3.46
37.	R.S.R.O. Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Akola	-0.79
38.	RBBA Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Akola	-0.30
39.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills, Akola	-0.85
40.	Vidarbha Mills, (Barar) Achalpur	-0.60
41.	Rajkot Textile Mills, Rajkot	-1.37
42.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills, Bhavnagar	-2.11
43.	Petlad Textile Mills, Petlad	-2.38
44.	Ahmd New Textile Mills, Ahmedabad	-2.73
45.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Text. Mills, Ahmedabad	-3.41
46.	Jehangir Tex. Mills, Ahmedabad	-2.22
47. & 48.	Rajnagar Text. Mills 1 & 2 Ahmedabad	-2.90
49.	Viramgam Text. Mills, Viramgam	-2.17

1	2	3
50.	New Maneckchock Text. Mills, Ahmedabad	-1 43
51.	Himadri Tex. Mills, Ahmedabad	-1.19
52.	Fine Knitting Mills, Ahmedabad (Not restarted)
53.	Mehta Spg. Mills, Secundrabad	-0.25
54.	Anantpur Cotton Mills, Tadapatri	-0.23
55.	Mysore Mills Processing Factory, Bangalore	-3.00
56.	Minerva Mills, Bangalore	-2.96
57.	Mehboob Shahi Kulburga Mills, Gulburga	-2.58
58.	Parvathi Mills, Qilon	-1.32
59.	Azam Zahi Mills, Warangal	-2.72
60.	Sri Bharathi Mills, Pondicherry	-0.06
61.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Pondicherry	-0.79
62.	Sri Kothandram Spg. Mills, Madurai (Not re-started)
63.	Bengal Textile Mills, Murshidabad	-1.13
64.	Luxmi Narayan Cotton Mills, Rishra	-1.74
65.	Arati Cotton Mills, Howrah	-1.11
66.	Bengal Fine Spg. & Wvg. Mills No. Kotaganj	-0.79
67.	Kanoria Industries, Kannanagar	-0.82
68.	Sodepore Cotton Mills, Sodepore	-0.98
69.	Associated Industries, Kamrup	-1.13
70.	Bihar Co-operative Mills, Makamah	-1.15
71.	Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagetpur	-0.67
72.	Central Cotton Mills, Hawrah	-4.62
73.	Bengal Fine No. 1, Konnagar	-1.66
74.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills, Serampore	-3.30
75.	Sh. Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills, Palta	-3.06
76.	Rampooria Cotton Mills, Serampore	-3.26
77.	Bangasri Cotton Mills, Sukehar	-1.65
78.	Jyoti Wvg. Factory, Calcutta	-1.30
79.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills, Gaya	-1.70
80.	Manindra Mills, Cossimbazar	-1.21
81.	Elphistone Mills	-3.14
82.	Finlay Mills	-1.60
83.	Gold Mohur	-1.39

1	2	3
84.	Jam Mills	-4.56
85.	Kohinoor Mills, No. 1	} -7.62
86.	Kohinoor Mills, No. 2	
87.	Kohinoor Mills No. 3	
88.	Madusudhan Mills	-4.89
89.	Sitarom Mills	-4.44
90.	Tata Mills	-5.69
91.	Lakshmi Rattan Cotton Mills, Kanpur	-13.41
92.	Atherton Mills, Kanpur	-11.91

Private Sector Banks in Maharashtra

28. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of private sector banks presently working in Maharashtra particularly in Manmad, Parbhani, Aurangabad and Nanded districts; and

(b) the number of private sector banks which have applied for licence to open more branches in the above districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as on 31-3-1991 there were 454 branches of scheduled private sector banks and 14 branches of non-scheduled private sector banks operating in Maharashtra.

The number of branches of such banks in Parbhani, Aurangabad and Nanded districts are 2, 4, and 6 respectively. There is no branch of

private sector bank operating at Manmad.

(b) Two private sector banks have applied for opening of additional branches in the districts of Parbhani, Aurangabad and Nanded.

Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra

29. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks opened during 1990-91 and how many of them have been opened in Adivasi areas; and

(b) the number of branches of public sector banks proposed to be opened in Maharashtra during the year 1991-92, district-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 31 branches of commercial banks were opened during the period from 1-4-90 to 31-3-91. Of these, 5 branches were opened in hilly districts/blocks as under:—

<i>Name of Centre</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Date of opening</i>
1. Rumbhodi	Akola	3-9-90
2. Ambavade	Bhor	18-6-90
3. Vinzar	Velhe (Mahar)	30-6-90
4. Balewadi	Haveli	3-10-90
5. Atwan	Maval	26-9-90

(b) Under the New Branch Licensing Policy, opening of branches of Public Sector Banks is a continuous process. As such, it is not possible to indicate the number of branches of Public Sector Banks to be opened during 1991-92 in Maharashtra. However, 54 licences are pending with commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks as on 8-7-91. Of these, the validity period of 33 licences issued for Rural/Semi-Urban centres under the Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90/Service Area Approach for rural lending, has been extended upto 31st March, 1992.

89
Support Price for Rubber

30. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the support price fixed for rubber in view of the increased cost of cultivation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Bench Mark price of RMA IV grade of natural rubber was last revised and fixed at Rs. 21,450 per Tonne with effect from 15th January, 1991 after taking into account the increased cost of cultivation. As such there is no immediate proposal to revise the Bench Mark Price for natural rubber.

89-90
Development of Inland Waterways in Kerala

31. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on the development of inland waterways in Kerala under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) whether the funds allocated have been completely spent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Central Government meets 50 percent of the Centrally Sponsored IWT Schemes as loan assistance. Presently, two schemes namely, improvement of Udyogmandal Canal costing Rs. 189.80 lakhs and improvement of Champakara Canal costing Rs. 155.25 lakhs are being executed by the Government of Kerala as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The entire Central share of Rs. 172.525 lakhs in respect of these two schemes has been reimbursed to the Government of Kerala.

Agriulture 90
Import of Coconut Oil

32. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import coconut oil during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) At present there is no proposal to import coconut oil during 1991-92.

(b) Does not arise.

Arms & Ammunition 90
Introduction of New Rifle for Army

33. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any new rifle for the Army; and

(b) if so, the merits of the new rifle?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A new 5.56 mm Rifle which is shorter in length, lighter in weight and has a higher fire power is proposed to be inducted into the Army.

Company 91
Offer of Gifts by Cold Drink Manufacturing Companies

34. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cold drink manufacturing companies have announced various gifts numbering over thousands including a Maruti Car;

(b) whether such offers are in violation of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act; and

(c) if, so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Director General (Investigation and Registration) has received some complaints against the scheme of gifts launched by a cold drink manufacturing company. The Director General (Investigation & Registration) has found the scheme to be prima-facie in violation of the MRTP Act, 1969 and is taking steps to file an application before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, which is a quasi-Judicial body and is empowered to take necessary action under the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969. *91-93*

Delhi
DTC BUSES

35. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses running in Delhi for transporting commuters;

(b) the number of private buses under the DTC and the number of those on contract;

(c) the number of buses under (a) and (b) above which are run as special/Limited stop services charging Rs. 2/-;

(d) whether a large number of buses are being converted into Limited stop/special service buses charging Rs. 2/-;

(e) if so, the number of buses so converted during the last six months; and

(f) the steps being taken to increase the number of passenger buses to meet the ever increasing needs of the travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As on 5-7-1991, DTC was having a fleet of 4403 buses for transporting commuters in Delhi.

(b) As on 5-7-1991, there were 630 private buses operating under DTC. Delhi Administration have informed that 6657 number of buses were on contract as on 8-7-1991.

(c) 190 DTC buses and 23 private buses under DTC are run as Special/Limited Stop Services.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. During the last six months, only 15 ordinary trips were converted into Limited Stop services.

(f) There is a provision of Rs. 53 crores for the year 1991-92 for acquisition of 865 buses on 'Replacement account' and the development of related infrastructure. In addition, 54 P.O. buses were also inducted during the current financial year to meet the ever increasing needs of travelling public.

The other steps being taken by DTC to provide adequate and efficient bus services to the public include augmentation of services after carrying out surveys, route rationalisation, deployment of Assistant Engineers to ensure better services, supervision of

out-shedding position by Depot Manager during morning and evening hours, effective monitoring to correct imbalance and ensuring provision of spares to remove shortage, if any.

A proposal for introduction of Luxury buses in Delhi is being implemented by Delhi Administration on experimental basis.

Rice + 93
Construction of Bridge on River Muniyeru in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

36. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the spans of the bridge on river Muniyeru at Kusara in Krishna District Andhra Pradesh collapsed some years back causing serious inconvenience and additional expenditure for truck operators on National Highway No. 9;

(b) the latest estimated cost of the new bridge being constructed by the U.P. Bridge Construction Corporation; and

(c) the date by which construction of the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 499.14 lakhs.

(c) Bridge including its approaches is likely to be completed by August, 1992.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

37. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position regarding the foreign exchange reserves; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Foreign Exchange Reserves (excluding gold and SDR) as on 5th July, 1991 were Rs. 2651 crores.

(b) To improve the reserves level position the Government proposes to:

(i) Continue, in the short run, the import compression measures, accelerate the utilisation of already committed external aid and explore additional financing facilities including the use of IMF facilities.

(ii) In the medium term, it is proposed to reduce the trade gap through more vigorous export promotion measures, augmentation of net invisible receipts through increased receipts from services including tourism receipts, and increased capital flows consistent with financial prudence and their productive use. Measures to attract foreign direct investment as well as encouragement for larger capital inflows from non-resident Indians are also proposed to be taken consistent with our overall economic policies.

Withdrawal of Crop Loans to Farmers

38. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any directions to the nationalised banks not to give crop loans to the farmers upto September, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its likely effect on agricultural production in the current kharif season; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve

Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have reported that they have not issued any direction to banks including Regional Rural Banks and Cooperatives not to give crop loans to the farmers upto September, 1991. On the contrary, they have issued instructions to provide credit support to farmers for carrying out their agricultural operations.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise. *95 - 1*

Wk **Fare Structure of DTC**

39. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:**
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the fare structure of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) services in the capital;

(b) if so, the justification thereof;

(c) the amount of losses incurred by the DTC during the past three years and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed by the Government to improve the working of the DTC to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Government have not taken any decision to revise the fare structure of the Delhi Transport Corporation.

(c) The net loss incurred by DTC during the last three years is indicated below:—

Year	Net loss (including depreciation and interest) (Rs. in lakhs)
1988-89	9899.32
1989-90	11984.56
1990-91	19748.35
(Provisional)	

The reasons for the losses are—

- (1) Uneconomic fare structure of DTC.
- (2) Rising costs of labour and material inputs.
- (3) Concessions given to students and weaker sections of the society through concessional passes.
- (4) Heavy interest burden on the loans advanced etc.

(d) Government are continually monitoring the performance of DTC with a view to increase its productivity and to reduce the cost of operations. enforce economy measures, prevent leakages with a view to increase revenue collection and reduce working losses. Rationalisation of routes is another measure which is undertaken by DTC for improving its performance. *96 - 9*

SBI's Schemes for Farmers in Maharashtra

40. **SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has launched any schemes for the benefit of farmers in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits given to the farmers during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The farmers all over the country, including Maharashtra, are provided loans by State Bank of India and other Public Sector Banks for the agricultural and allied activities undertaken by them on their own or through any scheme framed by Government in this regard. The financing of such activities by the credit institutions is a part of their normal lending operations on a continued basis.

A number of steps have been taken with a view to increase flow of credit

to farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers. The important ones are:

1. The interest on crop loans up to Rs. 7,500 is kept low at 10% p.a.
2. The interest rate for any investment credit availed of by small and marginal farmers upto Rs. 7,500 is 10% p.a. only.
3. In the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers the interest debited is not to exceed the principal amount.
4. In the case of crop failure, amount due should be rescheduled over a period of 3 to 5 years and fresh loans be given to farmers.
5. No third party guarantee of collateral security is to be insisted upon for loans upto Rs. 10,000.
6. There should be no compounding of interest on current dues in agriculture sector.
7. Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

So far as agriculture advances given by scheduled commercial banks in Maharashtra are concerned, the position of outstanding advances for the last three years as at the end of December 1986, 1987 & 1988 (latest available) is as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of accounts (in crores)</i>	<i>Balance outstanding (in crores)</i>
1986	122	1013
1987	135	1163
1988	144	1389

SBI's Credit Deposit Ratio in Maharashtra

42. **SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present credit-deposit-ratio of the State Bank of India in Maharashtra;

(b) the amount of overdues of the advances made by the State Bank of India to the industrial units in the above State, during the last three years; and

(c) the number of units financed in the above State which are sick and the amount of locked up capital therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The credit Deposit Ratio of State Bank of India and its Associates in Maharashtra as on the last Friday of December 1990 (latest available) was 86.74%.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Multi-purpose Cargo Berth and Mechanised Coal Berth at Paradip Port

43. **SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHARY:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of a multi-purpose cargo berth and mechanised coal berth at Paradip Port has been finalised;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on these berths will start; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Proposals for construction of a multi-purpose cargo berth

and mechanised coal berth at Paradip Port are under consideration.

(b) The work will start as soon as these projects are sanctioned by Government.

(c) Paradip port has estimated cost of multi-purpose berth at Paradip Port as Rs. 24.50 crores and that of mechanised coal berth as Rs. 501.28 crores.

[Translation]

99-106

Defence C.S.D. Canteens

44. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRA-SAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are separate C.S.D. canteens for officers and Jawans in Defence Forces;

(b) whether all types of goods are sold in these canteens;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the sale record of both types of canteens during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of the type of goods sold by the canteens are given in the statement given below.

(d) CSD is a government department responsible for the bulk purchase of consumer goods and their sale to the Unit Run Canteens (URCs). The CSD does not run canteens or sell commodities in retail to officers or jawans. The URCs are private canteens set up and managed by various Units/Formations. The URCs sell the goods to the troops and other entitled personnel of Defence Organisations. The sale of goods by the CSD to the URCs for 1990-91 was of the order of Rs. 750 crores approximately.

STATEMENT

I. TOILET REQUISITES

<i>Section</i>	<i>Items</i>
01	Shaving Requisites (Razor Blades, Razor sets, Shaving Cream, Shaving Soaps, After Shave Lotion).
02	Brushes (Shaving Brushes, Tooth Brushes, Hair Brushes, Boot Brushes).
03	Creams (Face Creams, Brilliantine, Hair Cream, Hair Tonic).
04	Dentifrices (Tooth paste, Tooth Powder, Tooth Pick).
07	Cosmetics (Lipsticks, Nail Polish, Nail Polish remover, Nail cutter, Hair remover, Kum Kum, Make up requisites, Eau-de-cologne, Chop sticks).
08	(Perfumes, Room freshner, Hair spray).
09	Toiletries (Toilet Soaps, Household Soaps, Face Powders, Talcum/Toilet powders, Shampoo, Hair oil, Hair fixer, Hair Dye, Sanitary Towel, Toilet paper, Tissue paper, Starch Whitening).

II. HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES

<i>Section</i>	<i>Items</i>
13	Candles, Agarbathi, Dhoop.
14	Cookers & Accessories (Pressure Cooker, Milk Cooker, Idli Cooker, Gadget Gaskets for Pressure Cooker, Safety device, Insulatedware, Vacuum flask, Refills for flask Vacuum).

<i>Section</i>	<i>Items</i>
16	Crockery Decorative/Plain.
17	Glassware (Tumbler, Carafe, Ovenwares).
18	Kitchenware (Enamelware, Gas tandoor, Casserole, Serving dish, Tawa/Griddle, Skillet, Saucepan, Sauce Pot, Stove Gas, Gas Lighter, Cigarette Lighter, Kadai, Philco Kitchenware, Frying pan, Service Tray, Kitchen Mate, Cook-N-Serveware, Kitchen Knives, Opener).
21	Electric Goods (Ceiling fans, Table fans, Exhaust fan, Pedestal fans, Car fans, Grinder & Liquidizer set, Optional Attachment for Grinder Mixer, Iron Electric, Kettle, Electric, Instant curd making, Oven, Ice Cream maker, Hair Dryer, Immersion Heater, Storage Water Heater, Toaster, Sandwich Toaster, Electric Stove, Extension cord set, Heat converter, Hot case, Table lamp, Geyser).
22	Electronic Goods (Radio, Transister, Television, Accessories, Cassette Recorder, Radio Cassette Recorder, Casette Tape, Cassette Head cleaner, Music Equipments, Battery charger).
23	Time Devices (Alarm clock, Wall clock).
24	Torch case & Torch cells.
25	Sewing Machines (Sewing Machine hand, Sewing Machine foot, Scissors, and Knitting Machine).
26	Cutlery/Utensil (Stainless steel ware).
27	Other Household Requisites (Air purifier, Camera, case for Camera, film cleaning powder, Cleaner, Disinfectant, Feeding Bottle, Insecticide, Incandiscent Lamp, Spares for lamps, Mantle, Oil Lubricant, Oil stoves Pressure, Stove Burner, Mirror, Typewriter, Water filter, Hanger, Sprayer).
28	Polish (Boot shoe polish, floor furniture polish. Metal Polish. Blanchoes).

III. GENERAL USE ITEMS INDEX NOS : 031001E

<i>Section</i>	<i>Items</i>
31	Cycles & Accessories (Bicycles, Tyres, Tube).
34	Plasticware (Buckets, Drum, Bread Box, Ice Box, Ice Tray, Ice Bucket, Ice Kool Plated, Lunch Box, Embroidery Box, Soap Boxes, Soap dish, keep fresh canister, keep fresh bowl, keep fresh clear jar, Basin, Bobby bin container, Nut Shell, Handi Pack, store fresh container, Jug, Trillow Jug, Glass, Trinity, Mug, Tub, Table Mat, Water Bottles, fridge Bottles School Bag, flour sieves, Kool pack, Bathroom set, Dust pan, Cutlery Drainer, cruet set, Insulated Tiffin carrier, Kool Barrel, Kool Keg, counter Picnic Master Basket, Tongue cleaner, Stackable unit crate, Rope, Satranj, Pickle set Kitchen set, Tray, Comb, Toilet set, Leo Toys).

<i>eSection</i>	<i>Items</i>
37	Luggage items (Suit cases, Brief cases, Vanity cases, Holdalls, Travel Bags, Shoulder Bags, School Bag).
40	Bedsheets (Bedsheets with pillow covers, Bed spreads, Bed covers Pillow, cover, Towels).
41	Undergarments (Cotton Vest, Bras, Briefs, Drawers, Panties, short pants)
42	Socks (Nylon socks, Gents/ladies, Children Nylon socks, laces).
43	Clothes (Uniform cloth, Blanket, Shawls, carpets, Threads).
44	Readymade Garments (T-Shirts, Lungi, Sports Shorts, Sport shirts, Handkerchiefs, Napkins, Dusters, Paching cloth, Mosquito Net, Carpet, Wind Cheater, Ladies Minislips, Children's Minislips, Ladies Tops, Trousers, Jeans, Shirts, Ties)
48	Footwears (Canvas shoes, Leather Shoes, Sports shoes, Chappals).
50	Miscellaneous (Umbrellas, Rain Coats, Decorative lamp, Sunglassor, Padlocks, Playing cards, Weighing Machine, Leather Belts, Air Rifles, Shot Gun, Cartridge, 'U' foam Mattress, Cassette Bank).
53	Medicines (Cough & Cold Remedies, Tonic Vitamins Loniments, Band aids, Gripe water, Fruit Salts, Antiseptic creams other Medicinal items).

IV. WATCHES, TWO WHEELERS, REFRIGERATORS & IMPORTED SPORT GOODS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Items</i>
61	Wrist Watches (Mechanical/Automatic & Quartz).
63	Motorized Vehicles & Accessories (Scooters, Motor Cycles, Mopeds).
67	Refrigerators/Coolers & Accessories
72	Imported sport goods (Golf sets, spare club slazenger (Ambassador) Spare Club Export Spare Golf Club par Pace (Jap) Fishing Tackles, Tennis/Squash Balls, Golf ball, Soda Syphons. Mountaineering Boots, Tracking Boots, Sleeping Bags, Nylon Tent, Stopwatches, Pistol, Javeine).

V. LIQUOR & SMOKERS REQUISITES

<i>Section</i>	<i>Items</i>
78	Rum & Matured Rum.
79	Other IMFL (Beer, Brandy, Gin, Liquor, Vodka, Whisky, Wine).
82	Tobaccos, Bidies, Matches, (Cigarettes, Bidies, Safety Matches).

VI. FOOD & STATIONERY ITEMS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Items</i>
85	Beverages (Beverage, Biscuits, Energy food, Confectionery, Supari, Juice, Squashes, Crush, Instant Drink, Syrup, Cornflakes, Sago Pearl, Coffee, Tea, Pickles, Chutney, Sauce, Papads, Condiments, Vinegar, Cornflour, Custard Powder, Baking Powder, Condensed Milk, Spices, Cardamom).

Section	Items
87	Patent Food (Patent food, Fruits Jams, Jelly, Marmalade, Honey, Fish, Meat, Canned Vegetables, Soup, Vegetable Granules & Chunks).
89	Stationery and Miscellaneous (Register, Exercise Book, Writing Pad, Foot Ruler, Ink Fountain Pen, Ball Pen, Pencils, Fountain Pen, Eraser, Slip Pads, Mathematical Instruments, Album (Photo), Typing Paper, Duplicating Paper, Foolscape Paper).

105

Language used in Delhi High Court

45. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the languages officially used in the Delhi High Court.

(b) the details of the official work done in those languages during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Work of the Delhi High Court is authorised and undertaken in English.

Textile 105-106

NTC Showroom in Bihar

46. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Textile Corporation showrooms in Bihar;

(b) whether it is proposed to increase their number during the current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

(SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) National Textile Corporation has 26 showrooms in Bihar.

(b) and (c) No new showrooms are proposed to be opened in the State during the current year on account of viability considerations.

[English]

Corruption
Defence

Investigation into Bofors Gun Deal

47. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of investigations into the Bofors case;

(b) whether the Government are considering a proposal to drop the Bofors case; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The investigations are being actively pursued by the C.B.I.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

106-08

External Loans

48. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of outstanding liability of the Union Government on external loans (country-wise and institution-wise) as on 31 March, 1991;

(b) the estimated amount payable during 1991-92 towards principal and interest, respectively;

(c) the impact of payments on foreign exchange reserves; and

(d) the immediate requirement of assistance from institutions like the International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.) to tide over the current situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):
(a) Information is given in the statement given below.

(b) The amount of Repayment of Principal and Payment of Interest on Government Account during 1991-92 is estimated to be Rs. 2605.08 crores and Rs. 2001.59 crores respectively.

(c) The foreign exchange reserve level reflects the overall balance of payments position. Changes in the reserve level are the result of a large number of inflows and outflows including those of repayment of loans and payment of interest. The impact of payments alone, therefore, on foreign exchange reserves cannot be estimated separately.

(d) A viable balance will have to be maintained between the availability of assistance from institutions, like IMF as also other sources and the requirements of foreign exchange both for discharge of contractual obligations and maintaining the tempo of development over short-term as well as medium term. Immediate requirement of assistance will have to be considered from time to time depending on the dynamics of the situation.

STATEMENT

Country-wise/Institution-wise External debt Outstanding on Government account as on 31 March, 1991

S. No.	Country/Institution	Amount in Rs. in Crores (Prov.)
1.	A.D.B.	420.44
2.	Abu Dhabi	11.78
3.	Austria	105.13
4.	Belgium	202.51
5.	Canada	1101.25
6.	Czechoslovakia	52.35
7.	Denmark	298.44
8.	E.E.C (SAC)	100.79
9.	F.R.G.	5871.28
10.	France	2229.51
11.	I.S.O.	11.03
12.	I.B.R.D.	12033.01
13.	I.D.A.	25457.27
14.	I.F.A.D.	302.94
15.	Iran	397.65
16.	Italy	406.16
17.	Japan	6440.80
18.	Kuwait Fund	344.92
19.	Netherlands	1975.72
20.	O.P.E.C.	188.36
21.	Poland	0.02
22.	Saudi Fund	153.02
23.	Spain	81.75
24.	Sweden	281.39
25.	Switzerland	20.40
26.	U.K.	475.90
27.	U.S.A.	4839.48
28.	U.S.S.R.	2204.34
29.	U.A.E.	36.07
	Total	66043.72

foreign trade 199-10
Imports and Exports

49. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of imports has always exceeded the value of exports during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost exports to improve the balance of payments position; and

(d) the areas or countries targetted and items identified for boosting exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Higher levels of import have been effected to meet the requirement of essential commodities for domestic consumption and for export production, to maintain higher levels of investment and production and to ensure modernisation and technological upgradation of Indian industry.

(c) The Government have recently introduced far reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing bureaucratic control through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings.

(d) In view of the current balance of payments position, special thrust is being given for increasing export earnings from countries in General Currency Area. While continuing the emphasis on exports to Europe and America, efforts are made to pene-

trate more in the markets of Asia, and Africa. In so far as items are concerned, fifteen (15) broad sectors have been identified for making special thrust in all our markets abroad. These are: (1) Tea, especially in package and value-added forms; (2) Cereals, in particular wheat; (3) Processed foods, including fruits and juices, meat and meat products and fresh fruits & vegetables; (4) Marine products, especially in value-added forms; (5) Iron ore; (6) Leather and leather manufactures; with an emphasis on the latter; (7) Handicrafts and jewellery; (8) Capital goods and consumer durables; (9) Electronic goods and computer software; (10) Basic chemicals; (11) Fabrics; piece-goods and made-ups; (12) Ready-made garments; (13) Woollen fabrics and knitwear; (14) Projects and services; and (15) Granite.

Trade Relations

50. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the types of trade relationships existing between India and foreign countries like the U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Belgium, Japan and Germany;

(b) whether there is scope for further expansion of trade with these countries;

(c) if so, the steps taken to promote such expansion; and

(d) the main items of imports for which India continues to be dependent on these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A statement is given below

STATEMENT

Name of the country	The type of Trade relationship	Whether scope for further expansion of Trade and the steps taken to promote such expansion	The main items of imports for which India continues to be dependent
1 U.K., Belgium, Germany, Japan and United States	2 All these countries are members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and trade with these countries is carried out within the frame-work of GATT rules. Trade is conducted in free foreign exchange.	3 There is good scope for expansion of trade with these countries. The steps taken to promote and expand trade include regular inter-action at Official International Trade Fair, Exhibitions, sponsoring of Trade Delegations, Holding of Buyer Seller Meets, Market surveys etc. At bilateral and multilateral negotiations, these countries are being constantly requested to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers on products of export interest to India such as Textiles and clothing.	4 U.K.: Pearls, Precious, Semi-precious stones. Machinery except Electric Machine Tool. Project Goods Metaliferous ores and Metal scrap. Iron & Steel. Electrical Machinery . Professional Instrument Optical goods etc. Organic Chemicals Transport Equipment. Non-Ferrous metals.
			<p>Belgium: Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones. Metaferous Ores and Metal scrap. Iron and Steel Machinery except Electric and Machine tool. Synthetic and Reclaimed Rubber. Artificial Resins material etc. Project goods Professional Instrument Optical goods etc. Non-Ferrous Meals</p> <p>Germany: Machinery except Electric and Machine tools. Project Goods, Iron and Steel Organic Chemicals.</p>

Electric machinery, Professional Instrument, Optical goods etc., Fertilizers Manufactured, Machine tools, Metalliferous ores and metal scraps, Manufactures of Metals.

Japan: Machinery, Iron & Steel Textile Yarn, Organic Chemicals, Artificial Resins, Plastic Materials etc.

United States: Pulp and Waste Paper, Metalliferous ores and Metal scrap, Fertilizers manufactured, Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Artificial Resins, Plastic material etc., Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones, Iron and Steel, Transport equipment, Project goods, Professional Instrument, Optical goods etc.

U.S.S.R.

Trade is carried on in non-convertible Indian Rupee on a balanced basis. Imports by India are paid in Rupee which are used by USSR to buy goods for export to Soviet Union.

-do-

Crude Oil and Oil Products, Ferrous and Non-ferrous metals, Chemical, newsprint and fertilizers, machinery.

Allocation to Kerala for Development and Maintenance of National Highways

51. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the central allocation to Kerala for the development and maintenance of National Highways during the current year;

(b) the progress made in the construction of Cochin-Madurai Highway; and

(c) the time by which this Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The central allocation to Kerala for the development and maintenance of National Highways during 1991-92 is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

(i) Development of National Highways (Original) works	1700.00
(ii) Maintenance of National Highways	393.23

(b) and (c) Cochin-Madurai road is a newly declared National Highway, the improvement of which is proposed to be taken up in a phased manner depending on priority and availability of funds. Condition Surveys have been undertaken which is essential before any development work can be considered. Some spot improvement estimates have been received from the State Govt. recently and are yet to be sanctioned as Demand for Grants is yet to be passed by Parliament. The improvement of various National Highways is a continuous process and developmental works are sanctioned, keeping in view the existing condition of the highway, traffic intensity, inter-se priority on an all India basis and funds available for the purpose.

DA instalment to Government Employees

52. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Consumer Price Index as on 31 December 1990 and 30 June 1991;

(b) whether an instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) has become due to the Government employees from 1 July, 1991; and

(c) if so, when it is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The All India Consumer Price Index (Base 1960=100) was 981 as on 31st December, 1990. The index for the period ending 30th June, 1991 is likely to be available next month.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the existing orders, the instalment of Dearness Allowance due from 1st July would become payable with the salary of September, 1991.

Border Violations by Pakistani Forces

53. SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of border violations made by the Pakistani Army and Air Force during the last three months;

(b) whether the Government have taken up this matter with Government of Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Barring one incident of airspace violation by one Pak aircraft on 24-5-91, there have been no other instances of border violations by the Pakistani Army or Air Force during the last three months.

(b) and (c) The violation of airspace was taken up with the Government of Pakistan to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

117 - 17
US Naming India for Violating US Intellectual Property Rights

54. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied the implications of the U.S. decision to name India as a priority foreign country violating US intellectual property rights;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the measures which the Government propose to take against the U.S. threat to impose trade on its own terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) On 26 April, 1991, the United States Trade Representative designated India as a Priority Foreign country under the Special 301 provision of the U.S. Omnibus Trade & Competitiveness Act of 1988, along with China and Thailand for allegedly denying adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights and having an adverse impact, actual or potential on US products.

Under the Special 301 provisions, if a country is identified as a Priority Foreign Country, the USTR must initiate an investigation of the policies and practices that were the basis of the identification within 30 days. The investigation must be concluded within six months, unless it is extended by a further three months. At the end of the investigation period, the USTR must decide whether the measures under investigation are actionable and if so, decide what response is appropriate, including possible retaliation.

Government of India has regretted the unilateral decision of the Government of United States when these issues are already being negotiated in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Retaliatory action under Special 301 is not mandatory. Further the U.S. Trade Representative has stated that imposition of trade sanctions is not inevitable or desirable.

12.00 hrs.

117 PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, I have nominated the following Members as the Members of the Panel of Chairmen:

1. Colonel Rao Ram Singh, Member of Parliament.
2. Shri Sharad Dighe, Member of Parliament.
3. Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah, Member of Parliament.
4. Shri Rasheed Masood, Member of Parliament.
5. Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya, Member of Parliament.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review on the Working of and Annual Reports of India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd., Calcutta etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the

India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1988-89.

(ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—16/91]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—17/91]

- (2) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—16-17/91]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Exports Development Authority for the year 1989-90 under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Marine Products Export Development Authority for the year 1989-90.

- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—18/91]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90.

- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—19/91]

121
Major Ports (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1991; Major Port Trusts (Procedure at Board Meetings) Amendment Rules, 1990; Annual Accounts of and Review on the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust for the year 1989-90 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Major Ports (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1991, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 250(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1991, under sub-section (2B) of section 6 of the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—20/91]

- (2) A copy of the Major Port Trusts (Procedure at Board Meetings) Amendment Rules, 1990 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 89(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1991, under sub-section (3) of section 122 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—21/91]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

- (a) (i) Annual Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon.
 (ii) Review by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust for the year 1989-90.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—22/91]

- (b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust for the year 1989-90.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—23/91]

- (c) (i) Annual Accounts of the Calcutta Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Calcutta Port Trust for the year 1989-90.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—24/91]

- (4) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—22 to 24/91]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Dock Labour Board for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Bombay Dock Labour Board for the year 1989-90.

- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—25/91]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board for the year 1989-90.

(8) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—26/91]

(9) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1990 (No. 6 of 1990)—Union Government (Commercial)—Delhi Transport Corporation under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—27/91]

Notifications issued under Section 41 of the Finance Act, 1979 regarding exemption from the payment of Foreign travel tax

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1979:—

(1) G.S.R. 1001(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Habib Bourares, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia and three members

of the delegation who visited India from 27th to 29th December, 1990, from the payment of foreign travel tax.

(2) G.S.R. 82(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Gerard Collins, T.D., the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland and six members of the delegation who visited India from 20th to 25th February, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.

(3) G.S.R. 87(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ebrahim Massoud, Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet, (a Special Envoy of the King Fahd of Saudi Arabia) and four members of the delegation who visited India from 24th to 25th February, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.

(4) G.S.R. 94(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Dr. Richard Von Weizsaecker, President of the Republic of Germany and thirty-nine members of the delegation who visited India from 28th February, 1991 to 6th March, 1991 from the payment of foreign travel tax.

(5) G.S.R. 95(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Hans Dietrich Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany and seventeen members of the delegation

- who visited India from the 28th February, 1991 to 2nd March, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (6) G.S.R. 149(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Dr. Abdul Rehman-Bin Ibrahim Al-Awadhi, Minister of State of Kuwait (a special envoy of the Emir of Kuwait) and four members of the delegation who visited India from 17th to 19th March, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (7) G.S.R. 183(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Nizar Hamdoon, Permanent Under Secretary and Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Iraq and one Aide of the delegation who visited India from 28th to 29th March, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (8) G.S.R. 198(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Shahryar Khan, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and four members of the delegation who visited India from 4th to 7th April, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (9) G.S.R. 199(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Lt. Gen. Shamim Alam Khan, Chief of General Staff, Pakistan and six members of the delegation who visited India from 31st March, 1991 to 4th April, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (10) G.S.R. 211(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Arpad Goncz, President of the Republic of Hungary, and twenty-seven members of the delegation who visited India from 10th to 15th April, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (11) G.S.R. 248(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Li Jong OK, Vice-President of the DPR of Korea and nine members of the Delegation who visited India from 7th to 11th May, 1991 from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (12) G.S.R. 249(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Shinvong Lho, Special Envoy of the President of Republic of South Korea and his wife who visited India from 30th April to 4th May, 1991, from the payment of foreign travel tax.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—28/91]

12.02 hrs.

126- ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir. I lay on the Table seventeen Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 12th March, 1991:—

- (1) The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 1991.

(2) The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1991.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(3) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1991.

[English]

(4) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 15th July, 1991, will consist of :

(5) The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1991.

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(6) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1991.

(2) Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

(7) The Finance Bill, 1991.

(3) General Discussion on the Railway Budget for 1991-92.

(8) The Punjab Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1991.

(4) Discussion & Voting on Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1991-92.

(9) The Punjab Appropriation Bill, 1991.

As members are aware, the Railway Budget for 1991-92 will be presented on 16th July, 1991 immediately after disposal of Questions.

(10) The Assam Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1991.

12.04 hrs.

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(11) The Assam Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1991.

[English]

(12) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1991.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, I beg to move:

(13) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1991.

"That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers."

(14) The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1991.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

(15) The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 1991.

"That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers."

(16) The Pondicherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1991.

(Interruptions)

(17) The Pondicherry Appropriation Bill, 1991.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, we have given notices. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. When I am standing, you should sit. Well, we were doing something before. We have not done it today. It is not as per the rules that you take it as your right and do it. Now, we have gone to the other items. Let us proceed with that. We will see about it later on, on the next day.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of an Adjournment Motion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wrote to you to-day before 10 O'clock giving notice of my intention of raising the issue of postponement of elections in Punjab. I would like to know as to when the elections would be held in Punjab and reasons why the elections were not held there. The people of the State are being killed. Please let us know the time by which elections would be held in the State? How the elections were postponed just 24 hours before these were scheduled to be held? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know as to why the elections in the State of Punjab were postponed just before 24 hours and why so many people were killed? Crores of rupees were spent for holding elections but the elections were not held, instead these have been postponed upto September. What were the reasons for postponement of the elections and what is the stand of the Government in this regard? This decision was taken even before the Government took the oath. The Government should explain why the elections in Punjab were postponed?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All these important matters, which the hon. Members want to discuss, can be discussed, will be discussed. Now, you can discuss

them in this hour or you can discuss them while discussing the Motion or you can discuss them while discussing the Address given by the President to the Members. Or, if you want, you can discuss them in any other fashion also. What actually happened immediately after the Question Hour was that I thought that you have nothing important to raise. So, we went to the other matter. Now that we have come to this, let us not go back. We will see to it later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): What about Zero Hour?

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. There is absolutely nothing mentioned about what you are saying in the Rules.

But then we are not dispensing with it. But as the things have gone today in this House, let us continue with what has reached. You can resort to your rights tomorrow or day-after-tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is in your knowledge that a decision was taken that those Members who gave in writing before 10 O'clock would be allowed to raise their points in the House. This was the practice which is being discontinued. I request you to allow the hon. Members who wants to raise important issues during the zero hour. I have given you in writing before 10 O'clock. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We will do that later on, not now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, why the elections are not being held in Delhi? ... All people are in difficulty. All the work has come to a stand still. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a personal matter. You are the custodian of this House. It is your responsibility to protect the lives and property of its members. On 21st May, the day when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, my house was set ablaze by the activists of the Congress Party ... *(Interruptions)*. My house No. 12 Janpath is adjacent to 10 Janpath. People barged into my house at 12 O' clock in the night and set it ablaze in the presence of the police, the D.C.P., who was the commandant of the C.R.P.F. Acid was thrown and the House was set on fire. The person who was caught had a revolver in his hand. He was apprehended. A sum of Rs. 18,000 was found on his person. It was a sheer coincidence that we were not present in the House at that time, otherwise my entire family would have been killed. Similarly, at the time of Shrimati Indira Gandhi's assassination we were living at No. 12, Rajendra Prasad Road. At that time also the same thing happened and my house was attacked. That is why I am telling you that you are the Speaker of the House and it is a great responsibility... *(Interruptions)* My friend Shri Anadi Charan Das is also an hon. Member of this House. His house was also set ablaze. Why only the houses of people belonging to the weaker sections are being set ablaze. The Hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Minister of Home Affairs are present here. I have given in writing to them in this regard, but I am sorry to inform you that I have not received any reply from them. Instead, the escort which was provided to me has since been withdrawn. I would like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister the steps that have been taken by the new Government in this regard. It is not the case of Ram Vilas Paswan alone. It could be the case of Shri Vilas Muttemwar and some day it can happen to some other hon. Member also.

[English]

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I would like to assure the hon. Member not only Paswanji but any other

Member who feels that his life or property has been attacked or is about to be attacked that Government will not spare any effort to give them full protection. And I am sure that the letter which he has sent me has been sent to the authorities. I will look after that matter. I will tell him what is being done and he need have no worry about it.

SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement regarding the next week's business. The Members should be permitted to make their submissions on the notices which they have given. After that the regular business about the Motion of Confidence should proceed. We should be permitted to make submissions as per the rules *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I am on a point of order. A few days back, I had received a paper along with my parliamentary papers sent by a few economists who are neither Members of Parliament nor the Members of the Council of Ministers on the economic situation of our country. I think, this is not correct. This was never done. The papers circulated to the Members of Parliament are either signed by the Members of Parliament or signed by the Ministers or the Government. How was this circulated? Who had authorised to circulate these papers? How was this done? We should know that. The House should know why this was done. There is an alternative approach to the paper which was circulated by the Government of West Bengal and by 35 economists. Those papers should also be circulated among the Members of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: We will look into it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Under whose orders were these papers circulated? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Is the Finance Minister authenticating the papers? He wanted to authenticate the papers probably; but why is he pulled down by other Ministers? Let the Finance Minister be allowed to speak. Let him say what had happened really. It was also raised in the other House and we should know the correct position. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let it be disposed of first.

MR. SPEAKER: I have disposed it of by saying that I will look into it. Probably you might not have heard it.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the Chief Minister of Bihar had given some statements a few days before and after elections that he won't allow any Congress candidate to win from there, and if at all he wins he won't allow him to take a certificate from the Returning Officer and if in any case he gets the certificate, he will make it impossible for him to reach Delhi. This is an extremely unfortunate situation. . . . (*Interruptions*) The Prime Minister just gave an assurance to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for his security, I would like to ask from the Prime Minister what measures he is going to take for our security so that we may feel secure and discharge our duties honestly.

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA (Andaman-Nicobar): I have sent a notice to you regarding volcanic eruptions in Andaman and Nicobar islands. There is a volcano in the barren island and this volcano has started erupting. Unfortunately no scientific study has been made and the administration has not issued any Press Note whatsoever. The people are panicky. Whatever we know is from the newspaper reports only. So I request the Government that they should come out with a statement so

that we know what is the actual position and what is the danger level in that tiny island of Andaman and Nicobar. We are very small Sir and that is why Andaman and Nicobar islands should not be neglected at the hands of the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we find that along with the programme and agenda papers issued to us there is an unsigned document with four names regarding the analysis of economic situation in India. It has created a panic in the economic circle. I have given a notice requesting you to allow us to have a discussion on this document in the House. If it is not for discussion and it is issued neither by you nor from the Government's side, then we should know who are these four persons,—what are their credentials—who have created an atmosphere of fear and terror in the economic sector. We want to know the authenticity of this unsigned cyclostyled sheet distributed amongst us. We would also like to have an opportunity to discuss the economic condition of this country.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of Order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order now.

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that there the document circulated to us bears four names. They are Shri P. N. Dhar, I.G. Patel, M. Narasimhan and R. N. Malhotra. There is a system for circulation of Parliamentary papers to every honourable Member. I would like to know as to how this document found a place with those parliamentary papers and how it was circulated. Who gave permission for its circulation. It must be inquired into.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhunduka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat is the state where Mahatma Gandhi was born. Prohibition is in force there. I had said in the Ninth Lok Sabha also that 30 people died in Rajkot after consuming spurious liquor. Now again, during elections, the Chief Minister released those who were running illicit liquor vends. As a result 50 human lives have again been lost. It all happened because of the action of the Chief Minister, who released people engaged in illicit liquor trade. Apart from the death of so many people because of spurious liquor, one can find many people in Ahmedabad and all over Gujarat who have been suffering from blindness due to consumption of spurious liquor. Therefore, with a view, to save the people from death and destruction because of spurious liquor, I urge the hon. Prime Minister to direct the State Government to enforce prohibition effectively and provide financial assistance to the next of kin of the deceased and those who have gone blind.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order at this time.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a circular has been issued under the signatures of a Deputy Secretary to Government of India recently, disclosing that there will be 50 per cent cut in the supply of coal. Sir, the entire textile industry in South-West region of the country which comprises of some parts of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh is facing closure. Some textile mills have already closed down in Gujarat and the rest of them are on the verge of closure because of shortage of coal. I would like to quote from the order issued on 29th May, 1991. It says—

[English]

“In a telex message No: 23022/15/91, dated May 29, 1991, the Deputy Secretary, Department of Coal ordered the Chairman & Managing Director, SECL, Bhilaspur to apply the cuts to other industries, if the minimum loading targets could not be achieved for the core sector. In a separate telex message No. 23022/15/91, CPD, dated May 31, 1991 to CIL, Calcutta, he ordered that no offer would be given for other consumers by rail unless the targets for the loco, steel, power and cement were achieved.”

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of this about 400 small-scale units of Ceramic Industry in Gujarat are on the verge of closure. The textile mills in Gujarat are also facing closure because they are not getting sufficient coal. More than 3 lakh workers would be rendered jobless because of short supply of coal. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in the matter so that there is no cut in the supply of coal to South West region of the country which may lead to closure of small scale industries rendering lakhs of workers jobless. In order that cement, fertilizer and export oriented industries do not have to face crisis, I request that adequate supply of coal may be made to the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Severe sea erosion is taking place in coastal Karnataka in areas like Hoode-Hangarkatta, Kapu, South Canara and North Canara Districts etc. Immediate steps should be taken by the Government to erect sea-wall. It endangers life and property; already severe loss has taken place due to this erosion and the same should be arrested immediately. So, I request the Government of India to take immediate steps to prevent large scale sea erosion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had also given notice for raising an issue and want to draw your attention and the attention of the House to an important matter. The Dala Cement Factory in Uttar Pradesh having assets worth Rs. 750 crores was sold off for a few crores of rupees. A lot of bungling and malpractices have taken place there. Unarmed workers who were pressing their demands before the General Manager in a normal way were fired upon and more than 200 unarmed workers were killed and the number of missing is not yet known. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important and a serious matter and there should be a discussion on it in the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hands and feet of innocent Congress workers have been chopped off in Howrah district of West Bengal. Will the Government punish those CPM workers who have indulged in this heinous crime? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. You want my ruling, but before I say anything you start speaking. My ruling is that we can discuss it at a proper time and that time will come.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, this is a very serious matter. The trade union has said that more than 29 persons have been killed. The Dala Cement Factory had been sold by the previous Government to Mr. Dalmia who is the supporter of the BJP. And now, the present UP Government is also protecting the case..... (*Interruptions*).....

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the action being taken by Government in the case of kidnapping of Execu-

tive Director of Indian Oil Corporation, Shri Doraiswamy, on 28 June, this year. Incidents of kidnappings are on the rise, whether be it in Kashmir or in Assam and due to the tactics of the extremists, all the staff of the Indian Oil Corporation and the Government servants are a demoralised lot. I would like to know the steps Government propose to take to ensure their safety. How his release will be secured and whether any negotiations have taken place? The Government should provide detailed information to the House in the matter. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, something very serious is happening in Assam. A Soviet citizen has been killed in our soil and in the meantime, a demand has been raised in Assam that Assam be delinked from India. Sir, we do have a suspicion that foreign imperialists are trying to conquer and divide it from our country, trying to dismember our country as also our relationship with Soviet Union. What is important is that the Government must immediately come out with a statement on what is happening in Assam. How long can this situation be tolerated in our land? I want an assurance from the Minister that we will not forfeit either delinking Assam from our country or delinking our friendship with the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister is here. We want an assurance from him on this point. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: May I ask the members to take their seats? Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member is speaking, you please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not stand in the gangway. Let that gentleman speak.

SHRI M. R. JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I have given a notice to you. The Government of Karnataka is not honouring the award of the Tribunal. This is a serious issue relating to food problem in Tamil Nadu. Through you we want to bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister. The Government of Karnataka should honour the award of the Tribunal. The Supreme Court has also asked the Government of Karnataka to honour the Tribunal's verdict. This is the will of the Tamil Nadu Government also. The Central Government should force the Government of Karnataka to honour the Tribunal's award.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I think many of the members have many important issues to raise here. It would be our endeavour to see that those issues are discussed. But we would seek your cooperation in not repeating the issues and not raising those issues which are less important. You may raise only those issues which are more important so that we can use the time for proper discussion. I am just pleading and I request you to cooperate.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): I want to raise just one point. The Government of Tamil Nadu addressed the Government of Karnataka.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This issue has already been raised and you need not raise it again. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Gowda.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This Prime Minister is on his legs. Please sit down.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The matter which is raised just now about which all the members of the House, all the sections of the House and in fact the whole nation is justifiably worried and that is about the kidnaps that have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir and also in Assam.....(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Assam?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Assam also. I have said it. Sir, I would like to submit to the House that the Government are very vigorously pursuing all steps and are making all possible efforts to get the release of Shri Doraiswamy on this side and the others on the other side. Right now, at this moment, I do not have anything definite to report. But I am getting the reports almost every hour and I am in constant touch with the situation there. The Governor and the Administration are very keenly pursuing the matter and whenever there is something to report to the House, I will do so at the earliest. Or the Home Minister will do so. I would like to assure the House that the matter is under constant watch and we shall see that the release takes place as early and as smoothly as possible—God willing so!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: But we are getting the information from the press and not from the Government. You have to inform us instead of the Press. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the release must be unconditional. Please do not toe the line of former Home Minister. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You have not said anything about the Soviet engineer who was killed.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: In Assam, unfortunately one Russian national who was an engineer, had been killed. This was done in violation of the time that had been laid for negotiations. It is not yet known to the Government how this was done. We are looking into the matter and I will certainly take the House into confidence when the truth comes out or becomes known to me.

SHRI. P. G. NARAYANAN: He has not answered on the Tamil Nadu issue (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am allowing Shri Gowda.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA (Mandya): Sir, we—Karnataka MPs—have also given a notice under rule 193. We know that this is an important matter to be discussed. So, I request the Chair to take up and include the subject in the agenda on Monday or Tuesday.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we cannot do like that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, may I again repeat my request? This is the first day on which we have discussed the questions and then we have gone to other regular matters on the agenda. Our efforts are to see that we all get enough time to discuss important issues. All issues are important. But some issues are more important and some issues are less important.

May I request that let us take up more important issues and less important issues we can put aside for some time? Now, by doing this, we are not doing any injustice. We are not against any issues. But we are facilitating ourselves to see that more important issues are discussed. That is why my request is that probably in good judgment we had decided not to discuss these issues as we used to do previously. But now it seems that you are very keen to do that. We have done that also and more than half an hour is consumed in that.

I think, we should now take up the Confidence Motion. What you do today, what you do tomorrow, what you do day after tomorrow, is going to be very helpful in doing things in future also. That means curtailing the time for discussions on subjects which are less important and having more time on other important subjects.

I think, by and large, you have been able to ventilate your views on important issues. That is why I would request that let us not take up more time than what we have already consumed on this.

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS—
Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now let us take up the issue of confidence motion on which also you can express your views. That is why I am requesting Mr. Advani. Probably he wants to speak on this topic. I think, the motion is moved and the hon. Prime Minister would reply to the motion. So, I request Mr. Advani to please speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Rules of Procedure are there and they should be observed. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is before this House. The motion is that House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, this motion is there. The views will be expressed and reply will be given, and what is necessary to be done, will be done later on.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the Hon. Prime Minister let us know as to why he is seeking vote of confidence in the council of Ministers?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was under the impression that this question will not come up at all and the motion will be passed. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Before starting the discussion, can we know when is the voting going to take place on this motion? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I can inform the hon. Members that it was decided in the leaders' meeting that we take up the discussions today.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss this issue here. An impression was that with no discussion or with very small discussion, the confidence motion will come up and will be disposed of over here. But then it was expressed by the Members and the leaders also that we may discuss it. Today is Friday—Private Members' day. So, the Private Members' business starts at 3.30. Very small time is available. It was decided that we will take it up on Monday also. So, we are taking up the discussion on Monday and voting also on Monday.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): Are we having lunch-hour also?

MR. SPEAKER: We will have lunch-hour.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You know that on Friday, many MPs go back to their constituencies and come back on Monday. So, we would like to know whether voting will be before lunch-hour or after the lunch-hour on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: I would say, before lunch-hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Voting? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would say before lunch-hour possibly.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, you please give the ruling regarding the procedural point which I have referred. Minister's Statement should be followed by Submissions. This is the convention. You please clarify it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA: (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have permitted some of the Members to raise issues for next week's business.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all over now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, what is your ruling?

MR. SPEAKER: You come to my Chamber, we will discuss it.

We need a little more time on that.

Yes, Advani ji.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, I remember that whenever the Motion of Confidence has been moved in the last 20-21 months, I suggested—as the Prime Minister himself has just now stated—that this motion could be decided upon by the House without any elaborate debate. It is only when there is a minority Government, that the President of the Union asks the Prime Minister to prove his majority on the floor of the House within a specified period. If it were a majority Government this kind of situation and the need for such a Vote of Confidence would not have arisen at all. Only if someone wanted to move a Vote of No Confidence would a division in the House have taken place. But on all earlier occasions and I found on this occasion

also, when I informally broached the subject, several of my opposition colleagues were of the view that there should be a discussion, there should be a debate. There is one difference between the earlier occasions and this occasion. On all earlier occasions the Prime Minister also had made out a case as to why this House should express confidence in his Government. Today, the new Prime Minister himself, even after the request made by my senior colleague has not thought that necessary.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have got the debate and I have taken the cue from him.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: As far as I recall both Shri V. P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar ji had made certain brief observations at the outset though the reply was elaborate towards the end. Well, I don't object to it. I am merely recalling something. If I am wrong, I stand corrected.

Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion of Confidence and I would give briefly my reasons why I am opposing it.

Firstly, let us remember that this is the fifth minority Government in Indian political history and the third in the last 20 months. The first minority Government came up in 1969 when the Congress Party split and Mrs. Gandhi's Government secured support from the Communist Party at that time and ran her Government for some brief while.

Second minority Government came in 1979 when Chowdhary Charan Singh ji who did not have a majority in the House was supported by the Congress Party from outside. He was unable to form a majority Government and that minority Government did not face the Parliament at all.

Third minority Government came as a result of the electoral verdict in 1989. And, as today this Government also is a minority Government born out

of an electoral verdict. In 1989 Shri V. P. Singh formed his minority Government. The Left Front as well as the B.J.P. supported the Government from outside.

Fourth minority Government came in 1990 and that had no relation to the peoples' verdict. It was in fact in violation of the peoples' mandate that that Government was formed.

The Congress Party decided that that would be in the interest of the country. So it supported the Chandra Shekhar Government which had a total strength of I suppose around 54 in a House of 545 where even a Quorum is of 55. We have seen that Government which was a miniscule Government rather than a minority Government. Now, this is the fifth minority Government but in many respects it is the oddest of all. Firstly, it is not just a minority Government but it is a minority Government in a truncated House. The elections are not complete as yet. Thirtysix vacancies are still there which means that one out of every sixteen seats in this House is still vacant. Two States are totally un-represented in this House. One is Jammu & Kashmir and the other is Punjab. The Punjab vacancies would not have been there had it not been for a last minute decision about which some discussions took place in the morning, during Question Hour and some discussions are bound to take place subsequently. Because it is a decision that baffled everyone, including the Governor of that State, who said: "I have been through three Wars, I have been a General in the Wars, but I have never felt as defeated as I feel today after this announcement by the Election Commission that the Elections have been postponed." Thus, two States, namely, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir are totally un-represented.

Then, there are a number of vacancies. five vacancies are there in Bihar, four vacancies are there in Uttar Pradesh and one vacancy each in Gujarat, in Delhi, in Maharashtra etc.

[Sh. Lal K. Advani]

If you were to closely examine these vacancies anyone would come to the conclusion that if today the difference between the ruling party and non-Congress parties is 242 versus 267 when these vacancies are to be filled, the shortfall would become even larger. This is evident. It seems that this too has influenced that in this matter even the decision to put off Punjab elections. If this is so, it is extremely unfortunate. This morning, the then Prime Minister, pointedly affirmed that Government was not consulted in respect of the postponement. It is presumed that the Government about to take over was consulted after all, the Election results were out. This morning the Minister was not willing to say that also. He said: "I have not said that we were not consulted. I have not said that we were consulted." I wish the truncated nature of this House is always kept in mind. This imposes a limitation on the legitimacy of the Government. Let us now come to the second oddity of this Government. I am not looking at the legalities, I know what the rules are. In fact ours is the only Constitution in which there is a provision like that of Article 75(5) which provides that even though a person is not a Member of the House, he can be a Minister for a period of six months. When this was debated in the Constituent Assembly, several Members had objected to it. What is this provision, why has this provision been made, they asked.

Today, the situation is that three senior Ministers of this Government—not only the Prime Minister, but even the Finance Minister, and the Defence Minister—are not Members of Parliament. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a shame.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: It is not a matter of shame. (*Interruptions*) I am merely pointing out an oddity. I am not referring to the fact that two other senior Ministers who are higher in the hierarchy are not Members of this House. I have served the Rajya Sabha: I had served the other House and I respect it. And

I know that on one occasion when the Finance Minister was chosen from that House, an objection had been raised in this House as to whether a person who could not even vote for the Finance Bill—I think a Money Bill has to be passed by the Lok Sabha—was introducing the Budget. This was raised at that time when the Finance Minister, first of all, was chosen from the Rajya Sabha. I know the technicalities. Earlier it had been generally a practice of choosing a person from this House. More important than all is the third oddity, and that oddity I wish the Government always bears in mind when taking any decision: Unfortunately in the last few days that have elapsed they have not seemed conscious of this. In the case of the earlier four minority Governments, the Parties which were running the Government were in a minority. But their support in the Lok Sabha, in the House was committed majority support: whether it was in the case of Mrs. Gandhi's Government in which the Communist Party had decided to support the Mrs. Gandhi's Government, they had committed majority support. In the case of Chaudhary Charan Singh's Party, when the Congress Party said that they were going to support his Party, the Lok Dal, it had committed majority support. Similarly, in the case of Shri V. P. Singh's Government, when the Left Front and the BJP said that they were going to support that Government, the NF Govt. had committed majority support. Similar was the case with regard to Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government. It is only in the case of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's Government that till today no one knows what is the majority on the basis of which this Government is going to face the House. Has it any committed majority support? Sometimes anxious queries are being made from our quarters, from their quarters, from this quarters as to what is going to happen today. And I have always replied that my Party has decided to vote against you. But I am sure that your Government is not going to fall. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: : This is also an oddity! (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I have been very closely watching everything that is being said by various parties in the last 15-20 days. And it is those statements which make me conclude that. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: This support is from back door. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyone knows that B.J.P. does everything openly. Even on the issue of the election of the hon. Speaker and the hon. Deputy Speaker, a suggestion was made that we should do it secretly, after all what is the need of making any announcement. But my party made it quite clear that we will do everything openly. (*Interruptions*)

If on some occasion we feel that we should support this Government we will do that openly. But today this is not the position. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Advaniji, is there no *quid pro quo* on Deputy-Speakership? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: That I have answered already.

Sir, this I think is the biggest weakness of this Government. However, it thinks that it can continue to survive because of two factors. They are banking entirely upon those two factors which, no doubt are valid today. Factor Number one is, this country has been put to two general elections in the last twenty months: no person in this country wants a third general election so soon. Some people, or some parties may be keen to avoid a general election only because they think the general election may favour

this party or that party. But I think that every party must take into cognizance the people's will and the people would not like a general election. But that does not mean that because the people do not like a general election, therefore, every party and particularly a party which has been chosen to be in the Opposition—there is an obligation on that party—has to support the Government in spite of what it does, irrespective of what it does. It is, therefore, that my party decided to oppose this Government and oppose this Confidence Motion. Not that we are moving a No-Confidence Motion. No. That point may come later on. But today there is no reason either why my party should express its confidence in this Government.

I am trying to explain why my party has taken this stand. Now I come to the second factor. The first factor, as I said, which Govt. is banking on is that the people do not want a third general election, so soon. But another factor that you seem to be depending on is the fact that in the last general election or perhaps during the last six or eight months there has been considerable tension between my party and other parties of the Opposition. So, you think that it is feasible to be playing one against the other. When it is convenient join hands with us, when it is convenient join hands with the others, and thus, to maintain your party's Government. I would like to caution you that if anyone in the ruling party has this in mind, that approach would prove very myopic, very short-sighted. It would not be a right approach at all.

On the other hand, the limitations imposed by these three oddities, can prove a boon for Indian politics. Inasmuch as for a Govt. conscious of these limitations consensus would not be just a cliché. Trying to hammer out a national consensus on a particular issue would not mean merely mastering a numerical majority, in the Lok Sabha.

There is a non-official resolution for the afternoon, I notice. And some

[Sh. Lal K. Advani]

persons may seem to think that if that Resolution is pushed through with the help of a majority it would be fine. I think that this would be very short-sighted, approach and can prove counter productive. I would like on this occasion to simply say that so far as a proper confidence vote is concerned, it should come only when the entire House is properly constituted. All those 36 vacancies or most of them have been filled. At least the principal States should be represented and, secondly, that there is a period of judging this Government as to how it has really performed. In the brief fortnight or three weeks that have passed, both on the political level as well as on the economic level the Government has not been able to instil confidence. Not that I am opposed to every step that you have taken. My friend referred to the kidnapping of Doraiswamy in Kashmir. I hope that you must be handling the Doraiswamy's kidnapping properly and doing whatever is needed.

I was going through your manifesto, the Congress Party's manifesto in which the National Front had been severely attacked.

13.00 hrs.

The National Front Government had been accused of compromising with terrorism. And the manifesto says:

"Beginning with the release of several hardcore terrorists the National Front Government continuously compromised with secessionists and terrorists in Punjab, Kashmir, Assam and Tamil Nadu."

I would not quarrel with this....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN (Badagara): They are continuing this policy in Assam...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Yes. I was surprised when I read the other day a decision to give general amnesty to all the LUFA terrorists who have

been apprehended there. The general amnesty announcement was followed immediately by the killing of a Russian engineer. An even after that, the amnesty decision was implemented. It baffles me. In this situation, on a serious issue of this kind, the Saikia Government may have consulted the Centre. But I do not know whether the Central Government consulted any one of us here. There was no consultation. It was a very serious matter. The steps of this kind make me think. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We will come out with all the facts. But at this moment, Sir, may I submit that the decision to release most of those who were under detention had nothing to do with the kidnapping. It was taken as a positive decision on the part of the State Government, as a part of their overall strategy to meet the situation. I only want to dissociate these two facts. There could be differences of opinion, I agree. But the only thing is that this was not done as *quid pro quo* to some of these people having been kidnapped. This was done separately as a step in the right direction according to the State Government.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: The answer complicates the position. I can understand, in a specific case even a *quid pro quo*. But in a situation of the kind that obtains in Assam or that obtains in Kashmir and Punjab, what is the signal that we are giving by announcing general amnesty at this time? The signal given is not merely to Assam, it is given to all throughout. And, therefore, it is still worse. The timing is bad; the manner of doing it is bad and above all, as I said, a Government of this kind that is presently there should have been extra wary. The National Front Government bungled badly on the Rubaiya issue. One of the reasons as to why they bungled was that the process of consultation was started ten days later. At that point of time, to the best of my knowledge, even the Left Front was not consulted. It was

a very bad lapse and that lapse cost us dearly in Kashmir. I have a feeling that what has happened in Assam today might cost us very dearly not only in Assam but in the whole country.

So far as the economic front is concerned, I remember the day when the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister had briefed all opposition leaders. I had strongly pleaded that the situation was such that it should be thoroughly debated after apprising us of full facts. I understand that this is a crisis situation. But you cannot go about taking decisions first of all and letting the whole country know later on. In certain matters, I can understand secrecy I disagree with the proposal to devalue and simultaneously to say that there will be no rise in prices and the weaker sections will not be affected. I remember, going to Bombay four days back, and there, Nana Chuda Sama puts up a slogan every week. Its last week's slogan was very telling. In a way it was recalling what the Finance Minister had said that prices cannot come down and prices are bound to increase whatever may have been said in the election manifesto. Whereas Nana Chuda Sama display said:

"A promise is a promise. In hundred days see how we have brought down the price of the rupee."

It was a telling quip. But I am not concerned with that so much as concerned with the fact that in this situation, inflation is going to increase so rapidly and so badly that I do not know how the people will be able to face it. Even while recognising the fact that the direction that the new Government has adopted is a direction with which my party does not quarrel. .. (Interruption) One of the basic reasons why India has come to the present pass is the fact that we have moved more and more and more and more rapidly in the direction of statist economics, and this has cost us very dearly. So there is a very clear case for removing the very many curbs

and hindrances on people's capacity to do for the country though the tendency to rely on foreign finances and multi-nationals, which seems to be growing by leaps and bounds, is a tendency which is disturbing.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: That is the crux.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: No, that is not the crux because I have heard even the Finance Minister say that multi-nationals would not be permitted in the low technology areas. But in all these matters I would say that what has happened till now does not instil very great confidence. That is why I made a suggestion even on that day that there is urgent need to bring out a White Paper on all the aspects of the economic situation and to present to Parliament and to the country what are the options before the country which can be exercised.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAI: I do not want to interrupt the respected leader of BJP, Shri Advani. What I want to request him is that today is Friday and we have to go for the prayers. We do not want to miss his speech.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I am concluding.

This is not the occasion for any detailed analysis of the Government's performance because the performance is yet to come. As it is, today the BJP's stand on this issue follows from the mandate that has been given to us by the people. That mandate, I must say, makes us happy that our party has been able to make a major stride forward in the 1991 elections. Such a stride has made one of the leading British journals 'The London Economists' give a telling caption to its article on India's Poll verdict. The caption is 'Winner comes second'. This certainly imposes a responsibility on the BJP and which responsibility my party is determined to carry out viz. to act as a watchdog of the

[Sh. Lal K. Advani]

people's interest and caution the Government whenever it goes wrong, to stop the Government whenever it is about to commit some folly and whenever need arises to be able to topple this Government and see that a new Government takes its place. All these functions have to be performed by us.

Today, all that I can say is that I would expect this Government to recognise its limitations and to function in a manner as to start a new chapter in Indian political history. I must compliment the Prime Minister and the party for the decision they took very boldly in respect of Speakership and Deputy-Speakership.... (*Interruptions*) I have great respect for the Prime Minister. He is a scholar and a thorough gentleman. In fact, I am tempted to say that he is a post-independence Congress man with pre-independence values though around him there are very many post-emergency Congressmen with post-emergency values, unfortunately. So, as I said, later on, some other occasion may arise when at some length we may discuss the performance of Government. As it is today, in carrying out the mandate that has been given to the party by the people, I oppose this motion.

13.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at seventeen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the House will now resume discussion on the Confidence Motion. I think Mr. Advani had just finished,

if I am right. Now Mr. George Fernandes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I oppose the motion moved by the hon. Prime Minister. Besides this, I would like to submit that in spite of whatever the Congress Members may think about this confidence motion the masses of this country have no confidence in this Government. This party has come to power with only 36 per cent of the total votes polled and even its supporters are saying that the party could not have bagged even these 36 per cent. votes, had the tragic assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi not taken place during the elections and they would have hardly secured less than 30 per cent votes. This is what your supporters are saying. This Government does not enjoy popular support and is a minority Government. Even then the Prime Minister wants to seek a vote of confidence for his Government. I would like to submit some points as to why we are not supporting this Government and not expressing our confidence in it. Although, I agree that no finger can be raised against the President's decision to invite Shri Narasimha Rao to form the Government. He acted according to the Parliamentary system and it was also according to this system that the Prime Minister has come to seek the vote of confidence in the House, but we had expected that he would give some reasons to enlist the support of the majority of the members of this House who are in opposition of this Government. He should have told the 70 per cent of the people of this country who exercised their franchise in favour of others and the 50 per cent who did not vote at all and who do not support either the Government or us, as to why they all should support the Government. This would have also enabled us to take decision about the future of this Government. Now when Government are seeking vote of confidence, a question comes before us whether this Government deserves our confidence or not and what have you

Confidence in the

done to help us decide over this issue. Almost all the faces are the same. There is no change. If they are not here, their children are here. There is no change. There are no new faces, there are no new programmes. Then what is the difference? 18 months ago, the Congress party had enjoyed the support of three-fourth majority in this House. But later on their party was voted out of power. The question of confidence or no-confidence in the Congress was decided at that time. Now what has happened during these 18 months that has changed your thinking.

While concluding his speech, the leader of the opposition, Shri Lal K. Advani, hoped that the Government would be able to bring some new changes, etc. I could not understand on what basis he was saying so? Because in the country, Shri Advani has the same amount of political experience as the Members sitting on the treasury benches. So, what new changes have come in the country during the last 18 months that such expectations are being made from these people. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is beyond my comprehension. I would like to give an example in this regard. One of my questions was included in today's question list. It was question No. 5. But it was not expected to come up for discussion. I had based my question on the Congress manifesto. Today, I have brought this manifesto with me and I hope that the Members of the Congress party should have atleast read their own manifesto, if not anything else. The hon. Prime Minister should clearly explain his view-point regarding the implementation of their manifesto. In their manifesto, they had made a big promise to the people of this country regarding the control on prices. That promise was that in 100 days—

[English]

"In the first hundred days, the Congress Government will"

[Translation]

—mind you, 'will try' words have not been used—

[English]

"arrest price rise in essential commodities and in particular roll back prices to levels obtaining in July, 1990 in the case of—"

[Translation]

A number of articles have been listed. Item No. 7 is cotton sarees, dhoties, 40 counts and below. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per my habit, I did one thing. As soon as I received the summon, I sent my notices of questions and asked each and every Ministry as to what steps they were going to take to roll back the prices within 100 days? The answer to the question, I had raised regarding the implementation of the ruling party's promise to bring down the prices to the July 1990 level was laid on the Table of the House today morning and it is as follows:

[English]

"(a) to (c): In an economy like ours, the price levels are determined by a number of factors. The price level of any single commodity cannot be viewed in isolation."

[Translation]

Now all of them have become philosophers. At that time, they were making tall promises, now they have turned philosophers.

[English]

"Government was constantly reviewing the price levels of sarees and dhotis of 40 counts and below..."

[Translation]

21 days have passed since the Government assumed office. 20 days have elapsed since the Ministers were appointed and took oath of office.

[English]

And they have been constantly reviewing.

[Translation]

For the last twenty days, they have been doing this work only.

[Sh. George Fernandes]

[English]

And they have been 'constantly reviewing the prices of dhotis and sarrees of 40 counts and below. Government will take appropriate measures in this regard keeping in view the overall economic policies of the Government and also the critical economic situation the country is facing'.

[Translation]

It is all over. Where are the promises? What is the difference between that slogan of 1971 and these promises. We would like to listen to the Prime Minister's views on this matter. Although we said 'Congress Hatao' (Remove Congress), yet only one slogan was given by Congress in 1971, "They say 'Indira Hatao', but we say 'Garibi Hatao' (Remove poverty), now you decide". The people gave verdict in favour of the slogan 'Garibi Hatao'. The amount of work you have done in this direction is there before the whole country. It is clear from both your manifesto and the President's Address, which is indirectly a statement of your policies, as to which level poverty has reached. We want to know from the Government that after giving the slogan of 1970-71 what dent has been made by you in the poverty. What changes have taken place in your party, your thinking or your style of functioning, on the basis of which you are seeking a vote of confidence? I have read the manifesto of this party and in his address the President has broadly outlined the policies and programmes of this Government. They have made a mention about their poverty alleviation programme in just two sentences at page no. 14 of their election manifesto, which said:

[English]

"Poverty alleviation was the central priority of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi Governments. More investments were made in poverty alleviation programme than ever before. The proportion of our population below the poverty line was halved from over

51 per cent at the time Indirajiv returned to the office in January 1980 to an all-time low of 25 per cent by the time Shri Rajiv Gandhi has demitted office in November 1989."

[Translation]

There cannot be a bigger untruth than this. I do not know, as to how many of you have heard the name of this organisation. The name of this organisation is Operation Research Group (ORG). The Prime Minister must have heard about it, as he is a person, who takes special interest in such matters. Operations Research Group is an Organisation, which has links with the country's top industrialists, Multi-National Corporations and also with many Government Departments. These three have collaboration with each other and on the basis of the research conducted by this group the information provided by them is considered the last word, not just by its clients in India, but also by those abroad. One of the latest reports of ORG, viz. 'Demographic-1989-90' was released by its President Dr. Bhaskar Rao on December 11, in the capital. The first page of the report begins with:

[English]

"Distribution of households and income into population strata."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that the proportion of our population living below the poverty line has reached an all time low of 25 per cent by 1989. Mr. Chairman, Sir, about this aspect, I can only tell you. In this regard they say "The household in India is 5.6 per cent." A household earning Rs. 750 per month is stated to be above the poverty line. This was published by them in the newspapers on 12th December. It can be easily quoted but to accept it publicly is difficult because some solution has to be found out. It is easy to make commitments but very difficult to fulfil them.

[English]

The total number of households earning less than Rs. 750 per month in the country is 52.9 per cent of our population.

[Translation]

53 per cent of the country's population is below the poverty line.

[English]

This is the report of the Operations Research Group to which the Government of India's various agencies are a party.

[Translation]

This is what they say. But it does not stop here and continues further. As per the report, the poverty line is 53 per cent, the percentage of rural household is 25.7 and that of urban is 17.1 and the total number of people is calculated, it works out to 20 crores what is their definition of the poorest of the poor?

[English]

A household having Rs. 350 or less income per month.

[Translation]

It means per capita expenditure is Rs. 2 per month and number of such people is 20 crores. This is the picture of poverty in India drawn by the Operation Research Group before the country on 11th December. If its findings are agreed to, it will create difficulties.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the date of publication of this report?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This report is for 1989-90 ending 31st of March, 1990. This report is for a period of three years. This is a research for three years and this was released on 11th December, 1990. The national press chose to suppress it excepting for one or two papers which carried a few paragraphs. The rest chose to suppress it.

[Translation]

Where the entire ideology is based on wrong concept and thinking, how can the situation be remedied. You have been in power for long but the position remains unchanged. You made many tall promises to the people of this country and ruled over this country for 40 years. You say with pride:

[English]

every congress Government has provided strong and stable Governance to ensure progress and development

[Translation]

These are your words. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

That is the fact. This is precisely the point I am making.

[Translation]

During these forty years, your strong governance and your concept of making progress and development has resulted in bringing 53 per cent of the population below the poverty line.

[English]

If this is your understanding of progress then God help you and why should we support you? Why should we help you if that is your concept of progress and development?

[Translation]

No progress in real terms took place during the said period rather it opened all avenues to aggravate poverty. In your manifesto, under the title of "tackling unemployment" you have made many tall claims and said that you will implement and carry out your plans within 100-300 days. This can be possible only if you remain in power for the said period, can you last for so many days? You are sadly mistaken ...(*Interruptions*)... you are living under a great illusion if you think that you will survive by bringing about this split ...(*Interruptions*)

[Sh. George Fernandes]

This is not possible. Those days are gone. A split is not possible in opposition parties. If it takes place, it will be in Congress(1). Don't misunderstand things.

(Interruptions)

We have been observing each other for years.

[English]

In the first 365 days, we shall create 10 million jobs every year. Already 21 days are over. So, they have been on the job of creating 10 million jobs.

[Translation]

Do you know how to count one crore jobs?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not per day but per year.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not saying all this in a light vein but Hon. Prime Minister I am very serious about this. Because the people of this country are being befooled...

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): I am also not cracking a joke...

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I never said so.....

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: This is not a day to day report. When we talk of a year, the plan is chalked out accordingly. It is not like this that you divide it by 24 hours and ask after 24 hours where are the jobs.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We are aware of it. There is no difference of opinion over it but the dispute is that here too you are beguiling us. *(Interruptions)*... This is the economic review or economic survey. The question is as to how true they are to their words.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask about all these things after one year.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We shall start asking about it right from today. Right from the day a child is born the direction towards which he is heading is known. It is their commitment that they would create one crore jobs within a year. Who prevented them, just now you said with pride that you did the right thing and whatever was written was right. In that event who had prevented you from creating jobs? Neither we nor the poor, unemployed and land-labourers of this country had stopped you to generate more employment. Then what was the hurdle before you in doing so. What to talk of generating more employment, you have reduced the employment opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a Government document for 1989-90. This Economic Survey contains figures for five years. *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

This is the Economic Survey and the Finance Minister will certainly identify it even from a distance. This is a table at page S-48. It gives the total employment in the private sector industry.

In 1983, employment in the private sector, according to the Government statistics was 75.52 lakhs. In 1988, after 5 years of tremendous efforts of creating new jobs, the total job in the private sector industry was 73.91 lakhs. The absolute decline in terms of number of jobs is 1.61 lakhs in five years. This is your achievement. But this is not more 1.6 lakh jobs reduction. In effect, you have reduced the jobs in the private sector by 10 lakhs.

[Translation]

You know, how it happened? Earlier, whatever the employment opportunities—it might be one lakh, one and half lakh, quarter to two lakh jobs—were being created every year, you have abolished them also. Besides abolishing the new opportunities of jobs you have reduced even

the existing opportunities of employment. In brief, this is the style of your functioning. It contains the figures from 1983 to 1988 only. The subsequent Economic Survey which was to be presented in February this year has not yet been presented, perhaps it may be laid in the next week.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have made a record of reducing 10 lakh jobs in the private sector within five years. In 1983, there were 1 crore, 64 lakh and 56 thousand jobs in the public sector which includes the Central Government, the State Governments, the local bodies, the quasi Government, and other such organisations. And this number went up to 1 crore, 83 lakh and 20 thousand in 1988. It means during a span of five years, they created 18 lakh 64 thousand job opportunities only and these jobs were generated in the public sector. The public sector means Government offices and the public sector undertakings and it includes jobs from peon to officers; it also includes the sweepers as well as the poor labourers working in the municipalities. You have been able to create only 18 lakh and 64 thousand jobs altogether and today you are making promises of creating one crore jobs in India within one year. But the question does arise as to where and in which sector you are going to do that? We are in a fix on the Government promises because the government at the present moment is seeking Vote of Confidence, while the government, neither from its words nor from its deeds is putting forward anything, which may be believed. After the formation of your government, you have brought before us the International Monetary Fund. The largest contribution of this government is its decision to pledge this country with I.M.F. There are a lot of controversies regarding the I.M.F., but we are much concerned about the steps taken by this government during the last few days; one such step is the despatch of gold to London. I recall the period of 1977 to 1979 when Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister and in his government Lalji. Atalji

and we too were partners. It was propagated both inside and outside this House against us that we had sold the gold of the country whereas our government had neither sold nor despatched even a single ounce of gold outside the country. But the system as it exists in India, which did not allow our government to continue in 1977-79, once again came in the way of our government continuing in office. Though there was no tangible reason for disliking that government, yet the propaganda was made that we had sold the gold of our country. Now you are seeking vote of confidence although you have sold 25 tonnes of gold without taking the country into confidence. You are seeking the support of opposition and other parties but did you take anyone of them into confidence before selling gold. The Governor and the employees of the Reserve Bank as well as the Pilot and the other employees of the Air India were taken into confidence, but this House was ignored. The representatives of the people of this country have not been taken into confidence.

[English]

It had to be a hush-hush operation.

[Translation]

Of 25 tonnes of gold was sent out of the country.

AN HON. MEMBER: After gold they will sell the country now.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am worried about the I.M.F.'s present pressure on this government. That pressure is the main cause of concern for us. We are not realising to whom we are handing over this country? It is very difficult to realise it. I would like to ask some most relevant questions from the hon. Prime Minister regarding the I.M.F. The Council of the I.M.F. is not much concerned with the conditionalities it has put before the government but certainly the hands which control it are much concerned about this as they want our signatures on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Government is

[Sh. George Fernandes]

being pressurised. We would like to know the extent of truth regarding this from the Hon. Prime Minister. Secondly, the I.M.F. is reported to have put a condition that the subsidy of Rs. 7000 on food and fertilizers, i.e., Rs. 2500 on food and Rs. 4500 on fertilizers, would be abolished or reduced. We would like to know the truth and the concrete proposal of the Government in this regard.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you that there is neither any such pressure for NPT, nor we would like to come under such pressure. Neither it will happen nor it has happened. No such thing has taken place. But to say that we have been pressurized, is not correct. It is unjustified to say such thing about them and more unjust to us, if it is said that we are yielding to pressure.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have asked a question. Now they are admitting that there is some substance in the matter of subsidy.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): It is credit worthy even to retrieve the country from the present difficult situation which you have put it into.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I will reply your second point later.

[English]

It does not mean that we are owning it. The only thing is I will take time to answer you in detail. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I request you to limit your time because the time is almost over?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We are deciding the future of the country. How can you limit my time? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think other people are also interested in making speeches.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The point is that this Government is to carry on this. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other people also seem to think that they are interested in the future of this country.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I don't think we can cut short the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You must allow me to make a few points.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it a fact that the I.M.F. or the powers behind it, have asked the Government to cut or reduce our expenditure on defence. We would also like to know to what extent foreign investment is going to be allowed in this country. The I.M.F. is pressurizing the Government on this issue also. This is a serious matter, which is linked with the future of our country and we would like to know the details from the Hon. Prime Minister. I am happy that the Hon. Prime Minister has clarified the position in regard to N.P.T.

I have a doubt and there is a reason behind it. Prior to 1st of July, 1991, the day on which the rupee was devalued, the rupee had already undergone devaluation upto 45 per cent during the period from January 1990 to end of June, 1991. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): It was your Government in power.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: If I want to speak on my Government, I will have a lot of time for it. Because you are going to present the

Budget and we will have a discussion on all the financial policies. You should also not forget that you were the adviser to all the Governments on financial matters. So, at least you should not involve yourself in this matter. Let other people take part in it. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a doubt and it is necessary to get its answer from the hon. Prime Minister. When, in comparison to the American dollar, pound, sterling, Japanese Yen, and German DM, the rupee was devalued from 8 per cent to 9.7 per cent on 1st of July, the statement given by the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and by the Reserve Bank Officials was that

[*English*]

"This move was a normal process of adjustment". I would like to quote the words again: ".....a normal process of adjustment done every day..."

[*Translation*]

From 1st of June to 1st of July.....

[*English*]

...total process of adjustment vary between Rs. 20 to a dollar.....20 point and odd to a dollar to 21 point and odd to a dollar. It averages about 21.2 or 21.3.

[*Translation*]

He directly brought the 21.3 to a dollar to Rs. 22. to a dollar by saying that

[*English*]

"This is a normal process of adjustment done everyday"

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 2nd of July passes off. Then, on the 3rd of July, another normal process of adjustment took place and then the spokesman of Reserve Bank says:

[*English*]

This is sharply higher than normal.

[*Translation*]

The rupee was again devalued by 9-10 per cent and as per the information we have, the International Monetary Fund had said to the Government that the 45 per cent devaluation, which took place in the last 12-14 months was not enough and so the Government in an effort to satisfy them devalued the rupee by 9 per cent. They again said that it would not do and it should be devalued by another 10 per cent. So, it was again devalued and to escape the criticism, the Government said "this is a normal process of adjustment done every day" and we apprehend that the rupee may be devalued further.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I do not understand what is he objecting to. Is it his point that it was not done on the next day but it is being done on every other day, every alternate day? Is it that he is objecting to?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have our own doubts about the role played by the Government in regard to the International Monetary Fund and the Statement made by the Finance Minister that this has been going on for long. At least the Finance Minister should know more than this and he should not bring politics into this. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote figures of Government of India from a document of the Reserve Bank of India, viz.

[*English*]

'RBI's Report on Currency and Finance. Volume-I. Economic Review'. In this it is written that in 1985 India's external debt was Rs. 25,800 crores and by 1989 it had shot up to Rs. 69,681 crores. In 1990, it had reached upto Rs. 81,168 crores. This is excluding NRI's deposit.

[Sh. George Fernandes]

[Translation]

If NRI's deposit is also included, the figure will go up by Rs. 3,819 crore in 1985 and Rs. 17,821 crore in 1990 and the total amount of external debt to-day will be Rs. 1,00,000 crore. This drama was started in 1985 in the name of modernisation of India which catered to the demands of luxury, comfort, automobiles, etc. of the rich who constitute only two and a half per cent of the entire population and to bring their living standard at par with the people living in America, Europe, Germany and Japan. But what benefits of modernisation are going to accrue to for the poor, to the majority of the population of the country living in Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Orissa, Konkan, Marathwada and islands. Yesterday, it was said in the President's Address, which is a document of the government,—the President:

[English]

A special crash programme to be named after Rajiv Gandhi, will be drawn up to provide drinking water to rural areas within five years.

[Translation]

Today we are talking of modernisation. We have been listening it since 1947, we have been listening to it since the first Address of 1952 that top priority would be given to the supply of drinking water to the rural people and now we are talking of modernisation, where is it?

SHRI G. DEVRAYA NAIK
(Kannara): Why did you not do it?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I fail to understand as to why you are so much worried about the government which was in power for eleven months only. I don't follow whether you are speaking in favour of it. It is beyond our comprehension. Have we assembled here today only to listen to such things. (Interruptions)

So, please don't say anything. On the one hand, you talk of providing

drinking water to rural areas within five years, while on the other hand, you incurred an external debt of Rs. 35,800 crore in the name of the so-called modernisation in 1985 and a sum of Rupees 69681 crore is to be added to it, and within a period of five years the burden of external debt has gone up to Rs. 14154 crore. This is the crux of the problem. What is the logic in putting the blame on the National Front Government which was in power for just 11 months, out of which two months were full of suspense. So you can not question us as to what we should have done. (Interruptions)

We waived the loans of farmers. Does it irritate you? (Interruptions)

We have waived the loans of poor agricultural labourers, artisans and weavers. It may be a matter of worry for you. Agriculturists have been exploited in the matter of prices of their produce both at national and international levels. We have waived farmers' debt to the tune of Rupees 8,500 crores.....(Interruptions) Where the loans have not been waived you may do so. We will give you full support in waiving the loans. Please don't impose the burden of the situation created by you on the poor farmers. I would like to know something regarding IMF from the Prime Minister. I.M.F. has put certain conditions which may lead to price-rise, unemployment, closure of industries, destruction of cottage and small industries and increasing tension in the social field and every other field. Has I.M.F. committed itself to provide you loan? Instead, I.M.F. is imposing conditions one after the other, even then you have no paper, no letter or communication conveying its willingness to provide you loan. You are taking one step after the other. Please understand our problem. Nobody had any faith in this Government when this party was in power. We can't trust this Government in any case. We have no faith on their character, because there are so many allegations against them. I would like to know from

the Prime Minister as to what is his contribution in regard to the issue of ensuring social justice. First of all, the recommendations of the Mandal Commission were implemented by us and we know the parties that opposed it. We also knew the present condition of the country. It is not an easy task to bring social change in India, especially providing justice to the downtrodden. The people, who have been striving to bring about a change in this country for thousands of years realise the uphill task. We are very much disturbed by this policy document and your declaration and we object to it. You have said:—

[English]

Government is committed to special measures in favour of socially and educationally backward classes.

[Translation]

You have not spelt it out.

[English]

Is committed to special measures.

[Translation]

Let me know since when is the Congress party committed to it. You are talking of commitment. There is no question of any commitment now. Why do you not go through the Indian Constitution? Why do the people who make such commitments not go through the Constitution? When the children and people of the country were being misled to burn themselves, we said that the self immolation of boys should be stopped. If you are so angry about the policy regarding the recommendations of Mandal Commission, you should burn the Constitution of India itself. Whatever we did is according to the Constitution of India. You should express your anger on it. You should go through Articles 340, 14 and 16 and then discuss this point. What kind of justice do you want to dispense to the socially backward and downtrodden people of India? It is said that preference will be given to the poorer sections.

[English]

In Implementing these, preference will be given to the poorer sections among them. What do you mean by poorer sections? Who are the poorer sections?

[Translation]

Sixty to seventy per cent of Indian population is illiterate even now. Which poor class of people you are talking about? Who are the people who have been waiting for forty years to get justice? Should they not get justice? Why should they be denied justice? Implementation of the recommendations of Mandal Commission is very important. I would like to say with all force at my command that a resolution was passed by this House in August 1982, I don't

15.00 hrs.

remember the exact date. Prime Minister. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was present in the House. We fought for the implementation of the recommendations of Mandal Commission in almost every session of this House. In a sitting of this House, a consensus was evolved on 27th August, 1982 and a Resolution was passed that the recommendations of the Mandal Commission be implemented. From 1982 to 1990, they were not able to implement these and when we came to power we fulfilled our promise, but then our Government was thrown out of power by you.

I would like to raise one more concrete point. In India, we need financial, industrial or economic democracy alongwith social justice. We have certain expectations from the labourers of this country as to how much work they are doing and how much they don't do. The discussion in this regard goes on. In this regard, I would like to know whether the initiative taken by our Government to allow the labourers to participate in the management of industries has been pursued.

[Sh. George Fernandes]

[English]

Workers' participation in management both in the public and in the private sector.

[Translation]

What is your concrete thinking about that? What are your programmes to implement it? The questions raised by us regarding crores of ex-servicemen are to be taken care, and Shri Balram Jakhar should pay special attention to these matters. We would like to know the attitude you are going to adopt on the measures initiated by us? Finally, I would like to submit that in view of the past performance of the Congress Party during the last forty years as also in view of the complexion of the present Government and its promises and keeping in view the experience of the last 21 days, the Government does not deserve our trust and confidence. Our struggle is against the present Government, no doubt, inside the House. Our struggle against the Government will be more intense outside the House and we will launch a continuous struggle in the issues affecting the people. We want to give this assurance to this Government and country through you and I strongly oppose this motion.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay-North Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Motion to express the confidence in the Council of Ministers has been before the House now. After the result of the General Elections, the President has invited Congress party which is the single largest party to form the Government, with the condition that within a period of one month, it should get this Motion passed by this House. Therefore, this Motion has been brought before this House today. It is unfortunate that both the opposition parties have chosen to oppose this Motion.

Sir, as far as the main recognised opposition party is concerned, it has

practically made it clear that it is merely opposing, for the sake of opposition. The Leader of Opposition has already stated, "I am sure that your Government is not going to fall, even if we oppose this Motion". Not only that; he has gone further and said, "Nobody wants General Elections at this stage". Therefore, it is clear that this opposition party is opposing practically for the sake of opposition and to put on record, that it is an opposition party, as far as this Government is concerned.

So far as the last speaker, Shri George Fernandes is concerned, he has converted this debate into a general debate, including the debate on the President's speech, debate on the anticipated budget and general debate on the Congress Government's performance for all these years. Really speaking, he could have spared this debate for a better occasion. There would have been good and better occasions to discuss in detail all these issues which would come before this House in one form or the other. Regarding President's speech also, there will be thanks-giving motion. The budget will be fully discussed. And there will be an occasion to criticise the Government on various issues, for example, taking of loan, from IMF and their conditionalities. All these points can be thoroughly discussed on a different and better occasion. On that occasion, we can go into all the details about the performance of the Congress Governments in the past, the manifesto and the direction or the indications of the policies given by this Government upto now. In that context, we can also discuss and go into all the details about the performance of the Janata Dal Government which was in power for eleven months. At that time, we can point out and compare the last 40 years of Congress rule, the indication of the policies of the present Government, the performance and the achievements of the Janata Dal as far as those eleven months are concerned. According to me, that would be the proper discussion.

At present, what I want to submit to this House is that there is a narrow issue. The narrow issue is that Rashtrapati invited the Congress Party to form the Government. The Government has been formed. According to my humble submission, as soon as this Government came into power, people heaved a sigh of relief that there would now be a stable Government, some stability, some policy, some experienced people handling the different political and economic issues of this country. Therefore, all this satisfaction has been expressed by the people on this Government's coming into power.

Then the charge which the hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes, has got. Firstly, he has always been saying all these years—whenever the Congress Party came into power—well, people have not given you the mandate because of such-and-such percentage of votes. When we got 40 per cent votes also, he said that no, no, you are elected but the people have not given you the mandate. When in 1985, 47 per cent votes were given, then also, they said, it is only 47 per cent; the majority of the people are against you. So, that is no argument as far as the parliamentary democracy is concerned. This is our Constitution. According to this Constitution, elections are held, parties get the majority. We must always admit that that party which is in majority, has a right to form the Government and it has a mandate of the people to form the Government and run the Government as far as this country is concerned. Therefore, it is no use going to that point again and again.

Similarly, all these years, the hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes, has been repeating that performance is bad, jobs are not there, unemployment has come. All these things are said. As I said, that 11 months' performance should be compared as far as the performance of the Congress Government is concerned. As far as the price rise is concerned, we can always show that the highest price rise was during the regime of this Gov-

ernment. These points are old points, and they do not become relevant as far as this resolution is concerned today.

Now the question is whether or not this Government should continue in power and run this country, as far as the present days are concerned. What is the alternative? No other party has staked its claim to form the Government and this is the largest party as far as this House is concerned. This party had been invited by the Rashtrapati to form the Government. Now, what are you going to do? Are you going to give another alternative or are you going to go again to the people and ask them to have elections again? I am sure that not a single person in this country now desires for the elections to be held within five years. As far as the people's will is concerned, we must take into account the poor voting that had taken place. People do not want frequent voting and frequent elections. They want a stable Government. They want a Government which will address itself to the issues before this country. There are problems like the political issues, the law and order situation, the deterioration of economic situation in this country and also problems relating to Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam. To solve these problems and improve the economic situation of this country, people desire that there should be some Government which will last, which will govern and form its policies and implement those policies for a considerable time. And then, if chance will be given, things can be improved and a better situation can be created. From this point of view, I will urge upon the political parties which are sitting in the Opposition to consider whether or not it is worthwhile opposing this Motion at all. It is because nobody wants elections today. People want a good Government and solutions to be found out as far as the economic and political situations are concerned. Therefore, I will urge upon the major political parties of the Opposition not to oppose this

[Sh. Sharad Dighe]

Motion. Otherwise, the result will be only to go to the polls. There is no other alternative as far as the present situation in the House is concerned. So, I feel and I am confident that wiser counsels will prevail and ultimately, this Motion will not be opposed by the parties of the Opposition. That is the requirement of the situation in which we are present today, i.e., this Government must continue and address itself to the various issues which are before this country. With these words, I support this Motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion on the Confidence Motion will now be taken up on Monday. Now, certain hon. Members have requested for making some submissions. I would request them not to take much time so that Private Members' Business can be taken up at 3.30 PM today.

15.10 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

Keeping in view the needs of Nawabganj and Mirganj in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh, there is a long-standing demand for setting up of sugar mills there. In the last one year I have received several letters from the Prime Minister and other concerned Ministers that an early decision would be taken in this matter. During the past year letters of intent have been issued for setting up of sugar mills at several places, but no decision has been taken in case of Nawabganj and Mirganj even though the State Government has recommended that sugar mills be set up there.

I request that in view of the needs of the area, a letter of intent be issued in this session for setting up of sugar mill there.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I request that the following item may be included in next week's agenda:

- (1) Matter regarding the delay in clearing river-water and other projects of national importance in Rajasthan by the Central Government.
- (2) Discussion on meeting the power shortage in Rajasthan by increasing the share to Rajasthan from inter-state power projects.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

Cult of violence is on the increase in our country. It adversely affects our body politic in as much as it is not possible to hold free and fair elections in some parts of the country. It has in fact become a slur on our democracy.

Thus a discussion is immediately called for as to how the cult of violence could be effectively arrested before long.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

Taming, trimming and harnessing the rivers like Koshi, Kamla, Bagmati, Karnali, Pancheshwar and Mahananda which are flowing from Nepal through India in the mutual interests of both the countries through multi-purpose dams. There must be some political initiative in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay-North Central): I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

The House is aware that 11th July 1991 was World Population Day. India's population will cross the one billion mark by the turn of the century if we continue to add at the rate of 17 million a year. The plans and projections of every department are brought to nought because of the failure on the population front. The population question has to be taken up as a political challenge to which every Ministry will have to give due attention if there is to be some hope of achieving a growth rate of 1.2 per cent and a Net Reproductive Rate (NRR) of one. This important question may be included in the subjects for discussion in the next week.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The entire nation is concerned over the kidnapping of the executive Director of Indian Oil Corporation, Shri. Doraiswamy. The House wants a statement from the Government in this matter.
- (2) Postponement of the elections to the Punjab State Assembly just 24 hours before the scheduled polling date has made a mockery of democracy in this country. The Government should clarify its position in this matter.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): What about Delhi?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I shall take up that next week.

[*English*]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): I request that the following item may

be included in the next week's agenda:—

Maharashtra State is deficit in edible oils and therefore the Central Government's supply is most essential. The State's monthly requirement is 15,500 MT. But from December 1990 to July 1991, that is during the last seven months the State has received a meagre quantity of 10,600 MT. There is terrible shortage resulting in black marketing and high prices in the State and the poor man is facing difficulty. The Government is requested to ensure supply of edible oils to Maharashtra on war footing.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I request that the following item may be included in next week's agenda:

- (1) For the all-round development of Rajasthan and in public interest, the Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge line should be converted into broad-gauge at the earliest.
- (2) In view of the international importance of Ajmer an airport should be constructed there at the earliest.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I request that the following item may be included in next week's agenda:

- (1) Extension of the Ujjain-Nagda rail service upto Ratlam, Indore-Dewas rail service upto Ujjain and Mhow-Fatehabad rail service upto Ratlam in the Ratlam division of Western Railway be made and a stoppage be provided at Nagda for the Bombay-New Delhi train started from 1st July, 1991.

[Sh. Satynarayan Jatiya]

- (2) Approval should be given for setting up a cooking gas agency in Barhnagar and Tarana in Ujjain district and Aalot in Ratlam district.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I request the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to reply.

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I already had the list with me in the morning. This would be brought to the notice of the concerned Ministers.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Sir, he should ensure that the Minister will individually reply to the Members on the issues which have been raised. I think that would be more appropriate. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should ensure that replies are sent to the individual Members otherwise these assurances remain on paper. I would only urge him to commit that the replies will be sent in writing to the individual concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think his reply is very adequate in that he said that he will refer these matters to the various Ministries and Departments concerned and I think it implies that those ministries and departments will take cognizance of the matters and will give adequate reply to the hon. Members. If reply is not received within say 15 days then I would request hon. Members to bring it to the notice of the Chair.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It will be sent as early as possible. Early can be today also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If reply is not received within 15 days I request hon. Members to bring the matter to the notice of the Hon. Speaker.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, there is a technical point. It has been suggested that the Economic Survey will be presented on 22nd of July. Now, 22nd July has been agreed to be declared a holiday for the Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That matter is pending before the Speaker. I would not like to comment on that. I think the Hon. Speaker will take the decision in this regard.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The Budget will be presented on 24th July. The Economic Survey is presented before the Budget. If 22nd is a close day for the Parliament then it has to be presented on Friday, the 21st. This is a point which I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to remember.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request the Minister to make a note of what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I have already discussed it with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the Private Members' Resolution will be taken up at 3.30, we still have 7 or 8 minutes to go. S/Shri Saifuddin Choudhury, Indrajit Gupta, Ashok Raj are absent. So, I now call Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait to speak.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: Sir, I will speak on Monday, not today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think if you start today you will be considered to be on your feet and you will continue on Monday. You can make a sort of preliminary beginning and take up your main points on Monday.

[English]

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN
 THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

—Contd.

~~SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN~~

SAIT. (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Confidence Motion moved by the Prime Minister. We all know under what circumstances this Government has come into existence. This Government has come into existence at the request of the President because the Congress Party is the largest party in the Parliament today. Congress Party is the largest party in Lok Sabha today. No other party was prepared to form the Government. So Constitutionally the President rightly invited the party which has got the largest Members in the Lok Sabha to form the Government.

Now, the Government has been formed and it has come before the House to seek a Vote of Confidence. At this stage it is just not possible to examine the performance of the Government because it has come into being just a week or two ago.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): But in this week's time they have acted profoundly.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: Yes, they have acted well. And moreover, the situation is such that we cannot afford election today. That is an agreed fact. The respected Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advani also has admitted this fact that nobody wants election today. We do not want election. No Party in this Lok Sabha wants election today. People do not want election today. Suppose a situation is created today where the Government is defeated and we will have to go to Polls, then I think we will be creating a very bad time for the electorates also. It is because nobody is prepared for elections. This country oppose elections financially. We have a financial crisis today. All of us know

very well as to how much money is being spent on elections. How much money the Government has to spend? More than Rs. 1000 crores of money and also the resources were spent during last elections. From where will these resources come? If such is the situation, the country will go completely bankrupt. We do not want such a situation. We want a Government that could perform well and could give stability. It is because the situation is so bad. The country is passing through very-very grave, complex and sensitive problems, that shall require solution first. The Government should strive hard to solve these problems and to see that peace is established. If the Government does not perform its duties well, then we can come forward and criticise the Government. But now, this Government has to be given a chance. Therefore, we must support this Government so that this Government may continue. I hope this Government will be stable. In this endeavour, all of us must co-operate.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Wait till the bad thing is turned into worst!

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: Let us hope for the best. Why should we think of the worst now? Let us be optimistic not pessimistic. Let us adopt a constructive attitude and not a destructive attitude.

[Translation]

We should also get the experience. Vajpayeeji will agree with me.

[English]

He is a person who is considered to be mild as far as the BJP is concerned. We are not discussing such things, of course. Therefore, when I say Shri Vajpayee, I have got a lot of appreciation for him. I think all other people wanted the Mosque to be demolished but Shri Vajpayee had said that the matter should go to the Court of law.

[Sh. Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait]

[*Translation*]

We shall construct the temple at that very spot.

[*English*]

So, that is the difference that Mr. Vajpayee had at that time. So, he always takes a constructive attitude. We are prepared to accept Shri Vajpayee totally. Shri Jaswant Singh had also said this. I have seen him in close quarters in the last Lok Sabha also. I know he is a person of broad mind. You must understand this. When such people are there in the B.J.P., I do not think why we must not adopt an optimistic attitude. We can sit together and solve the problems. And if the Government also joins us, then we will have better days in future.

Therefore—now it is going to strike 3.30 P.M.—I will adjourn myself to continue my speech on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sait, you are on your feet and when the discussion on the Confidence Motion is resumed on Monday, you will get the ball rolling to start.

15.28 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that in the meeting with the Leaders of Parties and Groups in Lok Sabha which the Speaker had taken on the 11th of July, 1991, it was decided that in order to facilitate early discussion of financial and other business, sitting of the House fixed for Monday, the 22nd July, 1991 might be cancelled and in lieu thereof, the House might sit on Saturday, the 20th July, 1991.

I hope, it is all okay with the hon. Members.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, we accept this.

15.29 hrs.

[*English*]

RESOLUTION

RE. STEPS FOR MAINTAINING STATUS QUO OF RELIGIOUS SHRINES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP AS THEY EXISTED ON 15TH AUGUST, 1947

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, now, we proceed with the Private Members Business. Before we take up the Resolution of Shri Zainal Abedin for discussion, we have to fix the time for this Resolution.

A time of two hours has been suggested. If that is acceptable to all the hon. Members, then we can proceed further.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not an ordinary matter, its implications are wide spread. Therefore, time limit for discussion on this item should be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Initially two hours can be fixed for the discussion. Time limit can be further extended, if the hon. Members so desire.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): This is such an issue, that if discussion on it is restricted to two hours.

[*English*]

It would have a wrong message, a wrong signal altogether. It is a matter which has been debated and discussed in the whole country. We have seen Bills being discussed on non-official days for months together. Not a single Resolution has ever been completed in one day; never. It is always spilled over to the next day. And today if we want to finish it in two hours, I would object to it. I would say that let every one express his view points; so long as they are relevant to the point, let the debate go on. So, my plea is that there should be no time limit; and those who want to participate in the debate, they can do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members wish to extend the time of the sitting today, they can do so or if they wish they can spill it over to the next Friday. So, out of these two alternatives, whatever hon. Members want that should be done.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): The rule is that on one Friday we discuss a Resolution and on the next Friday we discuss a Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There cannot be an unlimited time. It may be extended half-an-hour more. So, we can finish it by 6 P.M.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, many members of my party have given in writing to me, and I have assured them that each one of them would get a chance to speak on it. There is no problem in it. It has been the practice that no restriction of time is put on discussion on non-official bills and resolutions because two or two and a half hours are not sufficient for them. If time limit is fixed to complete it, it won't be justified.

[English]

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): I think on this highly sensitive issue, we should avoid fixing a time limit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe there is a convention that even if a time limit is fixed, then if the hon. Members so desire, that time limit can be further extended.

SHRI INDER JIT: I do think that an adequate opportunity should be given to all sections of the House to speak on this particular issue. It is highly sensitive and as the Leader of the Opposition said, I think we should avoid sending out wrong signals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In that case, I think the sense of the House is that there should be no time limit fixed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There should be some time limit fixed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): I think what the Leader of the Opposition wanted was that you can fix the time limit for the speeches. Also what he wanted was that there should be a thorough discussion on this. This is a fact that this is a very important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The sense of the House appears to be that there should be no time limit fixed. In that case, I would request the hon. Members—because the maximum number of hon. Members would like to speak—that some time limit should be fixed on individual members when they are speaking.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A time limit has to be fixed—three-four hours

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request Shri Zainal Abedin to move his Resolution.

140-225
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN (Jangipur): I beg to move:

“This House urges upon the Government to take early steps to peacefully settle the dispute regarding the shrine at Ayodhya and to enact suitable legislation for preserving and maintaining the *status quo* of all religious shrines and places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947.”

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. Sir the resolution which is before the House says, “This House urges upon the Government to take early steps to peacefully settle the dispute regarding the shrine at Ayodhya.” I have given notice of an amendment. What I have read just now should be substituted by “in

[Sh. Madan Lal Khurana]

addition to it administrative steps should be taken, including the acquisition of the land of the birth place of Lord Rama to construct a beautiful temple of Lord Rama, a symbol of national culture and dignity, respecting the sentiments of people of India."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I received a telephone call at home yesterday from your office saying that as the matter is *sub judice* your amendment cannot be accepted. Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that this resolution is also about the shrine at Ayodhya...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order, when your amendment is rejected.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please listen to me first. My amendment has been rejected on the plea that the matter is *sub judice*, similarly this resolution also falls under the same category i.e. the matter is *sub judice*. If my amendment can be rejected on the plea that the issue of construction of temple is *sub judice*, then the matter regarding the shrine at Ayodhya is also *sub judice*. Therefore, how can this resolution be moved? As your office is saying that this matter is *sub judice*. I am of the opinion that no discussion can take place on this issue so long as the matter is *sub judice*.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I am on a point of order. The two issues that have arisen on account of an amendment moved by the hon. Shri M. L. Khurana and the Motion that is before the House relate to, what is *sub judice* and about admissibility. We are now considering two separate aspects. Firstly, what is *sub judice* and relating to that is secondly, the aspect of *sub judice*. I draw your attention to page 946 of Kaul and Shakhdar's book on *Practice and Procedure of Parliament*. What is *sub*

judice? I would request your consideration and that of the House because we are involved in a substantial issue here.

"It is the absolute privilege of the legislature and members thereof to discuss and deliberate upon all matters pertaining to the governance of the country and its people. Freedom of speech on the floor of the House is the essence of Parliamentary Democracy".

Further, if as the hon. Shri M. L. Khurana has said, if it has been ruled in all wisdom, by the Speaker, that the Motion is not *sub judice*, and if the Motion is not *sub judice*, then an amendment to it which relates to it substantially cannot be treated as *sub judice* either.

Alternatively, if you from the Chair, as now Shri Khurana mentioned that he has given notice of an amendment if that were made as inadmissible, on the ground that it is *sub judice*, then that the main Motion which is under consideration of the House is also out of order, because it is also *sub judice*. And here I refer you to page 947 of Kaul and Shakhdar's book.

It says:

"The rule whether a motion relates to a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law should be admitted or discussed in the House has to be interpreted strictly. While on the one hand the Chair is to ensure that no discussion in the House should prejudice the course of justice, the Chair is also to see that the House is not debarred from discussing an urgent matter of public importance on the ground that a similar, allied or linked matter is before a court of law."

Sir, these wordings are explicit. I have further submissions to make on this very point because we are considering two separate aspects—the question of *sub judice* and the question of admissibility. Now we have, on page 948, a clear specification..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which paragraph are you referring to?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am referring to the third paragraph. It says:

“A Member, during the course of his speech, is required not to refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending.”

Now, here again we are faced with a similar situation. If you rule his amendment as inadmissible on the ground that it is *sub judice*, the main motion is also *sub judice* and hence it is inadmissible. Here again we are covered by the aspect of referring to a matter of fact which is before a court of law. Here, indeed, the crux of a matter of fact is under deliberation of a court of law. In its wisdom the Secretariat has ruled that the hon. Member Shri Madan Lal Khurana's amendment to the motion is inadmissible. Therefore, I submit the main motion is also inadmissible.

I will come to the second aspect later. This is a complex matter. I started by saying that the right of Parliament, the unfettered privilege of Parliament of freedom of speech cannot be curtailed on grounds of *sub judice*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the House is aware of that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No Sir. The House is not aware of the decisions that were taken by a Committee of Presiding Officers of the various Houses. That Committee of Presiding Officers made various specific recommendations as to how the Presiding Officers ought to apply their mind when it comes to determining whether a case under consideration of the House is *sub judice* or not *sub judice*. They laid down the recommendations specifically. They are all here page nos. 949 and 950. I do not want to mention all of them. But I do draw your attention to specifically serial nos. 6 and 8 of them.

Serial no. 6 says:

“Rule of *sub judice* applies only in regard to the specific issues before a court. The entire gamut of the matter is not precluded.”

I think, the amendment moved by the hon. Member cannot be debarred on this ground.

Serial no. 8 says:

“Rule of *sub judice* has application only during the period when the matter is under active consideration of a court of law or courts martial.

That would mean as under:”

8(c) says:

“In civil suits—From the time issues are framed till judgement is delivered.”

This is so far as *sub judice* is concerned.

So far as the admissibility is concerned what applies to the motion applies in its entirety to an amendment to the motion. And, therefore, if you admit the motion, you must admit the amendment to the motion. On the other hand if you deny the amendment to the motion, you must in justice deny the motion also because whatever applies to the motion applies to an amendment to that motion.

On page 579, we are considering the question of admissibility. It says:

“In order that the resolution may be admissible it should be clearly and precisely expressed.....”

I do not want to read all these aspects because they are there.

On the question of admissibility of amendment I refer to page 585. Here some conditions are given. First condition is that an amendment to be admissible must not be vague or indefinite. I do not think hon. Shri Madan Lal Khurana's amendment is

[Sh. Jaswant Singh]

either vague or indefinite. The second condition is that it should not be negative in character. His amendment is not negative in character. Then the third condition is that it should not be unduly long. His amendment is not unduly long, because your Secretariat has said that the only ground on which it has been rendered inadmissible is *sub judice*. Then the other condition is that it should not seek to widen the scope of the discussion. It does not; in fact, it focuses it. Then the other condition is that if an amendment proposes to raise an altogether new subject beyond the scope of the resolution, it is out of order. It is not an altogether new subject. It is, in fact, within the scope, concentrating the scope. The other condition is that if the substance is the same as the original resolution, then again it is out of order. Here also the subject is not the same subject because it is an amendment focussing the issue. So none of these conditions apply to the amendment that has been moved by the hon. Member, Shri Madan Lal Khurana. Your Secretariat has found the amendment moved as out of order on ground of *sub judice*. I submit that this is an admissible amendment which must be admitted. If, however, you rule it out on the ground of *sub judice*, then you must rule out the main motion as out of order.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): One point has been raised that the main motion should also be declared as out of order. In the main motion it is said that the dispute regarding the shrine at Ayodhya should be settled peacefully. So peace cannot be *sub judice*. What should be the right of this House and every Member of this House is to exhort people of our country to settle this dispute peacefully. It means either through negotiation or abiding by the court verdict. There the problem arises. There is no attempt made to dictate any terms to any court or try to influence any court. It is perfectly in order and it is the need of the hour that we settle the dispute peacefully. So

it is perfectly in order and we should allow the discussion to take place.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: When did I talk of violence? I did not say that violent means would be adopted to construct the temple there. My submission is that peaceful solution should be found out to construct the temple there. When you rejected my amendment then only I talk of the construction of temple there.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): Where will the temple be constructed?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: At the same place. (*Interruptions*) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has decided the issue.

[*English*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Khurana can have his say but the objection raised by my friend is misplaced.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): For the benefit of the House I want to read this Resolution. It says:

“This Houses urges upon the Government to take early steps to peacefully settle the dispute regarding the shrine at Ayodhya and to enact suitable legislation for preserving and maintaining the status quo of all religious shrines and places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947.”

Sir, there are two separate views. First part of the Resolution calls for a peaceful settlement and the second part of the Resolution, if you kindly go through it, urges the Government to bring a suitable legislation for all the shrines that existed as on 15 August, 1947. I do not know how it comes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I think, we have heard everybody's point of view. There are two or three issues.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to the amendment brought forward by Shri Khurana the Ministry has intimated that the matter is *sub judice* and as such it cannot be admitted. Secondly, the Resolution which is on the same subject is also *sub judice*. The subject is the same. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaswant Singh has already made every thing clear before the House. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the Resolution moved by our hon. friend, *status quo* should be maintained in respect of all places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947. I would like to submit, in this connection, that Puja is being performed in Ayodhya since 1949 and in Somnath temple after 1947. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. I will request hon. Members to sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please let me complete.

15.53 hrs.

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

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that the Ayodhya dispute is *sub judice*. (*Interruptions*). Both the things cannot go along simultaneously. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the court orders, *puja* is being performed there since 1950.

They want to stop the *puja* of the idols, which is being performed since 1950. (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I want to say that an idol has already been installed there on the orders of the Faizabad Sessions Court in 1950 and *puja* is being performed there since then. They want to remove the idols through this Resolution. It is not proper. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is Parliament, not a '*dharamshala*' (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will handle the issue. Please sit down.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: One minute please. I will hear if the Members have to say something, and I will take a decision. Please do not get excited. Yes, Advaniji.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Resolution was circulated three to four days ago. This Resolution is not acceptable to me as well as to my party. I did not have any objection to its admissibility. But this question arose, when one of my hon. friends gave a notice for amendment on this very subject and it was rejected on the ground that the matter was *sub judice*. He was informed that his amendment on the subject cannot be admitted. Shri Jaswant Singh has said this very thing that either the *sub judice* rule should apply in both the cases or it should not be made applicable at all. No one from our side has raised any such objection that there should be no discussion on the Resolution and ever demanded that it

[Sh. Lal K. Advani]

[English]

should be declared out of order. With regard to the amendment, our point was that if the *sub judice* rule is to apply, then it cannot apply only to the amendment, it has to apply to the Resolution also and, therefore, you have to take a decision, give a ruling which applies to both.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please take your seats. I will allow all of you one by one to express your views on this point. Yes, Lodhaji.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Poli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had brought a Resolution on the same subject during one of the sessions of the Ninth Lok Sabha. The ruling given by your predecessor on it was that no dispute in regard to 'Ram Janmabhoomi' could be brought in the House in the form of a Resolution, because this matter is *sub judice*. I was informed by the Ministry of Home Affairs that since the matter is *sub judice*, it cannot be taken up in the Parliament. This is on record. You can call for the records from the Secretary-General and see the decision of your predecessor. One resolution on the subject is disputed and other is not and on one case it is disallowed, but admitted on the second occasion. There cannot be two types of justice. I would like to submit that according to the rules of this House, matters which are *sub judice* are not generally discussed in the House. The Treasury Benches will also agree with this view. A number of cases are pending in the court, out of which 11 cases have been consolidated and are under consideration of a special bench of the Allahabad High Court. The question under their consideration is the dispute about 'Babri Masjid' and 'Ram Janmabhoomi'. I would like to submit that according to the rules of this House, in both the cases, matters, which are *sub judice*, cannot be discussed here. Secondly, you have already given a ruling on my resolution on the same subject and on a Private Members' Bill. As such, unless you are compel-

led to give another ruling after reconsidering the issue, it will be appropriate and in conformity with the dignity and decorum of the office of speaker to revive the earlier ruling. I challenge the admissibility of this Resolution. As has already been said by our hon. leader, he did not think so. I beg your pardon Sir and with due respect I would like to submit that according to my humble view it is not admissible.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow Members to express their views on this point. The short point is whether this matter can be taken up or not.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Ahamed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): What is going on here? The matter should be taken up for discussion. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear. Then I will decide.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the matter is *sub judice*, but there is a basic difference.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, well, if all of you want to transact the business according to your wish, it will be very difficult. So, let us come to a conclusion; allow me to decide about that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want that the discussion should start immediately. (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: There is some confusion in the minds of some hon. members. You will listen to the hon. members to decide about the admissibility of what? Admissibility of the amendment or motion which has already been admitted? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After hearing you I will say what I have to say. Let me hear them. If you have to say anything I will hear you also. When I am asking him to say something, why are you getting up? I will allow you to speak also.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): The Resolution given notice of by my learned friend, Shri Zainal Abedin has already been admitted by the Speaker. May I just bring to your kind notice Rules 173 and 174 regarding the Resolutions? As per the rule, the Resolution was not contrary to anything either in law or on facts. My learned friend Shri Jaswant Singh has made a case that if the Resolution is admissible, the amendment should also be admissible. If the Resolution is a matter pending before a court of law and is *sub judice*, the amendment should also be considered as *sub judice*. If the amendment is *sub judice*, the Resolution will also be *sub judice*. The Resolution need not necessarily be *sub judice*, because the wording of the Resolution is very clear. The wording of the Resolution does not affect anything pending before the court of law and we are not going into the merits of the case. What he has given notice of is that the matter should be settled peacefully. When a case is pending before the court, any citizen of this country can say, the matter is to be settled peacefully. But, at the very same time, the amendment given notice of by my learned friend, Shri Khurana relates to a particular matter relating to the construction of a temple. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: When that matter is pending before the court, it is the duty of every citizen of a civilized society to wait for the verdict of the court. But at the same time my learned friend has given notice of an amendment which is for the construction of temple. This is not only interfering with the matter pending before the court, but is also barred under these Rules of Procedure. The rule is absolutely clear.

Rule 173(v) says:

“It shall not relate to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India.”

Here the resolution is within the scope of this rule. That is why this has been admitted Resolution has already mentioned that status quo should be maintained. Therefore, the Resolution given notice of by my learned friend, Shri Zainul Abedin is within the scope of the admissibility under the rule and it has already been admitted, and I urge upon the Chair that the matter should be taken up for discussion. But at the very same time, once a matter has already been ordered by the Speaker as not admissible as it is pending for decision of the court of law, it shall not be taken up and I hope the hon. Member will also abide by the Ruling given by the Speaker.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I heard what Jaswant Singhji has said about the Resolution and about the amendment. There is a basic difference between the Resolution and the Amendment. The Resolution is quite clear and it is in order. ‘Peaceful settlement of the dispute’ is mentioned here, whereas what I have understood from the amendment read by Khuranaji is that he wants to acquire the land for the construction of the Ram Temple. (*Interruptions*). In order to construct the Ram Temple, that land should be acquired. That is there, I think, in the amendment. (*Interruptions*). That has been referred to the court and the court is examining that aspect of the dispute. So, that amendment is *sub judice*. That is why that amendment was rejected. And here the peaceful settlement of the dispute has been asked for. So, there is a basic difference between the Resolution and the amendment.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Not so far as it is *sub judice*—there is no difference between the two.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : As far as 'sub judice' is concerned, there is a basic difference.

Then there is another point also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I want to clarify. If, in fact, the amendment is substantially the same as the motion itself, then it becomes inadmissible. The point is that that is precisely why it is admissible. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : I have great respect for Jaswant Singh Ji. But he can point it out to us and we can learn from him that.....

MR. SPEAKER : Not like this.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If a Resolution is not *sub judice*, amendment can be *sub judice*. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There is also another point in the Resolution. The maintenance of status quo—that is another point in the Resolution. So, the Resolution is not *sub judice*, the contents of the Resolution are not *sub judice*. It is very much clear and it is very much in order. That is why it has been admitted, and I request the hon. Speaker—the Chairman has already asked Shri Zainul Abedin to move the Resolution. So, the discussion should start immediately. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may not repeat all that I have submitted to the House when the Chair was occupied by Col. Ram Singh. I would submit two additional points for your consideration. Firstly, as has been pointed out by the leader of my party, the whole substance of the law is that the executive should not interfere with the functioning of the law of the land when it comes to the question of Courts of Law being seized of an issue; equally the executive should not interfere, the legislature, despite the freedom that it has of discussing anything that it wishes to, in the absolute privilege that it has to do so, must also by implica-

tion not interfere with the functioning of Courts of Law. That is the substance of what I submitted earlier by quoting Kaul and Shakdhar.

The second aspect was of admissibility. My submission was that if the motion is admissible this amendment to the motion is also admissible. (*Interruptions*) I do not think that is the point under discussion now. The question is of the admissibility of an amendment moved and as was pointed out by the leader of my party, we are not averse to the motion being discussed, but if the motion is discussed then the amendment must also be discussed. That is the substance of it. Then, in the Hindi List of Business, the wording of the Resolution say:

[*Translation*]

"The Ayodhya Shrine"

There is a mention of the shrine at Ayodhya in it. If there is any such mention, I may submit that we have no objection to it. A discussion is to be held on it. We want to have a discussion on it. If you are going to hold a discussion on the Resolution, a discussion on the amendment should also be held, because mention of Ayodhya shrine is there in both of them.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : On one point, will you enlighten me? Supposing a decision has been taken in the Secretariat of the Legislature, can we discuss that decision on the floor of the House?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I would leave it to the leader of my party to reply.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, it is somewhat different from the point that Mr. Guman Mal Lodha has raised because I was not at all aware that the Secretariat had on an earlier occasion disallowed his resolution or motion on the ground that this matter of Ayodhya

is *sub judice*. I was not aware of it. (*Interruptions*) My understanding of *sub judice* is that it is not a blanket authority whereunder any matter which is before a Court of Law can be shut out from discussion. It has never been interpreted that way and therefore all the interpretation including that of this committee of Presiding Officers had tried to narrow it down very much. Therefore, it was surprising for me to find that this particular amendment was rejected and this amendment differs from the view point expressed by the mover, no doubt. But that mover also wants the executive to intervene. There is a matter before the Court of Law pertaining to the Ayodhya shrine. (*Interruptions*) Let me complete. Now, this resolution and this mover wants the executive to proceed to settle the matter peacefully as if the Court is not settling it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to make his submission.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I feel that we have every authority to tell the executive to proceed in this matter even though it is before the Court of Law. I would not regard the *sub judice* rule as coming in the way of discussing this resolution. But if this particular amendment has been ruled out specifically on that ground, we ask you to review your decision. We ask you to either review it and admit his amendment or if this ground has to be applied, it must be applied to the Resolution also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. If you want to make your submissions, I am prepared to hear. But supposing all of you speak at one time, it becomes difficult because I have to understand it if I have to say something.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In view of the fact that your question is addressed to me, if I recollect the question, you said: Can we in this House review what the Secretariat has done.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not that. So many notices are given to the Secretariat and decisions about their admissibility are taken in the Secretariat. Supposing we are going to compare the decision given in one notice with the decision in another notice and try to decide whether the decision given in one notice is correct or not, or decision given in one notice is of the same kind of decision as given in the other or not, this becomes a matter of going into the details, going into the fact. In that case, each word, comma and full stop we have to consider. Is it possible for us to go into all these details and come to a conclusion whether a decision taken in two cases is correct or not on the floor of the House? That is why, I was trying to understand what is the practice, according to you—whether the decision taken in the Secretariat or by the Speaker can be challenged here? If you have a grievance, valid grievance, certainly it should be rectified. But can we go into all those things as we go in the court of law?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The fact remains that you have now brought in two separate aspects. Hon. Justice G. M. Lodha's previous motion on the same subject has been ruled out on certain ground. And the amendment on the present motion has been ruled out on certain other ground. I am not going into the grounds why it has been ruled out.

I would submit without going into the motion of Hon. Justice G. M. Lodha, though it belonged to the previous Lok Sabha, it becomes the property of Parliament. Today see for yourself the amendment moved by Shri Madan Lal Khurana to the motion. If the motion is admitted, then I submit in all humility that the Speaker who has an unfettered right and as repository of the privileges of all of us, has the right to certainly apply his mind and to consider that a decision taken by the Secretariat in his name can indeed be reconsidered on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Or, in the Chamber, because on the floor of the House, the time is very limited and it is very difficult to go into all these details.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is possible that an error of judgement has been made by the Secretariat and the Speaker can rectify it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is on a point of law, on a point of rule. Now I have called his name.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said that if the amendment has been ruled out as being not in order because the matter being *sub judice*, then the resolution also has to be looked at from the same angle or *vice versa*.

I think, for this, we will have to fall back only on the wording of the Resolution. I can certainly, in normal circumstances, agree that this cannot happen like this. But kindly look at the wording of the Resolution. This Resolution is more or less of a declaratory nature. It requests this Lok Sabha to suggest that the dispute concerning this matter is settled peacefully. This is one part.

The second part deals with the legislation which we have already announced in the President's Address.

Now so far as the first part is concerned, I think, in the background of what has gone on in this country in the last two years, we cannot shut our eyes entirely to what has happened in the country and, if this Parliament, in its wisdom wants to say that this dispute should be settled peacefully, I do not think this intention can become *sub judice*. But the moment you go into the issues which, by clear definition or in fact, are before a certain court, then you will have to consider that is *sub judice*.

Here the intention of this Parliament is to see that this dispute should be settled peacefully. I see no reason why anyone should have objection to that. Rather, within this cover of Parliament's wish, every one should strive the hardest that is possible and, in this no party can be an exception that this dispute be settled peacefully.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I completely agree with Shri Arjun Singh and there is nothing in this Resolution, on which people belonging to any party can have differences, because all the parties have been repeatedly saying that there can be only two solutions to the problem. One is to solve the problem peacefully through negotiations and the other is the acceptance of the court's verdict, without any reservations, by all the concerned parties. Although many people do not have any objection regarding the acceptance of the court's decision, there is not a single person, who has reservations about arriving at a peaceful settlement through negotiations.

So far as the issue raised by Shri Madan Lal Khurana is concerned, the acquisition of land, the construction of the temple etc. is an altogether different matter. You please allow a discussion on that part of the resolution which urges upon the Government to enact suitable legislation for preserving and maintaining the status quo of all religious shrines and places of worship, as they existed on August 15, 1947. No one has any objection to it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I gave a notice for Amendment, I was under the impression that the resolution is on the cards, but the previous night the Lok Sabha Secretariat informed me that it cannot be admitted as it is a matter concerning the Ram-Janambhoomi—Babri Masjid dispute, which is *sub judice*. Only then I understood the whole thing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to put it simply, if my notice for amendment is not valid because the matter raised is *sub-judice*, then it automatically means that even this resolution is not valid. Therefore, either you admit my notice or you reject the resolution moved by Shri Zainal Abedin. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I know, a 'dispute' takes place between two parties, but in this resolution, there are terms like the 'Shrine at Ayodhya'. There is no mention of any mosque. Only the 'Shrine at Ayodhya' is mentioned. What I want to say is that the dispute is regarding the temple and the mosque, then why is it that only one term 'Shrine' is mentioned? The term 'Mosque' too should have been mentioned along with it. Just mentioning about the 'Shrine' won't suffice.

Now, as Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has said to acquire the land, I would like to make it clear that I had mentioned it keeping in mind, the ordinance issued by the Government headed by the then Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh. Now, if this resolution is accepted, it would be a blatant interference in the affair of judiciary because the temple was already there and the idol was installed there after 1950 with the consent of the sessions court. Moreover, if the resolution is moved, it would tantamount to contempt of the Faizabad Sessions Court.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that this resolution, if accepted, will have far reaching repercussions. The temple has been there since 1950 and it would have far reaching consequences. Therefore, I would like to submit that this is a very sensitive resolution and before taking a decision on it on the floor of the House itself, the Government should call a meeting of all opposition leaders, because the people are not going to tolerate the removal of an idol which was installed long back in 1950.

[English]

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA (Berhampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. My point is that the Resolution has already been moved in the House. You have already rightly allowed it. It has already been moved by the Member concerned. This is my first point. My second point is that we know nothing about the amendments which were rejected by the Office. Nor, do we know the merits or demerits of the amendments. Now this matter is being raised. What is this? We do not know about it... (*Interruptions*) According to procedure this Resolution has already been moved by the Member concerned. Now, we are discussing it. That is all. This is my view. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: Sir, this matter has to be considered in a very sober manner. This House is seized of this Resolution. This Resolution was approved by the Secretariat, was given permission to by yourself and the Chairman permitted Shri Zainal Abedin to move the Resolution. In fact, the Resolution has already been moved. But this amendment was sought to be moved after the Resolution was moved... (*Interruptions*) This amendment has been rejected. So, this amendment cannot be discussed. Therefore, it cannot be considered also. They should understand the basic difference between an amendment and the main Resolution. They just say that they want a peaceful settlement. Now the question of disputed land has been raised, which is in the court of law. Two basic issues are raised which are quite different. So, this amendment cannot be discussed. Therefore, this Resolution should be discussed immediately now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is the point of practice and procedure that is involved in this matter. An amendment was sent by a Member and that has been rejected

[Sh. Sharad Dighe]

The consequence is that it has not been circulated to us at all. Not a single Member knows what is the amendment. The point whether the amendment which was rejected was proper or not, if that is allowed to be discussed in the House, it will lay down many bad practices. Many Members sent so many amendments to so many Resolutions and Bills and they are rejected. If a Member discusses this point every time why that is rejected, it will be a waste of time of this House and it will set a bad precedent. Therefore, in such circumstances, the Member affected ought to have seen you and discussed with you why that has been rejected. He should have asked you to review the matter by trying to convince the hon. Speaker. That has not been done. And for the last one hour time of the House has been taken away regarding whether this amendment was properly rejected or not.

Then as far as the merits are concerned, the Resolution is properly in order because what is *sub-judice* has to be seen. What is *sub-judice* is, whether that property is for that Mandir or Masjid, to whom does it belong to, whether we should be allowed to enter there and do *pooja* or not. These matters are *sub-judice*. Now the Resolution suggests only the Government to take steps to settle the dispute or to bring legislation in this House. That is not settling the dispute in one way or the other, whereas, the amendment seeks, if I may say so, to decide the dispute in one way, namely, to acquire the land, build the Mandir and that way demolish the mosque and that will decide the dispute in spite of the fact that it has been left to the judiciary. Therefore, that is absolutely out of order and *sub-judice*. But as far as Resolution is concerned, it is not *sub-judice* and moreover, this practice of considering the objection to the rejection of the amendment ought not to be allowed in the House at all.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I am giving my decision.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: So many others are also there.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I have been trying for an hour. The Speaker has every authority to review the decision in the House also. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Actually, there are two parts of the Resolution. We do not disagree with the first part. There is another part of the Resolution that there should be a legislation maintaining the *status quo* as it existed on 15th August, 1947, which goes at the root about the dispute site. This opens up an issue which is before the court. If the amendment is *sub-judice* then this date, the 15th August, 1947 will not lead to any settlement of the dispute but will create many problems. That is contradictory; that is *sub-judice*. (Interruptions). My request to you would be to please review the decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Can I do that?

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Yes, you as a Speaker has the right. (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that there cannot be a discussion on the merits and demerits of a Private Members' Resolution that has been listed in the List of Business which has been accepted by you. A new precedent is being set. You should allow a discussion only on a Resolution listed in the List of Business. So far as the question of the amendment is concerned,

it is not there before the hon. Members. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I would like to compliment the Members for taking so much interest in the interpretation of the Rules of Procedure. Now, if you are very particular about the interpretation of the Rules of Procedure, it will help all of us because we would be exact and correct. For this you should all be complimented.

The short point before us is that there is a Resolution which is circulated. The words of the Resolution are known to the Members. But the words in the amendment given are not known to the Members and yet we are discussing it. Again the question is that there are so many amendments given and the decisions are taken in the office. Supposing we discuss the decisions given on the amendments given in the office, then the entire time will be consumed by us on discussing whether the order of not admitting is correct or not. In a court of law at the time of admission itself there are arguments on both sides. But that kind of procedure is not available here because we are transacting a lot of business. That is why the convention, the procedure followed by us is that any decision taken by the Secretariat is not discussed on the floor of the House. That decision is discussed in the Chamber itself so that you have the time and you have the patience also. Only one or two Members will be sitting there discussing each word, every comma and full-stop and then one can come to the correct conclusion.

In this case it has become very clear. Both the things are before me. This file had not come to me, it need not come to me because the decision is taken at the Secretariat level and yet the Speaker is responsible for that: I am not denying it. But having not read all those things, having not assessed the meaning of each word used in the Resolution and in the amendment, supposing if I want to

pronounce on the admissibility of the amendment on the basis of whether it is subjudice or not, well I would have to apply my mind. I am paying attention to what the hon. Members are saying, at the same time reading it, at the same time reading the law and coming to the decision. Such a decision is likely to be wrong also. To be correct, I think the procedure laid down and followed generally is that whenever any Member has any objection to the admissibility or non-admissibility of a notice or an amendment or anything which is given to the Secretariat, it is not generally discussed on the floor of the House; it is discussed in the Chamber and there we take decisions patiently.

I would like to request you; I have tried to see and I have tried to assess the wording of both these things and then I find that different interpretations can be given on these things. Moreover it is not disclosing any secret to you. But the file says so many other things also—the scope of the amendment and other things. It is not only on that amendment being subjudice or not, it is a question of the scope of the amendment. If it is beyond the scope of the Resolution, it has to be seen whether it is admissible or not. But while communicating probably only one thing has been communicated; but in the file there are so many other things also. So this is a kind of matter which if we discuss it on the floor of the House complications arise.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I would request you; we are interested in discussing the things and we are not interested in settling out anything here. We are interested in doing things in a correct manner also.

Now may I request that let us proceed with the discussion on the Resolution? As far as the decision on the amendment is concerned, I will apply my mind in my office.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now the mover may continue with his speech.

[*Translation*]

*ZAINAL ABEDIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the country is passing through a terribly difficult time. The economic crisis is assuming an alarming turn. The country is overburdened with foreign debt. The number of closed and sick industries has been increasing with an alarming proportion. Today lives of millions of poor and the middle class people are topsy turvy due to price rise of staggering dimension. The foreign exchange reserve is warning. The deficit in the balance of payment in foreign trade has been gradually increasing. One can hear the laments of millions of unemployed in every household. On the whole the economic crisis has turned the whole country in a very pathetic situation.

Side by side the ugly face of secession issue in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab has posed as a great danger for unity of the country. In this political and economic crisis, the people expect that all responsible political parties will face the challenge uncompromisingly. But it is a matter of regret that the recent communal situation in the country has reached such a stage that a healthy and conscious mind, the mind of every patriot feels concerned for this pathetic turn of events. In the near past the mutual distrust, the mutual hatred and animosity between the two main communities Hindu and Muslim, have been responsible for many communal riots, which have cost so many lives in the country. The resources of the country have also suffered terribly for this communal outburst.

There is polarisation of people on the basis of religion. It is but natural that everybody is concerned about this problem. Since our attention is focussed on this single problem of multitude dimension, the economic problem related to daily needs and

livelihood of the people are sidelined. Similarly the political problems related to the unity and integrity of the country are becoming less important.

But the question is who are the people killed in the communal riots? What are their identities? They may be Hindus or they may be Muslims, their foremost identity is, that they are Indians. And the resources we have lost, are the resources of India.

The intrusion of religion into politics is not new in Indian politics. Communal riot is also not new. But prior to eighties riots were the outcome of some stray incidents. Since the beginning decade of 80 there has been an organised planned attempt to poison the relation of these communities. This was not seen during post independence period. Today the communal problem has assumed a national character. It was not so before. Here it is a matter of apprehension.

The centre-point is the communal question today is of the birth place of Ram and Babri Masjid. The whole country has been engulfed by this religious sentiment and it has become a centripetal question. We are losing the sense of propriety, values and logicity. If communal situation is allowed to continue like this for the sake of temple and mosque, then I have apprehension that ultimately we will lose our identity as Indian. Instead we will be branded as Hindu or Muslim, Sikh or Christian only.

16.44 hrs. [SHRI SHARAD DIGHE
in the Chair]

But how this situation was created? Who is responsible for this? This situation is the outcome of using religion for politics. This has been the outcome of making religion as a commodity in the market of politics. There is a vicious move to pull the chariot of politics by the horse of religion.

It is a matter of regret that B.J.P. has considered to make the question of temple and mosque their central issue in election. By keeping this central issue in the forefront B.J.P. and its allied organisations have raised the religious sentiment of one particular community to such a height that it has created an atmosphere of panic and fear in the mind of another community resulting in the weakening of very basis of secularism. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not obstruct him. Let him speak.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: The other so-called secular parties are also following the policy of compromise with the fundamentalists to serve their petty political self interest. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may not like what he speaks but you will have to hear him.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: So, the secularism of which we are so proud of, is utterly helpless because they have failed in their role to protect secularism.

As a worker of the Leftist politics, I am proud to declare that we are the only party who are against any kind of fundamentalism—whether it is of the majority or the minority. We have been fighting uncompromisingly inside as well as outside Parliament against this menace.

We the Leftists have always taken a firm stance for secularism. We have never been infatuated by political selfish end.

After the recently held elections of Parliament and some of State Assem-

blies, the danger signal to secularism and national unity has increased to a large extent. Because the BJP slogan of destroying or shifting Babri Masjid and constructing the temple of Ram has raised the religious sentiment of the people to a new dimension. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seats.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should talk about peaceful solution to the problem but he is making provocative utterance. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever he is speaking, he is speaking on the Resolution. He has got the freedom of speech. You can put forward your point when you speak.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the contents of the Resolution that has been moved here crosses all limits.....

(*Interruptions*)

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: This partial success of BJP is arousing religious sentiments of the people has contributed much for their victory in the election. They are the second largest party in Lok Sabha and in Uttar Pradesh—the State which includes Ayodhya—the place of Babri Masjid, they have formed their government. It is a matter of apprehension that after the Council of Ministers was formed all ministers went to the disputed site and they took the pledge to construct the Temple at the controversial spot, thus defying all kinds of norms and practice. The purpose is to stimulate the religious sentiments of the majority

[Sh. Zainal Abedin]

community greatly and to create the sense of fear and panic among the minorities. In one side, there are efforts to create we have the authoritarian attitude of the majority nourished by the cooperation of the Government, while in the other, there is the feeling of helplessness and inferiority complex of the minority. This kind of situation can never be good for the country.

So this is my humble submission to my BJP friends, that you have succeeded immensely by the tactics of utilising the religious sentiments of the people. But do not follow that tactics any more. I do not know whether you will be benefited by this strategy. But undoubtedly it will be harmful and dangerous for the country. Because as the emotion of the majority is associated with the temple of Ram, so is the emotion of minority is associated with the 400 years old Babri Masjid. Equal importance and honour should be paid to the religious feelings of both the communities.

There cannot be any objection to the construction of the temple. But why it has to be built in the same place by shifting or destroying the mosque? It is perhaps due to the claim of BJP and its allies. The reason perhaps is that Shri Ram was born in that very place and there was a temple which was destroyed by Babar and a mosque was constructed. *(Interruptions)*

But this theory of destruction of temple and construction of mosque has not been proved yet. Some of the historians have supported the opinion while there are some noted historians who have opposed the idea. The findings of Archeological survey are also contradictory and different. B.J.P. and their allied organisations are not even prepared to go by the verdict of the Court. Because they

feel this to be a matter of faith. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there are any objectionable words in his speech, I shall go through the record and remove those words. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more than half an hour. You please conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: So it does not come under jurisdiction of any law. If the sheer faith and feelings are given more recognition than Constitution and Law, then secularism is lost into oblivion. And for those who do not follow this particular faith and feeling their constitutional rights become meaningless. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar): I am on a point of order. Shri Advani is the leader of the opposition. He should direct his party colleagues to restrain themselves and at least allow other hon. members to speak. If it is not done, no one would be able to express his or her opinion. Therefore, I request him to tell his party colleagues that all the hon. members have got the right to express their viewpoint and they should not be interrupted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

[Translation]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: When we are pleading to preserve the secular policy of the country, BJP is claiming to be the most secular party.

Theirs is a positive secularism and while others are pseudosecular. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please complete your speech otherwise I will call the next speaker.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: By secularism we mean complete alienation or segregation of politics from religion. Religion is a personal matter and politics cannot be mixed with religion. (*Interruptions*)

17.00 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the Hon'ble Member to complete the speech within five minutes. And, I request other Hon. Members not to disturb the speaker please. All of you will get your turns.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: In the middle ages the Church and the State were inseparable. The State was run by the direction of the Church. By disobeying the Church one was branded as traitors.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I would request the Members of my party to allow the hon. Member to complete his speech but I would like to request the House through you that on this issue we want a peaceful solution to the problem but at the same time the words like traitors...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen. If he has used any unparliamentary expressions, I will expunge them.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Many men of genius, scientists, philosopher

have to face deterrant punishment for defying the Church. But ultimately they had won. The State and the Church are completely separated now.

But it is a matter of regret that there is an attempt in our country to revive that medieval trend. The administration of the country is being driven to the court-yard of temple and mosque. So when an important political activity like electioneering starts, we find the so-called secular leaders also gather either in the temple or in mosque. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given him five minutes. Those five minutes have already been over. You have taken a lot of time. Let us allow others also to speak.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: I shall take 3-4 minutes more. The feudal system is still powerful in our country and the disturbance of the fundamentalists is endangering the country for this strong social base of feudalism. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I request you to resume your seat. Let all those who want to support you also speak.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: What is the true identity of the BJP secularism? To them Hindutva and Indianness are synonymous. They feel until you embrace Hindutva, you cannot be an Indian. If you embrace Hindutva, that will be the most positive secularism.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I request you to resume your seat. Let all those who want to support you also speak.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: That is, they want the minority to be the carbon-copy of the majority. But they are forgetting the fact that India is a multi-lingual country. (*Interruption*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. That is enough. I have given you a lot of time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): He has not been given sufficient time because he is the mover of the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been ringing the bell for the last ten minutes.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: It is the country of many religion. Unity in diversity is the speciality of India. People belonging to different linguistic group, to different religion are Indian preserving their separate entity of language, culture and religion. So any attempt to deprive them of their separate identity is harmful for the unity of the country.

BJP claims that the people have voted them in power so as to construct the temple of Ayodhya. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can give you one minute more.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: So it is the duty of the minority to honour the verdict of the majority reflected in election. But the question is whether the problem of temple and mosque is the problem of U.P. only, or is it a national problem? It is BJP who has declared in their

election manifesto—For BJP it is purely a national issue. So the problem should be solved on national level. But BJP was not voted into power on national level? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Then they would have occupied the treasury benches. If by chance after election in Punjab, the Sikh fundamentalists, come to power and claim the same locality which the BJP are claiming... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not record hereafter.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: then will the BJP have any moral right to fight the sikh fundamentalists? Again if the Muslim militants in Jammu and Kashmir somehow come to power after the election is held and claim that the peoples' verdict is in their favour reflecting their wish that the people of Kashmir should go out of India as the militants are demanding now, what role the BJP will play then?

The Congress (I) has declared in its election manifesto that they would try to solve the dispute of mosque and temple through negotiated settlement and they would arrange to preserve and maintain the *status quo* of all other shrines and places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947. The same view is expressed in the manifesto of the National Front... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't record anything further.

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: We, the leftist parties also are in favour of this and it is reflected in our manifesto also. So it is clear that all the major parties in Parliament except BJP are of the same opinion in this regard. I am happy to say that the President has also expressed the same view in his Address. If this trend of demolishing mosque and temple goes on, our secular set up will be destroyed. So I appeal to all parties of this august House to adopt my resolution unanimously to fulfil the commitment we had made to the people. This will help us to pay absolute attention to the economic prices as well as the political menace the country is confronted with. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"This House urges upon the Government to take early steps to peacefully settle the dispute regarding the shrine at Ayodhya and to enact suitable legislation for preserving and maintaining the *status quo* of all religious shrines and places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947."

Now I will call upon one hon. Member from BJP to speak.

Shri Shreesh Chandra Dikshit.

[Translation]

225 — SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree on one point with the Member who was speaking prior to me when he says that it is a national problem. People's sentiments are also linked with this problem apart from various aspects including the legal aspect. Therefore, it would be better if we apprise ourselves a little of the facts of the issue since we find that the people, who speak on the Ram Janmabhoomi issue,

rely either on hearsay or are guided by their own sentiments. Sir, I would like to ask you only one thing.....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't disturb. Resume your seat.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: In this august House very often a reference is made that this issue is *sub judice*. A reference is often made to suit No. 12 of 1961, filed by Sunni Central Board of Trust. In that suit it has been alleged that on the night of

[English]

December 22 and 23, 1949, some Hindus forcibly and surreptitiously entered into their Mosque and placed the idol of Shri Ram therein and are worshipping there from that time. Is it conceivable that if a Mosque had been occupied forcibly and surreptitiously, on the night between December 22 and 23, 1949, the suit for that should have been filed on December 18, 1961? Eleven years, eleven months and twenty-six days after the alleged incident! These are the facts which can be verified.

[Translation]

All these facts can be verified from the files in the court. Then you can well imagine the case. Very interesting facts are before us. Some mosque was occupied forcibly and surreptitiously by some body and the suit for the alleged incident was filed after eleven years, eleven months and twenty-six days...*(Interruptions)*... yes, the suit was filed before the expiry of twelve years so as to ensure the maintainability of the suit not being affected by the expiry of period of twelve years and I claim that not a single application was filed by any of our Muslim brethren against the forcible occupation of their mosque from the night of 22/23 December, 1949 to 18 December 1961. These facts can be ascertained from the files of the court.

(Interruptions)

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurwar): No doubt. But the Mosque was there.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: That is what I am trying to tell you, please first listen, you are referring to the mosque and I am trying to prove the same. Please give me a patient hearing and I shall give the facts. *(Interruptions)*

The hon. Member who was speaking just now from your side had every opportunity to express himself and when we suggest anything on behalf of B.J.P. to solve the problem, you do not allow us to express ourselves and stop us abruptly. I am trying to pinpoint the facts. Unless you understand the problem clearly you cannot solve it. It is important to understand all the facts related to the problem.

[English]

If you do not understand the facts, if you do not know what the facts are, how will you solve the problem?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Facts, as you see.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: Facts as given by the court of law.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In which you have no faith.

[Translation]

First listen to the whole thing. If you go by the judgement, you will realize, the facts. Instead allegations are being made against us that we are not prepared to accept the verdict of the court. Sir, the problem is very old and nothing has been done till date. Vishwa Hindu Parishad had taken up this case, the B.J.P. emerged on the scene at a very late stage. Please see the order of the court.

Sir, this is the order of the court. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Which part of the resolution are you opposing? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: I am not opposing any part of the resolution. I am trying to find a solution to this problem. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he says that he is not opposing the resolution. So, let us pass this resolution unanimously. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: Sir, I will read out the Order of the Civil Judge, Faizabad, which was passed on 16th January 1950. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): You quote the Order of the Allahabad High Court. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: I will quote the order of the High Court, Allahabad also. First, I will quote the order of the Civil Judge, Faizabad. It says:

“The interim injunction was passed by Civil Judge, Faizabad on 16th January 1950. The parties are hereby restrained by means of temporary injunction to refrain from removing the idol in question from the site in dispute and from interfering with the pooja, etc. as at present carried on.” *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN-SAL (Chandigarh): My submission is that the resolution refers to what should be our course of action in coming to an amicable settlement. My hon. friend is referring to the merits of the case and those are *sub judice*. I think, these should not be referred to. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Unless you know the merits of the case how can you find a solution...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: You have already said that the peaceful solution is possible in two ways, either by the negotiation or through a court of law...(*Interruptions*) This injunction was confirmed by the Civil Judge on 3rd March 1951 and on an appeal to the High Court—which my friend was referring to—this Order was upheld by the Allahabad High Court vide its judgement dated 26th April 1955 by Chief Justice Mr. Mootham and Mr. Justice Raghuvardayal and it continues to operate till date. Now the Hindus are worshipping there.

[*Translation*]

We are offering prayers there under the order of Court. The Civil Judge issued an interim injunction which was confirmed by a Senior Judge and the High Court dismissed the appeal which was filed against that injunction. We are not offering prayers there through use of force rather we are doing that on the basis of the court's order.

We are often asked to resolve the issue by accepting the court's verdict or through negotiations. So, Sir, we want to show you that in this particular case the proverb "the thief threatens the policeman" has come true. We are abiding by the judgement of the Court and yet it is being said that we are not abiding by the judgement of the court.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: Which order of the court you are following?

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: Even after that there was a lock. Despite the court's judgement, which gave us the right to worship there, somebody locked that place. We tried all methods, but it was not unlocked...(*Interruptions*)

There was a lock. We approached all and said that it was contempt of court as the Hindus had an unfettered right of worship. How was it locked? But no one listened to us and ultimately we were compelled to say that we would launch a peaceful agitation to unlock that place if the lock was not removed.

[*English*]

On 1st of February, 1986—it is a material date—on an application by an advocate, Mr. Umesh Chand Pandey, in the Court of District Judge, Faizabad, he said that: "I am a devout Hindu. I went to pray in Ram Janam Bhumi. There is a court injunction prohibiting the other party from interfering in my right of worship. In spite of that I am not permitted to go inside the temple. The District Judge called the District Magistrate and the Senior Superintendent of Police in his court and recorded their statements. It is an open file which anybody can see. He asked:

[*Translation*]

Yes, there is a lock, why and with whose order it was locked. We do not know.

[*English*]

They could not cite any authority as to why this lock was there and they could not justify whether this lock was at all necessary for maintenance of law and order or for maintenance of peace in that area. It was on that day i.e. 1st February, 1986 that the District Judge, faced with this application of Shri Umesh Chand Pandey, the statements of District Magistrate and SSP and the standing judgment of the Allahabad High Court that Hindus have an unfettered right of worship, ordered opening of the lock. You will be surprised to know that the Babri Masjid Action Committee came into being as a result of the protest to that judgement. There was no Babri Masjid Action Committee before 1st February, 1986.

[Sh. Shreesh Chandra Dikshit]

[*Translation*]

The Babri Masjid Action Committee was constituted against the Judicial Verdict of the 1st February, 1986, and thereafter a rally was held on the Boat Club. The Resolutions passed in that rally were horrifying. They gave a call to boycott the Republic Day on 26th January, 1987.

[*English*]

On 1st February, 1987 i.e. almost one year after the passing of the judicial verdict by the court of law, they announced Bharat Bandh. Those people who were talking about taking the matter to the court took the matter to the streets. And the quarrel started. That judgment of the District Judge still stands.

[*Translation*]

If that judgement was wrong than why did not any court reject that judgement during those 6-7 years. We have nowhere done anything which is against the law.

[*English*]

When we decided to lay the foundation stone of Shri Ram Janam Bhumi temple and it was moved in the hon. Supreme Court saying that the shilaniyas, shila yatra and shila puja should be banned, there is order judgement of the Supreme Court which said that it is an exercise of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed in the Constitution. We have nowhere done anything which is against the law. And yet at every stage it is being said that we are the people who are not abiding by the judgement of the court.

[*Translation*]

Maintaining the *status quo* order a canopy was installed at the site of the "Shilaniyas", which was removed by Shri Mulayam Singh. And even then they are talking about the *status quo* now. That was built there again after our coming to power. It was wrong, it was done when they were

in power. We were helpless as we were put into jail at that time.

[*English*]

Sir, I would like to mention one factor here. After the 30 October, 1990, the whole complexion of this movement has changed.

[*Translation*]

After the blood-shed, that took place during the Ayodhya massacre, in which innocents were butchered, the whole complexion of this movement changed in the same manner as the freedom movement under went a change after the Jalian Wala Bagh incident. We have made every effort in this regard. I will just present the documents before those who are talking about the negotiated settlement. Now it is upto you to see as to how the negotiated settlement can take place. The police has power to resort to fire if the mob becomes violent and unruly and begins a scuffle or indulges in sabotage. But we did not break even a single bulb there. There are many other mosques in Ayodhya. This is not the only *Masjid* which they call *Masjid*. *Namaz* is offered five times in a day in all the *Masjids* of Ayodhya. 10-20 lakh Hindus assemble there on the occasion of festivals. Can any one of the Muslim brothers say if we ever threw even a single brick on any of the mosques there. Out of the total population of nearly 50 thousands of Ayodhya the number of the Muslims is about one to one thousand five hundred. Can any one say that we have harmed the Muslim brothers living there. (*Interruptions*) The question does not arise. We had no intention to demolish the *Masjid*, there are so many other *Masjids* where *Namaz* is offered all the time. It is true and historically proved that no Muslim has ever offered *Namaz* at that place since 1934. According to the Shariat Law, as has narrated to us, the 'KHUDA' does not accept the *Namaz* offered in the *Masjid* which has been constructed on a land acquired forcibly. Archaeological and historical records proved that there

was a magnificent temple, built by Maharaja Vikramaditya on that spot. I possess here the archaeological findings regarding that place. These archaeological findings and historical evidences are also given by foreign travellers. The foreign historians also support that these things were present on that place. I can present before you, the innumerable evidences of the Muslim Historians and writers. A committee was constituted. The committee asked both the parties to submit the evidential documents in their possession and have talks. We submitted all these evidences before that committee also.

Negotiated settlement was also suggested. Previously during the Congress Government we tried our best to meet Shri Vir Bahadur and when he did not agree, the case was decided in the court. At the time of 'Shilanyas' Shri Buta Singh was our Home Minister. We met him several times. We placed all the facts before him and he had to accept ultimately that the site of 'Shilanyas' was not a disputed area at all and we performed 'Shilanyas' there. Subsequently, when Shri Chandra Shekhar came to power, a committee was constituted, and it was decided that some experts from both the sides would sit together and analyse the facts and evidences and would arrive at a decision. First meeting for the so called negotiated settlement was held on 1-12-1990 in which Mr. Azamkhan, Mr. Afzal, Mr. Shaheed-ud-Din Ashraf, Shri Salahuddin Owaisi, Shri Zafaryar Jee-lani, Shri Javed Habib, Shri Ahmad Siddiqui and on behalf of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Shri Kaushal Kishore, myself, Acharya Giriraj Kishore, Shri Badri Prasand Toshniwal, Shri Vishnu Hari Dalmai, Shri Bhanu Prasad Shukla and Shri Moropant Ji Pingley participated. I read out the decision taken in that meeting: "A joint meeting of the representatives of Shri Rama Janam Bhoomi Kar Seva Samiti, Rama Janam Bhoomi Trust and Babri Masjid Action Committee was held in the Maharashtra House today, the 1-12-1990. This meeting was

attended by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sharad Power. All the people present in the meeting appealed to the countrymen that maintenance of peace is our national responsibility, so without being influenced by rumours we should assist in the maintenance of peace. Today's meeting then concluded."

Another similar meeting was to be held on the ensuing 4th December. Everybody held the view that all attempt would be made to find a peaceful solution to the problem. Finally on 4th December, the meeting was held and almost the same people participated in that meeting, whose names I have already read out. At the end of the meeting it was said— "A joint meeting of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Babri Masjid Action Committee was held today the 4th of December, 1990 in Maharashtra House, in which both the parties presented their views very clearly and it was unanimously decided that all the documentary evidence be sent to the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Subodh Kant Sahay by 22nd December, 1990. Minister of State for Home Affairs will provide the copies of all the facts and material to all concerned. Both the parties will review the documentary evidence and meet again in the Maharashtra House on 10th January, 1991 at 10 a.m." Then on 23rd again a meeting was held and it was decided that we would present the papers, and those papers were exchanged by both the parties. Following is the commentary of the government on it. I read it out:

[English]

"Both the VHP and the AIBMC submitted rejoinders on the due date, that is, 6-1-1991. The Minister of Home Affairs exchanged them on 8-1-1991. The VHP submitted the rejoinder in which it tried to refute

[Sh. Shreesh Chandra Dikshit]

claims of the AIBMC point-wise. The AIBMC did not react to the evidence put forward by the VHP. Instead, it submitted photo copies of some more evidence in support of its claim. Since the AIBMC did not give comments on the evidence put forward by the VHP, it is not possible for the Government to decide the areas of agreement or disagreement."

The decision was taken on 6th January, 1991. After that another meeting was held.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: I cannot wind up because the subject is so vast. The subject has got archaeological, historical, legal, social, moral and political angles.....

(Interruptions).

So, I have to take a little longer time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever it is, you must complete within the time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: I am sure the House will accept it because it is on the file. The people must know the facts as they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may have a lot of material, but you have to place it in the House within the limited time. I will give you now five minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: In that case I would not be able to put up my case.....(Interruptions).

[Translation]

I am speaking on the first part. I have yet to cover the second part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please complete all the points within five minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are right. First, it is his maiden speech and secondly...

[English]

He is speaking to the point and very relevant points he is making. I would plead with you to be indulgent in this case and let him present his case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time he wants?

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: This is a subject on which we must know the full facts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak for five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: You would like to know as to what was decided on the negotiating table. We handed over all the documents and replied all the questions raised in their documents. After that people representing the other side handed over a paper and left and that paper said:

[English]

"We need at least six weeks to examine the relevant files and visit Ayodhya".

[Translation]

I said, "You came to discuss the case without going through the case-file, and you have not been to Ayodhya and you have come here as an expert to discuss the case".

[English]

This is how this negotiation ended. We remained in that office, we wrote to the Government.

[Translation]

"We are sitting here and today is the date for hearing. It is quite unbecoming that these people did not come even

after fixing the date for hearing. We wrote to the Government that all the experts nominated by Vishva Hindu Parishad reached Gujarat Bhawan today at the appointed time of 11.00 a.m. Upto 12.45 p.m. neither a single member of the expert group nominated by Babri Masjid Action Committee turned up, nor any of their office-bearers came to inform us about the cause of their absence. Yesterday when the experts were divided into two groups. When those very people with whom we were to hold negotiations, went away leaving the negotiating table, then with whom do we hold talks?

Sir, much earlier than Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh took the oath of the Prime Ministership, we had already taken a decision that on such and such date, we would perform 'Shilanyas'. The hon. Prime Minister invited us for talks on 8 February, 1990. After giving us a patient hearing, he gave us both verbal and written assurance to the effect that the problem would be amicably solved within four months. Keeping in mind his assurance, we did not utilise those four months to work for or propagate our cause. The four-months' time frame was proposed by the Prime Minister himself. He had sought four months to solve this problem, as he felt that it was a complicated matter. Though, we had already decided our programme, yet we decided to defer the implementation of the proposed programme and give some time, in difference to the wishes of the new Prime Minister. We thought that it may perhaps prove helpful in finding a solution. We met the Prime Minister again in the month of June and inquired from him about the progress made in this direction during the four months' time frame, that he himself had laid down. We were very disappointed when we came to know that no progress had been made in this regard. Even then, we waited for six months and postponed the date of 'Shilanyas' from February to 30th October, 1990, but the Government of the day failed to find a solution of

the problem. Under the circumstances, we were left with no option, but to go there and perform the 'Shilanyas' peacefully as we had already planned. (*Interruptions*) The important thing is that the spot, where the intended to perform the 'Shilanyas' is not at all a disputed site. We have with us archaeological evidence to this effect. We can show you photographs. If you go there, you will find that excavations have been carried out there. We have incorporated in our documents, all the archaeological and historical evidence we had found there and which you too can see. If you go through the opinion of Shri B. B. Lal, Shri Swaraj Prakash and others in the matter, you will realize that a temple was there at that site and that the Babri Masjid was constructed after destroying it.

Now, the most important point, we would like to make is that we have no objection to the construction of the mosque, but if one is built after demolishing a temple, how do you expect us to tolerate it?

The second thing I would like to submit is that everyone should seriously study the second part of this resolution. It calls upon the Government to enact suitable legislation for preserving and maintaining the *status quo* of all religious shrines and places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has demanded the restoration of only three temples the Ram-Janambhoomi at Ayodhya, the Krishna-Janamsthan at Mathura and the Gyanvapi at Varanasi, but simultaneously, the Parishad has also made it clear if the demand for the restoration of these three temples are not met, then it won't be obligatory for the Parishad to restrict its claim to these three shrines alone. In such a situation, the number of such sites, can go up to any number. To date, none of us, no Hindu organisation, no nationally recognised organisation, has staked any claim to any other temple or religious site other than these three places.

[Sh. Shreesh Chandra Dikshit]

[English]

If this legislation comes, it is positively an assault on the Hindus because it suppresses the Hindu religion.

[Translation]

They are demanding it because they know very well that Hindus have never demolished any mosque and built a temple at that site. They have suggested formulation of such a law, because they are apprehensive, because they are guilty conscious. It is a fact that there are many mistakes in the history.

[English]

There are many historical errors.

[Translation]

However, once the gravity of the mistakes is realized, one should try to rectify these errors. In the past, the Germans apologised to the Jews (for the crimes committed by the Nazis), in the Soviet Union the Government restored the churches, which were converted into Godowns, Japan apologised to Korea and in the United States of America and Australia, the majority white community has to apologise to the natives and aborigines. If any mistakes have been committed in the past, instead of perpetuating them, one should endeavour to rectify them. It should be taken into account that when nobody has put up any demand for the restoration of all the destroyed temples, if this kind of Resolution is adopted, it would tantamount to raking up the whole issue. It would have serious repercussions. We should see to it that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad is not compelled to launch an agitation throughout the country, on the lines of the one it launched for the restoration of Ram Janam-bhoomi site in Ayodhya. I am not issuing a warning in this regard, but I would certainly like to emphasise that we should give the issue a serious thought.

If such a resolution is adopted, it would provoke the Hindu Community for launching an agitation across the country for the restoration of all the destroyed shrines like the one at Ayodhya. Therefore, it is very important that we should all ponder over it. It is not like another resolution or enactment, which can be adopted or passed. No one is going to tolerate it. This whole issue is not that simple.

I have said, whatever I had in my mind. If you allow me some time later, I am prepared to present all the available evidences (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): This is a direct incitement to communal riots (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): We are all representatives of the people. If anybody who is talking of Hinduism, is he the only spokesman of Hindus? Don't think you are the only spokesman of Hindus. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Order please.
(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is alleged that the issue is being politicised. (*Interruptions*) We are even called traitors. Even the charge of communalism is levelled against us, but we are not communal, they are communal. (*Interruptions*) This resolution that has been moved. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: They are not real sadhus. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. Some hon. Members of the Janata Dal have called some hon. Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party.....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am referring to the point of order.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, two hon. Members of the Janata Dal have referred to some hon. Members of the B.J.P. as fake sadhus. This is objectionable. Isn't it humiliating to refer to hon. Members with such insulting names? It is also against the rules. Therefore, I object to it and raise a point of order.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): He should apologise. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: Please allow me to read this:—

"I am not a Hindu. I am certainly not a Muslim. The Ayodhya movement which wants to re-integrate the sacred place of Ram-Janma Bhoomi into the living Hindu tradition by building a Mandir on it is at the same time an invitation to the Muslim Indians to re-integrate themselves into the society and the culture from which their ancestors were cut-off by fanatical rulers and their thought police, the theologians. It is thus an exercise in the national integration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is over. The House now stands adjourned to reassemble on Monday at 11.00 hrs.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July, 15, 1991/Asadha 24, 1913 (Saka)