

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

I Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, June 9, 2009/Jyaistha 19, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Papers to be laid. Shri S.S. Palanimanickam.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): On behalf of my colleague Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 12th Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto-June, 2009 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 11/15/09]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati D. Purandeswari - Not present.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I would allow a few hon. Members to raise matters of urgent public importance. They may speak for three minutes each.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam Speaker, India and Nepal are friendly neighbouring countries. We have good social, religious, political and personal relations with Nepal since ancient times. It is quite natural that we should be worried on account of about several unpleasant incidents that have been frequently taking place in Nepal. The House has also expressed its concern in this regard. The Indian vehicles which went entered Nepal with essential commodities are being burnt by Maoists for the last one week. A factory which was set up there by our country has been closed. The people of Madheshia community, which are of Indian origin are being targeted.

Madam, today a new Government has been formed in our country. Naturally, the people of our neighbouring countries have much expectations from us. The way China and Pakistan are enhancing their influence on Nepal it is certainly a matter of concern for us as a neighbour in this country because Nepal is very important for us for various reasons. Through you, I would like to request that Government of India should take necessary steps in this regard so that the Indians living there or those who are going as tourists may feel secure. Pashupati Nath temple is also located in Kathmandu which is a centre of our religious faith. Devipatan temple is located in Balrampur where thousands of people from Nepal come for Darshan of Goddess Sharda during Navratras. We have marital relations with each other and Indians own land there as well. India have 1,571 k.m. long border with Nepal which is adjacent to my constituency. I would like to request that some initiative should certainly be taken for the safety and security of Indians there as several unpleasant incidents are continuously taking place there.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaprada, you have given notice on two issues. Please raise the swine flue issue so that other Members who have given notice on that could associate themselves with it.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Madam, I would like to raise the issue of Haj Yatra.

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, just raise that one issue. I am giving you three minutes.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Madam, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you have given me time to speak. I am very happy to see you in this Chair and I welcome you. Today, I would like to inform the House that every year, thousands of people go for Haj pilgrimage and the number of people who intend to go for Haj is more than the quota made available by the Government. So, those who are unable to go for Haj under this quota express their disappointment. In fact, it is their heartfelt desire that at least once in their lifetime they should certainly go for Haj pilgrimage.

After Kashmir, my constituency Rampur is a Muslim dominated area and many people of this area want to go for Haj. The quota provided for some of the states has been reduced and instead of increasing the number of Haj pilgrims their number has been reduced. Through you, I would like to request the Government that they should not reduce the

quota. It is on account of reduction in the prescribed quota for Haj pilgrims of Rampur by the Uttar Pradesh Government that these pilgrims are facing much difficulties. A quota of nearly 1,760 persons was fixed by the Central Government. In 2008 nearly 1,000 people were sent on Haj out of that quota by the Uttar Pradesh Government. In 2009, only 868 persons were sent under this quota. That means instead of increasing their number it is being reduced. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that the original quota for Haj pilgrims was 2,700 persons. I would like to request that earlier when people went on Haj pilgrimage. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. You have completed your speech. You have said everything, your time is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Madam, I am concluding.

Madam, earlier people went on Haj pilgrimage by spending Rs. 90,000, however, this amount has increased to Rs. 1,20,000. I would like to submit that this amount of Rs. 90,000 should remain unchanged and the quota for Haj pilgrims should be increased.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam Speaker, I am raising an issue pertaining to 70,000 PTTI trainees who have completed training in various Primary Teacher Training Institutes of West Bengal. These training institutes were set up by enacting a legislation in the Assembly by the Government of West Bengal. But subsequently, the Calcutta High Court gave a verdict against these training institutes and the certificates issued by these training institutes were declared as null and void.

Now in the past, there was an attempt to resolve this issue. An Ordinance was promulgated by the Government of India in 2007 but that Ordinance was allowed to be lapsed. Now the matter is lying with the Central Government. The Education Minister as well as the Chief Minister of West Bengal have written to the Union Minister of Human Resource Development for resolution of this issue. The same problem was there with some other States where these problems have been resolved. But in the case of West Bengal, 70,000 students are facing this problem. Many of the schools have been rendered teacher-less. The Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee is also aware of this.

I urge upon the Government to take initiative to resolve this issue so that 70,000 students who have received training

and have passed out from these institutions could be helped. The problem in regard to affiliation from NCTE should be resolved forthwith so that the uncertainty that is prevailing amongst the students could be ended.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Sushma Swaraj wants to raise an important matter and Yogi Aditya Nath should associate himself with that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, many many thanks to you. I will conclude only in one minute. I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government towards a very serious matter. Thousands of Indian pilgrims who had gone for Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage via Nepal are trapped at Purang. They do not have any arrangement for boarding and lodging. Purang is a small town. They have limited visa which is only valid for 16 days. It has been confirmed that six pilgrims have died there. So, I would like to request you that our Government should talk to the Governments of Nepal and China and make arrangements for safe return of those pilgrim at the earliest as well as arrange for their boarding and lodging. They are facing serious difficulties there. Time and again, news in this regard is being telecast on television.

I would like to extend my thanks to you that you have given me time to speak. The leader of the House is also sitting here. I want that the Government should make some arrangements for them at the earliest.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam Speaker, I am very sorry to say that 332 persons have fallen in Chenab river during the period from 8 May 2008 to 7 June, 2009 in my constituency. Day before yesterday, one matador fell in Chenab river and all the persons in that vehicle drowned. Not even a single person could survive. Before that, one bus had also fallen in Chenab river. Prior to that, the entire staff of a higher secondary school fell in that river. I am sorry to say that from May 2008 to June 2009, 332 persons of the same district have died in these incidents. I hope that the Government will take suitable action to check such accidents on that road. I would like to make this appeal to you.

11.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE – *Contd.*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati D. Purandeswari.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Madam, I apologise for not being present when you called me earlier.

I, on behalf of Shri Jairam Ramesh, beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 521 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2009, constituting the National Ganga River Basin Authority comprising of the Chairperson and Members, mentioned therein, issued under sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 12/15/09]

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigarh): Madam Speaker, yesterday you gave an information in the House.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You are speaking without giving any notice, therefore, what you are saying is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: What you are saying is not going on record. You have not given any notice on this issue.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: All this is not going on record. What you are saying is not going on record. You have not given any notice on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

11.13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 **

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to give equal rights to Srilankan Tamils at par with Sinhalese in Sri Lanka

SHRI S. ALAGIRI (Cuddalore): It is a matter of great pain that Tamils in our neighbouring state of Sri Lanka are still being killed and treated as second class citizens.

* Not recorded.

** Treated as laid on the Table.

In today's circumstances Tamils in Sri Lanka should get equal rights at par with the Sinhalese. A political solution with devolution and power is the need of the hour.

On behalf of Tamils all over the world I urge upon the Union Government to act speedily to help bring about a proper devolution of power to the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

(ii) Need to give financial assistance to the farmers distressed due to failure of crop and implement drinking water projects in Uttarakhand

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): The wheat crop has been ruined as a result of heavy drought in Uttarakhand State. Due to this common men is facing difficulties. Alongwith it, the serious water crisis has emerged in hilly areas and water is not available even for cattle. Women in villages have to walk miles to fetch drinking water.

Therefore, in view of the said grave situation, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to take immediate steps for providing appropriate aid to all farmers and make drinking water available to the common man. Drinking water schemes should be implemented speedily.

(iii) Need to convert metregauge railway line into broadgauge between Gorakhpur and Gonda in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): I would like to draw your attention towards metregauge line from Gorakhpur to Gonda via Naugad, Uska, Shoharatgarh, Chilihya, and Barani. The said rail line has got international importance due to its strategic location on Indo-Nepal border. The birth place of Gautam Buddha, Kapil Vastu, District Siddharthnagar also lies on this railway line. The passengers travel between Nepal and India and exchange of commerce also takes place through this line. Many people from Siddharthnagar travel to Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Gujarat and South India in search of job and business. Therefore, keeping in view the public interest, the Government of India should take action for converting metre gauge railway line into broadgauge from Gorakhpur, Siddharthnagar to Gonda.

[English]

(iv) Need to construct a Railway Over Bridge at level crossing near Gadwal Railway Station in Mahabubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool): Gadwal Railway Station is situated in the Mahabubnagar and

Kurnool Section of South Central Railway in Secunderabad Division. It is erstwhile Princely State and very important business and political center. It is very near to Raichur in Karnataka state. A number of vehicles pass via Gadwal to reach Raichur and some vehicles pass through leeza to reach Kurnool. But because of presence of manned Railway gate just at the Secunderabad end of Gadwal Railway station causes a lot of inconvenience to the smooth passage of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. A ROB is very much essential and it is long pending demand of the people of Gadwal and surrounding areas. I request, through you Madam, the Railway Minister to take up necessary steps to construct a ROB at level crossing near Railway Station to ease up traffic flow.

(v) Need to re-open the Manipur University closed due to the killing of one of its faculty members

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Manipur University which has been closed following May 25 killing of Prof. Md. Islamuddin of Economics Department. Students and their parents are concerned at disruption of studies. Being a Central University, I urge upon the Union Government to look into the matter.

(vi) Need to take immediate steps to control flood and erosion caused by river Ganges in Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal

SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY (Maldaha Dakshin): I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the problems of erosion and flood that Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal have been suffering from for a long time. The Government of India has taken the responsibility for checking erosion and flood control in the area and has declared it to be a national disaster. The erosion control work is being done by Farakka Barrage, a project under the Ministry of Water Resources.

The Ganga as it comes from Rajmahal hills, enters the plains and flows to the left of Malda district and causes heavy erosion and flooding. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless, mango orchards, green fields etc. have been destroyed and people have become destitute because of erosion and flooding. The Ganga river causes major damage in Malda and Murshidabad districts, but the problem has been completely neglected.

Following steps need to be taken without any delay:

1. The upstream of Ganga such as Manikchak Ghat up to Bhutni Char in Malda and Dhulian in Murshidabad need to be immediately repaired.

2. Flood and erosion control work in Simultala has been done but only two kilometers ahead at Hussainpur, the Ganga has begun to cause havoc.

Recently, it has been noticed that while the flood control work starts in one area, the Ganga river changes its course at a little distance away and causes havoc there. I feel, at present, the Farakka Barrage Project which is looking after the control of erosion and flooding in Malda, is not well equipped in terms of either manpower or resources. They need more engineers and funds to manage the problem of erosion and flood control in Malda and Murshidabad.

It is my request to the Central Government to kindly take immediate steps to ameliorate the sufferings of the people who have suffered immensely because of erosion and floods in Malda.

(vii) Need to expedite the construction of railway line linking Lalitpur with Singrauli via Tikamgarh, Chhattarpur and Panna districts of Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): Even after such a long period of independence of the country, my parliamentary constituency, Tikamgarh and Chhattarpur district Headquarters are still deprived of rail link and the people of this area have to travel 130 kilometres to Jhansi to undertake rail journey. The Previous Government had given sanction for Lalitpur-Singrauli rail line, but the construction of said rail line has progressed at very slow pace during the last 5 years. After its completion, the trains will start plying on this route and the citizens of Tikamgarh, Chhattarpur, Panna districts will also be able to undertake rail journey.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to expedite the construction of said railway line linking Lalitpur with Singrauli via Tikamgarh-Chhattarpur-Panna and get it completed on priority basis.

(viii) Need to open three additional CGHS dispensaries in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): In addition to five ordnance factories, large defence institutes such as C.O.D., 506 Army Base Workshop and M.E.S. are situated in my parliamentary constituency, Jabalpur. Around 5 thousand people are employed in them and number of pensioners is around 30 thousand. Three dispensaries are already functioning in this area. The number of beneficiaries have increased threefold but the number of dispensaries have

not increased accordingly. As a result employees and pensioners are facing inconvenience in getting health services, whereas providing health benefits to these employees is the responsibility of the Government. During last Lok Sabha, in a reply to my question the then Health Minister had stated that expansion of CGHS network is not possible due to scarcity of resources, but exploring possibilities of starting an Health Insurance Scheme for employees of areas deprived of this facility is under consideration. But nothing has not happened, so far, due to which thousands of employees and pensioners living in Jabalpur are deprived of C.G.H.S. facility. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government that at least three additional C.G.H.S. dispensaries be opened in Jabalpur and Health Insurance Scheme for employees and pensioners should be started at the earliest.

(ix) Need to give approval to the Bihar Sugarcane Amendment Bill, 1981.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (East Champaran): The Government of Bihar has focused its attention on agro based industries for creation of developed Bihar since there is a dearth of mines and industries in Bihar. The State Government have given approval to 23 new sugarmills and a mega project for Ethanol, involving an investment of five billion dollars and generation of 3000 megawatt power. The Bihar Legislative Assembly has given its approval to the Bihar Sugarcane Amendment Bill, 1981 for obtaining ethanol directly from sugarcane. This Bill was sent for the President's assent in April 2007, it is, however, pending. The hon. Prime Minister himself has referred to the mixing of ethanol in petrol and diesel from time to time in view of environmental needs. The Government of India instead of giving approval to the Bihar Sugarcane Amendment Bill, has issued an order to the effect whereby only the old sugar mills could produce ethanol from sugarcane. I request the hon. Prime Minister to get these orders of the Union Government withdrawn and get the pending Amendment Bill asserted to.

(x) Need to extend the train service between Bangalore and Mangalore upto Karwar, in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA (Udupi-Chikmangalur): There is a long pending demand of the people of Karwar, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts that the train running between Bangalore-Mangalore may be extended upto Karwar so that the people of these regions can be easily linked with Bangalore, the Capital of

Karnataka. The train from Bangalore reaches Mangalore early at 8 A.M. and starts back at 7.30 P.M. There is enough time for the said train to go to Karwar and tracks are also free during its halt at Mangalore. Without incurring any extra expenditure the Railways can provide this service. I urge the Railway Ministry to implement the same immediately.

(xi) Need to declare all the pending irrigation projects in Vidharba region as National Projects.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): I have been elected from Vidarbha. The farmers are committing suicide in this area on a large-scale. Despite the special economic packages and economic bailout given by the State and the Union Government suicide by the farmers are continuing. There is a need to generate means of irrigation and prepare irrigation projects for the prosperity of these farmers. Vidharba is a backward area. Due to the pendency of developmental works by the State Government, now the local people are looking upto the Union Government. Large-scale irrigation projects are pending in absence of approval owing to the existence of Forest Conservation Act for the predominantly forest areas. This is the main reason why the local farmers are deprived from the irrigation facility and it is responsible for their backwardness also. The cost of construction escalates constantly owing to the pendency of the projects for many years. The State Government is neglecting the irrigation project owing to the condition of payment of compensation in the form of N.P.V. for damaging the forest cover. The farmers of Vidarbha region are committing suicide owing to their dependence on rain water in the absence of irrigation. It was admitted even by the Chairman of the Agriculture Commission, Dr. Swaminathan. However, the Union Government did not take any remedial measures despite Gosikhurd project being declared as National Project by the Union Government. The Government should declare all the pending projects of Vidharba on as national projects and provide substantial amount for their implementation. The Union Government should itself make special allocations to ensure the execution of other small irrigation projects. There is a need to accord priority to irrigation for resolving the problem of suicide by farmers permanently. I urge the Union Government and the Ministry of Water Resources to take immediate action.

(xii) Need to install India Mark-II handpumps under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission to address the problem of drinking water in Kaushambi Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): There is acute drinking water crisis in all the five Legislative Assembly

segments of my parliamentary constituency, Kaushambi in Uttar Pradesh. The two Legislative Assemblies are Kunda and Babaganj of Pratapgarh in the Kaushambi district Parliamentary constituency. Constant depletion of underground water level is the reason for drinking water crisis in Kaushambi Parliamentary constituency. I demand that a central study group should inspect the entire area so that the problem of drinking water could be addressed. One thousand handpumps per Legislative Assembly should be installed in all the Legislative Assemblies in view of the drinking water crisis. Water tanks and 5000 India Mark-II handpumps under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission or Rural Pure Drinking Water Mission should be immediately installed in the entire Kaushambi parliamentary constituency.

(xiii) Need to construct a Railway Over Bridge near Khagaria Railway Junction in district Khagaria, Bihar

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Khagaria): A rail road over bridge should be constructed at railway level crossing Eastern Railway's No. 23 B adjoining Khagaria Railway Junction under Khagaria district of Bihar keeping in view the larger public interest.

(xiv) Need to provide relief and rehabilitate people affected by cyclone AILA in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Cyclone AILA has devastated large parts of West Bengal. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless and destitute. About 63 lakh people of Sundarban region have been affected. Nearly 400 kms embankments of various rivers of Sundarban have been washed out. Relief measure are insufficient. People are suffering from various diseases & shortage of drinking water. Most of the cattle have lost their lives. Already 126 people have died. In North 24 Parganas district crops and vegetables worth Rs. 50 crores have been damaged in Bongaon, Bagdah, Gaighata, Swarupnagar and Haringhata & Kalyani towns of Nadia district of West Bengal. For this purpose Central grants should be given through District Headquarters and Zilla Parishad.

(xv) Need to widen the underpass between the railway track running across Salem town in Tamil Nadu for smooth passage of pedestrian and vehicular traffic

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Around 30,000 people living in Andipatti, Bodinayakanpatti, Kattur and Sivadha-

puram coming within the limit of Salem Corporation in Salem Parliamentary Constituency have no direct transport access to Salem town because of the existing railway track. At present, the only connectivity available is a pedestrian pathway with barely 3 feet width beneath the railway track. In the absence of accessibility to take patients under critical conditions and mothers with labour pain, much difficulty is being experienced. There is no alternative road facility to Salem town around 6 km.

There is a long pending demand to widen the underground passage from 3 to 12 feet. This demand remains unfulfilled.

Hence, in the interest of the people of the area and to meet their just demand, the Ministry of Railways must take action on priority to widen the passage underneath the railway track.

(xvi) Need to evolve a time-bound programme for implementation of Sachar Committee Report

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Sachar Committee Report is the most authentic document in respect of the Muslim Minorities in the country. The previous UPA Government has done an honest beginning in implementing some of its valuable recommendations. But I wish to state that there is no clear cut and time-bound operational strategy to address all the important observations and recommendations of the report. Due to the above reasons, major portion of the recommendations are still remaining unattended. Hence I suggest as follows:

1. A time-bound programme of action for implementation of Sachar Committee findings should be evolved.
2. A Monitoring mechanism should also be put in place at the Central and State level.

(xvii) Need to strengthen infrastructure and provide passenger facilities at railway stations between Balurghat and Eaklakhi section of railways in West Bengal

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): There is an urgent need for building infrastructure & providing facilities viz. sheds at platforms, toilets, drinking water etc. on Balurghat and Eaklakhi sections of Railways. Also, train No. 3161 Balurghat - Kolkata intercity Express & 3162 Kolkata - Balurghat intercity express which now runs thrice a week should run daily. There is also an urgent need for a new passenger train from Balurghat to Malda. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to look into my requests.

11.14 hrs.

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Contd.**

[Translation]

*SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Dr. Girija Vyas.

Madam, First of all, I congratulate hon. Dr. Manmohan Singhji and hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji for the farsightedness shown by them for the five years from 2004 in running various welfare programmes that were endorsed by the people and they voted for Congress bringing UPA Government back to power. While speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, hon. leader of opposition, L.K. Advani congratulated hon. Soniaji, hon. Prime Minister and the leader of the House, hon. Pranab Mukherjee that UPA has got the mandate of the people in the 15th Lok Sabha. During the last five years decisions had been taken, schemes had been formulated, funds had been mobilized for them and those schemes had been implemented with utmost honesty. The loans of the poor farmers were waived giving them relief. A successful attempt to resolve the basic problem of rural areas was made through Bharat Nirman Yojana. A new revolution has been witnessed in the rural areas in the field of education through the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Elderly, widows and physically challenged persons have found new respect in society through Indira Gandhi National Pension Scheme. Even the slum dwellers have found a new ray of hope in their lives through Jawahar Lal Nahru Urban Renewal Mission. People belonging to all communities have appreciated the performance of the government and have voted for it due to which the government has come back to power with a strong mandate.

I would like to congratulate hon. Soniaji for the fact that government's priorities and commitments for the next 100 days and five years have been spelt out very clearly in the President's Address. There are ambitious programmes for all the sectors. With the strong mandate proving as a shot in the arm for it, Government has doubled the allocation for the Bharat Nirman and other schemes on one hand while making them more transparent and well monitored at all the levels by making them more beneficial for the people taking cues from the experience of past five years of their implementation on the other hand.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

While during its previous tenure UPA Government had given the right to work for the poor, during this tenure they are being given right to food through enacting a legislation in this regard under which the BPL families in rural and urban areas will get rice and wheat at the rate of Rs. 3 per kilogram which in itself will be a revolutionary step. If the State governments are able to make these schemes corruption-free, it will have far-reaching impact and no person will die of hunger. The honest implementation of NREGA and Food Security Act will bring to an end the crimes that take place due to lack of employment. Poor people would no longer be exploited. It will be a very concrete step in the direction of ending social inequality because BPL list has not been drawn on the basis of caste and religion and the people of all the castes find representation in it on the basis of their poverty and this step will go a long way in giving a message of equality in the society.

However, for this it is necessary that the State Government honestly identify those below the poverty line. Such a list was last formed in Uttar Pradesh in the year 2002 and it was to be revised after five years. The list was wrongly drawn and the political party in power included the names of even the rich persons who had been the supporters of the party. The new list was cancelled after the complaints were received and now the list prepared in 2002 is being used in which those persons are included who own pucca houses and one of the family members is employed. The names of genuinely poor are missing from the list. Last year, the kutcha houses of poor people were destroyed due to floods and excessive rainfall and they did not get any financial assistance because their names were not included in BPL list and the cheques were received by those who owned pucca houses in villages and their houses had suffered no damage. If the foodgrains are distributed on the basis of the old list, the objective of the scheme will remain unachieved. Only BPL list has been considered as the basis for all the schemes whether it is one for providing free connection under Rajeev Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana or Indira Awas Yojana or pension scheme. Due to inaccuracies in the list, the benefit of the scheme is not reaching the targeted group and the poor envisaged to be the beneficiary of the scheme will remain bereft of the scheme. There is a need to pay special attention to it.

The Central Government provides funds to the State Governments for the poor people through centrally sponsored schemes. The hon. Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram had, in the meeting of NDC in 2007, mentioned that Rs. 3.65 are spent to provide the benefit of Rs. one to the poor. I would like to add something in this

regard. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had very candidly admitted when he was the Prime Minister that only 15 paise out of Rs. one spent reaches the poor and Shri Rahul Gandhi was forced to revise it further downward by saying in his speech that only 5 paise reaches them once he comprehensively travelled through the Bundelkhand region and came face to face with the ground reality after meeting the local people. Good schemes should be formulated for the poor to improve their socio-economic condition but unless the delivery system improves, desired results cannot be achieved.

I have been elected from Barabanki located very near to Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. This region is so much backward despite being so near to the State capital. The main reason for this is that no parliamentarian representing the said Constituency has either ever raised a question or issue in the House. There is a need to pay special attention towards this region that has remained neglected for so long for which I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji. There is no proper arrangement for the education of girls. There is not even a single degree college in several tehsils. My specific request is that there is a need to expand the scope of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and a special survey be conducted for Barabanki region and an inter college at each block level and a degree college at tehsil level be set up through a centrally sponsored scheme.

Through you, I would also like to say that approximately 5 to 6 lakh people of Ramnagar tehsil in Barabanki get affected due to perennial floods caused by river Ghagra. No concrete action has been taken so far to resolve this problem. There is a need to construct embankments at river Ghagra for which proposals have been sent several times but the Union Government did not take any action. Every year, the houses of people are completely destroyed and after the flood subside, they once again erect thatched huts to provide for shelter to their family. There is a need to construct roads in this region under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana so that the people displaced due to floods could take shelter on roads with their families and animals. This is a very serious problem and I request for the quick redressal of the problem. The demand for construction of a bridge on river Ghagra at Hetmapur falling between Barabanki and Bahraich is a long standing one, which is yet to be approved by the Union Government. If this bridge is constructed then that area of district Barabanki which is on the other side of the river could be connected to the district and will also pave way for a straight road to Bahraich, saving of crores of rupees every year due to less consumption of petrol and diesel.

The world famous Devasharif is located near Barabanki city which is visited by people of all religious faiths around the world. People have to wait for hours at Lucknow-Benaras and Lucknow-Gorakhpur railway crossing in Barabanki city. It is a longstanding demand that an overbridge be constructed for resolving this problem so that the general public do not face any problem in reaching Devasharif.

I heartily welcome the commitment for women reservation expressed by the Government through Her Excellency, the President's Address. Different views have been expressed in the House on this issue. Respected Sharad Yadavji and Mulayam Singh Yadav ji have strongly opposed the bill for providing 33 percent reservation to women in Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha in its present form. After listening to everybody it seems that there is a feeling of personal insecurity among the senior leaders and in principle they have nothing against it. It is said that prominent leaders will not be able to make it to this House. Why do our senior leaders think on these lines. They are national leaders who can contest elections from anywhere. A number of persons have run Government through their wives. Those people might face problems who have to make a choice whether they want to introduce their wife in politics or not. Several big leaders make all out efforts to ensure the defeat of a particular person. The leader at the helm of affairs in the State left no stone unturned to get me defeated in the Lok Sabha election, but the more I was opposed the margin of votes increased by which I won the elections.

They do not even want to give 33% reservations to those who constitute 50% of the population. This is not fair. We should rise above our personal interests and think about the society. Every leader may have their own individual problem, but if that creates hinder once in the progress of the national it would be unfortunate. I strongly recommend that the Government should bring a legislation as per their commitment for implementing reservation for women without any delay.

The farmers have benefited a lot by loan waiver scheme and they have expressed their gratitude through votes. In the Budget speech, loan waiver was announced in respect of loan outstanding as on 31st Dec, 2007 with some conditions. The period from 1997 to 2007 was indicated in the implementation order which is against the budget announcements. This is not fair. Though the amount of outstanding loan taken before 1997 would be very meagre yet even today the poor is not able to bear the burden of such outstanding loan. I humbly request that the loan waiver scheme should also cover loans taken before 1997.

I strongly support the Motion of Thanks on Her Excellency, the President's Address moved by Dr. Girija Vyas.

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (South Goa): Sir, I join my colleagues to support the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the hon. President. The progress made in different fields in the country in the last five years by the UPA Government under the able leadership of UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the new policies which are envisaged in the next term have been duly highlighted in the hon. President's Address.

Madam, you can see the country's growth rate, standard of living of people, employment, education and health sectors and for that matter any other field. Our country has done a tremendous progress in the last five years like never before.

What is to be appreciated is that the people of this country, both young and old, have accepted and approved the performance of the UPA Government. That is the reason why people have given clear mandate to the UPA to go ahead with these developmental policies in the near future.

The world economies are sinking and are in jeopardy under unprecedented recession, but our Indian economy has remained well protected due to the policies adopted by the UPA Government.

The loan waiver scheme to the tune of Rs. 70,000 crore for farmers has not only provided the necessary fillip to the agricultural sector but also put an end to the lamentable suicidal deaths, which we were witnessing for quite a long time in many States. It is very commendable.

Having ushered in the path-breaking Right to Information Act, this Government is empowering the citizens by announcing a time-bound development programme, which is to be implemented in the first hundred days and not in years. The common man can seek the details of the actual performance achieved under this programme, thereby creating a sense of accountability for those who are entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the programme within the time-frame. The commitment to enact the Women's Reservation Bill within a time-frame again shows the earnestness and the sincerity of purpose of this UPA Government. Once this becomes a law, it will further transform this society which was the dream of Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji. It was his dream to allow women to have an important role in the transformation of the country.

The Home Ministry's effort to beef up coastal security after 26/11 terror attack should also have special emphasis and focus on Goa as it is one of the most popular tourist destinations on the world tourism map.

The massive expansion in the higher education proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan must have a couple of Central Educational Institutions to be also set up in Goa. The discontinuance of the Central Government scheme of giving tax holiday to industries has greatly affected our State of Goa as no new industries are willing to come, and some of the old industries have shifted to other places. This has affected the employment generation in the State. Our State is heavily dependent on tourism industry. As the tourism industry is mostly seasonal, it does not offer employment throughout the year. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH (Munghyr): Madam Speaker, he can be asked to lay his speech on the Table of the House as he is reading it out. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Please do not disturb me. I would like to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not reading the speech. ...*(Interruptions)* It is for Madam Speaker to decide. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, it should not be stopped abruptly. My suggestion was that this scheme which was there for giving tax holiday, which was stopped, should have been done in stages so that these industries which have run away from the State may come back and unemployment problem can be solved.

Regarding the MPLAD Scheme, I would like to say that now we are getting only Rs. 2 crore a year. In my constituency I have around 20 Assembly segments, Rs. 2 crore is not enough. I hope other hon. Members will also agree with me that this has to be increased to Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 crore so that we can do justice to every Assembly segment in the State.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that in every Central institution, we can recommend two names. Madam, there are five or six Central institutions in each constituency. So, I would again request that every Member should be allowed to recommend at least two students in each institution in that particular constituency. This should be done only for the Lok Sabha Members as the Rajya Sabha Members can recommend anywhere in the State. It is because so many people approach us and we cannot do justice.

Madam, referring to the Golden Quadrilateral, I would request the hon. Minister one thing. We have got three bridges - two small ones in the South i.e. Canacona at Galgibaga and Talporna and the other huge bridge as Zuari which is the artery of Goa. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this so that these bridges are taken up immediately because already the alignment has been fixed. If anything goes wrong with our Zuari bridge, South Goa will be cut-off from North Goa.

Madam, with these few words, I appreciate whatever points which have been mentioned in the President's Address. I would request my colleagues and the whole House, to approve this Motion of Thanks.

Madam, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I also congratulate Shri Karia Munda on being elected as Deputy Speaker of the House because I was unable to attend the felicitation function organised yesterday in his honour.

Her Excellency, the President has read out the speech prepared by the Government. She has very effectively read out the policies and resolutions of the Government for the next five years and has given us the road map. I have no regrets on the President's Address. We were present at the time of formation of UPA Government and we have also given unconditional support to them, but I do not want to use any bitter remarks against the Government with which we, particularly, I myself have been associated for the last several years. I was a freelancer of the Congress Party in many states and today if we are not in the Government, it is not because of them. The people have brought us to this position. Only four of us have got elected to this House. Our party, Rashtriya Janata Dal is a mass-based unorganised party. Whereas CPI and CPM are organised parties after BJP. We are equal to CPI in strength, both of us have won four seats and CPM has got 16 seats.

I would particularly thank hon'ble Sonijji, and her ruling party, in which we too, have made contribution. Though I am not an astrologer but I had made a prediction about Shri Advaniji that position of his stars does not favour him and that proved true. Delhi is a city of illusions. Many outsiders came, ruled and then left. Many have gone into oblivion and nowadays. I even hear of 'Nirguna'. Hearing this, I am

reminded of a saying, - 'Dulha mar gaya, dulhan mar gayee, mar gayee budhiya dadi'. Nobody is permanent here, everybody has to go. Krishna left, Rama also left and Rahim too left. I have seen the leaders of your party as well as other parties always surrounded by a coterie of people flattering these leaders. ...*(Interruptions)* They flattered me also. I call such persons as TTM Tabartod Tel Maalish karne wale log', these persons continuously indulge in sycophancy. ...*(Interruptions)* These people do not have any class.

Madam Speaker, I am sorry to say that the matter pointed out by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji and hon'ble Sharad Yadavji has substance. We people have come here, BJP people are also present here. Now, they have also started accepting the issues of backward classes and Dalits. Leaders like Jyoti Babu and CPI(M) also believe in class struggle. When we intensified our movement for Mandal Commission and Social Justice, Jyoti Babu had to accept that caste too exists in this country, it cannot be ignored, we may say anything publicly, it hardly matters. When Mulayam Singhji raised this issue, I heard the statement of a Congress leader on a television channel that Mulayam Singh may say anything, but we have sufficient numbers in favour of women reservation. I will elaborate my and my party's view point on the issue of women reservation, subsequently.

Madam, first of all I would like to say that the Government have chalked out 100 day programme through the President's Address. I had also been in the Union Government. All of us have received love and affection of the hon'ble Prime Minister. Such noble persons are very rarely found. Moreover, a gentle woman like Sonia ji is also rarely seen in the world. ...*(Interruptions)* Listen, here I am not T.T.M. One must acknowledge the genuine qualities of the other person. T.T.M's are T.T.M. only. First 100 days programme has been formulated and in the memory of late Rajiv Gandhi ji it has been stated that pucca houses will be constructed in place of slums in the cities during the next five years.

Secondly, under the 100 days programme it was stated that priority would be accorded to providing 25 kg wheat at the rate of Rs. 3/- per month to families living below poverty line. Unfortunately, the official record of people living below poverty line is not accurate, be it of Bihar or any other State. The BPL figures of any state are not correct. During the last Legislative Assembly elections we observed that several Chief Ministers and prominent leaders including those of BJP and Congress party were distributing rice and wheat to the poor. I wonder what the Union Government want to prove to the poor if they also start selling wheat and rice to the

poor. In my opinion if they want to uplift the poor people economically and socially in the true sense, then merely distributing wheat, rice or some money is not good enough, the Government should rather think on the lines of expanding the relevant scheme. This is half expansion. Earlier it was done through Antyodaya. The hon. Minister of Health is sitting here. I simply wish to draw home this point as how a man would be able to afford meat fish, green vegetables, fruits in his meals. How would he be able to afford mustard oil, ghee, spices etc. for preparing his meal. They have simply allured the common man by giving temptations and short cut solutions and managed to win the mandate. I do not understand the concept of 100 days, what is the relevance of 100 days. As I stated earlier, the followers of these leaders are showing mirage in vain to so many people.

Madam, I come from the state of Bihar which cannot be compared with any other developed state of the country, although I do not have anything against any of the developed states. However, I have always taken up cudgels and voiced the concerns of Bihar, be it under any Government. Even I have served as Chief Minister of Bihar. There was Government of Hon. V.P. Singhji and there have been other Governments too, but Bihar has always been discriminated against. If a comparative study of the data of Planning Commission is done, then one would find lowest per capita income and lowest investment in Bihar. Till recently when I was in power, then, other states alongwith Bihar were provided assistance. The gap between other states and Bihar cannot be abridged and the fortunes of Bihar would not change unless we give special treatment to this state by awarding it special status.

The area of Bihar adjoining Andhra Pradesh and Nepal is completely infested with naxalism and becoming a corridor of extremism. Naxalism is growing there. I could not visit many areas during elections. Madam, people shudder to enter the mountains of Adhwara to which you belong. That is why I wish to state that Bihar has been discriminated against, so, the need of the hour is to provide special category status to Bihar. The political parties here are not divided internally. Bihar should be brought at par. If Bihar is not brought at par with other states the contention of the country's development and establishing a peaceful state would prove hollow. So this is our strong desire which has been incessantly raised by several newspapers, every community, the State Government and the regional political parties on several occasions. When Bihar was being divided, hon. Advaniji should excuse me, it was stated that Bihar would not be put to disadvantage. I was against the division of Bihar, I even swore that the division of Bihar would be

effected on my dead body. However, Bihar was divided causing us much humiliation. I had even requested the Congress Chief, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi that hon. Rajiv Gandhiji had opposed the concept of small states or division of a state.

Today, the rivers flowing down from Nepal cause floods in Bihar. What is the condition of Nepal today. Yes, we agreed to construct high dams after holding talks with Nepal, but who is going to listen to us now. What is the condition of agriculture in Bihar today? There are floods, soil erosion, waterlogging there. I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister that he has agreed to declare the Ganga a national river. The river Ganga divides Bihar into two parts-North Bihar and South Central Bihar. North Bihar has high density of population and best fertile land, every year it causes huge destruction and it would continue if adequate attention is not given. The destruction of Bihar will continue till high dams are constructed, rivers are desilted and the soil erosion on each side of the river is checked.

The people of Bihar are bringing maximum wealth in the country by putting in hard labour. 33 percent of their credit deposit ratio should be invested in Bihar, however, it is negligible. Hence, we are being discriminated against.

Madam, the hon. Prime Minister is to give his reply, there is shortage of time and I will also participate in further discussion on this issue. Secondly, I wish to state that Sachar Commission conducted a survey in the country and observed that the representation of Muslims across the country was inadequate barring Bihar where it grew during my party's rule. This survey was conducted even in the army to find out the number of Muslims. Serious objection was raised on this move and the campaign was withdrawn. This is not a good sign. We constituted Rangnath Mishra Commission. It was rightly stated by an hon. Member that 90 Muslim dominated districts were identified and the funds meant for them never percolated down wherever these were sent. However, the Muslims belonging to the non Muslim dominated areas wonder why they were not identified? We should place the report of the Rangnath Mishra on the Table of the House. There is heavy dearth of education among Muslim girls. When a review on education was conducted in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India then women in the Muslim Community were found to be lagging behind the most in the education sector. That is why unless Government provides reservation in education to Muslim women as well as timely payment of scholarship to them and due regard is paid to them, our education and development would not be complete. It has been admitted in the Ranganath Mishra

Commission Report that reservation would be provided to Muslims in jobs also.

Let us analyze the mandate in the third and fourth phase of elections. The people of West Bengal, entire Eastern U.P., entire Bihar and the Minority Community stand testimony to the fact that 80 per cent people have voted for Pranab Mukherjee, while rejecting CPM. People have voted the combination of Mamtaji and Pranabji with high expectations. What is their attitude towards this mandate?

The Pasmanda Muslims were included in the S.T. category prior to independence, however, the linguistic people of other languages were included in that category post-independence. But when a legislation was enacted after 1950, there was no mention of them in the amendment made to the Article 341. Today, there is need for justice and justice should be done to them. Muslims are not outsiders. This issue has not been mentioned anywhere. The attention of the Government should be drawn towards it. They will get our support for that, as we have been giving them till date.

Bengal is still reeling under the SEZ repercussion. Our best land is shrinking and getting reduced everywhere from Maharashtra to other places. We should bring some resolution with regard to SEZs. Our economy is based on agriculture and animal husbandry. Today, agriculture is dependent on monsoon; and there is no mention about what we are going to do for irrigation. Today Punjab is witnessing low agricultural production and the reason behind it is that we are pouring excess amount of fertilizers and chemicals into the land due to which land is becoming poisonous, but we do not pay heed to it. Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government should take it seriously.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement regarding providing foodgrains at Rs. 3 per kg is commendable, but attention should also be paid to those who work as carpenters, blacksmiths, manual workers, spade and 'Khurpi' manufacturers etc. Now the 'Khurpi' and spade are being manufactured by the TATA and these people have been rendered jobless. We are providing them work for only 100 days under NREGA. The rural folk whose life has been associated with the soil, are sidelined today as their jobs are being done by machines. Machines are doing these jobs in their place. The work of earth filling is being carried out by bulldozers. The labour classes have suffered. They cannot be deceived by providing them merely rice at Rs. 2-3 per kg.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may conclude now. Kalyan Singhji is to speak. At 12.00, hon'ble Prime Minister is to speak. You have taken more time than you were allotted.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, I am concluding. Now, I would like to say something about Women's Reservation Bill. Hon'ble Mulayam Singhji said that it is a conspiracy. I want to reveal of everything about this conspiracy. The upper class of this country wants to dilute the backward movement by bringing the women forward very swiftly in the name of Women's Reservation Bill, ever since the "backward classes citizens of India", various party has come into being regional parties have also, come into existence. It is nothing but their conspiracy to debar the leaders from being elected to this House, like Sharad Yadav, Lalu Yadav, Mulayam Singh, Kalyan Singh and various regional parties such as DMK and their leaders, whose base is the backward classes. Perhaps Rahulji is not present in the House. We have been saying right from the beginning that we are not opposed to the Women's Reservation Bill but you can see as to how many Muslim women have been successful in becoming MPs in the country since independence. When Rahul Gandhiji mentioned about people coming from the grassroot levels such as Kalawatiji, many people laughed at this comment scornfully. We want to see that Kalawati and Bhagwati Devi also covered under this Women's Reservation Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* By the grace of God, Rabri Devi is already there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu ji, you address the Chair.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: There should be a provision for reservation under the said reservation. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav exhorted me to be ready. I am ready round the clock. To be ready does not mean that I have to enter into a scuffle with someone. If they are of the opinion that the figures are in their favour, then, we shall go to the people working in the field and bring out the truth that per capita income is not even Rs. 20 in the country. Our daughters should come to this House. The former home Minister is not here in the House. A meeting was held and Madam, too, was present in that meeting. She has complete information in this regard. They may grant reservation — 20 per cent or 25 per cent — but there must be a sub quota under that quota. There are Dalits, Tribals, Muslims whose representation is not there. Reservation should be given to the backward classes for becoming MLAs and MPs. Reservation should be provided to the most backward classes such as iron smiths, carpenters and so on who are unable to be elected directly. This issue was raised several times and a decision was taken in the meeting of the backward class MPs to provide reservation

to them in the election of MLAs and MPs. They may give reservation to women, our sisters; we do not oppose it. One MP is representing a population of 20 lakhs. So, my suggestion is that they may make provision for 20 or 25 percent reservation but if they do not provide we won't accept it. It is right that there is dearth of space in Lok Sabha, so it can be shifted to the Central Hall. The Central Hall should be converted into the Lok Sabha chamber. If the number of seats are increased in Rajya Sabha, that House can be shifted to the Lok Sabha chamber and, thus, when Rajya Sabha chamber is vacated, it can be used in the same way as we have been using the Central Hall for refreshment etc. and then entry to that vacated chamber can be restricted to some extent to control the rush we witness in the Central Hall. There is also a canteen adjoining the Rajya Sabha chamber. You are in power today, it is okay and we are happy, we have no problems in this regard. They shall have to keep their allies in good humour. It does not matter whether they are sitting on this side or that side. However, the indication that has emerged at the outset is not healthy; a very wrong message has gone during the cabinet expansion.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu Prasadji, now you may conclude.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, you belong to my state, so please do me a little favour.

I do not want to make any comment on what the Prime Minister wishes, what he wished and whatever has been reported in the media. That perception has changed due to which a good message was not sent across in the beginning. I want to suggest Devi Sushmaji to speak her mind openly because Umaji came out very openly in the matter of women's reservation. I want to tell her that if women numbers increase here importance would be affected. We should not hesitate to admit the real facts before we go ahead. You gave me opportunity to speak, but the time is getting over.
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I do not feel insecure if more women make it to the Parliament. I do not fear, let them come.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: If nobody is there, your brother is ready to provide you security. All past differences have gone by.

Madam, I want to extend my congratulations to the new Government that has been formed. I hope that they will continue for a full five year term. I extend my thanks to the

Prime Minister for not forgetting his old colleagues. We are not in the Cabinet but we supported him and he responded by sending us letters for which I extend my congratulations to him.

I would wish you success in your work, may you live for hundred more years to serve the country. We would extend cooperation wherever it is required. However, I have conveyed to you and to Madam the kind of behaviour which was meted out to me by certain people.

I have been brought up rearing cows, buffaloes and goats and we have remained in power for twenty long years. Remaining in power does not matter much as in this regard neither my forefathers nor I ever dreamt of that. However, I cannot lead a life of dishonour. If somebody insults me, I would resist it with all my might. I am not a person to resign to my destiny in this regard. There are people in the ruling party who have behaved with me in such a manner as if they do not recognize me once their interest has been served. These people have not treated me fairly. I do not have any axe to grind with them.

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu Prasadji, please take your seat.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: In the end I would like to thank you Her Excellency, the President has very good knowledge of English. She has read the speech in Hindi fluently which was prepared by the Government and for that I would like to thank her.

*SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Raver) A rosy picture has been shown to the people in the speech of the Hon'ble President. Much has been said in respect of what the government intends to do during the coming hundred days and in the next five years. Many populist promises regarding drinking water, irrigation, roads, education, health, cleansing of rivers, power, employment opportunities etc. have been made. However, nothing much for farmers, whose assistance is required across the country, has been given. Irrigation facilities should be provided for the farmers and for that the river-linking project should be completed, the concept of which was envisaged by the NDA Government. Necessary steps should be taken to provide power and chemical fertilizers to farmers their produce should be made available at fair prices. After the delimitation of constituencies, rural voters are divided in the villages spread across the constituencies. The area of the constituency has increased. The Members of Parliament get only Rs. 2 crore under the MPLAD fund and they are unable to carry out development work even in 50 villages with that fund. I demand that the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

amount given under MPLAD fund should be raised to Rs. 5 crore so that development works may be carried out across the whole constituency.

[English]

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): Our UPA Government under the auspicious guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji and Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh ji's initiative and good efforts have given priority for Consolidation of Flagship programmes like energy and Jawahar Lai Nehru's Urban Vision, Amendment Bill to Land Acquisition Act etc., Implementation of SC & other forest Dwellers Rights Act. Prime Minister's 15 point programme for the welfare of minority community have brought a clear vision of our government, the way how our government is interested in working for the improvement and protection of the poor & downtrodden. One should know 15 lakh houses have been constructed so far for the urban poor at a cost of 50,000 crores during the last 4 years and every BPL family in rural and urban areas will get 25 kgs of rice or wheat @ Rs. 3 per kg. The aim is to eradicate hunger and hunger deaths. The literacy level of the people have raised. Gents 75% and ladies 54%. And government is taking steps to recast the National Level Mission to form a separate National Mission for female literacy. It is to be appreciated that every woman will be a literate one in the next 5 years. In order to improve rural infrastructure, our Government has launched Bharat Nirman. Basic Necessity to improve the required infrastructure at village level like improving roads, electricity security, water, sewerage, telephone and housing. It really shows that the government's enthusiasm towards the needy poor people's importance and their improvement in the civil society has been properly taken care of only by our Congress led government under the auspicious guidance of Madam Sonia Ji. Though the minorities are lacking behind in education, cultural, civil improvement, business and no proper financial assistance by bankers and in government jobs. In our Hon'ble Prime Minister's 15 point programme direct letters to all district Collectors of our country have risen the eye brows of all the officials who are not properly implementing this 15 point programme for the minorities. Properties of Muslim wakfs lakhs and lakhs are occupied by the Government, Semi-quasi Government. First our government should have to take steps to collect proper rent from the occupiers who ever they may be, how big position they may hold.

Land Acquisition Act, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Bill clearly indicates that the protection to the Farmers given

by our government has been welcomed by all the farming community irrespective of Religion. Thanks to our government for enhancing social security covers to the people above 65 years of age and handicapped people. I request our government that social security & old age pension should be reduced to 60 years instead of 65. I appreciate our government's efforts to pass the 1/3rd woman's reservation bill and the constitution amendment bill to provide 50% reservation to women & local bodies. In NREGA, working period of 100 days in a year have to be extended to 150 days and the daily salary increased to Rs. 100A to avoid malpractices by the concerned authority like Panchayat Presidents/officials. I appreciate that District Level committees will be constituted. My humble suggestion to our government is that we are giving 100 days work to BPL card holders. The Card holders should open bank account to avoid Panchayat officials, Presidents, grabbing the hard earned money of the poor persons. Or directly given to the bank to avoid middle man's cheating. I appreciate the setting up of delivery Monitoring unit at Prime Minister's Office to monitor flagship programmes and ICONIC projects & projects for Railways, Power, Highways, Port Rural Telecom. Our Government should encourage private/public partnership to avoid government's direct investment. BOT policy should be adopted. In Kerala every year 2500 TMC water is going waste to the sea. In Mullal Periyar river having 136 feet height with 12 TMC capacity. Supreme Court has given an order to increase to 142 feet which is not implemented so far.....What action our government is going to take against the Kerala Govt.

What is the Constitution legality of Supreme Court's order for not obeying by the Kerala Government. When the People of India's dream for protected drinking water to every one will be fulfilled. When our government is going to link the River waters and when the government will nationalize the same. I urge upon the government to nationalize the river waters in the large interest and unity of our country. I appreciate our Hon'ble Prime Ministers bold steps and courage for signing the Nuclear agreement with US and passing the same in the Parliament when the communities threatened to withdraw support. Our Nation's image and our Prime Minister's leadership has been elevated in the eyes of the whole world. Sir in North Eastern States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, we have about 1 lakh mega watt Hydro Electric Producing Capacity which has to utilize so that we can supply electricity uninterrupted to the people by not spending more money in coal Thermal and in civil nuclear plants also. In hydro electric power the production cost is only 50 paise

* Speech was laid on the Table

where as in Nuclear production the cost is more. Our government have set up a separate Mission like National Mission on Energy, National Water Mission, National Mission on sustainable agriculture. Similarly government has to form a National Mission on Hydro Electric Producing Commission.

Lastly but not the least Sir, our government clearly indicates their full support to the Tamils of Sri Lanka. Sir, they have to enjoy the equal rights what Singhalese are enjoying in that country.

Government of India should not allow any discriminations as in Sri Lanka. The Tamils have to lead a life with self respect and dignity. Some outfits in Tamil Nadu are spreading rumours that our government is not doing anything for them and also some people's inflammatory speech. I urge upon the government to initiate action against those who are working against the sovereignty and integrity of our nation and rule of law should be implemented against those who are trying to malign the interest of our country for petty gains by spreading these types of anti national rumours. With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH (Etah): Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to congratulate you that you have been unanimously elected the Speaker of the House. I would also like to congratulate Hon'ble Karia Mundaji for having been unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker of the House. I am grateful to you that you have given me time to express my views. I know that time is short and so I would conclude my speech in a very short time by raising a single issue, and I will not repeat all that has been said here. My issue is in regard to implementing social justice. A broad definition of social justice is to provide a respectable and transparent share in the political system, development, politics and nation building to the downtrodden, destitutes, backward classes, dalits, exploited and these sections of the society who have remained deprived for centuries. In this regard, a mention has been made in the Address of Her Excellency, the President for providing 33 per cent reservation to women in State Legislatures and in Parliament. The intention of the Government is also to provide reservation to women. If required, women should be given even more than 33 per cent reservation as the population of women is around 50 per cent in the country. No country and society can make progress by neglecting this 50 per cent population. That is why, women have not been able to achieve the desired level of progress and respect till date even after 62 years of independence. 33 per cent reservation is proposed to be

given. In principle, I welcome it, however, it is my submission that keeping in view that the concept of social justice has to be implemented, there should be separate reservation for backward castes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority women in this 33 per cent reservation, that is to say that provision for quota under the reservation should be made for them. If it does not happen, the 15 per cent population of the elite section of the society will continue to occupy pre-eminence in governance, system and politics and 85 per cent of the society will again remain deprived of their rights. This section will neither be able to come in power, nor will be able to have supremacy in the field of politics. This is the theory of social justice. This is such an issue on which all should have consensus. I would submit that whichever party or whoever Member considers the theory of social justice appropriate, should rise above the party lines to make a demand and support reservation under reservation. It appears to me that there is a deep conspiracy in this regard. I would beg pardon for submitting this point that people, be they in the ruling party or in opposition are party to this deep conspiracy to keep the backward classes, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities away from power, politics and developments. This is going to have wider, adverse implications. If reservation within reservation is not provided, it would create bitterness in the society. I fail to understand why anybody should have objection to it. Some people say that giving reservation within reservation is not proper.

Hon'ble Rajnath Singhji is sitting in front of me. He was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He had divided the OBC reservation of 27 per cent into three categories. Yadavas were kept in 5 per cent category and probably 9 castes were in 8 per cent category while the remaining castes were put in the 14 per cent category. If reservation within reservation was proper for Uttar Pradesh, then Hon'ble Advaniji may tell me as to why it would not be proper in Delhi. When I was in the BJP, I used to raise this subject time and again. However, no body listened to me. Today, it appears to me that a deep conspiracy is behind all this. I apprehend that this conspiracy may take some other form. The society will not accept it. This is a conflict between 85 per cent and 15 per cent and for the sake of 15 per cent the rest is being denied its due. The society will not accept it and it can lead to confrontation. As such, a way out may be found out so that nobody adopts the path of confrontation. If the government so desire, it can do that. The Government may make a provision in this regard. I fail to understand as to what is the problem in this regard? Why they do not want to give due share to the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? What is the intention behind it?

I would like to request hon'ble Sharad Yadavji that he should not take it otherwise. He is the Convener of NDA. If there is any major force in NDA after BJP, it is his party. Why does he not make NDA, BJP agree to it, why does he not talk to Advaniji? If they do not accept his suggestion then for what they are with him? Sharadji, honesty demands that if you want to implement social justice then you will have to tell NDA in clear terms that either you support reservation within reservation or part ways. Excuse me, only verbal discourse will not serve the purpose. Now the time has come. The society cannot be befooled for long time. Enough exploitation has been done. After much difficulties we could reach here after 25-30 and 50 years. Now again, we are being pushed to hundred years back. We oppose it.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH (Munger): Why do they not withdraw support from the Congress? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. Hon'ble Kalyan Singh ji, you please address the Chair.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH: Madam, through you, I would once again like to submit to the House, that Government and the Opposition should show some generosity and liberal in their approach for the sake of social justice. Poor, backward classes, dalits, exploited, minorities and tribal women should also be given representation. Nothing is paying for it. If needed 33 per cent may be increased to 50 percent. However, if separate reservation is not provided to backward castes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, tribals and minorities, then it will be a betrayal of them and people will come on streets against it. I do not want that people should protest on streets. With these words, I once again extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

*SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA (Udupi-Chikmangalur): After the new mandate by the people of the country UPA has placed as ruling party with much expectation. Even after 62 years of Independence our country has not served to the people for their basic needs like drinking water, sanitation, housing, roads, schools in the remote villages of the country. It is the right time to reach to the poor people of the villages and serve the needs of the those people without any delay.

I think that much importance should be given to farmers, fisherman, weavers and labourers who are struggling for

Speech was laid on the Table

their existence even now. I would like to draw the attention of the Government in this regard. The loan waiver scheme during the year 2007-08 has not reached to the agriculturists at all. Especially the farmers in Karnataka have not benefited out of this as the Karnataka Government had a scheme of loan and interest waiver earlier to the extent of Rs. 25000/- in place much before the scheme announced by the Central Government. Hence it is the duty of the centre to reimburse the said amount to the State of Karnataka to a tune of nearly 2500 crores.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard the problem faced by the Coffee growers. As the International market is fluctuating one and the coffee plants are being affected severely by borer disease the total coffee industry is suffering and if the Commerce Ministry does not come to the rescue of the coffee growers, the whole industry will be at the verge of closure. I have made this request with the earlier government with all statistics & details and the Commerce Minister promised to come to the rescue of coffee planters but nothing has come out so far. I earnestly request the Government to have a Special Package of loan waiver for coffee growers in the forth coming budget.

The Presidential address has never come out with any help to the Fisherman community of the country. We have nearly 3000 Kms sea-belt and more than two crore people live out of fishing. The practical difficulties of fisherman have not been studied properly by Governments in power and the helps needed are not given to this large section of society.

Sea-erosion is one of the problems that the fisherman families are facing. Thousands of houses are washed away by the sea every year. The plans and programmes in this regard are only in speeches and on papers. The coastal Karnataka is having 300 KMs sea bay and every year hundreds of acres of lands are being damaged, thousands fisherman houses are taken by the sea. Since 1998 project proposals costing Rs. 138 crores are sent by Government of Karnataka to the centre are pending before the Water Resources Department in cold storage. Several delegations and discussions in the matter are all of no use and still the fisherman's families are suffering from the said problem without any rescue by the Centre. I urge the Government to take up this matter as this is a serious in nature.

Naxalism is the greatest problem we are facing today. The tribal and other people residing in and around remote areas are troubled by the extremists. Districts like Chikkamagalur, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka in Western Ghat region is the hum for naxal activities. Both

reforms and stringent actions are the need of the hour. The centre should give all sorts of assistance to curtail the activities of naxalities.

Totally the next five years is a challenge for our country to become of the developed countries of the world. We all should join hands in this challenge. Political commitment and National agenda should be our plan of action. Hope that we will succeed in our intention to build our country to the expectations of the people.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I welcome the Address given by the President of India to our Parliament, but let me begin by congratulating you.

Madam, I think, when we analyse and comment on the remarks made by Her Excellency the President of India, we need to lay the context and the context is the historical verdict, the mandate that the UPA Government has been given by the people of India. The people of India have chosen hope over hate; the people of India have preferred moderation over radicalism; the people of India have voted for inclusive governance and inclusive welfare over exclusive growth; the people of India have voted for inclusive politics over divisive politics; the people of India have chosen 'Bharat Nirman' over 'India Shining'. I think, this verdict marks an inflection point in our polity, the inflection point which, I hope, will be carried forward.

The faith the people have put in the Congress Party under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the hope the people of India have put in the ideas of Shri Rahul Gandhi is significant because the young, for the first time, have participated in this mandate and we need to respect that. I welcome the remarks of the hon. President. Since we have very limited time, I am not going to repeat some of the things that the hon. President has said and we all welcome those things.

I think, I will just point out two or three things which I do feel are imperative to make sure that we honour this historical mandate. Overall, I welcome the ten broad areas of priority that have been outlined. We need to continue our march towards socialistic agenda, which means not only increasing the expenditure in the social sectors - education, health and rural infrastructure -but also increasing the social security net that we provide to the less privileged, to the vulnerable in our country.

We also need to make sure that the governance reform, which - I think - the young and the restless of our country are very keen to make sure that we carry forward, is done.

Respected Madam, I must point out that governance reform is nothing new. We have talked about governance reform before also. In fact, today morning I was reading an article by Shri Vivek Debroy wherein it was pointed out that since 18.12.2004, there have been 73 commissions which have been set up on the issue of governance reform and they have made suggestions also. But still we find that our country, especially the young, mistrust the delivery mechanisms, the Government mechanisms, the Police and the Administration. Why is this? We are running out of time. Let us get it right this time. I think, that is one of the key things that our Government needs to ensure as we go forward.

The second issue that I want to quickly make my suggestions is on agriculture.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, the farmers of India have played a vital role in our recent historical victory. I would like to submit that earlier also promises were made by the people in power. They said that they would waive loans, however, not even 20 percent of the loans were waived. It was for the first time that the Congress Party without making any promise waived loans of the farmers to the tune of Rs. 72,000 crore since Shrimati Sonia Gandhi observed the plight of the farmers and empathized with them. I would like to submit that the farmers have contributed immensely in the verdict of the electorate that we have got today.

[English]

*Let me begin by laying the context in which we all find ourselves in this august house discussing the remarks made by her Excellency. The context is provided by a decisive mandate in favour of the congress party and the UPA. I believe this verdict is no ordinary verdict, for it to me symbolizes an inflexion point in our polity, a shift from divisive polity to progressive polity. The people of India have preferred the politics of hope over the politics of hate; moderation over extremism. The fruits of our post-liberalization growth for the first time are now reaching our villages, the smaller cities, the weaker sections, and people have attested that with this mandate. The Congress party in the leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh has been able to change the rules of the game in real sense.

So when I heard Her Excellency's remarks the other day, I heard them in the backdrop of this historic mandate. And I do feel her remarks do promise to carry forward the socialist agenda to bridge the differentials that still plague our nation.

** The part of the speech was laid on the Table.

While welcoming all parts of her Excellency's speech without pointing them out to save us time, let me put forward some other suggestions that I feel may also be taken up -

Overall:

I welcome the emphasis on continuing with the socialist agenda - to expand our expenditure towards all the social sectors, including education, rural infrastructure, and health; and to enhance the social security net for our citizens in circumstances of vulnerability.

In times of shrinking availability of global capital, providing increased and abnormal government expenditure in infrastructure is the most normal thing. Although I do not hold a high opinion of the stock markets in this age of "exaggerated exuberance" as Alan Greenspan put it, I am sure plans to use innovative financing and public budgeting for the infrastructure has made the people on dalal street happy.

Now the next big question for 2009 is: how much higher government spending can we afford to stimulate demand, while ignoring the any increase in deficit?

I welcome the ten broad areas of priority that were outlined.

Governance reform is critical:

But this is not something new Bibek Debroy points that from the beginning 1812 till 2004 there have been 73 reports by various commissions on the subject of administrative reforms.

This time let's get it right, no matter what it takes for we are a nation of young and restless

The people may have voted for more of the same, but they also have voted for bringing more change.

Agriculture holds the key:

Credit:-

Loan Waiver historic, but we need to follow-up steps to the loan waiver to make our approach more comprehensive.

We need to reward the Farmers who have paid in time with interest relief. Let me point out that this is also promised in the Congress Party's manifesto.

We need to free the farmers from the clutches of private money lenders by converting their loans into co-operative bank loan.

We need to allow farmers raise credit against warehouse receipts.

We also need to reduce credit rate to 4% from the current 7% (manifesto), and simplify the credit chain - by reducing the intermediaries, removing redundant conditions and guarantee requirements.

Time has come for us to consider banning the land auction law in India.

To begin with, instead of mortgaging total cultivable land holdings of the farmers only collateral tangible security may be taken.

Subsidy:-

Time has come for us to consider direct cash transfer of subsidy to the farmers. Subsidy based on crop and the size of land holding.

We are going to have 96,000 Crores in fertilizer subsidies in the 2008-09 estimates. Urgent need to fix this situation

Fixing price – 5000 Crores

MSP:-

Historic increase in the MSPs of various crops played an important role in securing our mandate.

Swaminathan Commission and the standing committee on agriculture recommendations of MSP should be taken up specifically:

C2+50% premium should be used in fixing the MSP

Also, CACP Cost calculation should be altered to cater to regional differentials (cost of irrigation, labour, and land) and should also include cost of marketing and transport.

Export policy should be framed while keeping the farmer in mind.

Research:-

I seek more funding for ICAR, Agriculture Universities to deal with issues like Climate Change with an aim to usher in a second green revolution.

For Haryana:

"One size fits all" approach of planning commission is utterly flawed.

BPL: Poverty can never be assessed in absolute terms, should always be calculated in real terms. The BPL needs to be defined on a state by state basis, measuring the cost of living in that particular state.

Bharat Nirman: We are being penalized for our last mile connectivity and rural electrification. Thus states like Haryana need some other specialized financing mechanism to participate more in flagships programmes like Bharat Nirman.

NREGA:

Higher market wage expectations are rendering NREGA ineffective.

Therefore, we need more tailor made schemes to fit our needs.

One pension one rank - is a welcome step, need to expedite the implementation.

We need to expedite the construction of upstream dams on river Yamuna, namely, the Renuka, Lakshar Vyasi and Kisau Dams, to ensure that we tap into the surface water that flows to the bay of Bengal each year towards irrigation in states like Haryana.

We need to solve inter-state issues pertaining to water channels expediently.

NCR region should be given special package for the upcoming commonwealth games. 10,000 Crores has been allotted to Delhi, I seek only 5,000 Crores towards the NCR planning board. How can we ignore the differential we are creating by pumping more money into Delhi and ignoring anything that lies outside its boundary? The verdict is for inclusive development; let us also include NCR area from Haryana in the development of Delhi as well.*

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): I rise to support the President's Address in which she has taken into account the unity and security of the country and the difficulties being faced by all sections of the society. All important issues like employment, education, health, agriculture, irrigation, food security for the poor people, 50 percent reservation for women, national health insurance scheme, national women literacy mission, minority welfare, terrorism and security find a mention in the Address and this has aroused a ray of hope among the people.

Drawing your attention in this regard, I would like to submit that it is also essential to look at the economic condition of the country to fulfil these important objectives. In the present economic scenario, generating resources is the greatest challenge. Today, providing employment to the people is a big challenge before the economy. So, first of all it is important to check the fiscal deficit.

The issue of terrorism and security in the country is extremely important. So, it is essential to check terrorism and provide security in the country by way of making laws in

consultation with all the political parties and specialists. I would like to remind that when the UPA Government was in crisis on the issue of Nuclear agreement, then, our leader, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Amar Singh, after consulting the former president and renowned scientist, Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam helped the Government to overcome the crisis. Our Samajwadi Party has always supported the Government in containing the communal forces. In future too it will extend full support to the Government for completely uprooting terrorism from the country.

Today, both the farmers and agriculture sector are neglected while agriculture has been the backbone of Indian economy. The food insecurity is increasing in the country on account of price rise. This is the reason that among the people facing starvation in the world, maximum number nearly, one fourth live in India. The father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi equated agriculture to God for the hungry people. That is why facilities should be provided to the farmers. Loans should be provided to the farmers at 4 percent rate of interest per annum. Remunerative prices should be provided to the farmers for their produce, arable land should not be acquired without the consent of the farmers, irrigation facility should be provided free of cost and a national water policy should be formulated.

The Government have made sincere efforts to provide employment in rural areas through National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, however, due to low wages and erratic employment opportunities the condition of labourers is not good. Samajwadi party considers 'right to work' as the fundamental right and supports the views to provide unemployment allowance to those who are employed.

The Government intends to consider the issue of providing social security to those employed in hazardous jobs. So, the Government should waive outstanding amount of power tariff outstanding against weavers and Beedi workers on the lines of loan waiver provided to farmers, besides giving a special package to them. Subsidy and economic package etc. should be given to rickshaw pullers, handcart pullers, fruit vendors, porters and labourers etc. under the social security for health insurance scheme and for purchasing rickshaw and other things.

Lakhs of people like spot boys, stage decorators, and porters etc. work as labourers in film industry however, they do not get any facilities from the Government and on account of this their economic condition is not good. The Government gets revenue of crores of rupees from the film industry. So, special facilities should be provided to labourers working in film industry.

* Speech was laid on the Table

Constant efforts are being made by the Government for improving power situation in rural areas, however, even today, power situation in rural areas is not good. People are not getting enough power supply. Sub stations have been set up in rural areas of my parliamentary constituency. Rampur, but those are lying closed. Electrification has not been done in villages. Power supply is not regular in those areas which have been electrified. Industries have closed down at the rural level.

The Government have done a commendable job by reorganizing the national literacy mission as national women mission, however, free education should be provided to girls upto B.A. level by the Government. Schemes on the lines of 'Vidya Dhan Yojana' that was implemented by the Government of hon'ble Mulayam Singh Yadavji in Uttar Pradesh, should be implemented all over India in case of those girls who pass intermediate.

The Government talks about implementing schemes for the welfare of minorities, backward classes and the Scheduled Castes people. The Government should also make provision of reservation for backward classes, Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes in Government jobs and reservation should be implemented in letter and spirit in Government and non Governmental institutions and medical colleges as well as I.T.I.s etc. including other educational institutions.

I would like to extend my thanks to hon'ble President that she, in her Address touched the developmental aspect of each area.

The hon'ble President is concerned about the all round development of rural India. I consider it my duty to share my experience on this subject.

The Government of India should prepare employment oriented developmental schemes and provide assistance to poor cine workers and labourers in unorganized sector for their development. It should provide special economic package, health care - insurance scheme, residential scheme, good schools and loan facilities to them.

Women's reservation should be provided in proportionate manner to O.B.C. SCs and STs population.

The labourers in unorganised sector who work as quarry workers in the hills of Vindhyaachal or Rajasthan belong to Scheduled Tribes. The silica generated at the quarry causes TB to them and they die young. Girls become widow at a young age. They collect wood from the jungle

and sell it in the market. Then they somehow manage to run their household. This situation can be witnessed in Chitrakut, Manikpur, U.P. and Vindhyaachal mountain ranges. An economic package should be given for health, employment, drinking water, education and house for these widows and their families.

In order to improve the governance, the Government should listen to the grievances of the people and should redress them. There is general perception among the common people that those sitting in the corridors of power are committing atrocities not only against their political opponents but also against innocent non political persons and Government machinery is being misused on a large scale.

It is essential to restore communal harmony in the country because today there is loot everywhere due to the Government policies. Violence has replaced non violence, sycophancy has replaced self respect, hatred has replaced brotherhood and luxury has replaced simplicity in the country. Under the Govt's patronage the entire country is swiftly drifting towards anarchy. So having faith in secularism and democracy we should all work for the poor people of this country.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):
Madam Speaker, I join all other Members of this august House in conveying our very sincere thanks to the Respected Rashtrapatiiji for a very thought-provoking Address. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L. K. Advani, other senior Leaders including Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Laju Prasad and many other distinguished personalities who have spoken on the Address of the hon. President.

I sense an underlying sense of unity is what our Republic is about. What are the tasks that lie ahead and how we should go about in achieving those objectives? Shri Advani had said that we should all work to make the 21st Century the India's Century. This is an idea that I have been stating for quite some time. I said as early as 1991 quoting Victor Hugo: "That no power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come" and I sincerely believe that the emergence of India as a major power house of the global economy and global polity happens to be one such idea whose time has come. It is our privilege to contribute to the realisation of this cherished goal of our country.

The tone of speeches on all sides has been highly constructive, and I think this augurs well for our country starting with the unanimous election of hon. Speaker followed by unanimous election of hon. Deputy Speaker. We have made a new beginning. It is my hope and prayer that we maintain that spirit of bipartisanship when it comes to dealing with large number of National problems and concerns, which we face as a country.

Madam, the conduct of free and fair elections and the subsequent formation of the Government are indeed a triumph for Indian democracy. We can take legitimate pride in our achievements. There were many people who believed that Parliamentary democracy cannot succeed in a country as poor as India, and that Parliamentary democracy cannot succeed in a country where the voters are illiterate to such an extent as is the case with our country. We have seen people writing about it. I recall that way back in the 1960s a correspondent of the *New York Times* Selig S. Harrison, who was based in India, went back and wrote a book, namely, India: "The Most Dangerous Decades", predicting the demise of Indian Union by the end of the 1970s.

We have proved all these prophets of doom and gloom wrong, and our Republic has shown the resilience to march ahead.

Madam, I sincerely believe that social and economic transformation of India in the framework of a democratic polity, an open society committed to the rule of law, committed to respect for all fundamental human rights, is a development in world history which, if it succeeds, will have profound consequences for the processes of development in all countries of the third world.

People marvel at a country of a billion people characterized by vast diversity of languages spoken, characterized by diversity of religious beliefs and caste tensions, yet moving forward together. This is something which has earned our country deep admiration. At least, that is what I have sensed in my five years as Prime Minister as I travelled in various parts of the world.

It is our privilege and it is our bounden duty to strengthen the democratic foundations of our magnificent Republic.

There are tensions in the system, and while we congratulate ourselves, we must not lose sight of some manifest weaknesses — the growing use of money power, muscle power in elections. I think these are developments which need to be tackled, if we have to maintain the health of our democratic polity.

Also, if we have to succeed, it is necessary for us to take a firm pledge that we will not encourage groups and individuals who wish to divide our country on the basis of religion or caste.

We should deal firmly with people who believe violence is the only way to achieve their object. I believe we must all be solemnly committed to ensuring that social and economic development, which is a must for a poor country, must benefit all sections of societies, all States of the Union, all communities and all persons.

I heard, Lalu ji refer to the special problems of Bihar. I assure him and I assure the hon. Members that the backward regions of our country, those which have been left behind in the race for development, will claim our priority attention as we deal with the challenges of development.

There is one thing more that I wish to say. Democracy is a beautiful tree, but all modern democracies, under the pressure of competitive politics, tend to adopt a short-term perspective; very often, longer term concern and issues do not get the attention that they deserve. We must have this long-term vision, if India is to realize its development objective. I sincerely hope that we will have that vision, that will and the courage to address some of these longer term concerns as a befitting tribute to the founding fathers of our Republic who gave us the magnificent Constitution of India.

Madam, the mandate that our Government has received, and we accepted in all humility, leaves no scope for bragging about. We recognise that this mandate casts a heavy responsibility on all of us to give our country a strong, purposeful Government, a stable Government, a Government committed to the pursuit of inclusive development process. As the President herself has acknowledged in her gracious Address, this is an agenda which will keep us all busy every day of the next five years. The mandate, therefore, is a mandate for stability, of change with continuity, commitment to inclusive growth, equitable development and commitment to the preservation and protection of a secular and plural India.

Madam, we will consolidate our efforts on each of these fronts and the President's speech has outlined the direction we intend to pursue. We will further strengthen our flagship programmes for employment, education, rural and agricultural development, health, and improve the delivery of public services through greater transparency and accountability. We are aware that though much ground has been covered, a lot more remains to be done. We will spare no effort in accelerating the speed of our work.

Madam, in this gigantic task I recognise that no development agenda can succeed if the Centre and the States, and now the third tier Panchayati Raj institutions, do not work in a spirit of collaboration, in a spirit of harmony. Madam, you have my assurance that in dealing with States, in dealing with Panchayati Raj institutions, we will operate strictly on the basis of objectivity. No discrimination will be done against any State which may not be governed by parties which are in power in Delhi. This is a commitment I give. I call upon all Chief Ministers to work together in the National Development Council to earnestly implement the vast development and inclusive development agenda that the President has placed before our people.

Madam, I should say a few words about the strategies and programmes that President in her speech has referred to. What is our fundamental task as a Government? I have always believed and here I draw inspiration from the founding fathers of our Republic Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlalji, Indiraji, Rajivji who have always emphasised that our freedom will be incomplete so long as there is mass poverty in our country.

It was the dream of the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi to wipe out tears from the eyes of each and every individual in our country. That is an ambition which we may not be able to fulfil but that is the inspiration which should and which will guide our Government in its quest for giving our people a life of dignity and self-respect.

Development is meaningless if our people suffer from ill-health, if our people are illiterate, if the environment protection measures are not in place, if the degradation of land and water resources of our country and the river resources of our country goes unchecked. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this inclusive vision for development where the fruits of development will be equitably shared, where all individuals in our magnificent Republic would get an equal chance to fulfil their ambitions. It is not easy but I am convinced that education, health and environment protection are the means through which we can help our people to improve the quality of their living. But all this requires resources and money does not grow on tree. If we have to invest in our flagship programmes, then we need lot more resources and expanding tool of resources. Fortunately, in the last five years, our economy managed to grow at the rate of 8.6 per cent. That benefited our revenues enormously. We were able to expand the resource flows for agriculture, for rural development, for education, for health and for environment protection.

More recently, particularly in the last one year because of the international slow down our economy has been affected. Our growth rate which was about 9 per cent, in the previous four years has declined to about 7 per cent. We live in an increasingly inter-dependent world economy and I cannot promise you that we will not be affected by global events but I am convinced since our savings rate is as high as 35 per cent, given the collective will, if all of us work together, we can achieve a growth rate of 8 to 9 per cent even if the world economy does not do well. This shows we will maintain, at least, 7 per cent growth rate. In the short run, we cannot do better but this is not good enough. Therefore, the ambition that our Government has is that notwithstanding developments in the global economy, our country must have the resilience to so manage its affairs that it grows at the annual rate of 8 to 9 per cent. I am convinced this can be done with the cooperation of all sections of this august House. That will be the direction in which we will be moving.

I recognise that fiscal system is under strain. The fiscal deficit has increased but I do believe that in the short run, even then we have manoeuvrability to spend more resource on our flagship programmes. I sincerely believe that hon. Finance Minister when he presents his Budget will unfold the Government's strategy in this regard.

But as I said, we cannot spend our way into prosperity. In the present situation there is considerable scope to increase public expenditure, particularly on infrastructure projects and that would not lead to inflation, that would only add to our development growth potential and I reckon that is the right way to deal with international slow down that has affected many countries in the world.

The world economy is interlinked with the management of a vast country like India. There are international factors which affect us. There are also developments in security matters which also can derail the development process. If terrorism is uncontrolled, if Left Wing extremism continues to flourish in important parts of our country which have tremendous natural resources of minerals and other precious things, that will certainly affect the climate for investment. Therefore, as a Government we are committed to doing all that is in power to ensure that terrorist elements are brought under control. That is why the hon. President talked about 'Zero Tolerance' for terrorism. In the same way, in dealing with Left Wing extremism we have to convince our misguided youth that violence of the gun is no way of solving any problems and that our democratic polity gives them the scope through the ballot to express their concerns and we have

seen in the past that rebels of yesterdays have ended up as being rulers. That is the beauty of our Republic; beauty of our democratic polity. So, we have to operate on two fronts in dealing with these extremist elements. We cannot allow violence to be used as an instrument of getting their results. At the same time we recognise that there is a climate in which violence flourishes and it should be our objective to ensure that people are not carried away by economic and social discontent to join the ranks of the affected people. That is why walking on two legs and a firm resolve to see that law and order is maintained and simultaneously a firm commitment to ensure that the gains of development do reach to the disadvantaged sections of our society, particularly those living in the tribal areas is required.

I am conscious of the fact that the tribal population in our country has not got a fair deal. The way we administer the tribal areas; the way we send officers who are disinterested to work in these difficult tribal areas, the flow of resources is not properly monitored and there is no proper guidance in the spending of resources. I think, the whole development strategy for tribal areas in Central India at least requires a fresh look.

I promise that our Government will do all that is possible to bring the tribal communities of our country into the national mainstream. We have taken some steps in the last five years. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, which confers rights on forest dwellers, is a step in that direction. But I do recognise much more needs to be done on the economic and social fronts to contain the discontentment in the tribal areas which often leads to naxalism or left-wing extremism.

In his speech, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani, mentioned that the Centre has been blamed for certain lapses by the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Maharashtra Government in connection with the terrorist attack in Mumbai on November 26. As Members of Parliament are aware, the Government of Maharashtra had set up a Two-member Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the events of that day and the manner in which the State Government had responded to the attack. I understand that the Commission of Inquiry has submitted its Report to the State Government. The State Government would, no doubt, be tabling the Report in the Maharashtra Legislature, together possibly with an Action Taken Report. It is not possible, therefore, to comment at this stage on the contents of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry before the Report is formally tabled on the floor of the State Legislature. I shall, therefore, refrain from commenting on the inferences drawn

by the hon. Leader of the Opposition about a Report that is yet to be placed on the floor of the State Assembly.

I would, however, like to inform the House about the several steps that have been taken since November 2008 to further tighten the vigil against future terrorist attacks of this nature. As Members are aware, the perpetrators of the November 26 attack came by sea. We were all aware of our vulnerability to such attacks from this quarter and had already taken a number of steps, but obviously these were inadequate. A massive effort has hence been taken to streamline our maritime security which included the setting up of a Maritime Command under the Coast Guard with overall responsibility vested with our Navy.

We have increased the number of Marine Police Stations to supplement the efforts of the Coast Guard and the Navy. There have been several other steps that have been taken. But I shall enumerate only a few. Improvements in intelligence sharing is one. The Multi Agency Centre has been fully energised and Subsidiary Multi Agency Centres constituted in more States. The process will be completed shortly. The Net-Centric Information Command structure is being put in place to achieve online transfer of all actionable intelligence in a streamlined manner. Generation of actionable intelligence has simultaneously been given priority and measures put in place for this purpose. Technical innovation and technical support to intelligence production has been given the highest priority. Steps have also been taken to improve the quality of intelligence analysis. Investigation into serious terrorist offences will, from now on, be the responsibility of the newly-constituted National Investigation Agency.

Additional legal measures taken include - apart from the new NIA Act - significant amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The Home Minister is in constant dialogue with Chief Ministers of States keeping them informed of the specific aspects of the two new pieces of legislation.

Madam, following the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on 26th November, 2008, the imperative necessity to have dedicated counter terrorist forces has been further reinforced. The National Security Guard is the principal counter terrorist force in the country. A major effort has been made to improve its capability, improving better mobility and state-of-the-art equipment. At least, four new NSG hubs have been set up in different parts of the country. In addition, certain other dedicated counter terrorist forces are sought to be created.

Madam, it goes without saying that both the challenges of the troubled times that we live in terms of security of our nation and the unique opportunities within our reach for the well being of our people, enjoin us to work together for common goals. I am grateful to the hon. leaders of the Opposition who offered their support on both these counts. I consider it the duty of my Government to build further unity of purpose. I have always felt that our differences will melt away when we consider the overwhelming nature of the challenge that our country faces.

Madam, I would like to say a few words about our relations with our neighbours. We are living in a neighbourhood of great turbulence. I have believed India cannot realize its ambitions unless there is peace and prosperity in South Asia as a whole and if our neighbourhood is suffering from instability, turbulence that has direct bearing on our own evolution as a democratic polity committed to sustained growth and development. I have, therefore, a vision for a transformed South Asia where, with the cooperation of all our neighbours, we move from poverty to prosperity, from ignorance to knowledge society and from insecurity to lasting peace. What is at stake is the future of one-and-a-half billion people living in South Asia. I sincerely believe it is in our vital interest therefore to try again to make peace with Pakistan. I recognise, it takes two hands to clap. There are some disturbing trends, but I do hope that the Government of Pakistan will create an atmosphere in which we can realize this vision. I expect the Government of Pakistan to take strong, effective and sustained action to prevent the use of their territory for the commission of acts of terrorism in India, or against Indian interests, and use every means at their disposal to bring to justice those who have committed these crimes in the past, including the attack on Mumbai. I believe that such actions will be welcomed by the peoples of both countries.

If the leaders of Pakistan have the courage, the determination and statesmanship to take this road to peace, I wish to assure them that we will meet them more than halfway.

I should say a few words about Sri Lanka. We have centuries-old ties with the people of Sri Lanka and we have a deep and abiding interest in the well-being of the Tamil people in that country. The Tamil problem is larger than the LTTE and I sincerely hope that the Sri Lankan Government will show imagination and courage in meeting the legitimate concerns and aspirations of the Tamil people to live their lives as equal citizens and with dignity and self-respect. We have been taking an active part in the relief and rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka and I have already earmarked Rs.500 crore for this purpose. We are willing to do more to restore normalcy and to return such people to their rightful homes and occupations.

In this House as well as in the other House, Members have expressed concerns about the developments in Australia. Madam, Australia has emerged as a major destination for Indian students. Like many other Members who have spoken in this House, I have been appalled by the senseless violence and crime, some of it racially motivated against our students in Australia. I propose to engage the authorities in Australia in a high level dialogue with a view to taking stock of the situation and to providing adequate security for Indian students.

Madam, I have already spoken to Prime Minister Rudd of Australia on this subject. He assured me that any racist attacks on Indian students would be strongly dealt with. He made a Statement in Parliament in which he condemned and deplored the attacks and said that they were unacceptable. He emphasised that Australia is a multi-cultural nation which respects and embraces diversity. He said that these would be countered with the full force of the law.

Madam, I do not wish to under-play the anxiety of the parents of our students, but I wish to request the media to be mindful of the fact that there are over 200,000 Australian citizens of Indian origin. We should be mindful of their interests and avoid willy-nilly creating a situation where these citizens of Australia of Indian origin become the targets of racist intolerance. India and Australia have very good relations and it has been our effort to widen and deepen these ties in the last five years.

Madam, I should say a few words about our relations with China. Hon. Members have raised the issue of our relations with China and I should say that China is our strategic partner. We have a multi-faceted relationship with China. There is enough space - I have said so often — for both China and India to develop and contribute to global peace, stability and prosperity. We do not see our relations with China in antagonistic terms. We have a large trading relationship, we consult each other on global issues, whether in the G-20 process on climate change or terrorism, and we share a common commitment to maintain peace and tranquillity on our border.

There are, of course, issues which are complex such as the boundary question. But we have agreed upon a mechanism to address this matter. We wish to build a strong and stable relationship with China. This is in the mutual interest of both our countries. I have been assured by the Chinese leadership - I have interacted with them extensively in the last five years — that they also subscribe to the views I have expressed just now. But whether it is China or any country, we will ensure the territorial integrity and unity of our country and protect the security in every manner necessary. The House should have no misgiving on that score.

Madam, the President's Address has covered a vast territory. I could not do justice to all the points that have been raised. But as I listened to the debate, I was struck by an underlying sense of unity on all sides that India should move forward as a united nation to achieve its coveted place in the comity of nations. That is the mandate, a mandate for change, a mandate for inclusive development, a mandate to strengthen the secular foundations of our magnificent republic. It is to these tasks that I commit our Government and I invite all hon. Members to join me in passing this Motion of Thanks unanimously.

MADAM SPEAKER: A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately?

I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

All the amendments were put and negatived.

I shall now put the Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

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

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which she has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on June 4, 2009."

The motion was adopted.

12.44 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have now come to the close of the First Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on the 1st June, 2009, with a new Government in place.

As per well established convention, the first sitting of the new House commenced with the observance of silence for a short while, to mark the solemnity of the occasion. Thereafter, the Chair welcomed the newly elected Members. As many as 541 Members took the oath or made the affirmation during the Session.

[English]

On the 3rd June, 2009, the Motion for Election of the Speaker was taken up. I indeed feel greatly honoured to have been unanimously elected by the House to the august

Office of Speaker. My colleague, Shri Karia Munda Ji was also unanimously elected as the Deputy-Speaker on the 8th June, 2009.

The House also adopted today the Motion of Thanks on the Address of hon. President to Members of both the Houses on 4th June, 2009. The Motion was adopted after a structured debate lasting over 16 hours in which 76 Members participated.

Members raised eight matters of urgent public importance under 'Zero Hour' and 37 matters under Rule 377.

I thank Speaker *Pro tem* Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit and the members of the Panel of Chairmen appointed by the hon. President for sharing the responsibility of Presiding over the House in the initial days for administering Oath or Affirmation to the newly elected Members of the 15th Lok Sabha.

I would like to thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker Shri Karia Munda Ji and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, Leader of UPA, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders of various Parties and Groups as well as the Chief Whips apart from the hon. Members for their cooperation. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to compliment the Secretary-General for the competent and expert assistance being rendered to me. I thank the Officers and Staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

12.47 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members may now stand up as 'VANDE MATRAM' would be played.

The National Song was played.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die.

12.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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