

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Fifteenth Series, Vol. I, First Session, 2009/1931 (Saka)]

No. 6, Monday, June 8, 2009/Jyaistha 18, 1931 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	1
STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE	
89th to 91st Reports	1
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	
202nd Report	2
ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER	2—5
FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY SPEAKER	5—15
Dr. Manmohan Singh	5—6
Shri Pranab Mukherjee	6
Shri L.K. Advani	7
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav	7—8
Shri Sharad Yadav	8
Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh	8
Shri Arjun Charan Sethi	8—9
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	9
Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay	9
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	9—10
Dr. M. Thambidurai	10
Shri T.R. Baalu	10
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	10—11
Shri Ajit Singh	11
Shri Inder Singh Namdhari	11—12
Madam Speaker	12—13
Mr. Deputy Speaker	13—15

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
MEMBER SWORN	15—16
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER	16
Arrest and lodgement of Member	16
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	21—31
(i) Need to take steps to prevent attacks on Indian students in Australia	
Shri P.T. Thomas	21
(ii) Need to amend Dowry Prohibition Act for ensuring economic empowerment of women	
Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal	21—22
(iii) Need to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to Gram Panchayats and Town Panchayats	
Shri N.S.V Chitthan	22—23
(iv) Need to declare Arunachal Pradesh as a centre of Indian Green Revolution with a view to protect the fast-depleting forest areas in the country	
Shri Ninong Ering	23
(v) Need to pass the Women Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha	
Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi	23—24
(vi) Need for expansion and four-laning of N.H. 34 in West Bengal	
Shri Adhir Chowdhury	24
(vii) Need to depute a fact-finding team to assess the extent of threat posed by water-borne diseases in Alappuzha district of Kerala	
Shri K.C. Venugopal	24
(viii) Need to appropriate funds under Social Integration Programme of Chandrapura and Bokaro Thermal Power stations in Jharkhand for providing irrigation and drinking water facilities in the area	
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	25
(ix) Need to implement 'One rank-One Pension' scheme in the Armed Forces of the country	
Dr. Rajan Sushant	25—26
(x) Need to provide financial assistance for boring tube-wells and constructing tanks in the drought-hit Satna Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Ganesh Singh	26

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xi) Need to expedite the survey and construction of railway line between Jalgaon and Sholapur in Maharashtra	
Shri Danve Raosaheb Patil	26—27
(xii) Need to stop acquisition of agricultural land for construction of railway freight corridor in Chandauli Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Ramkishun	27
(xiii) Need to provide funds from NABARD for the completion of North Koel Irrigation Project in Jharkhand	
Shri Sushil Kumar Singh	27—28
(xiv) Need to provide relief and rehabilitate people affected due to cyclone AILA in West Bengal	
Shri Kalyan Banerjee	28
(xv) Need to promote floriculture in Thiruvannamalai Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu	
Shri D. Venugopal	28—29
(xvi) Need to set up a bench of High Court in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	
Shri A. Sampath	29
(xvii) Need to expedite the construction of second railway bridge over river Kathajodi in Orissa	
Shri B. Mahtab	29
(xviii) Need to release funds for the construction of Homes for Women under "Swadhar" Scheme in Maharashtra	
Shrimati Supriya Sule	30
(xix) Need to start the construction of second railway bridge over river Kansayee in West Bengal and double the single railway line between Kharagpur and Midnapur in the State	
Shri Prabodh Panda	30—31
(xx) Need to dissolve the suspended Legislative Assembly of Jharkhand with a view to restore proper governance in the State	
Shri Inder Singh Namdhari	31—228
MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS	32
Shri Sajjan Verma	32—34
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav	34—48
Shri Dara Singh Chauhan	48—53

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay	53—59
Shri T.K.S. Elangovan	60—63
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	63—71
Shrimati Sushma Swaraj	71—83
Shri Satpal Maharaj	83—88
Shri Dushyant Singh	88—91
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	91—99
Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani	99—101
Shri Nama Nageswara Rao	101—104
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	104—108
Shri Ganesh Singh	108—111
Shri Jayant Chaudhary	111—115
Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal	115—119
Dr. Thokchom Meinya	120—123
Yogi Aditya Nath	123—126
Shri Madhusudan Yadav	126
Shri Mohammed E. T. Basheer	127—134
Shri Narahari Mahato	134—136
Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi	136—139
Shri Pralhad Joshi	139—147
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	147—152
Shri Thol Thirumaavalavan	152—154
Shri Kalyan Banerjee	154—157
Shri Virendra Kumar	157—159
Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	160—162
Shri Manish Tewari	162—164
Shri S. Semmalai	164—165
Shri Jose K. Mani	165—167
Shri Shailendra Kumar	167—169
Shri Bishnu Pada Ray	169—173
Dr. K.S. Rao	173—177

SUBJECT

COLUMNS

Shri A. Ganeshamurthi.....	177—178
Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao	178—181
Shri Danve Raosaheb Patil	181—182
Chaudhary Lal Singh	182—185
Shri P. Karunakaran	185—191
Shri A.K.S. Vijayan.....	191—193
Shri Bhakta Charan Das	193—195
Shri Badruddin Ajmal	195—197
Shri K. Bapiraju	198—201
Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	201—206
Shri Ramkishun.....	206—208
Shri S.S. Ramasubbu	209—211
Shri Gorakhnath.....	212—213
Shri Mukesh Bhairavdanji Gadhvi	213—215
Shri S.D. Shariq	215—217
Shri R. Dhruvanarayana	217—221
Shri Naveen Jindal.....	221—225
Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma	225—228

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THE SPEAKER

Shrimati Meira Kumar

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER*

Shri Karia Munda

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* Elected on 8.6.2009

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, June 8, 2009/Jyaistha 18, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Ambika Soni.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 138(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library *See* No. L.T. 10/15/2009]

11.0¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

89th to 91st Reports

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports* (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:—

1. Eighty-ninth Report on the Development of Leather Industry;
2. Ninetieth Report on the Foreign and Domestic investment in Retail Sector; and
3. Ninety-first Report on the Export Infrastructure at Airports, Ports, ICDs and LCSs, etc. and Towns of Export Excellence in the country.

*These Reports were presented to hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 13th May, 2009, when Rajya Sabha was not in Session and were forwarded to hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha the same day. Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha has also ordered printing, publication and circulation of the Report.

11.0³/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

202nd Report

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the 202nd Report** (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on Coastal Management Programmes.

11.01 hrs.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we take up motion for the election of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha. I call upon Shri Lal Krishna Advani to move the motion.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam, I beg to move.

"That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH (Ghaziabad): Madam, I second the motion moved by Shri L.K. Advani proposing Shri Karia Munda on the Deputy Speaker of this House.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, I beg to move:-

"That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

**This Report was presented to hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2009, when Rajya Sabha was not in Session and was forwarded to hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha the same day. Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha has also ordered printing, publication and circulation of the Report.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I second the motion moved by Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam, I beg to move:—

“That Shri Karia Munda, Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House”.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH (Munger): Madam, I second the motion moved by Shri Sharad Yadav proposing Shri Karia Munda as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Madam, I beg to move:

“That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Madam, I second the motion moved by Shri Sharad Pawar.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): Madam, I beg to move:

“That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House”.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Subhash Bapurao Wankhede—Not present.

Shri Lalu Prasad—Not present

[English]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Madam, I beg to move:

“That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA (Ferozpur): Madam, I second the motion moved by Dr. Ratan Singh Ajnala.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam, I beg to move:

“That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

MADAM SPEAKER: Sirri Sultan Ahmed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SAUGATA RAY): Madam, on behalf of Shri Sultan Ahmed, can I move?

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH (Baghpat): Madam, I beg to move:

“That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House”

SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN (Bijnore): Madam, second the motion moved by Shri Ajit Singh proposing Shri Karia Munda as the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Madam, I beg to move:

“That Shri Karia Munda, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Madam, I second the motion moved by the DMK Parliamentary Party's combined Group Leader Shri T.R. Baalu proposing Shri Karia Munda as the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam, I beg to move:-

“That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House”.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore-South): Madam, I second the motion moved by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Madam, I beg to move:

“That Shri Karia Munda, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, I second the motion moved by Shri Rewati Raman Singh.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMED): I beg to move:

"That Shri Karia Munda, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): I second the motion.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the motion moved by Shri Lal Krishna Advani and seconded by Shri Ranjath Singh is before the House for consideration. I am putting this motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Shri Karia Munda, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

The motion was unanimously adopted.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is carried and Shri Karia Munda is declared elected as the Deputy Speaker of this House. I have great pleasure in inviting him to occupy his seat.

(Shri Karia Munda was conducted to his seat by the hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Leader of the House Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Leader of the Opposition Shri Lal Krishna Advani.)

11.09 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam Speaker, in electing Shri Karia Munda as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House so soon after your own election unanimously as the Speaker, it augurs well for our country. Both of you belong to the two most disadvantaged communities of our country. By honouring both of you, this House reaffirms its commitment to the

cause of social justice and to the empowerment of the disadvantaged communities.

Madam, Shri Karia Munda brings to bear on his Office a wealth of experience. I believe this is his seventh term as a Member of this House. He had been a Member of many Standing Committees and he had also been a Minister in the Union Government. He is a multifaceted personality and an accomplished social worker who has taken active interest in the empowerment of women, he is also a writer, I believe, he has written a book on Rabindranath Tagore—a person with all these qualities of head and heart. I congratulate Shri Karia Munda for his unanimous election to the august Office of the Deputy Speaker.

We assure him our wholehearted cooperation in running the affairs of this House.

The unanimous election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, as I said, augurs well for the running of this House in a smooth manner and I sincerely hope that the 15th Lok Sabha will set an example before the country in orderly conduct of the business of the House.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, I share the sentiments expressed by the hon. Prime Minister. I have the opportunity of witnessing the performance of Shri Karia Munda in different capacities, as a parliamentarian, as an administrator and also as a social reformer. I have no doubt that his elevation to this distinguished office would not only lighten your burden to some extent but he will also guide us for the orderly conduct of the business of the House. I, on behalf of the party and as the Leader of the House, can assure him of my fullest cooperation in discharging his responsibilities as the Deputy-Speaker of the House.

Madam, I am particularly happy that we have maintained the tradition of choosing a Member from the Opposition as the Deputy-Speaker of this House since 1977. Prior to that, both the offices normally used to go to the Ruling Party. But for the first time when the recognised Opposition Party came to exist in this House in 1977, this healthy practice was developed. Of course, this practice is in vogue in many of our State Legislatures, but we did not have that earlier. But 1977 we have not made a departure. It augurs well.

I wish him all success in his new assignment and once again I assure him of our fullest cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam, associating myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and Leader of the House, I would like to recollect that when you were elected last week the hon. Prime Minister remembered your father and subsequently I recollected that I am lucky enough to have worked with him as his cabinet colleague. The hon. Member, whom we have elected today as the Deputy Speaker, has also been a cabinet colleague of your late father during the Janata Government when Shri Morarjee Desai was the Prime Minister.

The Leader of the House has aptly said that this tradition started in the year 1977 and in that very year, a recognized opposition party came into existence. This tradition has been in practice since then and it is every good. It would be better if this tradition is also adopted in rest of the legislatures across the country. As I said in my speech, General Election 2009 have been sweet for some and bitter for others, especially for those who lost. It is immaterial as to who won or lost, but it is undoubtedly the victory of democracy. It becomes evident from your and today's election as well. It has amply demonstrated the maturity of our democracy which has underlined the mutual respectful relations between the treasury benches and the opposition. Sometimes it seemed uncertain but all the Members and all the parties have unanimously elected you as well as the hon. Deputy Speaker today. It is a matter of great happiness and augurs well for the future.

Again on behalf of the House, on my behalf, on behalf of my party and also on the NDA's behalf, I heartily congratulate Shri Karia Munda and believe that under his guidance the House will run smoothly.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam-Speaker, hon. Karia Munda Ji has been elected unanimously. I congratulate him. He has a long experience. He has not been elected to Lok Sabha for the first time. As stated a little while ago, he has been a Member of Lok Sabha seven times. He was a Member alongwith hon. Advani Ji and myself in the year 1977 as well and the House will be immensely benefited by his vast experience.

It is a very healthy convention that the Speaker is from the ruling side and the Deputy Speaker from the opposition. We had also ushered in this convention in Uttar Pradesh where the Deputy Speaker was from the

BJP and the Speaker was from our Samajwadi Party. I also associate myself with what the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition has stated. I am confident that with his vast experience of the House, he would prove himself to be a well accepted seasoned Deputy Speaker in ensuring smooth conduct of the House.

I assure him of our full cooperation from my party. Agreeing with the views expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition, Congratulating you Sir, once again, on behalf of my party, I conclude.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam, in continuity of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Prime Minister, Pranab Ji, Advani Ji and brother Mulayam Singh Ji, I congratulate Karia Munda Ji, who has been a familiar and popular leader of this House, on his unanimous election to this august chair.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur): Hon. Madam Speaker, I heartily congratulate the hon. Deputy Speaker personally and on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party. I came to know from the hon. Prime Minister's speech that hon. Karia Munda Ji has been a Member seven times, as such, I believe we will be benefited a lot from his vast and varied experience. He is a writer also and his background makes me believe that he would follow the ideals of an egalitarian society and 'Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya' which is the hallmark of our party. He will get full cooperation from me and my party. A new vista of opportunity is unfolding for the backward, dalit and poor people in the country and I congratulate you, Sir, on your election. You will always get full cooperation from me and my party.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Madam Speaker, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by hon. Prime Minister, Leader of the House, as well as Leader of the Opposition in electing Shri Karia Munda ji to the office of the Deputy-Speaker of this august House.

He has long experience in the service of the people, working as a Member of Parliament, working in different capacities such as Minister in the Central Cabinet as well as Member of the different Committees of this august House.

On behalf of Biju Janata Dal of Orissa, I congratulate Shri Karia Munda ji on his elevation to the office of the

Deputy-Speaker. On behalf of my party, I not only congratulate him, but I also assure him all kind of cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House, besides cooperating in different Committees of the House constituted by this august House.

I, once again, congratulate him and assure him all kind of cooperation on behalf of my party.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, Speaker, we have continued the same tradition of electing the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha in the 15th Lok Sabha as was in the 14th Lok Sabha and have elected the Speaker and Deputy Speaker unanimously. Hon. Prime Minister has described Shri Karia Munda as a multifaceted personality. He is not just a Member, he hails from the land where Birsa Munda had revolted against the British Imperialism. I have full confidence that his experience as an MP, Minister and as Member of various Committees will help him in conducting the proceedings of the House. I would like to assure him that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) will extend him full cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House. I hope and believe that Munda Ji will be successful in adding to the dignity of the House. I, once again, congratulate Munda Ji, personally and on behalf of my party.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam, your election as the Speaker, followed by the election of Mr. Karia Munda as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House, is, no doubt, a new direction in the history of Parliamentary and democratic system of this country. We whole-heartedly appreciate the sentiments and the decision taken by the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Chairperson of UPA, and the Leader of the Opposition, as such. I fully appreciate and congratulate Mr. Karia Munda. I assure all sorts of assistance on behalf of our Party, Trinamool Congress, which is now the second-largest Party in the UPA Government.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): Hon. Madam Speaker, Shri Karia Munda Ji has been unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker by the House. I congratulate him personally and on behalf of my party—

the Shiv Sena. The leader of the House made a mention of this tradition which was ushered in the year 1977. It is a coincidence that Karia Munda Ji was also a Member of the Lok Sabha in 1977 when this tradition began. He was elected for the first time in 1977. He has a vast experience which will help him in conducting the proceedings of the House properly and successfully as a Deputy Speaker. I am fully confident about it. I assure him that he will be able to run the House smoothly as Deputy Speaker and he will get full cooperation from me and my party.

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Madam, Speaker, on behalf of my party AIADMK's General-Secretary, Amma and on my own behalf, I congratulate Shri Karia Munda for being elected unanimously to the post of Deputy-Speaker of Lok Sabha. He is a veteran parliamentarian. He has a lot of experience in this House. He has represented this House earlier six times. He has also got a lot of administrative experience. I extend full support of my party in running this House smoothly.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Madam Speaker, the successive accessions to the exalted position of the Indian democracy by the SCs and STs, who were hitherto discriminated, will go a long way in the Indian history.

Madam, Shri Karia Munda is my old friend. He has got all stature to conduct this House peacefully and harmoniously.

On this happy occasion, my only anguish is that the great leader, the great thinker, the revolutionary, the visionary leader, Thanthai Periyar, who was the leader of the Self-Respect Movement, is not here to appreciate this act of Parliament. Dr. C.N. Annadurai, the former leader of the DMK is also not here to recognise this act of the Indian Parliament. But at the same time, my leader, the custodian of Dalits, is here to appreciate and recognise this great act of the Indian Parliament. Definitely, it would go a long way in the Indian history. It would be written in the golden letters of the Indian history.

I appreciate and congratulate Shri Karia Munda on his election to the office of the Deputy-Speaker. On behalf of the DMK, we will definitely give our fullest cooperation to conduct this House in a peaceful manner.

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Heartiest congratulation to Karia Munda ji.

[English]

The new trend that has set in with your election to the office of the Speaker is being rightfully continued. The representation of the backward and Dalit in the highest forum of democracy raises a new hope of social uplift.

If this gesture is really translated into effective State policy to do good to the depressed, minority and Dalit, then that would mean a new turn in the Indian history.

With this hope, Madam, I again congratulate Shri Karia Munda, reminding the Government the necessity of translating this gesture into effective State policy.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH (Baghpat): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Shri Karia Munda for being elected to the post of Deputy Speaker unanimously. He has the support of all the Members and all the parties in the House and seeing his vast experience, I am confident that he will discharge his responsibilities creditably.

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Shri Karia Munda for being elected Deputy Speaker particularly because in shouldering the responsibility of people's welfare and public service he represents Jharkand, to which I belong. I have a long association with him. Mr. Karia Munda's election to the post of the Deputy Speaker seems to be a perfect complement to your election as the Speaker. There is a saying in Sanskrit:

Manina valayam valayenamani manina valayam
vivhtikarah,
Kavina cha vibhuu vibhuna cha Kavi,
Kavina vibhuna cha vibhati sabha.

This means, as a bracelet on the wrist magnifies the beauty of the hand, so the Lok Sabha has been graced by the presence of you and Shri Karia Munda as Speaker and Deputy Speaker. That is why, I want to congratulate him today. The appointment of Shri Karia Munda as Deputy Speaker is a step towards repayment of the debt placed on us by Mahatma Gandhiji. Mahatmajji used to say and it is said about him:

Jhund haathiyon ke aaye, nahane to bah gaye,
Dariya ki tez dhar hai ek boodha aadmi,
Jan kranti jhuggiyon se na jab tak shuru,
Desh par udhar hai ek budha aadmi.

As long as social reforms do not start from the grassroots, this old man would remain a debt upon the nation. The House has tried to free itself from this debt of Mahatma Gandhi by electing Shri Karia Munda as Deputy Speaker.

With these words, I offer my best wishes to Shri Karia Munda Ji. I have full confidence that he would complement your efforts in conducting the House and provide a new direction to the functioning of the House.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the House, hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Leader of the UPA, hon. Leaders of Parties and Groups and hon. Members:

It is a matter of great happiness that one of our very worthy colleagues Shri Karia Mundaji has been unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to Shri Karia Mundaji on this occasion. May I also congratulate all the Members of the Lok Sabha in ensuring the smooth election of an eminent parliamentarian to this august office.

Hon. Members, parliamentary democracy has taken deep roots in our country. The peaceful conduct of the General Elections to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha and the clear mandate given by the electorate, I am sure, are a testimony to their maturity and also of our parliamentary system. Within six decades of Independence, India has firmly secured its position as the largest working democracy of the world, in spite of having to contend with many problems, both internal and external.

Hon. Members, the people of India have reposed their faith in us and also given to us a very high responsibility. We now have the bounden duty to strive to come up to their expectations. Through healthy debates and purposive discussions, we have to chart out the plan for the country's development and pave the way for our people's prosperity. I am sure that the Fifteenth Lok Sabha will witness further strengthening of parliamentary institutions and the promotion of a healthy parliamentary culture.

Shri Karia Mundaji, whom the House has unanimously elected as the hon. Deputy Speaker, is a man of the masses. Shri Karia Mundaji has always stood out in our public life and is respected widely for his

honesty, integrity and sincerity. Representing the Khunti parliamentary constituency from Jharkhand, he has made significant contributions as a Member of the Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas.

During his illustrious career, he was also a Member of the Bihar and Jharkhand Legislatures where too he displayed exemplary parliamentary skills. He was also a Minister in the Union Cabinet when his administrative acumen was acknowledged by the nation. Being closely associated with the under-privileged, he has tirelessly worked towards eradicating socio-economic inequalities. Undoubtedly, with such a distinguished public life, Shri Karia Munda*ji* is eminently suited to adorn the Office of the Deputy-Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

While we have every reason to be proud of the fact that elections to the offices of the Speaker and Deputy-Speaker have been unanimous, we should, at the same time, ensure that this unanimity should be the hallmark of the functioning of the 15th Lok Sabha. In a parliamentary democracy, there are bound to be differences of opinion on various occasions, a fact which makes the job of a Presiding Officer very challenging. However, in the interest of the welfare of the nation and the people, we shall have to arrive at consensus on major issues. I am confident, as Presiding Officers, Shri Munda*ji* and I will receive full cooperation from all sections of the House. I am equally sure that Shri Karia Munda*ji*'s vast legislative experience and his unquestionable integrity will go a long way in upholding the dignity of this august House and enriching our parliamentary system.

With these words, I would like to once again congratulate the newly elected hon. Deputy-Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Karia Munda*ji*. I would also like to convey my very best wishes to Shri Munda*ji* in fulfilling the onerous responsibility bestowed upon him.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, hon. Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the House, hon. Leader of Opposition, hon. Leader of all other parties and groups and hon. Members.

It is indeed a matter of great honour for me to be elected as Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha. I am very grateful to all of you for electing me to this high post unanimously. I do not have adequate words to express my feelings upon being honoured with this post and I accept this constitutional post with full humility. In fact,

I am also overwhelmed with the generous praise bestowed on me by the Members cutting across party-lines. I would like to give assurance to all of you that I shall try my level best to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Shrimati Meira Kumar*ji* for being elected to the post of Lok Sabha Speaker unanimously and getting the honour of being the first woman Speaker of Lok Sabha. Madam, I assure you that you shall have my full cooperation and support in conducting the proceedings of the House.

I also extend a warm welcome to all the hon. Members of the House who have got the honour of being elected to this popular House of the largest functional democracy in the world.

Hon'ble Members, I have been elected Deputy Speaker of this House for the first time. However, as many of you are aware, I am not new to Parliamentary institutions and Parliamentary practices and procedure. I was first elected to the sixth Lok Sabha in 1977. Thereafter, I was elected to the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth Lok Sabha and now to the fifteenth Lok Sabha.

I was elected to Bihar Legislative Assembly and the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly in the interim period. I also got the opportunity to serve in the cabinets of Prime Minister Morarji Desai and Atal Behari Vajpayee*ji* as Union Minister. I believe that my parliamentary experience and the rich traditions established by my predecessors would help me in discharging my parliamentary responsibilities and in maintaining the dignity of the House. It would be my holy duty to safeguard the dignity of Lok Sabha, which is the soul of our democracy and the right and privileges of the hon. Members. I hope for your constant support to me to help me in discharging my responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner.

Hon. Members, our Parliament has emerged as a multifaceted organization after independence. It is the centre of political activities in the country and a dynamic institution which is capable of changing itself to accommodate the changing needs of the hour. It fulfils various responsibilities and conducts parliamentary politics. The role of Parliament in maintaining the dynamism of our political institution in the context of the socio-economic scenario of the country, is well-known. Our Parliament proficiently expresses and nurtures the flexibility of our political system, our concern for social

welfare, commitment to democracy, rule of law, political consensus and national unity etc.

Our parliament has set good precedents and traditions for its functioning during the last decades and made our Parliamentary system effective. A Member of Parliament enjoys the status of a respectable person as a public representative. Hence it is one of the primary duties of the Members to behave themselves inside and outside the House. All of us are aware that no meaningful discussion can take place without freedom of speech but we need to understand that any discussion is impossible without maintaining order in the House. The difference of opinion among the leaders and the Members on any controversial issue causes disorder in the House and I am of the view that it can be resolved through talks and meetings with the leaders of political parties and groups. What is important is that a consensus is reached through discussion and cooperation. We, being the elected public representatives, should conduct ourselves in a modest, decent, tolerant and accommodating way.

Several new and young faces have elected to the fifteenth Lok Sabha. The experience of senior Members combined with the Members elected for the first time brings plenty of creative energy in this House which can take care of the hopes and aspirations of the people properly. I hope that every newly elected Member will work in a committed manner, understand and follow the rules and procedure of the House and give his or her valuable contribution to the proceedings of the House so that all of us will be able to work for public welfare.

I am grateful to all the Hon'ble Members who have expressed their faith in me and assured me of their full cooperation. I also assure you once again that I will try my best to keep your faith.

With these words, I once again thank you all for electing me to this high office of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

11.44 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The Secretary-General may please call out the name of Shri Kameshwar Baitha for taking Oath or Affirmation.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Shri Kameshwar Baitha.

Jharkhand

Shri Kameshwar Baitha (Palamau) — Oath — Hindi

11.45 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Arrest and lodgement of Member

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication dated 6th June, 2009 from the Superintendent of Police, Special Crime Branch, Central Bureau of Investigation, Mumbai, intimating the arrest and lodgement of Shri Padmsinh Bajirao Patil, MP under the provisions of Rule 229 of the Rules of Procedure and the Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha:

"I have the honour to inform that as per the directions of the hon. High Court of Judicature at Bombay *vide* its order dated 23.10.08 in Criminal Writ Petition No. 81 of 2008, the investigation of Crime No. 220 of 2006 of Kalamboli Police Station was transferred to the CBI which accordingly registered an FIR *vide* RC-BSI/2009/S/0001 dated 20.03.2009 at CBI, Special Crime Branch, Mumbai.

I have the honour to inform that, I found it my duty, in the exercise of my powers under Section 41 of the Criminal Procedure Code that Shri Padmsinh Bajirao Patil, Member of the Lok Sabha, may be arrested for committing offences u/s 120-B/302 IPC for the double murder of Pawan Raje Nimbalkar, R/o. Govardhanwadi, Dist. Latur, Maharashtra, and Samad Abdul Wahid Kazi, R/o. Dhoki, Osmanabad, on 03.06.2006 at Kalamboli, Panvel, Dist. Raigadh, Maharashtra.

Shri Padmsinh Bajirao Patil, MP, was accordingly arrested and taken into custody at 10.20 p.m., on 06.06.2009 and is at present in the custody of Special Crime Branch, CBI, Mumbai."

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am allowing three submissions at this hour. Each Member will take

a maximum of three minutes. Rest of the Members can raise their issues at the end of the day.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Hon'ble Madam Speaker. I am very sorry to say that racism has been on the rise in Australia as you and hon'ble Members are watching on television and reading in the newspapers. About 90,000 students from our country have gone there for studies. They are not only studying there but doing petty jobs (business) also for earning their livelihood. Everyday students are beaten up. Several of them have even been killed and it causes a sense of insecurity among the students there.

Madam, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that such incidents are being reported continuously from there and the students who went there for studies are coming back to India leaving their studies unfinished. When these students stage dharnas or protests against the Australian government, the local police treat them barbarically. You must have watched this on the television.

Madam, we would like to demand, through you, from the government that a Parliamentary delegation from India be sent to Australia so that the students studying there may get protection. At the same time the Government of India should hold talks with the Australian government. Through the government would have held talks with the Australian government on the said incidents, I would like the government to take it seriously and hold talks with the Australian government as well as the High Commissioner of India in Australia. The government should make a statement in the House on this issue because several persons have been murdered and one or the other incident is taking place there every day. Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the government, through you towards this issue.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): Madam, we associate ourselves with this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Madam, I also associate with this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM CHANDRA DOME: Madam, the Government is hardly concerned over these incidents. This is a serious issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send you slips to the Table and your names will be associated with this.

[Translation]

SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Madam Speaker, I associate myself with the issue of atrocities on Indian students in Australia raised by hon'ble Member Shri Shailendra Kumar during Zero hour.

[English]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Madam, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, can I make a point? This is important issue. Let the Government make a statement at an appropriate time. Let there be a direction from the Chair to the Government.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Madam, of late, several scams have been unearthed in the country but the scenario of medical education is terrible. Post-graduate seats in medical colleges are being auctioned for anything from one to two crore rupees. This is happening at not one or two places but in several colleges and institutes. Unfortunately, most of these institutes are private. It seems that there has not been required expansion in medical education sector. I have got the figures that only 29 students out of 100 graduates become post-graduates in the country. Thus very few seats are available for post-graduate degree courses in the country. For example, 9085 seats are available in clinical courses, 662 seats in pre-clinical courses and 1303 seats are available in para-clinical courses. These seats are very less in comparison to the population of our country and it seems that there has not been a required increase in the seats in medical education. The second aspect is that if one seat is sold for one crore or two crore rupees then only the rich people and black marketeers will grab those seats for their children. It will be difficult for the poor to acquire post-graduate degree. The poor can not even be a graduate because even a seat for graduate degree course is auctioned for 12 to 25 lakh rupees. How will a common man get education, become a doctor in such a scenario and what to speak of a common man becoming a specialist? How will we meet the shortage of doctors in the country? Her Excellency, the President has stated about the expansion

of medical facilities. The government have also stated medical facilities to the common people will be provided. When there are no doctors, how medical facilities will be provided? When you will not provide for medical education, the people will go abroad.

I feel sorry to tell you that today only 80 doctors can become post-graduate cardiologist in the country every year, whereas in America the same figure is 800 of which majority are Indians. This means that the Indian cardiologists are going abroad instead of living here and our heart patients are dying due to lack of specialist doctors. Why the situation is so bad? Will the Government consider expansion of the Medical Council and medical education? Will some regulatory authority be formed? Should the fees keep increasing constantly? Should a poor man's child not get a chance to study? Should the common man not get a specialized treatment? Our Constitution provides that health and medical facilities will be provided by the Government. I do not know how many Government medical colleges have been set up by the Central and State Governments. Why have they not been set up? There are some flaws in the policy somewhere. We have not shown any concern for having a regulatory authority. We have not shown any concern towards providing medical facilities.

Madam, I would like to tell you that similar situation existed earlier in the field of engineering also. I had the good fortune to have worked in that field. We made expansion there and, today, there is no such situation in the fields of engineering and IT. But, why is it there in the medical field? This is a serious issue for the health of the country, for the poor of the country and it is a question mark on the commercialization of education in particular. It is a leading example of commercialization of education. I fail to understand as to how any Government, which speaks of providing medical facilities and education as a fundamental right, can tolerate such a situation?

Madam, students and their parents meet me in this regard. But, when I enquire, I find that admission can not be given as the number of seats in the post-graduate courses is very limited. The Government schools are very few too. I demand from the Government that it should first create such a situation that the number of seats in the post-graduate medical courses is increased alongwith the seats for under-graduate courses. Only 32000 medical graduates are produced in a year in the country. This is the number of doctors we are giving to

the country for a population of 1.2 billion? Even after that we believe that the health of the people of the country will remain good and we will be able to enter the 21st century. On the other hand, these very children are earning a good name abroad.

I, therefore, would like to request you that it is a very serious issue. The Government should bring a comprehensive policy in this regard before the House and give assurance of action against the people who are auctioning seats for 1-2 crore rupees. Such people are also a part of your Government and it is alleged that a capitation fee of Rs. 20 lakhs is taken in their colleges. How can it be justified. This should be stopped immediately and action be taken against all such people. Capitation fee should be banned completely. The number of Government colleges should be increased. What will you do to improve this situation? A comprehensive plan in this regard should be presented before the House.

Madam, I can see neither the Health Minister nor HRD Minister right now, but, I would like them to declare a comprehensive policy in this regard as soon as possible before the House. The system of capitation fee should be checked immediately and arrangements should be made to bring poor children forward on the basis of merit. It is a very important issue.

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Madam Speaker, I may be permitted to deliver an SOS message, the heart-beat of 50 lakh people of three districts of Kerala –including my constituency – Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam.

The Mullapperiyar Dam is in a very dangerous condition. With the on-going monsoon, there is a likelihood of dam being burst. The legendary Damocles' Sword is hovering over the people of Kerala in the form of Mullapperiyar Dam. I request through you to reconstruct a new-generation Dam there. The expert committee which visited the Mullapperiyar Dam day before yesterday has already revealed the alarming situation. The old generational colonial era's Mullapperiyar Dam has been posing us a potential danger. It was commissioned in the year 1895.

12.00 hrs.

The dam was constructed using rubble and lime *surkki*. Over hundred and odd years, the lime has washed away exposing cavities. As the dam is situated

in a junction of two fault zones with high seismic zones, the dam has suffered many earthquakes. At present, the dam is in a very dangerous condition.

Madam, we are in favour of sharing water with Tamil Nadu. We are not opposing it. We are ready to give sufficient water to the people of Tamil Nadu. But we need to construct a new dam in Mullaperiyar. Our people from Idukki and all over Kerala are facing a dangerous position. The only solution is to construct a new generation dam in place of the existing dangerous structure. People of Kerala are eager to give precious water to the people of Tamil Nadu.

Madam, this situation is very dangerous and we have to be practical about it. Therefore, let us construct a new dam at Mullaperiyar and let us cement further the relationship with the people of Tamil Nadu. We are not opposing sharing of water. I supplicate the hon. Prime Minister to convene an urgent high level meeting and to take pragmatic steps to avoid the tragedies. I am requesting this on behalf of all the people from Kerala and especially from my district ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

12.01 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 take steps to prevent attacks on Indian students in Australia

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): The Indian students who are studying in Australia, are frequently being attacked by the Australian natives. So immediate intervention from Government of India is needed. The parents of these students in India are in deep agony.

So, I urge upon the Government of India to take up the matter with the Australian Government so that such incidents do not re-occur.

(ii) Need to amend Dowry Prohibition Act for ensuring economic empowerment of women

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): Madam Speaker, whenever a girl gets married, she goes

to a new home where nobody knows her. If any atrocity is committed against her in her in-laws home and she informs her parents about this then, in most of the cases, the Parents suggest her to stay in her-in laws home. In such circumstances, the condition of the woman becomes very pitiable and she either commits suicide or is forced to leave the home. In the situation of leaving the home, she has to face the financial hardships. Though a number of laws have been enacted for protection of the women but there is still a need to do a lot for their welfare.

I urge upon the Central Government to make necessary amendments in Dowry Prohibition Act so that a girl is not required to disclose the immovable property and bank deposits during and after the marriage and thus keep her immovable property and bank deposits secret which were in her name before marriage so that a victim can her livelihood without depending on anyone else in the hour of need.

(iii) Need to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to Gram Panchayats and Town Panchayats

[*English*]

SHRI N.S.V.CHITTHAN (Dindigul): The Flagship National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the largest programme in the world for the rural reconstruction was launched in February, 2006. This Act provides livelihood security of the households in rural areas by providing legal guarantee of one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It has inspired the rural women folk through economic empowerment and has broadened their social role in society. The basic tenets of implementation are transparency, vigilance and village participation by creating productive assets at village level such as tanks, ponds supply channels and mud roads.

This scheme which has got overwhelming public response was implemented in 31 States covering 559 districts comprising 4,95,183 villages. More than 3.5 crores of households and more than 140 crores of person days are generated. Total number of works taken up are more than 8.5 lakhs and particularly women participation is 49%.

At present every labourer engaged in this scheme is getting Rs. 80/-per day which should be increased to Rs. 100/-.

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

Since the Act has brought unprecedented rural uplift, I urge upon the Government to increase 100 days wage employment to 150 days in a financial year and the scheme be extended to Gram Panchayats and Town Panchayats. The development works carried out by this Act may be extended to the lands owned by private individuals who are marginal farmers.

(iv) Need to declare Arunachal Pradesh as a centre of Indian Green Revolution with a view to protect the fast-depleting forest areas in the country

[Translation]

SHRI NINONG ERING (Arunachal East): Madam Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh is the only place where the beautiful, attractive and invaluable gifts of nature have been preserved to day. We adore our natural heritage here. The green forests of Arunachal Pradesh are like "Kamdhenu" for the entire India which provide a storehouse for fruits, flowers, medicinal herbs, fuel, material for construction of building and oxygen. Hence, in order to protect ourselves from pollution, it is the need of the hour that we do not cut the forests in the name of development rather we should preserve the green forests.

Madam Speaker, a report of the Estimates Committee of the Parliament has made a reference to the destruction of forests during the last few decades and according to reliable figures every year approximately 37 lakh acres of forest vanish. The officially declared forest areas have no vegetation. In fact the loss is much greater than officially estimated figures.

I, therefore, request to declare Arunachal Pradesh as a centre of Indian Green Revolution so that 'Van Vikas Abhiyaan' may reach every corner of the country and the protection of forest area and respect for trees may be reinforced.

(v) Need to pass the Women Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha

[English]

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): I urge upon the Government through you to pass the 33% women reservation bill in Lok Sabha

at the earliest by building consensus among all the members of Parliament.

(vi) Need for expansion and four-laning of N.H. 34 in West Bengal

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrampur): National Highway 34 originating from Kolkata is regarded as a lifeline for the State of West Bengal. In addition, it also serves as a medium of trade and transport to North Eastern Region. But the fact is that N.H.-34 which was built decades ago is not good enough to bear the load of thousands of vehicles plying on it. It has resulted in the deterioration of the highway, traffic snarls and daily accidents. When Government is putting emphasis on the infrastructural development, I think expansion and four-laning of N.H.-34 which has been due for years together should be given high priority. N.H.-34 passes through the Central and Northern districts of West Bengal which are backward in all respects. Expansion of N.H.-34 may bring about economic prosperity to the agro-based districts of West Bengal.

(vii) Need to depute a fact-finding team to assess the extent of threat posed by water-borne diseases in Alappuzha district of Kerala

SHRI K.C.VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha): I rise to apprise the Government of the serious threat caused by detection of water-borne diseases among residents of this coastal district with many cases reported for immediate examination and treatment by the District Health Authorities.

Alappuzha has been considered most vulnerable to attacks by epidemic diseases like Japan Flu, Chikangunya with most of the population engaged in livelihoods by the sea and saline water bodies. There is a unit of National Virology Institute set up in Alappuzha which is awfully under-equipped to handle epidemic threats of grave proportions. I urge the Centre to take immediate steps to strengthen the facilities at the National Virology Institute in Alappuzha by sanctioning more funds to make it full-fledged and fully operational at all times to handle medical emergencies in future. I would also request the Centre to depute a fact-finding team of medical professionals to Alappuzha to assess the extent of the present threat which is causing concern and panic among local residents.

(viii) Need to appropriate funds under Social Integration Programme of Chandrapura and Bokaro Thermal Power stations in Jharkhand for providing irrigation and drinking water facilities in the area

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Madam Speaker, the development of the area has been hampered owing to improper utilization of funds under social integration programme of Chandrapura and Bokaro thermal power stations of Damodar Valley Corporation and improper implementation of the programme. There are three dams in Konardam area, yet Damodar Valley Corporation has not made sufficient provision of drinking water for the local people and not taken any effective steps for providing irrigation facilities. There is no transparency in the existing system of spending the funds under Social Integration Programme (SIP) for public welfare by Chandrapura and Bokaro thermal power stations and no advice is taken from the elected representatives in this regard.

So, I request the government to ensure that the funds allocated under SIP of Chandrapura and Bokaro thermal power stations of Damodar Valley Corporation are spent for providing drinking water and irrigation facilities to the local people.

(ix) Need to implement 'One rank-One Pension' scheme in the Armed Forces of the country

DR. RAJAN SUSHANT (Kangra): Madam Speaker, all Indians are aware that all round development of a country is possible only if a country is completely safe from anti-national forces. Be it 1947-48, 1962, 1965 or 1971 war or Kargil war of 1999 or problems in Jammu and Kashmir or North-Eastern States or flood in any part of the country or any kind of emergency such as attack on Mumbai on 26-11-2008, the role of armed forces has always been important in providing security cover to its citizens. Our armed forces are one of the best in the world. Therefore, it is necessary to give them due respect as well as give them attractive pay, pension and allowances. The serving personnel feel that if the ex-servicemen are neglected today, it will be tantamount to neglecting the future security of the country. It is a matter of serious concern so far as security of our country is concerned. There is a strong resentment and the feeling of being given unjust

treatment among them over non-implementation of one-rank, one-pension policy. Consequently, they have resorted to agitation in December, 2008 for getting justice. What is more concerning and painful is that they have even surrendered their gallantry awards to the hon'ble President. The Supreme Court of India, had in July, 1987 delivered a judgement that all the retired judges of High Court and Supreme Court shall be given the same pension as their successors. Therefore, in view of spirit of the said judgement and also the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee there is a need to implement one-rank one-pension for our 23 lakh ex-servicemen. It will help in strengthening our national security.

(x) Need to provide financial assistance for boring tube-wells and constructing tanks in the drought-hit Satna Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Madam Speaker, constant scanty rainfall in Madhya Pradesh has resulted in scarcity of drinking water in its 43 districts. Out of it, 20 districts are facing severe drinking water crisis. All the water sources in rural areas are rapidly getting dried up. 180 Municipal Committees, out of a total of 341, are facing serious drinking water crisis. In 92 cities water is supplied every second day, in 46 cities after every two days and in 36 cities it is supplied after every three days. Water is supplied from Bansagar dam, hundred of kilometers away, to my Parliamentary constituency Satna, but the problem continues to be serious in rural areas. The State Government is supplying water from its limited resources. Scanty rainfall in the State during last 3-4 years has created problem.

In view of the above, I request the Union Government to provide economic package to the State Government besides providing funds for digging tube-wells and construction of over-head tanks in drought hit Satna and also of water treatment plant as proposed by Satna Municipal Committee and also ancient dams.

(xi) Need to expedite the survey and construction of railway line between Jalgaon and Sholapur in Maharashtra

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna): Madam Speaker, on Rail Budget 2008 a provision was made for conducting survey for laying new rail line on Jalgaon, Ajanta, Sillod, Fulambi, Aurangabad, Panthan Sholapur route. But nothing has been done so far. therefore, the

people have been demanding that survey for this route should be conducted at the earliest and a budgetary allocation should be made in this regard.

(xii) Need to stop acquisition of agricultural land for construction of railway freight corridor in Chandauli Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, agriculture land is being acquired for construction of a railways freight corridor in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh. The land proposed to be acquired by railways under the Chandauli district is cultivable land and belongs to the small farmers. Acquisition of this land will render the farmers landless and it will directly affect their income.

Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government to immediately stop the proposed acquisition of land by railways and the strip of railways land parallel to the railway lines. may be used for construction of railways freight corridor. Chandauli district is a Naxal affected area and the farmers of this area are expressing their anger over it and this may cause a law and order problem. Therefore, I would urge you to take immediate action to stop the acquisition of the said land.

(xiii) Need to provide funds from NABARD for the completion of North Coal Irrigation Project in Jharkhand

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, my Parliamentary Constituency Aurangabad is an extremely backward area of Bihar State. The industrial growth rate is almost zero in this area because it is infested with terrorism and agriculture is the only source of livelihood here. In my Parliamentary Constituency irrigation of nearly 90 percent land depends upon Northern Coal Irrigation Project. Work on this project was started in the year 1975 but owing to the negligence shown by various Governments, this project is still incomplete. The dam and barrage of the said project lies in Jharkhand State and 85 percent area of this canal lies in Bihar and due to this 85 percent irrigation is undertaken in Bihar.

After formation of Jharkhand State this problem has become inter state. The most important thing required for the completion of this project is to install an iron gate in the dam. Construction work of main canal and branch

cannals is going on satisfactorily but due to absence of a gate water storage can not be undertaken and the entire water goes waste as it runs into the river. Completion of this project will lead to entire land of extremely backward districts like Gaya, Aurangabad and Palamu etc. In both the State of Bihar and Jharkhand, coming under irrigation facility.

Hon'ble Madam Speaker, through you I would like to urge the Government that necessary funds may kindly be provided from NABARD for completion of this much awaited irrigation project and the remaining work of the project may be completed soon.

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

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Recently a cyclone namely "AILA" hit areas in West Bengal. Necessary steps may be taken immediately by the Central Government for sending relief at the doorsteps of affected persons including granting aid for their rehabilitation directly through District Magistrate and Zilla Parishad.

(xv) Need to promote floriculture in Thiruvannamalai Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

SHRI D.VENUGOPAL (Tiruvannamalai): In Tamil Nadu, floriculture as decorative flower growing is a traditional occupation providing remunerative job and livelihood to dryland farmers. Jasmine, Marigold and Wild Rose are some of the flowers traditionally grown in a big way there from time immemorial. These flowers are sent to several places in Tamil Nadu and also to neighbouring cities like Bangalore and other states in India. In my Thiruvannamalai constituency this Floriculture as part of horticulture is being carried out in Chengam, Tiruppattur and Thiruvannamalai as a round the year cultivation activity. With flight service and air lifting facility this flower growing is a much lucrative occupation in Madurai, Pudukkottai and Tiruchi. Though quality flowers are grown in Thiruvannamalai, Thiruppattur and Chengam in the northern parts of Tamil Nadu, they do not fetch enough of remunerative prices to the farmers for want of effective infrastructure facilities. Hence there is an urgent need on the part of the Union Government to take certain measures to promote this venture. Since flowers are among the perishable commodity, Government

must come forward to help these farmers. Cold storage godowns, refrigerated container trucks, regulated market centres, lucid credit facility at various stages, adequate banking facility to help promote export of flowers, technical and technological training and extension service facility must form part of an Integrated Floriculture Special Scheme to be evolved. A pilot scheme of this project may be introduced in my Thiruvannamalai constituency for which Hon'ble Prime Minister may formulate a co-ordinated plan scheme involving Union Ministries like Agriculture, Rural Development, Finance Ministry and Civil Aviation for production, transportation, marketing and export of flowers.

(xvi) Need to set up a bench of High Court in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala, was having a bench of the Hon'ble High Court at the time of re-organisation of states in Indian Union. But later on, it was taken back by the Hon'ble Court itself, thereby creating undue hardships and financial burden upon the litigants as well as common people. The Government of Kerala has requested many times for the restoration of the said Bench. Hence in the interest of justice, a High Court bench may be established at Thiruvananthapuram by proper Notification.

(xvii) Need to expedite the construction of second railway bridge over river Kathajodi in Orissa

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): The second railway bridge over Kathajodi river is under construction for more than three years. It was given to understand that this bridge would be completed by December, 2008 but due to change in design in midway and change in the construction company completion was deferred to December, 2009. But the snail pace at which the construction is taking place, I doubt whether this railway bridge will be completed by December, 2010.

It is needless to mention here that second railway bridge over river Kathajodi river has become essential to have a second rail line link to Cuttack. Unless this second railway bridge over Kathajodi is constructed the second line will not be fruitful.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take appropriate action at the earliest to complete the second railway bridge over river Kathajodi for better movement of rail traffic in the East Coast Zone.

(xviii) Need to release funds for the construction of Homes for Women under "Swadhar" Scheme in Maharashtra

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Baramati): The Government of Maharashtra has started implementing the Central Government sponsored Scheme "Swadhar". Under this scheme it is constructing a home at Deonar, for girls and women victims rescued from human trafficking. According to the scheme, 75% cost of construction is to be borne by the Government of India and the rest 25% of the cost is to be borne by the Government of Maharashtra. The total cost of the construction for the same is Rs. 475 lakhs. Accordingly, the share of the Government of India is Rs. 356.25 lakhs, out of which a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs has already been released till date. Government of Maharashtra has also released a sum of Rs. 31.48 lakhs for the said project.

For the phase I and Phase II of the project work was taken up and the Phase I construction is in the last stage. However to start with Phase II, funds are required urgently and due to lack of funds, the progress of the work is being hampered. The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government vide their letter dated 30th May, 2007 and 16th June, 2008 for the release of the remaining sanctioned amount at the earliest. In this regard, I would draw the attention of Government towards the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai's direction in criminal writ petition 1694/2003, according to which the said work was supposed to be completed by 4 May, 2009. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to release the remaining amount of Rs. 256.25 lakhs, so that the Maharashtra Government is able to complete the project at the earliest.

(xix) Need to start the construction of second railway bridge over river Kansayee in West Bengal and double the single railway line between Kharagpur and Midnapore in the State

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): A new project for construction of a second Railway Bridge on River Kansayee between Gokulpur and Midnapur stations under Kharagpur Division of S.E. Rly has been sanctioned and duly incorporated in last Rly. Budget. But till today no execution of work has started. The tender process and other technicalities in this respect are taking unusual time. There is only single line from Kharagpur to Midnapur via Giri Maidan which needs to be doubled.

That project needs to be taken up simultaneously with the construction of sanctioned railway bridge.

More than 56 passenger trains, super fast trains including Rajdhani Express ply *over* this route every day. But due to single line the passengers have to face serious traffic problem on most of the days.

I urge upon the Union Government and the Railway Ministry in particular, to take up the matter at the earliest and the Rail Vikas Nigam may be assigned the work for early execution of the project.

(xx) Need to dissolve the suspended Legislative Assembly of Jharkhand with a view to restore proper governance in the State

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): The State of Jharkhand which was formed after prolonged political struggle and high aspirations has been plunged into political uncertainty. The state is passing through an unprecedented crisis of electricity and drinking water. The terrorism is at its peak whereas law and order has reached the lowest ebb but there is none to redress the public grievances. The Assembly has been placed under suspension and the legislators have been made non-functional. The centre is, therefore, duty bound to restore proper governance in the State so that the very idea of carving out a new State is not defeated. The Centre should, therefore, dissolve the assembly forthwith paving the way for fresh elections for installing a popular government in the State.

12.02 hrs.

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*contd.***

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Sajjan Singh Verma to continue.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions) **

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA (Dewas): Hon. Madam Speaker, I was not able to speak for long on the vote of thanks on the President's Address on Friday due to time constraints. Before starting I would like to offer my congratulations to Shri Karia Munda on his unanimous election as the Deputy Speaker of this temple of democracy.

Hon. Madam Speaker, the sixth point in the President's Address contains a sentence where she says that my Government has got an overwhelming mandate. I had started my speech with this point. This sentence made us feel very happy. This sentence held the power to make us extremely pleased but I can understand that this sentence must have caused some mental anguish to some political leaders.

Madam Speaker, the great and intelligent people of the country have proved, with this surprising but proper mandate, that the present UPA Government need not feel pressurized any longer by any political party or political leader. This UPA Government would be able to take decisions that are in the interest of the people and in the national interest. Now it does not need to bow before the dictates of any party or leader. In the preceding five years, we observed the proceedings of the House through TV channels or newspapers. We saw some political parties pressurizing the UPA Government to retract on some of its good decisions. Those political parties are nowhere in the reckoning now. The electorate have delivered the mandate that any political party that comes in the way of the implementation of decisions of national interests would not be able to survive.

I observed during the election period that many political parties claimed on TV or gave statements in newspapers that they would provide the country a 'Swarnim' Prime Minister, a 'Rajat Purush' or a 'Loh Purush' as Prime Minister. But those colleagues were answered by the votes of public that they could keep such gold, silver and iron men with them and the country wants a Prime Minister made of flesh and blood, who has a heart that beats, whose sensitivities are not dead who believes in secularism and accords each religion equal respect. I am proud to say that Dr. Manmohan Singh is the only person who qualifies as being one having all the said qualities and was chosen as Prime Minister by the people of the country.

*Not recorded.

Now only those people who fulfill their election promises and make concrete plans would be able to remain in public service and survive in the political arena. Why were those sitting in the Opposition today, not able to win the elections? What I have been able to grasp with my limited wisdom is, that they raised only one issue during the last five years viz. Dr. Manmohan Singh is a weak Prime Minister. Apart from this lament, no other constructive suggestion came from their side. I hold that this is the only reason for their defeat. When this issue used to be raised, the people used to wonder if this was the only matter of national importance that was needed to be raised in this temple of democracy. When the time for elections came, the people of the country decided to vote for the party which was most likely to implement economic reforms effectively, which would carry-out integrated development of both urban and rural areas and which would formulate an effective foreign policy. I have no hesitation in saying that this resolution of the people resulted in the UPA coming to power.

In the last five years this Government has proved that it is very much inclined to work for the most marginalised person in the society it is also with them who are the cogwheels of the economy. It is also with the weaker sections of the society also. UPA Government has formulated a very strong economic and foreign policy and it is the result of these policies that it is governing the country successfully.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Madam, I will conclude in a minute. Our's is predominantly on agriculture based country. 70% of the farmers reside in my State. Personally, I feel that prosperity and progress of a country lies in the prosperity and progress of its farmers. Farmers are foodgrain producers of our country. I am happy that our Prime Minister has taken a courageous decision to waive their loan to the tune of Rs. 71 thousand crore at a time when the farmers are reported to be committing suicides in various parts of the country. It has provided a relief to our farmers and their families.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Manmohan Singh had signed a nuclear treaty with America at time when our country was reeling under power crisis. At that time members of our alliance had strongly opposed it and even threatened to topple the Government. However, Shri Manmohan Singh Ji without considering whether his Government survive or not, was determined to sign the nuclear treaty

with America by which 65 thousand MW. of nuclear power would be generated for our farmers. I feel proud that our farmers would be able to get 65 thousand MW of power at cheaper rates through this atomic agreement and other sources in the coming five years.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude. It is more than one minute.

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Madam, I have only one point left. My submission is that our UPA Government has formulated 100 day's action plan after deliberating on the issue for long. It includes all the aspects which would lead the country ahead.

I would like to discuss only one points here empowerment of women, reservation for women. I was present in the House the day when hon'ble Shri Sharad Yadav Ji delivered a very touching speech. Then I felt how powerful the women are. Women empowerment Bill and Women Reservation Bill have not been introduced in the House yet and Shri Sharad Yadav ji, representing the male community, said that he would commit suicide by taking poison if that Bill was passed in the House. I felt at that moment that in fact the women of our country had been empowered well before the introduction of the Bill. Madam Speaker, I request that this Bill be presented in this House within 100 days and the women must get reservation in the Parliament as well as in every assembly so that our brother may understand that he need not commit suicide now.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the President's Address. Many of my knowledgeable colleagues have presented their views and although I was not present here in person, I did listen to those speeches through other media. I will try not to repeat the points that have already been raised. It has been said that the Government would eliminate poverty. This is not a new slogan. The 'Garibi Hatao' slogan is being raised since 1952 but poverty has gone on increasing instead of getting reduced. If the Government is able to fulfill even twenty percent of the assurances given in the President's Address or had it done so India would have become one of the most powerful countries in the world. The issue of eradicating poverty is always raised. In fact the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' was also coined to stress their point. The people gave their support to the party

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

and brought it to power with a heavy majority but there was no reduction in poverty.

The second point that I would like to raise is that one hundred days employment for the unemployed has been provided under the National Rural Employment Scheme. However, if one hundred days employment is provided what are they supposed to do for the rest 265 days. The scheme may be good and I acknowledge it but I would like to urge the hon. leader of the House to ensure that at least 300 days of employment is provided under the scheme. If three hundred days employment is given then we can say that your slogan has any meaning. This slogan has been in vogue since 1952 but even twenty percent of the target has not been achieved. I have supported their Government but I am also afraid that they might not be able to deliver on the promises made to the people. I accept that they have got the people's mandate but the people voted them to power to counter the threat of communalism and they should not let them down. Their party has remained in power for the longest time. Apart from a gap of few years their party has continuously remained in power. The governance of the country has remained in their hands but even then poverty has not come down but increased. Hence, it is my humble submission that while implementing the National Rural Employment Scheme, the Government should ensure that contractors should not be able to embezzle the funds by putting fake thumb impression on papers. For this, a monitoring committee of honest officers needs to be constituted. If we investigate how many people have got work under the rural employment scheme, we will find that all efforts under the scheme have failed. No poor person got any work. Contractors pocketed the money by putting fake thumb impression. The scheme has failed and the poor have not been benefited. As far as unemployment is concerned, Madam Speaker, I have a lot to say but not much time has been allotted to my party. Kindly excuse me if I exceed my time by a few minutes because today I am taking up the issue of unemployment while speaking on the President's Address. Poverty cannot be removed by merely raising the slogan-'Garibi Hatao'. The slogan should be—'Beyrojgari Hatao' but I am surprised that it is 'Garibi Hatao'. Unemployment leads to poverty. Poverty can be alleviated only by providing employment opportunities to every person in the country. Hence the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' is inappropriate. We, the Members of Samajwadi party, have always given the slogan-'Beyrojgari Hatao' and we have taken steps in this direction. Either provide

employment or give unemployment allowance to unemployed. In Uttar Pradesh we have done that. We have provided employment to approximately seven lakh people and nearly eight lakh of the rest of the people were given unemployment allowance of Rs. 500 per month. We had also made a commitment during elections that if our Government came to power, we would provide employment opportunities to all and will increase the unemployment allowance to Rs. 1500 per month. They should provide employment or give unemployment allowance to unemployed persons like we have done. We have set an example by doing that. Though it is a separate issue that the present Government of Uttar Pradesh has withdrawn it. So far as the plight of farmers and agricultural labourers is concerned, their condition is worse in the country. The country cannot progress without uplifting the farmers. Only those countries have become powerful and affluent which have given priority to farmers. We may go through the four hundred, and fifty years old history of America. What was the condition of America at that time? It was worse than India but it became the most powerful country in the world by increasing its wheat production and today it is acting like a bully and no other country dares to challenge it. It was made possible with the help of farmers only. There is another country in our neighbourhood-China. Though agricultural output in China is more but India has more cultivable land than China. Agricultural production in China is two and a half times more than India. It's population is a little more than India. We have a population of approx. 115 crore whereas China's population is about 132 or 135 crore. On one hand China has controlled its population, on the other it has increased its production. Nothing can be achieved if farmers are not given priority. I would like to submit to the leader of the House that he has been in the governments, he has experience and knowledge and is aware of poverty prevailing in the country but if we want to remove poverty we will have to strengthen our farmers economically. We will have to pay them remunerative price for their crops if we want to strengthen our country. All other trades are making profits except agriculture. Only the farmers are the losers.

Madam Speaker, hon'ble Prime Minister had constituted Agriculture Price Commission. As per the report of this Commission it costs Rs. 950 to produce one quintal of wheat and Rs. 1000 to produce one quintal of paddy. What support price is being given by the Government for it? It was increased by Rs. 200 per quintal to Rs. 1100 per quintal after we held an agitation in Delhi in this regard. My demand is that the minimum

support price for wheat should be fixed at least at Rs. 1375 per quintal as the standing committee has also recommended the same. Swaminathan report submitted by the Agriculture Price Commission has also recommended that farmers should be provided 50% more than the cost of production. If the cost of production is Rs. 100, then 50 rupees more should be given to farmers. Hence, as per the report of the commission, if the cost of production of wheat and paddy is Rs. 950 and Rs. 1000 per quintal and of sugarcane is between Rs. 125-126 per quintal then the minimum support price for wheat, paddy and sugarcane should be fixed at Rs. 1375, Rs. 1500 and Rs. 180-200 per quintal respectively. The country will flourish only when the farmers are prosperous because the entire country depends upon farmer for food-grains. Most of our soldiers belong to the families of farmers. Farmers send their sons to join armed forces to safeguard the country. However, today, the farmers and muslims are in most pathetic condition in the country. About 80% of the craftsmanship in the hands of muslims. Members in the opposition benches though oppose muslims but they wear the clothes stitched by the muslim craftsmen. Muslims are not the master craftsmen of jewellery only they are also well adopt in developing missiles and atom bombs for the country. However, farmers and muslims are suffering the most in the country. Irrigation facilities are not available to the farmers. About 50% of the cultivable land in the country is deprived of irrigation facilities. Vacant land can be converted into cultivable land which can result in increase in agriculture yield. The country is going to face a crisis. Foodgrains production is decreasing by 30% every year. The reason is not the land is shrinking continuously as buildings are being constructed. It is a fact that with the construction of colleges and medical colleges area of cultivable land is decreasing in the country. No scheme has yet been formulated to convert the barren and ravine land into cultivable land. No mention of any such scheme has been made in the President's Address. The Government should convert the wasteland, barren land and ravines into arable land by bearing its cost and make arrangements for irrigation thereof and then distribute it amongst the poor. If the said cultivable land is distributed amongst the poor, the government should bear the cost involved in making it arable. When it becomes arable then it can be allotted to them for cultivation. It can alleviate unemployment in the country.

It is quite surprising that when India became independent, agriculture was contributing 50 per cent to its GDP and now it has shrunk to just 21 per cent. It is

a serious threat. Even now, agriculture sector is providing maximum employment. 72 per cent of our population is engaged in agriculture. Agriculture is providing employment to the maximum number of people, but still it is most neglected. And that is why are lagging behind. The Government say that it will make India the super power. But, let us not forget that it is possible only if its farmers become prosperous and strong. So far as pitiable condition of our labour force is concerned, no doubt, the government want to provide them wages. Arrangements should be made for irrigation. Water table is depleting. It has gone down so much. It is going to turn into a serious crisis. What will happen if the world faces water shortage? In struggle for water, lest we should be left behind. This is about to happen. Digging of ponds is the only way to check depletion of water level. But if we dig ponds at high places how water will reach there. The Government have launched a scheme. Water flows from upward to downward and hence ponds should be dug at lower levels. The ponds should be dug in each village and filled with water. The leader of the House should constitute a committee under his chairmanship to find out how much quantity of water is left in the ponds, wherever there have been dug. Ponds exists at upper levels, whereas, water flows from there towards downside. Ponds should be constructed at lower areas. But no one checks it. It is left to the concerned officers. We furnish the details that so many ponds have been constructed, whereas, these contain not a drop of water. He should get it investigated. Ponds have been dug at higher surface, whereas, water flows downwards. Hence, ponds should be dug there. More than half of our agriculture land still remains unirrigated, so how can we increase our foodgrains production? Half of our land is unirrigated and other half is wasteland. That can be made arable, but there are no irrigation facilities. Only announcements are made and nothing is translated into action. Water table is depleting, but they are hardly concerned about it. There is a lot to say about. Madam Speaker, Members raise issues which put a dividing line in the House. I would deliberate upon that also.

Coming to climate change, the climate change is causing a great challenge before us. It is causing many diseases such as kidney ailment, cancer etc. It was discussed in the House just now. Apart from it, people are suffering from diseases like, heart problem, sugar, blood pressure etc. AIIMS is the cheapest hospital in Delhi for treatment of heart related diseases. But, there also one has to spend at least Rs. one or one-and-a-half lakh. We cannot say how much expenditure one has to

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

incure for treatment of kidney. One may have to spend anywhere between Rs. 30 to 50 lakh and if there is need for kidney transplant, one has to spend huge amount. This is the condition of health services in the country. I would say that only that country can progress whose citizens are educated and healthy.

Coming to illiteracy, we are lagging far behind so far as literacy rate is concerned. So far literacy the world over is concerned, India has the largest number of illiterates. I have already said and would reiterate that, except some years, their party has been in power for most of the time. Therefore, they should tell us what steps they took for alleviation of illiteracy? Similar is the case of health services. Several diseases have engulfed us, such as sugar, which causes several other ailments such as heart and kidney problem. But so far there is no proper treatment of sugar. The country has been moving on in unplanned manner. It is quite surprising. I would like to ask what steps the Government have taken to check the said diseases. A comprehensive plan should be prepared for making the country prosperous and progressive, whereas, only speeches are delivered in our country. Since 1952, we have been listening that the government will do this and that, whereas, nothing is being done and merely speeches are made. Its ill-effects are before us. We do not differentiate deeds from talks, what we say we do. Whatever we have promised in our election manifesto we have implemented that.

Our leader of the Opposition had asked how we could provide free treatment and education. I said that if we come to power we will do it. And when our party was in power we provided free treatment and education. We had announced free education for girls up to graduation level and provided Rs. 20,000 as grants to the poor.

We had done all this but nothing is there now. We had made a provision for funds for the poor separately. Now you can see how many children from poor families attend fifth class and how many out of them reach eighth class. This number keeps on decreasing. After that, you may see how many of them study further in intermediate and then in University. This percentage is declining regularly. You must conduct an inquiry as to how many poor children were there in fifth class and how many reached eighth class, intermediate and University level. At the best, it will not be more than one per cent. Very few poor children reach University. This is the situation

of education and health in the country. Only a country, which has more educated and healthy children, will progress. You can see for yourself as to how much funds have been allocated for these purposes. Meagre amount of funds are spent on education and health. People are becoming patients of serious diseases in the country due to less money being spent on healthcare. Besides, you can see the extent of price rise in the country. No steps are being taken to check price rise and that is why price rise is not getting under control. Our country and its progress depend only on agriculture. Socialists had framed a policy to check prices for the development of agriculture. We had said that it should be decided that price rise of more than 20-25 per cent will not be allowed between two crops. Price rise in the country cannot be controlled until a policy on freezing of the prices is not implemented. Prices are rising unabatedly. Farmer is the biggest craftsman in forming the country. But, in the last 11-12 years about 1.5 lakh farmers have committed suicide due to poverty. You have waived the loans but the real loan of the farmer has not been waived. Actually farmers owe loan to the moneylenders and that has not been waived? You have waived the loan on record but the moneylender's loan has not been waived. You should investigate as to how much loan farmers owe to the moneylenders and at what rate it is given. I would like to tell the hon. leader of the House that you have hardly waived one-fourth loan as the real loan is that of moneylenders for which the farmers have to pay interest at the rate of 2 or 3 and even upto five per cent. Everyone in this House knows that the real loan is that of moneylenders. You should find the amount of loan owed by each of the farmer and waive it.

We know that nothing is worse than poverty and a poor man has to face a lot of hardships. I cannot describe in the House the various things a poor person has to do to save his honour and respect in the society on the occasion of marriage in his family. Such poverty exists in the country.

As per one report, today, there are about 75 crore people who survive on Rs. 9 to Rs. 20 per day. This is not a report of Samajwadi Party or some other party but of the Commission set up by the Leader of the House. This is the condition in the country today that poor people survive on Rs. 9-20 per day in these days of high prices.

Sixty seven per cent of the population lives below poverty line. You may say that it is 28% or 30% but the fact is that 67% of population lives below poverty line. You must accept this fact. If you will ask then we can

produce the data before the House. We are ready to debate that 67% of population lives below poverty line in the country. Sometimes there is flood or drought or hailstorm and a farmer has to bear all this. Sometimes you say poverty is 28% and sometimes 38% or 39%, but, we want to ask the Government in the House that it should prove that poverty is not 67%. I am saying this in the House with confidence and we will prove it that 67% people live below poverty line, today, but, there should be a debate on it separately. The country will not progress merely with figures on paper. There is acute shortage of electricity in the country today.

As far as price rise is concerned, I would say that the Government should fix prices of commodities to a limit beyond which they should not rise. Whether it is foodgrains, clothes or any other item. The Government should decide that the price rise cannot be more than 20 or 25 per cent. But, today, the prices are rising three times faster and have risen 200 times. What did you do to check the price rise? What is the basis of price rise? We are asking you to follow the policy of freezing the prices of commodities. Samajwadi Party has given the slogan of freeze the prices policy and price rise will not stop until prices of things are fixed. This is the only way to check price rise.

There is acute shortage of electricity. You should visit the trans Yamuna area. Sometimes there is no electricity for the whole day. Whether it is India or any other part of the world there cannot be development without electricity today. The electricity situation is very bad today. We gave support only for electricity because we thought that there will be electricity in three years. But, it seems that our support has gone waste. India does not have uranium for atomic power, we knew that. I have held the Defence portfolio and I know that we do not have uranium. Had we obtained uranium from Russia, it would have been an insult to Pentagon. Our country would not be able to generate electricity nor would it be able to make an atom bomb. We had supported the Government keeping the national interests in mind. We helped your Government to retain power. But what have you done in this regard? In how many days you can provide electricity for 20 to 24 hours a day? The trans-Yamuna area has to face power outages throughout the day. Load shedding is done for 12 to 14 hours. There is no electricity the whole day long. This is the state affairs. You talk of making our country a great nation but there is extreme power shortage. How can the country become a great nation? I know that the people of the country have lost all hopes.

I have already talked about education and health. The Government provided thirty thousand to fifty thousand rupees for heart disease. The cost of treatment of heart disease is the cheapest in AIIMS but even there it costs around 1.5 lakh rupees. Who can afford this? Lakhs of people die due to lack of timely treatment and they can be saved. This is why I had raised the slogan; 'Dawa, Padhai, muft ho, kadpa-roti sasti ho! We kept our promise when we came to power. Medicine and education were provided free of cost.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): Assistance is provided from Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Had the people given us another chance, we would have made education free of cost for all. Education for girls upto BA level had been made free and we had also announced a grant of Rs. 20,000 for them. I have told you now how they can go in for higher education. I have not been allotted much time so I am bringing this to your notice in brief.

Now I would like to talk about foreign policy. Foreign policy should be in the interest of the country. The success of foreign policy lies in making maximum number of friends and minimum number of enemies. You have held the portfolio of the external affairs minister. You tell me how many allies we have? You cannot count our neighbours amongst our friends. China is not a friendly neighbour. Nepal and Sri Lanka are not friendly neighbours. Bangladesh is not a friendly neighbour. We may have cordial relations with these countries but none of them are our friends. Not a single neighbouring country is our friend. What kind of foreign policy are we following? Foreign policy is meant to maximize the number of our friends and minimize the number of enemies. America gives equal weight to Pakistan and India. How can we say that our foreign policy is in the interest of the country? Count and tell me how many countries are our friends. Russia was a friend but it is decided. I believe that we do not have any friend now. Ours is an unfortunate country that does not have any friend. Sri Lanka did not become our friend. We helped Bangladesh and many people were martyred but it did not become our friend. This is not foreign policy. We can say that India has no foreign policy. I say that India does not have any foreign policy. There is a lot I can say about our foreign policy, but, it would be suffice to say that we should count the countries we can term as friendly countries. Not a single neighbouring country is our friend. Even Nepal is not our

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

friend. I had visited Nepal. We were not able to give the help that Nepal needed. Nepal was our friend but you were not able to give it satisfactory help. This is the situation of our foreign policy. I had gone there for the first time. I stayed there and talked to many people. The people of Nepal wanted to be friends with the people from the Terai regions upto Bihar but they are not able to do so. I talked to the former Prime Minister. He did not want to say who he was with. He was not with you. I have just talked to him. He was not with you.

You would maintain internal security and communal harmony. I hold naxalism and Maoism to be more dangerous than terrorism. I believe this. Why? Can you check naxalism through the use of sticks and stones, guns or security forces. Naxalism started from West Bengal. Naxalism originated there. These people think that they have solved the problem. You should be cautious, a lot of disputes could occur. Naxalism originated in West Bengal and we have listened to their problems...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Mulayamji, your time is over.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, I am speaking quickly because I have a lot to say. I want to speak further on Naxalism. I want to speak on Reservation Bill for women as well. Madam Speaker, kindly excuse me if I exceed my time. Please cut short my time when I stand up to speak in the House on some other occasion ...*(Interruptions)*. But let me speak today ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

What I am trying to state is that naxalism originated in West Bengal and then it was eliminated in West Bengal itself. How did I eliminate naxalism in Robertsganj and Sonbhadra? You will be surprised to know that people are in occupation of land and house for seven generations but the title-holders of the said land and house are the persons other than the occupants. We got it ratified. The people have been living in their houses, occupying and tilling their land for seven generations but the title—holders of the said properties are other people. As per my information such is the situation in Sonbhadra. Why did naxalism raise its head in Uttar Pradesh? Is there naxalism in Uttar Pradesh now? We eliminated naxalism completely. But naxalism cannot be eliminated by force. Hence, try to understand the root cause of the problem.

Naxalism, which originated in West Bengal, was eliminated there. Their problems have been resolved. I have gone there and resolved their problems. Once a girl came to the podium during the course of a meeting in West Bengal and stated that she would never follow the naxalism in her life. She was our greatest admirer. I am not able to recall her name. Perhaps her name was Basmati Cole. She made a promise in our meeting that she would never turn to naxalism. Thereafter, when our conference was organized in Bhopal, she was present there also. So we need to listen to their problems and this problem cannot be solved by force only.

So far as reservation for the women in state assemblies and Lok Sabha is concerned, I will conclude my speech after speaking on this issue. Although lot of thumpings of the table took place on reservation for the women, I would like to caution you that if this Women Reservation Bill is passed in this form, you would not come to Lok Sabha again ...*(Interruptions)* This Bill is so dangerous, it is against the democracy. I am in favour of reservation for the women. If the women have been brought to the fore by any party, then it has been done by Samajwadi party. Dr. Lohia has done this. We do not discriminate on grounds of caste creed in case of the women. A woman, whether she belongs to forward caste or backward caste, or to dalit community or muslim community, is backward everywhere. Be it a king or emperor, woman in the house is backward. Husband suppresses his wife. Is there any woman who can stand up and say that she is independent? A woman is not independent. I agree that the condition of the women is very poor. But what you have done with regard to this Bill—just thumping on the table and a wide applause for this Bill. I want to say that do not be misled by the leader of the House, BJP and Leftists. I am warning you that do not be guiled, they will bring destruction. We have to prevent it because the leadership is here. How much representation will be facilitated by this Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Mulayam Singh Ji, the time allotted to you to speak is over. Several hon. Members have to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Today, I am trying to state ...*(Interruptions)* I have to speak on Women Reservation Bill. I am in favour of reservation for women. I am not against it. The opponents are those who want to get this Bill passed. We will come here but our hon.

Deputy Speaker will not be elected to this House and may be you, too, will not be elected. All the amendments in the Constitution have been made in the national interest with general consensus till date. Are your leaders not aware of it? Is politics ours? We supported them and saved their Government and as a result we have suffered and they have been benefitted. It is right that our strength in Lok Sabha has been reduced from 35 to 23 and their strength increased from 145 to 206. We have saved the Government. Had we not saved the Government, their strength in the House would have been around 80 to 100. I am telling you that we have been held guilty and the people are abusing us. We have been abused by one and all *...(Interruptions)*. It is not so that we realized late rather we thought that it was an issue of power, atomic energy and atom bomb. Our relation with the neighbouring countries is not good. The relation between Pakistan and China is getting friendlier and you support it. Let me tell you this friendship is very dangerous. Those countries are becoming friendly, your ties with them are not friendly. The ties between the two countries may be improving but I would like to caution you that the friendly ties between Pakistan and China pose a very serious threat to our borders. So we gave our support to the Government. I had been Minister of Defence and I know that we would not be able to generate nuclear energy and manufacture atom bomb without these and we would not be able to defend ourselves. I would want you to withdraw the said Women Reservation Bill. Call a meeting of all the leaders and then bring a Bill with the consensus of all the leaders. The Bill brought with consensus will be passed by thumping the table. If they pass the Bill forcibly with the majority, I remind them they had more than 400 members in 1984 and in 1989 they were reduced to minority. BJP should not help to pass this Bill. I want to tell you that don't be misled by them and return this Bill otherwise BJP will be finished. You are entrapped. We will also oppose this, we will support it in every manner but oppose in one manner. This is in the interest of the nation, we will cause the leadership to and that Lok Sabha will lose the leadership. Do not make it party-wise, you may make it 20 percent but how can you make it 33 percent. It will become 33 percent and 22 percent will be for Dalits, this will make it 55 percent. Please tell me what percentage of people from general castes, muslims, high castes and backward class will come here? Have you ever thought about it? You have come here but you will not be able to see us here again in this life time. We can come in Rajya Sabha. We will go to Rajya Sabha but there are many such people who

are thumping the tables. They may have to tap their cots. Women Researvation Bill is dangerous, it is a conspiracy to make the Lok Sabha leaderless. This bill is bieng brought in particularly to end the representation of backwards, dalits and Muslims. This is a conspiracy otherwise why has this been proposed. Are we against women? We have given tickets to many women. They can also give 100 percent tickets to them who is forbidding them. There can be 100 percent women. Who is denying that, Acharia Saheb? Who is denying, Advani Saheb? Who is denying, Joshi Ji? Today I would like to say that Advaniji, Joshiji, Shri Sharad Yadav Ji, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji, Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji, none of them has become a leader overnight. They have struggled a lot, have appeared in many court hearings, have worked a lot and then they have become leaders and you want to remove these leaders and want to run a leader less Lok Sabha and nothing else beyond that *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): They want to chop off our tongue.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Yes, they want to chop off our tongue. You have said it and it is wrong. What can be done, it is suicidal. Socrates was poisoned forcefully and you are also poisoning us forcefully. What is wrong in this. He is saying that we are speaking too much, what are we speaking, are you people not poisoning us. We want to tell you that we will somehow make it to the Rajya Sabha. We will make it there even if we bring in 40 MLAs. You can see what is the situation. How for we have progressed in terms of representantion in the State legislative assembly and have these people being so rhetorical on this issue more representation than us. They have four women leaders wielding so much power. Had not even a single development can take place without their order. Madam Chairman, I would like to be more specific. Nothing can take place in Congress without the orders of hon'ble Soniaji. There is one women President in Tamil Nadu and nothing can move over there without her orders. Today hon'ble President is a woman and you are hon'ble Speaker of the House. Your leadership has taken the decision. And that has appointd a woman as President. Your leader has launched you and this is why you are the Speaker. *...(Interruptions)* You want to tell me, what do you want to tell me *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have spoken about Uttar Pradesh not even a single thing moves in Uttar Pradesh. Not even a single thing moves in Congress. Nothing can move without Soniaji's orders. Nothing can move without Jayalalitha's orders and what more can I say, the situation is similar in West Bengal, nothing moves there without Mamata's orders.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, you please conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Therefore, I am suggesting you and expressing my opinion that this will not be good, it will be misfortune of the country, you may make it mandatory for parties to reserve a certain percentage of seats and their failure to do so can be entailed with cancellation of their registration. If you make it 20 percent. Today Advaniji is not present here, you may ask Advaniji and Atalji, they called me up and told me that they agreed with my words, Surjeet Saheb had also told me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, now you please conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: These are my final words. The party should be assured and leaders of all the parties may be called and all the amendments that have taken place so far in the national interest, may be withdrawn. Therefore, you please call leaders of all the parties and put this before them and then with the consensus of all the leaders, Women Reservation Bill should be brought. This is my opinion. Do you agree with this opinion of mine? Hon'ble Atalji and Advaniji had called me up, Mr. Pramod Mahajanji was also alive at that time, they said that we should arrive at 20 percent, we came to 20 percent and agreed with their opinion that it will be done party-wise. Ten to fifteen percent seats have increased. Atalji, Advaniji had agreed at 20 percent and decided that it to be given party wise but the Congress party did not agree. Hon'ble Prime Minister is present here, he came to me and told me that his party did not agree with that. All the parties had agreed except one. Today you are the Leader of the House, an intelligent and important leader. Anyone may say anything today but you are counted as an important leader in the country. Therefore, I would like to request you to call the leaders of all the parties and decide about it at the party level. How much reservation is to be provided, what is to be done, all this should be decided according to the opinion of all the leaders and the Women Reservation

Bill will be passed smoothly. But if the Government adopts way ward attitude they must remember that in 1984 they had won more than 400 seats which have been reduced to 206 this time.

13.00 hrs.

Madam Speaker, I am concluding my speech. If the Government does not pay attention to our concern, we would organize rallies, we will present our views before the people and ask them whether we are against women reservation or they are against it? Then it would be decided. Shri Laluji and Sharad Yadavji, be prepared for that.

Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude towards you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we still have more than 50 hon. Members who wish to speak on this issue. Therefore, I would request all the hon. Members to be brief and try to conclude their speeches within their Party's allotted time. Further, the hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so.

There will be no lunch break. The next speaker is Shri Dara Singh Chauhan.

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of President's Address. Discussion on President's Address has been going on for the last many days and it will continue further.

13.02 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party I felicitate and congratulate you for taking the chair for the first time in this Lok Sabha. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that hon'ble Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker have been elected to provide an opportunity to the Members to express their views without any interruptions. We are hopeful and confident also to get sufficient opportunities to express ourselves under your patronage.

President's Address gives a detailed description of achievements of present Government in the previous years and proposes policies and schemes for the next five years.

President's Address usually mentions about development and betterment of farmers. Farmers constitute large part (approx. 70%) of our population. NREGA and its achievements have been discussed here but no one has mentioned about pathetic condition of farmers and suicides being committed by them. Farmers work hard on the land but have no land of their own. Therefore, there is a need for land reforms in the country. Land reforms are in the news in the country for a long time but President's Address has no mention of it. I would also like to state that agriculture implements have become very expensive these days but no mention has been made to provide these implements at cheaper rates to farmers. Today, tractor is costlier than car. Farmer has to plough his land with such an expensive tractor. I would like to bring to your notice that agriculture implements should be inexpensive. Medicines, electricity and water should be provided at cheaper rates. So far as electricity is concerned, I would like to mention that judging the performance of a Government on the basis of sensex is just like day dreaming. To get the true picture we will have to address the basic problems with full honesty. We all know that population wise some states are very big but these are still backward in all aspects. Just now it has been mentioned here that electricity is essential for the development of any country or any section of the society. I would like to bring to your notice that electricity is essential for the entire country be it Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh or Jharkand from where you hail. Population wise Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in the country and Uttar Pradesh has contributed most in the development of the country. This state has given not one but six Prime Ministers to the country. What is the condition of this state after 61-62 years of Independence. Farmers are not getting electricity. I would like to state that farmers are very distressed today. UPA Government should pay more attention to the States which are poor, backward and are lagging behind in development. Friends, I would like to state that the Members sitting on my left side have remained in power for most of the time. We are not troubled by this fact but pained to see the pathetic conditions of poor even after so many years of Independence. Basic development works for their betterment have not taken place. The loan waiver scheme for farmers was launched with much fanfare but

Sir I would like to state that much hype was created for this scheme but what about the honest, disciplined and law abiding poor people.

The poor, artisan and small farmers who have taken loan of say Rs. 10,000, 20,000, 40,000 or 50,000 paid it back well before the set deadline as they are honest without any ill-motives. Moreover, they were afraid of any likely action against them in case of any failure to pay it back. They were also afraid that Tehsildar may come to them for recovery and pick them up. Such people sold out or mortgaged their jewellery and paid the loan amount back. Which way the Government will compensate such people? I do not say that all can turn dishonest. 20-25 per cent loanees, though they were honest, but they could not pay it back on time as they were helpless. The Government waived their loans. But for those who paid it back on time, there should have been some incentive. The Presidential Address has no mention in this regard.

Madam, coming to NAREGA. Our leaders discussed about it, but I would like to ask one thing. NAREGA guarantees job for only 100 days in a year, i.e. out of 365 days. What a poor person will do for remaining 265 days? This aspect has also not been dwelt upon in Presidential Address. Therefore, I would urge the Government to extend the said scheme for entire year in place of 100 days at present.

Sir, coming to cottage industry, discussion has been held about big industries only. The cottage industry has suffered the most, be it poor man, artisans, potters, weavers. Largest number of them are weaver. Uttar Pradesh has the longest number of weavers. The Union Government is unable to provide them power putting the weavers in trouble. There is no mention of any step likely to be taken in this regard in Presidential Address.

Madam, poor people have fallen prey to several diseases because of malnutrition as poverty deters them from paying attention to their health. This issue has also not been addressed in Presidential Address. I hail from rural area and I know that anyone coming to AIIMS for treatment faces a problem as to where to stay. Therefore, I would urge the Government to pay attention to it.

Madam, infrastructure, too has not been touched upon in the Address. U.P. has been neglected so far as power is concerned. Though we are supporting the Government, yet, we have to purchase costlier power

[Shri Dara Singh Chauhan]

from other states. I would like to draw attention of the Government to this aspect also.

Madam, so far as population is concerned, U.P. is the biggest state and prior to us the Government led by other parties was in power in the state. Nothing has been done for upliftment of people belonging to BPL category. The Government led by our party had sent a list for enlarging BPL base. The Presidential Address is silent about it. I would urge the Government to cover more people under BPL.

We often talk of women reservation. But until and unless social and economic inequality is removed, it would be meaningless to bring this controversial Bill in the House. Everyone talks about Women Reservation Bill. However, we are not against it, we want to support it. But the present share of reservation provided in the constitution for backward and dalits should remain intact. We support it only on this condition.

Sir, I would like to thank Behan Mayawatiji, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for undertaking the works for betterment of the women. The poor can not get their daughters educated owing to their poverty. So Behan Mayawati has provided for payment of Rs. 25,000/- in two instalments to the daughters of a poor for education irrespective of their caste or class. In addition to it, bicycles are also being provided to them.

Sir, our science is so advanced now that the sex of a foetus can be known during the pregnancy. If the foetus is female then it is aborted because the poor cannot afford to bring up a daughter and provide for her education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh the Government has provided for Rs. one lakh for marriage and education of every girl born in a poor family after the 15th January of 2009. I would like to congratulate the Government of Uttar Pradesh for making such provision for the first time.

Sir, through you, in short, I would like to request that there is a need to provide justice to those people who have been victims of economic and social discrimination and have been denied justice even after 50 many years of independence. Today I want to repeat this fact again and again that the farmers and the workers need justice. Making provision for reservation for women has been discussed in the country as well

as this House for the last several years but they have not got reservation yet. There is no mention of the poor, farmers and workers living in this country who have not seen an electricity pole, have never travel in a train, no electricity in their houses, not got human rights even after such a long period of independence in the President's Address. Her Excellency, the President should have included the fact in her address that first of all human rights to every citizen of this country should be ensured. If we want our country to progress, then first of all the social and economic disparity needs to be removed.

Sir, we belong to the backward and poor community living in the backward areas. Even today there are several regions in the country where the people belonging to 'mushar community' live in the village and make 'pattals.' The people belonging to so called high society eat on those 'pattals' made by 'mushar' in the grand ceremonies but the person making those 'pattals' cannot sit with us or eat with us. The son of a mushar competes with a dog to grab the leftover food thrown by the people. Thus, what is the difference between a human being and an animal? So I always say that first of all we will have to inculcate human values in the society.

Sir, in view of paucity of time, with these words, I would like to state that you have been elected with consensus. I would like to say once again that work should be done for the people who have not been able to get justice in 61 years of independence and the backward people. We have already congratulated Madam Speaker. Today I want to congratulate you also. The community to which you belong is a backward community. All the people have taken oath of the constitution that they will govern the country as per the constitution but we have not got fundamental rights provided in the constitution even after so many years of independence. Though steps have been taken in that direction but we have been deprived of our fundamental rights till date. I believe that now when you are in this chair, the deprived people will get their rights. The quota for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward castes has not been fulfilled till date. I think, you would take initiative in this regard. With these words I welcome you and conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandopadhyay.

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bandopadhyay ji, please take your seat for a minute. Now, tell me, what is your point of order.

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first row of treasury benches is empty. No Minister is present. Traditionally, in legislative assemblies, some Minister is always present in the front row.

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): Can not you see me? I am here, on my seat.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): I am also sitting here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: All right, you are there. It is a tradition in Legislative Assemblies that is why I raised the point of order. I am not aware of Lok Sabha conventions but it is a convention in legislative assemblies that the front row on the treasury side should not remain empty.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Here each Minister has his own allotted seat. It is not necessary for them to leave their seats to occupy the seat in front row.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Sir, I stand to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Dr. Girija Vyas and seconded by Shri P.C. Chacko.

We are grateful to the hon. President that at the initial stage of her speech, at para no. 4, she was very much concerned about the cyclone that took place in our State of West Bengal, damaging lives and properties of a few millions of people. This devastating cyclone, in the name of *aila*, affected the district of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal in a large scale and the blocks belonging to Gosaba, Basanti, Pakar Pratima, are totally under disaster.

The areas partly affected by disaster are Namkhana, Kakdeep and a few other areas. The badly affected

districts are North 24 Parganas and East Midnapore. They have been inundated. The relief operations at the initial stage were very badly lacking. Only South 24 Parganas Zila Parishad headed by Shamima Begham started the relief operations. Even today, in one of the daily newspapers, *The Hindustan Times* one Shubal Maity resident of Kumarbari has stated:

"We have lost everything. For the first few days, we had nothing to eat or drink. Now people are coming with relief and we get a few handful of grain and puffed rice. But we do not feel like eating. The fear of losing our lives has taken over all the feelings."

This is the picture. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, our hon. Railway Minister in consultation with hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee deployed Army for the rescue operations in those distressed areas. She herself went to that spot with so many relief materials from the Department of Railways which included baby food, *dhoti*, sarees, drinking water, etc. It is a fantastic failure of the State Government. They could neither reach to the spot nor could they succeed to deliver any materials which were of utmost necessity like drinking water to those affected areas. Sir, we propose that relief centres should be operated. Well-managed relief centres can only give new life. Six Central Ministers have been moving in and around those districts with different relief materials, with all sorts of cooperation and help for those affected people.

Sir, I have received a copy of the memorandum sent by the Government of West Bengal in the name of Memorandum dated 25th May for Central Assistance to West Bengal from NCRF in the wake of *Aila*, the severe cyclone. The Government of West Bengal has asked for a relief from the Central Government saying that at least a sum of Rs.1000 crore is immediately required. It is signed by the Chief Secretary of Government of West Bengal. An amount of Rs.1000 crore is not a matter of joke. I do not know how much money will be allotted from the central quota. A relief team from the Government of India has already arrived. But there should be proper monitoring of the expenditure. Any attempt to ask or squeeze money from the Central Government at this stage has to be taken care of with all priority and importance.

Sir, this is a Parliament where at least 302 new Members have been elected and 58 women Members have been elected. So, it is to be taken care of. We

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

feel if the experience of the seniors and the energy of the young is merged, India can get a new light of hope. After having been elected seven times to either Assembly or Parliament, what I have gauged is that at least three things should be there. One is imagination, which is most important; second is farsightedness; and the third is managerial efficiency. If these three things are combined together, a government can run very smoothly, with a positive outlook and this outlook can be reflected for the welfare of people of this country.

A 25-point Agenda has been announced by the hon. President. All the items in the agenda are pro-people in nature. The items in the agenda are well organised. The hundred Action Taken Programme will also provide a new direction to development. Our feelings and our thoughts have been well endorsed in the points as mentioned in the agenda of the Government and we are totally in agreement with the speech as delivered by the hon. President.

Sir, we still have our views as far as the Land Acquisition Act is concerned. The Land Acquisition Act was passed in the British regime in the year 1896 and by application of the various provisions of this Act, the Government of West Bengal has started squeezing land of the poor farmers forcefully, even by resorting to killing people in places like Nandigram and Singur in West Bengal. We are of the firm view that the Land Acquisition Bill which is sought to be re-introduced in the Parliament should be tabled afresh. The land of the farmers and the agriculturists should not be allowed to be taken away forcibly. This is the view and opinion of the Trinamool Congress Party. We also do not support the procedure of disinvestment in profit making Public Sector Undertakings. We do not support the policy of disinvestment in banks and the insurance sector.

Sir, the next point that I would like to touch upon is on the Report of the Sachar Committee. The recommendations of this Committee gave a new direction to the improvement of the minorities who were badly affected. Their problems have been well reflected in the Report. We would like to place our views on this for consideration by the Government. As per the Report the education status of the Muslim is worse. The number of beneficiaries of minority scholarships should be increased to 35 lakhs. The Minority means not only people from the Muslim community but they also include people belonging to various other religions like Sikh, Buddhism, Jainism and various others. We would like to suggest

that financial assistance as is provided in case of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be extended to students belonging to Minority communities for research, management and professional education like for pursuing courses in medical sciences and post graduate courses. In addition to this, the allocation for the National Minority Development Financial Corporation, known as the NMDFC should be enhanced. The Muslim OBCs should be given proper share in OBC quota as per Government reservation policy. We are also of the opinion that equal share of job reservation has become a necessity for Muslim women and women belonging to Other Backward Classes.

Sir, a very good proposal has been mooted by the Government in the Address of the hon. President about the development and beautification of the river Ganges. We very proudly say that

[Translation]

We also have a song which proudly asserts that we belong to the country where the river Ganga flows, "Hum us desh ke Washi hai jis desh mein Ganga bahati hai".

[English]

So, development and beautification of the banks of the river Ganges will not only fulfil this purpose but also help in making the Ganges pollution free. We have a sentimental attachment with the river Ganges and even the Great poet Rabindranath Tagore was cremated on the banks of the river Ganges in a place called the Nimtala Burning Ghat. I am from this city and I as a Member of Parliament from this city have a separate sentiment attached with the beautification of the river Ganges. I believe that the total planning and programme towards development and beautification of the river Ganges as was initiated by the Bharat Ratna the late Rajiv Gandhi for making the Ganges pollution free through the Ganga Action Plan would be implemented. It is most unfortunate that his vision and planning for making the river Ganga pollution free through the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan could not achieve its goal. Our party feels that in the process of social progress and development, this verdict can only be implemented fully if some mention were made about the 100 days employment programme announced by the Government. The point I am trying to make is that work culture should be adopted at every stage.

We are lacking work culture in every part of our official administration for which the Prime Minister should give a call in his reply that everywhere, alongwith work culture, there should be more production by the farmers. This appeal should go with transparency and this will give us a new light. Transparency of the functioning of the Government at every stage is urgently necessary. We already have the Right to Information Act in our possession. And if transparency is properly implemented alongwith this, then every citizen of this country can feel that he can achieve it with a proper expectation and proper outlook.

I must mention the problem of unemployment now. India's young population is no doubt restless. There are neither jobs nor employment facilities nor have they got ways of livelihood. Where will the young generation go? Employment exchange cards are in their possession since 20 to 25 years but not a single call letter is going to the registered unemployed youths from the employment exchanges. So, this issue is to be taken up at a very high level and it is to be taken up as the top priority. Even after 62 years of Independence of our country, people who are living below poverty line are still fighting with hunger. Poor people are fighting with hunger. This issue has to be taken up urgently and we should always remain committed faithfully to implement the agenda which has been tabled before the House by the hon. President of India.

I should also mention another important issue here. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is a very laudable effort. For the city of Kolkata, Rs. 3000 crore have been allotted under the scheme but only Rs. 1500 crore have been spent so far. So, as people's representative from the city of Kolkata, I would urge that the Government of India should direct all the State Governments to properly implement the projects under JNNURM with a positive outlook.

In addition to this point, we totally appreciate a few decisions announced in the speech which include areas like internal security and communal harmony, Governance reform, infrastructure development, female literacy, Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana, rural housing and rural infrastructure. Cheap rice for 260 million people is a very laudable decision and this will certainly help the poor people who are living below the poverty line. ... (*Interruptions*) Big money for ports and roads, development of minorities, beautification and development

of River Ganga, food security and other issues should be look after. Let us all move together for development. The Leader of the Opposition has also extended his support to the President's Address. Hence, let us all move together to build a new India after consulting the Opposition Parties and taking them into confidence.

The Election Commission is functioning properly. It has been mentioned in the Address. The hon. President has said that she would like to congratulate the Election Commission and lakhs of officials who conducted the smooth and largely peaceful elections to the 15th Lok Sabha. She has said: "When an elderly woman in a remote village proudly holds up the indelible ink mark on her index finger, she is telling the world that she has the power to make change in her country"

This time people of West Bengal have succeeded in casting their votes without fear. The booth managements were really organised by the Election Commission in a proper manner. With the result the CPI(M) has been reduced to a Party of nine Members, whereas the Trinamool Congress's tally has reached twenty, nineteen seats to the Trinamool Congress directly; and one seat to the SUCI, which fought the elections in alliance with the Trinamool Congress. These things could have happened much before. We should extend our thanks to the Election Commission. They organised the booth management in a proper and in a very good manner.

The CPI(M) Party after having been defeated in the State is trying to terrorise their political opponents because in 2011 Assembly election is to be held. The State-sponsored terrorism is still going on. More than thirty Trinamool Congress workers have been killed after this election got over. So, we ask the Central Government to intervene in this issue and to see that their defeat cannot be a cause of torture and atrocity on Trinamool Congress cadres. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, our leader, is in Kolkata today because she feels that only her presence can save the lives of these people.

Lastly, we appeal to the common people of this country to see that these proposals which have been declared, which have been proposed are fulfilled. We are the firm believers of principles of secularism, communal harmony and unity of the country. We believe that this Government will remain committed to uphold the principles of secularism, communal harmony and unity of the country.

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

We hope for a better tomorrow for India. The people's verdict is really for good governance, for stability and for performance. Every Government should remain answerable to its people. Every Government and every Department should remain answerable to the people.

We propose that one Public Grievance Cell should be activated very promptly. The people of this huge country do not know where to apply, how to apply or how to send their grievances to different Ministries in different parts. These issues are to be taken care of on priority. This is our feeling.

When this Address is supported by all political parties, the Trinamool Congress do not hesitate in supporting the Address. We support it whole-heartedly. But we do urge upon the Government to keep an vigilant eye over the latest situation in West Bengal. Why can the Central Government not send its materials directly to the District Magistrate, in the name of PM to DM, minus CM? It can only help the poorest of the poor and the affected people of the State of West Bengal.

After the Aila Cyclone, barrages and roads of more than 800 kms. have been destroyed. The CPI(M) has been ruling the State of West Bengal for long, for 32 years. But these things, like flood, are still happening. The people are only asking for drinking water. Of course, there is some change in the situation in the State.

[*Translation*]

We are hoping that the situation would improve by the year 2011. We will try to bring some improvement in the situation in Bengal by 2011. The 32 year old rule of the previous government of Bengal has created a situation of total chaos in Bengal. This time we have won the elections and made change possible. We could have over thrown this government ten years ago had fair elections taken place, but that did not happen.

Mr. Deputy Speakers, sir, the President's Address has assured us that the country will definitely move forward on the road to progress. We will follow a clearly defined agenda to move forward. We arrive the government that we would provide our full support in helping it to fulfil the agenda outlined in the Address. We are with the government and as the second—largest ally of the UPA government we will fulfil all our responsibilities to the best of our abilities.

[*English*]

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, on behalf of the DMK Party and my leader, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which was delivered by Her Excellency, the President of India, as moved by Dr. Girija Vyas and seconded by Thiru P.C. Chacko.

I also take this opportunity to thank my leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, for having given me this opportunity to serve the people of Tamil Nadu and this great nation. I also thank the voters of my constituency and Tamil Nadu for having elected me to serve them.

Sir, Her Excellency's Address ensures her Government's commitments towards economic, social and cultural inclusiveness and the rejection of the forces of divisiveness and intolerance.

I am happy that her Address has a definite goal of all-round growth, cutting across barriers. I am also proud to say that my leader and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, is the pioneer of most of the programmes that her Excellency's Government propose to take up particularly equitable share for the minorities, social security schemes for the unorganized labourers, basic infrastructure like provision of electricity and roads in the villages, reservation for women in government jobs, rural housing, and economic independence for women. Our leader has implemented a scheme in Tamil Nadu wherein a girl student from her school education till her post graduation can have free education in the government institutions. Even Rupee one per kg of rice, which is being implemented in Tamil Nadu by our leader Dr. Kalaignar for the past three years, is the forerunner for the rupee three per kg of rice for BPL families as announced by Her Excellency.

Sir, this Address of Her Excellency can be considered as a broad outline for the future Plans to come. Inclusive growth, equitable development and a secular and plural India should be the platform on which the Government should act in the forthcoming years.

Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, during his speech mentioned about the two poles in Indian politics. It was even debated, in a lighter vein, whether the Indian politics is bi-polar or multi-polar. Whether it is bi-polar or

multi-polar, I would like to say that this Indian politics now is the period of the UPAs, the NDA and the Left Fronts. There is no individual party, but a collection of parties because of which now a stable government was possible and an all-round development in various States was also possible.

Sir, during the just concluded general elections three major alliances fielded their candidates. Normally, the Press is called as the fourth pillar of the democracy. But during the last elections, the media has become the fourth front, a non-contesting front. They have their own ideas and their own plans.

When the Election Commission of India prevented them from making their pre-poll survey, they had their wish list which was made to be believed as the poll survey, they had come with their own figures. They had discussed and debated over their own wish list and debated over possible post-poll alliances and probable Ministries. But ultimately the people have elected those parties which had performed. The people have elected the parties which had performed.

Particularly, in Tamil Nadu, the media chose to write off the Democratic Progressive Alliance in which the DMK and the Congress are parties. The media predicted that the AIADMK would be the major player in the Ministry-making in the Centre. But the remarkable performance by the DMK Government headed by our leader Dr. Kalaignar and the various infrastructure development schemes taken up in the State by the Government of India had very great impact on the people of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in spite of the many good things that were mentioned in Her Excellency's Address, the State of Tamil Nadu and the Tamils feel neglected. Particularly, they are unhappy because her Address does not promise the steps for early completion of the Sethusamudram Project, a long-cherished dream of the Tamils. Though I am a non-believer, yet there are crores of believers of Rama in our State. You know, the *Ramayana* written by the Poet Kambar in the Twelfth century is the most read literature of our State in Tamil. So, these believers of Rama believe in Rama, their devotion to Rama is because Rama will do good to them; He will shower prosperity on those people. But the Scheme, the Sethusamudram Project, will definitely shower prosperity on the Tamils. If it is not completed, the followers of Rama may feel bad. There are vested interests to prevent the Scheme from going on.

On the 5th of June this year, the *Hindu* daily, Chennai edition, reported the statement of one of the opposers of the Scheme. The statement says that there are certain technical studies which ought to be followed were not followed. But these are all vested interests they have. They work for a purpose. They do not want the Scheme to come up. They are in the interest of somebody else who will be benefited by stopping this Scheme. So, the Government of India should ensure the people of Tamil Nadu that the Scheme is definitely coming up and completed.

The AIADMK, which is an opposition party to us, had even promised in its election manifesto that it would shelve the Sethusamudram Project. But the people's verdict is against them. The people have supported us. The support of the people, the mandate of the people will also include the completion of the Sethusamudram Project. So, the Government should have it in mind that this Project should go on, should be completed within a specific time. The Government should take immediate steps to see that the Project is completed.

Sir, the next point is this. The past hundred years of the world history has seen the growth of civilisation. It has seen democracy taking up and monarchy being marginalised to one or two countries. But in spite of this, terrorism is there in every part of the world. There is terrorism in most parts of the world. The world Governments are taking stern measures to quench terrorism. Her Excellency's Address also deals with the issue in detail and commits to take firm action against terrorism. But what will we do against the State-sponsored terrorism? There is one event in the 1940s where thousands of Jews, lakhs of Jews were killed in Hitler's Germany. The world countries united and opposed it. The world countries condemned the action of Hitler. Ultimately, Hitler had to commit suicide. But after sixty years when the people in Sri Lanka, the Tamils in Sri Lanka were killed – thousands of Tamils in Sri Lanka were killed – by the Sri Lankan Army in the No-War Zone, what happened to us?

The world was watching it. The world has not condemned it. What happened to the civilisation? Civilisation is a growing process; 60 years back civilisation did not allow Hitler to kill Jews, but now Tamils were killed in Sri Lanka in 'No Fire Zone' and the world was watching and particularly we, the nearest neighbour, who boast of unity in diversity, who boast of giving equality to different cultures, different languages and

[Shri T.K.S. Elangovan]

different religions, were watching. We have not strongly condemned the Government of Sri Lanka and we have not taken strong steps to stop the killings of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka. At least now, I request the Government to render all possible assistance for the rehabilitation and resettlement of lakhs of Tamils who had lost their houses and other properties and who are crippled by the attack of the Sri Lankan Army.

Sir, one more issue that has not found a place in Her Excellency's Address, which is a very important one for the development of the country, is the linking of national rivers. Water management in our country is dismal even after 62 years of Independence. This is the reason why potable water is not available to the people of lakhs of villages in the country and this is also the reason why we could not reach optimum productivity level in agriculture. Hence the Government should come out with a plan for interlinking of rivers at the earliest. Dr. Kalaignar is the front runner in this and last year in his Budget he had allotted Rs. 300 crore to link the rivers of Tamil Nadu. So, we can take a lesson from him and the Government should immediately take steps to link all the national rivers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Her Excellency's Address mentions about reform of governance for effective delivery of public services. Decentralisation is one among the many measures identified by Her Excellency towards this goal. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the message delivered by my leader Dr. Kalaignar on his 86th birthday celebrated on the 3rd June, 2009. In his message he reiterated his commitment to work for the State autonomy. Hence the Government should take necessary steps to amend the Constitution and give more powers to the State Governments in the interest of effective administration. Many Commissions were formed in this regard and reports have already been submitted to the Government of India, but no report was accepted by the Government. So, giving of more powers to the States should be considered positively and the States should be given more powers.

Before concluding, I, once again, support, on behalf of my party DMK, the Motion of Thanks moved by Dr. Girija Vyas.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Sir, the Leader of the Opposition, while speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, was trying to explain the mandate which was given by the people of our country in the 15th Lok Sabha Election as if the mandate is for bipolar politics. The mandate is not for bipolar politics for which the Bharatiya Janata Party has been clamouring for since long. The verdict of the people in the 15th Lok Sabha Election is for multipolar politics. The percentage of votes secured by both the Congress as well as the BJP put together is a little more than 49 per cent. The verdict is in favour of multipolar politics in our country.

Sir, I am grateful to Rashtrapati Ji as she referred to the devastating cyclone, which is called Aila, in the State of West Bengal, which the State has never faced. I quote what Rashtrapati Ji has said:

"Last week the State of West Bengal was affected by a cyclone inflicting damage to lives and property. Let us convey our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families. My Government will extend all possible succour to the cyclone affected people of West Bengal."

Sir, as on 4th June, the total number of affected persons has reached 67.5 lakhs; the total death toll rises to 137; the number of fully and partly damaged houses crossed nine lakhs; the affected crop area exceeded 2.8 lakh hectares; and the length of embankment breaches increased to more than 500 kms. It is a national level natural calamity. The State Government has so far spent Rs.134 crore for relief and rehabilitation providing relief and succour to the affected people.

Sir, the distribution of relief material along with dry fruit was 3,900 MT up to 4th June. About four lakh tarpaulins have been distributed; about 1.2 lakh children's garments and about 80,000 saris and dhotis have been sent to the districts. About 398 medical teams of the State Government and 10 Army medical teams are working day and night. About 26 ESI medical teams are working. More than 66 lakhs of Halogen tablets have been sent and 13 lakh water pouches, one litre each, have been distributed. About 729 water tankers and five mobile water purification units have been put to operation. Nearly 199 rural pipe water supply schemes have been repaired. About 8,900 tube wells have been disinfected.

The State Government has submitted a memorandum, at least, one week back. The Central team

is now visiting two districts because four districts are adversely affected and the State Government has asked for financial assistance to the extent of Rs.1,000 crore. That is as per the norms of NCCF.

Sir, there is a need to declare it a national calamity as the cyclone is quite unprecedented. The State has never faced such devastation. It should be declared as a national calamity. So far the Central Government has assured to provide Rs.100 crore. I do not know whether that money has reached the State or not. If it has not reached, it should be sent immediately.

Rashtrapati Ji has referred to a Bill, Communal Violence Bill, which is pending for the last five years. This was committed in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the first UPA Government that the Government will bring legislation in regard to prevention of communal violence. Rashtrapati Ji has assured that this Bill would be brought before the House and the legislation would be enacted.

14.00 hrs.

But the point is this. Why is this Bill pending for so many years? It is because, there has been an attempt to encroach on the States' rights. If there are certain provisions in the Act, if that legislation is enacted and implemented, then the States' rights will be encroached. So a balance should be brought before bringing the legislation to the House. We all want that a legislation should be enacted to prevent communal violence, but it should be taken care of in regard to encroachment on the States' rights.

There is a demand for change in the Centre-State relations. There had been attempts in the past. We have seen how States' rights had been encroached upon. Just now the speaker from DMK has spoken that in Tamil Nadu, DMK is asking for more autonomy. But the reference to Centre-State relations in the President's Address is missing. A Commission – Sarkaria Commission – was constituted long back. Its recommendations are yet to be implemented. We are told that another Commission was to be constituted to examine the Centre-State relations. More powers are to be given to the States to strengthen our federal structure. For that, there is a need for Constitutional amendment. The demand is coming. In the revenue which is being collected, the State's share should not be less than 50 per cent. The Chief Minister of Bihar is also asking – I

have seen in the newspaper – that all the Central Government-sponsored schemes should be transferred to the State Government. It was assured by the first UPA Government; even in its Common Minimum Programme it has been stated that Centrally-sponsored schemes should be transferred to the State Governments along with the funds. So, there is a need for giving more power to the State Governments.

In regard to various programmes, what has been stated in Rashtrapati Ji's Address, are all repetitions of what was stated five years back. You can find almost all the programmes in the National Common Minimum Programme. But what is the fate of all these programmes? In the National Common Minimum Programme it was stated:

"The UPA will pay special attention to augmenting and modernising rural infrastructure, consisting of roads, irrigation, electrification, cold-chain and marketing outlets. All existing irrigation projects will be completed within three-four years. Household electrification will be completed in five years."

That means, by March 2009, household electrification will be completed. What is the fate of all these programmes? The aim was that every village was to be provided electricity; remaining 1,25,000 villages were to be covered by 2009.

It was said that 2.3 crore Below Poverty Line households would be connected. But what is the achievement by December, 2008? It is only 17.95 per cent. About the targeted rural households electrification, of the targeted villages, only 52 per cent has been electrified.

Now, again, it has been reiterated and the target has been fixed. So, within five years, the UPA Government could not achieve its target. We do not know how certain targets have been fixed to be met within 100 days. The actual number of households without electricity is about 8.4 crore. Similarly, in regard to the rural roads, what was the aim? The aim was every habitation over 1,000 population and above 500 for hilly and tribal areas to be provided with the roads; the remaining 66,802 to be covered by 2009. The Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sarak Yojana (PMGSY) is a cent per cent Centrally sponsored scheme. But what is the performance. Only 55 per cent of the target has been achieved in terms of length and 34 per cent has been achieved in terms of habitation.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Then, much has been stated about the extension of the irrigation capacity. The NCMP emphasised that the irrigation would receive the highest investment priority and all ongoing projects would be completed according to the strict time schedule. But the Bharat Nirman committed only an additional irrigation capacity of 10 million hectares to be created by 2009, which is an extremely low aim, which would irrigate 4.5 per cent of the sown area. What is the performance? Even this modest aim was not attained. Only 5.8 million hectare or half of the target has been achieved so far.

So, Sir, this is the fate of the programmes, which are mentioned in the first UPA Government's National Common Minimum Programme.

Similarly, much has been said about the Rural Health Mission. But what is the ground reality? This flagship programme of the Rural Health Mission was adopted. But the ground reality today is that 4,711 Sub-Centres are listed as functioning without services both of ANM and health workers. About 68.6 per cent Primary Health Centres are functioning with one or no doctor; 807 Primary Health Centres have no doctor at all. There is a shortfall of specialists CSD, which is 64.9 per cent. Then, 1,188 Primary Health Centres and 1,647 Primary Health Centres respectively are functioning without electric supply or without regular water supply.

This is the situation even after the National Rural Health Mission was launched five years back. That was called a flagship programme.

The situation is so serious in our country that thousands of children die in our country because of completely preventable water-borne diseases and 56 per cent of our children do not get any vaccination or protection and 40 per cent of our children are underweight and 70 per cent are anaemic due to malnutrition. Seventy per cent of our people do not have access to sanitized toilets and two-thirds of our people do not have access to potable drinking water near their habitation. Nearly two-thirds of the pregnant women are anaemic. These are the mothers who are producing the future India. There is a need to look into all these. That is why, in the NCMP it has been committed that two to three per cent of the GDP would be spent during five years for health. What has been spent? It has been increased from zero point some percentage to 1.05 or 1.06 per cent. It has not reached to three per cent within the five years. This has been reiterated in the Address by the hon. Rashtrapatiiji.

Sir, much has been stated about inclusive growth. What is the situation that is prevalent today in our country? This is not our report. This is the report of a Committee constituted by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta. In his last report which was submitted nine months back, he stated that 77 percentage of our population are to depend on Rs. 20 per day. Seventy-seven per cent of the people are to depend on Rs. 20 per day and on the other hand there are 36 rich people who are billionaires. This hiatus between the poor and the rich, the gap between the poor and the rich, has been widened during these five years' rule of the UPA in the name of inclusive growth.

Sir, we welcome the Act to provide food security. We have been clamouring, we have been asking for it. The prices of almost all the essential commodities were rising. The former hon. Minister of Finance is here and he replied to as many as five debates on this issue. The demand for food security and the demand for universalisation of public distribution system are there. Now, there is a proposal to bring a legislation, within hundred days, – it is good – to provide 25 kg. of wheat or rice at the rate of three rupees per kilogram. Many State Governments are providing. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will take another five to six minutes' time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have taken sufficient time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will take my own party's time. ... *(Interruptions)* Our strength has been reduced. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Give me five to seven minutes.

[English]

I will try to conclude.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is O.K, I give you two minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will not be able to conclude within two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apart from this there are railway budget and general budget also. You may speak during the course of discussion on rail budget and general budget.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, 25 kilograms of wheat or rice will be provided to the BPL family. When we are talking of inclusive growth, the guidelines which have been framed in regard to determining population below poverty line, are faulty. A large, substantial percentage of the people, who are genuinely poor, are excluded from the BPL list.

Many State Governments are providing rice or wheat at Rs. 2 per kilogram and the quantity being provided is also to the extent of 35 kilograms. You are reducing it from 35 kilograms to 25 kilograms and also increasing the price. In the case of Antyodaya Yojana, 35 kilograms of rice or wheat is being provided to the poorest of the poor. In their case also, the quantity will be reduced.

Sir, there is a need to amend the Essential Commodities Act which was diluted during the NDA regime. There is no attempt to amend and make this Act more stringent. There is a need to contain and control the rising prices of essential commodities. The purchasing power of the poor of this country has been reduced by 14 per cent. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu Deb ji, the time allotted is over. Other Members are yet to speak. Your two minutes' are over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not two minutes, I will speak for three more minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a very senior Member you are a very sensible person.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will now come to the issue of economic recession. Hon. President has, in regard to economic recession, said that the slowing down of growth on account of global recession is expected this year as if there is no impact of it on our economy. There has not been any mention of how many workers have been retrenched. In textile sector, more than five lakh workers have been retrenched. In gems and jewellery sector, two lakh workers have been retrenched. Retrenchment is going on and there has been deceleration in exports. There has been adverse impact on our economy. What measures does the Government propose to take in order to tackle and address this situation, to prevent retrenchment?

The impact is not so much in regard to financial institutions. It is because of the role played by the Left Parties. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will conclude in one minute. ... (*Interruptions*) We had prevented the UPA Government from bringing legislation to privatise pension. We had prevented this Government. They wanted to raise FDI in insurance sector which they could not do so. When we were extending support to this Government, we prevented this Government from raising it.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even the time asked by you is over now. Now you conclude, otherwise I will have to ring the bell. Please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They wanted to bring in foreign banks. They wanted to allow foreign banks.... (*Interruptions*) They wanted to allow foreign equity in our nationalised banks, in our banks. It is because of our efforts that the impact of economic recession has not been so much in our financial institutions.

There is a need to reverse the policy. We will not be able to have an inclusive growth — about which we have been talking for so many years — unless the policy is reversed. We need to reverse the policy.

The mandate that the people have given is for stability. They should not think that the people of India

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

have supported this policy, and we, the Left, will play the role and we will oppose it inside the Parliament and outside the Parliament whenever we see that this Government is bringing any anti-people measure. We will oppose it tooth and nail inside the Parliament and outside the Parliament when they bring such a measure. Thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion on the motion of Thanks moved by Ms. Girija Vyas on President's address is going on. Shri Advaniji while initiating the discussion on behalf of our party has supported this motion as well as expressed some expectations and demands from the Government.

Before initiating the discussion on some points in President's Address, I would like to give a reply to the initial statement of Dr. Girija Vyas. I have cordial relations with Dr. Girija Ji and I respect her abilities. But I do not know why she was a little annoyed that days. She herself knows better whether it was out of some compulsion but I just want to tell her that while watching the swearing in ceremony on television I was looking for her but to my distress she was no where in President's House but why did she give vent to her anger against us. She even made such a prognostication that our Party is going to meet its doom for good. I would like to remind her that she had said that this election was the reply to the so called ideology of BJP, it was the end of the party which had once raised the slogan 'India Shining' and she further added a sentence that it was the end of that party forever.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell Dr. Girija Vyas that winning or losing elections is a part of the system but it is not the end of any individual or any party. She herself lost in 12th Lok Sabha, got elected in 13th Lok Sabha and again lost to a new candidate Smt. Kiran Maheshwari in 14th Lok Sabha. Now in 15th Lok Sabha she has been elected again. At party level also I would like to mention that in 1979 when Smt. Indira Gandhi was defeated in elections, Congress was rooted out from Amritsar to Kolkata. Many analysts had predicted it the end of Congress party but merely after two and a half years, Indiraji made a thumping come back. In 1984 under the leadership of late Sh. Rajiv Gandhi, Congress had won 404 seats but our party managed to get only two seats. After five years when elections were conducted, our party emerged with 40

fold increase in the seats while Congress had faced defeat. Today we have 116 seats. I may remind the elections of 1999 when Congress had won only 114 seats but it had formed the Government in 2004. How can the end of BJP be predicted when it has won 116 seats this time which is more than 114 won by Congress in 1999?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Girija Vyas is actually a litterateur. In literature, every fiction has an end. I would like to tell her that Politics is not literature. Elections are contested in Politics. Any Fight culminates in an end when one of the opponent flee from the battle ground. We are not fleeing, we are still holding the ground. And to this day I declare that we will definitely stage a come back.

Sir, now I come to the first point of President's Address. Her excellency Madam President has congratulated everyone separately in first five paragraphs and from Sixth para onwards she started elaborating about the performance of the Government. She said that in the year 2004 the Government had envisaged before the nation the concept of inclusive growth of society and economy. It has formulated policies and programmes with full devotion to convert that concept into reality. The Government is of the view that the heavy mandate it has received in elections is the result of this policy of inclusive growth. That it has won because of its policies and programmes. However, I would like to state that when the political analysts would analyse these elections, they will not find this analysis correct. It would have been a mandate for the policies had all the policy makers contested the elections.

Sir, the five Ministers which had played an important role in policy formation have not contested and many of those who contested could not win. The Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Education Minister and HRD Minister did not contest the elections. The Minister in charge of Home Ministry for four and a half years did not fight and the present Home Minister who was in charge of Finance Ministry managed to win with a narrow margin, that too after re-counting. Many of their eminent Ministers have lost the elections. Shri Manishaknar Aiyer, Shri Ramvilas Paswan, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, Shri Ramdoss, Shri A.R. Antulay, Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela, Shri Narayan Singh Rathwa and Smt. Renuka Chowdhary lost the elections. I have a list, 21 ministers did not contest and 16 Minister faced the defeat. Will you call it a mandate for policies?

Sir, another thing which has been mentioned is that it is the mandate for secularism but it is also incorrect. All the champions of secularism have crumbled down.

The Leftists, CPM, the champions of secularism have been reduced from 43 to 16 seats. CPI has been reduced from 10 seats to 4 seats. The second champion of secularism, my brother Shri Lalu Prasad has been reduced from 23 seats to 4 seats. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has been reduced from 38 seats to 22 seats. Shri Basu Dev Ji was stating about the programmes and I have talked about the policies. He was exposing the details of programmes i.e. the targets set under the programmes and the achievements made there under, I want to state that it is not a victory of policies rather it is a victory of the circumstances favoured you and you won the elections. It is true that you have got the people's mandate, you have won and you have got the mandate to run the Government. You may run the Government smoothly. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here and he is a good friend of mine. I want to remind him of one line of a famous song and you will not have any difficulty in running the Government if you remember the line:—"Pesh aayegi hamari jaroorat kabhi-kabhi". If you remember this line, you will certainly run the Government smoothly.

Sir, Girijaji referred to my statement in which I had said that the Government had hijacked our agenda and included that in the hon. President' Address. it is true, I have stated this. But I have not stated this in a complaining tone. Rather I have made this statement happily. The other day Shri Advaniji had said that there should be no competition for taking credit of the developmental or welfare works. So, I was pleased to see that you have promised to do what we wanted to do. But, you cannot say that that was not in our agenda. I want to ask as to which party included the issue of bringing black money back from Swiss Banks in its agenda. Undoubtedly, Advaniji and Bhartiya Janta Party set it as agenda and one rank-one pension was in the election manifesto of BJP. One State Government run by NDA and four by BJP have increased the reservation from 33 percent to 50 percent in the local bodies.

I take pride in the fact that the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Utrakhand and NDA governed Bihar did not wait for the Bill which you are going to pass today. They increased the reservation from 33 percent to 50 percent on their own. Elections were held at several places with 50 percent reservation. Elections are to be held in Madhya Pradesh. Who set this agenda-BJP set this agenda.

You promised to provide rice at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kilogram. But the Chief Minister of BJP ruled Chhattisgarh state has been providing 35 kilogram rice at this rate since the year 2007. I am sorry to say that when Dr. Raman Singh talked about providing rice at Rs. 3 a kilogram, the quota of rice for Chhattisgarh was 61,000 metric tonnes. But you will be surprised to know that after this decision of the Chief Minister, the Union Government told them to buy the rice from market. The Union Government reduced the said quota to 953 metric tonnes. Can anyone imagine a cut of 97 percent? You withheld 60,000 metric tonnes of rice and gave only 953 metric tonnes. But I would like to applaud Dr. Raman Singh that he did not retract his decision after this and kept his promise by providing one thousand crore rupees from the state budget. I am glad to say that he is providing 35 kilogram rice every month at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kilogram to 37 lakh people of Chhattisgarh and now when you are going to provide Rs. 3 a kilogram rice, he has decided to provide rice at the rate of rupee one per kilogram to 7 lakh families of Antyodaya and Rs. 2 a kilogram to the rest 29 lakh families. You told in your statement as to how Congress could see anyone starving? ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Chittorgarh): You are testing our patience. A little later you would say that you have brought freedom to the country and made sacrifices for the independence and the Congress was only taking credit for that ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Listen to the truth and do not deirate the issue. I am talking about rice and you are referring to independence. You tell me if there is anything wrong in my statement. Tell me if my figures or facts are incorrect. You are taking the issue of rice to independence, this is digression ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Can you yield for a moment?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: But why?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You are talking about Rs. 3 a kilogram rice. For a long time before the Chhattisgarh Government introduced that scheme, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu had

[Shri V. Narayanasamy]

been giving rice to people below the poverty line at Rs. 2 a kilogram. It is not a credit that goes to you. Every State Government has been doing it. You cannot take credit for it.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am replying to the point that the Congress cannot keep the people hungry. That's why, I am telling what Chhattisgarh has done and what they have done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be no bias against the ruling party while running such schemes. I am saying this because I have been elected from Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is facing discrimination. We have sent a list of 21 lakh BPL families but the Centre is not providing us foodgrains for them. That's why, I want to tell him to change the norms for the BPL before starting these schemes. When only one family out of the two having similar standard of living gets Government assistance, then we cannot even imagine the agony of the other family. Therefore, the BPL norms should be fixed afresh. Lists should be made on the basis of a new method and they should start such schemes after that. This is my suggestion to them.

I was referring to Madhya Pradesh. It is not just about foodgrain. They have cut our supply of coal. They are aware Madhya Pradesh is facing electricity crisis. There have been no rains. Our hydel power projects have almost come to a standstill. We used to produce 2200 MW of electricity from power projects where as now we are producing just 300 MW. They have cut our share of electricity from the unallotted quota and only 11 lakh metric tonne of coal is being provided against the 17 lakh metric tonne coal required for the thermal power plants.

Chief Minister visits here regularly and writes letters. In their letter of 4th May, they have asked to import coal. How big injustice is this to us. We have coal. There are coal mines in Madhya Pradesh. They give this coal to the traders for sale, but ask the Chief Minister to import coal. That is why, I am saying that when these development and welfare schemes are started, then, there should be no bias against all those states having non-Congress Governments. Earlier, Nitish Kumarji had said that they have taken back the flood relief fund provided to Bihar. Yesterday, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab

from Orissa was saying that they have asked for the refund of the relief fund given to Orissa. Looking at the complaints and grievances of the non-Congress ruled states, it seems that the Centre is not impartial. That is why, I want to tell them that they should definitely run the schemes, but with an impartial attitude.

Sir, here I have to make one more complaint. A mention of health related priorities has been made in para 19 of the President's Address. I read the Address carefully and listened with rapt attention that day with the hope that there would be a mention about construction work of the six AIIMS which I had sanctioned in 2003, but, I was disappointed. There is no mention about it, either in the para 19, in their 100 days' action-plan. Pranab da is present here. I want to say that I brought that scheme in 2003. It was not meant for any self interest. I had taken an impartial view. I had sought data from the Director, AIIMS about the places from where people come to AIIMS. AIIMS was set up in this country 56 years ago. The population has increased manifold since then but not the number of AIIMS. On receiving the data, I selected the states on the basis of it. I did not take into account which party was in power in those states. Four out of the six states were ruled by the Congress, one by the RJD and only one by the NDA. Not even a single state had a BJP Government. At that time, there were Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and Laluji was in power in Bihar. Only the BJD was in power in Orissa. These states were chosen because they were backward states from the point of view of health care facilities. I served for a term of 10 months only and had dedicated one hour daily for the purpose of setting up more AIIMS. During these 10 months, land was got allotted from six Chief Ministers and foundation stones were laid for these AIIMS. Only vote of account was left, a separate budget head was made and six crore rupees were earmarked for the construction of their boundary walls. All this work was completed in 10 months. They have completed a five-years term in office and have not done anything in respect of this project.

Sir, I had made an announcement for the upgradation of the six AIIMS also. This matter has been raised by, atleast, one or two members in both the houses during each session. Shri Lal Singh from Jammu and Kashmir is present here. He always raised this issue because I had made an announcement for upgradation of AIIMS in his state also. This matter has been taken up through calling attention motion or through questions in both the

House. Every time, the Health Minister would say that they are just about to start the construction work but nothing has happened even after five years. Shri V. Narayanasamy has done a great favour by defeating the Health Minister from the Puducherry constituency. I congratulate Shri Narayanasamy for this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to speak about one more lapse in the House. The Government has spoken about creating equal opportunities for women in para 25 of the Address. They have set out three priorities—women education which they call as literacy, women employment and Political empowerment of women. All the three intentions are good but Pranab da has left a very important issue. He has taken into account the problems involving education, employment and empowerment of women but has forgot to take up the issue of foeticide of girl child.

What is the significance of providing education, employment and empowerment to women when the girl child is not allowed to come into existence? Today a big question mark hangs over the birth of a girl child. Foeticide of girl child has taken a shape of a crime at such a large scale that I feel astonished that how in a nation where 'Kanya Poojan' is performed twice a year, such a sin of foeticide of girl child is taking place. That is why I would like to tell him that he has overlooked this issue. He has not done it intentionally, but when we discuss any issue we try to correct the mistakes of one another. Kindly include the issue of foeticide alongwith the other three points that have been mentioned.

Shri Advaniji had mentioned about Ladli Laxmi Yojna that day. Ladli Laxmi Yojna which has been implemented in Madhya Pradesh goes a long way in checking foeticide as it provides financial assistance at the time of the birth of a girl child. This scheme provides assistance for a girl child right from her birth till marriage. Therefore, I would like to tell him to urge the Prime Minister to go through the details of this scheme. Any amendment or improvement can be made if required but until the issue of foeticide of girl child is taken into account the other three problems cannot also be addressed. Therefore, I would like to state that the Ladli Laxmi Yojna should be implemented all over the country as it will check foeticide and promote women literacy.

Sir, they have mentioned about women reservation. On one hand, it has created zeal among women but on the other, a furore has been created about it. But Sharad

Bahai there is no need to create furore about it. Let me tell him that the people may be thinking that the Government would pass this bill within three months, but it is not so. They have put a spanner in the Bill itself, but nobody is paying any attention to it. Let me read out the first sentence—My Government will take steps on these measures within the next 100 days. It will take steps to pass the Women Reservation Bill in Parliament to provide one third reservation to women in State legislatures and in Parliament. It means that if the Prime Minister calls a meeting to evolve an all party consensus, it would be deemed as the steps taken and the commitment fulfilled. When only such step would be taken and Bill is not going to be passed, then Sharad Ji has no reason to consumers poison.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: We do what we say. Therefore, commitment will not be fulfilled by calling a meeting only. However, I am sure that Yadav Sahib would be convinced to pass the Women Reservation Bill after this meeting.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Girijaji, we had already taken a bigger step. So far as the meeting at the Prime Minister's level is concerned, three meetings were conducted at Shri Atalji's level. Thereafter, Shri Manohar Joshi, the then presiding officer took this responsibility. He held meetings and thereafter when Manmohan Singh ji took over meetings were held at his level. So far as taking steps in this regard is concerned, as a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs I had taken the step to include the Bill in the list of Business for discussion. What major step than this could be taken but on that day also the Members opposing the Bill stated that they would not let the House function until the Bill is deleted from the List of Business. That is why, I am saying this. Perhaps media also has not paid attention to it and it is being written that the Women Reservation Bill would be passed within three months. However, the commitment is not to pass the bill within three months, it is about taking steps only. I have gone through the English version of the Address also. It is same in that also.

[English]

'Government will initiate steps'.

[Translation]

As I said, a meeting will be held. A step will be taken and the commitment would be deemed fulfilled. But when

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

will reservation for women be implemented? Therefore, Pranabda, I would like to tell you to fix the time limit for the passage of this Bill. Only then, I would urge the women to celebrate and rest assured that the Bill would be passed. Now they have talked to take the steps only.

Now I would like to talk about Para 42 of the Address in which she has mentioned about Indo-Pak relations. The paragraph ends on the issue of terrorism across the Indo-Pak borders. The Address did not even touch upon the most relvent issues. News items are regularly pouring in that Pakistan is enhancing its nuclear capability Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, visualising this possibility, Shri Atalji had during his tenure conducted Pokharan tests to make the country a Nuclear empowered state. I am sorry to state that whatever we had achieved during Atalji's regime has been lost due to this Indo-US nuclear deal. We have imposed a ban on ourselves that we will not conduct any test further and if we do that the agreement would be annulled. Therefore, I would like to put a question today. Hon'ble Prime Minister should reply as to what action plan is being formulated to counter the nuclear threat posed by Pakistan.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): You please tell, who made this commitment that there will be no further tests?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We said about voluntary moratorium. Two things are not parallel...
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Would there be any change in the word 'nuclear doctrine' and 'voluntary moratorium'? Not a single syllable has been changed.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: That is what I am saying. We had not made any deal with America in lieu of voluntary moratorium. But this Government has entered into an agreement that if we conduct any nuclear test, the agreement will be annulled and anything received till then would have to be returned. Both the things are not parallel. We had talked about voluntary moratorium but they connected it with the agreement. Therefore, people of the country want to know as to how we will counter the nuclear threat, if any, posed by Pakistan.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): You have mortgaged the nuclear sovereignty ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Deputy Speaker, Sir, simultaneously, the issue of the Lankan Tamils has been mentioned in the same paragraph after the reference to Pakistan. So far as Sri Lanka is concerned, I would like to make it clear that we are in favour of the sovereignty of Sri Lanka and against any kind of terrorist activities over there. But, at the same time we cannot be mute spectators to the brutal atrocities being committed against our Tamil brothers in Sri Lanka. Just now, Shri Elangovan, a DMK Member was saying that when Jews were killed, the whole world stood against it, whereas, no voice is being heard against the cold-blooded killings of Tamilians in the no-war zone. When we see Tamil women crying there and their infant kids crying for milk, it becomes extremely difficult for us to tolerate. Can we their ignore their pain and sufferings only because they are living across the borders? Our lineage is one. We feel infuriated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a compilation of Tamil poems-Nanneri. It contains poems of famous Tamil Poets. I would like to read out four lines from that book. Chidambaramji will no doubt understand it. I would explain its meaning after a few minutes.

The poem says:

"Periyavar tamnoi pol pirar noi' Kandu Vllam,
Aerian ejhudu awar engha theri ejhhai,
Mandu piniyal varundhum peer uruppai,
Kandu Kajhlume Kan."

It means, if there is an injury or pain in any part of the body, tears roll down from the eyes. Similarly, if our fellow human beings, be they in any area of the world, are in any kind of crisis or they are facing any calamity, the prudent men, even across the borders, get naturally worried, cocerned about it. Therefore, I would like to tell him that though he has made a mention about it, yet it is inadequate. We should send people there to remove their difficulties. India is their neighbour, we can't be apthetic to them. We should make our efforts to alleviate their sufferings, their problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, para 45 deals with the Indian Diaspora and the Non-resident Indians. However,

I am surprised to note that on the one hand we say that NRIs are our undeclared envoys, as they have kept our head high and are lending us a place of pride even in countries like America.

But, every other day, we find news of harassments of NRIs. Some day Indians are beaten up in Malaysia, the other day, ISCON temple is damaged in Kazakhstan, at some other day wearing of turban by school going Sikh-children is banned in France, then comes the news of imposing of Jazia on Sikhs in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Now, it is being said that Jazia will be levied there on followers of all other religions. Limits have been crossed in Australia now-a-days. When we saw the child, on television, in whose head screw-driver had been thrust, shivers go down our spine. Even today's newspapers have reported that an Indian student's car has been burnt down over these yesterday. I get extremely pained when one of our responsible Ministers comes on a T.V. channel and says, "What can we do, we are understaffed at our mission with only eight persons over there" ...(*Interruptions*) Over and above he then blames these two Ministers, who are sitting here. He says that the staff size has been brought down by the Minister of External Affairs under the pressure from the Finance Minister. And now since the then External Affairs Minister has now been made the Minister of Finance, I would like him to reverse that decision. I would like to know as to what concern one has got with the staff strength. We are not concerned as to who took what decision and under what conditions? We want security of our children. The country is watching what the Government is doing? It is immaterial whether the said Mission has staff strength of 8 or 10, 12 or 24, whether it is oversized or down-sized, we want our children to be provided security, I, too, want to say that such tall promises made in the Address and helplessness expressed by the Ministers are contrary to each other.

Yesterday, I was going through Moilayji's statement.

[English]

I cannot do anything for corruption in judiciary.

[Translation]

How will these things match each other? There is a need of very strong will power to accomplish what has been envisioned in this Address. If the hon. Ministers make such helpless statement, what the countrymen would feel? That is why, Shri Advani has demanded

that very day that we should send someone to Australia. I want that a delegation of young MPs should go there and see the developments, so that our children staying there may feel that at least someone has come from their country to ask about them and the Government is sensitive about the issue. I think it should not be delayed and we should must do this.

In the last paragraph, the hon. President has envisioned hopes and aspirations of country's youth. It is very good. Country's youth have taken a lead role. But, I would like to say that it is not for the first time, rather whenever there were crisis before the country, the youth came forward and performed their role with great responsibility. Bhagat Singh at the age of 23 and Khudiram Bose at the age of 19 years went to the gallows for the sake of nation. In Independent India, when Congress was split, seniors remained with Congress (O) and the young Turks remained all over the political map for several years and, when emergency was imposed in the country, the youth of our country fought a struggle to protect the democracy under the leadership of an old man. Our entire youth force came out on the roads. The fruits of the said movement we can see in the present parliament. They are occupying front seats. Bhai Sharad Yadav is one of them. First time he was elected a Janata Party MP. That time he was just 25 years and one month old. At the age of 25 years and one month he got elected to the Parliament on Janata Party ticket. And he is a product of that movement. People who took active part in that movement are in various political parties today. Sharad Bhai got elected to the party at the age of 25 years and at the same age I became a Cabinet Minister in Haryana Government. Assam movement was also led by the youth. Persons of 25 to 30 years of age had been elected and this is not the first time that youths have been elected. We have Yogi Adityanath sitting here. He is 37 years old and has been elected for the fourth time. Shri Ashok Argal has been sitting behind me. He is 40 years old and has been elected for the fifth time. Shri Anant Kumar is sitting here. He got elected first at the age of 36 years. Shri Shahnawaz Hussain had become a cabinet minister at the age of 36 years. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 11 ministers in the cabinet of Atal ji were less than 50 years old.

I am saying this about the cabinet level ministers and not the MoS. Now, there are many MoS level ministers. Eleven cabinet ministers were less than 50 years of age in the cabinet of Atal ji. The BJP had made

[Shri Sushma Swaraj]

eight Chief Ministers of less than 50 years of age. Arjun Munda is sitting here and he had become the Chief Minister at the age of 35 years. So, this youth wave is not for the first time. But, I am very happy that such a large number of youths have won and entered the Parliament.

My heartiest welcome to all of them because when I see their innocent faces then I am reminded of my own time when I was elected at the age of 25 years and had taken the charge as Cabinet Minister. I not only welcome them but also wish them good luck so that they are able to fulfil the expectations of the people of their constituencies who have elected them. But, the Government will have to do something to fulfil those expectations.

Looking at Pawan ji I am reminded that we both had studied in the same department, but, he was senior to me by one year. I think he is three years elder to me. My party had made me a cabinet minister 13 years ago and his party has thought of him after 13 years, but, it, has given him a seasonal ministry only. He will work for four months and sit idle for eight months. Pranab Da, at least, give him one more ministry so that my brother can work for 12 months. He is very competent. That department produces very competent persons. He should have got a ministry where he could have worked for 12 months. You should give him a ministry where he can work for 12 months.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do want to say one thing that youth does not wait for long. If there is a delay, then the youth becomes restless and there is a danger latent in this restlessness. I, therefore, want to tell you people that we have to shoulder a very big responsibility. The face of the country cannot be changed in 100 days but an outline can be prepared. You should prepare the outlines and I give you assurance from my side. Advani Ji had given you assurance that day and associating myself with that sentiment, I want to tell you that the people have given you the role of a ruler and to us that of a watchman. If you will do good work, we will cooperate with you completely. If you will delay, then we will remind you. If you will not do, then we will warn you. If you will act wrongly then we will oppose you. But, we will definitely check your performance against the points of the Address after 100 days.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an

opportunity to speak. I support the Motion of Thanks to the H.E. President's Address by Dr. Girija Vyasji and express gratitude to her on my behalf and on behalf of the people of Uttarakhand. Besides, I congratulate you on your election. I would like to bring you to past. It was an historic moment when Lord Ram entered the hut of Shabri. Lord Ram accepted the berries in Shabri's hut.

14.58 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Shabri sanctified the Pampa Sarovar with the touch of her feet which even the great Rishi Munis could not do. Lord Ram had brought Shabri to the forefront. It was an historic moment. Your election today is also an historic moment. Democracy will be emancipated if Shabri is emancipated. India will be emancipated, if Shabri is emancipated. Following Lords Ram, Rahul Gandhi is visiting the hut of Shabri, the hut of the dalits today and having food there and getting connected with the common man.

15.00 hrs.

I express my gratitude for the sentiments of the Government to emancipate the dalits and the exploited sections.

I congratulate the UPA Government for giving priority to the issue of one rank-one pension including all other issues, in the President's Address. I am sure that this will strengthen the welfare schemes for the ex-army men. Wherever railway reaches, those places get developed. There has been no expansion of railway services in Uttarakhand even after 61 years of independence. Today, Uttarakhand is waiting for expansion of railways there. While I was Minister of State for Railways I had got the survey conducted for the railways line from Rishikesh to Karnaprayag. This survey was done two times but even after that railway expansion did not take place in that area. I, through you, urge the hon. Railway Minister to include the laying of railway line Rishikesh to Karnaprayag in this year's railways budget and allocate the necessary funds for the purpose. Besides, a survey of railway line from Tanakpur to Bageshwar in Uttarakhand should be made.

Sir, I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the House to the problem of postal ballot. Sainik

voters in Uttarakhand cast their votes through postal ballot. Neither the representative of Election Commission nor any observer of any political party or any postal agent is deputed for monitoring of the postal ballots sent through post. The Election Commission does not videotape the place where postal ballots are kept. Even the Returning officer do not have the sample signature of C.O. of the unit who verifies the signature of a soldier voter. Hence my request to you is that the only solution to this problem is that there should be such provision for every soldier to exercise his franchise at the place of his posting and the postal ballot system should be discontinued so that the general public and the soldiers may exercise their franchise in similar manner.

Sir, I would also like to state that the names of 80,000 voters were deleted from our voter lists two months ago. It is a very important issue that the people do not have enough time to enquire as to why their names have been deleted. Hence it is necessary to take notice of this matter. I would like to request that there is acute shortage of drinking water in Uttarakhand. There is shortage of water at the peaks of the mountains and the heat being generated in the environment due to global warming has led to decrease in water percolation and worsened the situation. In several families in the hilly areas one member is busy in bringing water for the family the whole day. We have to address this serious problem. The proposed schemes in this regard should be implemented at the earliest so that the drinking water problem faced by the people in Uttarakhand may be addressed. I would like to request that the following projects should be implemented at the earliest—Chaubattakhal pumping drinking water project in Pauri district, pumping drinking water from Mahadevi to Barsunda Mahadev project in Poorvi Nagar, Debkundai Talli drinking water project, Bawasa-Guriana-Sinduri drinking water project, Badero Dhaiyya Nagani drinking water project, linking of Kedargali drinking water project to Bironkhal Gram Group drinking water scheme, Badeth drinking water project. Formulation of new drinking water project for Gurad malla, linking of Amrit Ganga drinking water project to Gopeshwar Nagar in Chamoli district, Baragaon drinking water project in the Development Block Gairsain.

I would also like to request that the pending drinking water projects in Rudraprayag district like Tallangpur drinking water project, Tilwara Sumari drinking water project, Rauthia-Jawari Pashim. Bhardar drinking water project, Taula drinking water project, Taula drinking water

project, Pillu-Janghi drinking water project, Augustyamuni drinking water project, Basukedar-Dangi-Sogna drinking water project should be completed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to request that the forest-fire is devastating our hilly areas. When the fire broke out in the forests, the whole mountain was on fire. The medicinal herbs also burnt. Hence in order to preserve the medicinal herbs we should set up a gene bank where we may preserve the said herbs. The villages also got burnt with the forests in this fire. Eight people were burnt to death in Gagwada, the district of the Chief Minister. Hence it is a very serious problem as there are no fire-fighting equipments in the villages. When I was being interviewed on 'Rashtriya Sahara' T.V. channel, a worker of Bhartiya Janata Party stated that the fire brigade is being brought from Australia. I cannot understand as to how they will protect our mountains against the forest fire. We need to adopt scientific measures for this. Roads should be constructed in those areas, the means of access to the people should be developed and fire-fighting equipments should be provided in the villages so that they are able to fight the fire. The fire-brigade service is almost negligible in our state.

When I was contesting the election, I saw that a number of women were working under NREGA and being benefited. But they had one complaint that thought the scheme was good, but they were not getting their salary. Hence the government should ensure that the people working under NREGA get their salary in time and in full.

There are many religious places in our state. A large number of pilgrims come for 'darshan' of Kedarnath temple in the state. The horses were infected with a disease named 'equine influenza' at that place and several horses died of that disease. It is a serious problem. Hence the people there should be given proper compensation so that they can buy new horses. Apart from the compensation, steps should be taken for redressal of this problem at the earliest.

Delhi-Dehradun is a national highway and the work on this highway is going on at a very slow pace. Keeping in view the Commonwealth games to be held in Delhi, the government should expedite the said work. There is Jolly Grant airport in Dehradun. This airport should be developed as an international airport so that air services to Nepal and other regions may be available there. There

[Shri Satpal Maharaj]

is no international airport in our area and Western Uttar Pradesh till date. Due to this the foreign tourists coming to Haridwar and Rishikesh have to face allot of problems. If Jolly Grant airport is development as a world-class airport, they will be benefited to a large extent.

I would like to state a few things about the part-time teachers. There are 140 part-time teachers in our universities, but, they have not been regularized. They have been demanding the regularization for long, but, their demand is still pendign. If they are regularized, they will perform better. Rural Postal Services have been extended in Uttrakhand. The rural postmen working in Uttrakand are neither getting their due now treated as central government employees. I request the government to regularize them in a time bound manner and include them in the category of central government employees and bring their service, salary, allowances etc at par with the government employees.

When China had attacked our country, SSB had imparted gurilla training to the people in Uttrakhand. There are thousand of such people in Uttarakhand but they do not get any pension or other facility. I request the government to provide financial assistance to them and take appropriate steps in this regard.

Now-a-day yoga is being widely propogated. Several yoga teachers are undertaking courses in our Uttarakhand. Hence Yoga should be included in the curriculum.

[English]

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR (Parbhani): Sir, I am on a Point of Order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your Point of Order? Under what Rule, are you raising it? I could not follow you.

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Sir, he is talking about developments only. He is not talking about the Address of the hon. President.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. It is not a Point of Order.

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Our Uttarakhand state is a religious place. Works should be undertaken there for promoting religious tourism. For this purpose, in addition

to Badrinath and Kedarnath, Debal is the seat of God Latu, Lastupatti in Devprayag is the seat of God Ghantakaran, Chandrabadni, Danda Naagaraja. If all these religion places are developed as 'dhams' then tourism will be encouraged.

We have to ensure that adventure tourism is promoted in Uttarakhand. There should be para-gliding, bungee-jumping, mountain climbing or trekking and these things will help tourism to development and our Uttarakhand will progress.

Our martyrs had a dream that Chandrangar should be made the capital of Uttarakhand and the people want to realize this dream. Hence I would like to state that the policies should be formulated for cultural-social, educational and economic and scientific development of Uttarakhand in tune with the public aspiration.

"Ravi ki rawani badlegi, Satluj ka muhana badlega, Gar shauk me tere josh raha, tasvir ka jama badlega.
Bejaar na ho, bejaar na ho, ye saara fasana badlega,
Kuchh tum badlo, kuchh ham badlen, tab to ye zamana badlega."

I want to thank the government for taking steps for bringing changes in India and our country will progress due to the steps announced by the hon. President in her Address. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

*SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the Presidential address to the nation. Though I support the Motion.

Sir, Indian population is based out of rural India. Therefore we need to focus on rural India. Madam, the government proposes a new deal to the agriculture sector. But to my knowledge this not to be seen in village (rural India) the cost of production of crop has increased the farmers must be given "Minimum Support Price". I come from the Haudati region of Rajasthan where the farmers grow soyabean, Mustard, Dhanial and Garlic. The Government must ensure the farmers get good rates for their produce. Madam, even though the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Union Government proposes to have given debt waivers what happens to farmers who have paid their debt? Will they get any benefits for paying their respective debts.

Sir, Agricultural growth cannot take place without water and irrigational facilities. Madam, I am elected from Jhalawar-Barar Constituency of Rajasthan. This region is the Cherrapunji of Rajasthan. The water flows off during the rainy season. We need to secure the water for the Kharif and rabi crop. We need also to entrust our agricultural department personnels to develop a road map in sync with the water requirement to the crop pattern grown in region where we belong to. Therefore, focus should be there to develop these water projects. Normally these water project do get delayed due to official delay and due to red tapism. These delays should be delt with in time bound manner to ensure the rural India get proper irrigation facilities.

The farmers produce should also be considered to reprocessed and we should focus on the food processing industry which can add value to the food product. For example, Soya been can produce oil once it is reprocessed.

Sir, the Union Government is considering to revamp the banks which is good idea. But we need innovation on this idea. Rural Indian economy is dependent on loans from rural banks. But these bank official make it certain that the Aam Admi has to visit the bank numerous times to get their respective loans sanctioned.. Sometimes the officials in the bank demand bribe from the farmers. This needs to be rectified.

Sir, I am happy to understand that the Union Government will enlarge the work under the NREGA Scheme. But there is a bottleneck in mode of payment to the labour force. The Government is considering to revamp the post offices. These post offices and bank ensure the labourers working in NREGA Projects paid in timely manner. I wish to see that the payments must be paid in a timely manner and the quality of work is sustaining and can be used by the Aam Admi in times to come.

Sir, after nearly 60 years after Indias independence there is a lack of drinking water in rural India. As we speak tankers are giving water where there is lack of water. We need to ensure and focus on drinking water schemes. The village panchayat will have to be trained and be equipped to handle to control the drinking water schemes. Some of the panchayats are not well trained

and educated. Therefore education and training must be provided to them.

Sir, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been to provide education to elementary school primary due to the fact the students were able to avail mid day meal (provided by NGO's in consultation with the local government). The schemes were thrust for the student to go to school. But more needs to be done. Massive budget must be set aside for the higher education.

Sir, my constituency is situated in Haudati region which is famous for its educational town of Kota. We need to focus and ensure that in educational towns, knowledge centres are created. The State of Rajasthan is supposed to be granted a IIT & IIM. May I request the Union Government to set up a IIM or IIT in Kota.

Sir, we also need to focus on safe-guarding our Flora & Fauna of our country. The tigers are getting extinct and we need to save our national pride. The Prime Minister had visited Rathambore and would to assist the tigers but we need to focus on them.

It is surprising to notice that one political party has ruled India for more than 50 years but still the Aam adami has to struggle for food. The government wants to initiate a food security law. Madam, we are primary dependent on agricultural produce and even after tilling the land, we have not been able to provide food substance to the poor families of our country.

It is encouraging to understand that the government of the land will initiate social security scheme for the needy and they are considering to increase this to landless labourers, weavers etc. I hope this will benefit the aam admi of Rajasthan also.

Sir, it is nice to see that the government is restructuring the backward region grant fund. But the respective panchayat's where this fund will be utilized must be trained and be accountable for public scrutiny if the work done at their respective panchayat is of bad quality. We need to keep them accountable. We also glad that self help group will be supported. But we need to have trained personnels to work on web-based solution which will assist the government to ensure transparency and assist in monitoring of projects.

The government wants to develop a ambitious project to develop new ways to attract "brain gain" I must say that the government run by Indian national Congress's

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

regime all the intelligent people have left the country to better life in the West. But now our country is drained and it now looking develop ways to attract the manpower and human resources.

The infrastructure revolution was in the period Shri Atalji Vajpayeeji's Government where roads were linked to rural villages. The Aam admi was able to use rural telephony to reach out the rest of the world. The process of airport development was initiated in the Vajpayeeji's Government but given the thrust by Prafulji. We hope that infrastructure would be able sustain the growth and will act like catalyst to India growth and will act like Catalyst to India growth.

The Government wants to hold 51% equity of Government PSU's. But which investors will agree to take over the PSU until they do not have ownership of the PSU. We need to ensure the Government PSU are earning profits and sustaining its labour force.

In the end I would like to say that the Government must ensure that the essential prices of daily use commodities are reduced for example sugar and oil. The agricultural sector must be assisted. The human resource development of children is the prime responsibility of our government and our life expectancy rises with proper assistance to the aam adami to the villages in regards to health. We must salute our space scientist who have brought our countries name on world map. My only worry if the NREGA families and BPL families will get benefits and assistance as promised by the government in time. The power situation will improve in the country and government will ensure that the State of Rajasthan and the district of Jhalwar and Bara district will get proper electric supply.

I would like to thank you for giving me the time to express my views on the Presidential Address.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of Motion of Thanks on President's Address. Though I am in favour of the motion yet I do not agree with the opinion of Her Excellency, the President of India about the success of the Government. After declaration of the election results it was said, "Jo jeeta wahi Sikandar".

U.P.A. has won 206 seats and the Congress has once again emerged the largest party. For the last

several years, we have had coalition governments. No single party could form the Government. I think this trend may continue for some more years. The regional parties have played important role in coalition governments. Since coalition era started the position of regional parties has not been that good. If we closely see the recent election results, analyse them, we can come to the conclusion that the position of regional parties has weakened. Orissa's case is separate, though you may not agree with me in this regard. I would congratulate you and your party. But, in fact there was clash of interests amongst regional parties in many states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh or my state Maharashtra or Uttar Pradesh. Though some of the political parties have been recognized as national parties, yet their presence is confined to the state only.

Sir, there are parties, which are recognized as national level parties but they have their hold either in U.P. or Bihar only. The clash between such regional or national parties has benefited Congress. It is not that the public has welcome the policies of the Congress and it is not so that UPA or Congress has been successful during last five years and that success has changed the life of common man. Public did not vote for the Congress on this issue. No, it is not so. The split in votes of regional parties has clearly benefited Congress Party. I do not agree with the praise of the government by the hon. President.

I will not take up all the issues today as perhaps you won't give me much time since i represent a small political party. My party has 11 MPs, one less than what it had in last Lok Sabha. I know quite less time is left for me to speak but I would surely like to draw government's attention to some issues, which have been referred to by all the speakers before me. Her Excellency, the President of India, in her Address had said that the Government have provided jobs under NAREGA benefiting unemployed youth belonging to BPL category immensely, it is right to some extent. There is no reason to refute it, however, there is one aspect not needs to be seriously pondered is that this scheme is not successful in all the states. In some states it has been successful, whereas in certain states it has not been so. It has been almost a failure in my state Maharashtra. Therefore, I urge the Government to review the functioning of NAREGA and bring out some improvements in it. I would like to state that the scheme consists of 60 percent labour component and 40 percent national component. The Government provides job under

it through employment development. Before me, Shri Mulayam Singh ji was speaking on this scheme. He said that though the ponds have been dug under this scheme, but at the mounds where not a drop of water can be stored. I do agree that water related works have been given priority under the said scheme. But our geographical conditions have not been taken in view while preparing schemes, resulting in misutilisation of crores of rupees. I cannot say how many unemployed persons have been provided jobs under the said scheme. The Member who spoke before me said that the labourers do not get wage under NAREGA on time, nor do they get their full wages. They should get full wages that too on time. If we want to make this scheme a success then I would like to give a suggestion, say hilly areas. I hail from hilly area in Maharashtra. My area, Konkan has maximum rainfall in hilly areas in my state. Konkan has a width of 40 kms. On one side lie hillocks of Sahyadri hill and Arabian sea on the other side. Within one hour, after the rain, the water flow down to the sea. Since it is hilly area, entire rainy water flows down. Even if a dam is constructed here still water cannot be stored. Even such areas, the Government desires that 80 percent works relating to water resources should be undertaken under this scheme. Whereas, not a single work under this scheme has been undertaken in my area. It is not the case of my district alone, but almost whole of Maharashtra and perhaps similar may be case in my other states. Therefore, if we want to make this scheme a success, we will have to give it a second thought and carryout some changes in it. The Government should ponder over it seriously. Not only agricultural labourers are unemployed in our country. The number of unemployed industrial workers is double than that of the unemployed agricultural labourers and the number of educated unemployed is three times of that. Today, I do not have with me the figures of the entire country but there are 42 lakh educated unemployed persons in Maharashtra from where I come. If there are 42 lakh unemployed persons in one state then it can be well imagined what the conditions in other States will be. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should not remain under the impression that they have removed unemployment from the entire country through NREGA and if it still thinks so then it is tantamount to deceiving the people and injustice done to them. What schemes does the Government have for our educated unemployed persons and unemployed industrial workers? The NREGA scheme is also not fully successful. Therefore, if the Government wants to remove unemployment then it should formulate schemes keeping

state issues in mind but nothing has been mentioned about such type of unemployed persons in the President's Address except NREGA. Nothing else has been mentioned in the President's Address.

The present condition in our country is that a large number of people who went to America in the field of IT sector are returning and the President of America. Mr. Barac Obama had said in a statement that Bangalore would no longer be an IT hub for them and their investments would not go to Bangalore. He is talking in the interest of his nation. America is a developed country and considers itself to be a superpower, in spite of that the President of America is worried about its unemployed people and is saying that no further investments will be made in Bangalore and all the investments will be made in their own country. I do not think that our Government thinks in a similar manner like the President of America thinks whereas there are 38 percent BPL families in our country. These figures are fake. The condition of small and medium farmers in our country is worst than not of the BPL families. The small farmers grow only a single crop and depend on rains for irrigation, they grow only one crop in a year be it paddy or anything else and they do not own a single hectare land. Some have half acre of land, some have a quarter and a very few have one acre land and the number of such farmers in our country is approximately 20 crore and their condition is worse than the BPL families. Since land is shown against their names in the revenue records they do not get any BPL facility. Therefore, there is a need to reconsider the norms set for BPL. Even today true beneficiaries of BPL are not identified. At many places you will see that they do not have any land or house, they only have jhuggis, they are farmers who only have half an acre of land and single crop. That farmer is raising his family on mere half acre of land and a single crop. He does not come under the BPL category because he has half acre land and a house, that is why there is a need to seriously re-consider the definition of BPL. We should prepare a new criteria for selection of BPL beneficiaries because people who need BPL facilities are not being selected and those who do not want these facilities are being selected for benefits under the same. I would like to give you an example of a family, which has agricultural land and income but their entire land is in the name of the father. Nothing is in the name of the son. Their annual income is Rs. two lakh therefore he cannot come under the BPL category but his son is a BPL card holder because he does not have any land in his name and has no farming land. On one hand, a father who has a

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

income of Rs. two lakh per annum has his son under BPL category and on the other a person who owns half acre of land grows a single crop and lives on a jhuggie can not fall under BPL category why it is so? There are 20 crore farmers like that. How are we going to overcome poverty and remove unemployment? Therefore, to accept the reality we need to improve the criteria of all the schemes and formulate new guidelines also. If we really want to remove unemployment then we need to seriously consider increasing industrial unemployment. Employment is required to be provided to the educated unemployed persons. I could not find any mention of it in the President's Address that is why I mentioned it.

In the President's Address there is no mention of suicides by farmers. There was a mention of this in last years' Address but is not there this year because the Government has declared a package and waived off their loan. Approximately Rs. 25,000 crore have been disbursed, he has announced a package of Rs. 70,000 crore and only Rs. 20,000 crore or Rs. 25,000 crore have been disbursed so far. But despite that farmers' suicides have not stopped. Even today farmers are committing suicide in Vidarbha. The farmers have not been directly benefited with the loan waiver. If anyone has benefitted most from the loan waiver, it is the nationalised banks, district banks or those banks which had given any loans. All these banks have been benefitted and they have been saved from committing suicide. It was said about the banks that they will commit suicide but all that got averted because all NPA was cleared, all default was cleared. The banks got money from the Government whereas the farmers did not get a single rupee. The farmers did not get anything except a certificate. I had mentioned in the last session of the 14th Lok Sabha that implementation of the Government's scheme of loan waiver for farmers took four months. The farmers lost out on a crop during those four months as no bank provided loan to them during that period. The then Minister of State for Finance, Shri Bansalji is present in the House. Then he had accepted in his reply in this House that it took time to finalise the guidelines for loan waiver and direct the banks accordingly. But, it took so much time that a whole crop was lost. The farmers could not get loan even for a single crop. Even today, the farmers did not get a single rupee directly. They are committing suicide even today. To save them from committing suicide, it is necessary that they get remunerative prices for their produce. The farmer will not commit suicide if he gets right price for

his produce. He will not commit suicide if you provide market for his produce. He will not commit suicide if you make available irrigation facilities for farming. There are irrigation facilities and water but no electricity to operate the pumps. There is load shedding in Maharashtra upto 14 hours. There is water and there is pump but there is no electricity to operate pump which results in withering of the crop and the farmer is forced to commit suicide. If the Government is really sympathetic towards the farmers and wants to protect them, then there is need to understand their needs. There is urgent need for water for their farming but today there is shortage of fertilizers too. Monsoon has arrived on time in the country today but there is shortage of fertilizers in all the states. Farmers are facing trouble because they are unable to get fertilizers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will give example of my district. Today, fertilizers are not available anywhere in my district. You may ask for report from the Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra. There is shortage of fertilizers everywhere. How can we assist the farmers if fertilizers cannot be made available on time? Timely availability of fertilizers is necessary but fertilizers are not available on time. If the Government is to stop the suicides by farmers then the Government should pay remunerative price for their produce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will take up one more point and conclude. Internal security is the biggest issue and Maharashtra has suffered the most in this regard. Even after the terrorist attack on Mumbai on 26/11, our country is not out of this danger. Even today, this danger is lurking over the country. Our country can be attacked anytime. Even today, terrorists can strike our country anytime. It is the present scenario. I am surprised at the 10 points taken up by Her Excellency, the President on which the Government will pay special attention. The first point says—to maintain internal security and communal harmony. But, internal security and communal harmony are two separate subjects. There is no communal tension anywhere in the country today. There is no communal tension in any state in any part of the country today. Our internal security is under threat due to the terrorist attacks by Pakistan whereas there is no communal tension anywhere in the country. Therefore, what is the intent of the Government behind linking internal security to the communal tension? But, the terrorist attacks on the country taking place today or all the terrorist attacks on the country so far—be it the terrorist attack on the Parliament, or attack on the Red Fort or attack on the

Kandivali railways station in Mumbai or attack on the Gateway of India or attack on the Vidhan Sabha in Srinagar or attack on the Akshardham Temple in Gujarat—whenever such attacks have taken place, irrespective of the Government, the Home Minister has always made statement in the House pointing finger towards Pakistan behind all these attacks. Statements blaming Pakistan's hand in all those attacks and that Pakistan wants to destroy the communal harmony have been made in the House after every terrorist attacks on the country during the last 20 years.

Now, it is in the news everyday that the US is giving financial assistance to Pakistan to fight terrorism but Pakistan is using this money to spread terrorism in India instead of using it against terrorism. Our internal security is facing danger from these terrorist attacks. There is no danger to our internal security due to any internal dispute. Therefore, you should not try to link communal harmony with internal security. I do not know what is in the Government's mind ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a last point. The Supreme Court has pronounced the punishment for those responsible for attack on the Parliament. It has decreed death by hanging for Afzal but the Government has not implemented the said decision so far. Besides, as many as to 10 terrorists attacked Mumbai on 26th November, 2008. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): You have said all this during the elections, and the people have not accepted it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: We have already heard the reply being given by the hon. Home Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Supreme Court has pronounced Afzal guilty but he is not being hanged. The Government does not have the courage to hang him. The Government is protecting him. The Government is destroying the communal harmony in the country. The UPA Government is protecting Afzal by not hanging him ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please conclude your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken your time. I am sorry to say this, but I will have to call the name of the next hon. Member to speak. Please conclude your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am concluding.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have told me so many times that you are going to conclude your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, this is my last point. Legal proceedings are on against Ajmal Kasab and the judgement is going to be delivered soon. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The elections are over. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please do not give election speeches now. The elections were over last month itself. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, terrorism is spreading in the country due to this lackadaisical attitude of the Government and due to the Congress-led UPA Government's attitude. The UPA Government has failed to tackle terrorism in the country. I support this proposal but I will not support the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Unemployment is rising, inflation has put a heavy burden on the poor, but the Government has no plan to address these problems. Even so, I support the vote of thanks on the President's Address but I cannot support this Government.

[English]

**DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): I would like to thank the Government for bringing out their policies in various aspects of life for the common man, but I fail to understand how the Government shall be able to achieve these aims, when even after 60 years of independence we have failed to maintain cordial relations with our neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, & Myanmar, whereas Pakistan though a recognized terrorist state is maintaining good relations with his neighbours except India. They have also earned support from U.S. and China and are getting billion of Dollars from US. US has been showing to be a good friend but in fact internally supporting Pakistan, and it has been proved beyond doubt that the aid given by US is used by them against India to activate terrorist activities.

Sir, I would also like to draw the attention of the Government towards their poor performance in the past

*Not recorded.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

in education and health sectors, particularly in my State of Orissa. I am constrained to point out that my state has been provided least facilities for encouraging Education particularly for female literacy resulting in perhaps the lowest rank in the field of Education. In the last Lok Sabha, a number of Universities have been recognized by UGC, it is surprising that out of 55 medical colleges recognized recently the share of Orissa is only 2-3.

In Health Sector, the things are no better, a referral Institute on the Lines of AIIMS was sanctioned three years ago, but it is yet to start functioning, despite the State Government providing all the infrastructure, the delay is mainly on account of Union Government, who have failed to provide the funds already sanctioned for the project. Not only this keeping in mind the population of State we need at least one much hospital in each district to meet the health facilities for the people of Orissa.

I am happy to note that the Government intend to complete the rural water supply programme by 2011 but I would definitely like to apprise the Government that in my state of Orissa, people die of Sun Strokes/hunger and various water born diseases, even the safe drinking water is not available in the capital of the State i.e. Bhubaneswar. It is my humble request that the water problem of the State should be given top priority and sufficient funds should be allocated, I feel that the Government of India should be able to provide safe drinking water to people of Orissa after lapse of sixty years of independence.

Things are not better on Road Sector, from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur, Bhadrak to Balasore, the road condition is very bad, I fail to understand when the Government, has been spending according to statistics, thousands of crores on infrastructure, the condition of National Highways is in very sorry state of affairs, the Government should definitely come up with a plan to build a few more flyovers to ease the traffic problem of the State. I would also like to add that this problem can be solved only with the support of Union Government. For instance Road from Bhubanshwar to Puri, the most sacred place of India, though funds were got sanctioned after great persuasion by me but no work has been started yet.

The Government has stated that they will enact a new National Food Security Act and supply 25 kg of

Rice at Rs. 3 per kg of wheat or rice to every family living below poverty line, but I would request the Government that under the present State Government scheme the people of Orissa get rice/wheat at Rs. 2 per Kg and the scheme should be allowed to continue. Everywhere the Government is talking about construction of Houses for Urban poor, but there is no mention of any scheme for my state. I would also request the Government that they should come up with the resettlement scheme for the Slum-dwellers, which constitute a population of 5 lakhs in Bhubneshwar only.

I am sure the Government must be aware that the Orissa is most backward state in the country, where the female literacy is at the lowest level, lack of Primary Health centers because of lack of funds from the Union Government, I personally feel and perhaps the Union Government will agree that after a lapse of sixty years of independence special efforts should be made to uplift the living standard of this state.

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, I express my views on the President's Address and I would like to raise certain important issues, which are bothering various sections of the society.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as many as 80,000 farmers in the country have committed suicide during the last five years. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra stand first and second in terms of the number of suicides by farmers. The Government has not done anything to improve the situation. The suicides by farmers is a buring issue in the country. Every person should feel responsible and think of ways and means to resolve this problem.

Sir, the report of the Swaminathan Commission has not been tabled in the House till date. The Swaminathan Commission has recommended that the farmers should be paid 50 percent more than the actual cost of production as Minimum Support Price (MSP). This recommendation has not been implemented by the Government so far. Similarly, the four percent trade meant to be earmarked for the farmers has not been implemented either. The recommendations made in the Swaminathan Committee Report pertaining to the farmers have not been adopted so far. The Government should give consideration to this issue. I would like to say, through you, that this is a very serious issue. Farmers

in the country are dying and committing suicide. The Government should give serious consideration to this issue. If we observe the trend for the last ten years, there has been a drop in foodgrain production. The foodgrain production in the year 2001 was 213 million tonnes which has no fallen to 209 million tonnes. Similarly, our buffer stock was 65 million tonnes earlier. Now it has come down to 25 million tonnes. All these issues are going to create big problems for the country in future. The government should consider these issues. On the one hand, our population is increasing at a rate of 1.9 percent to 2.0 percent and on the other hand foodgrain production is falling. The farmers are becoming suicidal. The Government should think about this.

Through you, I would also like to draw attention to the issue of weavers,. Not only are farmers committing suicide, starvation deaths are also taking place. The Government should think about this as this is a very serious issue. We talk of the poor but starvation deaths are taking place. We are talking about Bharat Nirman but we are not able to stop starvation deaths. Everyone should feel responsible and ponder over these issues seriously.

Sir, similarly it has been stated that 25 kilogram rice and wheat will be provided to a poor person at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kilogram. Our founder Leader Late Shri N.T. Ramarao had launched this programme by giving rice at Rs. 2/- a kilo in the year 1983. Shri N.T. Ramarao ji launched a scheme for providing clothes and pucca houses to those poor people who had no clothes to wear and house to live in. The dream of our leader Late Shri N.T. Ramarao is being realized all over the country after 27 years. It is a good thing and it should be implemented properly. It is a pleasure to see infrastructure being mentioned. This sector is a very important sector in the country. This sector is very important for the progress of the country. You may see that NDA government formulated golden quadrilateral scheme. Besides golden quadrilateral, north-east and south and north-east corridor and east and west south and north corridor were also constructed. Due to this, the networking of roads has improved a lot during the last ten years but this, the networking of roads has improved a lot during the last ten years but there is a need to do much more in this scheme.

Sir, I would also like to state, through you, that besides golden quadrilateral scheme there should be a

[Shri Nama Nageswara Rao]

national river linking programme. This country needs national river linking. There is shortage of drinking water in the country. There are many problems relating to irrigation. These things are essential for the development of the country. I want to state that the country needs national power grid also. Infrastructure is needed for tapping the scope of hydel projects from Kashmir to north-east.

Sir, e-governance and citizen card have also been mentioned. Rajiv Gandhiji had talked about e-governance but Shri Chandrababu Naidu ji implemented e-governance in Andhra Pradesh for the first time. The Union Government should work for e-governance as it will stamp out the corruption in the country.

Sir, Rahul Gandhi has said,

[English]

"My father Rajiv Gandhi used to say that only ten paise out of one rupee reached the genuine people. But I say that the needy people still get ten paise out of Rs.100 under the central development and welfare schemes."

[Translation]

This matter is related to this House. If ten paise out of Rs. 100 reach the common people, then we are also responsible for it. How this system is working? It is a failure of the system. The Government needs to think over it.

Sir, a large number of Indian workers go abroad for work and Indian students also go abroad for studies. They are being attacked in America and Australia. The student attacked by a screwdriver in Australia hails from my constituency. He is still in the hospital. It is a problem of the whole country and it needs to be addressed.

Sir, H.E. the President has stated in her address:—

[English]

"India's young population is naturally restless and wants to see the change quickly. My Government carries the weight of their dreams. Together let us dedicate ourselves to making each day of the next five years, a day closer to the realisation of their dreams."

[Translation]

Sir, I want to state this because winning and losing are parts of the game. All the Members present here have won the election. It is a different issue as to which party has won and which party has lost. You have formed the government but you have got only 36.5 percent votes. 63.5 percent people of this country have voted against you. You should keep it in your mind and work. I support the President's Address. I hope that you will work for the development of the country with the cooperation of all during the next five years. All of us will extend our support for the development of the country.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Sir, I rise to appreciate the speech of Rashtrapati Ji particularly because it has been delivered after the UPA had returned back to power with a mandate.

There are a few important pronouncements that deserve attention. The decision to supply 25 k.g. of rice or wheat at a subsidized price of Rs.3 a k.g. to the people below the poverty line is a welcome step. The objective of making a law for the prevention of communal violence is definitely laudable. Strengthening of the National Health Mission to combat maternal mortality and infant mortality is also significant. The talk of National Food Security Act is also a matter to be taken note of. These are some of the many, that the hon. President had spoken, which we definitely appreciate.

But I am constraint to say that there is an element of exuberance in the speech. There is an under-realization of the grave economic crisis and social problems that has overtaken the nation. There is no mention of the suicide of the peasants that have taken place in the country. There is no mention of the huge off-loading of manpower that is taking place in the country as a result of the economic-tsunami that has overtaken the world.

To speak of the negative features, may I begin by saying that the talk of a regulator for the pension fund is nothing but an attempt to divert the social savings to the private sector, particularly to stimulate the stock market? The re-capitalization of the nationalised banks will surely dilute the Government equity in the nationalised banks and may ultimately impair upon the

character of social banking of our country. This is a genuine apprehension; we had been expressing it for long. The disinvestment of Government equity in the profit making public sector is nothing short of selling the family silver to meet the grocer's bill.

There is also a talk of labour reform which I am afraid – I will be only happy if my apprehension is dispelled – has been done to cut or curb the trade union rights of the workers, working in enterprises employing less than 300 workers.

Sir, the green economic scenario has really been sidelined, if I am allowed to say so. According to the CMIE, which is well known to us, the real GDP growth in the country has fallen to 6.5 per cent. There is another study other than CMIE and they are saying that the GDP growth is likely to decline to 5.6 per cent compared to 9 per cent in the previous year. This is the green scenario that we are faced with.

In 2008-09, the production of non-food crop has declined by one per cent. Surely it is a sign for concern. The food production is increasing or may increase or likely to increase by 2.2 per cent. Overall, if we take agriculture into account, the agricultural productivity has declined. Therefore, agriculture is in deep trouble. It has not been retrieved. It is yet to be retrieved. The hon. Rashtrapatiiji has not done justice to this green problem overtaking agriculture of the country.

What about industry? What about industrial growth? The industrial growth has dipped to all time low, to 2.7 per cent. CMIE has even scaled down the growth estimate of the service sector. We had all been boasting about the growth of the service sector in the country. The growth of service sector has been deeply affected. The economy is in so distress, if I am allowed to say that it is likely that the non-performing assets of the banks will be tripled in two years reaching the astronomical figure of Rs.1,80,000 crore. This is the sickness of the economy. People borrow but do not pay. The Government is very happy that general inflation has dipped below one per cent to 0.7 per cent. But what is the Consumer Price Inflation? The Consumer Price Inflation is nearly in double digits – 9.6 per cent.

We all talk about the World Bank. I do not mind. People should talk about the World Bank. What the World Bank says? The World Bank says that India is ahead of only Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of poverty. So, deep

is the problem of poverty. We are only ahead of Sub-Saharan Africa. How many people are poor? On the definition of poverty, there may be too many controversies. About 41 per cent of the people of India according to the report of the World Bank live on a meagre 1.25 dollar per day. This is the economic panorama that we are faced with. Is it fair that this has been sidelined really in the speech that has been prepared by the Cabinet for the Rashtrapatiiji?

There is another National Commission appointed by the Government to look into the problems of small enterprises. They have submitted recently the latest report. What do they say? We are discussing employment. Where is the employment? According to that Commission, the growth rate of employment has dropped to 1.88 per cent. What is most alarming? Poverty depends on the purchasing power and purchasing power depends on the remuneration, wage and salary.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore, poverty is linked directly, not inversely, with the level of remuneration and wages. What is the condition of the country? Let us know the truth. The Government appointed Commission says that there has been a general decline in the level of wages throughout the country. Is the Government unaware of this? Why then does it not find a place in the speech of the hon. President of India? When is the wage declining? What a contrast! Wage is declining at a period of time when the economy has registered a higher income growth rate. This means that ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasgupta, you have very little time left.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I know the constraint of time. But I am referring to the stark reality which is alarming for the whole nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I am very much concerned about the time. That is the problem.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, at the same time you should also be concerned about the nation.

Sir, let us not waste time in speaking at cross purposes. The point is that there has been a significant job loss in the Government departments. In the Central Public Sector Undertakings including the Railways, lakhs

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

of posts are lying vacant. I wish the newly appointed Minister of Labour will take care of this problem and make arrangements for filling up the vacancies that have remained vacant for years together.

Sir, the UPA has won the elections. My best wishes to them. No senior Minister is here to take my greetings.

[*Translation*]

Farookh Sahab, I am congratulating you and the government for winning the elections. But at the same time. I would like to state that you must the problems of the country in your mind.

[*English*]

But please remember the distress that India is facing; please remember the economic crisis that has taken over; please remember.

[*Translation*]

Please think on it whether the policy needs to be changed or not. Please think over it.

[*English*]

Please consider the question of whether there is a need for any fundamental change in the economic policies that this Government has pursued which has led to a grim situation that we are faced with today.

Sir, I do not buy the argument of Shri Advani. I do not agree with him that this is a verdict for bi-polarity which means that Congress and the BJP will determine the political policies of this country. I do not believe that the poll verdict is in favour of bi-polarity. The immense diversity in the political spectrum of India calls for multi-polarity.

16.03 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, I am speaking on the Motion of Thanks that you have initiated and so I expect you to be a bit generous. Women are always generous and in my life I have found women to be too generous including you.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: So to justify what you have said I am giving you two more minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I refuse to accept that bi-polarity is the verdict. Multi-polarity is firmly enshrined in the immense diversity of Indian political spectrum. Historically, the Left has a space in the political system. I am aware that the Left has suffered a serious setback and we shall look into the reasons and we are confident that we shall overcome that. Let us join everybody and we are ready to join with the national endeavour to make the country better and take the country forward. My greetings to the Government and I only expect that there is no gap between the promise and the performance that you have so brilliantly spoken in the speech that the hon. Rashtrapati Ji has given.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so even now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: In the very first Session, you are asking Members to lay their speeches!

[*Translation*]

*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Hon'ble Madam President has congratulated the first lady Speaker of the Lok Sabha and I would also like to congratulate her for the same but I have an objection that the word Dalit has been mentioned in the President's Address. It is true that hon'ble Madam Speaker belongs to Dalit community but it is not fair to call her a Dalit, so it would be appropriate to replace the word Dalit by the word Dalit community.

- It has been mentioned in the President's address that huge mandate has been received. Mandate has definitely been received but it is wrong to say that a huge mandate has been received because a huge mandate means the clear majority.
- Though the Presidential Address runs in twenty pages but there is nothing in it which shows that the Government is committed to any concrete and big target.
- The coming years will also pass in a similar manner as the last 5 years have gone by. The UPA might have got the majority in the elections for the fifteenth Lok Sabha but the issue that were there remain as it is even today.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

- The issues include safety and security of the citizens and the nation.
- Price rise.
- Suicides by the farmers.
- The impact of economic slowdown which rendered crores of people jobless.
- To bring back the black money deposited in foreign banks.
- Nothing has been mentioned about the steps Government is likely to take regarding the said issues.
- The common man of the country was hopeful that this Government will strictly deal with corruption but there is no mention of it in the Address.

After the constitution of 15th Lok Sabha, Women Reservation Bill raised a lot of furore in the political circles. The nature of the Bill is both being supported and opposed. I feel that there is a need to make provision for providing special opportunity to the backward women so that there could be equal representation of all the communities in the Parliament and State Assemblies. I was hopeful that the Government will give priority to electoral reforms and in its major works but that could not be possible which is very unfortunate. Since the Chief Minister of many states are demanding that Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections may be held together so that both Prime Minister and Chief Minister could be chosen directly by the people.

I am happy that the Government is going to take a decision to provide rice and wheat at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg to the families living below poverty line. I would first of all like to thank the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for this which are making foodgrain available at cheaper rates in their states. I am happy that the Union Government agrees with their decision and is going to implement the same scheme throughout the country. I regret that States like Madhya Pradesh are facing natural calamities every year but there is no mention of providing special economic packages to the States to deal with such natural calamities.

During last year a central study team visited Madhya Pradesh and submitted its report to the Government but

even a single rupee has not been given to the state. I was also assured by the Government in Lok Sabha. This shows discrimination whereas the Union Government belong to all the states and it is its foremost duty to deal fairly with all the States. Similarly, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had identified a large number of poor people whose names were not included under the BPL category and distributed them wheat at Rs. 3 per kilogram and saved those people from starvation. Earlier the total number of such families was 42 lakh and now this number has now gone up to 62 lakh but the Union Government has made no efforts to provide them even a single grain, whereas, I had raised the issue in Lok Sabha.

Today, a number of States in the country are facing power shortage. In this situation the Union Government should help the states but the experience of last five years has not been good. The supply of power to Madhya Pradesh has been curtailed. Supply of coal has also been reduced due to which a lot of difficulty is being faced in generation of power. When the first Government was formed after independence a slogan of food, cloth and shelter to all was raised and even after so many years we cannot say that everybody has got food, cloth and shelter.

Shri Rahulji visited a tribal person and felt quite emotional after watching a poor person having his food on a broken coat under a neem tree. I would like to ask that Congress has been in the power since the year 1952 and if timebound programmes were run then today all the needy persons of the country would have had a pucca house but only slogans were raised and they were not translated into action. Poverty is increasing in a similar manner and it would have been better to have a mention of timebound programmes to check it. Today, the condition of the farmers in the country is very serious and small farmers are becoming labourers. They are unable to hold their arable land. The small farmers are selling their land regularly to fulfill their requirements. This situation will turn grave if not controlled within time. Madam, the reputation of the country at the international level has declined in the last five years and we have not been able to forge cordial relations with the neighbouring countries. Today, it cannot be claimed that we have friendly relations with neighbouring countries. The youth of the country is quite worried. The leadership of youth might have been on the rise in the politics but crores of youths are searching for their livelihood. Today, merit is on the rise but equal

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

opportunities in education are not visible. That is why a large number of youths are not able to qualify the competition. Today, technical education is not available to those who have no money. The Central Government should take some concrete steps urgently in this regard.

Many states face destruction every year due to drought and floods. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's Govt. had taken initiative to link rivers. Hon. Prime Minister had also signed an agreement with the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to start work on Kali Sindhu river but it has not been started yet. It is necessary to link the rivers if the country is to be saved from the drought and floods. The Government should work in this direction. Disease and malnutrition are also a big problem in the country. People are dying without medicines. A large number of children are falling victim of malnutrition due to not getting nutritious food and no mention has been made of the effective measures taken to check it.

A mention has been made of appointment of Ombudsman at district level for hearing the cases of irregularities under the Employment Guarantee scheme but before that it is necessary to remove the practical problems faced under the scheme. No agency wants to work today and those which are working face various serious problems which must be addressed to. It is necessary to review the rural education, health, drinking water and employment programmes all over the country.

I support the President's Address and expect the Central Govt. to implement my suggestions.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (Mathura): Madam Chairman, I have risen on behalf of my party to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. H.E. President has discussed many important points in her Address. She spoke about presenting five annual reports on environment, education, health, employment and basic infrastructure before the people which, in my opinion, will prove important in having a national level discussion and creating awareness among the people about the policy, schemes and work of the Government on these subjects. A mention has been made of judicial reforms. Today, people have expectations, especially those who file suits in the courts to seek justice. They should get justice as soon as possible. The problems of criminalisation of politics and political corruption facing the polity can be solved if judicial reforms are brought about early. I also welcome establishment of a National

Mission for sustainable agriculture as mentioned in the President's Address. It will be a new initiative. It is a good opportunity to search for organic farming and other alternatives to traditional farming and to provide this information to the farmers as a private Bill on this subject had also been presented in the House by the leader of our party Chaudhary Ajit Singhji. I welcome, on behalf of our party, the Government's stand on communal harmony. I also welcome the proposal to introduce the Bill for regularization of the land acquired by the Government. In addition to this, there are many points which I cannot touch upon due to time restrictions. There are many points on which more experienced and able leaders than me have expressed their views today. Repetition could perhaps be proved to be beneficial. After all the Government may, perhaps, listen to us. The problems, particularly those faced by the farmers and agriculture sector should be addressed. The farmers should have access to the markets and get remunerative prices for their hard labour. The farmer and the labourer in the country are working hard but even after that they are not getting remunerative prices. The National Policy for farmers, which is based on Swaminathan Commission's report and passed in 2007 does not include the Commission's report and passed in 2007 does not include the Commission's recommendation that the prices for farmers should be based on their cost. Take any producer in the world, he has a right to fix his prices on the basis of his costs. Swaminathan Commission proposes 50% remunerative prices for the farmers. I would like to raise this demand on behalf of my party and want that the Government should take it seriously. The farmers ought to get inputs at the right time and at reasonable rates. Now there comes the problem of credit. I am aware of the manner in which farmers get loans. Sharad Pawarji had given a statement in this regard. He had said that forty percent of the farmer in the country do not get loans from the organised sector. The credit system needs to be overhauled and streamlined so that the farmer is able to escape the clutches of moneylenders. Also, loan for the farmers and weavers in the country should be given at four percent rate of interest. These are the problems.

Madam Chairman, there is another point that has been overlooked in the President's Address. Even the developed countries in the world spend two to three percent of agricultural domestic product on research in the field of agriculture. What new inventions have been made and experiments conducted in our country and are the farmers aware of them? What is the situation of

the 45 or so agricultural institutes in the country? If all services are being outsourced this matter should be considered seriously. The Government is spending merely 0.5 percent of agricultural domestic product on agriculture whereas the average expenditure thereon is 0.7 percent in other agriculture-based economies. It has to be increased. The problem of water that is irrigation has also been highlighted here. A comprehensive national policy in this regard needs to be formulated. The states are bickering with each other. We should take up the issue with our neighbouring countries regarding the floods caused in our country due to rivers that originate in their countries. People suffer a lot. There is no one to take up the issue for them. Who will decide how much water is to be allocated for industries, for urban areas and for rural areas? It might be that in the next twenty years we are forced to look for water as we explore oil resources today and that we become as worried about water as we are for oil. Water is a scarce resource and we have to take concrete steps immediately to safeguard it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please wind up in two minutes.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: Madam, this is the first batting opportunity I have got. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is why I have allotted you ten minutes instead of five. Thirty to thirty-five members are yet to speak.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: Alright, I will try to conclude as soon as possible.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I understand your point of view.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: I would also like to say that there is no dearth of policies in our country. I am less experienced as yet but from the discussions I have taken part in and the report I have read, I have found all the policies in this country to be sound. But what is the ground reality? Is the farmer, the poor man being benefited thereby? I would like to illustrate my point with an example. In the budget speech of 2007 hon. Chidambaramji has said that the farmers were being given fertilizer subsidy. He talked about creating a pilot project and exploring the alternative of depositing payments to farmers in their bank accounts. An educated person who sees that a fertilizer subsidy of Rs. one lakh

twenty thousand crore is being given thinks that a lot is being done. But is the farmer getting any benefit as a result thereof? Subsidies and grants are not mere assistance, alms or charity. The main objective should be to improve the agricultural practices. The objective should be to raise the awareness of farmers, protect the environment and resolve the problem of food security. Hence, we demand a serious discussion on whether the subsidies need to be product—based, nutrient-based, direct or indirect. The Government should give clarification on these points as soon as possible.

I would like to discuss another aspect. There are many policies which make us wonder if we are talking of Bharat Nirman or of a flight of imagination. It has been announced that slums would be wiped out within five years. This dubious statement makes me wonder if you are talking of eradicating poverty or the poor. It would be wrong to say that the country is on the road to progress by simply sweeping poverty under the carpet. We can not hide behind ivory towers or isolate ourselves from reality. We have to understand that the problems of the urban and the rural poor are inter-connected. As long as the rural population remains poor this problem can not be resolved. The late Chaudhary Sahib had said the prosperity of the country lies in its agricultural fields. This is a true statement and holds water even today.

The issue of women empowerment has been discussed in the President's Address. This issue was discussed today as well. There is a longstanding demand that I would like to place before you. 80 percent of rural women labourers are employed in the agricultural sector. However, the benefits of schemes and policies for farmers such as the Kisan credit card scheme are not reaching women. Money paid for land acquisition is deposited in the account of the legal owner of the land. They should be given land rights. What are we doing for the 20-30 percent of the families which are headed by women, the widows in rural areas? Such women should be given the status of farmers. This is the only way to ensure their participation in the economy of the country.

I am a young man. We have to praise the interest and contribution of young electorate in these elections. It is very easy to criticize the system from outside but they voted to become a part of the system. Young MPs, like myself are standing for elections to become a part of the system. We should work together to fulfill the expectation of the youth. Gender budgeting is already being

[Shri Jayant Chaudhary]

done in our country. Similarly, provision for youth budgeting and child budgeting, as is being done in other countries should be made. The figures of the actual expenditure proposed to be incurred on Government's schemes and out of Government's funds should be placed before the House.

Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (Bhatinda): Madam Chairman, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to make my maiden speech.

The first Address of the newly constituted Lok Sabha witnessed the first woman President of our country accompanied by the first woman Speaker in the history of Lok Sabha, addressing a Parliament, which sent 58 women MPs for the first time into the Indian Parliament. I do not think that there could be a better opportunity or an environment to take forward an initiative which is imperative for strengthening, uplifting and addressing the needs of the so-called weaker sex.

Madam, I support the Motion of Thanks to the President Address and especially appreciate the first three points in her 100-day Agenda which is to bring in the Women Reservation Bill, to provide 50 per cent reservation for women in panchayats and urban local bodies and to increase representation of women in Central Government jobs.

However, while I wholeheartedly endorse these initiatives, I think, we all need to look within and see as to why it has taken independent India 62 long years to send in 58 women to Parliament to voice the needs of half a billion women of our country.

Madam, when I go to my villages, to the Panchayats and ask for the sarpanch, all the villagers point to a man. When I mention that the sarpanch is a woman, I am told that the Village Panchayat is reserved for the woman and so the husband uses his wife to become the sarpanch and actually he handles all the village affairs and she knows nothing. While I fully welcome the hon. President's commitment to the 50 per cent reservations in Panchayats, I do hope Her Excellency does not mean this kind of reservation.

Next, providing the right environment for women is as important as providing the opportunity to empower

the women in reality. First and foremost, providing this environment is to give the women equal right to take birth and to live. We live in a country where more than five million baby girl children are denied their right to take birth because of their gender. According to the UN Estimates, more than 2000 unborn girls are not allowed the right of their birth every day in our country and more than 90 per cent of all abortions take place in our country are to eliminate the girl child.

When we talk about the Women's Reservation Bill and things like that, we find that female foeticide is so rampant in our country that it sounds like a bit of a joke. What I sadly regret is that the hon. President's Address did not even have a mere reference to deal with female foeticide leave alone dealing with how to curb it and stop it. I therefore urge upon the Government to make a multi-fold action plan first and foremost to change the mindset of the people regarding girl child and to put a stop to the rituals like dowry which, I feel, are the main reasons that the girl child is considered a burden and hence goes head to deal with female foeticide. After we deal with changing the mindset, parallelly we should start giving the options for the girl child to be able to go ahead in life which is by giving her access to the right environment of good education, good health facilities, etc. Even basic necessities like drinking water and toilets are to be provided. I regret to say that I come from a constituency which is so backward that in 80 per cent of my constituency, there is no drinking water. The moment the little girl child is five years old, she accompanies her mother to bring a pitcher of water on her head six times a day. When there is no drinking water, she has to go to the toilet under the cover of darkness. If there is a village school, if there are no teachers; there is no dispensary and there is no health care, how is this little girl ever going to get educated and to become the sarpanch or to reach this Parliament? So, I would appeal to the Government to look into these things.

I come to the girl child of the urban areas. We have literacy to the extent of 73 per cent. But in the rural India, it is only a measly 46 per cent. So, providing the right environment, I would say, is as important as providing the opportunity of making reservation to allow them to get in Parliament.

The hon. President also mentioned that 50 per cent of our country's population is below 25 years of age and the Government carries the burden of their dreams.

These dreams can only be realised if we face the stock reality that the youth of our country today is facing the menace of drug abuse. There is a menace called drug abuse which is rampant in the youth. Unless serious measures are taken to arrest and curb the people running and aiding these drug syndicates, opening numerous drug de-addiction centres will neither go to answer the problem nor save the youth of our country which, I feel, is the backbone of our country.

As an example, I would like to give the scenario of my State of Punjab. Punjab, being a border State, is in close proximity to the Golden Crescent which consists of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran which are the major manufacturers of opium. Punjab has emerged as the new hub for international drug trafficking. It has not only increased the amount of narcotics that is being pumped into our country, especially into my State leading to a whopping 45 per cent of the youth of Punjab into some kind of drug abuse or the other. I would also like to submit that one-fifth of the total recovery of heroin from our country is from Punjab and in 2008 alone, 502 kg of heroin was recovered from my State. So, concerted efforts should be made to strengthen the vigil on the international border along Punjab, Jammu and Rajasthan, particularly along the 12 kms. of riverine border where due to absence of fencing patrolling is done by boats. I regret to mention that while speaking on the issues of taking the youth ahead, the hon. President did not even make a mention as to how she plans to curb this menace which is crippling the very backbone of our country.

Today, our overseas youth is also in need of our country's help. The students who have gone abroad to study and work are being targeted due to their race, religion, colour and dress. The Sikh Community has not been able to get over the laws of the US regarding the turban screening or in French schools, now they are not allowed to wear their turbans, leave alone the latest racial attacks which have taken place in Australia. Instead of a weak intervention made by the Central Government on these issues, I would urge that we must act and be leaders in forming a consortium to wage a war against these prejudices and ugly mindsets to stop racial abuse against our youth and our Indian students who are studying abroad.

Madam Chairman, I would also like to say a few words about the flagship programmes mentioned by Her Excellency in her Address, particularly about the farmer

debt relief package of Rs. 65,000 crore. I would like to bring to your notice that Punjab, for decades, has been known as the granary of India. The proud Punjab farmer provides for over 50 per cent of the wheat and rice into the country's Central Food Pool. In a profession where all the prices of the major inputs like diesel, fertiliser and outputs like the MSP of the farmers' produce are decided by the Centre, agriculture is not only becoming non-lucrative but it is also becoming a vicious cycle of debt for most farmers. As 65 per cent of Punjab's population is into farming, outstanding loans advanced to Punjab farmers by banks, which was Rs. 6,200 crore in the year 2001, have now become Rs. 14,500 crore in 2008 and today's total burden on the Punjab farmer is close to Rs. 26,000 crore. Out of a total of Rs. 65,000 crore debt waiver package to the farmers of our country, what did the farmers of Punjab receive? It was a measly Rs. 750 crore which is just above one per cent of the total package. A State that gives 50 per cent of the total food grain to the country's food pool gets just one per cent in return for all its effort.

[Translation]

Is this not discrimination against Punjab and its farmer.

[English]

I would submit to this august House that the Punjab farmer feels totally cheated by this unfair distribution of the loan waiver.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Madam, I am sorry. You have to wind up now.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, please give me two minutes more. This is my first speech.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is why I am asking you to wind up. That means you will take two minutes more and wind up.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I will bring in decorum and obey you, as you say.

[Translation]

As far as BPL population is concerned, Punjab has a large number of the poor.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Madam, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is appreciating your speech. So I am giving you two minutes more.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I thank him for that.

[Translation]

Coming to BPL scheme, I would like to say that there is acute poverty in Punjab. There are lakhs of people in Punjab who do not get two square meals. Our state Government provides them flour at the rate of Rs. 4/- a Kg. and pulses at the rate of Rs. 20 a Kg. But the Central Government does not recognize them as poor. Not even five lakh families, out of a total 45 lakh poor families, are able to avail the benefits available to those belonging to BPL. Is the Central Government not aware of the fact that Punjab has the maximum population of SCs.

Madam, Punjab has only 11 per cent BPL families against SCs' population of 30 per cent in the State. Dalits, Majhabi, Adharmi and Balmiki comprise majority of them. They have no houses, no drinking water facility, no job nor even two square meals. Madam, this Government does not cover them under BPL nor does it provide them any assistance.

Madam, other states get a share of 26 per cent of centers tax collection, whereas Punjab gets only 1.36 per cent. I would like to know the reasons for this kind of discrimination against Punjab? Madam, be it central taxes, BPL scheme or any other schemes, all the fingers are not alike, I mean all the States are not treated at par with as different states have their own problems. The criteria for identification in the schemes such as Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in the field of education, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojanan in the field of agriculture, PMGSY in the field of infrastructure is that Punjab has not been able to derive even one percent benefit under these schemes. We requested for relaxing the norms so that Punjab can avail the benefits, but it has not been done.

In the end, I would request that justice should be done with Punjab. At the same time we demand our legitimate right also. Since we contribute something to the Centre, we have a right to demand also. If the Government does not want to give our legitimate right, I would request the Government through Kabir's couplet.

"Chiriya chonch bhar le gayi, nadi no ghataya neer,
Daan diye dhan na ghate, so kah gaye Das Kabir."

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Madam Chairperson, I rise to join the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which Her Excellency has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on June 4, 2009. I wholeheartedly support the motion as moved by you, Madam, and seconded by Shri P C Chacko.

Madam, before I go into the main discussion mode, I would like to respectfully place on record my sincere congratulations to the people of this great country for re-electing the UPA Government, and their faith and confidence bestowed to our leadership, Madam Chairperson hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister, hon. Dr Manmohan Singh. I do congratulate both of them for the smooth installation of the UPA Government and for everything. It is really excellent.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I would just like to remind you that you have only five minutes. We have already exceeded the time limit for this discussion.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Thank you Madam.

Madam, I take it a rare privilege to congratulate and greet my colleagues hon. Members of this august House for their success in the last election and more particularly the first timers and wish them all success.

Madam, Her Excellency has clearly drawn a roadmap of ideas and activities of the present Government for the next five years. The process is a continuous one. The vision of inclusive society and inclusive economy remains the guiding principle for formulating future policies and programmes. The ten broad areas of priorities in her speech speak of all what are to be said and done. The Government's commitment for the policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism deserves kudos from all of us. You know, terrorism is a war against humanity.

Madam, I now seek through you the indulgence of the hon. Members and that of the House on the concluding sentence of Para No. 10 of her Excellency's address:

"At the same time Government will continue to constructively engage with all groups that abjure violence in the Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country."

Madam, for your kind information, I am from North-East and belong to the State of Manipur. I do really welcome this gesture. My State is one of the worst affected States by insurgent movements. We have been looking for a solution to this problem of insurgency. I am of the opinion, and I have always been of the opinion, that no problem can defy a solution forever. Every problem has to have a solution. In this case, perhaps, a long-term solution has to be attempted and found. For that, we need to know the root causes of this particular movement, at the same time, the history of the country, particularly that of Manipur.

Her Excellency has given a right note on the success story of Bharat Nirman launched five years ago. We welcome the enhanced targets of Bharat Nirman in the second phase in respect of the Indira Awas Yojana, Rural Water Supply Programme, rural telecommunication, rural electrification, irrigation, and road connectivity. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi rightly said: "India lives in villages". For an equitable and sustainable development of the country, we have to develop rural India. Without fully developing rural India, our development process will never be complete. Development is the key to every problem of a developing country.

I do belong to a border State and we are quite a disadvantaged lot. As I have already mentioned, I belong to the State of Manipur. Many of my colleagues in this House might have not seen my State. I earnestly invite all of you to kindly pay a visit to my State. You will know for yourself her natural beauty, our flora and fauna, tourist destinations, the sporting activities, sport infrastructures – of course they are looking forward for regular maintenance – her simple, emotional and sentimental people living in the traditional lifestyles, her rich heritage in art and culture, the world famous 'Rasa Lila', our ancient handloom and handicraft. All these will surely attract you.

However, Madam, it remains a stark reality that in spite of the advancement of modern science, particularly of Information Technology, whatever good things happening in the mainland of this country take a long time to reach the border areas. We always feel that we are less understood. We do not mind for this because democracy is where majority matters. Still we wish that some worthwhile mechanism for implementation and delivery system can be evolved so that the desired development and the money for them reach those for

whom they are meant, and those disadvantaged lot in the border areas can feel that they are placed at par with those in the rest of the country.

Madam, we are fully aware that in some of these border States our revenue collections are not much. We live on the grants and loans given by the Union Government. We strongly and sincerely feel that this should not be allowed to continue. This can happen only when required infrastructure for development are properly put in place so that the revenue earning is multiplied. This is not impossible. There are enough such potential yet to be exploited in these Border States. I wish the Government here at the Centre should start taking such initiatives and guide the respective State Governments so that the Governments make themselves self-reliant and progress in its full potential.

Madam, the next hundred days during which this Government will initiate steps on as many as 25 measures are really challenging. We appreciate the boldness of the new Government. As has been seen in the last five years of UPA regime, the success is going to happen. This is for the good of everybody. For this success, infrastructure development is very crucial. The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects are to be encouraged. The PPPs should be made more investment friendly.

Madam, the country is now in the mission mode. The capability of implementing these missions in a more significant manner depends on the ability of the leadership. Hon Members, today we have the perfect leadership. Please remember how the leadership managed to sail through the famous Indo-US nuclear deal in the last Lok Sabha.

Our Foreign Policy is in the right mode. Our relationships with our immediate neighbourhood are good and cordial. The global climate change, which is threatening the entire universe, is being proactively addressed through our eight national missions.

Madam, we salute the young people of this great country and the leadership given by our young and dynamic friend, hon. Shri Rahul Gandhi in the last Parliamentary elections. The yield was enormous and we are very proud of him. Still much more is yet to come and happen.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You may lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: I am on my last sentence.

Once again I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I do wholeheartedly support the Motion and urge upon all the hon. Members of this august House to make it unanimously passed.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Madam Chairperson, first of all I would like to thank you for having granted me an opportunity to speak on BJP's behalf. I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The Leader of BJP and Leader of Opposition hon. Advaniji has said that it has been tradition in the House that the whole House moves Motion of Thanks by voice vote on Presidents' Address. Therefore, supporting the Motion of Thanks, I would like to dwell upon the points where in the hon. President has made a mention of policies and programmes of the Government. Mainly, I would like to point out that Her Excellency, the President in her speech had said that the Government has returned with a thumping majority. But by saying that the Government has returned with a majority and public mandate, we are falsifying the arithmetic. It is not a truth. Election was held for 543 Lok Sabha seats. Out of it, the Congress Party won 206 seats and UPA, a total of 264 seats, whereas, 271 seats are required for absolute majority. The mad race for extending support at the time of formation of the Government is indicative of the fact as to how CBI or the power is misused. So it can't be said a thumping mandate. It is nothing more than misleading the public.

Apart from it, several other aspects should have been incorporated in the Address. Still, we assume that the Congress Party led Government cannot say that it did not get an opportunity. Since, 1952 till today or since independence the Congress Party had been in power for most of the years and other parties got very less time to be in power. Even in these 62 years, if we failed to develop our country or could not become a super power in the world, the whole responsibility goes to the Congress and to none else. The country has been ruled for the last 50 years only on the basis of slogans and promises. Those promises and slogans can be seen in the said Address also. These slogans are in

this format. A lot has been said. My preceding speaker has quite frankly commented thereupon. I would like to thank mainly for including two issues. First, it is One-Rank-One Pension. A time-bound programme has been drawn up for it. It is scheduled to be finalised by the end of June 2009. It will be termed as a welcome step for showing the respect towards our armed forces personnel by the Government and the nation as well. Second issue is unique identity card for every citizen in the country. A large number of Bangladeshi intruders are illegally staying in our country. They are not only creating a job problem in our country but also weakening our economy. They have been creating serious problem for our national security and also creating law and order problem. I doubt, the Government will be able to complete the time bound programme of giving unique identity cards (UIC) to the citizens. For, when the issue of losing vote banks comes, I doubt the Government will be in a position to do it. But they have drawn a 100 Day's agenda and they will stay here beyond these 100 days also alongwith us. I wish the Government last for five years. But, during next five years, several occasions will come, when we will surely remind them about this Address, their promises and the slogans.

Madam, there are several other issues which need to be raised.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your time is over now, let me tell you. The allotted time for the party is over.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: You are not allowing me to thank the President, I have stood up to thank the Government and H.E. Madam President.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: A lot of Members want to speak but there is shortage of time what can be done.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): He has just started.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Madam, I have just started.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I give you two minutes more. You please wind up. There are 30-35 more Members to speak. You can understand that nobody is going to sit till 2 o' clock. When the last Members come, only one Member will remain there by that time.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Madam, there is one full day tomorrow.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No, there is Prime Minister's speech tomorrow at 12 noon. So we have one hour

from 11 to 12 o' clock and some more Members are going to speak during that time. Please, cooperate with me. You have given a long background.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I am not giving any background, I am only presenting the truth before you.

Madam, there are a lot of things to be discussed. In our country, we talk a lot about poverty but never ponder over the reasons behind it. Why does the House not think of a uniform policy for the entire country to check population? I think that we will have to create resources to meet the requirements of the increasing population. But, today, it seems that all our economical resources have failed completely and lack of a uniform population policy has also come before us as a major reason for that. I would like to submit that there is no mention of any measures by the Government in respect of population control and towards making the country self-reliant. Who is responsible for starvation deaths and suicides by the farmers? After independence, the Congress party has ruled the country for the maximum time and in spite of that are only trying to tell us through assurances that they will do this thing and they will do that thing, but, these promises and announcements are not going to work for the welfare of the country and neither can we stop the starvation deaths nor the suicides by the farmers in the country as a result of the wrong policies formulated by the Government.

Relations with neighbouring countries were also discussed here. It has been mentioned in the address of the hon. President as well. Sri Lanka and Pakistan were also mentioned here but no serious discussion was held so far regarding Nepal, with whom India has always had cultural and strong relations.

Madam Chairman, some how Nepal is becoming the centre for all the terrorist attacks that are taking place today in India. The 1751 kilometers of border with Nepal is completely porous. We have had ancient cultural relations with Nepal. Earlier the open borders with Nepal was safe for us, but, today we have allowed the Maoists to dominate in Nepal. The Government of India did not help Nepal due to which Maoism grew in Nepal. For the last one week Indian Vehicles are being set on fire in Nepal and Indian Cinema has been banned and if any Indian goes there, he is being attacked. I am not talking about Australia here. We have old ties with Nepal, in spite of that, such incidents are taking place. Not only this, the rivers originating from Nepal are creating havoc in India at the time of floods. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are 3-4 Members from your own party and only 30 minutes of time is left for your party.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Our internal security is facing a threat due to the Maoist activities in Nepal. Measures should also be taken to save our country from the natural calamity of floods. Last year homes of lakhs of people were destroyed due to the heavy floods of the Saptakoshi river in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but, so far no sincere efforts have been made in this regard. Talks should be held with Nepal and work on Pancheshwar, Saptakoshi, Karnali and Bhalu water projects should be started. In the absence of any advance measures in this regard, lakh of people suffer every year due to this calamity. They fall prey to diseases once they become flood victims. *...(Interruptions)* Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government that whenever it holds talks with the Government of Nepal, it should tell Nepal in regard to internal security, that it needs to check terrorist activities from the soil of Nepal strictly. We should think as to how we can control the flooding rivers emanating from Nepal and utilize that water in the interest of the nation in the form of power generation. The Government may kindly take necessary action with regard to all these things even if it is not there in the President's address.

Madam Chairman, discussion regarding internal security has been held here. Previous figures show that during the last five years till date, ever since this Government has been formed, Naxalism which existed in 56 districts has now increased and spread across 200 districts. Naxalism is posing a challenge to the sovereignty of this nation. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your one sentence has conveyed the entire thing. Now your statement will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Basheer Sahib, now you speak. Your time has started.

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): If he is talking like that, nobody will hear me. Both cannot talk at the same time.

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI MADHUSUDAN YADAV (Rajnandgaon): Madam, mention has been made in H.E. President's Address to strengthen the internal security but there is no mention of any special action-plan to deal with Naxalities who are killing forest dwellers, tribals, Government employees, security personnel everyday in Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh etc.

The Government should make a national policy to deal with naxalism so that tribals and forest dwellers can be protected and the people of these states feel secure.

[*English*]

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Madam, I stand to support the Motion of Thanks moved in this august body expressing thanks to the President's speech.

I express my heartfelt thanks for giving me this opportunity to make my maiden speech in this august body. As far as our organisation is concerned, that is, the Muslim League, we stand for secular, democratic process of our country. I hail from Ponnani Constituency of Kerala, which has given commendable contribution in the National movement. Therefore, I would like to say that as far as our organisation is concerned we are proud enough to have maintained our relationship with the UPA.

Before mentioning about my other observations on the President's speech, I would like to mention an important thing here. Much before the polls an eminent leader of Kerala CPM — who is having National-level predominance also — proclaimed that not even a single Member from the Muslim League will see the 15th Lok Sabha. Madam, by the grace of Almighty, we are here with flying colours. We are proud enough to say that our association with the UPA, led by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, had been proved as a correct political measure.

We will have to verify the political situation as well as the contents of the President's speech in detail. What exactly is the position of those organisations who pretend themselves to be the champions of the downtrodden section in the Indian politics? Let us take the example of CPM. Even today's and yesterday's developments in

Kerala show that the Marxist Party has lost its political credibility. They are facing political credibility crisis maybe because of their misdeeds. With all the humbleness at my command I would like to say that these are all the basic reasons for their defeat.

16.57 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Now, coming to the President's Address, paragraph No. 28 deals with minority affairs. As far as minorities are concerned, there are so many recommendations, commissions, assurances, guarantees and promises, and they are in plenty. I would like to say that the minorities in the country are really fed-up with these types of conditions. What is the outcome? There was the Mandal Commission Report in 1978; there was a High Power Panel led by Dr. Gopal Singh in 1983, which was appointed during Shrimati Indira Gandhi's period; there was the National Education Policy in 1986, which has emphasised on minority education; there was the National Commission for Minorities in 1999 with strong recommendations; there was the Prime Minister's Revised 15-Point Programme in 2006; and lastly the Justice Sachar Committee Report in November 2006. Above all, the Constitutional provisions are also there. Therefore, there are dozens of observations, recommendations, guidelines and liberal schemes for the socio-economic development of the minorities. But what is the outcome of all these? What is the final result? Let us examine it.

As regards the Sachar Committee, we are all discussing about the Sachar Committee, which is known as the Magna Carta of the minorities. I do agree that there are very good recommendations in it like targeted intervention in 19 Muslim predominant areas; skill-development; artisan activities; opening of new schools; teacher training schools; and things like that.

17.00 hrs.

Inclusion of minority representatives in various interview boards, opening of branches of national banks with liberalized loan facilities, hostels, scholarship, adequate representation in public sector, strengthening of Maulana Azad Foundation, effective and modified implementation of Wakf Act, formation of Equal Opportunities Commission, national databank, autonomous monitoring, etc., all these recommendations

*Speech was laid on the Table.

are there; they are beautiful recommendations. However, I am sorry to say that almost all the recommendations are remaining as dead letters.

I do not forget the fact that this UPA Government did something commendable in this regard. An example of that is the introduction of 27 per cent reservation in the higher educational institutions; similarly, scholarship scheme; then, earmarking of SSA funds exclusively for minority education development; and, then, passing of Minority Education Act.

Hon. Rashtrapathi Ji, in her speech, has announced that the setting up of the Equal Opportunities Commission will be speeded up. Similarly, Wakf Act is also going to be modified, according to Her Speech.

In this context, I would like to point out that a loud thinking is required on this: "What about the operational strategy?" Recommendations are there in volumes, but what about the programme of action, what about their implementation? We have to realize that the implementation strategy is very, very poor.

An apprehension arose in the minds of the minorities as to whether the Commission will also meet the same fate of the previous Commissions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Sir, I have just started my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have only five minutes time.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Please keep in mind that the sorrows of the minorities cannot be solved with statistical information, and with figures alone; some concrete steps should be taken and meticulous monitoring should be there. I am urging the Government to have a concrete programme of action on the implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee. In addition to that, a parliamentary committee may also be formed to examine and to verify the progress of the implementation.

Now, Sir, there is a National Minorities Commission. It is okay, and it is doing a very good work, but it is powerless because it has no authority. Even if the National Minorities Commission feels that injustice has been done, they, however, have no power to summon any officer; it is like a toothless lion – it will only roar, but it cannot bite.

What I am suggesting is that statutory power should be given to the Minorities Commission without any further delay. I am even suggesting that this may be included in the 100-day programme of this Government. I hope that this Government will do it.

Now, Sir, coming to the recommendations of the Ranganath Mishra Commission, we all know that it has submitted its report two years ago. It is a very good report which the Commission has submitted because they have suggested affirmative action – what should be done for the redressal of the grievances of the minorities. It has been categorically stated in the *Visakha* Case, but unfortunately that has not yet been discussed on the floor of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay rest of your written speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Kindly give me two more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: I am going to conclude. Kindly give me two more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of speakers who are yet to speak.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: I am suggesting that the report of the Ranganath Mishra Commission should be discussed threadbare. I am suggesting that the report may also be placed before this august Body.

I am raising a very important point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This should be your last point in which everybody may be concerned.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Our Law Minister, who is sitting here, was the former Minister of Education in Karnataka. About higher education, there is a mention in the Address. My congratulations because we have started discussing about 'brain gain' instead of 'brain drain'; that is a marvelous step. However, I am inviting the attention of this august body to the deplorable condition of the self-financing professional colleges in our country. At the time of admission, the professional colleges are facing an acute crisis. There are so many Supreme Court judgments – the Law Minister may be knowing that – for example, in the case of TMI Foundation, Islamic Academia, Inaamdar, etc.

[Shri Mohammed E.T. Basheer]

Sir, commercialisation of education is on the increase. Meritorious students are ignored and education has become unreachable for the poor students. I urge upon the Government of India to come forward with an enactment at the national level in order to regularise the self-financed colleges in the country. I have more to say but as you suggested I would like to place the text of the rest of my speech on the Table.

I am optimistic. I have full confidence that this Government can deliver the goods. I hope that this Government will be a Government that works. I wish all the best to the Government and once again support the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address. With these words I conclude.

*I support the Thanks Motion moved by Dr. Girija Vyas. I hail from Ponnal constituency of Kerala which has given commendable contribution in the national movement.

My organization Muslim League is working for the upliftment of minorities through secular democratic process. We are proud enough to have association with UPA led by Smt. Sonia Ji and this Government headed by Shri Manmohan Singh. Sir, talking about Kerala political situation after the election it has been proved that our State is a fertile land for U.D.F. and at the same time a grave-yard for the left forces. Sir, much before the polls, a prominent CPM Leader who is having fame at the national level proclaimed that not even a Muslim League Member will enter into the 15th Lok Sabha. By the Grace of God, we are here with the flying colours. All the redundant claims of CPM has been crushed into dust. Even if we analyze the yesterday's and today's development in Kerala State it can be said that the CPM is facing acute credibility crisis which they have never faced in the political history before. With all the humbleness I would like to say that it is undoubtedly proved once again that the God is Great. Now, coming to the Address of the President para 28 of the page 9 of President's Speech deals with the minorities. Sir, we had enough Commissions, Assurances, Guarantees, Promises for the upliftment of the minorities. They are in plenty and the minorities in the country has fed up with the recommendations. Let us go to various reports- 1978 it is Mandal Commission, 1983 High Power Panel led by Dr. Gopalsingh which was appointed during the tenure of Smt. Indira Gandhi. Again in 1986 National

Education Policy with a special emphasise for minority education 1999 National Commission for Minorities with strong recommendations, 2006 Prime Minister's revised 15 Point Programme and lastly 2006 Justice Sachar Committee Report. Above all, constitutional provisions are also there. Dozens of observations, beautiful guidelines, liberal schemes for socio-economic development are there in volumes. Let us talk on Sachar Committee Report which is known as Magna Carta of Minorities. Surely there are very good recommendations.

- Targeted intervention in 90 identified minority districts ensuring civic amenities and economic opportunities.
- Skill and Entrepreneurship development
- Artisan activities
- Opening of new schools
- Girls only schools, teachers training schools, etc.
- Inclusion of minority representation in various interview boards.
- Opening up of branches of Nationalised Banks with flexible condition for providing loans to minority community members.
- Hostel for girls.
- Scholarship schemes.
- Adequate representation in public sector
- Strengthening of Moulana Azad Foundation
- Effective and modified implementation of Wakf Act.
- Formation of equal opportunity Commission.
- National Data Bank on statistical information on minorities.
- Autonomous monitoring authorities.

Sir, I am sorry to state that most of the recommendations are remaining in dead-letters. I do not forget the fact that the UPA Government has taken some substantial steps in some of the issues, such as introduction of 27% of reservation in Higher Education Institutions, the Scholarship Scheme earmarking SSA Funds. Passing Minority Education Act.

.... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

Hon'ble Rastrapathi Ji in her speech had announced that Equal Opportunities Act, will be expedited. It is also mentioned that the necessary modification will be done in the WAKF Act. Surely, these are all the silver lines in the dark clouds. Sir, I feel that some loud thinking is required on the implementation of Sachar Committee Recommendations. I wish to point out that there is no clear cut operational strategy, no programme of action, no monitoring system and above all, some states are acting as they are unaware of all these things. Sir, I would like to point out that an apprehension has started running in the minds of the minorities whether this Commission will also have the same fate of other Commissions in the past. We have to keep it in mind that the sorrows of minorities cannot be solved with statistical facts and figures of that status. What is required is concrete steps. Time-bound programme of action and monitoring. I urge upon the Government to assert on these recommendations and kindly convert words into deeds. I also suggest a Parliamentary Committee also be constituted to monitor the progress of the implementation of this significant report. I am confident that this Government can do it on a war-footing level.

Now, I would like to say an important thing on National Minority Commission. They are doing very good work. But it is powerless. Even if the Commission feels that injustice has been done, they cannot summon any officer or anybody concerned. In fact, this Commission is a toothless lion. It can only roar but cannot bite. They are having only recommendatory and suggestive nature and in such a circumstances, who is going to listen them? I urge upon the Government to provide statutory power to the Commission. I would like to make an humble appeal to this Government that giving statutory power to Minority Commission may be included in the 100 days programme of UPA Government. Sir, now I would like to say about Rangnath Mishra Commission. This Commission has submitted its report 2 years ago. I understand that this commission has made specific suggestions in respect of affirmative action to be taken to redress the grievances of the minorities. This report has not yet been placed before this August Body. I feel, a threadbare discussion on this report is very much required. So, I appeal this Government to table this report in the Parliament. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to a burning issue prevailing the higher education sector in our country. In Rastrapathi's Address it has been announced that National Higher Education Council in the light of knowledge Commission and

Planning Commission will be constituted. It is most welcome.

Hearty congratulations that we have started talking on brain gain instead of brain drain about which we were so concerned since the last many decades. I invite the kind attention of this August Body to an issue pertaining to higher education that is on admission into professional colleges in self financing sectors. Sir, utter confusion is prevailing on the admission criteria and the modalities in these colleges. I do admit that various judgments are there. Cases likes Unikrishnan, TMFI Foundation, Inamdari, Islamic Academy, etc. are there. I do not want to enter into the merits and demerits of the case. But I would like to say that commercialization is increasing. Social justice has not been adhered to. Poor and meritorious students are kept away from the so called elite private institutions. Managements are at liberty to run this institutions according to their whims and fancies. Hon'ble Law Minister Shri Virappa Moily who was the Education Minister in Karnataka is sitting in the House. He may be aware more than me. Sir, my point at this juncture is the necessity of enactment of a law for all the professional colleges in self financing sectors.

Para 19 of the Rashtrapatiji's speech is on empowerment of women, social security initiatives, relief measures aiming the welfare of the poor and downtrodden. These are all good things. I congratulate the Government. Sir, I would like to bring one important matter to the notice of this August Body that is in respect of pathetic condition of the chronic patients suffering from cancer, kidney disorders, various therapies and transplantations, financial assistance provided to poor patients suffering from these disease are grossly insufficient and poor patient cannot afford treatment provided by the private hospitals and the Government facilities are not adequate. So, I am suggesting that the Government should think about a comprehensive centrally sponsored scheme to help these ill-fated patients. Sir, I would like to conclude saying that I am optimistic about the functioning of this Government. I feel that this Government will be a Government that works. I wish all the best to the Government and once again express my thanks for the policy declaration speech of the Rashtrapatiji.*

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this chance to take part in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address.

[Shri Narahari Mahato]

Hon. Members have narrated the various points mentioned in the Address of *Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji*. On behalf of my party All India Forward Bloc, I rise to support the President's Address. I have mainly three points to make in this regard and they are relating to agriculture, health and rural development.

Regarding agriculture, the momentum of public investment in agriculture and irrigation, built up in the last five years, will be further expanded through three major instruments – the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the National Food Security Mission, and the National Horticulture Mission. Sixty-two years have passed since Independence. Congress-led Governments ruled India for more than 49 years. But the distress of farmers have not been removed. On behalf of my party I would like to say that more public investment in agriculture should be made as that would prove to be fruitful to the poor and marginal farmers and all other distressed people in the country. People who are involved in the agricultural activities are committing suicides day by day. The aid released by the Government is not reaching the people at the grassroots level. So, a Central legislation for agricultural workers should be enacted in this regard.

I have been elected to this Lok Sabha from a backward District in West Bengal called Purulia. After 62 years of our Independence, a proper irrigation system has not been yet built in that area. Many incomplete schemes which are sanctioned by the Central Government are languishing because of a lack of release of funds. So, irrigation facilities should be enhanced for helping the poor farmers. That will prove useful in providing financial benefit to the poor farmers.

Subsidy on agriculture should be given directly to the farmers. Fertiliser and all other allied agricultural inputs and materials are not available in sufficient quantities. The Government should provide the necessary help to people engaged in agriculture, cottage industries and SSI units. A comprehensive, scientific crop insurance scheme covering all crops should be initiated to provide adequate minimum support for agricultural products.

If proper marketing facilities are made available for agricultural and SSI products, it would be helpful for the poor farmers.

Regarding rural development, most of the disadvantages have set in and it is regrettable to say these things. Regarding transportation, especially in the

Railways, after 62 years of Independence, Jhargram-Purulia Railway line has been neglected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak about the railways during the discussion on the Railway Budget, after a month.

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: It should be done, which will be helpful to the backward district. Regarding all other progressive work, it should be done with sincerity.

Again, I thank you for having given me the chance to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Sir, kindly permit me to convey my congratulations to the hon. Speaker, Shrimati Meira Kumar and hon. Deputy-Speaker Shri Karia Munda for assuming the Office of the Speaker as the first woman-Speaker in Independent India and the Office of the Deputy-Speaker respectively.

I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which the hon. President had delivered to both the Houses of Parliament on the 4th June. I thank the President for congratulating us on our winning the elections. We will definitely come up to the expectations of the people who have reposed faith in us by sending us to the Lower House.

I want to bring to the notice of the House that the policies followed by the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, the hon. Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi Ji, the Congress President, as well as many flagship programmes implemented successfully have reached the people; and in Andhra Pradesh, the welfare measures pursued by the Government headed by hon. Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had helped us once again in forming the Government. Out of 42 Lok Sabha seats, the Congress Party had won 33 seats. I am sure, the Government will keep this contribution made by the State of Andhra Pradesh, while formulating the policies and schemes for overall development of the State.

For example, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, headed by the Chief Minister, Shri Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, had implemented many welfare schemes for the poor, like Rs. 2 a k.g. of rice, 60,000 Indiramma houses, Arogyashree Health Insurance Scheme for Rs. 2 lakh and paise 25 interest for the self-help groups, etc. They

helped strengthen women's cause, and irrigation projects were helpful to the poor; hence, they voted the Congress Government to continue in the Government, in Andhra Pradesh.

I had gone through the President's Address again and again; and I have no hesitation in complimenting the UPA Government for its action plan as it is a unique one in the post-Independent era. It seeks to achieve schemes with specified time-lines of 100 days, six months, annual, three years and five years. It will transform the face of India in the next five years. There is no doubt that the plan covers all sections of the people and all the regions in our country.

In this context, since women constitute half of the population of the country, the focus on women is a step in the right direction. As all of you know, 'where there is a will, there is a way'. It is a famous proverb. Gandhi had seen this in the light of women and said that if women will, they can help in the fulfillment of *Ahimsa*.

Ahimsa was the means of life to Gandhi. It is the means to reach Truth. Gandhi realized that to operate Ahimsa the will power of women is inevitable. Here Gandhi was talking about the psychological empowerment of women. The economic empowerment can be possible by using *charkha* and women also are powerful to abolish the social evils like *pardah* and untouchability. M.K.Gandhi was unambiguous in the recognition of the fact that the women clearly had a positive role to offer in the reconstruction of society. He declared himself uncompromising in the matter of women's rights because in order to bring about social justice, the recognition of equality of women was imperative.

In the President's Address, the proposed elements of women's empowerment are many, like one-third representation in Parliament and State Legislatures, a Constitutional amendment to ensure 50 per cent reservation in Panchayats, and the promise to wipe out female illiteracy in five years. In this connection, I suggest to the Government to start new schools and colleges, exclusively for girls, in educationally backward districts or by taking a parliamentary constituency as a unit. I would request the Government to start special degree colleges for the disabled people, especially for the blind with latest learning techniques. If these schools are set up, the State of Andhra Pradesh will immensely benefit. This is going to transform the socio-economic and cultural face of India. I thank the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia

Gandhiji and our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji for their bold and innovative endeavours. I sincerely believe that our friends in the Opposition will unanimously support these Bills.

The flagship National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is the largest programme in the world for rural reconstruction. It has rightly found a place in the Address because of the overwhelming public response. I welcome the creation of district level ombudsmen for social audit of the NREGS and for ensuring grievance redressal. This will increase the transparency and further strengthen implementation of the NREGA. I want to bring to the kind notice of Government that at present the Nagar Panchayats, grade II and grade III municipal areas with lot of agricultural lands and laborers are not covered by NREGP. I would request the Government to expand the scope of NREGP so that agricultural land productivity could be increased.

The proposed Rajiv Awas Yojana to evolve a slum-free India in the next five years is a welcome step. Our Government will build 120 lakhs more rural houses over the next five years which is double the number built between 2004 and 2009. I do hope the Rural Water Supply Scheme will be completed by 2011. Of course, every panchayat will have broadband network over the next five years. Then, public sector banks will be recapitalized and the pension sector will have a new regulator. This will strengthen the economy. As we all know, rural health institutions suffer from chronic shortage of professionals, a new National Council for Human Resources in health will definitely deliver supply of skilled health personnel.

Another thing is autonomy in education through an independent regulatory authority and a thorough overhaul of the higher education system will further strengthen the educational system.

I welcome the Government's initiative to spend more on infrastructure through public private partnership projects to tackle the global crisis. At the same time, the UPA Government will maintain fiscal discipline.

The welfare, upgradation and reform measures enumerated for Armed Forces and the police forces will definitely strengthen the internal security and preparedness of our forces to counter terrorism.

India always aspires for good relations with all countries. There is no doubt about it but recent attacks

[Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi]

on Indian students in Australia need to be condemned. Two students from Andhra Pradesh also died there. I urge the Government to take steps to provide protection and security to the Indian students studying in Australia.

In the next five years with the consolidation of programmes, with maintenance of at least 8.5 per cent GDP growth rate coupled with low prices and the subsidies reaching the needy and the poorer sections of the society, the proposed decade of innovation with increased employability skills of the youth, our great country, India will lead the world.

The hon. President, in her speech, has said that we the elected representatives should act as catalysts in transforming the dreams and aspirations of our electorate. I am very confident that the UPA Government, led by our hon. Prime Minister, will make these dreams a reality.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Dr. Girija Vyas.

Sir, firstly I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and his Council of Ministers for their great victory.

Sir, Her Excellency, the hon. President while addressing both the Houses of Parliament has said that General Elections is the greatest festival of democracy. I agree and even the entire country would agree on this. I would not like to elaborate on this. But one worrying factor is the fact that from 1952 to this date if you look at the figures then one would find that a sizeable section of our electorate is not casting their votes. They seem to be not interested in this; especially the urbanites and the so called literates are not participating in this process of election. Another important factor to be considered is that we spent about Rs. 1.68 lakhs in conducting the elections in 1952 but now we are spending Rs. 1300 crore for conducting a General Election. But now out of 71 crore registered voters, more than 35 crores voters are not casting their votes. It is a matter of great concern. I am not trying to pinpoint any Government or any political party for this. The point

is that it is a matter of great concern. The political parties, the Election Commission would have to sit together and think about this situation and devise means as to how to motivate people to participate in this voting process. This aspect has to be considered by the Government. In my opinion it is a matter of serious concern. This festival, if it has to be more meaningful then the Government, the political parties and the Election Commission jointly would have to think about it.

Sir, I am very happy to note that the hon. President has mentioned about 'Zero Tolerance' about terrorism. This is really good. But I would like to ask one question in this regard. The UPA might have won this election but at the same time the person who attacked Parliament, why has he not been hanged even after the Supreme Court has awarded a capital punishment to that particular person? Why the capital punishment awarded to him is not being implemented? I wish that the hon. Home Minister should necessarily clarify this point. His petition is pending before the Government for the last five years. When Shri Anant Geete ji was referring to this point some cross talks were going on that this issue is over. The issue is never over. The UPA may have won the elections but the issue still persists. What do this Government mean by 'Zero Tolerance'? The person who attacked the Indian Parliament, the Temple of Democracy, even after the pronouncement of capital punishment by the apex court, the judgement of the court has not been implemented. What is the reason for this?

Sir, my next point is about Bangladesh Border Fencing. Out of 62 years of our Independence, the Congress Party has ruled this country for almost 52 to 53 years and yet the Bangladesh border has not been fenced properly. It is not guarded properly. There is a report that more than three crores of illegal Bangladeshi migrants are in India and they are associated with terrorist groups. They are staying mostly in areas of Assam and in the North Eastern region and they are associated with terrorist outfits like ULFA and are supporting terrorist activities.

What do you mean by zero tolerance? Just by making statements, you cannot end terrorism. Just one such incident happened in the United States of America. After that, not a single incident has taken place there. Why? It is because that is the will of the Government. It does not mean that in the previous Government of

any other country, there were no terrorist incidents. There were terrorist incidents but after one incident, we should learn a lesson from it.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): Parliament attack took place in your regime and not in the Congress regime. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. He is not yielding. Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Parliament attack was during our Government but within three years, he was awarded death sentence. This never happened in the history of Congress regime. It was only because of the NDA Government and the POTA that it happened.

You have ruled the country for 52 years and you are now talking of those things.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Nothing will go on record. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Mumbai attack has happened in your regime and you took 12 hours to send the NSG commandos from Delhi to Mumbai. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair, Mr. Joshi.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, when he is disturbing me, how can I address the Chair? When Mumbai attack took place, to send the NSG commandos from Delhi to Mumbai, this Government took 12 hours. Such a thing never happened during the NDA Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, it should be expunged from the record.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will go through the proceedings.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Another important point is pertaining to my State, Karnataka. I would like to urge upon the Government to combat the terrorist activities

which have come to the doorsteps of Karnataka also including naxal activities. The Chief Minister and the State Government are demanding persistently for a NSG unit at Bangalore. They are repeatedly requesting for it and have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, I have just started and you are asking me to conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many Members to participate.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, I will speak for another two to three minutes and I will then lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

Bangalore is the IT capital of India and the fastest growing city in Asia. We demand for a NSG unit in Bangalore. Other cities in the country are mentioned for it but not Bangalore which is the most important city. It is the IT capital. I urge upon the Government not to consider the party which is ruling there. Kindly look into the developments of Bangalore in the IT sector and provide a NSG unit in Bangalore. This is my humble request.

Hon. President has also talked about revival of agriculture and its glory. For the last five years, I have demanded many times that crop insurance scheme should be more farmer-friendly and gram panchayat should be made as a unit. This is not being implemented for the last five years. One of the reports has already mentioned that, if given an opportunity, more than 70 per cent of the farmers do not want to continue their farming activity as it is not viable economically. With that point in mind, we are requesting the Government to make crop insurance more farmer-friendly and make gram panchayat as the unit. In spite of our repeated request, the Government is not considering it.

I also urge the Government for proper water management.

The Planning Commission, in its Report, indicated about the seriousness of the water crisis that the country will face unless the Government takes substantial measures. According to this Report, the demand for water for irrigation, drinking and energy will increase to 1000 billion cubic meters by 2025; the demand for irrigation alone is likely to increase by several billion cubic meters

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

in the next fifteen years; farmers are likely to require 900 billion cubic meters in 2025; whereas the need for drinking water is likely to increase to 73 billion cubic meters by the next 25 years; while the demand for industry will be 23 billion cubic meters by 2025. This large requirement of water will not be met unless the water resource is augmented within the country.

It is a very serious matter. They have talked about linkage of rivers and proper water management in the country. They should seriously think about them. Otherwise, both agriculture and drinking water will be put into problems.

Lastly, my constituency, Hubli-Dharwad, which is the second largest city in Karnataka after Bengaluru, is facing serious water problem. The present Government there is trying to implement the third stage of Malpura project and the State Government is trying to give 24 hour water supply to the entire Hubli-Dharwad city. For that the State Government has already invested Rs. 202 crore. It is around Rs. 560 crore project. The State Government has asked for Central assistance for the balance amount on the PPP model. I urge upon the Government to clear it immediately and see that Hubli-Dharwad water problem is addressed effectively.

I have some other points to make. I may kindly be permitted to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can do so.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Yes. Thank you.

*I support the motion of thanks on the President's Address on 4th of this month. Firstly I take this opportunity of my first speech in the 15 Lok Sabha to warmly congratulate Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh and Smt Sonia Gandhi for steering their alliance to a victory and securing a better mandate.

I have proposed about 14 amendments to the President's address but due to want of time I would press some of them by touching upon them. Her Excellency the President at the very outset i.e., in para 5 of her speech termed recently concluded elections for 15th Lok Sabha as a greatest festival of Democracy. It is quite so, Speaker Madam that it is really a great festival as we are the biggest democracy in the world

and the kind of the size of the activities and process and the large population takes part in makes it a big festival.

But I am constrained to say I cannot be in fully agreement with this remark. How can it be a festival without the sizable electorate staying away from the polling, which is causing considerable and constant decline in the percentage of voting since 1952. But there seems to be no attempt by Government to at least show concern about this aspect, which is certainly not in the larger interest of our vibrant democracy. There is no mention in the President speech to address this worrying factor. We have not been able to maintain a respectable polling percentage; why in every election about 40 to 50 percent of our voters do not come to polling booths to exercise their constitutional obligations. What prevents them from performing their democratic duty?

Please look at these statistics. The Government's spending on LS polls has increased from a mere Rs. 1.68 crores to a huge Rs. 1300 crores till the recent elections. It is almost 60 times more since 1952 with only 2.7 times growth in the voters from the first LS polls in 1952, nearly three times more. Now we have 71 crore voters a huge one from any angles. Out of this 71 crores about half i.e., 35 crores of voters not turning up. So I urge upon this Government to seriously think from the very first session of 15th Lok Sabha and a joint effort from the both Government and Election Commission needs to be done to go into this important aspect and to make this process a real festival of our democracy.

ZERO TOLERANCE TOWARDS TERRORISM:

I am happy and for that matter every one should be so for the reason there is a mention in para 9 about the Government's resolve to have zero tolerance towards terrorists and terrorism. The President's speech makes the reference about stern measures to handle insurgency and left wing extremism. But it is very ironical that at one end the Government says about zero tolerance towards terrorists but at another and pursuing a clandestine and masquerading tolerance to those who have committed most heinous crime on the entire people of India by attacking Parliament House. What kind of zero tolerance is it? This Government owes an explanation otherwise people of India will not believe zero tolerance song. Now let there be an amendment to the effect that, "but regret that there is no mention in

... This part of the speech laid on the Table.

the address about the speedy execution of the terrorist convicted for attack on Parliament". There is also mention in the address about opening new hubs of NSG units in other places but once again there is no mention about Bangalore in Karnataka despite a vociferous demand by the State. Bangalore is fastest growing city in Asia and it is known fact that terrorism has come to the door step of Karnataka with some incidents in Bangalore as well as in remote parts of the States. Please remember how there was inordinate delay in forces reaching Mumbai during the blasts and as a result more lives were lost. Had there been the NSG units nearby Mumbai the terrorists' acts could have been effectively contained. So in this background Bangalore should be immediately provided NSG unit.

Bangalore is IT Capital of India. It is also good that we must have multi-purpose identity cards.

1. There should be Zero tolerance.
2. Afzal guru who attacked parliament should be hanged.
3. The visitors who come from neighbouring countries or over staying even after expiry of visa. Terrorists who were arrested in Hampi in my State Karnataka, their visa had expired long back.

REVIVAL OF AGRICULTURAL GLORY:

There is no mention in the address about a concrete scheme by which the Indian agriculture gets a new life in terms of farmers getting meaningful sops. There has been a consistent demand to make the present scheme of Agricultural Insurance more meaningful to include more and more crops and making every village panchayat as unit. There has been a consistent demand for concrete support price policy for agricultural produce. But to my utter disappointment both these important issues are not addressed.

It is requested that the government should include all the crops under crop insurance scheme. Government should give minimum support Price to farmers. There should be 4% interest rate to farmers who go for crop loans. Karnataka government is providing this facility to all farmers whether they are small, big or medium.

What are the plans of government about solving the drinking water crisis? Even in my constituency Hubli dharwad facing serious water problems. State government

has already stated 3rd stage of the project and has requested the Centre for 24 hour assistance. My State Karnataka is facing electricity crisis. Central Pool Supply has been reduced which we should have genuinely got, Why should this step motherly treatment to the State of Karnataka.

REVIVAL OF INDIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH:

In one of his election speeches in the electioneering Prime Minister Dr. Singh had made a categorical promise that if voted back to power he would revive our melting down economy within 100 days. But disappointingly the 100 days schemes in the President's address does not find place about this promise. However, there is a mention about bringing back the economy on the track elsewhere. Arjun Sen Gupta Committee has brought out a disgusting fact of about 78% of our population still remains on less than Rs. 20 per day and there is no mention about any concrete steps or resolve of this Government to change this scenario. In the same election speech PM had expressed concern about inroads made by Talibans in Pakistan, but the Presidents address is silence on this sensitive matter.

No mention about establishing new IITs in other States. The Government had last year announced that new IITs will be set up in various cities and Dharwad an educational town of my Constituency was one of the proposed places. But it is most disappointing to miss this important mention. Shri C.N. Rao and Shri U.R. Rao Committee's have recommended Dharwad to be a center for IIT.

Crores of youth are losing jobs. The frustration is growing among the youths. Some measures should be taken immediately. What are those measures should be included in next 100 day programme as promised by Prime Minister during election campaign.

Though NREG is a good programme to address this problem in some of the States, Yet it is not being properly implemented and funds are being misused. Union Government scheme should work out mechanism with state government to monitor this scheme. The State of Karnataka must have an IIT.

ALL ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN RAILWAYS:

This house is aware that Railway in our country is one such organization which touches upon all aspects of our life. It has the ability and potential to bring rapid

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

socio economic changes. Railway Minister in the previous Government had been always boasting that he presented five rail budgets and in none of the budgets there was fare hike and all the budgets were surplus ones, and railways revenues were increasing. But revenue earning alone does not reflect the quality and infrastructure and quality of service railway provides. In a country like our's which is densely populated and population ever growing there is bound to be increase in the traveling public and hence increase in revenues and resulting profits. But most of our States still remain unevenly developed in terms of railways. Still the Indian Railway has not paid attention to uneven growth of railways across the country. On rail route link density and population density terms my own State is far lagging behind in comparison to other States with only 15.72% RRLD. The reason for this is inordinate delay in completing the proposed new lines and line doubling works. In this background there is no mention in the address about this aspect and resolve of the Government to change the situation.

With this, I support the motion.*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The 2009 general election verdict was the verdict by the people of India against the divisive forces and those people who were a threat to the secular fabric of our nation.

Regarding the President's Address and the verdict of the general election 2009, one thing which needs utmost attention is the representation of the Muslims in this august House. It is coming down very drastically. In the last Fourteenth Lok Sabha, we had 36 Muslim Members. Now, we are only 31. The fact which I would like to bring to the secular parties over here is that from 1952 to 2009, 472 Muslims have been elected. From 1952 to 2009, basing on the population from 1952 to 2009, 871 Muslim Members should have been elected. So, this is the loss of nearly 400 Members. This is high time that all the secular parties do some introspection as to why the number of Muslim Members is coming down. The number of Members of the BJP has come down. It is fine. When the number of the BJP Members is coming down, then why is it that the Muslim representation is also coming down? When the number of Members of the BJP is coming down, then the number of Muslim Members should have gone up over here.

In my opinion, the country should debate whether we still require to follow the "First Past the Post" system or whether we should adopt proportional representation system or the German mix system. If you juxtapose

this, that is the lesser number of Muslims elected, with the women reservation, which is mentioned in the President's Address, I have an argument. I base my argument on this premise that it is a question of social justice. Social justice is a comprehensive ideology of our Constitution.

You have empirical data as far as Muslim backwardness is concerned. You have Sachar Committee Report, the Prime Minister's High Level Committee Report, and the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report, which the whole world has. But the Government of the day does not want to table it in the Parliament. But still the media writes that Ranganath Mishra Commission had stated that fifteen per cent of the reservation should be given to minorities and ten per cent for Muslims.

Thirdly, I base my argument on the basis of Congress's manifesto that reservation should be given at national level to all the Muslims. Since this Government has no Common Minimum Programme, the Congress's manifesto is the document on which I can base my argument.

Now, based on these three things, I would say, it would be in the fitness of things that the first share of cake should be given to the Muslims because the Commission of Inquiry is saying this and the hon. Prime Minister's higher level Committee is saying this. Our numbers are coming down drastically and the Muslims are not voting for parties like Majlis Party. They have been voting for you from 1952 onwards like the Congress Party, the Samajwadi Party, the Left Parties, the RJD, the DMK, the AIADMK. It is you who are coming into power

[*Translation*]

our vote and your rule—how long this will go on?

[*English*]

That is why I feel that even now our numbers are coming down, it is high time that before you take the Women's Reservation Bill, reservations should be given to the Muslims because it is your own Committees, your own Commissions and your election manifestos which talk about it. For God's sake, if you go ahead by depriving me of my rightful right, then I would like to go on record and say that you will be creating a conflict between deprived sections and make it a battle ground of competing identities.

Now, when we talk of Muslim reservation, the argument comes that religion cannot be taken for reservation. Then, I would say to people who are saying

that Muslims cannot get reservation - why are you having article 340 in the Constitution, the President's Order of 1950 wherein it says only the Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists can be a Dalit? Why not a Christian or a Muslim? The Article 340 contravenes the fundamental rights of our Constitution. It is mentioned in Article 25. The Ranganathan Mishra Commission says to remove it. It is wrong. Dalits can be among Muslims and Christians also. The fallacy of that Article is that if a Dalit becomes a Christian and he reaches Christianity and he reverts back to Hinduism, he becomes a Dalit. I hope the hon. Minister of Law and Justice will correct this wrong. It is a blot on our Indian Constitution that such an Article persists in our Constitution.

Sir, I would like to place on record that Muslims are not a religious minority, but they are also a political minority. This is very grave. It will have social impact if the numbers are falling down in this august House. This is an august House wherein we come and convey our feelings. If you close the door and do not want to see my face, then what is the option left for me? That is why I say that the first slice of cake should come to Muslims.

Sir, I am very disappointed that in today's the *Indian Express* the hon. Minister of State of the Ministry of Minorities has gone on record and said about it and I would request you to permit me to quote some of the headlines from it: "Quota for Muslims is a double-edged sword. It will lead to envy, hostility and resistance". If that is the case, is the hon. Minister of State of the Ministry of Minorities is saying that his own Party has committed a grave mistake by talking about reservations to the Muslims to be given at the national level? Has Dr. Y.S. Rajshekhar Reddy done a wrong thing by creating a double-edged sword? Has the reservation created envy and hostility in Andhra Pradesh?

Sir, I would request the Government to tell your Minister to be careful when he is talking. If you do not want to implement the report of the Ranganathan Mishra Commission, say it openly. But this talk of "say that no, it will lead to hostility and envy" is to be noted. If that is your argument, then would not women's reservation lead to hostility and envy? Why is it that when it comes to me as a Muslim, you talk about envy and hostility? How can it be envy and hostility? What I am saying is that I do not want to live as a second-class citizen. I want to live as a first class citizen. I have got a talent in this country. I am an equal stakeholder in this country.

From 1947 onwards since the Advisory Committee Report, we have been betrayed. If this Government goes ahead with the Women Reservation, I would call it a great betrayal. The Muslims have come to you. They have left the Left Parties in West Bengal. They have left the Samajwadi Party, the RJD and they have come to you in the UPA If you call this home-coming and you let us down, then only God can help you. You have to be careful. I am not saying that you do not give it. All that I am saying is that the first slice of cake should come to those people. You think it is easy for a Muslim to win an election. No, it is not at all. You talk about secularism. When our candidates contests, how many secular candidates are there against us? We do not know. Let the records be seen. With what majority have these candidates won?

Thirdly, I would like to say something about the Sachar Committee Report. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I will conclude within five minutes.

About the Sachar Committee Report, I would say that in 90 MCDs, which have such an importance throughout India, without even a drainage being laid, without even a cement road being laid, Muslims voted *en bloc* for the Congress Party and for the UPA partners in those 90 MCDs. It is high time that you push around and force the State Governments to implement the civic amenity scheme which has been formulated for the 90 MCDs and the highest number is in your State of West Bengal.

Another issue is about the Liberhan Commission. I heard the Leader of the Opposition talking about the need of an Inquiry Commission for the 26/11 incident. But conveniently he has forgotten about the Liberhan Commission. Conveniently, I hope, the Government does not forget about it. Remember, Babri Masjid will not leave anyone. Please ask the Samajwadi people what kind of an effect it had on them. Not a single Muslim got elected from the Samajwadi Party. Why? Because the Muslims still feel that when it comes to Babri Masjid, justice has not been done. Liberhan Commission is creating a Guinness Book of world records. I do not know. If Justice Liberhan is so un-employed, let him go and argue his case anywhere else. But why has the Government got to extend its term? I have got a right to know what justice can be done to me. Who are the people responsible for the 6th of December, 1992 incident? When it comes to CWC, I would say that in respect of 172 wakf properties, the ASI is in illegal position. In

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

respect of 112 properties, the DDA is in illegal possession. Why does the Government not pressurise the ASI and the DDA to give these properties to us? I demand that the CWC be given a grant of Rs. 1000 crore for development of these properties.

Then, about the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, I would say that the MAEF corpus has to be increased to Rs. 1000 crore. About the National Minority Development and Finance Corporation, the share capital must be increased to Rs. 1500 crore.

Lastly, I come to the Equal Opportunities Commission Bill. It is ready. Please bring it. Why do you not bring it in 100 days? Even in the 100 days programme, there is not even a single talk about the empowerment of Muslims. For God's sake, remember that if you empower a community politically, the fruits of labour will flow from political empowerment to economic empowerment, to social empowerment because that is what we have seen of a community. Yesterday, in the Hindustan Times, I have seen that the Kshatriya community has got 66 Members of Parliament. They are honouring them. I have got nothing against them. It is fine. We are only 31 Members here. My number is 31. Who is responsible for this? Let the secular parties introspect what should they do about it. If that was the case, they would not have voted for me. They would have voted for you. We have given you power. We have made you Ministers. What is it that I am getting back? There is no Muslim Member of Parliament in Maharashtra. In Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, what is the percentage of the population? It is not less than 9 per cent in all the States. What is the secularism that we are practising? That is why, I say that before you bring forward the Women's Reservation, the right of share should come to me. The HRD Ministry has to do a lot of thinking in terms of education.... *(Interruptions)* The HRD Ministry has to do a lot especially in relation to teacher appointment which has come down. In respect of opening primary schools, the Sachar Committee recommended 4000 schools to be opened. Only 3000 schools have been opened. There should be scrutiny of text books, removing the communal content.

Lastly, about foreign policy, I hope and I would request that the Palestinian issue is a dear issue to us for the last sixty years. India should support the poor Palestinians and condemn the atrocities perpetrated by the Israelis there. Our relationship should be strengthened more with the Arab countries. I hope that the Government

would respond to the questions that I have raised. I want the Congress Party to implement its manifesto when it talks about the reservation.

Please do not forget that the right of reservation should come to us because of your own Commission's Report.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (Chidambaram): Hon. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I convey my heartiest congratulations to all the Ministers and Members.

Sir, I know you are an eminent Left-oriented Parliamentarian. So, I believe you do not suppress my opportunity I need at least ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take five minutes. You can speak for five to seven minutes.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN: The senior Members have taken their own time – more than 30 minutes. We, the new Members, need at least ten minutes.

I would like to introduce myself first. Since I am a new face to this House, I introduce myself that I am Thol Thirumaavalavan, the Founder President of the VCK, which is an abbreviation for the Vidhuthalai Ciruthaigal Katchi which means the Liberation Panthers Party.

Sir, I am representing the Dalits, women, minorities and Other Backward Classes. I would like to submit my sincere thanks to the people of my constituency who have sent me to this august House and also to the allied parties, the DMK, Congress, Muslim League and other outfits of backward classes. I feel proud to be a Member of this House in which the great warrior of social justice Dr. B.R. Ambedkar served for the downtrodden people.

I would like to congratulate and appreciate the Chairperson of the UPA for having chosen our Speaker and Deputy-Speaker from Dalit and Tribal communities. I would also like to thank all the hon. Members of this House for their support. I wish to say that this is an era of vulnerable social categories. I would like to say that empowerment of the vulnerable sections of the society is the real empowerment of the nation so that we can achieve empowerment of Dalits, women and minorities. Hence I would like to once again appreciate and congratulate the Chairperson of the UPA for her effort.

We now have a woman as our President, we have the Vice-President and Prime Minister from religious minorities, we have a woman from the Dalit community as our Speaker and we have a person from the Scheduled Tribe as our Deputy-Speaker. So, I feel proud to say that this is an era of vulnerable social categories.

Sir, there are many programmes and schemes in the President's Address which are to be appreciated like the National Mission for Female Literacy, Unique Identity Card Scheme, Slum-free India, National Food Security Act, Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Minorities, Women's Reservation Bill and so on. Many hon. Members belonging to the UPA have appreciated these programmes and explained them and so I do not want to go into the details now. But I would like to indicate some important issues which have been neglected.

We expected them but there is no mention about those issues in the President's Address. There is no mention about the genocide of Sri Lankan Tamils; there is no mention of Sethusamudram Project; there is no mention about reservation of jobs in private sector for Muslims, Christians, particularly Dalit Christians; there is no mention about Babri Masjid; there is no mention about a Bill for reservation of posts in Government services which has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha, but not yet passed in the Lok Sabha; and there is no mention about abolition of untouchability. I am sorry to say that it is a national shame that there are two villages in every area. One is the caste village and another is the Dalit village. There are two habitations in every village. Without eradicating untouchability we cannot evolve democracy. We are all crazy of our democracy, but what is democracy? Democracy means respecting others' feelings and aspirations and admitting other opinions and concepts.

But there is no such attitude. We have one popular slogan in our Party. 'Let the democracy to the last one; let the power be lay to people; democracy needs basically and fundamentally the humanity; humanity is the basic and fundamental need for the democracy; humanity leads to fraternity; fraternity gives liberty; liberty matches the equality; equality to all is the real democracy.'

We all know very well that only the voting right is not the democracy. Here I want to submit some requisitions. We need a White Paper on genocide of Sri

Lankan Tamils. What is the role of our Union Government on Sri Lankan issue? What kind of support is given to the Government of Sri Lanka? My another request is for a separate Ministry for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would also like to request the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of Dalit Affairs, which was headed by our Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. There should be free education, including higher education and professional courses, to all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. You have already taken more than the time allotted to you.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN: Sir, this is my maiden speech. Please allow me one more minute.

Our Party and our Allied Party are very much concerned about the Sri Lankan issue. I am sorry to say that the Government of India has betrayed the Tamil Community in Sri Lanka. So, the Government of India should change the attitude against Tamils.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Hon. Chairman, in support of the motion moved by Dr. Girija Vyas and seconded by Shri P.C. Chacko, I wish to express my views before this august House.

Sir, when I read Para 14 of the speech of the hon. President, I find that it is really attractive. But when I look towards my State, I find that it has no substance. With great respect, when I see that in our State there is really want of the primary education, want of drinking water, I have my only comments, that is, it is attractive. When I read the lines regarding great anxiety in respect of the agriculturists and when I heard the speech of Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta in relation to the suicides being committed by the peasants, I just recollect the days of the Singur Movement. In our State because of the anti-peasants policy of the State Government, more than five peasants or the farmers have committed suicide only in Singur, which we cannot forget.

Sir, when I read Para 14, time and again a question comes up in my mind and which I want to place before you for consideration of the House that in 2008 or 2009 the right of which people should be looked into. Whether it is the right of the agriculturists, right of the peasants would be given priority or the right of individual industrialist has to be given priority?

In our State, we have seen that the agriculturists or the farmers and the people of Bengal fought for the last

[Shri Kalyan Banerjee]

two years under the leadership of our leader Kumari Mamata Banerjee against State's anti-agricultural, anti-peasant policies.

That is the reason behind Singur; that is the reason, we have seen, behind Nandigram. People will be surprised, so far as India is concerned, knowing what happened at Singur. It was because of the farmers' agitation that at Singur, for 70 days, Section 144 of the code of Criminal Procedure was imposed by our State Government against the farmers so that they cannot move. We had to move before the High Court. The hon. High Court has declared that it was unconstitutional, it was illegal. It was only because of the interference of the High Court that the peasants of Singur got the opportunity to protest against our State's agricultural policy in the State of West Bengal. We have seen Nandigram. It was because of the State's anti-agriculture policy, anti-peasant policy that, in one day, at Nandigram, 14 people died in police firing, which had been declared by the Kolkata High Court as unconstitutional. So, when I read clause 14, I will only make an appeal to our hon. Prime Minister to kindly, at least, implement it in our State of West Bengal.

When I read para 10, I am surprised to see the policing system when I see the IPS officers of our State. I must tell you that one hon. Judge was transferred from a different State to our State as a Kolkata High Court Judge. One day he went to Salt Lake for attending a dinner. After dinner, while coming out from his relative's house, he saw the residence of one IPS officer; he had constructed a building. The Judge wanted to know whether in the State of West Bengal, IPS officers had been receiving more remuneration than the IPS officers of the other States. We have seen the IPS officers in our State; they are only for the purpose of satisfying the Ruling Party's comrades and personnel. Today, when in the President's Address it has been stated that the Government will actively pursue police reform. In order to ensure the active participation, I would suggest that the Police Act, which was enacted in 1861, should be scrapped. A new Police Act has to be brought in. In the new Police Act, compulsory provision for real and independent police administration has to be brought in. The police administration should not sub-serve the Ruling parties in different States. Real and independent police administration has to be brought. Compulsory provision should be made for making the police more citizen-friendly. Why should the citizens be afraid of the police? When the name of a police officer is told to an innocent

citizen, he is afraid of the police officer. Why there is this culture? This culture has to be changed. The Police Act has to be changed.

When I read para 18 regarding the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, I must say that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, to a certain extent, has recognised the Right to Work of the people of the country. To some extent, whatever little work has been started during the last regime of the UPA Government. Unfortunately, we have not seen such work in our State. Even 50 per cent of this 100-days' work programme has not been implemented in the remote villages, in the rural West Bengal. In our State, it has not been implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. We have only five minutes time left.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Sir, kindly give me five minutes.

There is a proposal that, to ensure transparency and public accountability, independent monitoring and grievance redressal mechanism would be implemented. I have a suggestion that this House should enact a complete statute giving responsibility to the persons who would be implementing this Act. So, strict vigilance should be there and stringent provisions should be made in the Act. If there are any lapses, if people below poverty line do not get it, in that case appropriate steps must be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Sir, give me two-three minutes. After all, I belong to a place from where you are my MP. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Banerjee, I have to make an announcement. Please take your seat.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Sir, I will conclude within two minutes.... *(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Banerjee, after the announcement, you may continue your speech for two minutes.

Hon. Members, it is 6 o' clock now. I have a list of 30 more speakers to speak on this Motion of Thanks. If

the House agrees, the time of the House may be extended by two hours.

SOME HON. MEMEBRS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The time of the House is extended up to 8 o' clock.

Yes, Mr. Banerjee, you may conclude your speech by two minutes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, if need be, we may sit beyond 8 also, till all the Members in the list finish their speeches.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Sir, one of my friends possibly from Jammu and Kashmir was referring Sachar Committee. I am also in support of that. I wish and I express that the Sachar Committee recommendations should be implemented.

In our country, by way of reservation, only the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and the Other Backward Class people get employment. If we read the Sachar Committee Report. We find 22 per cent Hindus belong to the Scheduled Caste, 69 per cent Buddhists belong to the Scheduled Caste, nine per cent Christians belong the Scheduled Caste whereas only 0.08 per cent people from the Muslims belong to the Scheduled Caste. Why there is less identification so far as the Muslim community is concerned? I would make a request that the percentage of Muslim community in the category of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be increased. Why after long Independence Mulsims have been kept at only 0.08 per cent as the Scheduled Castes? It does not speak well about our country. In other words, it speaks that there is a discrimination.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): Sir, hon. President's Address is, in fact, a reflection of the Government's future action-plans. The same Government has been ruling the country for the last five years but lack of will power has always been visible within it and

that is why no action has been to rein in the continuously rising prices. Prices in the market are increasing again. As far as remaining vigilant in the field of internal security is concerned, as mentioned in the Address, the common man has lost faith in the Government due to terrorism. Today, people are unable to travel safely from one place to another in their own country itself. Children go to other cities to appear for competitive examinations and their parents remain worried till they return. We cannot visit our pilgrimage centres fearlessly. The Amarnath yatra has become even more difficult. It has been mentioned in the Address to maintain communal harmony at every cost but it is unfortunate that the Government cannot make available some land in Srinagar even for a temporary stay of the Amarnath pilgrims.

Mention has been made for implementation of the Unique Identity Card Scheme for all the citizens. Illegal infiltration in large number from Bangladesh is going on resulting in imbalance in the demographic profiles in many states and they have even acquired ration cards. There is no mention in the Address about any action plan to identify and deport them to their country. While this large scale infiltration is leading to a burden on our economy on one hand, it is snatching the livelihood of our workers and also increasing the crime rate, on the other.

Our country is predominately an agricultural country and 70% of our population lives in villages. It has been mentioned to strengthen the National Agriculture Development Scheme, the National Food Security Mission and the National Horticulture Mission to promote agricultural activities. Our farmer is in no way less competent than the farmer of any other country in the world. If he is provided with better means of irrigation and fertilizers and seeds on time, he can produce so much foodgrain as will be sufficient not only for the domestic needs but also for exports which can be helpful in repayment of our foreign debt.

There are about 950 ponds in the Tikamgarh district in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh dating back to the Chandela period which provide drinking water besides water for irrigation. Similarly, there are many such ponds in Chhatarpur, too. Such old and large ponds exist in many states of the country but the Government has not mentioned any scheme for their cleaning and desilting. Priority should be given to it. Why are farmers committing suicide? Maxium number of suicides are taking place in Congress ruled Maharashtra and Andhra

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

Pradesh. It should be pondered over that implementation of our schemes is not proper.

Child labourers are being exploited under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and contractors are committing irregularities by preparing bogus muster rolls due to which the poor are not getting the benefit of the scheme. No mention has been made in the Address about this. Migration towards cities is taking place due to lack of employment in the villages and there is a need to formulate a scheme in this regard seriously.

Though mechanization and modernization have helped in moving ahead in the race for development but the biggest challenge before our country is to provide employment to this increasing number of unemployed youth because unemployment is causing frustration among them and pushing them towards crime.

Tall talks have been made about the National Rural Health Mission but the fact is that medical facility is still a distant dream in the villages and people in villages are still dependent on quacks. A large number of villagers meet untimely death every year due to these quacks. Even today, no MBBS doctor wants to go to a village. No mention of any action-plan has been made in this regard.

Indira Awas Yojana to provide houses to the homeless villagers has become dependent on the respective Sarpanches. Even today, homeless and eligible people are deprived of the scheme. The Government should think about them seriously.

So many promises have been made in the President's Address but only time will tell as to how much the Government is serious about fulfilling them. Mention has been made in regard to Bharat Nirman, but lakhs of people get meal once in two days, have no clothes to wear, no house to live in and no money to buy medicines. Only developing Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai cannot be the development model for the country.

Bharat Nirman will not be complete until the last man in the country gets a house, clothes to wear food to eat and medicine for treatment in case of ill-health. This common man will be the model for development of the country. The day the common man will become economically, socially and educationally prosperous, the goal of the Bharat Nirman will be achieved automatically.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (North Goa): Honourable Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on H.E. President's Address. First of all, I would like to thank honourable Madam Speaker and honourable Deputy Speaker for being elected unanimously. The politics of general consensus and consent is good for the country and can expedite the development of the country. But the responsibility of maintaining consensus lies with the ruling party and the opposition will also cooperate with the Government for the sake to development. The people of the country have elected us for this House. The cooperation of one and all is needed for enacting good laws and facing the challenges before us.

Sir, Her Excellency President has referred to several problems in her Address. Now-a-day, the country is going through a very difficult phase. The problems like terrorism and internal security are not getting removed. Thousands of countrymen have been killed in terrorist incidents. Thousands of people and families have been devastated by terrorism. We will have to put in a lot of efforts to check terrorism and for that we will have to give it top priority and take stringent measures and enact effective laws to stamp it out.

Today, the common man is reelig under the recourse of price-rise. The Government is not taking adequate measures to check price-rise. H.E. President has stated in her Address that 25 kilograms of wheat or rice at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kilogram will be provided to the people living below the poverty line in the coming days. I request that his scheme should be implemented at the earliest.

Sir, the meance of corruption has made the country hollow. If it is not checked now, then anarchy will prevail here very soon and the common people will be crushed.

Honourable President has mentioned in her Address about the lakhs of crore rupees deposited in the Swiss Banks earned by corrupt means. This money should be brought back and spent for the development of the country. Women Reservation Bill has been referred to in the President's Address. We have been hearing about this for years. This Bill has already been introduced by the preceding Government of the ruling party, but anti-reservation parties did not let this Bill pass by the House. Had this Bill been passed, the number of our sisters in this House would have increased today. If the Government is willing, then this Bill should be passed at the earliest so that the women could get their due share.

Mr. Chairman Sir, apart from this the future of lakhs of youth is bleak in this country. The government has not been able to give employment to the crores of youth due to which they are looking for other alternatives in their own ways. They should get employment at the earliest. The country is suffering loss due to unemployment. They dream of Bharat Nirman has to be fulfilled with the help of the youth. We have to fulfil this dream at the earliest.

A new problem has been cropping up in Australia. As on date 2.5 crore youth of our country are either studying or are employed in the foreign countries. We are concerned about their safety. The Government's sensitivity is not enough rather the government should take concrete action for ensuring their safety.

18.07 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country is predominantly an agricultural country. We will be able to feed the whole world only if we have sound management. What is the condition of the farmers in our country today? A farmer sweats over producing paddy but he is committing suicide because he does not get help on time. The country has to import paddy. We will have to provide loans to farmer at low interest rate and only then he will get support. He should also get remunerative support price so that he does not commit suicide. Infrastructure should be created to help out the farmer. If the farmers do not get help on time, neither the farmers nor the country will survive.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayeeji had launched two projects during the NDA government's regime. Inter River Linking and Golden Quadrilateral Roads Corridor. The work on these projects is going on but that need to be expedited.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we find that while one part of the country is flood affected, the other part of the country is drought affected. The farmers are committing suicide owing to drought in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra while on the other hand lakhs of houses have been destroyed by floods in Bihar. The government will have to do something soon to control this natural calamity.

Mr. Chairman Sir, many such issues have not been mentioned in the President's Address. The government should not be concerned about as to which project was

started by which government. There are several such projects in national interest which are pending. Thousands of kilometers roads were constructed during the NDA government's regime but now that process has come to a standstill.

My submission is that with the increase in the road network the pace of development also set inpetus. I request that this project should be launched to expedite the pace of development in the country. I also demand that this project should be completed.

[*English*]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (Ludhiana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity for making my maiden speech in the House. I rise to support the Motion moved by Dr. Girija Vyasa.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the preamble of our Constitution enunciates the ideals on which this nation has been constituted. In many ways, the mandate of the 15th General Elections reflects the endorsement and the re-affirmation of those ideals. The policies which the previous UPA Government had pursued over the past five years consolidated these ideals, namely, sovereignty by the pursuit of a policy of enlightened national interest, consolidated socialism by a policy of equitable growth and by having the right kind of economic mix to suit the times that we are living in, consolidated secularism by pursuing and fostering an environment of communal harmony across the country which was opposed to the Gujarat model of sectarianism which was pursued by the predecessor Government of the NDA and, last but not least, consolidated democracy, for which the Election Commission also needs to be complimented, by completing the largest electoral exercise, possibly in the world, in a peaceful and very cohesive manner. In short, if I was to sum up the verdict which was given by the people of India in the 15th General Elections, it would really boil down to 'rejuvenated continuity' for the UPA Government.

Commencing with the epoch-making events on the 9th of November, 1989 when people's power brought down the Berlin Wall, the last two decades have really been transformational in international relations. We moved from the frozen bipolarity of the Cold War to the unipolarity of the 1990s, which certain geostrategic thinkers very erroneously characterised as the end of history, and to the emerging contours of multi-polarity in the early 2000s. I think, the fundamental task, which is there

[Shri Manish Tewari]

not only before the UPA Government but before the nation as a whole, is as to how to consolidate this emerging multi-polarity, of which India is also one of the poles, and see that we occupy a rightful place in the comity of nations.

As the first decade of the 21st Century draws to a close, there are various challenges on the global horizon. For paucity of time, I will not go into all of them, but I would flag one or two which are of immediate concern. Of course, the greatest economic crisis that the world has faced since the great depression of the 1930s definitely qualifies in that category and also warrants not only the attention of this House but the undivided attention of every policy-maker around the world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 13 months ago, the IMF had predicted that the world economy would grow by 3.8 per cent. Last month, they revised their prediction and said that the global economy would contract by 1.3 per cent. This is for the first time since the Second World War that we are seeing a contraction in the global economy. The gravity of the problem can be enunciated by a few statistics which I would like to bring to your notice.

In the last 180 days of the year 2008 there has been a 43 per cent decline in Japan's exports; there has been a 33 per cent decline in the exports of China; there has been a contraction of 12 per cent in the combined economies of the ASEAN countries; and amongst all this economic mayhem the manner in which the previous UPA Government — under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and under the stewardship of Dr. Manmohan Singh — has steered the ship of the Indian State is indeed very complimentary. Even in these bad times to maintain an annual growth rate of 6.7 per cent for the economy; to bring headline inflation down to 0.48 per cent; simultaneously stimulate domestic demand, all goes to show that the measures, which were taken in last December and early January 2008 in the form of stimulus packages — are showing an impact on the ground.

I know that there is paucity of time, and I would just conclude by saying that I have heard the Leader of Opposition say that we should try and endeavour to make the 21st Century the Indian Century. But for that the onus does not lie only on the Government alone. I think that responsibility begins in this House. If over the next couple of months we are able to eschew politics of

confrontation for the sake of confrontation; if we are able to eschew the politics of opposition for the sake of opposition; and actually build-up multi-partisanship in this House predicated solely and only on India's National interest, then we would be able to achieve the dream of making this Century the Indian Century.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Respected Chairman, Sir, I express my thanks to you for permitting me to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

I express my deep sense of thanks to my great leader Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha through whose sagacity and magnanimity I am here as a Member of this august forum. I also express my hearty thanks to the electorate of my Salem Constituency for having elected me.

Before coming to the President's Address I am reminded of what the veteran Dravidian leader Perarignar Anna once said. He said: "In Parliamentary democracy, Opposition should be allowed to open the mouth, and the Treasury Bench should always open its ears." This means ruling side has to listen to the views of the Opposition Parties and act suitably.

At this juncture I would like to say that my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha is an intellectual in her own way. She is a strong leader with rich experience and extraordinary vision. My leader is a voracious reader with vast knowledge of international, National, State and local issues. Her statements on various problems issued from time to time reflect the depth of problems, and methods of solutions. Hence, I request the Government to hear her views on important National issues and take suitable action.

The President's Address has outlined some measures to reduce the level of poverty, but they are not adequate. As you all know, nearly 2/3rd of Indians live on less than Rs. 20 per day. There has been an increase in the number of urban poor from 60.5 million in 1973-1974 to 80.7 million in 2005-2006. A recent UN Report on Human Development Index ranked India at 132.

Inclusive growth continues to be elusive. Huge public investment on infrastructure development and social welfare programmes can only stimulate the economy. I hope the Finance Minister will spell out the required measures during the Budget presentation.

The Government is relying heavily on the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. While moving the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, both Dr. Girija Vyas and Shri P.C. Chacko said that everyone engaged in the programme was getting Rs. 100 per day, but nowhere is anybody getting Rs. 100 per day. At the time of enacting the law, the wage was fixed at Rs. 100, then it was reduced to Rs. 80, but even that amount is not being paid in Tamil Nadu. Only an amount of Rs. 60 or Rs. 65 is being paid. In my State, the monitoring mechanism to oversee the work is either absent or ineffective. Instead of creating tangible assets, work of non-enduring nature is being taken up, and there is every possibility of misuse of funds and the works being lopsided. The scheme may be good, but the implementation is not up to the expectations. So, the Government should strengthen the monitoring system.

Further, as suggested by my leader, Puratchi Thalaivi, Dr. J. Jayalalithaa, the number of working days has to be increased from 100 days to 150 days in a year for a sustainable living. The Government also should ensure that each worker, either male or female, gets Rs. 100 per day.

In the President's Address, a mention has been made about providing educational loans to the needy and deserving students. But I am sorry to say that getting educational loans remains a distant dream to the poor. They are forced to run from pillar to post by the bank authorities. There should not be any restriction on the number of beneficiaries. All eligible students should get the loan without any difficulty. I also make an appeal to the Finance Minister to extend interest-free educational loan to all. Though the loan is being sanctioned by the nationalised banks, the Government can bear the interest component. It will not be a heavy burden on the Government. If this suggestion is carried out, it will increase the enrolment ratio in higher education.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kottayam): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks moved by Dr. Girija Vyas. We are extremely happy that the President's Address contained a package of policies and programmes of a dynamic Government touching all the strata of the society, especially the rural areas with low income. Without hesitation, I can say that it is a Vision Document.

First of all, let me congratulate the visionary, Dr. Manmohan Singh, for having achieved great economic development in the country. Even in the backdrop of global economic crisis, we were able to sustain a growth rate of 8.5 per cent keeping the inflation as low as possible. Indeed, it was the main factor behind the great victory of the UPA in the recent elections. The election result is a reflection of the confidence reposed by the people in the dynamic leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh. The election results show that there is no alternative for the Congress and there is no alternative for the UPA.

Sir, the people have great expectations from the current Government. I hope it will rise to the occasion and do all possible things to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

The President's Address stated that the National Food Security Act will be enacted and it is quite welcome. The promise that every farmer family below the poverty line will be provided with 25 kilograms of rice or wheat in a month for Rs.3 is commendable. The bold statement that every step will be taken to enact the Women's Reservation Bill is revolutionary and praiseworthy.

In my view, growth and social progress are complementary to each other. We should have a blend of these two. What we need is inclusive growth, growth with equity. As we know, more than 70 per cent of our population lives in the rural areas and most of them are agriculturists. However, unfortunately, the agricultural growth has stagnated way below 2.4 per cent. Our party, Kerala Congress (M), believes that without assured income and employment in this organised sector we cannot achieve inclusive growth. Therefore, the development priority of this Government should be more of agricultural growth, more of income and employment for the rural population.

What the country needs now is to have a golden mix of fiscal stimulus and fiscal consolidation for medium farmers. The fiscal stimulus package initiated by the Government to mitigate the impact of the global economic crisis should continue for a while. Along with that, all attempts should be made to bring sustained economic recovery by the fiscal consolidation process in a restricted way.

To cut my submission short, the President's Address contains several measures to address the needs of the

[Shri Jose K. Mani]

day. Hence, I once again support the Motion of Thanks and thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity and I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity for speaking on President's address.

First of all I would like to speak about the right to information mentioned in H.E. President's address. This Bill was presented in the previous Lok Sabha with a lot of fervour and frenzy providing that any person can get information from any department. This Act was enforced all over the country, but, unfortunately Uttar Pradesh Government amended the said Bill. This amendment provided that the information relating to the work of the Secretariat cannot be supplied. The second amendment provided that the information relating to the functions of Advocate-General will not given. The third amendment provided that the information relating to the function of the Governor will not be made available and the fourth amendment provided that nobody can ask for the information relating to any case, be it pending at Tehsildaar or at SDM or at any other level from the lowest to highest level of bureaucracy. I would like, through you, to tell the honourable Minister that the Right to Information Act has been enforced all over the country and the Uttar Pradesh government or other State Government have no right to amend any act passed by the Union Government.

The second point is that the government has made a tall promise through the President's Address that a target has been set to complete the agenda of five years within 100 days. It is a very good thing that we will be able to know about the achievements of the Government in not less than 100 days out of our tenure of five years. But we will have also to pay attention to the five big challenges before the Government.

As some of the honourable Members have referred to internal security just now. India is placed at the sixth position in the world in terms of terrorists attacks. As many as 4,4000 terrorist attacks have taken place during the period from the year 1970 to 2009. Several innocent people and armed forces personnel have been killed during naxalite attacks in 602 districts of 14 states in the country. We will have to think about it seriously.

The second big challenge before the government is relating to employment and security. United Nations Labour Organisation has published a report on global recession in which it has been stated that at least 21 crore people will be rendered unemployed by the end of 2009. India will not remain unaffected and our country will also be affected by it. The Government will have to face the challenges of dealing with recession and creating new jobs in. I.T. sector or BPO sector.

The third important challenge before the government is relating to food security and health. As many as 20 crore people in our country do not have enough food to eat. They just manage to survive. We make tall claims. It has been written in our religious books also that if your neighbour is hungry and you are just mute bystander then in is not justified. Today if a survey is undertaken then it will be found that more than 50 percent children are malnourished and five lakh women die during delivery of child every year. They suffer from haemoglobin deficiency. Mid-day meal scheme has been launched for providing nutritious diet to children but the quality of meals provided under the scheme is doubtful at some places.

The fourth and the biggest challenge is relating to education. Even today there is a shortage of three lakh and five thousand teachers in the country. There is not a balanced ratio of teachers and students today. At some places there are more students and there is shortage of teachers while at other places the number of teachers is more and the students are less in number. Similarly be it at university level or degree college level, not less than 70,000 lecturers are needed for teaching not less than one crore students. There is shortage of teachers at present in our country and the Government faces the challenge to meet the said shortage.

The fifth challenge is relating to power and environment. The country has a stock of coal required for forty years and thereafter, there will be no coal in the country. Similarly we have a stock of oil sufficient for 20 years only. The biggest challenge will be relating to water in future. Water will also be consumed. These are the challenges. I pary to God that may He grant more strength to the Government so as to enable the government to face the challenges.

Sir, you have rung the bell. I would like to conclude after drawing your attention to a few points. We get two crore rupees under MPLADs. One Parliamentary

constituency consists of 7 to 8 assembly constituencies. Hence the said fund is enough. Therefore, either MPLADs should be withdrawn or enough funds per assembly constituency should be provided so that we may get development works carried out there. Similarly in the case of admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya every M.P. gets a quota of two seats for admission. If there are five or six or seven assembly constituencies, we have to face a lot of problems. This quota should also be abolished or sufficient quota should be given to us so that we may oblige the people of our constituency.

Nothing has been said in the President's Address with regard to wedding out the corruption. The population is the biggest problem of our country. Nothing has been stated about how to check the increasing population. There is serious sexual discrimination in our country. Female foeticide is going on. All the Members have expressed their views. The suicides committed by the farmers during the last few years has also not been mentioned. Only bank loans worth 70,000 crore rupees were waived. There are several such farmers who are made to bribe the bank officials to get their loan waived.

This is my complaint. Letters are being written to Minister of Finance. We will have to look into it seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I would like to say that the Government should pay attention to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Constitutional amendments are meant for the welfare of the people. But, some of the constitutional amendments have created discrimination against the islands. For example, Lok Sabha passed the National Institute of Technology Act in 2007 which affected the children of the islands. We have only one Board there. There was no other Board except the CBSE, Delhi. Other states have 3-4 Boards. This Act was brought due to variation in the merit. Because of this Act, not a single child from the islands could appear in the AIEEE examination and secure a seat. Nicobar island will also get an NIT. The states not having NIT will get one. Criterion for setting up NITs is 300 acres of land. We do not have 300 acres of land but we have the highest forest in India. There are many restrictions from the Central Government like CRZ restriction and many other Acts of Parliament. Today, I met the Education Minister. You have shortage

of time and so do. I. I have 2-3 requests which should be paid special attention. The criterion of having 300 acres of land for setting up an NIT should be reduced to 125 acres. Secondly, affiliation of Delhi University should be granted to the Andaman Engineering college. Thirdly, the number of professional seats like MBBS should be increased until the NIT is set up there. The seats under NIT, engineering and MBBS have been increased in other states but not the islands. For example, there are only 18 seats for MBBS since the last 10 years. It is my request that 105 engineering seats under AIEEE should be allotted under CBSE instead of filling them on merit basis.

The Scheduled Tribes and the Other Traditional Forests Dwellers Act dealing with the forest encroachment was passed in the Parliament in 2006. The Supreme Court had made an observation about the forest encroachers on the islands but no attention was paid to it. The Act said that the Scheduled Tribes will get the land. The encroachers are actual the scheduled tribes like Munda, Oraon, Kaiyan and these tribes live in various parts of India. While the provision for the other dwellers states that the people living there since 1930 will get the land. But, how can they give the proof when they were not free in 1930. I request that this Act should be amended and the Government should think about the 5000 families which are post 1978 and are standing in the way of the Supreme Court, NDA Government had formulated a package for them but the UPA Government will not allow that package and will give only 300 square metres of land. As per the provision of the Act in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand the area of land equivalent to the area encroached will be provided. The same area of land should be provided to them in the islands as per the Act and they should not be asked to vacate the land before that.

It is sad that the attitude of the Government towards the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is unfriendly. I will give an example of Indian Airlines in this regard. I was first elected as MP in 1999. One of my acquaintances got injured in the head and he had to go from Port Blair to Chennai or Port Blair to Kolkata on a stretcher. Indian Airlines is a Government airlines but still it charges cost of six tickets for such cases. When there was Vajpayee Government, the Minister of Civil Aviation had reduced the charges from six tickets to one ticket on our request.

UPA Government has come to power again and it does not care about the islands or the Indian Airlines.

[Shri Bishnu Pada Rai]

It has again increased the charges to six tickets. You just think from where a person will arrange for his treatment if he will have to spend Rs. 90000 for a stretcher in a plane. I, therefore, would like to request that since Indian Airlines is the Government's airlines, the Government should reduce the charges for a stretcher equal to a single ticket as the NDA Government had done earlier. Secondly, when I fly from Kolkata to Delhi, the fare is 4 to 6 thousand rupees. I don't understand the kind of animosity the Indian Airlines have against Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Port Blair to Delhi or Delhi to Kolkata journey is of 2 hours duration while Delhi to Chennai is of two and half hours and the fare for those destinations is 5, 7 and 8 thousand rupees. But, for Andaman and Nicobar Islands it is full fare and not 7-8 thousand rupees though time taken is two hours only. Port Blair-Chennai and Delhi to Kolkata or Chennai journey takes 2 hours, but, the fare is 16-17 thousand rupees for the former route. Does the Indian Airlines want to make all profit from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands? Now, the head of the islands is the Prime Minister who is also the Chairman of the IDA and I would request him that the other states alongwith the islands. ...*(Interruptions)* I will take some more time. Regarding BPL, the Congress Government has made history in the country. The BPL list in other states in the country is 30 or 40 per cent but it is one per cent in the Andaman district. I can give examples from the districts there. The village Panchayat of Dashrathpur, which is a Tsunami affected area, has mien BPL families out of 1000. Pandasala Panchayat has 23 BPL families out of 1500 families. BPL families in Andaman district are one to five six per cent while it is 100 per cent in Nicobar district though three fourth of the total population of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands lives in the Andaman district. Why Nicobar should have 100 per cent BPL since 60 years? Why the cut off score for Andaman district is 18% and 33% for Nicobar district? I have no objection for Nicobar. Whether the Congress takes 60 years or 100 years in raising BPL to APL, I have no objection. My request is that the Nicobar District has 33 as cut off score for BPL and the same score should be used for BPL in the Andaman district. I will conclude after one or two points. Land is lying submerged after the Tsunami. There was competition among the Ministers and others and they were shown on the TV. Even today, fields are submerged under Tsunami water. Fields of nearly 2700 families are submerged.

In the name of Tsunami those families have only been given pumpset, power teller, Patu, Dav and manure

under the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package whereas their fields are still submerged. I would like to request the Government to immediately provide alternative land to these people in place of their land submerged due to Tsunami. The most important thing is that after independence the land of farmers has got eroded by rivers and culverts. The Standing Committee IDA had passed it in the year 2003. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia was the Chairman of that Committee but till date they have not been given any alternative land.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: I am concluding after making one or two points. I would particularly like to talk about primitive tribe Jarwa. A development committee for Jarwa was constituted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have a lot of opportunities to speak about these things in the next session. You may please conclude now. Other Members are waiting for their chance.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: I have not taken more than two-three minutes. I would like to talk about rice. This Government is saying that it is going to distribute rice. The rice quota for APL in Andaman Nicobar is 7 kg whereas the Government has reduced it to 5 kg now. Rice is not grown in Nicobar district. The Government is saying that it will provide rice throughout the country but I would like to request the Government to increase the rice quota to 12 kilogrammes per person which you have reduced to 5 kilogrammes from 7 kilogrammes. The greatest concern in Andaman Nicobar is regarding minimum wages. During the NDA regime minimum wage was Rs. 70, which was increased by Shri Atal Bihariji's Government to Rs. 130. This Government has implemented the report of sixth pay commission, increased the salary of MP's and pension of Ex. MP's but minimum wages was increased by Rs. 26 only. This is negligible. I would like to request that this may kindly be increased to a minimum of Rs. 200. You will be pained to hear about old age pension, widow pension and handicapped pension.

Pension has got stagnated at Rs. 500. I would urge that this should be increased immediately. After Tsunami the Government is concerned about environment. Nearly 50 square kilometers of mangroves have disappeared. After Tsunami, the level of land has got risen by one meter and, in Camber, it got down by one and a half meters. The Government should take immediate action to save the dying mangroves there. Hon'ble Home Minister is not present. There is perception of threat in Andaman. Hon'ble Home Minister is saying that terrorist will enter the island. With my assement I would like to say that forces should be deployed in border areas. Why were forces deployed in Cambar Bay earlier? It was done for protection. We had not deployed anyone in Kashmir during those days, therefore, we had to pay for it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: In the end I would like to say only one thing that the Government is not paying any attention towards tourism in Andaman and Nicobar and the Government should pay some attention towards it. The Government has prepared a 100 day programme. I would request the Government that hon'ble Prime Minister, Chairman IDA may kindly get some development work done during the 100 days in the island.

[*English*]

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by Dr. Girija Vyas. I support the Motion not because I belong to the Congress Party. In fact, there have been occasions when I have criticised some of their policies. But I can say with confidence that the UPA Government is a bold Government. Everyone of us, by virtue of experience, is aware that if there was not to be any secrecy and if there were to be transparency in every activity, be it the implementation of any programme or policy or identifying the beneficiaries of a programme, then the progress of the society would be excellent. Unfortunately, whichever party that comes to power is scared if their activities come to light and when somebody criticises them. But here is the Government which has brought the Right to Information Act. Every citizen has got the right to find out what the Government has done and whether there is anything really behind the scene.

Similarly, I do not think that any Government earlier has fixed a time frame for every activity. This time, the hon. Prime Minister, through the President's Address, has mentioned 100 days and not ten years or five years. Some Members pointed out that, in some occasions, everything promised cannot be implemented particularly in a situation where it requires the support of the Opposition Parties. The Constitution cannot be amended unless they cooperate. So, in such a case, if the Government promises, then it becomes a false promise. It is so in many things, whether it is Right to Information or thinking about people below the poverty line or bringing a health insurance scheme for all the people living below the poverty line. The Government of India promising to give rice and wheat at Rs. 3 per kilogram to BPL families in the whole country is a new and courageous event. One of my friends was telling that they have implemented it in some States. The major role of the Government of India is to give a lead to formulate and bring a legislation to motivate people particularly to change the life of the downtrodden people, farming community, the unrepresented community and the minorities. Most of the States have to take the lead as all the schemes are implemented through only the State Governments. If there were to be lacunae in the implementation, it is the State Government that has to bear the blame particularly when it is approved by the Government of India. Therefore, in this context, I am of the opinion, that in almost all the schemes connected with the Government of India, the State Governments must be made a party to it.

It can be 80:20 or 70:30 or 50:50 depending on the scheme and its magnitude. Right from day one, when I entered the Parliament in 1985, I have been insisting on all these things. The minimum needs of the poor people is the responsibility of the Government, whether it is old-age pension or assistance to the handicapped or assistance for housing. I am of the opinion that housing must be given to every family. It is the responsibility of the Government. We cannot leave it to anybody else. It is because for generations even when the husband, wife and children spent all their time and energy, they are not able to construct a house for themselves. So, if the Government takes the responsibility for housing, for subsidised food, for health care, for good education, etc., then we can find fault with them if they do not have the determination to work hard and change their lives.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

I am happy that the Government has fixed 100 days even for Women's Reservation Bill, which was discussed three decades back. There must be conviction to say that. If it is not passed, then the blame has to go to the people who opposed it. There can be on some minor differences. They may say that we should include BCs or minorities or something like that. We can pass the Bill and they can bring the amendments later for all those things, instead of postponing it on some pretext or the other. The basic requirement today is empowering women which the Address clearly tells.

I am of the opinion that in regard to the pension, subsidised food, health care or paying premium should be the responsibility of the Government. I read in the last Budget that they are going to cover only two or three crores of people. All the people in the BPL category should be covered under this. They must be brought under health care and they must be provided health care by the Government's expenditure. They cannot just depend on the Government hospitals. They must have the freedom to go to any corporate hospital to get the treatment. At least to the limit of Rs. 50,000 each family must be entitled to get the health care, even from the corporate hospital, where rich people get the treatment.

Similarly, in the case of housing, under reverse hypothecation, we can construct houses for Rs. 1.5 lakh or for Rs. 1 lakh, which can be a permanent house, which can last at least for sixty years to come. In an inflationary economy, the house that is constructed with quality will have better value tomorrow. If they do not pay the rest of the money over the period of twenty years, then it can be hypothecated and they can get the money from the Banks. It is for them to pay back over the period of twenty years, with nil interest.

I am of the opinion that same is the condition of the farmers, the marginal farmers and the poor farmers. Some of our colleagues have also said that the farmers are not begging. If they get remunerative prices for their produce, then they do not require anything. The industrialists get insurance, security, etc., even if they lose Rs. 100 crore in a fire accident. Then, why not the same insurance cover for the poor farmers? A poor farmer who struggles in an acre of land expects 40 or 50 bags of grain and for no fault of his, if there is some cyclone or untimely rain or some natural calamity, he will lose his crop. We should compensate him. Is it not the duty of the Government to compensate him?

The Crop Insurance scheme which was introduced during the Rajiv Gandhi's time was based on Mandal as a unit which is now made on the basis of village as a unit so that justice is done to every farmer. ... (*Interruptions*)

I do not want to repeat the points mentioned by my friends. I will concentrate on Self-Help Groups of women. The pride and the pleasure of earning Rs.1,500 or Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 by each woman is unimaginable.

We have got 50,000 societies in my district which is almost a first in the country. You must see the faces of women there. If you were to provide loan to them at three per cent rate of interest or no interest and marketing facility, training them for this management—if these were to be done, this in itself is empowering women and providing employment to millions of people. They can supply rice or wheat through the Public Distribution Systems in the area. If they were to earn money, it is enough for them. So, instead of making a middleman to earn on this money, the self-help groups can do it. I want the Government to concentrate on these self-help groups and provide loans liberally. At least, one lakh of rupees can be given to every woman in the country so that they can use their talent and energy. They are paying it back and 97 per cent of the money that is being lent to women is being repaid. Even the industrialists and others are not paying 97 per cent. So, Self-Help Groups must be given priority.

Similarly, farmers are also ought to be given health insurance facility. A farmer with a ten acre of land is not in a position to educate his children. He cannot take care of his serious diseases. So, I once again say, though I belong to the Government, the Government must think that it is the responsibility of the Government and they have to provide more assistance to all the States. If the States were to fail in implementation, it is their fault.

I appreciate all the points that have been mentioned in the President's Address. As our colleagues have said, there must be a sincere desire to implement all the schemes. It is not merely by taking and introducing these things. I am of the opinion that the hon. Prime Minister, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and the Government will definitely concentrate on these things in implementing these things. I am sure the Government should not think in terms of winning or losing. It is our duty to do all these things.

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (Erode): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I am speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Thiru Vaiko.

I am happy that the Government will take all necessary steps for well-managed internal security and communal harmony. As said in the hon. President's Address, special importance must be given for economic and social development as well as employment, education, health, rural infrastructure, urban renewal, and for food security and human skill development.

I welcome in the President's Address the announcement of the social security schemes for other occupations like landless labour, weavers, fisher folk, toddy tappers, leather workers, plantation labour, construction labour, mine workers and beedi workers will be appropriately expanded.

The daily wages for NREGA Scheme should be increased from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per day.

Sir, while the President's Address welcomes encouragement of toddy trappers, it is unfortunate and condemnable that the Tamil Nadu Government is arresting and harassing the farmers who are very much in need of toddy tapping for their economic progress. The Government should allow them to trapping the taddy.

We are aware about the National Ganga River Basin Authority, set up recently to evolve a new Action Plan for cleaning and beautifying the river. Likewise, the famous rivers Cauvery and Bhavani in South are running through my constituency. They require proper protection from water pollution by the waste waters of colouring and dyeing factories. Hence, the programme of Ganga River Development should be extended to the rivers Cauvery and Bhavani in Tamil Nadu State and funds should be allotted immediately.

The colouring and dyeing factories' waste waters are real threat to the purity of the river Cauvery and Bhavani drinking waters as well as purity of water is required for farming. I would request the Government to make special plans and proposals to divert such colouring and dyeing waste to secure places to save Cauvery and Bhavani water from pollution and also save colouring and dyeing industry.

19.00 hrs.

About the Sri Lankan Tamils, the Government's proposal should aim at a permanent political solution to

avoid conflict between the Sinhalese Government and the Tamilians. A separate State, well delimited in the area of Tamil people living, should become an autonomous State within Sri Lanka, solely controlled, maintained and ruled by the Tamilians there, which will only solve the age-old ethnic Tamilians' problem. The Indian Government in the recent past has worked in hands with the Sri Lankan Government...*About 20,000 people have died due to the Sinhalese Army's attack on the innocent Tamilians recently. They died of starvation, disease and injuries without any shelter.

At a time when the Resolution was moved by the Western Countries in the United Nations' Human Rights Council against Sri Lanka for human rights violation and war crimes against innocent Tamils, it is unfortunate and it is unpardonable that India took a wrong decision to vote against the interests of the Tamilians there. Instead, India joined hands with Sri Lanka and voted against the Resolution. Thus, the Indian Government has betrayed the entire Tamilians all over the world. On behalf of my Party, the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I am very much condemning the attitude and stand taken by the Indian Government. This act of voting against the interests of our own countrymen is not humane and it is against ethics. Hence, it is being condemned by the Tamilians all over the world.

The present method of using the electronic device of voting is to be changed because it has, certainly, given doubtful apprehensions and miscalculations in certain areas. People feel that the votes polled in this electronic device can be manipulated before the elections or after the voting.

On behalf of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), we welcome the respected President's Address as well as we demand that our Tamil People, wherever they live in the world, should be protected and safeguarded by the Indian Government.

[Translation]

**SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (Shirur): Sir, I would like to express my disagreement over the hon'ble Madam President's Address. In her Address, Madam President has repeated the policies, objectives and programmes of the UPA Government which have been in operation since 2004. There is nothing new in it.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao]

Sir, no details pertaining to many fields like Railways, educational unemployment have been given in the Speech and neither any effort has been made to give any importance to these important sectors. Probably the Government does not consider these sectors as part of development. The issue of corruption also does not find any place in the Speech whereas this issue is eating vitals of the Indian economy. May be that the Government was scared that making corruption a part of speech will land them into trouble. I would urge the Government to take immediate steps to stamp out corruption. Sir, a lot of funds set leaked right from their release from the exchequer to them reaching to the intended beneficiaries. The fact is that only 15 or 20 paise out of one rupee are spent on the needy persons or reach to them. The Government is fully aware of this problem but still no effective way out is seen in this Speech in order to deal with this problem. There is a need to take concrete steps to deal with this problem.

Sir, today thousand of people in the age-group of 30-40 years are losing their jobs in the country due to economic slowdown. In the Address it has been stated that there is no impact of economic slow down on India, though the reality is something else. A number of big companies have closed down their offices in the name of recession and thousands of people have been fired from jobs. So, the families of such people have ruined. But the Government is keeping its eyes and mouth shut. It has got nothing to do with the people losing jobs. Therefore, there is a need to seriously ponder over this issue.

Further one more issue is there and that issue is to regularize the services of 3.50 lakh temporary postmen. These temporary postmen barely earn from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 per month. Is the Government of the view that these postmen will be able to run their households with such a meager salary. But the Government is not concerned with it. Madam, the next issue is starvation. The Government has stated that Food Security Act will be enacted. Was the Government waiting for the last five years to witness the increase in starvation deaths? Sir, in one of its reports the UNICEF has mentioned that the number of persons living with starvation has increased by 20 lakh.

It has been mentioned in the President's Address that national identity cards will be issued to every citizen in the country. In my view it is better to issue multi-purpose identity cards instead of the proposed national

identify cards because different ID proofs are demanded for different purposes. For one purpose driving licence is demanded but, for the other, ration card or a PAN card is required. Therefore, Government should understand the importance of multipurpose identity card and try to implement it.

Sir, today I am going to raise the issue concerning my state Maharashtra. Some Ministries of Central Government e.g. Railways etc. ignore or deliberately delay the demands made by State Governments or by the people's representatives. Despite the survey conducted on Pune-Nasik railway line 6-7 years ago, the work on this line has not yet started. Similarly the proposal for new railway line for Kalyan Malshej Nagar is pending for long. I hope the Government will start both these railways lines as early as possible. Sir, the policy of Special Economic Zone and introducing new projects in defence sector is commendable but depriving the farmers from their land for the success of this policy is totally unacceptable. The agriculture land around Pune is being acquired from farmers for special economic zone and for defence projects without their consent. It has become difficult for the farmers to earn their livelihood. Therefore, I want that before acquiring the land of any farmer, his rehabilitation and employment should be ensured. I hope the Government will consider these facts.

It has always been a hard nut to crack for the Government to identify the BPL families because there is no fixed parameter in this regard. Consequently, the needy people are not getting the benefits of the schemes. Therefore, an absolute parameter should be formulated to prepare the list of BPL families and fresh survey should be conducted.

Sir, so far as 'Bharat Nirman' Scheme is concerned, I think the scheme cannot be implemented properly and with full transparency till the people's representative of the concerned area is not taken into confidence or is consulted in this regard. Therefore, the people's representative should be given importance while implementing Bharat Nirman Scheme.

Sir, at present Rs. two crores are provided under MPLADS fund for undertaking development works. A Member of Parliament has to make several commitments regarding developmental works and people expect fulfillment of those commitments during his tenure. However, it becomes difficult to fulfill them with this

meagre amount. Therefore, I suggest to increase the MPLADS fund from Rs. two crores to Rs. five crores.

Sir, there is one more issue which I would like to bring to the notice of Government through you. It is regarding the wages given to the labourers under NREGA. Sir, the wages under this scheme are between Rs. 10-15 per day which is not justified. It is a matter to be pondered over as to how it can be made in the interest of labourers.

In the end, I would like to state that the "Women Reservation Bill" should be introduced as early as possible.

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Her Excellency Madam President in her Address has enumerated the proposed agenda of UPA Government for the next five years. The Address has mentioned about introduction of Women Reservation Bill within 100 days, introduction of Communal Harmony Bill and strengthening of schemes like Bharat Nirman etc.

Sir, I would like to know as to how the work which this Government could not accomplish in last five years would be done in coming 100 days. I represent Jalna constituency. A proposal for the drinking water scheme worth Rs. 123 crore for Jalna area was sent five years ago. However, when the proposal was not approved even in five years, a voluntary organization approached the court and then as per the direction of the court, a provision of Rs. 50 lakh was made for this scheme. But now the cost of the scheme has been increased from Rs. 123 crore to 260 crore. Therefore, problems are coming in its implementation. I would like to tell the Government that funds should be provided for the implementation of this scheme.

Sir, my area is reeling under power crisis. I represent Sambhaji Nagar and Jalna area. Earlier power cuts were there for four hours but today the situation is that power supply is not made continuously for 18 hours due to which farmers are facing a lot difficulties in irrigation.

If the Government solves the electricity problem of farmers in five years I would say that the Government has fulfilled one of its commitments. It is very important to provide electricity to farmers. I would also like to mention about the roads in my Parliamentary Constituency Sambhaji Nagar. Roads in this area are in poor condition. In every budget we have requested the

Government to make provision in this regard but till date no funds have been sanctioned for it. Through you, I would like to request the Government to allocate funds for this purpose also. Rajiv Gandhi housing scheme is being implemented in my constituency. Application have been received from the people but I am sure that not a single house has been allotted under this scheme in Marathwara area. Under this scheme the beneficiary has to contribute 10% of the cost himself and for the rest 90% he has to take loan from the bank but banks are not ready to give loan for this scheme. There is a need to pay attention to this also. I would say only that it would have been better, had the Government taken steps for the drinking water and electricity problems raised by me, in its previous term.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address. A tragedy struck in my area. I would like to express my deep sorrow in this regard. Yesterday night as many as 20 people in my area fell in the river and eventually all of them died. I feel extremely saddened at this incident. During the last 2-3 years, as many as 332 people have lost their lives in this river. After every month or so such a tragedy takes place. I would like to say that this river has taken life of more people of Kistawar, Doda and Bhadwa than those killed in terrorist strikes. I again express my sorrow in this regard and urge the government to do something about it. The tradition goes like that the President reads out the Presidential Address, the House moves a Motion of Thanks and passes it. I would like to say that our Government did a lot for the people and that is why it again came to power and others did not come. Our friends in the opposition said a lot in this regard. I have no regrets over it. He, who works for the public, wins again. Therefore, I would say that we would further work for the people. The government has given a commitment and has set out a 100-Day's Agenda. The people expect us to deliver the goods and they have expected a stable government. I think we will have to fulfill the commitment we have made. Honestly we will have to work for the masses. All the leaders, be they small or powerful, say that the funds do not reach the intended people. It is not good. Take the case of a state, party representatives come here and say that drugs and liquor are being sold openly in the state. I am greatly pained that the government in several states do not care for the youth and they adopt wrong path and get spoiled. I want to know who will take care of them? They are in the power, they are asking us to take

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

remedial measures. It is not good to act in a dramatic way. What a fun it would be if I am power and say that the police or administration should act on my dictates. Think over it seriously. How it is sowing reason. We are losing our share of water. Farooq ji is sitting here, he knows it, our water is flowing down to other side and we have not been able to construct a barrage. We could not construct Shapurkandi barrage and we are losing our water. Kashmir canal, constructed during Maharaja's era has no water now and our paddy saplings are getting dired up. On the contrary, they say that we are utilizing even their share of water. The agreement reached is a kind of a fraud. I would like to urge the Government of India as it is my government, please do something. A lot was said about Jammu and Kashmir Government and a lot was done. Ours is a hilly area. Recently, I was travelling with Dr. Saheb. In this hilly area, people have to go to work on feet for as long as 30 kms, 40 kms or even upto 86 kms. There are schemes and projects, but who prepares them? It is we, do it. For which areas the schemes are implemented? These are implemented for villages and there is no scheme in fact for these villages, where, people have to walk on foot even upto 40-50 kms. So far as PMGSY is concered, last time I had requested to lower the population criteria to 250 from present one of 1000 or 500, as we have very small villages. The schemes are prepared for thickly populated states such as Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu. We have beautiful valleys, clean air but so far as development is concerned, it is worst. There are no roads, not even drinking water. There are schemes like Bharat Nirman, but who will implement and where? And When? I have been there for the last five years, nothing has been done. My other colleagues also may have seen. As I have to walk more, I wear sports shoes, whereas, other Members do not. I have not been able to wear other kind of shoes so far. I have to walk a lot. ...*(Interruptions)* We would wait till last and bell will be rung. We cannot tolerate it. I will demand as there are several needs of the people. We have no industry in our State. Though there were some but the government withdraw incentives being extended to them. Some people were employed in those industries. They lost their job as the industries had to be closed because of withdrawal of incentives. Not to speak of new industries, even old could not survive. Distrubance in the state destroyed tourism. We are falling prey to a conspiracy. When summer season sets in agitations are started in Kashmir. Though the people gave befitting reply to the anti-national forces, yet, the government, too, will have to act tough. Earlier the militants destroyed the entire

state of Jammu and Kashmir. It resulted in a lots of difficulties. The people who have contested elections are well aware of it. With great difficulties one M.P., whom you can consider equal to 100 M.Ps could come here. Everyone is well aware of it. Large number of fundamentalists, the militants are up in arms against us. They resort to sabotage. It results in destruction. The work on a railway line between Katra-Kajigund was going on. Rs. 1100 crore have been spent on it. Now the work has come to a halt at Banihal beyond Katra. Thoguh an expenditure of Rs. 1100 crore has been made and now on officer has reported occurrence of thrust and the work has been stopped. I asked them that they should have conducted geological and mining survey. Now they say that the work may start any day. Sir, you come from a remote area and you have been chief Minister there and understand the sufferings of the people. Now, you have been elected as an MP and must be aware of the problems faced by the people. I, through you, would request the Government that the said railway line should be started immediately. Otherwise, I will protest here as well as outside. I can not bear further delay. What did they do when we fought elections? They stopped our trains during elections. They through that we would loose. They stopped the trains to Udhampur and Jammu on coming here. I made the query after coming here.

I would like to to talk about the Election Commission for two minutes. The people who are not going to vote demean our voters. Discrepancy in the names in the voter list and as given on voter card is responsible for two per cent decline in polling.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now; I have given you a lot of time.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I am just concluding.

[Translation]

You may, please, extend the time. There won't be any problem in that. We have whole night and nobody has any problem. What is the good, if our point is not heard? Who has made the voters/photo ID cards? Election Commission has prepared them not we. If a name has to be include in the voter's list, then it has to be done by the Election Commission. Electoral cards are prepared there only when elections are round the corner. I request you to look into all this.

Beside, there was a reference of Indira Awas Yojana for slum areas of our area is a Kutch area. No house could be constructed there under the Indira Awas scheme. If you visit hilly areas, you will see Kutch a house in very bad condition there. This scheme will be implemented in slum areas, hilly areas and Jammu and Kashmir too but the BPL list is not being updated. Ration is not being supplied to our area. Starvation is spreading there. You can ask him—people told him that ration is not reaching there. He was the leader there. They said that there is no ration, no employment, no roads, no electricity and no water—what else you are talking about to give? I request that you should not be happy by just seeing cities and few roads of cities.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude; you have made your point.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I am concluding.

[Translation]

I want to say that we have not come here to crack jokes.

[English]

I am a serious person and I know how to represent here.

[Translation]

I want to say as to what is the fault of the people in my areas of Doda, Kashtwar, Ganderbal, Bhadrawah, Chenani, Gulabgarh etc. that they should walk on their feet. There is no food, there is no teacher in the schools. Although National Rural Health Mission has been launched, there is no NoB in the sub-Centres yet. When will it be, when will there be teachers in schools? I submit that attention should be paid to the points raised by me, otherwise, I have come here to fight, to get some result. With this, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Karunakaran. Please stick to your time.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak

on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Due to paucity of time, I would be compelled not to enter into any political argument on some of the issues raised by our friends from Kerala on the other side. The only reply that I would like to give them is that four is bigger than zero. In the 14th Lok Sabha, there was no seat for the Congress party from Kerala. This time, we have four seats; and I think, four is bigger than zero.

The election, which we had a few days back, is not the last election. Of course, it is a set back for the Left parties. We should realise and find out our mistakes and move further.

Sir, the decision taken by the Government to introduce the Women Reservation Bill as well as to increase the reservation quota to the local bodies is really a welcome step. I fully welcome and support this positive step.

While I am welcoming the Food Security Bill, which may come in this House, at the very outset, the UPA Government has to retain the food quota, which they had really allotted in the year 2007. Without any reasons, the UPA Government has drastically reduced the quota not only of Kerala State but many other States as well. The Government claimed that we have the better buffer stock. I agree. But this better buffer stock is at the cost of the drastic reduction in many of the States. Take for example, Kerala. We had 1,30,658 metric tonnes in 2007, which has been reduced by 21 metric tonnes. It is 82 per cent. I do not want to go into all these details. But I would request the Central Government. It is not only my request, it is the request of all the MPs from Kerala to retain the food quota, which they had already given. The Public Distribution System, especially, in Kerala, has been functioning in a better way.

Sir, we are celebrating the 61st year of Independence. There is no doubt that we are proud of our democratic set up. We have gained much. But at the same time, there is an important issue, which we have been raising since 14th Lok Sabha that we are forgetting our freedom fighters. The Government of India has identified the freedom struggles in various States. It is on that basis that various State Governments have constituted the Screening Committees. Those Screening Committees have also identified the deserved persons and started giving the Freedom Fighters' Pension. Though the State Governments are giving the pension to all these persons, yet the Central Government is not paying

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

any such pension to them. I do not blame the Central Government. But I would say that the officers incharge, with one reason or the other, are really rejecting many of the applications of these freedom fighters to get pension.

As we all know, the freedom fighters are very few in number. Many of them are in the sickbeds. Therefore, in this 15th Lok Sabha, I would again request the Central Government to go into all the details and start giving pensions to the freedom fighters, who are also getting the pensions from the State Governments. I do not see any reason to reject the pensions of these freedom fighters.

Sir, with regard to the Debt Relief Scheme, which was also introduced during the previous term of the UPA Government, I would say, it was a welcome step to a large extent. But I would submit that there are many poor and marginal farmers, who are not able to live with sufficient food. They have remitted their loans in time. Especially the marginal and poor farmers of Kerala have remitted their loans in time, but they are not getting this benefit because there was a cut-off date. As a result of this cut-off date and the norms prescribed, really the poor people, especially the farmers are not getting this benefit.

This issue has also been taken up by all the MPs. I request the Government to make some amendments and give the deserved persons, especially the poor and marginal people, what is needed. Then only the objective of this scheme can be achieved.

Sir, this is the time to have a rethink about the inter-State relations. The Sarkaria Commission was there. The time has passed. We have the experience of the newer liberal policies. Most of the Chief Ministers as well as the Finance Ministers are demanding for more financial assistance. It is true that for meeting the day-to-day administration of various social welfare schemes and many other schemes, the States are really facing difficulties. I think irrespective of the political parties, all the Finance Ministers have demanded for more assistance. I think it is time to have a new Commission under new terms to define the Centre-State relationship.

The resource mobilisation, to a great extent, is entrusted with the Central Government. Now the State Governments have to borrow from others. A strong

Centre can be achieved only with the strong States. It is the duty of the Central Government to give more assistance irrespective of the political parties which are there in power in the States. This issue also has to be taken up with due importance.

Sir, I am concluding. I know that the time is very limited. In the President's Address due importance has been given to women and also to the weaker sections. But I regret to mention that the welfare of the young children was not addressed properly. You see that these young children are really the prime of the future. Their mental and their physical capacity have to be raised and protected. The ICDC centres are the most important ones. The Government has increased their numbers. But, at the same time, the teachers and the helpers who are working in these centres are not permanent workers. Their honorarium is very very less. There is no welfare scheme for them. This issue has been discussed and debated in this House. When we give due importance to women and other sections, this is also the same issue that we have to address. So, I request the Government to give permanency to them or increase their honorarium and also to give at least some welfare measures.

The last point I want to make very clearly is that the Central Government should take vigilance when we take up the inter-State issues. Of course, there may be claims and views of each and every State. I do not blame them. I do not claim any issue of any State. But, at the same time, in any of the States when issues are rising, we are not able to solve them. It makes problems to each and every State. This is so especially in my State of Kerala. We are not against giving water to Tamil Nadu. We would like to give more water to Tamil Nadu. But the only question is the safety of the dam. I do not understand why we are not allowed to make the dam stronger. If the dam is stronger, they can get more water. The Government of Kerala is not in any way rejecting or not taking any other views with regard to this Mullaperiyar dam. But the demand of all the political parties and also the UDF Government or that of the LDF Government is this. The only issue is that this dam, especially in this monsoon season, is in a very dangerous position. The Central Government should act not only as a mediator but also take a judicious decision in this regard because it affects lakhs and lakhs of the people.

*The decision of the Government to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill as well as to increase the reservation to the local bodies are welcome steps. We welcome and support the positive step.

1. While I welcome the Food Security Bill which may be introduced in the House, Government should consider the food quota which was allotted earlier have reduced drastically in many States. In Kerala, the food quota was 1,13,658 metric tonnes and it was reduced to 21 metric tonnes in 2008. A reduction of 82%.
2. Government claims that there is sufficient buffer stock but it is at the cost of drastic reduction of APL food quota to various States. So at the very outset Government should retain the earlier food allotment including Kerala.
3. We are celebrating the 21st year of Independence and we are proud of our democratic set up but we really forget the sacrifice of the freedom fighters even after the 61st year of Independence.
4. Central Government has identified freedom struggles and various State Governments have constituted Screening Committees and identified deserving persons. They have already implemented the pension schemes but many of these freedom fighters are not getting central pension. There is no justification for the refusal. Many of them are in sick beds, so the freedom fighters who receive State pension has to be given the Central pension also. It is already too late to take this decision.
5. UPA Government has introduced the debt relief scheme but a good number of poor and marginal farmers who have promptly remitted the loans are not eligible under this scheme. So, Government should make some amendments in the norms for the implementation of the scheme. All the political parties and State Governments have submitted representation in this regard.
6. There is a need of redefining the Centre-State relationship especially in the experiences of new liberal policies. Most of the States are facing financial problems. Chief Ministers as well as the Finance Ministers have already demanded

more financial assistance. Now a days the resource mobilization mainly concentrated on Central Government. Many of the welfare activities as well as the development works and day today administrative expenditures all have to be met by the State Government. So, it is very difficult for the State Government to meet the growing demands of the people. So a new Committee should be set up. To go to the details of States and relationship, the pre-requisite of the strong centre is only possible with the well functioning of the strong State.

7. The Central Government has to be more vigilant with regard of the functioning of independent enquiry agencies like CBI and also the concerned constitutional authorities like Governors. There are criticisms and different views with regard to the functioning of the CBI. Supreme Court itself has made strong remarks. In some cases, CBI was criticized that it is functioning with the directions and motives of the Central Government. It would really damage the confidence of the people on the enquiry agencies like CBI.
8. In the President's speech, due importance has given to women and some other sections, but regret to mention the welfare of the young children and this was not properly addressed. The ICDS are the most important Centres. The teachers and helpers of these centres are making very significant contribution. But they are not permanent, no pension is implemented, getting very low wages. So, Government should make them permanent and implement welfare schemes for them.
9. The Government has decided to make some changes in the functioning of the Public Undertakings. It is stated that 51% of the share should be trusted with the Government. I could not understand what is your right to sell our 49% of the share to sell out these public undertakings. These all are public assets that are earning profits. They remit Government taxes promptly such as income tax, sales tax etc. but when we go to the private companies many of them are in the negative list not paying taxes. So this decision to sell out 49% of the share of public assets to the private parties would have far reaching adverse effect in our economy.*

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

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Let me thank the Chair for the opportunity to record my support to the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to both the Houses of Parliament. I welcome the invigorated policies of the Government spelt out by the President. On behalf of our DMK and on behalf of our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi we support and welcome the same. The UPA Government is the first formation that has consecutively returned to power since 1984. Coalition era has come to stay and that has been reiterated by the people of this country. That is why parties that had alliances on one hand and fought against each other on the other hand have all come together to form this United Progressive Alliance Government.

Before I could add further on this Motion of Thanks, I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to our leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi who has contributed to the success of this Government and to its resounding victory in the hustings to return this coalition Government and many of its representative members like me. I also thank the people of my Nagapattinam constituency who have heeded to the campaign address of our commandeering youthful leader and Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Hon. Mu.Ka.Stalin, the main mover behind our win.

An action plan for the first hundred days of this UPA Government that has taken over after the elections for the 15th Lok Sabha has been indicated. Streamlining and strengthening of our flagship programme National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is being taken up. Though it is a challenging task we are keen on providing a legal safeguard to this scheme. All the people living below the poverty line are to get jobs under this scheme as a legally guaranteed scheme. I would like to impress upon the Government at this point of time that suburban and rural areas that come under the ambit of Urban Development may also be extended with benefits of NREGA. At least the SC and ST population living in town panchayats and panchayat union headquarters towns must be covered and get job opportunities. Employment Guarantee Scheme must be extended to the people living below poverty line in these semi urban areas too. We all know that poverty must be completely wiped out wherever they are found.

It is a welcome move to enact National Food Security Act to entitle every family below the poverty

line in rural as well as urban areas, by law, to get 25 Kgs. of rice or wheat a month at Rs. 3 a Kg. This is an uphill task but still we can overcome the challenge. I say this with an optimism because Tamil Nadu under the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu has been successfully implementing Re.1 a kilogramme of rice programme there. In the next five years ten broad areas of priority for the Government would get due attention. Welfare of minorities is one among them. So, I welcome it.

We have been able to insulate our economy to an extent from the onslaught of the global recession. We are determined to ensure that the growth process is accelerated. It must be socially and regionally more inclusive and equitable. Thrust on expansion and deepening of inclusive growth model of development must take note of regional aspirations too and the number of needs that vary from place to place in the States and in several parts of the country. It must dispel regional imbalances too. That is why our leader has recently stressed the need to work for State Autonomy still.

For instance, I would like to highlight the plight of fishermen in my Tsunami hit Nagapattinam constituency and some of the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. As part of rehabilitation programmes loans were extended to them. Vagaries of weather in the form of heavy rains and floods have added to their burdening problems affecting their livelihood in the successive years. Hence there is a need to waive the loans extended to fisherman in the Tsunami affected areas in the similar fashion like the waiver of agricultural loans that was extended to the tune of about Rs. 60,000 crore. The crying need of the fishermen is not that big.

I welcome the policy pronouncement pertaining to stepping up of the efforts towards strengthening our infrastructure and paying special attention to housing activities. In the Tsunami affected Cauvery estuary region in my constituency, thousands of people were rendered homeless due to consecutive devastations in the form of tsunami, cyclonic storm, heavy rains and rain floods. Our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has announced that sixty five thousand houses would be constructed for rehabilitating the people who lost their houses. I urge upon the Centre to consider this vast need in my constituency while drawing up plans and allocating funds. I would request the Centre to strengthen the hands of our State Government that seeks to ameliorate the sufferings and problems of the common man with several pioneering schemes already in place.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Expressing our support to the Motion of Thanks on behalf of our DMK let me conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi): Sir, I want speak on the Motion of Thanks brought by Shrimati Girija Vyas ji. BJP member Shri Bhola Singh ji was saying that the Congress party is the Himalaya of ideology, it is not just a party it is the mother of ideology. I am proud to say that even though Congress is a party, it stands like the Himalayas as far as ideology is concerned.

Hon'ble Meira Kumar ji, who has been elected the Speaker of Lok Sabha, belongs to dalit community. I belong to dalit community. Congress has given recognition to the successful and capable dalits. Tribal leader Munda ji has been elected to the post of Deputy-Speaker. Women are at the forefront of politics in the country and from the President to the UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shrimati Meira Kumar ji — all are women. The points raised in the President's Address about women are in accordance with the present time and the time has come for passing of the Bill providing for 33% reservation for representation of women in the Parliament and State legislatures. Women have been exploited for centuries. The women in the political parties in the country have raised their voice many times and called for a revolution sayig— 'We want egalitarian society only and equal freedom for man and woman? But, I am forced to think as to why our friends are objecting to it when the Congress Party has accepted it and is going to implement it legally without any bloodshed, movement, revolution or Bharat Bandh. Perhaps, they just want to have an issue. Whether it was 50% reservation in jobs or 33% reservation for women or issue of right to work under NREGA, or right to information or giving forest rights to the tribals-many parties raised these issues but no one did anything while in the power. Only Congress with its ideology has been standing behind these issues like the Himalayas. That is why, the Congress party behaves like the Himalayas—whether it is some foreign powers or some issue of the country. As far as ideology is concerned, Congress is the mother. Whenever the cause of dalits has come up, our hon'ble Shrimati Soina Gandhi ji has supported it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, when a question about my ticket came up, then, many people said that Bhakta Charan Das has been losing elections for the last three times because he is a dalit and cannot

contest from a general seat. While the fact is that I have already been elected to this House two times and even today also, I have been elected on a general seat. When I pleaded before the our party President, Smt. Soniaji that I have been struggling for the last ten years and worked at the grassroot level among the people, she assured me that I, Bhakta Charan Das, would definitely contest elections on Congress ticket. Her faith led me to a 1,54,000 vote victory. That is the reason why I say that, the Congress cares for ideology and its President also cares for ideology.

As regards the youth, it has been said in the Address that 50 crore young persons would be given skill training by the year 2022 so that 50 percent of the population of the country consisting of the youth may participate in the growth of the country's prosperity. I could like to mention that out of the 206 of our party members in the House 86 are young and fresh. This has become possible only due to Rahulji's initiative. We have attained this majority in Lok Sabha due to his initiative of reaching out to the common man by going to villages, meeting the youth and visiting the tribals. We are proud of this fact.

The opposition has, ever so often, targeted and criticised our leaders but we did not care. My party and its leaders did not pay attention to their carping and continued to focus on their work of nation building and service to the nation.

Many members of the BJD have, time and again, raised the demand for according special status to Orissa. I want to remind you that at the time when BJD was with the NDA Government, the Government had refused the demand for accordance of special status to Orissa. The BJD had forgotten all about this demand till 2008. Now it is again raising this issue as a political slogan.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues from the BJD have contended that the Union Government does not give grants to the Orissa Government and at times has even withdrawn the grant given earlier. An allocation of merely seven hundred crore rupees had been made for Orissa under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during the NDA regime whereas the UPA Government has allocated Rs. 2567 crores for the said purpose. The NDA Government had allocated 14 thousand crore rupees for Orissa during the tenth five year plan period whereas the UPA Government granted 32 thousands crore rupees to the State during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

[Shri Bhakta Charan Das]

Sir, the Orissa Government is demanding an increase in the cess on mines royalty. It did not remember to do so during the NDA regime. Orissa should be selling its iron-ore at the rate of 3300 to 5500 rupees per tonne but it is being made available to private mine owners at the rate of 11 to 27 rupees per tonne. The private mine owners have earned a profit of thirty thousand crore rupees during the last ten years. The issue of development of Orissa is being raised but no development has actually taken place. Orissa is lagging behind in all areas. Poverty and illiteracy is rampant in the State. Orissa has the highest number of deaths caused by Malaria. I would like to request my Government to concentrate on Orissa. The Government should accord priority to Orissa because it is repeatedly hit by natural calamities. Regional imbalance and backwardness, lack of human development are factors that are holding the State back. Hence, I would like the Union Government to focus on Orissa.

Sir, in the end I would like to draw the attention to the fact that natural resources worth crore of rupees in Niyamgiri jungles have been given to the Vedanta company which is likely to render lakhs of tribals shelterless and due to which they would lose their traditional source of income. I would like to request that the matter be reconsidered and some other mine may be allotted to the said company.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (Dhubri): Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I represent the AUDF party from Assam. I support the Address of the President. The Government's agenda, as outlined in the Address, is commendable. But I would like to raise a few points about Assam and particularly Dhubri which is the most neglected area in Assam. When I became the MLA of Dhubri, the first question I asked was how many Government vehicles are run in my area. I am ashamed to say that the reply I received was that the area has no motorable roads. It is sixty years since independence, we have travelled to the moon, we want to develop the country but how can we say we have achieved progress when even after sixty years of independence there are no roads, and drinking water and electricity are not available. The Prime Minister is formulating good schemes but they need to be implemented properly. I am in complete agreement with the points made by my colleague from Kashmir. This is not the story of just one state but all states. Indisputably, in some of the larger cities people are

benefiting from such schemes and becoming big businessmen but what about the poor? The country cannot progress until upliftment of the poor takes place.

Sir, the biggest problems being face of Assam are floods and erosion. The Brahmaputra river has taken on a frightening aspect for the people of Assam. Hence, I would like to ask that if China can channelise and control the River Wang to its benefit why can't we do the same with the River Brahmaputra? Why can we also not channelise and control our river? Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had formulated a plan to this purpose in the year 1960. I demand that the said plan be implemented. The programme initiated by Shri Rajiv Gandhi be implemented and we should be freed of the fear this river inspires in us. Many big projects can be initiated under the said programme which would benefit the people, instead lakhs of people are rendered homeless due to the river. I would like to say that 90 percent of the reasons for the genesis of the Bangladeshi issue in Assam is the river Brahmaputra. These issues can be controlled to a large extent if Brahmaputra is controlled, flood and erosion are controlled and if displaced persons are given identity certificates. I would like to urge the Government of India, through you, to give serious consideration to these issues.

Mr. Chairman, industrialization is taking place at a fast pace in the country, growth of industries is at an all time high but when I asked about the state of industries in Assam during the last assembly, the Minister of Industries informed the House that more than 19000 industries had closed down in Assam. If this trend continues how will we solve the issue of unemployment, how would we be able to remove unemployment? If we talk of minorities the Muslims have the largest population among the people residing in the tea garden estates. People belonging to the Rajvanshi, Bimasha, Karbi and Bengali communities also live there. Who will deal with their problems? The Assam Government says that there is a program. The Assam Government says that every day is a step forward. But the state of security is such that neither the Chief Minister nor any of us can move out of our homes without security. A bomb was exploded within half a kilometre of the Chief Minister's residence. The 26/11 attack on Mumbai took place.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister Sahib for taking speedy action and removing the Chief Minister and another Minister of Maharashtra. But the Chief Minister of Assam, who holds the portfolio of the Home Minister also, is still holding onto his seat despite

daily occurrence of bomblasts. Why can we not resolve these issues I would like to say, through you, that these issues should be resolved at the soonest it we want peace in Assam. Assam is one of the most backward states in the country. If we look at the corruption index, Assam stands at number one. If we talk about industrial backwardness Assam's name is not missed out. It is padding backwards in the race for progress. I would like to urge the Government through you, to examine, consider and resolve these issues.

Mr. Chairman, my second point pertains to the Wakf property. Wakf property is our biggest property. This issue should be given due consideration. Through you, I would like to congratulate Shri Rahul Gandhi for the programmes initiate by him, His father, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had said at one tie, that out of every ten rupees granted by the centre to the states, only 17 paise reach down to the grassroots level. Recently, Shri Rahul Gandhi is aid that now even that 17 paise has got reduced to 10 paise. If the benefits of implementation of these programmes do not reach the grassroot level, if the funds do not reach the grassroot level, the poor would not be benefited from these programmes. Till the time the poor are not benefited, the rich would become richer and the poor would become poorer. High level officers are getting rich. Ministers do not have any dearth of money. Corruption is rampant. Please allow me two minutes more to speak.

Mr. Chairman, the Sachar Committee Report has not been implemented in Assam. The Prime Minister has formulated an excellent 15 points programme but it is also not being implemented in Assam. The programme recommended by the Rangnathan Committee should be implemented at the earliest. Border fencing is being undertaken to deal with the infiltrators but not even 10 percent of the people have been benefited thereby although crores of rupees have been spent thereon. This is the demand of my party and myself that the borders should be sealed as soon as possible. The issues of security, insuragency and infiltration are linked with the sealing of borders. These are major issues. If the sealing is done all these issues would be resolved. I will not take much more time. I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bansal, you wanted to make a statement; you can make that statement now.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): I only wanted to bring it to the notice of the hon. Members that arrangement for dinner has been made. So, after eight o'clock, anyone can just go to Room No. 70, First Floor. We will be continuing with the debate for some more time. I will make that request to you after 15 minutes, or you may extend the time right now, if you feel like doing it right now.

But I would just again request the hon. Members, invite the hon. Members ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): One of the Ministers has to stay.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes, the Ministers would stay. I am referring to the hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members agree, today's sitting of the House can be extended till 9 p.m.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today's sitting of the House is extended till 9 p.m.

Those who wish to lay their speeches on the Table are free to do so.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate. I earnestly support the motion moved by Dr. Girija Vyas and seconded by Shri P.C. Chacko to thank the hon. President for her Address. I want to thank our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rajasekhara Reddy our Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for having given me an opportunity to contest in the election to Lok Sabha. I want to thank the people who elected me and sent me to this august House. I feel that it is my duty to thank the people on priority.

The people of the country are worried more about the behaviour of the parliamentarians than what we speak on various issues in Parliament. They are very anxious about our behaviour. Somehow we have lost our respect slowly. But, it is for us to restore that respect. I said the same thing ten years ago that we hardly have respect for us among ourselves. As hon. Members we have to realize that our honour has been slowly deteriorating. So, let us try to realize what is there in the minds of the people and behave accordingly.

[Shri K. Bapiraju]

Shri L.K. Advani said today that there are only two poles politically in the country. Maybe he meant the Congress and the BJP, or the UPA and the NDA. There was big talk of a Third Front and a Fourth Front and what not. However, we must recognize the significance of the forefront of the people which neither the media - neither in this country nor internationally - nor any fortune teller could realize. See how the people of India in their wisdom acted! We talk so much about literacy and all that. However, using their common sense, the patriotic people of the country chose the right people to lead their country.

Today we are proud of the human approach of our great leader Soniaji and her clean image. She had visited several tribal and remote areas of the country. The people there call Soniaji as *Amma* today as they once called Indiraji. Here is a Prime Minister who was prepared to quit his Prime Ministership for the Civil Nuclear Agreement. What did he do that for? He took that stand in the interest of the nation, for the future wellbeing of the country. As the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission, as the Finance Minister of the country, as the Prime Minister of the country, he has a vision for the country and it is in order to achieve that goal that he wanted to sacrifice his post categorically saying that he would not withdraw from the Civil Nuclear Agreement. And, Madam Sonia Gandhi had given him and the Government full moral support.

All this was watched carefully by the people of the country. The common man of the country could understand all this. I pity the CPI(M) people that they were not able to see this. They are patriotic and hard-working people. They sustained the reins of West Bengal Government for decades. However, they could not support the Government and I feel pity for them.

Today what happened in West Bengal? They are thin in the Parliament. Why? It is because they could not get support. Shri Acharia was talking about power. I can realize - 62 crore of people had not received proper clean energy. I am telling you, hardly 44 per cent of the energy is being supplied to the rural areas; 85 per cent of clean power is being supplied to the urban areas. We know all these things. Production of energy is 1,30,000 MW as of today. We still are short of 38,000 MW for the needy people here. I can tell you the estimates. The Planning Commission had estimated that by 2030, the requirement of power should be five times that of the existing production of today.

By getting the nuclear energy, we can improve the situation. A country like France produces 75 per cent of energy from nuclear sources. They are able to export power also. A country like Japan produces 40 per cent of energy from nuclear sources. But we produce hardly 4,000 MW of nuclear energy in our country. We should realize all this. Based on the need of today, energy has become an essential commodity. When we say essential commodity, we think only of rice, edible oil, kerosene, etc. But it is not so now. Energy has become an essential commodity now. Unless this is there, we cannot expect any foreign investment and I feel very happy that an amount of one lakh crore of rupees has been invested by the Government of India in this; and Rs.91,000 crore is the profit. This is the dream of great Jawaharlal Nehru.

19.52 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that you are there; I mentioned your name a few minutes back. You are a seasoned senior politician; I just want to share with you something about irrigation and power sector. If you give a little time, it is all right. If you curtail my time also, I will obey. I look a little bit wild, but I am a disciplined man. If you just say a word, I will sit down in the middle of the sentence also. I have been in the political career for 30 years; I contested nine times and got elected seven times. I always wished the opposition candidates. When my opponents come for elections, I wish them all the best, before we contest. I am sportive; I am a sportsman.

I did argue in the Supreme Court also. There was an election petition in my first election in 1978. I argued in the Supreme Court, when Shri Lal Narain Sinha was the Attorney-General and he was my lawyer. The Solicitor-General was Shri Nariman; and Shri Govind Iyer was the Chief Justice of the Tamil Nadu's High Court. This is the stature of the people who were arguing the case. I was only a candidate. I was just a graduate. I am sportive; I am a sportsman; I am an athlete; I am a swimmer; I am a rider. All these things helped me to be sportive. In politics also, I am like that. I said in the Assembly also that every politician should play games. Unless you are sportive, you cannot do it; we can fight on issues, but we are all one.

Shri Advani was mentioning that we should start the 15th Lok Sabha as a new era. On developmental

issues, we are all one – he said this; and I am happy. In this august House, we are all one. This is what I mentioned in your absence. The CPIM is a national party; it is a patriotic party with a secular thinking; we are all having a common thinking. Even today, the great lady Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh have soft corner for you; do not get away; please be with us; it is in the interest of the nation. You have always been for the poor; your slogan is for the poor; we are pro-poor; we are working for the poor. So, we are all one. So, I request the CPIM persons to re-think once again and share with us so that we can have a better future for the country.

As regards irrigation, in Andhra Pradesh, we have taken up about 1,75,000 acres under 80 projects. It is for one State. When the country has taken up one crore acres for the nation, we have taken up one crore acres for the State. That is the vision of our Chief Minister. The Polavaram project is pending since pre-Independence. The Pranahita project which is created by hon. Chief Minister will also be taken up. We want the Central Government to help us in these projects. We have a little problem in taking up these things. As per Entry 70 and List 2, 'water' will be maintained by the State Government only but the Government of India can play the role of an adviser and they have made a blue print. They are trying to inter-link the rivers. For that, we should go for amendment or if not, we have to have a common understanding in Parliament.

Sir, you have been so kind and I thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HANRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the vote of thanks on the President's Address proposed by the Government. We get to know of the Government's intentions through the address. Many developmental schemes and reservation for women have been talked of therein. I support all these issues. Most of the MPs, from my state belong to the rural areas. The greater part of the electorate in the country is comprised of farmers and labourers. The neglect of the Government has led the farmers to commit suicide during the last many years. Out of these, the maximum number thereof is from Chandrapur, Yavatmal districts in the Vidarbha area of Maharashtra. In view of the situation, the Government should have formulated some scheme for the distressed farmers. Farmers are becoming poorer. The Government has not made any

provision for irrigation projects for farmers. The water for irrigation is a long standing demand which led to rise in of the farmers their poverty and financial ruin. The Government's agenda as outlined in the Address by the President mentions no special provision for irrigation projects. The Government does not seem to be seriously concerned about the suicides being committed by farmers in an agro based economy. I would like the Government to allocate funds for the projects for areas which lack irrigation facilities. In my Vidarbha region merely four to nine percent of land area is irrigated. That is the area where maximum numbers of farmers are committing suicide. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that irrigation projects are getting delayed due to forest laws. The Government should approve of these projects as national projects so as to complete the pending ones. I would suggest that the Government should release the required amount of fund for construction of dams for irrigation on lines of Vijayawada and Nanded dams.

I had stated in the 14th Lok Sabha that the farmers are the largest community in the country and the largest number of people in the country earn their livelihood from farming. Hence, I would like to say that there should a farmer's status near the main gate of this House to remind each Member of Parliament to something for the farmers because this is a country of farmers. The Congress party which had remained in power for a long time has done nothing much for the farmers due to which poverty in the villages of the country went on increasing and the rural people became much poorer than their urban brethren.

Just now there was a mention of per capita income. There is Arjun Sengupta Committee's report before the Government which says that 78% of the people in rural areas have per capita income of Rs. 20. It is a very serious matter that the people living in the villages in the country have been suffering injustice. The Government does not pay attention to it. The Government should think seriously as to how the income of villagers and the farmers can be increased. I, through you, would like to tell the Government that though we are definitely increasing the economic growth rate but we are unable to meet the requirements of the rural areas of the country in this blind race of globalization. In my opinion, we will have to develop technology, only then employment could be made available in the rural areas also. There is a need to promote rural areas.

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has enacted a law to provide employment for 100 days under NREGA but people getting employment under this programme carry only Rs. 60-70 per day. Thus, this is not going to solve the problem of the rural people and the labourers. Besides increasing it, I. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): They should be given employment for 200 days and it should be made available easily. The Government has definitely enacted the law. You have blown your own thumpet but the rural areas are not getting its benefit. As far as farmers and rural areas are concerned, I would say that the farmers need seeds and fertilizers. Fertilizers are being sold in the black market in the entire country due to which the farmers are not getting the fertilizers and good seeds on time. The Government does not pay attention to this. There is need to increase the number of wagons and rake points to unload the fertilizers in the small towns in rural areas having access to the railway. In our area in such conditions. ...*(Interruptions)* I raise a demand so that the farmers get some benefit. I would also like to say that the Government has formulated its next programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I am going to conclude after making a point. I want to speak about electricity because it is much needed by the farmers as they cannot draw water from their wells or rivers without electricity. They are not getting electricity connections. There is shortage of about 6000-65000 MW electricity in Maharashtra and because of this many farmers do not get electricity connections even after 2-3 years of applying. Therefore, the farmers face much difficulty there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech now. There is paucity of time and many speakers are yet to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I want that the Central Government should make available electricity to Maharashtra so that the farmers there can take electricity

connections and develop their farming. I submit that I am laying the remaining part of my speech on the Table of the House.

*I have risen to speak on the Motion of Thanks moved by the Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Address shows the intensive of the Government Mention has been made of many schemes for development and women reservation. We all support this. But, the area I hail from, the farmers are committing suicide there even today. Though the Union Government has provided a package. The suicides continue unabatedly due to negligence by the State Government Loan waiver also could not benefit the farmers much there. There is need to provide irrigation facilities on priority in Vidarbha if its farmers are to be saved from committing suicide. Their agro economy system has given away due to their dependence on the rain for years. The condition of the farmers in the forest area there is even worse. Due to Forest Conservation Law, proper irrigation facility could not be developed there even after having perennial rivers. Due to the long pending project in the forest area and the condition of carrying out N.P.V., the State Government is also showing neglect towards the irrigation projects there. To check the suicides due to poor condition of the farmers of Vidarbha and to assure them a better life, there is need to pay special attention to the irrigation. The Government should allocate special fund for construction of small dams/barrages on the rivers there on the pattern of Nanded and Vijaywada and also for lift irrigation.

Demanding priority to be given to the farmers and agriculture, I had proposed installation of a farmer's statue at the entry gate of the Parliament House in the 14th Lok Sabha. Poverty is also increasing alongwith the increase in the number of rich in the country today. According to the Arjun Sengupta Committee, the number of people having an income of Rs. 20 or less in 78% our country lives in the village even today. The number of cities is increasing due to the neglect of the villages, whose limited resources are also getting burdened. The reason for migration from villages in the poor condition of agriculture and lack of employment there. Economy is growing but we will have to develop the technology in accordance with the requirements of the country in this blind race of globalization. We can bring development to the rural areas in true sense only by having progress on the basis of Indian environment and requirements.

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

A law has been enacted through NREGS to provide employment for 100 days in rural areas. Can a family be nourished in just Rs. 60? In Maharashtra, not even Rs. 60 are paid then what is the benefit of this employment legislation for the labourers? I demand that it should be implemented in the cities too and its scope should be expanded and sufficient wages should be provided. Due to low wages, labourers do not come for work in Maharashtra. The Government should think over it.

We speak about farmers but every year the Government fails to provide seeds and fertilizers to the farmers on time. There is a shortage of fertilizers in Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in my Parliamentary Constituency. There is a demand to construct a Rake Point at Vani and Rajura railway stations. The Government and the Ministry of Railways are well aware of the same but they are not taking any necessary action in this regard as result of this, fertilizers and seeds are not being made available to the farmers on time and black-marketing of the same is taking place. Farmers are in dire need of fertilizers and seeds. I would urge the Government to interfere in this situation and take appropriate action and would also request to restart the fertilizer plants lying closed in the Public sector and increase their production capacity as well. After the Nuclear Agreement during the 14th Lok Sabha was made, our country expected availability of power but even today there is shortage of power. Our farmers are suffering due to shortage of power for irrigation. Efforts should be made to provide electricity connection for agricultural purposes on priority basis in Maharashtra. Small scale industries are also suffering due to power shortage. There is a need to maintain the economic system by making power available to these small scale and rural industries. The Government had announced an Ultra Mega Project. Till date not a single project has been completed. There is vast potential in the field of power but we are constantly lagging behind in meeting the targets due to coal and gas supply and corruption.

In view of this fact, it needs improvement. Now the effect of global warming and decreasing ground water level is evident in India also. Our country depends upon Monsoon for agriculture. We will have to be more attentive and deal with this. River Linking Project was launched during the time of NDA Government and the UPA Government scrapped it. River Linking would have helped us deal with the problem of floods and drought. Similarly, ground water recharging is also possible.

Therefore, it is requested that River Linking Project may kindly be implemented in the interest of the nation. The number of unemployed persons in the country is constantly increasing.

As per the Employment Exchange, there are at least 4 crore well educated unemployed persons in the country. Lack of employment opportunities for the educated is making people get involved in unsocial activities. Naxalism is one such example. Therefore, a provision should be made to grant unemployment allowance to these educated unemployed persons. Maximum opportunities for job and business should be generated by the Government. I would request the Government to take notice of this important issue and take necessary action in this regard.

I come from the naxalite affected area. Last month 16 policemen were brutally killed by the Naxalites in our area. Out of those, maximum number of Policemen belonged to tribal community. Naxalite activities are increasing in tribal dominated areas. They are being victimized by both police and naxalites. Police should be given good weapons. The Government should formulate a common policy with all the Naxal affected states and help them out. Families of the policemen who lost their lives in Naxal violence should be provided financial assistance and facilities at par with those given to the families of martyrs who lost their lives in Mumbai.*

20.03 hrs.

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on ovte of thanks to the hon'ble President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please finish your speech in five minutes.

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Sir, I am a new member. Ealier, I have been there in State Assemblies. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, but there is no time left for your party. Time allotted to your party is over, but, since you are a new Members, I am giving you five minutes. You will get enough time to speak because five years are still there.

SHRI RAMKUSHUN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, works to be undertaken and the policies to be followed by the Government in the one year period have been

[Shri Ramkushun]

enumerated in the President's Address and I would like to speak in this regard. Congress party has come to power but it does not have full majority. They are overwhelmed on this vicotry. They have an eye on Uttar Pradesh. Their position has improve to some extent in Uttar Pradesh. There are reasons for that—if Samajwadi Party had not supported the previous Government a year back, then these people would have been sitting here and those who are sitting here would have been sitting there. This is due to Samajwadi Party, which is supporting the Congress alliance Government to prevent communal forces from coming to power.

We are firm on that. If we have to choose between communal forces and the secular ones, we will choose a secular party alliance. It has impact on their peformance and therefore, their position has improved in Uttar Pradesh. Eastern region of Uttar Pradesh is really backward and even today development is not taking place over there. The reason behind this is that nothing has been done by the Union Government for development of that area. After joining the House, I have realized and heard that people are more concerned about issues of their own constituencies and less about the country. Nothing has been mentioned in the President's Address as to how we can reduce the regional imbalance spread over the country. Through you, I would like to urge the Government that there is a need to bring big scheme for development of Poorvanchal and Bundelkhand regions of Uttar Pradesh.

Sir, in the area I represent, thousands of acres of farmer's land was acquired many years ago in Chaduli district for setting up a rail factory. That factory has not been set up so far. Site of that factory has been changed. The biggest yard in Asia is in Mugalsarai. Mugalsarai is also the birthplace of our former Prime Minister Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. No work has been done for development of that area. Earlier a fertilizer plant producing chemical fertilizers was located there. It has been closed down. I would urge the Government through this Motion of Thanks that all such units should be revived.

A new rail line is being laid under the dedicated freight corridor project announced by the Railway Minister in the previous Government. There are two railway lines in Benaras-Gaya-Patna and Mugalsarai-Gaya which divide Chandoli district in three to four parts. Apart from these,

a third railway line is being laid under freight corridor project. Fertile arable land of farmers is being acquired for laying the said line. My submission is that in place of acquiring fresh fertile land of farmers, the new line should be laid parallel to already existing railway lines, on the land of railways. No one will have objection to it. The land of farmers should not be acquired.

Sir, I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important issues. Children and pregnant women in our country are suffering from malnutrition. The food they eat lack nutrients. The country needs a water policy and also availability of clean drinking water. Decades have elapsed since independence, yet we have failed to formulate a water policy. Now the people are getting clean drinking water neither in urban areas nor in rural areas. It has also added to malnutrition. I would take up the issue of nutritious food later on. First the country needs a water policy, wherein, clean drinking water should be provided to all the citizens. Even those days, while travelling by train we find a number of people drinking water meant for washing hand which is unfit for human consumption. The poor people drink that very water.

We have discussed about BPL cards. In this regard, I would say that the genuinely poor people are still deprived of these cards. My submission is that a de novo survey should be conducted to identify the actually poor people and those who have not been covered under BPL should now be covered under it. When we take up such an issue with District Collector saying that so and so is a poor, pat comes the reply that there is a specified quota for BPL. When a poor person dies, the next poor person gets accommodated in his place. It is a serious problem. A fresh survey should be conducted in this regard and BPL quota should be increased.

I will conclude after making one more point. All the children should be imparted uniform, free and compulsory education. There should be a uniform education system throughout the country, be it a poor man's or rich man's son or son of a collector, M.P. or of a Minister. Until and unless it is done, we can't fulfill the objective of poverty alleviation envisioned at the time of independence. If we want to make it meaningful, we will have to frame a policy in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I conclude my speech with thanks to you for having given me an opportunity to speak in Motion of Thanks on Presidents' Address.

[*English*]

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion introduced by Dr. Girija Vyas. At the outset I would like to thank Chairperson of the UPA, Madam Sonia ji, hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, our mass leader of Tamil Nadu, Shri G.K. Vasan ji, hon. P. Chidambaram ji, the TNCC President and other senior Congress leaders of Tamil Nadu; and the UPA Chief Minister Aiya Kalaingar for giving me this opportunity to serve in Lok Sabha. I take this opportunity to also thank the people of my constituency, Tirunelveli, for electing me to this House.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, before starting my maiden speech, I once again thank Madam Sonia ji. During 1989 I was introduced by our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi as a candidate in my Assembly constituency, Alangulam. He came to my constituency and introduced me as a candidate. I remember it even now. I won the election without the alliance of Dravidian parties. Now, I got the privilege of having been introduced by our esteemed leader, UPA's Chairperson. She has introduced me as a candidate of Tirunelveli parliamentary constituency and I won the election. Really I am very proud of coming to this august House.

I am a grass root worker hailing from Tirunelveli, which is situated near Kanyakumari. The holy Tamarabarani is the boon to our people. Most of the freedom fighters who lost their valuable lives for the freedom of the nation, like Poet Subramania Bharatiar, Veera Vanchinathan, Veera Chidambaranar, Perunthalaivar Kamaraj, Shri K.T. Kosalaram, hail from Tirunelveli. I am very proud that I also come from this area.

The President's Address unveils a new vision for India. The people have given a clear mandate. There are so many parties in this country. More than 1,700 parties are there in India. All these parties are creating more confusion and chaos among the people. See the mandate of the people. They have given a clear mandate. They have decided that the UPA has to rule the country. That is the mandate of the people. The mandate is for the UPA to rule this country. The people think that only if the UPA rules, this country will be a stable and strong one.

It is the people's decision. There are so many parties. There are so many flags. We cannot identify

these flags as to which party's flag it is. But even then the people's mandate is very clear. The UPA and the Congress should rule this country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Sir, it is my maiden speech. I have taken only two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken five minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Sir, I am speaking for the first time. So, please give me some more time. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, when I went to my constituency, a lady came there and told me that because of the NREGA Scheme of our Government, because of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh, we are getting Rs 80/- per day for 100 days. We are getting job opportunities and we are feeding our children. We are educating our children. The lady told me that they are living peacefully. Please convey our thanks to our beloved leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. You can see as to how the poor people are appreciating the NREGA Scheme. It is because of this they are getting job security. They are getting greater opportunities and in this way, women are getting empowerment. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramasubbu, if you have a written speech, you can lay your speech.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Sir, I have only two points left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude your speech within one minute.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Sir, I want to say a few words about power generation. The power is very important. Sir, in our area Koodangulam project is generating power. The Government should give some support to this project. The power production must be accelerated to distribute it to the industrialists and to the poor people in the area.

Sir, the vegetable and agricultural producers are not getting remunerative prices. So, they have to be supported by giving adequate prices. The cold storage

[Shri S.S. Ramasubbu]

facilities must be established for them to preserve vegetables.

Lastly, I would like to say that beedi workers are getting Rs. 45,000/- to construct their houses. This money is provided to them through the Central Government's assistance. But it must be enhanced to Rs. 1 lakh. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramasubbu, I have called Shri Goraknath.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramasubbu, you can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House. It will be recorded. I have already called the next hon. Member.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only what Shri Goraknath says will go in the record and nothing else will go in the record.

(Interruptions) ...**

*SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Women's Reservation Bill, after the Parliament Constitutional amendment to provide 50% reservation for women in Panchayat and local bodies, and concerted efforts to increase representation of women in Central Government job are going to give legal protection and equality for them.

It is a welcome sign that all the allied U.P.A. parties and opposition parties accepted the Smt. Sonia's selection of Madam Hon'ble Meira Kumar as Speaker of this great Lok Sabha unanimously.

NREGA gives job security to the poor village people. The wage increase from Rs.80 to 100 is a boon to poor village people.

The National Food Security Act assumes food security for below poverty line people who are living both in urban and rural areas.

In my Tirunelveli constituency Special Economic Zone at Nanguneri and industrial centre at Kankaikondam should be given priority to improve the industrial and commercial development. It will give more employment opportunity. The Central Government should create infrastructure facilities to improve these two projects.*

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

** Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI GORAKHNATH (Bhadohi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on Motion of Thanks on Presidential Address. I am also grateful to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Behan Mayawati ji who gave me an opportunity to come here by selecting me a candidate of her party. At the same time, I am grateful to the people of my constituency who have sent me here with their blessings.

Sir, earlier I was a Member of State legislature. Whenever, I had raised a major issue in the assembly it used to be dilly dallied by saying that since it is a major scheme it can be taken up only by the Central Government.

Sir, I have been listening to our senior Speakers on Motion of Thanks for the last two days. But it gave me an opportunity to learn a lot. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to 2-3 points. I hail from rural areas in U.P. There are several such problems in rural areas which have been dwelt upon in the Address. But some points relating to the problems have been omitted. I am grateful to the Government for having declared Ganga, a national river. It has been stated in our Purans about the sacred river—'Ganga, tav darsharth mukti'. Tulsidas has said in Ramayana-Darshan kiye anek fal, majjan se agha jahin. Today, a question mark has been put upon the sacredness of this river. People used to feel fortunate on having darshan of this river and after taking a holy dip therein. But, today, the condition of this river is such that if we take bath thēreīn, we have a painful feeling. So far as its sacredness is concerned, there is a need to pay attention to it. Secondly, thousands of farming families are affected by land erosion around the area of its origin. Thousands of families in district Bhadohi under Poorvanchal, my constituency, are affected by land erosion caused by river Ganga. Consequently, they are giving for two square meals. The villagers which have been badly affected by erosion caused by Ganga needs to be protection and safety.

Sir, now I would like to take up second major problems of Poorvanchal. Once upon a time, carpet industry was earning foreign currency to the tune of crores of rupees. Subsidy was also being provided to the said industry. But, on the pretext of child labour the said industry has been adversely affected. It was functioning on the lines of rural or cottage industry.

Adverse impact on such rural industries has resulted in higher numbers of unemployed youth. VAT has also been imposed on raw material. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government in this regard that this industry should be included in the category of small scale industries and should be brought under Khadi and Village Industries Commission. It will not only provide livelihood to thousands of Jhuggi-Jhompari dwellers but will help in alleviating poverty also.

Sir, I have rural background and I am aware of the problems of rural people. We all are sons of farmers and we understand the problems of farmers. Though we talk about alleviating poverty and increasing agricultural production but the irony is that fertilizers, seeds, electricity and other essential agricultural inputs are not provided to farmers at the time of sowing. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that we have to ensure availability of all means of agriculture to farmers at the time of sowing, if we really want to alleviate poverty, if we want to have sufficient supply of foodgrains and want to save the people from starvation.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the poor people of the area where Chief Minister Mayawati ji has been raising the slogan of "Sarvjan Hitay, Sarvjan Sukhay". Still there are such families in villages where children are deprived of education. What to talk of higher education, they are not even literate. There is a need to provide technical education also in rural areas. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that technical education should be provided at block level by the centre, arrangements should be made to provide either free education or at minimum fees so that the poor rural people could become self-reliant. Poor families in rural areas who are not able to earn even two square meals, want their children to pursue studies but they have no means. Therefore, I would request the Government to provide technical and employment oriented education at block level so that poor farmers could become self-reliant and the objective of the Government could be achieved.

I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am grateful to the Chief Minister of my state by the grace of whom I got a chance to express my views in this House.

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI (Banaskantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express thanks on

President's Address. I come from Gujarat. I was listening to Smt. Sushma Swaraj in the morning. She mentioned about Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh but not about Gujarat because she is aware that their move to project the Chief Minister of this State as PM in waiting through advertisements and hoardings had suffered a set back. She said that the figure of 206 is not sufficient, but, she is not aware that the Chief Minister who was being projected as number one Chief Minister in Gujarat has got only 29 earlier. Now he has got 117. I do not want to indulge in political observation, I just want to say that they should first introspect themselves. The UPA Government has given maximum grant to Gujarat even five times more than the grant given during NDA's regime. That is why the electorates of Gujarat have given mandate in favour of UPA Government. I am grateful to Smt. Soniaji, Rahulji, Shri Manmohan Singhji, Shri Pranav Da, Shri Antony ji and Shri Ahmed Patel that Party ticket for Assembly elections was given to me thrice despite the fact that our community has only 1400 votes in that assembly segment. People of that area elected me to Assembly. Thereafter, for the fourth time I was given ticket to contest Lok Sabha elections and electorates of Banaskantha elected me to Lok Sabha. I belong to a very low caste. I have adopted work based politics. The people who indulge in caste based politics are gradually disappearing. I feel caste based politics will no longer survive in our country. People are now favouring those who are performing. Those who are claiming that UPA Government has won not because of its policies but because of circumstances have actually challenged the mandate given by the people. UPA Government has not forcefully grabbed the power. Electorate have favoured the ideology and time bound programmes of UPA Government. It has been mentioned in the President's Address that the country will witness the performance of the Government in 100 days. I would like to ask the opposition that today they are criticising the Government, they raised the issue of Swiss bank, they talked about opinion poll, they were in opposition in the 14th Lok Sabha but before that NDA was in Government. Whether Swiss bank issue was not there during their tenure? Whether any Swiss bank issue has cropped up now or whether money was not deposited at that time? What steps they took in this regard? They only incite the people. They are challenging the time bound programme. Our leader Smt. Soina ji is the Chairperson of UPA Government.

The Government has stated that it will review the programme within 100 days and will keep track of its

[Shri Mukesh Bhairavdanji]

implementation. Any Minister if found involved in irregularities will be sacked. Is it not enough?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to make the Members of opposition understand that the state Government have to implement the time bound programmes of the Central Government. Strict monitoring should be done in this regard and if any state Government fails to implement, a review should be done and the grant given by the Central Government should be stopped. Hence, they should be kept under strict monitoring.

Sir, NREGA is running smoothly. Central Government has introduced this scheme. There are some schemes for which state Government is not giving sanction. Actions should be taken in this regard also. Defence Ministry has undertaken a programme in the area along Pakistan border through Border Area Development Project—State Government also gets involved in this project. My submission is that either the Central Government should implement it independently or direct the state Government so that it could be completed soon and become beneficial for the people.

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. I got the chance very late but it is better later than never. So far as President's Address is concerned, as per my view point there is no scope to criticize it. President's Address has become a road map for inclusive development of our nation. If the Government follows this road map sincerely and in a time bound manner, our country will achieve new heights of prosperity in five years. I am thankful to the hon'ble President for it and I strongly support the motion. There are some issues towards which I would like to draw the attention. Rs. 24 thousand crore had been given to Jammu and Kashmir under Prime Minister's Reconstruction Programme out of which 17 thousand crore was to be spent through the Central Government departments but the central Government has spent only six percent till now. Central Government has to give an answer as to why funds have not been spent under it. Why only six percent has been spent? Alongwith it, I would like to request one thing that something is missing in the President's Address. A large number of institutions are being opened in the name of Privatization of education. They are looting the people and there is no rationale to pay a fees of Rs. 20-25 thousand for the education of a toddler. Perhaps the attention of the Government has not been drawn towards it. I would like

to bring it to the notice of the Government so that a system be evolved to keep a check on it. A vegetable seller if found overcharging is sent to jail under Hoarding and Profiteering Act, but, nobody questions the person who is charging exorbitant fee from the poor parents.

I would also submit that Jammu and Kashmir is facing the problem of militancy for the last twenty years. Thousands of people have been killed. Around 30 ministers and MLAs belonging to our party have been killed, leaders and five thousands workers have lost their lives. Similar is the situation in respect of other people. I would like to request the Government of India to provide a special package for the progress of State of Jammu and Kashmir. Fruit and dry fruit industry is the major industry in my area. A team of experts should be deputed there to see as to what should be done to strengthen this industry.

Similarly, construction of railway lines in my area has been going on for some years, but, Jammu is yet to be connected with Srinagar. I would request to take more steps so that survey for the Pahalgam-Bandipur-Kupawada railway line could be conducted. Special Armed Act was enforced there during the period of insurgency. With the grace of God now the situation there is under control. I would like that it should be relaxed now. The Government of India should think that by relaxing this Act we can win over the local people to give a befitting reply to militants.

We are facing power shortage but we have enough water to generate 20 thousands M.W. of power which is possible only with the help of Government of India. I request the Minister of Finance to pay special attention to it.

What has happened with our children in Australia is very painful. Not only us but the opposition party has also felt the pain. I wanted to go into political debate but in the absence of an appropriate atmosphere I would just say that where were these people when people belonging to UP and Bihar were attacked and insulted openly in Mumbai. They did not bother about them but feeling pain for what is being meted out with our people in Australia and other countries. The Government should think in this regard also. Similarly, situation in Laddakh is not ripe today. I request to construct a tunnel in Jojila Pass for connectivity with Kashmir. Similarly a tunnel is required in Karna also for connectivity with Kashmir. Attention should be paid on these points.

AIIMS like hospitals should be sanctioned for hilly and far flung areas of Kashmir so that poor people may not need to come to Delhi for treatment.

Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is going on. There are different seasons in different parts of the country to carry out works. In Kashmir works are carried out only for 5-6 months. The Government should ponder over it and the daily wages for the labourers should be increased to Rs. 100 or Rs. 70.

[English]

SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA (Chamrajanagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. I wholeheartedly support the Motion of Thanks moved by Dr. Girija Vyas and seconded by Shri P.C. Chacko.

The hon. President, in her Address, has given more emphasis on social sector. I welcome this initiative from the UPA Government. Bharat Nirman is one of the biggest infrastructure development programmes in the history of modern India. Under this scheme, the Government has introduced NREGA, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, rural drinking water scheme, road connectivity, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme for 14 crore children etc. All these are very good programmes for improving the living condition of the people of our country. Therefore, I welcome all these programmes.

I come from Karnataka. In Karnataka, under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), daily wages given are Rs.84 per day. I would request you to increase the daily wages to Rs. 100. Take for example Kerala. In Kerala State, they are giving daily wages of Rs. 100 per day. In our State, they are giving Rs. 84 as daily wages. So, kindly enhance the wages from Rs. 84 to Rs. 100.

Crores of rupees have been given by the Central Government to the States. In our State, they are not utilizing this amount properly. They are utilising only 30 per cent of the amount given; they are not utilising rest 70 per cent. I would request you to review this scheme.

Sir, coming to education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is one of the revolutionary programmes for primary education. That has to be extended up to 12th Standard, from high school to pre-university also. This is a very good scheme.

Sir, regarding social sector, there is a Special Component Scheme for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. But allocations to the States have not been made properly; they are not in proportion to their population. Therefore, I would request the Government to form a vigilance commission for the strict implementation of the Special Component Scheme for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, to fill up the backlog in the recruitment of the SCSTs, in the year 1989 during the regime of the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, efforts were made. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had taken a decision to have a special drive to fill up the posts of SCSTs, and thousands of posts were filled up.

20.41 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Now, a large number of posts of SCSTs are vacant. I would request the Government to take speedy action to fill up this backlog.

I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

*Today is truly historic as we have three eminent ladies occupying three important Chairs of the nation. I would take this opportunity to congratulate Madam Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson UPA, Madam President Dr. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil and you, Madam Meira Kumar for occupying the Speaker's Chair. I am sure that rule of the ladies will usher in a better tomorrow. It is a clear mandate for a stable Government. This mandate proved that flagship programmes of our UPA Government have reached people. People of our country have faith in the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi that is why the UPA Government was voted to power for the 2nd consecutive term. Under the youthful, able guidance of Shri Rahul Gandhi the Congress Party fought the elections of 2009. His dynamic personality and Charisma helped to motivate thousands of young people of India.

Sir, As far as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned our Congress led UPA Government has initiated several welfare measures. There is no doubt in it. In spite of that, we are yet to achieve equality among our people.

.... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri R. Dhruvanarayana]

Sir, there are numbers of nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes are living in Karnataka, particularly in my constituency Chandrarajnagar. For example, Soliga, Helvea, Dombidasa etc., these people even today do not have permanent houses to live. They do not have food. Our young and dynamic leader Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji visited tribal settlements at B.R. Hills in my constituency. He studied the lifestyle, economic and social condition of tribals and therefore I am of the opinion that it is our duty to raise voice in favour of these indigent people.

We should treat these tribal people as our brothers and -sisters. Even after 62 years of our independence we could not ensure the welfare of all these people. Equality, Social Justice and brotherhood are still on the paper. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar introduced reservation for SCs & STs & OBCs to ensure welfare of depressed people but the dream of our great leader is yet to be fulfilled. Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government through you to take all necessary steps to provide housing, education, employment etc., to these people and ensure the welfare of all the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Tribal Communities and OBCs.

Another point I would like to make is that there should be uniform wage for all workers without any discrimination. As we have noticed there is a huge difference in the wage between men and women workers. For instance men are paid Rs. 120/- per day. And it is only Rs. 50/- or 60/- for women. This practice should be done away with.

As far as total sanitation is concerned there is an urgent need to make everybody aware of the need for sanitation and clean environment in the country in general and in the rural countryside in particular. Emphasis has to be given for awareness generation programmes to be taken up at the village and district level. Simultaneously the pace of construction of toilets has to be speeded up.

Provision of sanitation facilities in schools is another area, which requires immediate action. Government should take all possible steps to ensure availability of drinking water and sanitation facilities in all Government schools in the rural areas of the country. Separate provision of toilets should be made for girl students.

I wholeheartedly appreciate the President's Inaugural Address to the Parliament. In the speech, much

emphasis is given to Social Sector like the rural employment, education and health programs.

The rural employment program is a marvelous and wonderful concept implemented by the previous UPA government. This programme economically empowers the rural poor. This needs to be further strengthened.

National Rural Health Mission is also one such developmental programme which is welcomed by all sections of the society.

Under the public distribution system, the distribution of 25 Kg rice or wheat at Rs. 3 per Kg for all BPL families is getting appreciation from all sections of the society. Similarly, the programme of the Central government of providing Mid Day Meals to about 14 crore school children implemented by the U.P.A government is also welcomed by all people.

Women reservation, setting up of New 14 Universities and Formation of National Council for Higher Education are to be welcomed.

In the speech of President much stress is given to "Social Sector". With respect to Social Sector, I would like to draw the attention of this house on some SC/ST related programmes and the strict implementation of these programmes, to strengthen the Social Sector programmes.

The strict implementation of Special Component Plan (SCP) is to be done. Similarly the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) is to be implemented to its fullest extent. With respect to these programmes in various States, either the budget allocation is not properly made in proportion to their population or not properly implemented. The ear-marked grants are getting lapsed. Therefore, in my opinion a vigilant commission for strict implementation of SCP and TSP plans may please be set up by an Act of the Parliament so that the different State administrations can be made alert or responsible for strict implementation of the SCP and TSP Schemes. Then only the dreams of our former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhiji will be completely fulfilled. She brought this Special Component Plan way back in the year 1979-80. I once again reiterate my request of formation of a Vigilant Commission for the strict implementation of SCP and TSP programmes.

By profusely thanking the President of India and appreciating the speech made by the President and the Programmes of the UPA Government, I would like to

draw the attention on the Backlog Recruitment for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Services, as well as in different State Services. Some radical steps for backlog recruitment have been taken in the year 1989 by the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhiji. The efforts made for filling up of backlog posts must be a Time Bound Programme and the recruitment drives must be taken up.

Let us look into the representation achieved by SC and ST in Central Government Services. As per the figures available as on 1st January, 2002, in Group A services the representation of Scheduled Castes is 11.09 per cent. But, the constitutionally guaranteed representation is 16.66 per cent. To make up the short fall another 5,524 vacancies are to be filled by Scheduled wastes into the Group A. Scheduled Tribes short fall in Group A is 4,260 vacancies so that the totals short fall in Group A services in the Central Government services is around 9,784 posts.

The total backlog in Group B services is about 11,039 vacancies. Similarly the total backlog in Group C is 45,045 vacancies. But, SC/STs have achieved "adequate representation" in Group D services. The grand total backlog vacancies in central Government services in all the three cadres of Group A, Group B and Group C is totaling to 65,868. There may be good number of

backlog vacancies in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), as well as in different State services also.

To make up the representation to adequacy mark in central services we have to ensure the concept of "Adequate Representation" of SC /STs in services. This is already guaranteed in the Constitution of India under Article 15 (4), 16 (4) and 16 (4A).

"Article 16 (4 A): Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State."

Therefore, in my opinion, for strict implementation of the concept of adequate representation, a Bill or Reservation Act may be brought up for strict implementation of Backlog Recruitment Drives.

The U.P.A is strongly building the Indian society. I conclude my speech, by once again appreciating the President's speech and the Government led by Beloved Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh Ji, his Team of Ministers and U.P.A President Smt. Sonia Gandhi Ji.

Annexure 1

Representation of SCs / STs in Central Government Services as on 1st January 2002

Group	SC				ST			
	Total	As per 16.66%	Present representation	Backlog	As per 7.5%	Present representation	Backlog	Total Backlog of SC/ST
A	99,099	16,509	10,985	5,524	7,432	3,172	4,260	9,784
B	1,87,033	31,159	26,336	4,843	14,027	7,811	6,216	11,039
C	21,41,879	3,56,837	3,45,358	11,479	1,60,640	1,27,074	33,566	45, 045
Grand Total								65,868

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to whole heartedly support the Motion of Thanks on President's Address moved by

hon. Member Dr. Girija Vyas. At the very outset, I would like to congratulate hon. Shrimati Meria Kumar, the newly elected Speaker of Lok Sabha. She is the first woman to become the speaker of Lok Sabha in the history of Parliament. I salute the voters of the country who have

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

again expressed their confidence in the Congress party under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh. I would also like to thank the valiant people of my parliamentary constituency Kurukshetra who have once again given me an opportunity to serve the country. The public by and large has made it clear that they cannot be misled by hollow slogans or assurances. The public wants concrete steps, transparent governance and sustainable development. The public has finally made it clear as to which leader is strong and which one is weak. Her Excellency President has stated in her address that internal security is the biggest problem of the country and terrorism has made our internal security vulnerable. Our Government particularly Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Home Affairs has taken several concrete steps which I welcome. H.E. President has referred to one more step to be taken by the Government that the Government will provide special identity cards to the citizens in a span of next three years. I think the Government is taking a very good step. When every person will have his or her own identity cards, we will be able to identify the foreigners residing illegally in our country and they can be repatriated. Earlier also the Union Government had launched a scheme for providing similar multipurpose identity cards in the year 2002 but that scheme was discontinued after few days and the scheme was not completed. I believe that our Government will take it seriously and try to complete it as early as possible.

Our Government has stated about setting up a national counter terrorist centre and it is a very good thing and I welcome it. With it I would like to suggest for setting up of a national tactical training centre. Our public forces and para-military forces need to be trained properly. The best weapons should be provided to them so that they can counter terrorism aptly. Be it naxalism or be it jihadi terrorism in our country, they should be able to counter it in a befitting manner.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Election Commission has recently conducted the elections at a large scale in our country which was not an easy task. I, through you, would like to give a suggestion to the Government and the Election Commission that there are crores of such people in our country who are not able to exercise their franchise. Our workers from Uttar Pradesh or Bihar working in the fields of Punjab or Haryana or crores of NRIs living in the foreign countries or lakhs of our students studying abroad are not able to exercise their franchise whereas there are provision in other countries

that such people cast their votes through postal ballots or in some other manner. Hence, we should also make such provision like absentee voting so that every person can exercise his or her franchise even if he or she is not present at the place of voting on the day of polling.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is a country of the youth as more than 50 percent of the people in this country are of less than 25 years of age. It is essential that we should promote the sports in our country. For this purpose it is also necessary that we need to pay more attention to the Common Wealth Games to be held in our country in 2010. All the stadium and infrastructure required for that should be ready well before the games. In this regard, I would like to request the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to give a statement in the House so that we may know as to how our preparations are going on. We need to pay special attention to this so that our sportspersons perform better.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 80,000 Indian students are studying in Australia and all of us are very much concerned about the recent happenings in Australia. Several students of my parliamentary constituency are also studying in Australia. I know that the Government of India is trying its best to ensure their safety but the need of the hour is that the ongoing racial attacks on the Indian students are stopped forthwith and the Australian Government should ensure their safety.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Government is contemplating to bring about National Food Security Bill seeking to ensure food security for all. I had moved a Resolution on the same issue in the previous Lok Sabha and say that it was the Government's duty to ensure that nobody was starved in the country. All the parties had supported my resolution. The Government gave an assurance in its reply that concrete action would be taken in this regard. Our party had declared before the elections that rice and wheat would be provided to BPL population at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kilo and our estimated subsidy for this year is about Rs. 50,000 crore rupees. We know also that there are several shortcomings, lot of corruption and leakages in our public distribution system.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member now conclude your speech. Several Members have to speak. It is too late now and it is time to go to bed.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: I will take one more minute. It needs much improvement so that the prevalent

corruption may be checked and the genuinely poor people may be benefited. We will have to think about it whether providing subsidy or direct cash transfer is a good option so that the needy people are benefited directly because when we provide things to them at cheaper rates, the middlemen take advantage. If they will get the cash in their hands then they will be free to buy anything they want. I would like to suggest that lot of food stamps are given in America and it would be better if we implement that here also. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble President has specially mentioned about young generation in her Address. She has said that we need to do a lot for our young generation and I strongly support it. In the end, I would only like to make one point that there is a need to increase the provisions for social security. There are a lot of children in villages who have to face a number of physical and mental challenges and there is a need to do a lot for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you for given me an opportunity to speak. Through you, I would like to urge the Government that it should pay some more attention on these points so that we can make our country our dream India.

DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA (Karnal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shrimati Meira Kumar and you for being appointed as Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House. I would also like to congratulate hon'ble Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji under whose guidance UPA Government has been formed. I would like to congratulate Dr. Manmohan Singh and my brother Rahul Gandhiji, owing to whose efforts UPA Government is in power today. Alongwith this I would like to convey my heartiest congratulations to the voters, old people, women youth, farmers, poor people, agricultural workers, employees and businessmen of India who understood today's circumstances and brought UPA Government to power with 206 seats.

Sir, today the condition of our country is such that some powers want to break the country from inside and some from outside. Hon'ble Pranb Mukherjee ji is present here. He dealt firmly with the foreign forces while he was Minister of External Affairs. The voters of the country also understood the fact that only Congress Government can take the country ahead and work for the welfare of poor people and farmers.

Sir, Reservation for Women has been mentioned in hon'ble President's Address and we support that. Mr.

Pawan Bansalji is sitting here and I believe whatever we will raise here, will come to the notice the Government. Union Government and the State Governments are united to check female foeticide but there are some flaws in the law framed to check the same. Being a Doctor, I would like to say that there is a need to stop the use of portable Ultrasound machines because doctors take this machine anywhere or at their homes instead of using them in Hospitals and conduct illegal sex determination tests. The use of this machine should be banned.

Sir, Delhi is surrounded by Haryana from three sides. Indiraji and Rajivji had paid special attention towards Haryana. Talks of development the National Capital Region are being held out no serious attention is being paid to that. Common Wealth Games are going to be held in the capital in 2010 and if we grant separate Budget and make a separate Ministry for the development of this region, then we will be able to check the burden of increasing population in Delhi and this will help in development of NCR.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, If we develop the NCR, it will ease the burden on Delhi. All the cities in the NCR such as Bahadurgarh, Rohtak, Sonapat and Panipat should be developed. If infrastructural, educational, health care and transport facilities in these cities are developed and improved then, I believe, in future, the situation would improve and the burden of rising population on Delhi would be eased.

Sir, Panipat is my constituency. I have said, time and again, that it is a historical city. There is an industrial area there, it attracts weavers, it is a textiles hub and has refineries. It is a very large area. It is densely populated but lacks facilities. I have raised this issue many a times but no action has been taken. But now, I have faith that Shri Pawan Kumar Bansalji will give serious consideration to this issue and advocate my suggestions forcefully so that Panipat is brought under ambit of Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission at the soonest. You would be surprised at the speed of development of Panipat once this city is brought under coverage of the said Mission.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you and I would like to raise some more points. Haryana has contributed in a major way in the formation of the UPA Government in the present Lok Sabha. Congress MPs have won nine out of the total ten Lok Sabha seats in the state.

[Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma]

The Chief Minister of Haryana, Ch. Bhupinder Singh Hooda and the Haryana government have given their full support to the UPA. Just as there has been no dichotomy between the policies and practices of the Union Government, similarly there has been no ambiguity in the policies and practices followed by Ch. Bhupinder Singh Hooda in Haryana. He has implemented the policies of the Union Government in letter and spirit in Haryana. That is what made it possible for Congress to win 9 out of 10 seats in Haryana. This is the result of Ch. Bhupinder Singh Hooda's hard work. He worked for the farmers, labourers and the poor people of Haryana. He faithfully implemented all the policies of the Union Government in Haryana.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there are a few more points. NREGA is a very good scheme but it has some small flaws which need to be corrected. It needs to be reviewed. The funds under the said scheme allocated to Haryana and Punjab have not been fully utilized. I would like that it should be enquired into as to why the funds were not utilized properly. It provides 60% of the amount for labour and 40% for the material cost. I have also written to the hon. Minister of Rural Development seeking to review it in Haryana and also the scope of its work should be widened along with the increase in material cost. For example, if there is drinking water problem somewhere then the work to be done to address the problem should be carried out through NREGA too. The chaupal for the poor should also be constructed under NREGA. The common roads and roads to cremation grounds can also be brought under NREGA. Thus, there are many small things in villages which can be brought under NREGA. The poor villages hope for these works to be completed because the villages do not have much money. NREGA funds are returned from my area. You will be surprised to know that we had to return Rs. 20-30 crore out of NREGA fund meant for our district. It will, therefore, be better if we review the list of works under NREGA and add few more to it. The village will benefit much if few more schemes are added to it.

Sir, young friends, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Arvind Sharma ji, it is 9 pm and the stipulated time of the House is over. Time of the House will have to be extended. You should, therefore, conclude now.

DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 10 lakh unemployed youths are registered with the employment exchanges in Haryana. I request the Government to pay special attention to it so that the youths find the avenues of employment when National Capital Region is developed. Today's youth looks up to Rahul Gandhi and he is sure that in the coming time he will get more and more employment. The youths will get more employment in the Government led by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Congress and Shri Rahul Gandhi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House was upto 9.00 pm which is over, Now, you should conclude your speech.

DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that an able person like you is gracing the chair of the Deputy Speaker. I am concluding in just two minutes. I strongly support all the other points expressed by all the Members of the Congress Party. I thank and appreciate the previous UPA Government which had waived Rs. 65000-70000 crore worth of farmer's loan under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shri Manmohan Singh ji.

21.00 hrs.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi realized the pain and sufferings of the poor farmers committing suicides. ...*(Interruptions)* A scheme should also be formulated to waive the loans of the landless labourers, artisans, employees, businessmen and shopkeepers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA: The suicides have come to a halt completely after that and the Haryana Government has also followed the vision of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi by announcing houses and 100 sq. yards plots for the poor and waiving Rs. 1600 crore of farmers' loan and interest of cooperative banks and many other such things. I would request for a special package for Haryana because NCR region falls under it. This special package should be given to Haryana Government because it worked so honestly for the farmers and youth and only because of this the Congress Party has won 9 out of the 10 seats there.

With these words, I heartily thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that you gave me extra time of two minutes.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the discussion on this subject will continue tomorrow till 12 o'clock. After that, reply will be given.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Sir, what about 'Zero Hour'?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No 'Zero Hour' now.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: In the morning it was announced that it will be taken up at the end of the day. Please give me one minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: A lot of Members who have given notices are not present now.

[Translation]

Raise it tomorrow. You should meet our Minister.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, 9th June, 2009, at 11.00 a.m.

21.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, June 9, 2009/ Jyaistha 19, 1931 (Saka).

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