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Title: Combined discussion on the Budget (General) for 2005-2006 and Demands for Grants on Account for 2005-2006 and Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2004-05. (Not Concluded).

**14.24 hrs.**

**GENERAL BUDGET 2005-2006- GENERAL DISCUSSION**  
**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL)-2005-2006**  
**AND**

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS(GENERAL) - 2004-2005** MR.DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will have a Budget discussion. Item Nos. 12, 13 and 14 will be taken up together. We were allotted 12 hours. Time taken so far is four hours and 45 minutes. Time left with us is seven hours and 15 minutes.

I will be the happiest person if the hon. Members give fruitful and constructive suggestions in the debate.

When I adjourned the House yesterday, Shri B.K. Deo was on his legs. Now, I would request him to continue his speech.

Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2005 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof, Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 8 to 10, 12 to 16, 18, 20 to 23, 25 to 27, 29 to 32, 34, 36, 40 to 44, 46 to 50, 52 to 58, 60, 61, 63, 65, 68, 70, 71, 79, 80, 83, 84, 86, 88, 90 to 92, 95 to 100, 104 and 105."

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had just started my speech on the Budget yesterday when I rose to oppose the Budget. If I remember I think I was discussing and debating federal fiscalism.

As you know, we are a federal country. Federal fiscalism exists in the country. During the Twelfth Finance Commission, a Commission was set up. It went to Canada and Australia. These two countries are supposed to have best Centre-State relationship. The Centre-State relationship is the healthiest and the fiscal relation between the Centre and the States is good. This Commission gave a Report. It said, "The fiscal transfer to States through all channels as a percentage of the Gross Revenue Receipt has increased from an average of 31.4 per cent in the Sixth Finance Commission. It went up to 38.1 per cent in the Seventh Finance Commission; it increased to 40.3 per cent for a period covered by the Ninth Finance Commission before coming down to 35.8 per cent in the Tenth Finance Commission and then again it improved to 37.2 per cent." From this, one can know how the States depend upon the Central revenues and taxes. I am sorry to state that the hon. Finance Minister during his speech has only mentioned three regions of the country, that is, Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and Bihar. Today, the economic indicators show that Bihar is the second poorest State from the bottom line and Orissa is the poorest State in the country with 47.7 per cent people living below the poverty line. I am sorry to say that he has not been able to announce any package for Orissa.

Yesterday, the Finance Minister asked the hon. Member Shri Malhotra to go through the Yellow Book on Implementation of Budget Announcements. I will just go through that. Action has been completed in certain cases like water harvesting structure and restoring water bodies. Two pilot schemes on National Project on Repair and Restoration of Water Bodies have been directly linked to agriculture. He has given this. Then watershed scheme is also for the same purpose. It has been seen that in many places this money has not been properly spent. In the AIBP Programme, out of 178 projects, he has been able to complete only 28 per cent. I do not know how he can achieve the goal of attaining one million hectare in these four years which are left. These projects have to be completed on a time-bound basis. If you go by the history of the Congress Government which ruled for 47 years in the country, it has been seen that they have left the projects incomplete. They have not rehabilitated the people who suffered due to evacuation. So, there was no static or strong programme for rehabilitation. If you go today to Orissa, the people who were repatriated during the time of construction of Hirakud Dam project, they have not been rehabilitated till date. This Dam was inaugurated by Pandit Nehru. You may say that it is a State subject. But the money is sanctioned from the Centre to the AIBP programme and other programmes. But nothing seems to go well.

With this type of structure in the country, I hope, the Finance Minister will not be able to achieve his goal which he has announced. It has been seen that the States like Orissa are neglected. There were hunger deaths in the region known as the 'KBK Region'. During the NDA Government, there was not a single case reported of hunger death or migration. But during the Congress regime, there were reports of starvation deaths and the Supreme Court also gave directions.

A Commission was set up and it was established that due to the neglect of the then Government, which was the Congress Government at that time, the starvation deaths had taken place in Kalahandi. We, the NDA Government, fought against this problem and we solved it to a great extent. Today, in the Kalahandi district, we have the irrigation potential created for nearly three lakh hectares, which is getting perennial water.

As regards mines, we had opened all the mines including the bauxite mines of the area. Orissa is very rich in mineral resources. But this State has been perpetually neglected in the establishment of steel plants, in the establishment of chrome plants, etc. Big companies had taken mines on lease, but there was no value being added to our produce. They used to either go to Bengal or Bihar or Maharashtra or Orissa for ore. So, in a way, in regards to mines, the people of Orissa were stripped naked.

But today, for the first time, the Government of BJD-BJP Alliance has taken some strong steps in that direction. We are getting one lakh crore of rupees for the State of Orissa to establish 5 steel plants and 3 alumina plants. But I hope, the Central Government does not create any hindrance for us to put up these plants. I hope, the Central Government would cooperate with us so that the people of Orissa can sustain their livelihood, because that is the only source of income, Orissa State has. Though we have agriculture, it has to be improved.

But it was first the revolutionary steps taken by the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-ji to give the agriculturists a security shield, crop insurance, Kisan Credit Cards. Everybody knows that because of lack of credit today in Andhra Pradesh, farmers are committing suicide there. They have been the victims of moneylenders. So, we want to erase this problem in Orissa. It has gone a long way.

I am happy that your Government is carrying on the programme initiated by the NDA Government. We want to have some fresh look and programmes from this Government. Have you, Mr. Minister, given us any fresh look or any fresh programmes? For example, the NDA Government started a revolution in the rural development sector, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme. These advance steps had been taken by the NDA Government.

Sir, in his very speech, the hon. Finance Minister had stated that there had been a decline in the business confidence, and he had got back the business confidence. But when the UPA Government came, the stock market lost by 60 points. On the first day the UPA Government came, they disbanded the Disinvestment Ministry, and, today, they have given a different name to the Disinvestment Ministry to please their Left friends, the Communist Parties by calling it 'restructuring of Public industry'. What do you mean by restructuring? Those enterprises, those industries which employ about 30 lakh employees have gone sick. What steps have you taken for a turnaround?

Sir, I would like to say that the Indian economy during the NDA regime recorded an impressive broad-based growth of 8.2 per cent in 2003-04 supported by a turnaround in agriculture, which has been the mainstay of the Indian economy. In addition to agriculture, there was a bouncing back from a decline of 5.2 per cent in the previous year 2002-03 to a growth of 9.1 per cent. Similarly, in 2003-04, the industry and service sectors grew at 7 per cent and 8.7 per cent as compared to 0.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent in 2002-03 respectively. So, all these problems are created by them.

Sir, please do not ring the bell. Yesterday you were ringing the bell so much that I was not able to concentrate on my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yesterday, you have spoken for six minutes. Today, you have started at 1424 hours. Please conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, let me now say something about the taxation proposals.

Therefore, I would like to say here that during the NDA regime, the business confidence came back. Now, there has been a retard. I am seeing it in the stock market. They have registered a very high sensex; there is no doubt about it. But what steps have been taken to restructure the public sector enterprises which are sick? Steel made a turn around; up to 2001, the steel industry was completely sick and many plants were closed. It was during our time in the NDA Government that it made a turn around, which is clearly evident from the mid-term review. In the mid-term review, it is stated that Indian steel industry, after recession until 2001, had been showing definite signs of revival with strong performance on construction and manufacturing sectors. Finished steel production registered a growth of 7.1 per cent.



Therefore, we were trying to restructure the destabilised and destroyed economy which was created by the Congress, and it took us six years to restructure it. If we had been voted back to power, things would have been different. ...*(Interruptions)* But today, the Left Front is maintaining double standards. They are maintaining double standards for supporting the Government. They are saying something in the Parliament; they are telling something else to Press; when they go to Bengal, they say something else and when they go to Kerala, they say something different. So, they are maintaining double standards. ...*(Interruptions)* What is our fault?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. There is no need for running commentary. It will not form part of the record. Nothing is to be recorded except the speech of Shri Deo.

 $(\text{Interruptions})^* \in$ 

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, the Left Front is maintaining double standards, which has to be defeated.

Here is the report of the mid-term review. Does the Left Front approve of the enhancement of FDI ceiling in civil aviation from 40 per cent to 49 per cent? Here, the status of implementation is given as 'it is already implemented'. Does the Left Front have the will to support this stand? So, it is a complete *pradarshan* of double standards by the Left, just to cling on to power, somehow or the other. If they want, go to the people again and face them. Tell them to give a full mandate; ask them why did they give a fractured mandate. The people of Orissa have responded well and the BJP-BJD partners swept the polls in Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Did I ask anybody to speak?

$(Interruptions)^* \in$

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is not to be recorded.

 $(\text{Interruptions})^* \in$ 

**\*Not recoded**

**उपसर्गः कृदन्तः : उपसर्गः कृदन्तः हम्, उपसर्गः कृदन्तः जङ्क्, ऊह-जङ्क् शङ्क् ऊह कृदन्तः हम्।**

**प्रश्न : गरीबों के कल्याण के लिए सरकार द्वारा अनेक योजनाएं चलाई जा रही हैं। क्या आप बता सकते हैं कि इन योजनाओं में से कौन-कौन सी योजनाएं गरीबों के कल्याण के लिए सबसे अधिक प्रभावी हैं? और इन योजनाओं को लागू करने में सरकार द्वारा कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए गए हैं?**

**उत्तर :** It is official. Half of the poor people are still suffering. The last Government in 2003-04, gave *antyodaya* and various other schemes for the poor people to get benefit from them. But I am sorry to state that the States which have misappropriated them are Bihar, ruled by the UPA partner, RJD, Punjab being ruled by the Congress, Haryana, which was ruled by INLD, which is neither with the NDA nor with the UPA, and Uttar Pradesh, which is ruled by SP, is supporting the Government from outside.

...(Interruptions)

उच्चर्यक कृच्छक : कृच्छककृच्छक उच्च, उच्चक कृच्छक कृच्छक कृच्छक ह, उच्चक दृच्छक कृच्छक उच्चक कृच्छक कृच्छक कृच्छक दृच्छक।

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, it is a matter of regret that the Targeted PDS has been failing in this country. In this poor country, 22 per cent of the people live below the poverty line. So, the Government should take strong measures on this. Persons responsible for this act should be penalised to the maximum. It is the poor man's food and it has been snatched away from his hand. It should be completely restored back to him. Those States, which are misappropriating and committing scandalous acts and acts of vandalism should be penalised. This is regarding the poor man, *aam aadami*.

I will talk about an other *aam aadmi*, the Government servant who puts in nearly 39 years of service for the Government. The hon. Minister has withdrawn the facility of 80 L. After retirement, for the Senior citizens having an income of Rs.225.33 lakh, rounded up to Rs.225.30 lakh after availing of standard deduction of Rs.30,000, Section 80 L deduction of Rs.12,000 has been withdrawn. I request the Minister to kindly restore it back so that those people who have put in 39 years of self-less service and served the country should be able to get the pension benefits. Otherwise, it is a big slap on the stomach of these poor people. **অসহ্য** **আম** **স্বল্প** **হ** **অ** **না** **হ** **।**  
**অ** **না** **হ** **।** It is a kick on the stomach of the poor people. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister to kindly restore it.

The Government has not been able to fill up the posts fallen vacant against the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. If the Government wishes to do it with all seriousness, it can do it. No young blood or the unemployed youth will come to get the benefit of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. I would request the Finance Minister to kindly reconsider it.

Now, I will just speak about Orissa, my constituency. Kalahandi, as you know, is a backward State.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : A lot has to be done. I am sorry to say that the Finance Minister has mentioned nothing about the labour reform. A lot of labour reforms have to be undertaken. .The Labour Commission has submitted its Report.

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\* Not Recorded.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I support this Budget 2005-06 presented by the hon. Finance Minister in this House. I support this Budget on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme accepted by the UPA Government. I would also support the verdict given by the people in the last Parliament election. The essence of the verdict was to form a secular Government at the Centre and not in favour of communal forces again coming to power. The second most important thing, I think, is that the Government should be responsive towards the needs and demands of the common people in India. This Budget, as stated by one of our leaders, is in the direction of meeting the needs of the common people.

The issues that we now face are rural economy, agriculture, drinking water supply, employment situation, and health. I think most of the issues are addressed in this Budget. Since the funds allocated are not sufficient, I have an apprehension whether the Government will be able to achieve what it is trying to achieve. When we go through the details under the different heads, we find that the allocations are really insufficient. Anyway it is a new beginning. We have to start with these limited funds. We have to see as to how we can meet the demands. I say this because last year we were not able to mobilise the estimated revenue to meet the demands. I think there was a deficiency to the tune of Rs. 11,000 crore in our revenue income. So, when we speak of all these things, we have to look at the revenue mobilisation also. Now, the Finance Minister has given a number of tax concessions and the corporate tax has also been reduced.

So, we have to take forcible action in respect of the resource mobilisation when we have to fulfil all these things. The resource mobilisation is contained in the Budget proposals.

With regard to the aim of this Government, I would like to say that not only in the last Budget but also in this year's Budget, the programmes outlined have to be continued. We have to take a consistent stand to fulfil the demands of the people because in the last election, people have given such a verdict to this Government.

The tax reduction mentioned in the Budget is helpful to workers as well as some of the industrial concerns. I welcome the steps taken in respect of the textile industry as also the handloom workers where they may get a number of benefits. I also welcome the measures contained in the Budget to give assistance to tea and coffee sectors. In the last Budget discussion also, I myself had raised the issue. Not only in Kerala but also Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam, there are a number of estates which have been closed down. Though not fully sufficient, the steps taken by the Finance Minister may give some assistance.

The programmes like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Drinking Water Scheme, assistance to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are really admirable ones. This may be for the first time in the Budget in India the gender-sensitive Budgetary allocation is seen. It aims at the welfare of the women and children. I especially congratulate the Finance Minister for giving such a new idea.

The programme of Bharat Nirman also gets importance. There are many other measures of which the Finance Minister can be proud. At the same time, I have some other observations and some opinions with regard to this Budget.

In the Budget Speech, it has been stated that as far as agriculture is concerned, there should be a diversification.

The diversification is in the method of raising crops.

**15.07 hrs.** [Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan – in the Chair]

Instead of cultivating paddy, the farmers have to convert to raising other crops. The Finance Minister may be under the assumption that there is some excess food grains in our FCI godowns. There may be excess food stock also. But the reality is that a good section of the people of India is not able to buy food grains because of the poor purchasing power. It is not wise to diversify agriculture to other crops. Of course, we should strengthen the other crops whichever is possible and which is suitable to any State or any other place.

It is a welcome step to increase the ICDS in addition to the 1,88,168 centres. At the same time, the honorarium given to the poor helpers and teachers is very low. In reply to a Question, the HRD Minister, stated that the Government is going to think of increasing the honorarium. Anyway, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to do something in this regard. Teachers and helpers are doing their best to fulfil this idea. So, in this Budget itself, there should be an increase in the honorarium given to these people.

Now, I come to *Sarvashiksha Abhiyan*. It is also an intervention in the basic education for the children. There is an increase in the allotment also. So, as far as our experience is concerned, we know that the status of education differs from State to State. Take, for example, Kerala. Kerala has achieved cent per cent literacy. So, there should be a flexibility in respect of the fund allotted to the *Sarvashiksha Abhiyan*. There should also be scrutiny, monitoring and accountability as far as the Scheme is concerned. For that, our suggestion is to entrust the present Scheme, which the Government has initiated, with the districts, blocks and panchayats. Anyway, we are giving funds to the States. So, the funds should be utilised for the creative purpose.

It is sad to state that as far as Kerala is concerned, the main work force is the traditional workers. About 40 lakh workers are there. Most of them are women workers and they are getting very low wages.

So, the traditional sector is really having a dominant role in the economic stream of Kerala. Coconut cultivation is very dominant in Kerala and that is really facing serious problems. Lack of proper marketing facility in coir is one problem. Then, sufficient working capital is not available for the coir cooperatives. So, the Government should pay special attention towards export promotion.

Cashew is another segment which gives a good amount of foreign exchange not only for the State of Kerala, but for the entire country. But the workers get very low employment. The main issue here is, lack of raw cashewnuts. This problem is not there only in Kerala, but is prevailing in other States also. So, the Government should take necessary steps to help the cashew growers.

Bidi industry is one segment where 99 per cent of the workers are women. They are getting very low wages and also very low employment. I congratulate the Finance Minister because when he imposed some taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products, he exempted bidi from that. It is a very good step. But at the same time, bidi cooperatives in Kerala have to compete with private companies. The excise duty on bidi is calculated on the total production of bidi tubs and when 20 lakh bidis are produced, they have to pay excise duty. Then, bidi cooperatives have to give proper accounts. They are bound to give it and they are giving it. But at the same time, the private companies are not giving it. As a result, they are not paying the tax. Due to these reasons, the bidi cooperatives have to compete with private companies. So, I would request the Government to levy tax on tobacco instead of on the total production of bidis. I have to make another request to the Finance Minister. I mentioned it in the last Budget debate also. The poor bidi workers have also to contribute to the Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund. If Re. 1 that is levied on them is taken away, it would be a very big grace to the bidi workers.

With regard to textile and handloom, the Finance Minister has given some relief. At the same time, khadi and village industries face a really difficult situation. The Central Government can do one thing. If the Central Government directs all the Central Public Undertakings, State Public Undertakings, Government Guest Houses and other Government offices to use the goods produced by khadi and village industries, there is no doubt that we would be able to uplift the khadi and village industries. We have the example of the Railways in front of us where Lalu Ji has successfully introduced it. So, the Government can give such a direction to the Central as well as State Government offices to use the goods produced by khadi and village industries.

Sir, we all witnessed the Tsunami tragedy. As far as Kerala is concerned, lakhs and lakhs of fishermen are staying in the coastal area from one end to the other end of the State. We cannot change their habitation from there because they have to depend on the seashore and the sea for their livelihood. I do not want to go into the details of the Tsunami tragedy. I would request the Central Government to give more fund to the State Government for the construction of sea walls and also to plant special trees – *Kandal vanangal* – along the coast to prevent sea erosion. For this, the Central Government has to give some financial assistance to the States.

As far as Kerala is concerned, we have raised the issue of farmers in the last Session also. About two weeks ago, all the MLAs of Kerala were on a *satyagraha* before the Kerala Legislative Assembly building because paddy farmers were not able to sell their produce as they were not getting remunerative price. This is true in the case of pepper farmers also. I have met the hon. Finance Minister regarding the problems faced by arecanut farmers. In my own district, about 300 arecanut farmers have committed suicide because the price of arecanut has declined from Rs. 160 per kg. to Rs. 40 per kg. This is true in the case of paddy also. So, a special package has to be drawn for the farmers. Of course, it is true that the State Government has to take the initiative.

But you see that we also have the responsibility not only with regard to floods or droughts but also with regard to the policy that the Central Government has taken with regard to imports. That is also one of the reasons for the fall in the prices.

In this context, I would like to say something about our import policy. The Indo-Sri Lankan Accord has really affected the farmers in many of the States, especially, farmers of Kerala. That is true in the case of arecanut, pepper and other things. Our exports have increased. It is true that there is an increase of 25 per cent in exports. But it should not be at the cost of the domestic industry or at the cost of domestic agriculture. We have to take special care in this regard.

I am very glad to hear the last portion of the Budget Speech of the hon. Finance Minister. The hon. Finance Minister concluded his speech by quoting Saint Tiruvalluvar, "health, wealth, produce, the happiness, that is the result, and security". These five, the learned Saint says, are the ornaments of the polity. I think, I am correct. I am very glad to hear these words and that he has given high priority to health. Really health is the wealth of the nation. But I am sad to note whether these words would be kept in practice because our hon. Minister of Commerce has come in this House with the Third Patent (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The hon. Member can talk to the hon. Minister of Commerce.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : There are very serious criticisms from different walks of life. It is true that we have obligations to the international community since we became the member of WTO. What is more important is whether this Amendment will give any benefit to the common people or not.

Now, the product will be patented. Earlier the process was patented. It is reported that every medicine that we produce, we would need to pay a crippling fee to the patent holder. This fee will be reflected in the price, pushing the drug out of the poor patient's reach.

We see the alarming news of the HIV-AIDS affected people.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have already taken more than 15 minutes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : There are a large number of cases of cancer, TB, malaria, leprosy, heart diseases, etc. Now, we are in a position to get these medicines at a cheaper price, thanks to the Patents Act of 1970. But we are going to change it. In India, though we are the member of the WTO -- you see that in 2001 in Doha Declaration it is agreed to implement TRIPS -- in a way that would allow member States to protect human, animal and plant lives, health and

environment. TRIPS itself gives its members option to adopt measures to protect the public health. We need to press the button. The question before the Government is whether we press the button or not. It is not for you, Madam, to press the button.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am not pressing the button, but you please conclude now.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : So, the Government should take it seriously whether we give the medicine at a cheaper price or not. There are safeguarding provisions in the Doha Declaration itself.

Before I conclude, I wish to say something about the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. The recommendation is, to a large extent, against the interest of Kerala. It is true that in health, education, and housing sectors, Kerala has attained tremendous growth. But this significant progress has become a punishment to the State of Kerala because the Finance Commission's main assumption is backwardness. We are not at fault in having this prestigious position in health and education. It is because of the cooperative societies and also the individuals that we have worked in the fields of educational sector as well as the health sector. There is thick population in Kerala. So also in the judiciary, in the police and in many other places, the ageing population is high in Kerala because we have to spend more.

So, I can give the statistics. Two years back, the share of Kerala was 3.50 per cent. Then, it declined to 3.05 per

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

Last but not least is the hike in the excise on some medicines.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, within half-a-minute, you have to conclude.

My last point is that I congratulate our Finance Minister because he is going to take a strong action against black-marketing. Now, I do not think the proposal that the Government has made before us, that is, charging 0.1 per cent tax on the deposits that we have made will serve any useful purpose. Though we fully agree with the sincerity and intention, but at the same time we have to take some other steps.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, you have to conclude.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : I will make only one sentence. Observing and considering the functions of this Government and considering the non-co-operation of the Opposition, the NDA parties, the quotation given by Shakespeare is still valid. "To be or not to be" is the question--to be served with cakes and not to be served with kicks. The people of India have been getting kicks from our hon. opposition friends. Now, 'to be' is the main question. The UPA Government surely understands this. It should go to the depth of this message and try its maximum to fulfil the ideals.

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SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Madam, I am on a point of information. Usually, the



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The reason for sudden decline in the plan expenditure is not clear. I think for this reason, the GDP growth may lead to more unemployment problems in the next few years. You will appreciate that every person of this country loves the people living below poverty line. The Government has started giving cards to them. It is also giving subsidy through Public Distribution System, Food for Work Programme and several other programmes including Mid-Day Meal Scheme. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is trying to fool the people of this country, but this is a serious complaint which I am having. For the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, a sum of Rs.11,000 crore



As regards borrowings, earlier the Central Government used to borrow for the State Governments and around 70 per cent was given to the State Governments. But now to save Rs.19,000 crore, they have said that the State Governments can borrow the funds. There are some poor States and there are Union Territories also which do not have the capacity to borrow the funds. I think this is a big disaster for the State Governments. Of course, now they are able to borrow from ADB and World Bank. There are so many problems before the country but we are talking about Bharat Nirman. Of course, we love it. Some are talking about 'Desh Nirman' or 'Swadesh Nirman'. You are going to serve the country through some programme and you are talking about Bharat Nirman and Bharat Darshan and you are saying that you are going to save the nation. What is this? You are allowing the State Governments to borrow...(Interruptions) You can say anything to me but you have to reply to the people. You please listen to me. If you are not convinced, you can oppose it when you speak. I am telling the factual position. I may be wrong. You can correct me...(Interruptions). You do not try to disturb me. Please sit quietly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : As regards FDI, I want to know the opinion of the Left Front. What about 74 per cent FDI in telecom sector, 74 per cent in the banking sector and 74 per cent in the civil aviation sector? Can you differ with me on this point? Everyday you say something on the television. I cannot accept that the Central Government is doing all these things without consulting the Left Parties. You are having lunches and dinners with them. You have allowed them to do all this. You say something inside and you say something else outside. You stop this double standard and this hypocrisy....*(Interruptions)*

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, is it proper? When others speak, we listen to them. This is not proper and this is not fair also. They are not allowing me to speak ...*(Interruptions)* ~~ওকাজক লোকজন~~, ~~বলছেন। বলা~~ ওকাজর ক্ষমতাক লোক লোকজন ~~ক্ষমতাক হা?~~ ~~ঐ!~~ ~~(অস্বস্তিকৃতভাবে)~~ I am also a member of the human family. You do not say like this. I lead a party where there is no difference between man and woman. We do not differentiate like this....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : It is not proper. Please maintain silence.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (RAMPUR): Madam Chairperson, I seek your permission to make a point here...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: She has to yield before you could speak. She is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Madam, I want to support her only. When you are giving chance to everybody to speak, then she also should be allowed to speak. But when she is speaking, why is everybody howling? Please allow her to express her views. This is freedom of expression.

**KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :** Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to Shrimati Jayaprada that at least she has understood the reality.

Madam, my next point is on the tax proposals. For an income above Rs. 2.5 lakhs one has to pay 30 per cent tax. Before cut, savings account interest on income is 3.5 per cent. After cut, it is 2.45 per cent. On SBI fixed deposit of above five years, before cut, the interest is 6.25 per cent and after cut it is 4.38 per cent which is lower than inflation. If anybody's income is in the 20 per cent bracket, that is within Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh, then after cut, the effective return is 6.25 per cent and interest would be reduced by five per cent. If anybody's income is within the 10 per cent tax bracket, then after cut, the income will be reduced by 5.63 per cent.

Madam, the salaried class people will be affected because of the withdrawal of standard deduction of Rs. 30,000/-. Senior citizens used to get a rebate up to Rs. 20,000 in income tax. But the same provision has been withdrawn

now. This will put a heavy burden on the senior citizens. They were exempted from paying any income tax on interest earned up to Rs. 12,000 per annum. This also has been withdrawn. Salaried class people will not get any tax benefit on their retirement amount. Now they have to pay tax on interest earned from General Provident Fund and pension amounts. I strongly believe that this Government is least interested in providing social security to the citizens of this country.

Senior citizens whose income from pension was up to Rs. 1,72,000 were not required to pay any income tax. But now they will have to pay income tax of Rs. 2,244/-. Employees whose income were up to Rs. 1,42,000/- they were not required to pay any tax. But now they will have to pay an amount of Rs. 4,284/- as tax. A working woman whose income was up to Rs. 1,47,000/-, she was not required to pay any tax. But now she will have to pay an amount of Rs. 2,244/- as tax.

Sir, Governments face economic crisis. Everybody will appreciate that aspect. We all can sit together and discuss such problems and decide something in the larger interest of the country. But the problem today in our country we are unable to properly make use of the assets that we have. There are hunger deaths taking place in my own State of West Bengal. In Amlasol in Midnapore district, in Jalangi in Murshidabad district, in Chanchol in Malda district, and in Bandowan in Purulia district a lot of people have died because of hunger. The people who died they all belong to the below poverty line families. They include women, children and people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the minorities.

Madam, I am grateful to Shri Sharad Pawar that he has replied to a letter which I had written to him. In that letter, he has mentioned that the State Government has said that there are no hunger deaths there. If hunger deaths are there in Kalahandi, they will shout. But if there are hunger deaths in Chanchol or Amlasol, they will digest. If it happens in Jalangi, Purulia and Bandowan, they will digest it. This is the problem which is existing. Hunger death is different from political death. All the deaths may not be due to hunger. There may be deaths due to terrorism or there may be State sponsored killings. But of course, hunger deaths are different from other sorts of deaths. We appreciate it.....*(Interruptions)* If I mislead the House, you should correct me. Tell this to West Bengal Government that hunger deaths are not occurring in Jalangi or Amlasolâ€¦*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I never interrupt anybody. They know the facts. They are people of double standards. They always speak in two different ways. They say something and do something else. This is the problem with them. ....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am showing this book to the House. Let the Leftists oppose this also. This book is about the bank defaulters. The details are upto 2001. The default is more than Rs. 1,50,000 crore. Why Government is allowing 74% FDI in Banking Sector.â€¦*(Interruptions)* This is the latest letter and you should not say that this is also a distorted one. This letter is from AIBMS which is a Leftist affiliated Union. The figure is Rs. 1.50 lakh crore. When it suits you, you will support and when it does not suit you, you will oppose it. ....*(Interruptions)* This is a public document.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, if half of my time is re taken by them, then how will I speak? I am showing them this book and I am grateful that the Leftist Union has given me this book. The names of defaulters are given here. Now, if a farmer or an unemployed youth or a common man takes loan from a bank and when he is not able to repay the loan due to family conditions or economic conditions or other reasons, then the bank seizes his property. There are captains of industries whose names figure here. The default amounts to Rs. 1,50,000 crore. They are the bank defaultersâ€¦*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There should be no comments like this.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This letter shows the details upto 2005. During the time of NDA Government also, I had raised this point and now also, I am raising this issue. Have we got any justice? Even your Government is ten months old now. Now you say that when you withdraw an amount of Rs. 10,000 from a bank, you should pay one per cent as tax. But what about the blacklisted bank defaulters who are few industrialists? They are taking loan from one bank by a particular name and after that, they close their unit, they open another unit and take loan from the same bank or other banks resulting in the suffering of the country. That is why, I request the Government to have a thorough inquiry regarding this issue. There should be a White Paper on this issueâ€¦*(Interruptions)* I have heard you saying 'no Trina and no Mool'. You are not in the Left now. You are in the right now.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair and try to conclude. Please do not listen to them.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I am speaking here as a Member of this House and they are abusing me using some words.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Leftists are always right.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is not the right track. Leftists mean rightists. You are a great friend of the Congress. You say something and do something. Why should you disturb them?

If you are supporting them, then why are you disturbing them? ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please keep quiet. Madam, please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Do not adopt double standards. That is why, I think, that this Government must look into the matter seriously. If you have any intention of curbing the black money in this country, then why are common people made to suffer instead of the black money holders? You cannot compare black money with white money. Those who are paying the income tax and those who are keeping the money in the banks have the right to withdraw their money. But the black money holders are finishing our country and the economy. That is why the parallel economy is going on.

Some States suffer from bankruptcy. There are good schemes, whether it is in the NDA Government or in the Congress Government. There are some good schemes for the poor people. But the money is not reaching the people because of the middlemen. They are eating the money. I remember what Shri Rajiv Gandhi said about this. He said that 90 per cent of the money does not reach the common man. That is why I would request that there should be some audit. Are you receiving any audit for the money that is released from the Centre? Do you have any system for auditing that money? In my State, I can tell you that the debt is more than Rs. 1,00,000. It is foreign debt and other debts. If you allow this to go on like this, I do not know whether we will be able to digest this from the economic point of view, social security point of view or from the internal point of view.

Last but not least, the point is about Calcutta. It is a very important city. The State of West Bengal is also important from the historical, geographical and traditional point of view.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): It is Kolkata.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What is wrong if I say Calcutta?

Madam, Calcutta and West Bengal are the gateways of North-Eastern region. They are the gateways of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. North-Eastern region is the gateway of Burma and China. You will be surprised to know that in North Bengal foreign currency is used. If you go to Government office, you will see them using foreign currency, not Indian currency. As it is a very serious matter, I would request the Government to look into the matter. I would also request the Government to withdraw the tax on the withdrawal of Rs. 10,000. In respect of senior citizens, the *status quo* should be maintained. In respect of salaried class also the *status quo* should be maintained. There is already a hike in the prices of kerosene, petrol, diesel and domestic gas. Everywhere the hike is going on. Already there is two percent Education Cess. Now, we have this 50 paise Diesel Cess. I would request you not to increase the prices every time. Prepare some action plan so that the common people are not made to suffer. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, this is not good. This is not the way to behave. No running commentary please.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am not your enemy.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Madam address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I think enough is enough. If prices rise so high, then it is only the common man who suffers a lot. We all are representatives of the people. That is why we have to take care of the interests of the people. So, whatever you can do for the people, please do it. Please do justice to them. You should check the blacklisted people. Then, I think, people will give you full support for that.

There is no hanky-panky for that. With these words, Madam, I am sorry to say: "Please give me some instructions sometimes - the directions - whether in this House I will be able to speak or not." We are not the beggars. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Do not say something like this. You have every right.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please one minute. I beg to apologise for this. I am asking one minute from you. Madam, I may not be liked by these people. But, it is also my Sixth term.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is nothing like that.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If every time they disturb me like this, I am sorry, I am ready to tender my resignation. Do not disturb me like this, because I have also sacrificed everything in my life. I have been attacked ten times because I fight for the people. Madam, I will not take any lesson from the Leftists or the opportunists.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (TIRUCHENDUR): Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget. My thanks go to Dr. Kalam, my leader and a senior Statesman of India and also dynamic leader of the young generation in Tamil Nadu, the Jupiter of Tamils Talapathi M.K. Stalin.

I congratulate our hon. Finance Minister Thiru Chidambaram for this beautiful Budget, especially that the hand-made matches are fully exempted from excise duty. I also congratulate him for reducing 4 per cent excise duty for fully mechanised match production, and for cluster approach to help handloom units by which the sickness of the textile industry can be minimised. Raising income-tax ceiling is a great relief extended to the middle class. Knowledge is power. Our Finance Minister has very generously extended funds for the development of the Indian Institute of Science.

By reducing tax, our Finance Minister has brought out taxation. More and more tax on cigarette is good for health also. For rural development, *Bharat Nirman* Scheme has been specially introduced for developing rural development. The Government has asked the Reserve Bank to give loan to industry and for agriculture at a lesser interest. It is a welcome approach.

Sir, since palm tree work is of a seasonal nature, these people remain unemployed in the remaining period. So, during unemployment period, they should be given monetary compensation and also group insurance scheme should be extended to the palm tree tappers. Moreover, their work involved risk to their life.

In my Tiruchendur constituency, there are a large number of *bidi* workers. Most of them are not having identity cards because they are recruited mainly by the agents or contractors only. So, they are lacking in all the benefits announced by the Government. The Government should abolish this contract system and introduce Monitoring Committee.

Sir, the Central Government has announced a student's scholarship scheme for *bidi* workers' children. But, it has not reached the children properly. This should be streamlined. For the handicapped children of *bidi* workers, suitable Government job should be provided.

In southern Tamil Nadu, there are often communal clashes. To solve this problem, our beloved leader, Dr. Kalam has appointed a panel under the leadership of (Retd.) Judge Thiru Rathnavel Pandiyan to find out the cause for communal clash.

**16.44 hrs.** [Shri Ajay Maken *in the Chair*]

The panel submitted the report stating that the main reason is due to unemployment problem. To put an end to this problem, our leader Dr. Kalam and the then Trade and Commerce Minister, renowned and learned Thiru Murasoli Maran had planned to set up a hi-tech park with free zone in Nanguneri. This will provide jobs to one lakh people directly and more than 2 lakh people indirectly. In my constituency's three districts, namely, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, there are many literates. The literate people after completion of their education migrate to various other states and countries since proper job is not available for them in their birth place. People who could not get job resort to violence which results in communal clashes. Hon. Minister of State for Commerce has already visited Nanguneri hi-tech park site with me and the people living in my constituency are expecting this hi-tech park to come up immediately.



[illegible]

**17.00 hrs.**

॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ इत्येकं कृत्वा पुनः स्तुतुं नृणां वाक्यं कृत्वा यज्जेत ॥ (यजुर्वेद १०.१०८) ॥



[illegible]

I wish to bring one more thing to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance about the coopeartive banking industry which is the lifeline of the common people in the country. They are now in crisis. The hon. Minister declared that he would do something regarding this coopeartive banking industry. He has declared a package for the sugar industry and I definitely congratulate him for this. But, at the same time, you may please declare a package for the coopeartive banking industry it will definitely help the common people.

Lastly, I join with hon. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the Deputy Leader of the BJP regarding the concerns expressed by him about senior citizens, women and also the salary-earning people. Because of the new taxation structure they are in some loss. I hope it will be restructured and they will be helped.

I think this much is sufficient. Thank you very much.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I rise to dwell upon a few aspects of the budget proposals presented by hon. Finance Minister of India. The budget proposals have been churned out after due consideration of the needs and aspirations of the common people of India. He has displayed his sheer brilliance and acumen in the preparation of budget proposals. However, a few minor hiccups still remain there and I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will reconsider certain issues, especially the withdrawal tax because he has already admitted that he is not a stubborn person; he is very affable, amenable and polite person.

Some hon. Members have argued regarding the Bharat Nirman. Actually, Bharat Nirman is an integral part of the development philosophy India has been pursuing since Independence. The Budget of this year has been prepared against the backdrop of tsunami disaster, against the backdrop of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, spiralling crude oil prices and liquidity hang overs. Already, the recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission have impacted Rs. 26,000 crore on the economy and it has further aggravated the FRBM norms. However, if we go through the budget proposals, we see that this Budget is intended to provide succour, to provide employment to the poor people of our country.

Sir, as you know, the UPA is founded upon NCMP which is regarded as the Bible of this Government, which is a beacon light of this Government. We follow the six principles on governance and seven priorities on policy action. It is promised to grow the economy to the tune of seven to eight per cent and to generate more employment for a safe and viable livelihood to the common people, welfare and well-being of the farmers and of the unorganised sectors so that the social security could be ensured and there are equal opportunities of employment and education, especially to the SC, the ST, the OBCs and the religious minorities and to unleash creative energies of entrepreneurs, professionals, businessmen and other areas.

Sir, the budget proposals have put a special emphasis on the rural sector. Already a new deal for rural sector has been announced. As far as Antyodaya Annapurna Yojana is concerned, 2.5 crore families are proposed to be included. For ICDS, Rs. 3,142 crore are allocated. For Mid-Day Meal Scheme, allocation is to be increased for next year to Rs. 3,010 crore.

As regards the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, the allocation is to be increased to Rs. 7,156 crore; for Drinking Water Mission, the outlay is proposed to be increased to the tune of Rs. 4,750 crore; for SC & ST Programme the allocation proposed is Rs. 6,253 crore; for Backward Region Grant Fund allocation is Rs. 5,000 crore; for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) outlay is to be increased to Rs. 4,800 crore; and for textile sector the investment has been estimated at Rs. 30,000 crore.

As regards the priority sectors, and flagship programmes falling under the NCMP, the Finance Minister has proposed to provide an additional sum of Rs. 25,000 crore; allocation for education in 2005-2006 will be Rs. 18,337 crore; for rural development, allocation will be Rs. 18,334 crore, subsidy for fertiliser will be Rs. 16,254 crore, expenditure on health is estimated at Rs. 10,280 crore; for National Rural Employment Guarantee, the allocation will be increased to Rs. 11,000 crore; outlay for National Highway will be increased to Rs. 9,320 crore; and the outlay proposed for the National Urban Renewal Mission is Rs. 5,500 crore. However, the Opposition is not contented with these measures.

A man who is not contented with what he has will not be contented with what he would like to have, and there lies the problem. Herodotus said that : "I am satisfied that people are less confident of what we say than what we do." Actually, the former NDA regime had strived hard to deceive the Indian people by some high-blown rhetoric or by some high-blown rigmarole under the rubric of India shining. We also plead for a shining India, but we plead India to shine for all. We do not plead India shining for a few. Therefore, our reform is directed to create public good, instead of private wealth.

A new deal for rural India has already been announced because it has been observed that a fast developing economy like India cannot afford to ignore agriculture. It has been found that between 1992 and 1997 agriculture has been growing at 4.7 per cent, and later it was receded to 2%. In 2003-2004, we got a bonanza of 9 per cent. Because there lies some lacuna, and gap specially, in maintaining the irrigation assets, agriculture investment, etc. Therefore, the new deal for rural India has prescribed a number of measures, namely, to reverse the declining trend in investment in agriculture; the credit flow to the farmers has already been stepped up to the tune of Rs. 1,08,000 crore; there is increase in public investment in irrigation and watershed development; there is increase in fund for agriculture research, and extension; a single market for agricultural produce is being created; there is investment in rural healthcare, and education; investment in rural electrification and rural roads; steps are taken for setting up of



commodities future market; ensure against risk in farming, and rural business; etc. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude your speech. The time given to speak on an issue is given to the party.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Under the Crop Insurance Scheme, we have not been able to cover much sown area. Secondly, private insurers have not been induced into the agricultural insurance sector, which needs to be looked after. How much sown area has been covered by Insurance?

Our Government has been able to contain inflation. The Wholesale Price Index which shot up to 8 per cent has been brought down to 5.01 per cent. The consumer price level which shot up to 5 per cent has been reduced to 4 per cent. It has been possible by reducing the import duties and tightening the monetary policy. Already we have the privilege of a robust foreign exchange reserve and a modest external debt.

Sir, the engine of growth of any economy depends upon trade. A developing country like India has various advantages in production of primary products such as tea, pulses, coffee on the one hand, and engineering goods, software etc., on the other hand. We are a developing country and we have the privilege to direct the flow of investment to that sector where we can derive more benefit. Keeping this in view, the Indian Government has been pursuing a long-term trade policy, which has been yielding tangible results. Already our foreign trade has touched 75 billion US dollars and within a span of five years, according to the promise given, it will reach 150 billion US dollars. Now, the share of Indian trade in the world market is as meagre as 0.8 per cent. It has to be increased to 1.5 per cent within the next few years. In that direction, we have been pursuing our trade policy.

I must congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for allocating Rs. 52 crore for undertaking an anti-erosion programme in West Bengal and other States. Over the years, people of West Bengal in general and Murshidabad in particular have been agitating over the erosion problem, which has drastically altered the geographical expression of Murshidabad, Malda and other districts. I would again request the hon. Finance minister to allocate more funds because given the magnitude of the erosion problem, this fund seems very meagre.

Starvation deaths have been occurring in West Bengal. In Amlasol, Jalangi and in various places, starvation deaths have occurred. The fact is that our Government has already acknowledged that due to poor delivery mechanism, food has not been reaching the poor people. The Government has been trying to revamp the system, but the primary responsibility lies with the State Government. That is why, we cannot accuse the Central Government for the starvation deaths occurring in West Bengal.

Actually, Sir, we are now passing through the age of post multi-fibre arrangement as the quota regime has been phased out. In the post-ATC, a wide opportunity has been opened up for the Indian textile sector.

In the textile sector, jute industry is also a component.

Sir, I represent West Bengal which is the largest producer of jute in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Other Members of your party will not get a chance.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the problem of Jute Sector.

More funds should be allocated to ensure that jute industry in West Bengal survives. Already a Technology Mission has been approved with a corpus of Rs.500 crore. However, that fund has not yet been made available so far as my knowledge goes. About forty lakhs of cultivators are growing jute in the State. Jute sector is providing direct employment to about 2.41 lakh workers, and in tertiary, employment to about 1.41 people. So, special emphasis must be laid on the jute sector.

Before I conclude, I would like to quote a few lines from Kautilya's *Artha Shastra* :-

"राजाय सुखं भवति, सुखं भवति राज्ञः, राजा सुखं भवति, राजा सुखं भवति"

"राजा सुखं भवति, सुखं भवति राज्ञः, राजा सुखं भवति, राजा सुखं भवति, राजा सुखं भवति"

They can be roughly translated into English as:

"In the happiness of his subjects,

Lies the King's happiness;

In their welfare, his welfare;

He shall not consider as good, only

Whatever pleases his subjects. "

Shri B. Vinod Kumar - Not present.

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): Sir, I only want to dwell on two aspects, namely, agriculture and WTO. It is commendable that the hon.

Finance Minister has said that we would give a lot of credit to farmers. You are creating infrastructure for farmers. It is all very good. But will it help them in the long run? Now we are discussing agriculture in Geneva. I do not want to go into the details of that. What will happen? By the time we conclude the whole thing, the entire market will be open to the multinationals. They will come here and occupy our agricultural sector. The World Bank is asking us not to give domestic subsidies. What is happening? Subsidies are given whether in the green box or otherwise. There is domestic subsidy worth 375 billion dollars. They also get export and other subsidies. In our negotiations, they have said that they are prepared to reduce export subsidy by 20 per cent every year for the next five years. But other subsidies would continue. With such a loaded subsidies, when the food grains are imported from those countries even with all the infrastructure and credit which we are giving to the farmers, will they be able to face them? They can compete in the farmers of the United States if they are given a level playing field. But can they face the Government of the United States? So, this is going to destroy our agriculture.

The World Bank have told us to diversify our agriculture to horticulture. The funds are being provided. It is wonderful. What is the argument? One of the arguments is that – if I am quoting correctly – since production of wheat and rice is water intensive, we go to horticulture. It would increase your export. It has been found that by resorting to organic farming, seven times less water is necessary for wheat and rice production. So, now we are going to divert the entire thing to horticulture for export. What will happen?

India is a country which is self-sufficient in food grains. But now we are driving the entire economy, by diversification on the instructions of the World Bank and the WTO, to be totally dependent on the United States of America and other Western countries. Should that be allowed? Whenever it comes to the question of agriculture, we say it is a State subject. Two days back, in the Kerala Assembly, the Agriculture Minister said that the import of pepper is destroying the economy of that sector.

Sir, I am coming from the Waynad area where percentage-wise suicide is the highest in India. Prices are coming down. Did ever the Government of India discuss with the State Government when they entered into FTA with SAARC and other countries? The Agreement was signed in Delhi but the consequences of that Agreement would have to be suffered in the States. Who takes the decisions? Should Government be only a communicating agency for the decisions taken in Geneva or in Washington just to tell us that these are mandatory things and that they cannot do anything about it? Could it be allowed to go on like this? Only two per cent of the entire economy of the United States is associated with agriculture. What about us? What is going to happen to all that we are providing for agriculture? The Government says that it is a mandatory agreement.

Sir, in 1994 in Marrakesh we signed an agreement. Was Parliament informed? Over a hundred crore people in India, we are bound by this agreement but we do not know what is happening. Do you not think that our sovereignty is impinged? Should anybody tell us as to what we should do and what we should not do? Institutions like the World Bank, the IDBA, the ADBA are imposing conditionalities and saying that we have to do this. As if they are sitting in the Government and telling us what to do and what not to do and how to restructure the Government. Just to borrow some money from these institutions, should our sovereignty be impinged? Should we be so helpless that we cannot do anything to save our country? Privatisation is all right. But what happening, is it not corporatisation?

Sir, I would like to mention just two points. First, take the case of agriculture. We are talking of BPL people here. In the United States, the Multinational Corporations are controlling agriculture. I want to inform the House about two people who are getting agricultural subsidy in the United States. One is Mr. Ted Turner, who is a multi-billionaire and the other man is Mr. David Rockefeller. They are recipients of subsidy in the United States. Here, we have no responsibility towards the people of our country. The people in Geneva and Washington tell us as to what we should do. They have the authority and we have the responsibility. Do you not think that this is the time to think collectively as to how to stop this plunder? Should we give ourselves in to the Multinational Companies to dictate terms to us? Should we allow these Multinational Companies to come to this country and sell genetically modified seeds and transgenic seeds and dictate terms to us, allow them to destroy our agriculture, destroy our poor people? We cannot allow this and it is time to fight back.

Sir, on the water front I would like to submit that for thousand days people in a place called Placcimada in the State of Kerala are struggling for their rights to get water. I have the figures with me here. About 650,000 cubic metres of water every year is drained from that place by companies like Coca Cola and Pepsi. It is their own revelation. The actual figure is much more than that. As a result of that not only ground water has been depleted but surface water has also been polluted.



Sir, about four to five days back, one lady by name Mailamma, a *dalit* woman – she is still fighting with the MNCs to get water – came to Delhi. She told me that she wanted to meet the Prime Minister and other important people here. I asked her as to why she wanted to meet them. She has come here neither to get any subsidy, nor for getting any infrastructural facilities, but to get redressal of her grievance and the grievance is that the Mailamma should be allowed by the Multinational Companies to fetch water from her own well. The mighty Government at the Centre spends Rs. 80,000 crore a year to defend our country. But would this Government be able to give drinking water to Mailamma in Placcidmada? We can fight enemies. we can fight armies. But today the question is, how do we fight the Multinational Companies? Are we not responsible for the people of Placcimada who want their water? It is because we cannot disturb the corporate entities in Atlanta. They decide whether Mailamma should have water or not and the mighty Government of India cannot give an adivasi woman her own water from her own well and get an entry there. What type of Government we are running?

Coming to watershed management, what is the directive of WTO? Cost water! Do not subsidize water. Should we treat water as a commodity? Without water can any species live? Water is a right. Can we agree that water is a commodity? When we have lost power to regulate people from taking ground water, whether it is in Kalapara or Mediganj or Plachimada, the multinational companies are entirely draining ground water from here. Can we stop them? How can we tell them that you go for rainwater harvesting? Can we control them? Sir, they are taking away our rivers. Tehri Dam is being built. Water is going to be taken, to be sold to whom? To those companies? If you do not get them enough water, they fine Rs. 50,000. For whom? The multinationals can export water and they can plunder our water. What type of dictation is this from the World Bank? This is very painful. I do not want to comment on this. There are poor people in this country.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram is my great friend. I had worked with him in 1996 when I was the Minister of State for Finance. I had the great luck of coming with him when he presented his Budget to Parliament. He is a wonderful person. But did he go to Warangal of Andhra Pradesh? Did he go to places in Karnataka where farmers have committed suicide? With all my respect to my great friend, Mr. Chidambaram, he goes to find the sensex figures of Mumbai Stock Exchange. Farmers do not know about sensex figures. There are poor people in the country and their problems have to be addressed with all our analysis and with all our concern. Don't you think that you are slowly being driven to a position where we are handing over our country to the interest of the corporates? I do not want to dwell much on that.

Coming to the service sector, why should we open the service sector to the multinationals? What happened to the Mumbai route? When our own people in this country can run it and can manage it, why should we invite them here? Is it a doctrine? Are we saying that we do not do whatever we can do, so do it for us. Is FDI such a sanctimonious thing for us to accept? Are we not allowing 100 per cent FDI investment in agricultural land? Tomorrow some multinational may be buying hundreds and thousands of hectares of agricultural land in this country. Do you want another colonial country to come and occupy us? They will buy our country. They are not coming with military. They are coming with dollars and they are more dangerous than bullets. On this, I am cautioning the Government. Of course, my Party is supporting the Government from outside. We are supporting this Government. But this Government must be concerned with our future. What is going to happen to this country in future? When we talk about globalisation and when we point out as to what is happening with globalisation, immediately fingers point out at us that we are against development. Development does not need surrendering our rights, our sovereignty and our country's destiny to multinational corporations.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Budget. In fact, I find it very unusual that people are opposing this Budget. It is essentially a breakthrough Budget and I will explain how. This is a Budget which is oriented towards development. It takes forward the policy of liberalisation that was initiated by our Prime Minister fourteen years ago, when he was the Finance Minister. It is one single reason for India's economy being what it is today. Our Finance Minister was faced with the difficult task of relating the Budget to the common man, the *Aam Aadmi*. It is this *Aam Aadmi* about whom Soniaji has been talking about to which the people of India have reacted with great enthusiasm and expectation.

I am very happy to say that the Finance Minister has balanced the heavy demand for development, with concern for the common man. He has laid down a road map for India's development. It is rare that a Finance Minister can find resources worth Rs. 1,72,500 crore as Gross Budgetary Support, which is 17 per cent more than the last year's Budget. He has earmarked an amount of Rs. 25,000 crore for some flagship programmes. I would say that he has performed some kind of a miracle mainly because, while he has done all this, he has done it without any substantial rise in either direct or indirect taxes, or increase in the fiscal deficit or abetting inflation. Above all, he has produced a Budget which has national consensus.

I am firmly of the view that it has set India on its way to becoming very soon a member of the developed nations of the world. It will be possible for us to wipe off the tears from the eyes of every Indian and 'keep our tryst with destiny', that Pandit Jawaharlal had spoken of. If I say this, it may appear a little high sounding. But the stock



market, which is the *sutradhar*, had registered a push of 6,000 to 7,000 points immediately after the Budget was presented. This is very rare and in fact, it has never happened in the immediate post-Budget weeks. That is one great certificate that the Finance Minister has been given. We should accept it. I also commend the Finance Minister for widening the scope of poverty determination. This also has happened for the first time. He has gone beyond the calorie-based poverty indicators and instead has used illiteracy, disease, infant mortality, malnutrition, absence of skills and unemployment as indicators.

This, of course, will bring me to my home State, Bihar. As I go along I will come back to it. I shall confine myself to some observations about the budget. We should praise the Finance Minister for displaying immense courage in pushing through the Employment Guarantee Scheme about which I have heard much skepticism. But we must understand that this Scheme is not merely a lollypop. It is a means to pump purchasing power into the hands of the people who are living in absolutely rural areas of this country. Of course, the money will have to go to the roots and I am sure good governance will enable this to reach the roots. When that happens, I foresee the regeneration of the economy. With the incremental rural purchasing power, howsoever small it is, there is bound to be an aggregation in the demand for goods and services. It is this demand for goods and services that needs to be addressed if we have to build up on our efforts to increase employment potential.

There is another sector in which the Finance Minister deserves commendation. It is in 'Skill Development'. I fully endorse what he has said about employability of young people. The Rs. 500 crore that he plans to spend on this is a very worthy investment. In fact, it is here that I must refer to what my colleague had earlier said. He had said that India, even before it could pass through an Industrial revolution it is already in the Information Age and Knowledge Age. It is indeed a fact. It is this which the Finance Minister has accepted, acknowledged and has addressed this Budget in a contemporary manner. He has done it knowing that the days of the lathes and milling machines are over. These were machines of the mechanical era and they have very little use in the new environment of computers and numerically controlled machines. In fact, who knows that even these machines may be replaced by the Nanotechnology very

soon? Therefore, the amount of Rs. 500 crore which he has earmarked for this sector is okay. If, at all, I have an objection, it is that it seems to be a little insufficient and needs to be increased. But, along side this, there is need for the mindset of our young people to change. There seems to be a mindset that they must do only one type of work. They must do work only on some kind of a machine. This mindset has to change. I would suggest that the Government should take upon itself the task of organizing continuous skill upgradation. For example, retraining people upto the age of 50. Otherwise, we will soon have people who are unemployable over the age of even 40. Then, we will be faced with a serious problem. So, skill upgradation has to be kept in mind. The Finance Minister spoken of ITIs tying up with local industries. This is good as far as it goes. But the ITIs will need to tie up also with bank credit and self-employment schemes so that people can set up businesses in mechanical repairs, car servicing, tractor mechanics, diesel pump maintenance, computer maintenance and so on. This is very necessary to enable people to survive productively in the current century. If this is not done, then we will have in our hands many ITI-trained young men who will be unemployable and who are unemployed. They will have to settle for such jobs as railway porters and gangmen. They certainly do not look forward to that kind of a future. That will be creating some kind of discontent. As you all know, already we are in a stage where there is a great deal of discontent which has led to the spread of left-wing extremism. If, at all, the problem of left-wing extremism has to be countered, it has to be done by seeing that the people in this country have employment and are more contented and, therefore, this suggestion of tying up ITI trainees with the bank credit, self-employment is good and should be implemented.

Another initiative that I must commend the Finance Minister for, is his grand plan to take roads and the broadband connectivity to every village, the move to complete electrification of all villages, putting up a chain of agro-processing industries, railways and port development as well as upgradation of airports. But, that will mean, once again, a change of mindset. There is a general feeling that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Please allow me to conclude. I will not take more than 5 minutes. We must get out of the mindset of getting only the Government jobs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can complete it within two minutes.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : I will try my best. But the jobs will now be in development projects like ports, airports, hotels and hospitality business. Huge public and private investment in these areas will have to be done.

It will come and when it comes, it will create a great deal of employment potential.

I now come to my State of Bihar. I would repeat what my colleagues have said earlier that Bihar is extremely

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"Under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, I am obliged to wipe out the revenue deficit by 2007-2008. However, the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has proposed that we do so by 2008-2009."

"In my view, 2008-2009 is a more credible terminal year. It will also coincide with the term of this Government."

[illegible]

"Meanwhile the Securitisation Act, 2003 has transformed the so-called NPAs of public sector banks into a treasure-trove. Such PSU banks with NPAs in the category of one crore and above alone are valued at three lakh crores and command a lien over property worth 60 lakh crores. Now, this is the treasure which every foreign bank is eyeing."

"The provision in paragraph 86 of the Budget Speech 2004-05 to make this debt tradable will enable the banks and their prospective new owners to appropriate a sizeable chunk of these riches."

[illegible]

"In the name of modification, it seems the UPA Government has reproduced a pilot project of the former NDA Government for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector. The Unorganised Sector Workers Bill was introduced earlier."

[illegible]

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"that Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)â€”"

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you have abolished KVIC. जहाँका जहाँका उद्योग हस्तक्षेप कॉर्रप्शन 2003-04 ... कोई 11589 कोर्रुप्शन् होमिड्स हदइन जहाँका इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर उद्योग

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[illegible]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, I have to speak. I have hardly spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken more than ten minutes. Please conclude now.

[illegible]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just mention points only.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, this is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But there is no time.

I would like to quote from the Indian Express. It has come out today after the Prime Minister gave a statement.

It says, "Meanwhile, the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is reportedly asking for further proof that there is indeed a crisis."

एक कक्षा में 25 बच्चे हैं। उनमें से 10 बच्चे लड़कियाँ हैं। लड़कों की संख्या ज्ञात करें।

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय । ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय । ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. There is no time.

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Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, when he opened the discussion, made a statement that this Budget is an anti-people Budget. I am afraid that he was uncharitable in his remarks. What does he mean by that? In what respect, the Budget happens to be anti-people? Has the Budget unleashed tax burden on the people? Or has it reduced the expenditure on schemes meant for poverty or employment or for water supply or for sanitation? It has increased the outlay for all the social sectors. Therefore, there is no grain of truth in saying that the Budget has become anti-people. On the other hand, the Budget tries to please every section of the society. It only reminds me of Professor Jeremy Bentham, a renowned economic philosopher, who said that the objective of a Government should be to ensure the greatest happiness of the greatest number. If you look at this Budget, you will find that it touches on every section of the Indian society. Therefore, it has to be hailed as a Budget for maximum welfare with minimum cost. What else is not there in the Budget? You take, for example, employment issue. The Hon. Finance Minister has converted the National Food for Work Programme into a National Rural Guarantee Scheme, and has increased the outlay from Rs. 4,020 crore to Rs. 11,000 crore; an increase of 173.6

per cent. This is something unheard of and unprecedented in the Budgetary history of India. For any scheme, on a year to year basis, there has never been such an increase of 173.6 percent, and this Budget shows the concern for employment generation in the country.

The announcement of a National Rural Health Mission, increased coverage of Antyodhaya Anna Yojana, expansion of ICDS Scheme with the creation of 1,88,168 additional Anganwadi Centres, increased allocation to Mid-day Meal Scheme, creation of a non-lapsable fund called Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme, efforts to provide drinking water facilities, extension of total sanitation campaign, programmes for SC/ST, women & children, minorities and the establishment of Backward Regions Grant Fund and Rural Infrastructure Fund would bring cheers to rural masses and add impetus to the rural initiatives.

Now, the launching of Bharat Nirman Scheme, from all points of view, is a laudable effort on the part of the Government, and for the first time the Government tries to understand that the spirit of India lives in villages or in the rural areas. It only reminds me of Mahatma Gandhi. The speaker who spoke ahead of me quoted, rather misquoted, Mahatma Gandhi and said that this Government is crushing the philosophy of Mahatma. But, through the Bharat Nirman Scheme, the Government is trying to revive the rural area, where the heart of India lives. Therefore, the fractured heart of India would now get good diffusion of blood, and it would remain hale and healthy when the Bharat Nirman Scheme is implemented. It is a unique feature, which we appreciate on behalf of Pattali Makkal Katchi.

**18.58 hrs.** [Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal *in the Chair*]

The other aspect of the Government Budget is that it has really realised the significance of investment. Investment, coupled by a multiplier effect can create additional income and employment in the economy, which alone is the surest antidote to poverty and unemployment in this country. The Finance Minister has really realised the need for finance in the agricultural sector, in the public sector enterprises, in the industrial sector, in the infrastructure. Wherever it is required, he has increased both the capital expenditure and the revenue expenditure, which needs to be appreciated. Moreover, in agriculture, he has understood that the priorities are infrastructure, water management, crop diversification, horticulture and research. Textile and sugar industries have been given a greater importance, and the most important aspect of this Budget is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I was given at least 6 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 8 minutes. I am saying, please try to conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I have to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Try to conclude. Time is according to what we have allotted to different political parties.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I am only saying the deserving part of the Budget.

**19.00 hrs.**

The next important aspect which fascinates me is the continuation of the tax reforms which were initiated in 1991 by the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. We have now simplified the tax procedures. We have introduced an element of modernisation of tax rates, which leads to greater compliance. We have tried to increase the share of tax revenue in the total revenue, which increases the progressivity in the total structure; the revenue neutral effect of indirect taxes has been ensured and there has been a rationalisation of indirect taxes also.

Another important aspect of this Budget is that it has accepted all the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. It has opened up a new era in Centre-State relations in the country. The Sarkaria Commission and various other Commissions which have gone into the issue of Centre-State relations have said that the non-devolution of resources in adequate quantities to the States has been a matter of dispute. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry for interrupting you again. Please be very brief in your points. The time allotted is over. Please make your points very briefly. That is all I could tell you. Please try to conclude in two minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I am the only Member to speak from my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just hate to interrupt you but the time allotted is already over. I would not like to do that.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : If I talk anything irrelevant, you can stop me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know, you would not talk anything irrelevant. That is why I hate to ask you to conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Although the implementation of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission would cause a greater fiscal impact on the Government the Central Government has taken up all the recommendations in toto and said that it would provide necessary assistance to the States. This year alone, the Government is going to bear a responsibility of Rs. 26,000 crore for transfers from the Centre to the States, which is equivalent to 0.7 per cent of the GDP of this country. This means that the Government is establishing the principle of 'Co-operative federalism', which was propounded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in his Ph. D. dissertation. He said that the "Centre was for all the States and all the States were for the Centre". Therefore, a real approach of co-operative federalism has been established by this Budget. It has to be appreciated.

I should also say that there are certain concerns which must be addressed by the Government. The first concern of mine is this. It is not the quantum of the total investment that is important; it is the quality, to what extent the investment that we make brings impact on the people, which is more important. The second concern is that there are many overlapping schemes both in the Rural Development and in the Urban Development Departments. These schemes have to be streamlined so that we could have maximum benefits at minimum cost.

The Budget provides some relief for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, women and children but unfortunately it has not taken care of Other Backward Classes, which constitute nearly 60 per cent of the population. I hope, the hon. Minister of Finance would be providing some relief measures for the OBCs as well, when he makes the reply.

The fourth concern is that the growth rate in the economy is now just 6.9 per cent as against 8.3 per cent. This is another cause of concern. The soundness of the Budget is reduced because the hon. Minister of Finance has not been able to keep up the promises under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. The revenue deficit today in the Revised Estimate is more than what it was last year; the fiscal deficit is more than what it was last year. If these slippages are allowed to continue, we would end up with a greater amount of deficit-induced inflation, money supply and widening of trade balances, which would lead to a foreign exchange crisis like the one we have seen in 1991. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, I hate to interrupt you again but I am bound by the time allotted.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Another cause of concern is the increasing indebtedness of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you wish to lay the remaining part of your speech on the Table, I would permit you to do that; but I am sorry, I cannot permit you to continue.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I would have finished it if you had not intervened.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for your party was five minutes but you have now taken 13 minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : It cannot be 13 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a record.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : All right, Sir, I do not want to argue with you. I would rather put up some more ideas.

The growing debt burden has to be taken care of.

The interest payment which the Government makes is about Rs. 1,37,444 crore which means that India is making per day an interest payment of Rs. 376 crore and per hour Rs. 15.6 crore, which is unproductive. We do not know what is the return for it. This issue has to be addressed immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Ramadass, I am sorry, I cannot let you continue. Please understand my position. I have to call the next name.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : The introduction of VAT from 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2005 has to be seen in the light of the fact that a State like Tamil Nadu is not prepared for bringing a legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Munshi Ram will begin his speech now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : The self-help ground programmes and agricultural credit programmes have to be given to the poor people in right earnest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am so sorry, Prof. Ramadass.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : These points would help us all. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I come from the land of Bharathi Dasan. Let me conclude with the vision of Revolutionary poet Bharathi Dasan:-



[illegible]

I was a youth with a slightly leftist state of mind. At that time many new terms were spoken by the then Prime Minister like liberalisation with a human face, continuity with change, etc. Even many Members from the Treasury Benches looked at these terms with suspicion because changes were taking place. These apprehensions were there at that time. I remember that Dr. Manmohan Singh, while presenting his first Budget in 1991, reassured us in this very House by dedicating his first Budget to the inspiring memory of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This is how the

beginning was made. I still remember the then Finance Minister, and today's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh speaking on the sad state of the Indian economy at that time, and explaining the need for economic reforms. I think he quoted Goethe and said :

"No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come."

But there were sceptics galore. There were many people who thought that the reform process, which was started by Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Congress Government at that time, was a sell-out to the IMF, and the World Bank. There were many sceptics from everywhere, that is, on this side and on the other side. But, today, when we look back at *Manmohanomics*, it has proved to be the greatest blessing for the people of this country, and it is because of *Manmohanomics* that we can look to the future with confidence. Even the successive Governments that came after Congress, namely, the BJP Government or the United Front Government had followed the same principle of reforms. Shri P. Chidambaram was the Finance Minister at that time also, and all apprehensions about the sell-out became a figment of wild imagination.

There were aberrations in the last six years, but the broad principles continued to hold sway. Today, even some socialists are sitting on the extreme right side of the House. There were people who thought that free access to the market economy or dictation by the market forces alone is good economics. It was thought that concession to the poorest people, concession to the backward regions, relief to the common people are petty compulsions of politics, and not good economics. This is the reason for emphasis getting shifted in the last six years, and the rich getting richer, and the poor people being forgotten.

I compliment the Finance Minister for once again bringing back the economy in the right direction with the right kind of focus by fixing the right priorities, and by emphasising on the true value of *Manmohanomics*, which was doing -- as one of my friends has said -- the greatest good to the greatest number of people in this country. It is because the market forces did not dictate *Manmohanomics*. It was a means to achieve greater economic resilience for the Indian economy, which was at peril because of various reasons.

**19.18 hrs.** [Shri Ajay Maken *in the Chair*]

I would not like to dwell on various plus points of this Budget. Most of my friends have already praised the pro-poor tilt of the Budget. I would not like to be repetitive, but I would say that a frontal attack on poverty; on improving rural health; a new deal on education; concrete steps to improve the lots of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Minorities; steps to improve rural credit, and rural debt; improvement of agricultural sector; irrigation; and above all a very ambitious project of "*Bharat Nirman*" has set the priorities right. Shri Chidambaram should receive a deserving pat from all of us for all this, and he has been receiving it too. I would not like to do more. He should receive a double pat because I have found that all the criticisms that have been made against him from people -- who are supposed to be in the Opposition -- have been more in terms of quantity. Even Shri Malhotra was not opposing the targets.

I have heard my friend, Shri Lakshman Singh, emphasising the need for getting more, doing more and more on what we are proposing, and, of course, the feeble expression of where the money will come from. Except that, I hardly found any basis or any basic opposition to the principles laid down in the Budget. That is why, I compliment the Finance Minister. After joining the chorus of praise with the friends from my side, I have to now come to the unpleasant task of pointing out to him some of the areas where I feel that more emphasis is needed, more efforts are needed, and more concrete steps are needed. I am talking about regional imbalances.

Regional imbalances, as the President himself had said, had been accentuated not only by historical neglect, but also by distortions in plan allocation. You will remember, our Rajivji had continuously talked about and emphasised the need for creation of parities between regions and regions, States and States. That is why, I would like to straightaway go to the heart of the matter and talk about North-East and Assam, my home, which is also very much a part of India.

Sir, I do not like to give statistics to Mr. Chidambaram. I do not think I have to explain to him the plight of the North-East. He has been dealing with the North-East time and again. But suffice it to say that the *per capita* income of the United Assam was higher than the national average in 1951, and today, it is lowest at the table. Mr. Chidambaram was talking about the great divide between rural India and urban India, and his determination to set it aright. I would like to hear Mr. Chidambaram talking more about 'advanced States' and 'less advanced States'. I agree that Mr. Chidambaram, the Finance Minister, need not be an accountant. However, I want Mr. Chidambaram to be a visionary and if the visionary in him does not set right the huge regional imbalances that are taking place in this country over the years, who else will do it? Disparities between regions must be minimised and economic priorities must be set right and must be set at the top of the agenda because that is not only good economics, that is also good politics.

Ten per cent of the national Budget is earmarked for the development of North-East. This ten per cent goes back to a Corpus Fund called NLCPR (Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Reserve). The allocation for this Fund over the last so many years had constantly been at Rs. 550 crore. We have the NEC which implements the developmental activities in North-East. Funds for NEC also has been constantly at Rs. 500 crores for the last three years, and not even the inflation part is being covered. Have we been increasing the neglect of North-East or decreasing it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : You have to allow me to speak a few words.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking the time of your colleagues. You must conclude in one minute.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : I will just refer to the main points. You know that 10 per cent of the national Budget is earmarked for development of North-East. However, do you know that the NLCPR Fund, over the years, has been accumulated to such an extent that as on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2003, as per my information, the balance was standing at about Rs. 3,500 crore? There is no scheme for disposal of this Fund. This Fund is still lying in the Finance Ministry; it has not been given for the development of the North-East. How long will this neglect continue? We have no roads, and the only roads that are being built in Assam are in Guwahati. Do you know that out of Rs. 30,000 crore subsidies that are given nationally on food and fertilisers, North-Eastern States do not even get one per cent? How long will this neglect continue? How long will these things continue? When will you correct these things? When will you take a giant leap to rebuild North-East? Will it be a giant leap for reconstruction or will it be a mere lip-service? That is the question that I want to ask Mr. Chidambaram.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Mr. Chaliha, during our time the percentage of BPL  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Manvendra Singh.

(Interruptions)\*  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, let your colleague speak. Nothing is going on record. Time is precious.

$\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

শ্রী কীরিপ চালাহা :  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

শ্রী খারাবেলা স্বাইন :  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

- Not Recorded.

শ্রী মনবেন্দ্র কনক (বঙ্গবন্ধু) :  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

In the last one year we have heard a lot about the mandate.  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

Everybody in the Treasury Benches is, of course, a psephologist. How they use the word mandate is up to them. I would not get into the detail of that.  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

he seeks the blessings of women, the women voters. So, there is gender budget in this Budget.  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

Support for training and employment programmes.  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

Scheme for rescue of victims of trafficking.  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

National Commission of Women.  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)

Prevention and control of juvenile social maladjustment.  $\hat{\text{a}}\text{€}$  (অসংযোজনীয়)



ह+। Treasury Benches also claim that they have the monopoly and the sole authority on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I respect their opinions. I am not getting into the statistics because all previous speakers have given enough statistical data to fill volumes. I am just giving pure, black and white details that are in the printed form, that has been given to us as Members of Parliament. SC and ST girls hostels and boys hostels and pre-metric scholarship. इन्क त्कन्-क्क ह+डकुसक. क्क क्क क्क हदइह ह+। Hostels from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs क्क पक्क=क्क अक्कउट-क्क. क्क क्क क्क हदइह ह+।

क्कक्कक्क अक्कर स्टव्ट एक्कटक्क क्कक्कक्क ड+क्कक्क क्कट क्कक्कक्क र्वक्क. क्क क्कटक्क+क्क हदइह ह+। क्कक्कक्कक्क प्कदक्क. क्क एक्कटक्क ड+ क्कक्क क्कट क्कक्कक्क र्वक्क क्क क्कक्क क्कन्द् स्क्कक्क क्कक्कट अक्कक्कक्कक्कट क्कटक्क ह+। उक्क क्क क्क क्कटक्क+क्क हदइह ह+। State Scheduled Castes Finance Corporation is essentially to empower the weaker sections of society. Now, the Budget is cutting back on that. I fail to understand how the Treasury Benches claims that Budget is for the weaker sections of society.

What concerns us today and for the future are matters of environment and nothing is more important than today's growth-driven economy where all figures are created to suggest growth. Nothing is more significant than the utilisation of non-conventional energy. Now, in that sector, for solar power, there has been a cut back; for bio-gas utilisation, there has been a cut back; for wind power generation, there has been a cut back; and for Integrated Rural Energy Programme, there has been a cut back. I fail to understand how the environment will benefit in this massive industrialisation phase when you are cutting back.

In between, the Home Minister mentioned the disaster manager with the seriousness with which the UPA is taking up disaster management. I compliment them for that. It is a matter of great concern for the country. But in the MHA head, in the Plan outlay for the Home Ministry, in the head 'disaster management', there is a cut back. I find that astonishing. I hope, it would be rectified.

Defence is a concern not just because I have had the honour of being in uniform but also a concern as a citizen. One of the great schemes for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen that the former Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee ji had started was the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme in which all over the country, there will be health centres created for Ex-Servicemen and their families on the basis of a small contribution. This includes widows and other dependants of Ex-Servicemen. Unfortunately, that scheme has seen a cut back. A number of State Governments are dovetailing the rural health programmes based on the scheme. Unfortunately, it has seen a cut back.

For serving soldiers, I saw in the list in the Plan outlay that there is no consideration for increasing of accommodation for married people. I see construction head for various civil agencies of the Ministry of Defence but none for the serving soldiers who serve extended periods of time in extreme field conditions. Do they get a chance to bring their families to stations where their children can be education, where the family can live together? Unfortunately, that does not feature in this Budget.

What is most important in the Defence outlay is the fact that the Capital outlay for aircraft and aero engines for the Air force and for the Navy have seen a cut back. Air Force and Navy, we all know, are highly hardware intensive process and there is a lead time before utilisation of funds in the sense that machinery comes in. In this situation, if we have a cut back, there is a serious worry that has been expressed that this cut back is in order to utilise funds for a second-hand purchase of aircraft - that is what is being whispered currently in the South Block area.

There has been a cut back in the Naval Dockyard.

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, from where I belong, the most severe cut back is in the *Maru Gauchar Yojana* which was implemented for a period and has been discontinued by them. It is a Yojana that benefits the cattle the most. We are a cattle rearing State where the density of population of cattle is very high. This scheme was to regenerate pasture land. That scheme does not feature any more in the Budget and it makes us believe that the concern of the cattle is not their concern.

The *Shiksha Karmi Yojana* for Rajasthan has been cut back. This is another serious loss for us. If education is a concern for them, then how could they be cutting back on *Shiksha Karmi Yojana*? There is no provision for rural electrification. They have provided for household electrification. Whether they have urban interest or rural interest is obvious from the allocation. The highest increase in the Budget has been on e-governance and the sharpest decrease has been on rural electrification. That, I think, fully captures the priorities of the Budget and the UPA Government.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (RAMPUR): Thank you for giving me this opportunity. After the Independence, the Congress has ruled for more than 50 years. Whichever party comes to power, it talks about reformation and

economic reformation. Practically, when they come to the field, I think, the poor is becoming poorer and the rich is becoming richer.

Today, I consider Shri Chidambaram as one of the most intelligent Ministers and I appreciate him. Today, the Budget has been presented under the guidance of our Prime Minister. But, I am surprised to see that there is substantially no difference in this year's Budget as compared to that of the last year in spite of the fact that all the efforts have been put to see that there is more improvement. We feel that there is some compulsion, some pressure, because of which he is unable to come forward and choose between the human rights and the trade rights. There is a big conflict between these two, whether to back the BPL level sector or the trade sector.

One more thing I would like to say was about the measures they have announced before the Budget to promote more liberal policies of foreign direct investment. The Budget 2005-06 provides substantial increase in allocation to education. Still, the Compulsory Education Bill is pending its introduction in Parliament. Today, six crore children are out of school and more than a double of it are the dropouts. I want to say one thing. We are concentrating on three areas – health, education and rural development.

The Central plan outlay on agricultural and rural development has been increased by 47 per cent over the original budget provision in 2004-05 and while that on social services has been up by 49 per cent. However, when compared to the revised estimation of 2004-05, these increases are smaller. They cannot ensure universal coverage of beneficiaries.

I would like to put it this way. When the Congress comes, it says about 'Bharat Nirman' and when the NDA comes, it says about 'feel good'. But what about the common people? How they have to feel, whether they have to believe on 'Bharat Nirman' or they have to feel that there is 'feel good' in their life.

Still we are struggling for the power generation and education. We are still at the first step of development. How are we going to reform ourselves? How are we going to meet the globalisation?

Sir, under this Bharat Nirman scheme they have announced an additional one crore hectare of land under irrigation, to connect all the villages by road, to construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor, providing drinking water to 74,000 habitations and electricity to 125,000 new villages in a span of four years. It sounds mere rhetoric with the kind of total expenditure of the Government.

Sir, out of 57 years of our Independence, for more than 50 years we have been ruled by the Congress Government, but still we are lagging behind. A large number of villages are without any power, without any electricity. The total expenditure of the Government in 2005-06, as they say, would be up by only 1.7 per cent, that is, Rs. 8.500 crore which, in real terms, is down by 3 per cent after accounting for the 5 per cent inflation. I am worried about the expenditure with the kind of announcement that they are going to meet up.

Not only this, today the most disappointing point is about the allocation for the National Food for Work Programme. It had been announced a few weeks ago. But the expenditure budget indicates that Rs. 6.408 crore were spent on rural employment during 2004-05, and it is to be increased to Rs. 9.000 crore in 2005-06, which includes an allocation for Rs. 5,400 crore for Food for Work Programme.

Sir, the Infosys survey says that the rural labours are migrating from the villages to the cities. This migration is increasing more and more every year. I am really worried about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, I have just started my speech. Please give me some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, you have already taken 5 minutes. Now, you have to conclude within two minutes.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : I would try.

Sir, I am really worried about the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. Then about the National Food for Work Programme, they have planned for only 150 districts. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that it has to be improvised, and it has to include all over the districts.

Sir, there is one more thing which I want to submit. I belong to Uttar Pradesh and my Constituency, Rampur is very backward. The women folk there are mostly involved in the bidi work. They depend more on this profession. But whatever wages they are getting today is not at all sufficient. They have to struggle for two meals a day. Moreover, out of every 1,000 bidis that they make, they have to pay Re. 1.



[illegible][illegible][illegible]



[illegible]



There is a common feeling that Assam and the North-East get stepmotherly treatment from the Centre. I would like to draw the attention of the House in general and the Finance Minister in particular to look into the matter and the Budget be passed after providing necessary remedial measures in the matter.

Coming to the BTC Agreement which was signed with the Assam Government during the NDA Government, it was agreed that Rs. 100 crore will be allocated yearly for five years as a development package. Apart from this, there was a commitment to provide funds for technical institutions for educating the boys of the BTC areas. But there is no specific mention to the effect in the Budget.

Assam and North-Eastern States shares international boundaries with China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The border roads need specific attention. The National Highway No. 52 and another road in my constituency which leads to Bhutan, namely, Mangaldai Bhutiachar Road, which leads to the foothills of Bhutan are actually in a bad condition. At least, for the consideration of Defence purposes, these roads should be constructed properly on priority basis. The Government of India should provide necessary funds for the construction of these roads by providing budgetary allocations immediately.

I would also like to say that the funds that are released for rural development are not being properly monitored. Actually, the villagers at the grassroot level are not benefited from the funds meant for rural development schemes.

Lastly, I would like to request the Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the entire House to consider the flood problem of Assam as a national problem. It should be declared as a national problem. Otherwise, with only the funds of the State Government, this problem cannot be solved upto the expectations of the people. Since you want this Budget to be a people-oriented Budget, my request is that this Budget should provide adequate funds to Assam and other North-Eastern States for the relief of flood victims of that region.

敬啟者，敝公司為擴大業務起見，特在貴地設立分公司，現已正式開業。凡我僑胞有欲購本公司產品者，請逕向該分公司洽購，定當竭誠服務，價格公道。此致  
 貴地僑胞 鑒  
 總經理 張三 謹啟  
 地址：貴地中山路一二三號

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