

14.50 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS -(GENERAL)

2004-2005 contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No.14, further discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2004-05. Shri Adhir Chowdhury will continue.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, in continuation to my yet-to-be concluded deliberation on Supplementary Demands for Grants, I would like to add a few more paras.

Sir, first of all, I must convey my warm and hearty congratulations to the UPA Government as this is the first time since Independence that the UPA Government has taken special steps to put a check on erosion, which has been devastating various parts of West Bengal has virtually and drastically changed geographically Murshidabad, Malda and other districts also. The Government has already constituted a Task Force in this direction and erosion-affected people have started heaving a sigh of relief after getting rid of this devastating erosion which existed over the years.

Again, I would urge upon the Government, through the hon. Finance Minister, to see that West Bengal is such a State which has been affected by arsenic contamination. As many as four crore people in the State of West Bengal have been living under the constant threat of arsenic menace. In the Murshidabad district, out of 26 blocks, 22 blocks have been affected by arsenic contamination, well exceeding the tolerance limits as prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

The Opposition has been pulling up their socks to discredit the brilliant performance of our hon. Finance Minister. But, Sir, a few days earlier, no less a person than the Nobel laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen has praised lavishly the

performance of UPA Government. I just read a few lines from *The Statesman*:

"Calling for greater Government activity in social sectors, especially basic education and health care, Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen, who spoke at the India Habitat Centre here today said that the Indian economy have suffered from chronic under-activity in these fields on the one hand and over-activity, particularly licence raj, on the other hand. Prof. Sen said the 1992 reforms had tried to address the problems but they could not be dealt with effectively. But, there is considerable evidence now that the present Government is more committed to remove that imbalance in the social sector. "

Our hon. Finance Minister has struck a balance between mutually reinforcing objective of equity, stability and growth. Special emphasis has been put on social upgradation, employment generation, and reduction on dependence on disinvestment. Therefore, Sir, Opposition may be angry over the performance of this Government.

Already, macro-economic fundamentals are indicative of the growth of our economy. Production of basic goods, capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer durables are maintaining sustained growth. Index of six infrastructure industries increased by 5.6 per cent in April-August as compared to 4.2 per cent; Export growth has registered an increase by 24.4 per cent as compared to 8.1 per cent; indirect tax collections grew by 11.73 per cent till November; Customs Duty is showing an increase of 12.10 per cent and Excise Duty grew by 7.58 per cent. Service Tax during first eight months increased by 62.13 per cent. The rate of growth of the manufacturing sector over the corresponding period last year remained consistently at 8 per cent. Consumer durables showed double-digit growth. BoP both in terms of Current and Capital accounts recorded surpluses of Rs. 1.9 billion and Rs. 5.6 billion during the first quarter. Foreign Exchange reserve touched Rs. 7.5 billion during April-June, 2004. External debt has increased to Rs. 112.66 billion as compared to 112.5 billion at the end of March, 2004.

Long-term debt declined by Rs. 1.1 billion to Rs. 106.7 billion. Short-term debt rose by Rs. 1.2 billion due to trade-related credits on account of buoyant imports.

The total expenditure of the Government during April-September, 2004 was Rs. 1,95,573 crore or 41 per cent of the Budget Estimate for the year 2004-05 compared to Rs. 2,17,101 crore or 49 per cent of the Budget Estimate for the year 2003-04. The capital expenditure during April-September, 2004 was Rs. 29,115 crore compared to Rs. 25,074 crore in April-September, 2003.

The Plan expenditure goes up by Rs. 6,384 crore in absolute terms. The non-Plan expenditure by April-September has gone up to Rs. 1,42,299 crore compared to Rs. 1,70,211 crore.

The Central pool remained consistently above the buffer stock norms as per the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission in the first half. The stock on October 1, 2004 was at 20.3 million tonnes, 12 per cent higher than the buffer stock norm of 18.1 million tonnes, and excess stock of food grains has subsidy implications in the form of carrying cost.

Sir, as you know, the penury and petty syndrome has been done away with by the present Government. We do not want the food grains to be rotten in our godowns.

Scheduled commercial bank credit was increased by 11.3 per cent against four per cent. Food credit was increased by Rs. 2,677 crore against Rs. 12,107 crore in the previous year, with a turn around of Rs. 14,800 crore.

Non-food credit had registered a robust increase of 11.5 per cent against six per cent.

On the expenditure front, the Centre has been able to reduce the outgo on subsidies from Rs. 26,439 crore to Rs. 21,995 crore.

The Union Budget proposed a blueprint on subsidies prepared by the National Institute of Public Finance.

Sir, we are very much concentrating on quality expenditure by curtailing the wasteful expenditure and by fiscal consideration while sustaining the growth momentum with renewed thrust on welfare economies. However, the inflationary

trend is very much evident on account of high oil prices, combined risk of high and uncertain oil prices. The sudden change of international liquidity environment had become a matter of concern. However, the inflationary trend has further been compounded by the increasing prices of steel and metal. Therefore, may I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he is contemplating anything to contain the inflationary trend?

Sir, as we know, India is an oil importing country. The oil situation has been aggravated by the Iraq war, by the strike in Venezuela, and by the controversy about the control of Yukos in Russia. Therefore, may I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he is conceiving stabilization of fund for the survival of Oil Pool Account? . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have spoken for 18 minutes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : I will take a few more minutes.

Sir, we are well aware that in the wake of phasing out of agreement on textile and cloth, India is on the verge of obtaining a wide opportunity in view of our multi-fibre raw material base. However, the share of our textiles in the world is nominal, just three per cent in comparison to the Chinese share of 25 per cent. I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether, in view of the situation, the Indian textile market could be swamped by the invasion of silk or cotton yarn from China through Bangladesh.

15.00 hrs.

I want to know whether it has been reviewed or not. Is any pre-emptive measure being taken up by this Government? The Opposition parties were

resorting to unconvincing arguments. May I just tell one story to them?

निगाहें जिनकी नहीं हैं, उभरते हुये सूरज पर,
वे डूबते हुये तारों की बात करते हैं,
कांग्रेस के साथ, हम जनता के साथ,
कांग्रेस का हाथ, आम जनता के साथ।

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (DIAMOND HARBOUR): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express the view of my Party on this Demands for Supplementary Grants which is before us to be debated.

Sir, I do agree that within a span of six months, no Government can be tested. We have to wait at least one financial year to know or to judge the financial management, the expenditure and income, the overall Budget and policy of the Government. So, I do not wish to go into the details of all those things. When the hon. Finance Minister had placed the Budget on the 8th of July this year before this House, he was quite optimistic on two counts. First, he very candidly expressed the view of the UPA Government that this Budget would uphold the interest of the rural and the poor population of this country. They were neglected for the last six years. The second part was that he was quite optimistic that there would be increase of revenue sources.

If I quote the Finance Minister, while presenting his Budget, in his Budget speech in paragraph 52, he said about the revenue income. "Besides, my tax proposals, I have looked at another source of revenue. There are large recoverable arrears both in direct taxes and in indirect taxes." Again he went on saying, "Even the undisputed arrears are quite substantial. I have, therefore, assumed that I would be able to recover a tidy sum this year." With this, we also expressed our opinion on behalf of our Party that with this additional income, definitely a chunk of money would go or would be spent for the poor and the rural population of our country.

Now, if we go to the second aspect about revenue collection, it is a fact that on all counts, so far as indirect tax is concerned, if we compare the month of October in the previous year with the month of October this year, definitely the collection of customs duty, excise duty and service tax is much higher in terms of percentage and in terms of quantity. Even if we compare last year from April to September with this year, here also we will see that there is a definite increase in customs duty, excise duty and service tax by 69 per cent. But some reports appeared in the newspaper that the Government has internally asked the different revenue collection departments to raise the target, and the Government

is in a fear that there will be a shortfall in tax collection. In case of customs duty, Rs.2,000 crore has been fixed as their target. In case of service tax, it is fixed as Rs.2,000 crore. In the direct tax component, Rs.5,000 crore has been revised, and they have been directed to fix up their target to an additional Rs.5,000 crore.

The hon. Minister of Finance has to definitely spell out before us whether the tax collection is quite satisfactory or not. We apprehend that whenever there is a huge fiscal deficit and whenever there is a fall in revenue collection, all the social sectors get the maximum hit in social expenditure like health, education, etc. Even in the previous year's Budget, when the NDA Government was there, we saw that in the Revised Estimates, the social sector expenditure was reduced to a huge extent. So, definitely, we would like the hon. Minister of Finance to enlighten us how really the tax collection is moving. . (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, let me assure the House, the latest figures show that we are on target. In income tax, corporation tax, and customs duties, we are on target.

The reason why, internally, maybe, the Department has increased the target in some of these heads is because we are doing well; and so they may have internally increased the target. I am not admitting to any increase in target but internally if the Department has done so that is a point in favour.

In personal income tax, corporation tax, and customs duties, we are on target. It is only on excise duties that we are slightly behind. One of the reasons for this is that we have cut excise duty on petroleum products. That is one of the reasons but I am confident that we would try to make up as much as possible on excise duties also. On service tax, as the hon. Member has also said, the collection is quite buoyant.

When I reply to the debate, I would give the exact figures; but since he said that this has appeared in the newspapers, I thought this clarification should also appear in the newspapers tomorrow. On personal income tax, corporation tax and customs duties, we are bang on target; in fact, we are slightly ahead.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for this positive and very good intervention. Even after the clarification made by the hon. Minister of Finance, so far as excise duties are concerned, there is definitely room for improvement. The prices of steel and petroleum products were going up and therefore the Government decided to go for a tax cut in these sectors but it is also a fact that the manufacturing sector has grown and the average industrial growth was higher compared to last year. Still, why has the excise duty collection remained lower? I think, the Government should look into this aspect also.

So far as direct tax is concerned, on corporate income tax and personal income tax, it has been categorically assured by the hon. Minister of Finance that the collections are on target. It is true that they are on target but if we look at the arrears that are pending and the total arrears realised this year, it is definitely much higher than last year. This year, the figure that I have got is Rs. 3,462 crore; last year, it was Rs. 2780 crore. There is still a huge amount of arrears pending. The CIT arrears, as on September 1, 2004 was Rs. 40,392 crore; the personal income tax arrears this year is Rs. 43,190 crore. So, I would like to know what is being done about collection of arrears. In the Budget Speech, the hon. Minister of Finance had assured this House that other sources like arrears which were pending, including undisputed arrears, would be very efficiently collected. So, the Government must look into this aspect also and tell us why so much of arrears are still pending.

When the petroleum prices were much higher, the Government decided to go for a tax cut. I have a basic question to ask. It is the easiest way to put the tax on the petroleum sector because the Government gets the revenue at the source itself. So, why does the Government not explore the other resources? How many people are within the tax net now?

So far as I remember the figure, it is just above three crores. The number of people who are paying direct tax, income tax is below three crores. What is the market size of people who can afford to buy anything? According to the speeches on several occasions made by the Finance Minister or the hon. Prime Minister, the total market size is around 18 crore to 20 crore, who can purchase anything, any consumer durable. Why are they out of the tax net? How is this Government going to bring them within the tax net? Why are they not going to collect tax from them? It is the easiest way to put tax on the petroleum products and to put the burden on the nation. This is a very easy way. Now, definitely, that thing is very painful. The way I am speaking here, it is not so easy to realise or to bring all those sections into the tax net, but definitely, we should expect it from the UPA Government that they will take this pain to bring those people into the tax net. As a result, the overall revenue income will definitely go up and the burden, which is being put on the shoulders of the people, can be avoided very well. Why is this path not being taken by the Government? I intend to know that. We need to do this. There is another point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have taken more than 11 minutes.

. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, the second thing is that so far as the arrears in the indirect tax component ..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have a list of more than 20 hon. Members who want to speak.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, our party is having only two speakers.

MD. SALIM (CALCUTTA - NORTH EAST): Discussion is about crores and crores of rupees and only 20 Members to speak! . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, if we discuss arrears on the indirect taxes side also, we will find that in the customs, there are arrears of Rs. 3,702 crore and in the excise also, there are huge arrears. How are these arrears going to be realised by the Government? What plan do they have to realise these arrears? I wish to know that.

Now, I go to the expenditure side of mid-term Budget. I must say one point before this House that in the mid-term review also, it has been spelt out that major subsidies have been decreased by Rs. 4,444 crore. On what count were these subsidies reduced? They were reduced on food grains and on petroleum, particularly kerosene and LPG. Who are using all these things? If these subsidies are removed, how is the UPA Government going to serve the people who have been deceived for the last six years by the other Government, by the NDA Government? Definitely, we must take into account the problems of the people, what the intention of the people was at the time of casting their votes and electing this Government and where the people's agenda goes. If we remove subsidies on things which are being used by the common people, by the poor people, by the down-trodden people and by the middle-class, and keep on taxing them on the other hand, how will the commitment of the UPA Government be fulfilled? I again request this Government to reconsider its decision on this particular account.

If we look at the fiscal deficit, we find that there is no sign that the fiscal deficit is going to be reduced. What is happening? I apprehend it is going to happen as to what has happened in the past. It has happened everytime, as I mentioned just before, that always the social service sectors are getting hit out of it, always the expenditure on education, health and rural development is reduced. If I take the example of rural development, I can quote the Finance Minister. In a debate, on the point of expenditure on or allocation for rural development, the Finance Minister had said : Compare it with the revised budget because there was . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : I am concluding within five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not five minutes, you conclude within one minute.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : The Finance Minister had said: Compare it with the revised budget. Now, even if we consider the original allocation, that is, BE and add to it whatever is now proposed to be allocated for rural development, the total amount comes to just above Rs. 7,000 crore.

What is going to happen if we fail to address the problems of the rural population? What is going to happen if we fail to address the basic problems of our country? We can talk a lot about growth, namely, such and such is the percentage of growth in our country, this sort of thing is happening, etc. What is the ground reality of our country, even though we are using many terminologies for it?

If we look at the Human Development Report, our rank is 127th. If we look at the public expenditure on health, it is below 1 per cent. If we look at the public expenditure on education, it is around 4 per cent. It is good that this Government has decided to impose cess. During the Budget debate also we had mentioned that the Government should look into this cess. Is this cess entirely spent on education or is it being diverted to some other places? How is this Government going to ensure it? How this Government is going to take care of the public expenditure on different social sectors? All this is not, unfortunately, being reflected in the Mid-term Review or in the Supplementary Budget, which appeared before us.

Sir, we are talking about reforms, and it is all right. Reforms are going on, but we are talking about land reforms. In Bengal, we can say from our own experience, with the help of land reforms the market size has been expanded. Why are we not going for land reforms? Why is this Government not taking up the agenda of land reforms? They can expand the market, the purchasing power of the people will be more, there will be overall industrial boom, and other economic activities will also go up.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री समिक लाहिरी, आपकी पार्टी के और मैम्बर भी बोलने वाले हैं। इसलिए आप अपना भाषण समाप्त करिए। यदि आप इसी प्रकार बोलते रहे, तो श्री वरकला राधाकृष्णन को बोलने के लिए समय नहीं मिलेगा।

श्री समिक लाहिरी : महोदय मैं सिर्फ दो मिनट में अपना भाषण खत्म कर दूंगा।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मिस्टर लाहिरी, आपने 16-17 मिनट ले लिए हैं। आपकी पार्टी का कुल टाइम 19 मिनट है। अब आप देख लीजिए क्या करना है।

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, I am concluding. Why the Government is not taking up the issue of land reforms? It should be taken up.

Secondly, the Government is pursuing very vigorously the issue of liberalisation. I would like to quote from the monthly review of the World Bank by an economist. I am sure that our hon. Finance Minister knows him very well. In the monthly review of March 2004, Mr. Branco Milanovic found that the richest 1 per cent in the world get as much income as the poorest 57 per cent. The richest 5 per cent had, in 1993, an average income 114 times greater than that of the poorest 5 per cent; the ratio was 78 times in 1998. The poorest 5 per cent grew poorer, losing 25 per cent of the real income, while the richest 20 per cent saw their real incomes grow by 12 per cent, more than twice the average world income. This is presently what is happening in the world. We must protect our people, and we must protect our economy. We must look at the problems of the common people.

I should again request the UPA Government to look at the rural population, look at the poor people, look at those children who are out of the schools, look at those undernourished and malnutrition suffered children, who are there in our country. The Government should try to put tax on those people who have money. The Government should try to recover black money, which has mounted here. Why is the Government not talking about realisation of black money, which is really hampering the growth of our economy?

Sir, I will not take any further time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Lahiri, you have already taken the whole time of your party. No other hon. Member from your party will be permitted to speak.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, I am concluding. Thank you.

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन (फ़िरोज़ाबाद) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सदन अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों पर विचार कर रहा है और जिस तरह से सरकार इस सम्मानित सदन की स्वीकृति अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों पर चाहती है, उसका सीधा मतलब यह है कि जिन अनुमानों के आधार पर चिदम्बरम साहब ने इस वर्ष का बजट प्रस्तुत किया था, जो लेखाजोखा देश के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत किया था, संभवतः वे अनुमान गलत साबित हुए। इसी वजह से सरकार सदन में आई है। सकल अतिरिक्त व्यय को प्राधिकृत करने हेतु 38.62,1.77 करोड़ रुपए की स्वीकृति सरकार संसद से चाहती है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे लायक दोस्तों ने अभी चर्चा की, मैं खास तौर से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि सबसे अधिक चिन्ता का विषय गैर योजना व्यय है। अब तक जो बजट सदन में प्रस्तुत हुए। उनमें यह देखा गया कि जो योजना व्यय होता है, उससे कहीं ज्यादा गैर योजना व्यय होता है। हम विकास के नाम पर जो दौलत गरीब लोगों के पास भेजना चाहते हैं या भेजते हैं, उसके भेजने में जितना पैसा खर्च होता है, उससे कम दौलत पात्र व्यक्ति को मिलती है। आज सबसे बड़ा चिन्ता का विषय यह है कि जो बजटीय घाटा और गैर योजना व्यय बराबर बढ़ता जा रहा है, जिसके कारण हम देशी और विदेशी कर्ज लेते हैं और फिर उसकी ब्याज दर बढ़ता है। इसका मतलब यह होता है कि देश पर लगातार अतिरिक्त बोझ बढ़ता जा रहा है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी वार्षिक मध्यावधि समीक्षा हुई है, उसमें भी इस बात पर चिन्ता व्यक्त की गई कि जिस प्रकार बजटीय घाटे पर अंकुश लगाना चाहिए, उस पर का अंकुश लगाने में सरकार नाकामयाब रही है। बजटीय घाटे को शून्य करने के लिए सरकार ने जो अवधि तय की है, वह अवधि 2008, 2009 है। सरकार बजटीय घाटे को कैसे शून्य कर पाएगी, यह मेरी समझ से परे है, क्योंकि क्रमशः उसकी शुरुआत एक साल या छः महीने में होनी चाहिए। सरकार का उस

बजटीय घाटे को पूरा करने का क्या लक्ष्य है? मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार का उसकी तरफ जो सकारात्मक प्रयास होना चाहिए, वह प्रयास अभी नहीं हुआ है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, 2004, 2005 में बजट में सेवा-कर का विस्तार, सिक्योरिटी ट्रंजेक्शन और खास कर शिक्षा का विस्तार करने के लिए दो प्रतिशत का उप-कर लगाया गया था, उस पर मिलने वाली राशि अक्टूबर तक 2,723 करोड़ रुपए की है। यह अलग बात है कि वह शिक्षा पर कितनी खर्च हुई है, लेकिन ये सारी राशि कंसोलिडेटेड फंड में जमा हुई है। शिक्षा के नाम पर सरकार ने जो दौलत इकट्टी की, उसके लिए अलग से कोष बनाना चाहिए था और वह राशि शिक्षा पर खर्च होनी चाहिए थी, लेकिन हमारे देश में ऐसा नहीं होता। सर्वशिक्षा अभियान पर दो हजार करोड़ रुपए की ये लोग मांग कर रहे हैं। महोदय, मैं आपकी मार्फत निवेदन करना चाहूंगा, यह बात सही है कि विद्यालय नहीं हैं, शिक्षा का स्तर ऊपर उठना चाहिए, लेकिन एक बार नहीं, बल्कि अनेकों बार सदन में चर्चा हुई है कि देश की दौलत जब विभिन्न प्रांतों में जाती है तो उसका सही इस्तेमाल सूबे की सरकार करे। उसके लिए सरकार को एक तंत्र विकसित करना चाहिए, वह तंत्र आज तक विकसित नहीं हुआ है। मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जो कांग्रेस शासित राज्य हैं। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण दिल्ली राज्य में श्री चिदम्बरम जी ने जो दौलत सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के लिए सरकार को भेजी, उसमें से सिर्फ 25 फीसदी दौलत खर्च हुई। राजस्थान में 82 प्रतिशत, बिहार में 62 प्रतिशत खर्च हुई। उत्तर प्रदेश में हमारी सरकार है, हिन्दुस्तान में सबसे अधिक दौलत 98 प्रतिशत सर्वशिक्षा अभियान पर उत्तर प्रदेश में खर्च हुई है, यह एक अच्छी बात है। मैं श्री चिदम्बरम जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि सूबे की सरकारों को आप दौलत भेजें, यह काफी नहीं है, उसका सही इस्तेमाल हो रहा है या नहीं, वह दौलत पूरी खर्च हो रही है या नहीं, आपने जिस मकसद से दौलत भेजी है, उसकी वहां सही इस्तेमाल हो रहा है या नहीं, इसकी तरफ आप देखते भी नहीं हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसकी तरफ देखने की आवश्यकता है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार ने मिड-डे-मील शुरू किया। उसमें एक बच्चे पर एक रुपए 20 पैसे खर्च होते हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इतने पैसे में बच्चे के स्वास्थ्य को ठीक रखने के लिए, जो कैलोरीज़ और पौष्टिक आहार उसे दिया जाना चाहिए, वह प्राप्त हो सकता है? उस 1.20 रुपये में कौन सा पौष्टिक आहार बच्चे को दिया जा सकता है और खास तौर से गांवों के जो विद्यालय हैं, उनके लिए जब तक अलग से आप कोई व्यवस्था नहीं करेंगे, तब तक मिड डे मील नहीं मिलेगा, जो कि मिलना चाहिए। सरकार को ज्यादा पैसा उस पर खर्च करना चाहिए, लेकिन अध्यापकों का अधिकांश समय उसी में निकल जाता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस ओर भी देखने की आवश्यकता है। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि इन बच्चों को कैसा खाना मिल रहा है। अभी दिल्ली सरकार के बारे में अखबारों में छपा कि जो मिड डे मील मिल रहा है, उससे दिल्ली के स्कूलों के तमाम बच्चे बीमार हो गये। न्यूट्रीशन फाउण्डेशन ऑफ इंडिया के सर्वेक्षण के मुताबिक जिन कम्पनियों के पास खाना आपूर्ति करने का ठेका था, उनमें 14 में से 10 कम्पनियों के बारे में न्यूट्रीशन फाउण्डेशन ऑफ इंडिया ने जो निष्कर्ष निकाला, कम्पनियों के बारे में जो जानकारी हासिल की, उनमें 14 में से 10 कम्पनियां ऐसी थीं, जिनके खाने का स्तर अच्छा नहीं था, खराब था। मजे की बात है कि दोबारा उन्हीं कम्पनियों को खाने की आपूर्ति का ऑर्डर दे दिया गया है। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से जरूर चाहूंगा कि इन सब चीजों की आप जांच करा लें। जिन कम्पनियों के बारे में सर्वेक्षण हुआ, जिन कम्पनियों के बारे में सुनिश्चित हो गया कि ये खराब खाना दे रही हैं, जिन कम्पनियों के बारे में यह ज्ञात हो गया कि उनकी साख ठीक नहीं है, फिर उन्हीं कम्पनियों को ठेका देना किसी भी कीमत पर न्यायसंगत नहीं है। ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ प्रभावी कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए, जिससे कम से कम बच्चों के मरने के या बच्चों के बीमार होने के जो समाचार अखबारों में प्रकाशित होते हैं, वे प्रकाशित न हों।

चिदम्बरम साहब बड़े भारी अर्थशास्त्री हैं, जैसा हम लोग सुनते हैं, देखते हैं। देश के जो 20 बड़े औद्योगिक घराने हैं, 20 बड़े उद्योगपति हैं, उन पर वित्तीय संस्थाओं का 41,800 करोड़ रुपया बाकी है। आप लोगों की इन लोगों से क्या मौहब्बत है? कितनी अजीब बात है कि गांव का गरीब आदमी अगर किसी वित्तीय संस्था से पांच हजार या 10 हजार रुपया भी ऋण लेता है तो उसकी जो दुर्गति होती है, उसे आप भली-भांति समझते हैं। लेकिन ये जो बड़े परिवार हैं, बड़े दौलत वाले हैं, इन 20 परिवारों पर 41,800 करोड़ रुपया है, उसे वसूला न जाये और फिर आप आर्थिक संतुलन की बात करें तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह विरोधाभास इस देश में नहीं चल सकता। इसलिए इन लोगों के खिलाफ सख्ती से पेश आने की जरूरत है, उनके खिलाफ प्रभावी कार्रवाई करने की आवश्यकता है।

वित्त मंत्री जी का भाषण हुआ और उस भाषण में वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हमारे देश में आर्थिक हालत सुधर रही है। उनके अनुसार कहा गया कि शेयर बाजार का सूचकांक हमारे देश में बढ़ा है, सुरक्षित भंडार की राशि हमारे देश में बढ़ी है, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में रुपये की कीमत डालर के मुकाबले बढ़ी है। कृषि क्षेत्र में ऋण की मात्रा में बढ़ोतरी हुई है, इन सब चीजों में वृद्धि हुई है, फिर वित्त मंत्री जी ने यह कहा, लेकिन हमारे देश में महंगाई बढ़ी है। आम आदमी अगर परेशान होता है तो विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में हम चाहे कितनी ही उपलब्धियां गिनायें, लेकिन उस पर जो मार पड़ रही है, उस मार के चलते एक आम धारणा हिन्दुस्तान के आदमी की यह बनेगी कि सरकार के चलने का रास्ता ठीक नहीं है।

अभी क्रूड ऑयल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की बात हुई, इनके दाम बढ़े, लेकिन मैं विनम्रता से आपके मार्फत कहना चाहूंगा कि जहां इन चीजों के दाम बढ़े हैं, वहीं कर भी हमने बढ़ाया है। सन् 2002-2003 और 2003-2004 की तुलना में पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर कर वसूली में वृद्धि 20 फीसदी हुई है और क्रूड ऑयल पर यह कर वृद्धि 33 परसेंट हुई है। यह जो कर वृद्धि की है और

इससे जो दौलत हमें मिली, अगर हम इसी दौलत को आम उपभोक्ता को दे देते तो मैं समझता हूँ कि देश की स्थिति किसी हद तक ठीक हो सकती थी। मंहगाई पर नियंत्रण लग सकता है।

गरीब देश में सरकारी सहायता का बहुत बड़ा मतलब होता है और उस सहकारी सहायता का मतलब होता है कि जो गरीब आदमी होता है, उसे हम संकट से उबारने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। खास तौर से मैं सब्सिडी की बात करना चाहता हूँ। दुनिया के तमाम देश सब्सिडी को बढ़ा रहे हैं और हमारे देश की सरकार सब्सिडी को आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता समाप्त करने में लगी हुई है। इस साल खाद्य पर जो सब्सिडी है, उसकी मात्रा में 17 फीसदी कमी हुई है। पिछले साल यह राशि 26,439 करोड़ रुपये थी और इस वर्ष यह राशि 21,995 करोड़ रुपये रह गई है। मैं समझता हूँ कि खाद्य पर सब्सिडी खत्म करना देश की गरीब जनता के साथ मजाक करना है।

फिर हम स्पर्धा में रहने की बात कहते हैं। सरकार का जो आचरण है, इससे गरीब आदमी की तकलीफें और बढ़ेंगी, मुसीबतें और बढ़ेंगी।

मैं अंत में कहना चाहूंगा कि सरकार ने जो अनुदानों की मांगें रख रही हैं, मैंने उसके विभिन्न मदों को पढ़ा है। आप बिहार को इंदिरा आवास के लिए 400 करोड़ रुपये दे रहे हैं, जो देना चाहिए। लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि वहां चुनाव आ रहे हैं, इस वजह से आप उन्हें पैसा दे रहे हैं, हालांकि आप वहां पूरी तरह लालू जी पर निर्भर हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार, उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री बराबर कहते हैं कि हमारे सूबे की माली हालत ठीक नहीं है। लेकिन हमारे बार-बार फरियाद करने के बाद भी हमें विकास कार्यों के लिए पैसा नहीं मिलता। कांग्रेस पार्टी के नेता बराबर कहते हैं कि उत्तर प्रदेश का विकास नहीं हो रहा है। हम पूरे प्रदेश का विकास करना चाहते हैं। लेकिन राज्य सरकार के पास सीमित आर्थिक संसाधन होते हैं और उन्हीं सीमित आर्थिक संसाधनों के चलते राज्य सरकार को काम करना पड़ता है। आखिर हमारे साथ यह कंजूसी क्यों है? हमारे साथ इस तरह का व्यवहार क्यों है? लगता है कि ये चीजें राजनीति से प्रेरित हैं। मैं आपके मार्फत

निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि सरकार कम से कम पूर्वाग्रहों से ग्रस्त होकर कोई काम न करे। जो लोग उपेक्षित हैं, पीड़ित हैं, बेसहारा हैं, उनका हक बनता है। जहां गरीबी का प्रतिशत ज्यादा है, गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों का प्रतिशत ज्यादा है, जहां शिक्षा की औसत दर अन्य प्रान्तों की तुलना में कम है, उत्तर प्रदेश के साथ, जहां हमारे दल की सरकार है, लगता है कि पिछले सात महीने से उस प्रदेश की बराबर उपेक्षा करने का काम इस सरकार ने किया है। मैं आपके मार्फत बड़े अदब के साथ कहना चाहता हूं, हमारे दो-तीन मित्रों ने कहा था कि सांसद निधि के नाम पर जो दो करोड़ रुपये दिए जाते हैं, उसे तत्काल खत्म कर देना चाहिए या बढ़ा देना चाहिए। भारतीय जनता पार्टी की नीतियां क्या रहीं, कांग्रेस पार्टी की नीतियां क्या रहीं, हमारी पार्टी की नीतियां क्या रहीं, यह एक अलग सवाल है। लेकिन जो सांसद हार गए हैं, अगर उसका पूरा विश्लेषण करें तो मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूं कि सांसदों से लोगों को जो अपेक्षाएं होती हैं, वे दो करोड़ रुपये में पूरी नहीं हो रही हैं।

मैं 1977 में इस सभा का सदस्य था। उस समय कोई सांसद निधि नहीं थी। गांव में जाने से काम चल जाता था। लोग मांग नहीं करते थे। अब जिस गांव में जाते हैं, लगता है कि सांसद नोटों की गठरी बांधकर लाया है। जो मांग होती है, दो करोड़ रुपये में उसे पूरा करना किसी भी कीमत पर संभव नहीं है। इसलिए मेरा सरकार से विनम्र आग्रह है कि या यह राशि खत्म कर दी जाए या इतनी बढ़ा दी जाए कि कम से कम सांसद थोड़ा-बहुत विकास का काम तेजी के साथ कर सके। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप एक बात कहना भूल गए कि पंजाब, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश और यूपी के गांवों की ऐजुकेशन टोटली कोलैप्स हो गई हैं। विलेज ऐजुकेशन का खास ख्याल रखें।

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (RAJAPUR): Sir, this is the first time that the Finance Minister is reporting to Parliament after the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act to know how the Act is being complied with by the Government. For the first time, there is a mid-term review of the Budget, which is also presented before the House. Sir, I must, of course, compliment him because he has already said that he really believes in the spirit of the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act. One of the principles of this is that this year, in the six months period since the beginning of this financial year, the revenue deficit should have been 45 per cent. This time, he has reported that it would be 78.7 per cent of the Budget Estimate. We have already over-stated it substantially. At the same time, the non-debt receipts have also increased this year mainly on account the debt trappings by the State Government, which is a one-time affair. So, I think, over a period of time, as the year advances, you will have probably target of getting more tax collected. This is the point which he has said and I think the Finance Minister is going to be on target. I wish him all the best.

This year, 56,000 new assesses have been added. We have always been saying that we need to increase the tax GDP base. Only 56,000 assesseees have been added. I would like to know how much tax had been collected from them because a person who files the income-tax becomes an assessee. Whether he pays income-tax or not is a different issue. When we are thinking of increasing the tax GDP ratio, our effort should be in increasing the amount of collection from new assesseees. So, in that direction, I would like to know as to how he would really fair.

The Twelfth Finance Commission has just submitted a Report, two days ago, to the President of India. I am sure, it is going to have a great impact on the central financial resources during the year itself. How is it going to be effected? Is there any provision that is required or has anybody made any provision? How the fiscal deficit of the current year is affected is something, which I would definitely like to know from him. What is going to be the projected growth rate for the year? We always believe that unless we really sustain the great growth that we attained

last year of more than eight per cent, we are really not going to attain the various social targets that we have in mind. Therefore, this year we are interested in seeing the growth rate increasing. In fact, the Reserve Bank of India is already saying that the growth rate should be much more than what has been projected earlier. Therefore, I would really like to know from the Finance Minister about this because it is the first time that he is making a reporting under this Act.

It has already been highlighted that savings need to increase because we need more investment. And for more investment and for the growth to be sustained, the savings to be consumed little later, there should not be current account deficit. We should not resort to foreign debt. We really need more FDIs. Unfortunately, in this year, the FDI has fallen to 1.3 billion dollars from 2.1 billion dollars. I would really like to know how the efforts will remain during the year because already the Prime Minister has announced that there should be something like 100 billion dollars to be targetted for the next ten years. I would think that when it is really falling, then the growth rate has also increased. Of course, the Fiscal Responsibility Act will take care of this. It is reducing the savings. It will turn into the revenue deficit. Then the Government's savings will improve. By and large, to improve the savings rate as well as to ensure that the FDI is also increased, would he make sure that investment target is not missed? I would really like to know from him. He has highlighted that manufacture in India is now operating on a theme basis. Just 24 per cent or 26 per cent of GDP is not enough. How will the efforts be really made to increase that? There again, the Government really needs to spell out the complete strategy how the manufacturing in India will grow.

About agriculture, whenever agricultural production grows, like it happened last year, the growth rate improves. We really need a weather proof, monsoon proof agriculture. This is something, which is important. Otherwise, every time the monsoon fails, the agricultural production dips and then our growth rate goes down. This is another thing I would like to know.

We are entering a very serious phase in our public finance. The total debt of the Government of India is 64 per cent of the GDP. The foreign debt is not as high but the domestic debt is increasing very rapidly. I think, we really need to do something about it. I would like to know about it. By reducing the revenue deficit itself, by definition, we cannot reduce the debt. Therefore, we really need an action plan to see how our debt will be totally reduced.

This year we have seen that our external commercial borrowing of the corporate sector has increased. The foreign debt has remained at 1.12 to 1.6 per cent. On the one hand, we have got huge foreign exchange reserves and the rising of foreign exchange reserves is also causing a concern because the rupee is strengthening. We are actually doing open market operation for seeing that the rupee does not strengthen. As a result of this, liquidity is increasing in our system. People are resorting to external borrowings. Can you not think about a system whereby the external commercial borrowing can be used as our resources? How can we actually use that for resources, for bringing about development into our infrastructure? In fact, the Planning Commission has already made a proposal that five billion dollars every year can be used for it. This is something, which we really need to identify for our infrastructure projects, particularly in the power sector, particularly in the other infrastructure sectors. Infrastructure is crying for investment. At the same time, foreign exchange is rising. This is something which we really need to link. I am sure, the Government will have to plan for that.

NRI remittances this year have gone to 5.2 billion dollars. In fact, this is one of our success stories. Any non-resident Indian who is working abroad, particularly the workers who are remitting money back home, are helping us to tide over the problem. Therefore, we are having a Current Account surplus.

These people are not really getting any incentive in the form of any fiscal incentive or otherwise from the Government. In fact, in the Investment Commission that has been appointed by the Government, there is not a single representative of the NRI. In fact, the money that should come to this country, most of it will come from the NRIs, as it happened in China; the overseas Chinese have contributed significantly to it.

Exports are driving up the economy because the domestic demand is not driving as rapidly as it should. Only eight major items are now constituting 66 per cent of the exports.

So, it is another challenge which we really need to work on as to how we will be diversifying our export portfolios. Otherwise, this is something which will cost to us.

Sir, on infrastructure, the Electricity Act --as the hon. Finance Minister has also said -- has helped us to provide a stability to the policies on electricity sector. But there is always a talk of reviewing of the Electricity Act. That is also causing some sort of a confusion. So, I think, it is time that the Government makes it clear whether the Act is going to be reviewed. If at all, it is going to be reviewed, by what time the review would be completed? If at all, it is going to result into some changes, what are those changes being brought about, to ensure that this will really not result into destabilisation of the atmosphere that has been created?

Sir, another point of concern that we have is on the coal sector. The coal prices in India have increased so much. Now, if we compare the price of the Indian coal with that of the South African coal, it is probably six times higher in India to buy that coal. So, this is something which is unexplainable. This is something on the infrastructure that we really need to work on.

The second point of concern where all of us should be concerned, where many of our friends have already been pointing out, is the state of affairs of the State finances. The developmental expenditure of the States has come down from 10.17 per cent of the GDP to 8.9 per cent of the last 10 years. Suppose, it had not come down, then the States would have got Rs. 29,000 crore more to

invest on development. So, the net transfer from the Central Government to the State Governments has come down from 5.57 per cent to 3.35 per cent of the GDP, and as a result of that, again, the States' ability to invest more has come down by Rs. 50,500 crore. So, the debt servicing of the States has gone from Rs. 9,175 crore to Rs. 43,128 crore, where the States are now giving Rs. 18,468 crore more in terms of repayment than getting anything from the Central Government. The States interest liability, in fact, has gone up from 8.32 per cent to 12.96 per cent. Therefore, there is a huge gap between the interest paid by the States and the interest received by the Central Government. The gap of the interest that the Central Government borrows and at the rate at which it gives back to the State Governments has improved from 0.31 per cent to 4.99 per cent. That means, today the Central Government is charging five per cent more from the States for the loans that the States take from it. So, it is causing an adverse impact on the ability of the States to bring about development, which is actually telling in terms that they are not getting new infrastructure created. We say we want infrastructure to be created in the Central sector. But States also would need resources.

Sir, these Supplementary Demands should have provided for certain expenditure the Government is committed to. For example, the National Employment Bill is going to be introduced in Parliament. As per one estimation, one manday's job created would require Rs. 126 for guarantee. The National Advisory Committee is saying that it is Rs. 100 for one mandays's job. Even if we take the least of this, the amount of money that would be required to provide the job guarantee, for 34 million families, would be Rs. 42,840 crore. If the Government is going to introduce the Bill very soon, then probably, some amount of money should have been provided. Is it going to be implemented this year? If it is not going to be implemented this year, it would have a huge impact on the finances and the fiscal deficit.

Sir, Tapas Mazumdar Committee, in 1999, had said that for education Rs. 13,700 crore would be required every year for the next 10 years, to just keep all the out-of-school children back to the schools. The amount of money required to

be provided for this, would have been much higher. This is not provided, as a result of which, again, the fiscal deficit would have been much higher.

My next point is on PSU divestment. On PSU disinvestment, the Government has already taken the credit for projecting Rs. 4,000 crore during the current year. But so far, the money released is only five per cent of the target. Is the PSU disinvestment going to take place? If it is not going to take place, then again, the fiscal deficit would rise by almost Rs. 4,000 crore.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister announced that one million new water bodies would be brought into reality. I would like to know the progress in this regard. I was looking at the Compliance Report of this year's Mid-Year Review, and there is really nothing mentioned about these water bodies.

On health care, the Centre for Health and Allied Schemes have said that two out of five Primary Health Centres really do not have even skeletal staff, and improvement in the Budget for the last year is only five per cent. So, this again, will not be sufficient to meet the target. So, I would really like to know the progress about the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

The point that I am making is that this Mid-Term Review of our current Budget as well as the reporting under the Fiscal Responsibility Act should encompass all the issues and make sure that we get a holistic picture to know whether the Government will be able to attain the targets as envisaged in the Act, and, the Supplementary Demands for Grants should provide for all these commitments which the Government has been making.

If adequate monetisation of these commitments is reflected in this Budget, probably the money will be much higher.. (*Interruptions*) Being the Opposition Party Member, I would not like to take more time.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आपकी पार्टी से अभी एक और सदस्य को बोलना है। यदि वह नहीं बोलना चाहें तो आप और समय ले सकते हैं।

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : No, I will let the other Member get a chance.

SHRI MILIND DEORA (MUMBAI-SOUTH): Thank you, Sir. This is my maiden speech in Parliament.

At the outset, I think if we look at the Mid-term Review, the Finance Minister needs to be complimented for a high growth rate. We have seen the first quarter grow at seven per cent compared to five per cent corresponding quarter of last year. There are some concerns, as some hon. Members have pointed out, with regard to the fiscal situation in the country. But, over all I think that this Government, my Party, came to power with the fundamentals of inclusive growth which integrate people into the growth process rather than exclude them from the growth process. I think I would like to compliment my Party President, Shrimati Gandhi, also for giving the best of the economic leadership to this nation. Today, we have a Finance Minister who is a self-proclaimed Investment Minister, which I think is the *mantra*, the kind of philosophy, the new attitude we need in this nation. However, as an Investment Minister I would not go so far as to maybe agree with the statement someone made recently, *viz*, he has an undiluted love for Foreign Direct Investment. But, focusing on investment by appointing agencies like the Investment Commission, setting up the National Manufacturing Competitive Council, these are key areas to actually increase growth of the nation as a whole.

I would like to bring one point of attention to the Finance Minister, which I believe is not debated that adequately in Parliament, and that pertains to urban infrastructure. I come from an urban constituency. I come from Mumbai. My city is the single largest contributor to the national exchequer. In terms of its contribution of excise, customs, taxes, it sends Rs.50,000 crore every year to the national exchequer and its return is around one per cent. If a city, which is the gateway of India to investment, be it domestic investment, international investment, the city that houses the stock exchange, private sector, needs to grow we need to have a massive urban renewal programme not just in Mumbai city but in every other city around the country. We read regular reports in many Papers these days, about another city Bangalore, and various other cities where urban infrastructure is crumbling. Therefore, urban renewal should be taken up

on a war footing. This Government was voted to power by various urban areas, various cities, not as per the expectations of many poll pundits and I think to live up to that expectation, a massive urban renewal programme should be offered a special package.

Pertaining to Mumbai specifically, two decades ago, the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi launched the Prime Minister's Grant Project (PMGP), a grant of Rs.100 crore for Mumbai City. Even today we have 75 per cent of our population living in slums or dilapidated buildings yet we are talked as the commercial capital of the nation. So, actually improving housing, transportation, all this must be reviewed. One point Mr. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, which I would like to raise, the only time Mumbai was mentioned in the last Budget was when a tax exemption was given to re-develop the old dilapidated buildings. I would very much urge the Finance Minister to review this grant and whether this IT exemption has actually helped and has been tenant and re-development friendly or has it been more builder-friendly. And if it has been latter, I would even go so far as to submit that this exemption be scrapped.

1549 hrs.

(Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*)

Quickly, about the growth of various sectors, the most important pre-requisite for the growth of the nation as a whole, is infrastructure. Infrastructure, whether it is road, whether it is Tele-density, this is what connects village to village, villages to towns, farmers to market places, cities to cities, ensures free movement of goods and services. The Golden Quadrilateral Project has seen 8.5 per cent increase in the first half. We have seen electricity generation grown by eight per cent. Tele-density today stands at 8.2 per cent in the nation. We have finally achieved that trend which we see in countries like China, we see in continents like Africa, where cellular telephony, wireless telephony has out phased fixed line telephony.

However, there are some important issues in infrastructure which need to be addressed immediately. As India is rapidly becoming a manufacturing hub and is becoming a source to outsource various goods and services to the nation to enhance our export capabilities, there are two primary areas which need to be

focussed on. First is our JNPT, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust - which is a public port trust - and the other is NSICT which is a private port trust. It has been mentioned in the Mid-term Review that the short term strategies have been implemented. The long term issues such as growing third bulk terminal and fourth bulk terminal need to be pushed. But today the JNPT handles 50 per cent of the nation's cargo traffic. Yet there are delays because of roads. The roads are not concretized and not widened. So, this needs to be implemented on a war footing.

The Container Corporation of India, which is owned by the Ministry of Railways is actually increasing the number of links to and from JNPT. This will also go a long way in modernising the port and actually enhancing our export capability. The Mumbai Airport handles 80 per cent of the nation's international cargo traffic. I compliment this Government, the Finance Minister and also the Minister of Civil Aviation for taking this up on a war footing. But I hope that we can see modernisation of this not just for my constituency or for Mumbai but just for the nation as a whole.

Broadly speaking, there are three main areas, *viz.*, services, agriculture, and industry. As regards services, in the first quarter, we have seen 10 per cent growth *versus* seven per cent growth in the corresponding period of last year. The most vibrant service sectors besides information technology, are IT enable services and entertainment. I would say largely that these are on auto-pilot mode. There was a comment made sometime back that because of the benign neglect of the Government, these sectors are not contributing and not doing very well. I think these are on auto-pilot mode and are performing exceedingly well.

As regards capital market, we have seen 25 IPOs in the first half which amounted to Rs.11,000 crore compared to only 15 IPOs in the preceding half of last year which amounted to Rs.2000 crore. There is a 400 per cent increase. I think largely this is because of reduction in the long term capital gains tax from 10 per cent to zero per cent and bringing down short term gains tax from 30 per cent to 10 per cent.

We have growth in agricultural sector. There have been several initiatives like setting up of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, restoration of water bodies, etc. Someone else has also mentioned that. From an urban stand point, I agree 70 per cent of the population does depend on the agricultural economy. If we strengthen the rural economy only then we can stem the process of urbanization which is leading to urban decay in various cities of the country.

However, there are some suggestions which I would like to make. There has been a lot of speculation in the papers about actually strengthening the working of cooperative banks. Today, the cooperative banks are regulated by NABARD. The NABARD is a lender and also a regulator. It has a commercial role as well as a regulatory role. So, clearly there can be conflict of interest. Separating them and revamping NABARD will go a long way.

Another point that has been raised is about common market connecting farmers and producers to their market places. One advent is commodity exchanges. We have seen commodity exchanges brought up in India for the first time and the most prominent being the NCDEC. Yet to ensure flexibility and to increase rural credit and to increase agri-lending which many banks provide -- and otherwise are interested in doing - we should make warehouse receipts as the negotiable instruments. Once the farmer delivers the produce to the warehouse, which will standardise the quota, take the warehouse receipt, this would actually allow the farmers, to go out and get increased credit. This would result in increased produce and it would also ensure quality. This will go a long way in increasing agricultural production of the nation. Of course, someone else mentioned the importance with the emphasis on products in areas which did not rely so heavily on monsoon such as horticulture. The cold storage chain infrastructure has been discussed for a long time. Every bank in the nation today has 18 per cent priority lending to agriculture. If we can re-categorise agricultural lending, in turn we can actually ensure that out of 18 per cent quota, banks can lend and urge people to invest in cold storage infrastructure which in turn will actually enhance the produce of horticulture and other products which have low

reliance on monsoon. Mr. Prabhu also wanted to make it monsoon and weather proof. That is the kind of vision we need for agriculture.

Industry saw very high growth particularly in manufacturing area like machinery equipment, chemicals, automobile sector, etc. Textile exports grew by 13 per cent in the first quarter. When we talk about employment, which is a commitment for this Government, today the largest employer in the country after the Railways and the Government is the textile sector. Come January 2005, textile quotas will be abolished. We have a one time opportunity where this industry will be competing globally. Actually to ensure global competitiveness where we will be going head on against countries like China, Thailand and other low cost producing countries, I believe that setting up of a National Manufacturing Competitive Council can go a long way in actually facilitating dialogue between the sectors, between the corporations and the Government.

Otherwise, broadly, as I said, the economy is looking positive. There are thoughts that we can expect a six per cent growth in the social sector. The mid-day meal scheme, the supplementary grant of Rs. 2,000 crore for the *Sarvasiksha Abhiyan* Scheme are very welcome measures.

Sir, as a member of the Standing Committee on Defence, I have a small point to raise. In the last Budget we saw an increase of Rs. 18,000 crore in the Defence sector. But more than just a massive increase in the Budget, we saw revenue expenditure was brought down to 43 per cent and capital expenditure was raised from 30 per cent to 57 per cent. This is the key to ensuring modernisation. As we face conventional threats today we have to modernise our Armed Forces and this step would, no doubt, go a long way in ensuring that. Yet, when the Defence Acquisition Council makes a recommendation whether to buy or to make and if the recommendation is to buy then it goes to the DRDO and there is inevitably some delay in the process.

When the DRDO says that we should go for the buy, then we have to import it and this increases our reliance on imports thereby worsening the balance of payments position further. Therefore, creation and strengthening of a strong R&D-centric indigenous industry will lower our reliance on imports. This would be a matter of pride for us. If we could have demonstrated this in the IT sector, I am sure, we can do so in the areas of Defence as well. I think, one such incentive is being given in the pharmaceutical industry. For every one rupee invested on R&D in the pharmaceutical industry, there is tax rebate of Rs. 1.50 paise, if I am not wrong. If such an incentive can be given to the Defence sector, then we can see many companies that have strong R&D capabilities will be interested to invest in Defence research as well. This has gone a long way in strengthening our indigenous capabilities in pharmaceutical research as we are approaching a much more stringent patent regime. The only way we can compete with the multinational companies is by this way. Such incentives can also go a long way in strengthening our indigenous research capabilities in the Defence sector.

Sir, my last point is about the fiscal responsibility. This is a concern that has been raised by various hon. Members here. The FRBM does stipulate that we should bring the revenue deficit down to zero in four years. There are several reasons. The excise collection came down to absorb the oil price hike. However, maybe, to side with the Finance Minister, I would say that there is a leads and

lags effect that the people must be aware of. Just by Quarter II, the point where we are right now, Government spending becomes very noticeable. By the end of the year, that is at Quarter IV, we see the unspent money from various Ministries being returned to the Government and we also see tax collection taking full effect. So, I believe, that situation at Quarter IV would be very different fiscally for the nation. But the way to improve the fiscal situation quickly is to improve and reform collection and expenditure.

Sir, to touch upon expenditure, I would like to submit that when we talk of subsidy, today there is a debate on revamping and reviewing the various subsidies. There are studies which have proven that every rural household and maybe a third of every urban household is dependent on bio-mass. If that is so, then that needs to be understood. If that is so, then the subsidy on LPG, kerosene, is it benefiting the poor? Is it benefiting the non-poor? The Finance Minister has all the answers and the Ministry has all the answers and I am sure that they will dig out the information.

Sir, one more point that I would like to touch upon is though a very welcome measure, yet is a contentious issue. The intellectual circles are debating this issue today and that is about the NREG. I have a vested interest in this. If the rural economy develops, if we are able to provide jobs to the village youths, then less people are going to come to the urban areas and less of urban decay would we see and there would also be less strain on urban infrastructure. Yet, there is a discussion on this amongst the intellectual circles as to whether this scheme, which is to be tabled in the Parliament soon, is a job creation scheme, an employment generation scheme or a dole guarantee scheme. To ensure that it serves the purpose of the former, to ensure that jobs are created, one way of looking at it is that subsidy, be it rural or urban, must ensure creation of sustainable and durable assets which would ensure job creation. I would like to give one example here.

16.00 hrs.

Today, if someone takes a loan for housing and if they get an IT exemption, then that subsidy goes into creating an asset. It creates housing. It

creates jobs in the construction industry and the sector supplying to the housing industry can benefit from it. So, that is the kind of a vision that we need with subsidies and with these kinds of schemes that ensure job creation. That has been the commitment of the UPA Government to the poor and to the youth of the nation and certainly, we will fulfil it. I welcome this.

My last point is on terms of collection. To increase the taxes to the GDP ratio which is today between eight to nine per cent, there are several initiatives that have been spoken about and reformed whether it is VAT or whether it is bringing down the customs tariff or whether it is exploring and bringing other services into the tax net. With industries that have a cheap and critical mass, these reforms need to be looked at. I think, in terms of tax collection, this Government is doing a very good job. Over the years, we have seen that, as taxes have been lowered, a lower tax regime leads to more compliance. There is a lot of empirical data to prove this. But, I think, as we go into aggressively pushing the Income Tax officers to collect taxes, there is some degree of complaints in this. While quoting the old saying "Do not milk the same cow thrice a day", I would say that we must push them for tax collection but just ensure that it is spread across the net.

With the fiscal situation that I have addressed, the overall economy looks very positive. I just hope, in a nutshell, that urban infrastructure will be given a special thrust in the forthcoming budget by the Finance Minister. A city like Mumbai is a goose that lays golden eggs. We must nurture this goose and give it more strength. Only then the overall economy will grow and the contribution to the national exchequer will increase.

With these words, I thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Congratulations! Your speech was good.

प्रो. महादेवराव शिवनकर (चिमूर) : सभापति महोदय, अपने वक्तव्य के प्रारम्भ में सरकार की गाड़ी धीरे-धीरे नीचे आ रही है, यह मेरा पहला प्वाइंट होगा। मैंने कल-परसों ही पढ़ा था कि विदेशी मुद्रा का भंडार 10 दिसम्बर को गये सप्ताह के एक सप्ताह पहले की तुलना में 129 अरब,

69 करोड़, 70 लाख डालर हो गया है, जो पहले के मुकाबले 1.02 अरब डालर घटा है। इस वर्ष 3 दिसम्बर को समाप्त हुए सप्ताह में विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 130 अरब 71 करोड़ डालर है। यह अल्प है, मगर अल्प होते हुए भी धीरे-धीरे यह सरकार किस प्रकार से नीचे जा रही है, इससे स्पष्ट होता है। चाहे विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार हो, चाहे जी.डी.पी. हो या प्रॉब्लम्स को फेस करने का संबंध हो, यह सरकार कहती है कि छः महीने में कुछ नहीं हुआ। वास्तविक रूप से देखा जाए तो बच्चे के पैर झूले में दीखते हैं - हाउ दि चाइल्ड इज डेवलपिंग। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि यह सरकार इकोनोमिक डेवलपमेंट ठीक से नहीं कर रही है। एक्सटर्नल डैब्ट की आउटस्टैंडिंग के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा कि वर्ष 1990-1991 की तुलना अगर आज आप करें तो दुगुने से ज्यादा आउटस्टैंडिंग हो गया। मैं फीगर्स में नहीं जाना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब के पास सारे आंकड़े हैं। टोटल आउटस्टैंडिंग लॉयबिलिटीज भी वर्ष 1991-1992 की तुलना में दुगुनी से ज्यादा हो गई है। इंटरनल लॉयबिलिटीज भी भारी प्रमाण में बढ़ गई। आपने जो छः माह की मध्यवर्ती समीक्षा प्रस्तुत की, इसमें आपने ही कबूल किया कि औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में अप्रैल-सितम्बर, 2004 के दौरान और औद्योगिक उत्पादन आई.आई.पी. के सूचकांक की वृद्धि दर विगत वर्ष की तुलना में, मई, 2004 को छोड़कर, जब वह 6.8 परसेन्ट थी, अब कम हुई है। इसका मतलब है कि सरकार भी धीरे-धीरे अपना विचार बदल रही है। वित्त मंत्री जी, मुझे लगता है कि जी.डी.पी., एग्रीकल्चर और फूडग्रेन्स ग्रोथ रेट के संबंध में सरकार बताती है कि पेट्रोल आदि के दाम बढ़ने से महंगाई बढ़ गई। इसके अलावा अकाल को भी सरकार एक कारण बताती है। मगर मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि वर्ष 1997-1998 में एग्रीकल्चर ग्रोथ -2.4 थी, वर्ष 2001 में -0.2 थी और वर्ष 2003 में -3.1 थी। उस काल में भी, जब एनडीए की सरकार थी, तो अर्थव्यवस्था में ग्रोथ रेट ठीक प्रकार से बढ़ रहा था, मगर इस सरकार के काल में जीडीपी, ग्रोथ रेट और विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार भी कम हो रहा है।

सभापति जी, एक मुद्दे की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ। जो एक्स्ट्रा प्रोक्योरमेंट है और जो स्टॉक है, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि स्टॉक भी भारी प्रमाण में बढ़ रहा है। 1 अक्टूबर, 2004 का जो स्टॉक 20.3 मिलियन टन था, वह 18.1 मिलियन टन के बफर स्टॉक के मानदंड से 12 प्रतिशत अधिक रहा। इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि गोदामों में पुराना अनाज सड़ता है, जिसका कोई मूल्य नहीं होता। इसके लिए दो बातें आप कीजिए। एक बात करनी होगी कि जो अनाज का ज्यादा स्टॉक है, उसे या तो विदेशों में बेचिये ताकि कुछ पैसा उससे मिले। इसके अलावा डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम में भी सुधार करना पड़ेगा। इस देश में प्रोक्योरमेंट और पीडीएस अत्यंत खराब है। अनाज हमने भरपूर दिया, बड़े प्रमाण में लोगों को दे रहे हैं। अंत्योदय योजना में आपने कहा कि डेढ़ करोड़ से दो करोड़ की ओर हम जा रहे हैं, मगर प्रत्यक्ष में मरने वालों की संख्या भी बढ़ रही है। इसके लिए हमें पीडीएस में सुधार करना पड़ेगा। मैं आंकड़ों में नहीं जाना चाहता, वे आपके पास भी हैं। पीडीएस में जो भ्रष्टाचार है, उसकी ओर आप देखें कि एक तरफ लोग भूख से मर रहे हैं लेकिन अनाज कहाँ जा रहा है। इसके लिए आपको कठोर कानून बनाने की अत्यंत आवश्यकता है।

सरकार कहती है कि राज्यों की ओर भारी प्रमाण में पैसा बकाया है, मगर उसकी जो ब्याज दर है, मैं उसकी ओर आपका ध्यान आकृष्ट कराना चाहता हूँ। मैं महाराष्ट्र की ओर आपका ध्यान खींचना चाहूँगा। महाराष्ट्र पर एक लाख हजार करोड़ रुपये का कर्जा हो गया है। ऐसी परिस्थिति में महाराष्ट्र सरकार केन्द्र सरकार का कर्जा लौटाने में कई बार अक्षम हो जाती है। उसका मुख्य कारण ब्याज दर है। इसके संबंध में मेरा कहना है कि ऋण की पुनः अदायगी हेतु ब्याज दर में फर्क करना पड़ेगा - या तो राज्य सरकारें का सारा कर्जा आप ले लें या ब्याज दर कम करके उसे रेव्यू करें ताकि सारी राज्य सरकारें - चाहे उत्तर प्रदेश हो, चाहे महाराष्ट्र हो या

राजस्थान हो जो कर्ज से दबी हैं, उन्हें उससे छुटकारा मिले। विश्व में जो ब्याज दर है, भारत में ब्याज दर उससे कई गुना अधिक है और इसलिए ब्याज दर को कम करना पड़ेगा।

मैं एक बात की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा। महाराष्ट्र में 500 से ज्यादा किसानों ने आत्महत्याएं की हैं और उसका कारण अधिक ब्याज दर है। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से बजट के प्रारंभ में मिला था। उस समय भी मैंने यह बात उनके सामने रखी थी और आज फिर रखना चाहता हूँ। टास्क फोर्स के संबंध में आपने पिछले बजट में भी कहा कि टास्क फोर्स गठित करने वाले हैं, आपने की भी होगी मगर उसका परिणाम क्या निकला? कांग्रेस पार्टी और राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी ने विधान सभा चुनावों से पहले ऐसा वायदा किया था कि हम किसानों का कर्जा माफ करेंगे। किसान आत्महत्याएं कर रहे हैं और कर्ज के बोझ से दबे हुए हैं। क्या आप महाराष्ट्र की सरकार से कह सकते हैं कि आपने जो वायदा किया था, अब सत्ता में आने के बाद अपना वादा निभाओ। मगर सरकार इससे मुकर रही है। रेट ऑफ इंटरैस्ट के संबंध में एनडीए की सरकार ने अच्छा काम किया था। जो ब्याज दर पहले 18 प्रतिशत थी, उसे कम करके 13 प्रतिशत और फिर 9 प्रतिशत तक वह सरकार लाई। हमारा उस समय ऐसा विचार था कि उसे 7 प्रतिशत तक लाएँगे। आप डब्लू.टी.ओ. से यहां के किसानों की स्पर्द्धा कराना चाहते हैं। जब स्पर्द्धा कराना चाहेंगे तो डब्लू.टी.ओ. के सामने यहां का किसान कहाँ टिकेगा? यहां नौ प्रतिशत रेट ऑफ इंटरैस्ट है जबकि कोआपरेटिव में भी नौ प्रतिशत रेट ऑफ इंटरैस्ट नहीं मिलता। वहां उसका 10 प्रतिशत शेयर कट जाता है, पाँच प्रतिशत अन्य बातों में कट जाता है और सारा करके 17-18 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा चला जाता है। मैं आपको कहता हूँ कि कोआपरेटिव के संबंध में जो कर्जा 17-18 प्रतिशत पर जाता है, उसे आप छः प्रतिशत या सात प्रतिशत तक ला सकते हैं। डब्लू.टी.ओ. में चार प्रतिशत धर फर विदेशी नागरिकों को कर्जा मिलता है मगर यहां तो 17-18 प्रतिशत पड़ता है। फिर भारत का किसान कैसे उनके सामने टिकेगा? इस संबंध में सरकार विचार कर रही

हैं या नहीं? हमारा कहना है कि कोआपरेटिव के संबंध में आप पुनर्विचार करें। जो स्टेट कोआपरेटिव बैंक, डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोआपरेटिव बैंक और प्राइमरी कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज़ हैं, उनमें जो कमीशन जाता है, उसे भी आपको कम करना पड़ेगा।

सभापति महोदय, 7 प्रतिशत ब्याज पर यह सरकार घर खरीदने के लिए ऋण देती है। 7 प्रतिशत ब्याज पर उद्योग लगाने के लिए ऋण मिलता है, फिर किसानों को क्यों 9 प्रतिशत पर राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से ऋण दिया जाता है। इस दर पर भी सिर्फ राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से ऋण मिलता है। इस दर पर कोआपरेटिव बैंकों से ऋण नहीं मिलता है। मेरी मांग है कि किसानों को 2 लाख रुपए तक सभी बैंकों से कर्जा 7 प्रतिशत ब्याज पर देने की व्यवस्था करें और कोआपरेटिव बैंकों को भी आप इसी रेट पर किसानों को ऋण देने के लिए बाध्य करें।

सभापति महोदय, मैं विद्युत के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। आज बिजली के संबंध में पूरे देश में जो स्थिति निर्मित हुई है, वह ठीक नहीं है फिर वह चाहे उत्तर प्रदेश हो या महाराष्ट्र। महाराष्ट्र तो जब पहले मैं वहां से आता था, बिजली के मामले में बहुत अच्छा था, लेकिन अब छः-छः और आठ-आठ घंटे लोड शेडिंग होना आम बात हो गई है। बिजली निर्माण के संबंध में यह सरकार कुछ नहीं कर रही है। मेरा कहना है कि जब गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा का एक अलग डिपार्टमेंट बनाया गया है, तो उसी प्रकार से जो 1 मैगावाट से 10 मैगावाट तक की छोटी योजनाएं हैं, उनका एक अलग डिपार्टमेंट क्यों नहीं बनाया जाता है। 15 फीट पानी से बिजली तैयार हो सकती है। यह बात मुझे ही नहीं आप सभी को मालूम है। इस संबंध में कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है। अगर हम इस देश के सारे पानी को टैप कर के एक मैगावाट से लेकर 10 मैगावाट तक की छोटी-छोटी योजनाएं बनाएं, तो एक-एक मैगावाट से 2, 4 या 10 गांवों को इलैक्ट्रीफाइड किया जा सकता है। उस पद्धति से बिजली पैदा करने के संबंध में कुछ करना चाहते हैं, तो इसके लिए अलग डिपार्टमेंट बनाने की आवश्यकता है। केन्द्र सरकार को इसके लिए फंड्स देने की

आवश्यकता है, वह देना चाहिए, नहीं तो इस देश में एक दिन ऐसा आएगा कि सारा देश अंधकार में डूब जाएगा।

16.12 hrs.

(Dr. Laxminarayan Pabdey in the Chair)

सभापति महोदय, किसानों पर टैक्स लगाते हैं, उनसे ब्याज लेते हैं। पम्पिंग सैट चलाने वाले किसानों की मांग है कि उन्हें फ्री बिजली दी जाए। महाराष्ट्र में वर्तमान सरकार बनने से पहले कांग्रेस पार्टी और राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी ने वायदा किया था कि यदि उनकी सरकार महाराष्ट्र में सत्ता में आएगी, तो वह किसानों को फ्री देगी, लेकिन अब मुकर रही है। शरद पवार जी भी मुकर रहे हैं। जब आपने वायदा किया है, तो निभाना चाहिए।

महोदय, अब मैं राज्यों की बिजली देने की बात कहना चाहता हूँ। राजस्थान को ज्यादा बिजली देने की बात चल रही थी, लेकिन उसे ज्यादा बिजली नहीं दी। मध्य प्रदेश में आपके आदमी राजनीति कर रहे हैं। अब आप मध्य प्रदेश को इलैक्ट्रीसिटी नहीं दे रहे हैं। वहां बिजली नहीं मिलने के कारण किसान आहत हो रहे हैं। जब आप किसी प्रदेश को बिजली नहीं देंगे, तो कैसे काम चलेगा। मैं राजस्थान के बारे में एक पैराग्राफ पढ़कर बताना चाहता हूँ-

"As stipulated in the 1984 agreement pending receipt of the opinion of the Supreme Court and decision of the judge of the Supreme Court, Government of India should give due consideration to the request of Haryana and Rajasthan for making available additional power from the Central unallocated share from the Central generating stations, but nothing has been done so far to compensate the State of Rajasthan. The Ministry of Power, Government of India may be impressed upon to enhance the Central allocation quota to Rajasthan to the level of 40 per cent as was shared in the year 1996."

सभापति महोदय, यह सरकार ऐसा कर रही है। इसे पढ़कर देश की जनता को यह विश्वास हो जाएगा कि यह सरकार जानबूझकर राजनीति कर रह ही है।

सभापति महोदय, मैं सिंचाई के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं। अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों में सिंचाई हेतु भी धनराशि की मांग की गई है। आपने अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों में कहा है कि 181 परियोजनाओं में से वर्ष 2004-05 के दौरान 37 और 2005-06 के दौरान 46 वृहद और मीडियम परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने हेतु पहचान की गई है। केवल पहचान करने से कुछ नहीं होगा। नदियों को आपस में जोड़ने का काम पिछली सरकार ने शुरू किया था, लेकिन आपने उसे भुला दिया। एन.डी.ए. की गवर्नमेंट ने नदियों को जोड़ने की बात की थी। ऐसा करने से और कुछ नहीं तो कम से कम अधिक प्रमाण में लोगों को पानी मिल सकेगा। आज 181 परियोजनाएं पेंडिंग हैं। मैं महाराष्ट्र से आता हूं। महाराष्ट्र का एक वृहद प्रकल्प है, एक बड़ी परियोजना है जिसका श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने 1980 में भूमि पूजन किया था, जिनकी भक्त यह सरकार है, लेकिन वह योजना 1996 तक शुरू नहीं हुई। जब महाराष्ट्र में भा.ज.पा और शिव सेना की सरकार आई, तो उसने उस परियोजना को शुरू किया और 6-7 करोड़ रुपए व्यय किए। उस योजना का काफी काम हुआ, लेकिन उसके बाद नई सरकार आने के बाद, कांग्रेस सरकार ने, राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस सरकार ने उस परियोजना को बन्द कर दिया। मैं आपसे आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि गोसेखुद योजना का प्रकल्प बहुत विस्तृत है। इस योजना के पूर्ण होने से महाराष्ट्र के बहुत बड़े क्षेत्र के किसानों को सिंचाई एवं पीने के लिए पानी मिल सकेगा। मेरा आग्रह है कि केन्द्र सरकार इस परियोजना को अपने हाथ में ले और आपने जो 181 सिंचाई परियोजनाएं आईडेंटिफाई की हैं, उसी प्रकार से इस परियोजना को भी उसमें इनक्लूड करना चाहिए। वह परियोजना 1980 में 300 करोड़ रुपए की थी। वह 1995 में बढ़कर 2100 करोड़ रुपए क हो गई और अब 3 हजार करोड़ रुपए की हो गई है।

सभापति जी, मैं टैक्स की ओर सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और बताना चाहता हूँ कि राज्यों में केन्द्र सरकार की वैट टैक्स योजना का विरोध हो रहा है। पार्लियामेंट के सामने आकर राज्यों के लोगों प्रदर्शन किया। यह सरकार राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों की बैठक कर रही है, राज्य के वित्त मंत्रियों से बैठक कर रही है और कह रही है कि वैट के संबंध में जन-समर्थन है, यह बात ठीक नहीं है। इसलिए यह सरकार क्या करने जा रही है, इस संबंध में सरकार जरा अपनी पालिसी स्पष्ट करे अन्यथा वैट के मामले में राज्य सरकारें बदनाम हो रही हैं। इस संबंध में आपको स्पष्ट दिशा-निर्देश देने चाहिए, ऐसी मेरी प्रार्थना है।

देश में 8000 के करीब नैरोगेज़ रेल लाईन हैं। आपने जब मुझ से पूछा था तो मैंने बताया था कि नागपूर से नागभीड़ नैरोगेज़ रेल लाईन आज भी है। ट्रंसपोर्ट का अच्छा साधन उपलब्ध हो सकता है।

महोदय, जब एनडीए की सरकार थी, तब रास्ते जोड़ने का कार्यक्रम, प्रधानमंत्री सड़क योजना, सारे देश को चार नेशनल हाई-वे से जोड़ने का कार्यक्रम लिया गया था। आप उस कार्यक्रम को भूल गए, उसमें आप फंड भी नहीं दे रहे हैं। पिछले रेल बजट में जहां के मंत्री थे, उस तरफ ही रेल जाती थीं। बंगाल, बिहार की तरफ कई नयी गाड़ियां शुरु हुईं, मगर बाकी जगह उन्हें दिखाई नहीं देती थीं। वित्त मंत्री जी, आप रेल मंत्री जी को अपने पास बैठा कर पूरे देश का एक नक्शा खींचें, कि किस प्रकार से यह होगा और उस संबंध में दिशा-निर्देश दें।

महोदय, टेलीफोन, बीएसएनएल के संबंध में बड़ी धूम-धाम से चर्चा हुई। मेरे पास बीएसएनएल के संबंध में पत्र भेजा। उसमें लिखा है कि 31 दिसम्बर तक नागपूर विभाग के सभी तहसीलों पर बीएसएलएल की सेवा शुरु होगी। अब ये कहते हैं कि दो-चार महीने लगेंगे। मुझे मुंबई की मीटिंग में बताया गया कि कोई पुरानी कम्पनी सॉफ्टवेयर के लिए चार करोड़ मांग रही है और चार करोड़ रुपए का प्रोविज़न नहीं हुआ। अब वह कब लगेगा, इसका पता नहीं है। मुझे

लगता है कि रिलायंस कम्पनी बड़े पैमाने पर इंट्रोड्यूस हो रही है और उसके लिए जानबूझ कर हर तहसील में जो बीएसएनएल की सेवा शुरू होने वाली थी, वह नहीं हुई। इसलिए मेरा आग्रह है कि बीएसएनएल सेवा शुरू करें।

महोदय, मैं अपने लोक सभा क्षेत्र के संबंध में कुछ बातें रखना चाहता हूँ। कोल की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। मेरे चिमूर लोकसभा क्षेत्र में, चंद्रपुर जिले में मूरपार कोयला खदान का विस्तार आवश्यक है। मैंने कोल मिनिस्टर को पत्र लिखा, लेकिन उसका जवाब ठीक से नहीं आया। वहां नांद (बेशूर), मिनझरी, भानसुली, मुरपार बंदर खदानों को शुरू करें। वहां पुरानी मशीनरी हैं, आप वहां नयी मशीनरी दें। अगर आप उन्हें शुरू करेंगे तो वह प्रोफिट में होंगी। वहां अच्छा कोयला है। उस क्षेत्र में, चन्द्रपुर, गड़चिड़ौली और भंडारा में लौह, मैंगनीज, क्वॉस्ट्स आदि खदानें शुरू करने की पहल करें। कोयले की जो रायल्टी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से मिलती है, वह वहां के किसान, मजदूरों, वहां के गांवों को पानी, पाठशालाओं के लिए कोलमाईन्स उमरेड द्वारा चिमूर क्षेत्र में धनराशि दें, यह मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है। गोसेखुर्द का प्रकल्प, वृहद योजना, हुमन का प्रकल्प मध्यम योजना, इन्हें आप 181 योजनाओं में डालें। ये सारा ढांचा इसलिए बिगड़ा, क्योंकि एनडीए की सरकार ने उस समय पेट्रोल को एक प्रायाई रूप देने के संबंध में सोचा था, मगर तेल और कुकिंग गैस में किस प्रकार से कंट्रोल चला रही है। मैं आपको पढ़ कर सुनाता हूँ। हाल ही में पेट्रोलियम मंत्री श्री मणिशंकर अय्यर जी ने मिट्टी के तेल तथा कुकिंग गैस पर सब्सिडी समाप्त कर, इनके मूल्य अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार से खनिज तेल खरीद व अन्य खर्चों के लागत मूल्य के आधार पर बढ़ाने की बात कही थी। वित्त मंत्री, श्री पी. चिदम्बरम जी ने भी देश की अर्थव्यवस्था की मध्यावधि समीक्षा में रसोई गैस व मिट्टी के तेल पर सब्सिडी समाप्त करने की बात कही थी, लेकिन 16 दिसम्बर को ही श्री चिदम्बरम जी ने आवश्यक वस्तुओं पर दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी में परिवर्तन करने की खबरों को निराधार बताते हुए कहा कि इस संबंध में अभी कोई फैसला नहीं किया गया।

क्या आप अधिवेशन के बाद फैसला करने वाले हैं। आप इस संबंध में क्या करने वाले हैं, आपको सदन को स्पष्ट जवाब देना चाहिए। पेट्रोल के संबंध में आप बात करें। अगर पेट्रोल डीजल का प्रयायी रूप है तो आपको उसे स्वीकार करना चाहिए। मैं आपको पर्यावरण वन मंत्रालय के संबंध में बताना चाहूंगा। आपने इसमें कुछ मांगों की हैं, मगर हम देखते हैं कि रायनो, शेर और बाघ मर रहे हैं। हाथियों की हत्याएं हो रही हैं।

आपको नेशनल पार्क्स के बारे में कुछ करना चाहिए। It is a beautiful country. हमारा सारा देश अच्छा है, बहुत सुन्दर देश है। यहां नेशनल पार्क्स और फोरैस्ट्स हैं, लेकिन ये धीरे-धीरे समाप्त हो रहे हैं। इनके सम्बन्ध में आपने पिछले बजट में 1000-1500 हजार करोड़ रुपया रखा था, मेरे पास फीगर्स हैं, लेकिन मैं उनमें नहीं जाना चाहता। सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड्स में भी आपने एक करोड़ कुछ रुपया उसके लिए रखा है।

मेरा इस सम्बन्ध में कहना है कि इसके प्रोटैक्शन के सम्बन्ध में क्या आप कुछ करने वाले हैं, सारे नेशनल पार्क्स के सम्बन्ध में आप कुछ करने वाले हैं? आप कुछ करें, इस सम्बन्ध में आपका आह्वान करते हुए, आपने मुझे समय दिया, इसके लिए आपको धन्यवाद।

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, today, we sit in this august House to discuss the Supplementary Budget of 2004-05. We have an able and a capable Finance Minister in this country today. He has to his credit many firsts.

Earlier, when he was the Finance Minister, he had been successful in achieving some underlying, some noble things which everybody expected he would repeat in this term also. We are still expecting and waiting for him to work some wonders which in the last 6 or 7 months, as of now, we do not seem to have benefited from his bright ideas and his experience.

Sir, I would like to concentrate first on my State Orissa which has been consistently considered to be a poor State. But, as you all know, all the States of the East, namely, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam are not poor States. Intrinsicly, these are very rich States, if you take into consideration their natural resources, and the amount of fresh water that flows through these States. If you take the human resource aspect also into consideration, we will all be happy to note that these States are very developed States. But, in the past, a lot of wrong was done to the Eastern part of the country, especially to States like Orissa. We are all aware about something called 'freight equalisation'. As far as freight equalisation is concerned, as you know, at the production head, whether it was coal or steel or iron ore or aluminium or manganese or whatever it may be, when they were produced or mined in Orissa or in Bihar and shipped to Mumbai or Ludhiana or Salem, the cost was the same as at the production head, thereby implying that the States in the Eastern part of this country like Orissa always subsidised in this country and it is these States which have built up this nation brick by brick. But, in return, today, what we see is that successive Union Governments, - except a small portion that the NDA ruled - federal Governments of India have always neglected the Eastern part of this country. Today, even the present Government has not fared better.

A State like Orissa does not only need money. As far as money is concerned, of course, we should get what we deserve. For example, they have not reviewed coal royalty, they have not tried to concentrate on our irrigation projects. They have not financed or funded sufficiently our irrigation projects, our

infrastructure projects, thereby not only have the successive Central Governments taken away the wealth of States like Orissa, they have also, on the other hand, tried to push up and keep us as if we were waiting somewhere at the back burner, and we do not have a right to be an active part of this nation.

Sir, infrastructure development in the Eastern parts of India has been consistently dwindling in terms of funding in all successive Plans. It is evident even in the last Budget, it is evident throughout this Plan, and we are yet to see what the next Plan bodes us.

Except Assam and some parts of the North-East, Jharkhand, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa, as I said earlier, all have much more water resources. They are rich in minerals and their human resources are yet to be exploited. I am repeating this with an intention that these aspects need to be underlined so that whichever Party comes to power at the Centre has to keep this in mind that unless you reach an even keel in this nation, no development is genuine or no development is sustainable.

For instance, let us look at the bank deposits in a State like Orissa. The State Bank of India alone had collected around Rs. 4,000 crore in the year 2002-03 as deposits. The Government deposits, individual deposits and all kinds of deposits put together come to Rs. 4,000 crore, out of which, the re-investment in the State was a meagre 16 per cent. It just shows that the banks in States like Orissa do not wish to re-finance agricultural projects, and they do not want to finance small-scale industries or medium-scale industries. The money collected is collected in Orissa or Bihar or Bengal but it is invested somewhere else, thereby making our people even poorer. So, it is time that we take a thorough look at where we are driving this country. We are in a State where backwardness and under-development have resulted in extreme naxalism. Sir, as you are aware, naxalism or activities connected with naxalites prosper when there is utter and abject poverty. When people are poor, when the villages are poor, and when the common man is looking for his daily meal, he is frustrated, he is hungry, he is willing to take up arms against anything that, he thinks, is slightly connected with establishment. So, when we are thinking of fighting naxalism

with guns and with police, we are blissfully unaware that the problem does not lie with the bullets or the guns of the naxalites. The problem lies with poverty, no education or low education, and abject deprivation. If we meet these points, then we need not fight naxalites only with bullets, we could clean out their base and we could create a situation where it would be difficult for such elements to thrive.

Sir, I have a suggestion. Suppose, the federal Government thinks that it would link say, Ranchi with Vijayawada with a four-lane national highway, that would touch many religious places, it would touch mineral resource bases, and it would go through the heartland of naxalism. When they are planning for a red corridor, if the federal Government, the Union Government of India plans for a proper national highway, then we will be able to beat them at their own game.

We will take the benefits to the society. With your so-called liberalism, your so-called open economy for the poorest of the poor in Eastern India, and with the road that would come, development, education and work would infuse wealth into those areas, but unfortunately what I find is that in successive Budgets and successive Plans, we preferred to remain blissfully unaware. We are not trying to meet certain basic demands of this country for which we are spending our energies, our resources in such a manner that they do not give us the fruits that the people are expecting. That is why, when most of us go to elections, when you go back to your constituency, people are constantly dissatisfied. They are asking all of us what the Government is doing, and our answer is that the Government is incapable, it is inept. So, it is like butter on bread. Everyone likes the thick coating of butter on his slice of bread. Here, the Indian Budget has successfully squandered away his spending. It is thinly spread out in all spheres.

We notice smaller countries like Thailand and Oman which have concentrated in two years' period or three years' period on particular projects, say, health, education and infrastructure. Infrastructure means, roads and ports. By doing it like that, what they have attained is a supremacy in those spheres where they have concentrated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : I have nearly concluded. Some speakers before me have mentioned this. I would like to reiterate and pinpoint here that a project like the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, like four-laning and six-laning of the National Highways was not a political party's agenda. It was not something that the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee could have put in his pocket and taken it home. It was a wealth that was being built for the nation. He had the vision. But if somebody has a vision and the Government changes, let us not destroy a vision. Let us concentrate on the good things, no matter which Party started it, which political motive was behind it. A good thing is always good.

As we have seen, in this Budget these projects have been sidelined, especially the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. In my constituency, Dhenkanal of Orissa, I have seen in deep interior villages concrete roads that could be comparable to the concrete roads of Bombay or even some smaller roads of the USA. They are of that quality, but the project has come to a complete standstill. There is no work being carried out now.

In conclusion, I would request the Government to please widen your vision, think beyond petty political boundaries and give a break to this nation.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity. Since we passed a good Budget in this House about six months back, certain promises, which this Government has made to the people and the nation, are certainly fulfilled. But many of the promises are yet to be fulfilled.

I would like to remind that price rise is one of the very important issues, and the people of the country are very much concerned about it. Unfortunately, while the prices of foodgrains and essential commodities are growing, there is no remunerative price being paid for the peasants for most of the commodities which they produce. We had a discussion in this House about the remunerative price and other things. Unfortunately, the suicides of the peasants are still continuing.

The hon. Minister of Finance and, on his instructions, the Reserve Bank of India, asked the nationalised banks and the private banks to be liberal and give more loans to the agriculture sector. I remember, the hon. Minister of Finance had gone to the extent of saying that he stood guarantee for the peasants and they should not ask for other guarantees. Definitely, there is an increase in the amount of loans sanctioned but it is not up to the mark. Otherwise, the suicides would have been stopped long back. Most of the loans which these banks are said to have given to the peasants are only book adjustments as if the old loans are paid back and new loans are given. This is a very unfortunate situation. The Ministry of Finance should intervene to find out really how many new loans are given to peasants in various places.

The agricultural labourers are the biggest victims of famine and drought situation in various parts of the country. We expected, because of the situation arising out of the drought in various States, the Government of India would come out with a courageous step to totally waive the loans of the peasants up to Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000. There is a one-time settlement for big industrialists but there is no such possibility of writing off of loans of the peasants who are producing food for the entire nation. On the other side, there is no sign of improvement of labour market. This is a unfortunate situation.

A decision is yet to be taken on the reopening of the closed public sector industries in this country. This is a very serious issue. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance through you that the commitment of the Common Minimum Programme is to be fulfilled at the earliest. While there are some positive steps being taken by this Government, I am sorry to say that there is no demarcation from the previous NDA Government on various policies. One of the most important changes that should have been seen is on the question of commitment to the public sector. I do not say that the public sector undertakings which are totally running into losses should be reopened only to give wages to workers but there is a possibility that several industries could be modernised, reopened and at the same time give employment opportunities to a large number of workers, they were displaced because of the wrong policies pursued by the NDA Government which was against the public sector and which has made the public sector a victim continuously for the last several years.

The other issue is the question of disinvestment. Disinvestment is not necessary at this juncture when certain industries are earning profits. The decision of disinvestment in oil industry had been taken by the previous Government. I do not understand why the present Government is continuing to implement the same decision. There were allegations in the newspapers that ten per cent of the shares after disinvestment in the ONGC have been allotted to two unknown companies related to the Reliance Group. I do not know how far it is true. It has to be clarified by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and by the Ministry of Finance. When there are profits, why should they disinvest? It is a question of policy and it is a question of ideology. The public sector should be further strengthened.

I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance of certain other things also. The Supplementary Budget has given proposals for several Departments. Naturally, there is a Supplementary Budget for the Postal Department also. I would like to remind him that there are about six lakh workers in the Postal Department and three lakh employees, that is about 300,000 workers are continuing as extra-departmental employees for the last several decades. The Government is supposed to be a model employer in this country but unfortunately the Government is not playing that role. They are refusing to give proper facilities and regularise these extra-departmental employees. Fifty per cent of the workers in the Postal Department are extra-departmental employees, is a matter of serious concern.

The Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is to be introduced here, is limited to 150 districts. We welcome it. It is a very good step. It will help. But it should be extended to many more districts which are in need of this type of activity, maybe, at least, to 300 districts in the near future.

I would like to remind the Government through you, Sir, that on several arbitration issues between the Government and the employees, as I mentioned earlier on the question of the model employer, the Government is taking a very negative attitude. When there is a dispute between the Government employees and the Government and after negotiations have failed, it goes to the arbitration, and after the arbitrator has given a decision, this is not implemented by the Government for several years. It is kept in abeyance and ultimately proposals are coming for a resolution in the Parliament, rejecting the arbitration awards. If the Government itself goes for this type of rejecting the arbitration award, then who will defend the workers in this country? And arbitration is something which the Government also accepts. The employer and the employee both should agree to implement these arbitration awards.

Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance about one very important aspect. In this Supplementary Budget, I do not find any special allocation or separate allotment for Telengana freedom fighters' pension. There are about 13,000 Telengana freedom fighters who were continuously discriminated by the previous Governments for several years. During the last United Front Government, a special Screening Committee for the freedom fighters of the erstwhile Hyderabad State was appointed by the Union Government itself and all those who were in the Committee well know freedom fighters. They recommended about 13,000 names. About 18 new camps are to be accepted. For the last several years they are requesting for the Swatantrata Sanik Sammaan, unfortunately, there was discrimination against certain political parties? Telengana and Ponnapuravayalar arms struggles were not accepted as part of the freedom struggle. After 50 years of independence after they have applied and after their names have been cleared by the Screening Committee, their names are being rejected or are being kept in abeyance for several years.

Everyday we get the news that several old people are dying. If they get at least CGHS cards, if they get that honour that they are being accepted by the Government for Swatantrata Sanik Samaan, there is a possibility that they may live for some more months or for one or two years more. So, I request the hon. Minister of Finance to look into this issue very seriously.

Several lakhs of Telengana people participated in the freedom struggle. Nearly 4,500 people had laid down their lives for the liberation from the erstwhile feudal Nizam rule and they sacrificed everything. But, unfortunately, they are being denied these things.

Finally, I have a few suggestions to make to the hon. Minister of Finance. The Public Distribution System should be further strengthened so that the poor people in this country can be helped properly. I appeal for the reopening of the viable public sector undertakings. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has asked for Rs. 300 crore, out of which Rs. 299 crore are required for the exchange loss. But I do not find any allotment for the reopening of the IDPL, which is a very important public sector undertaking under the M/o Chemicals and Fertilisers.

Moreover, there is no mention about the HCL and CCI. These are the viable public sector undertakings. But, unfortunately, these have not been considered.

Sir, more liberal loans should be given to the agricultural labour. The bad debts are being written off for the industrialists. This is not a bad debt, this is because of the unusual situation in the country. So, the Government should come out with a courageous decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan - Not present.

Now, Shri Jasubhai Dhanabhai to speak.

श्री जसुभाई दानाभाई बारड (जूनागढ़) : सभापति जी, माननीय चिदम्बरम जी जो सप्लीमेंटरी बजट लेकर आये हैं, उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। सरकार की जिम्मेदारी होती है कि देश के लोगों को रोजी-रोटी मिले, उनको विकास का अवसर मिले और अगर उसके जीवन में कठिनाइयां आएँ तो उन कठिनाइयों को पार पाने में उसको सहारा मिले। इसके साथ-साथ देश का विकास सही तरीके से हो और दुनिया में उसकी साख अच्छी हो, यह देखना सरकार का कर्तव्य होता है।

सरकार की तिजौरी में अगर 100 पैसे आते हैं तो उसका ज्यादा से ज्यादा उपयोग, विकास के लिए, देश की आबादी की सुविधा के लिए, उनके विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, सरकार खर्च कर सकती है या उत्पादन और सेवा के और सैक्टर खोलने में खर्च कर सकती है, यह देखना सरकार के लिए अत्यन्त आवश्यक होता है। यूपीए की सरकार जब से बनी है तब से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी की लगातार कोशिश रही है कि अर्थव्यवस्था ठीक दिशा में चले।

यूपीए की सरकार जो सप्लीमेंटरी बजट लेकर आई है, उनका जो प्रोग्राम है और जो लोगों को उन्होंने विश्वास दिलाया है, हिंदुस्तान की जनता को और पूरे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को जो विश्वास दिलाया है, हमें यकीन है कि वे उसका पूरा पालन करेंगे। काम के बदले अनाज, सर्व-शिक्षा, सड़क योजना, इंदिरा आवास योजना, विभिन्न रास्तों के प्रोजेक्ट्स, संपूर्ण ग्रामीण रोजगार कार्यक्रम आदि अनेकों प्रोग्राम हैं जिनके द्वारा लोगों को उन्होंने विश्वास दिलाया है, उसके बारे में वह सप्लीमेंटरी बजट लेकर आई है और मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। दो-चार बातें ऐसी हैं जिन पर पूरा देश विश्वास करता है। देश के किसी भी राज्य को जो गरीब है, ऊपर उठाने की जरूरत होती है। पूरे देश की जानकारी मेरे पास नहीं है। मैं गुजरात से आता हूँ और वहाँ के बहुत सारे इलाके ऐसे हैं जहाँ बहुत से लोग अपना निर्वाह खेती-बाड़ी से करते हैं। झुम खेती से वहाँ विकास हुआ था लेकिन आज वहाँ बारिश नहीं हुई और समुद्री बैल्ट के ऊपर किसान अपनी फसल नहीं बो सकता है। उसको न तो आसमान से पानी मिल रहा है और न ही भू-जल मिल रहा है।

ऐसी स्थिति में, मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि आज वहां रोजी-रोटी की समस्या विकराल रूप से मुंह-बाए खड़ी है, वहां पर गंभीरता से कुछ किया जाए, जिससे किसान का विकास हो और वह अपनी फसल से कुछ प्राप्त कर सके। वहां पर किसान के अथक प्रयास से जो थोड़ी बहुत फसल हुई है उसका किसान को उचित दाम मिलना चाहिए।

हमारे सौराष्ट्र के इलाके में मुंगफली बहुत ज्यादा मात्रा में होती है और उसका एक्सपोर्ट भी हो रहा है और पूरा गुजरात कितने ही सालों से मुंगफली का एक्सपोर्ट जोन बनाने के लिए मांग कर रहा है।

जो किसान अपनी मेहनत से मुंगफली पैदा कर रहे हैं, वे उसका एक्सपोर्ट नहीं कर पाते हैं। उन्हें जो आमदनी होनी चाहिए और फसल के जो भाव मिलने चाहिए, वे नहीं मिलते हैं। दूसरी एजेंसियों की वजह से और एक्सपोर्ट जोन न होने की वजह से उन्हें घाटा हो रहा है। यदि एक्सपोर्ट जोन के माध्यम से एक्सपोर्ट किया जाए तो सरकार की आमदनी ज्यादा हो सकती है।

हम रेवेन्यू लैंड में खेती-बाड़ी कर रहे हैं। किसान वहां फसल बो रहे हैं। समुद्र तट में जाकर फिशरमैन काम कर रहा है। हम उसे रोजी-रोटी ऐसे दे नहीं सकते हैं लेकिन उसके लिए अवसर आज भी हैं। वहां थोड़े छोटे-छोटे गांव और कस्बे हैं। यदि डैक के ऊपर जेटी लगायी जाए तो छोटे-छोटे मछुआरों को बड़े मछुआरों या बोटों से जो परेशानी होती है, उससे बचाया जा सकेगा। आज छोटे-छोटे मछुआरों के सामने रोजी-रोटी का सवाल खड़ा है। मैं उसकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूं।

चीनी मिलों के साथ बहुत सारे किसान, मजदूर और ट्रंसपोर्टर अपनी रोजी-रोटी कमा रहे हैं। वे उनके साथ जुड़े हैं। सस्ते रेट पर ऋण न मिलने की वजह से कई जगह चीनी मिलें चल नहीं पाईं। बारिश न होने की वजह से फसल नहीं हुई और उनके पास पैसा भी नहीं था। किसानों को उसकी उपज का पैसा देना अभी भी बाकी है। उनको बाहर से 16-17 और 18 परसेंट के हिसाब से

ऋण मिलता है। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से यह गुजारिश करने वाला हूँ कि कोई चीनी मिल सूखा पड़ने की वजह से चल नहीं पायी तो आप उन्हें चलाने के लिए सस्ती ब्याज दर पर ऋण दें। वैसे उन मिलों को चलाने के लिए सारे किसान कमर कस कर उनके साथ जुड़े हैं। यदि वह एक क्विंटल चीनी गोडाउन में डालते हैं तो उन्हें 17 परसेंट की दर से ऋण मिलता है। एनसीडीसी और एसडीएफ से एक-दो साल के लिए 6 परसेंट के हिसाब से ऋण मिल जाए तो बहुत सारे लोगों की रोजी-रोटी आबाद हो सकती है।

हमारे यहां बागवानी बहुत होती है। मैं खेडूपुत्र के हिसाब से यह बात कह सकता हूँ कि बहुत सी चीजों का एक्सपोर्ट हो सकता है। यदि किसान अपनी फसल का रूपांतर करते हैं तो उनकी आमदनी थोड़ी ज्यादा हो सकती है। बागवानी क्षेत्रों में रूपांतर के यूनिट्स लगाए जाएं और पूरे तरीके से एक्सपोर्ट यूनिट्स लगे। हमारा क्षेत्र अभी मुश्किल में है। सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड्स में एड्स और टीबी अस्पताल खोलने का जिक्र है। सी बैल्ट में अच्छा और मीठा पानी न होने की वजह से पथरी की बीमारी हो जाती है। इसके बहुत सारे लोग शिकार हुए हैं। उन लोगों को इलाज के लिए करीब 500 किलोमीटर दूर अहमदाबाद, वड़ोदरा और नाडियाड़ जाना पड़ता है। आप जैसे एड्स और टीबी के इलाज के लिए अस्पताल खोलने जा रहे हैं वैसे ही इस बीमारी के इलाज के लिए वहां अस्पताल खोले जाएं। हमारे यहां गरीब लोग हैं। उन्हें इलाज कराने पर 8 से 10 हजार रुपए खर्च करने पड़ते हैं। आम आदमी और गरीब लोग उसे दे नहीं पाते हैं। वहां के सिविल अस्पताल में इस बीमारी का इलाज कराने के लिए यंत्र लगाए जाएं। उन्हें वहां सारी सुविधाएं प्राप्त हों। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट उस काम के लिए यहां से पैसा खर्च करे।

अब मैं एक ऐसी अहम बात सरकार के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ जो मेरे क्षेत्र से जुड़ी है लेकिन ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय से जुड़ी है। ग्रामीण विकास के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से जो पैसा राज्य सरकारों को जिलों यूनिटों में खर्च करने के लिए भेजा जाता है, देखने में आया है कि

राज्य सरकारें इस पैसे को दूसरी जगह खर्च कर देती हैं। सरकार की जो नीतियां हैं, जो कार्यक्रम हैं तथा जो कार्यक्रम वहां पहले से चल रहे हैं, उन कार्यक्रमों के तहत, जैसे जूनागढ़ डिस्ट्रिक्ट में वृद्धों को पेंशन देने का प्रोग्राम है, इस योजना में अगर किसी के घर में कमाने वाला व्यक्ति मर जाए तो उसके कुटुम्ब को सरकार की तरफ से सहायता दी जाती है। इसमें शिक्षण का भी कार्यक्रम है। इन सब कार्यक्रमों के अंतर्गत पिछले तीन सालों से यदि वहां पैसा भेजा गया है तो वहां पैसा नहीं पहुंचा है। तीन सालों में पूरा का पूरा स्पिल ओवर हुआ है। इस तरह से आज भी वह पेमेन्ट करना बाकी है। (व्यवधान) गुजरात सरकार को एक भी पैसा नहीं मिला है। यह पैसा कहां गया ? मेरी सरकार से गुजारिश है कि ग्रामीण विकास के जो कार्यक्रम चल रहे हैं, इसमें जो स्पिल ओवर है, जो पेमेन्ट अभी करना बाकी है, उस पैसे को यहां से जल्दी से जल्दी राज्य सरकार की यूनिटों को भेजा जाए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

श्रीमती किरण माहेश्वरी (उदयपुर) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी आभारी हूँ कि आपने इस अवसर पर मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान कुछ महत्वपूर्ण बिंदुओं की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ। पूर्व में एन.डी.ए. सरकार के वित्त मंत्री द्वारा वर्ष 2004 में जो अंतरिम बजट सदन में रखा गया था, उस बजट में जनता के ज्यादा से ज्यादा उपयोग में आने वाली वस्तुओं के बारे में घोषणा की गई थी। लेकिन जब यू.पी.ए. की सरकार बनी और इस सरकार ने जब जनरल बजट जुलाई माह में सदन में पेश किया तो उस समय वित्त मंत्री जी द्वारा कहा गया था कि जो पिछली सरकार का अंतरिम बजट था, उस बजट को ज्यादा से ज्यादा तवज्जो दी गई है और उसी के अनुरूप यह बजट बनाया गया है। लेकिन उनकी कथनी और करनी में भारी अंतर दिखाई देता है। यह अंतर किस तरह से दिखाई देता है, उन बिंदुओं की तरफ मैं सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहती हूँ।

सभापति महोदय, इस बजट में राजस्थान के साथ सौतेला व्यवहार किया गया है। मैं राजस्थान से चुनकर आई हूँ, इसलिए मैं वहां की अच्छी जानकारी रखती हूँ। राजस्थान के साथ यू.पी.ए. की सरकार द्वारा किस तरह से सौतेला व्यवहार किया जा रहा है, इस ओर मैं सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी। भौगोलिक दृष्टि से देखा जाए तो सबसे बड़ा क्षेत्र राजस्थान का है। पूरे देश की भूमि का दस प्रतिशत हिस्सा राजस्थान का है। पूरे देश की जनसंख्या का पांच प्रतिशत राजस्थान में रहता है। लेकिन अगर पानी की उपलब्धता देखी जाए तो यह मात्र एक प्रतिशत है। सब लोग इस बात से अच्छी तरह से वाकिफ हैं कि हम पिछले पांच सालों से राजस्थान में भीषण अकाल का सामना कर रहे हैं। वहां जिस तरह की वर्षा होनी चाहिए थी, उसमें हमारे सम्भागीय मुख्यालय जोधपुर, उदयपुर और राजस्थान में बहुत कम बरसात हुई है। वहां औसत से पचास परसेन्ट कम बरसात हुई है। इसके कारण वहां पानी का भीषण अभाव है। इस अभाव को देखते हुए राजस्थान सरकार ने कुछ प्रोजेक्ट्स केन्द्र सरकार के पास मंजूरी के लिए

भेजी हैं, जो अभी तक पेंडिंग पड़ी हैं। राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार से आग्रह किया है कि इन प्रोजेक्ट्स को जल्दी से जल्दी स्वीकृत किया जाए तथा इस साल जो पैसा आबंटित था, उस पैसे को यहां से रिलीज किया जाए, लेकिन यह दुर्भाग्य है कि यह पैसा आज तक हमें नहीं मिला है। इंदिरा गांधी नहर योजना, नर्मदा योजना आदि ऐसी योजनाएं हैं जो केवल राजस्थान ही नहीं बल्कि देश भर के लिए बहुत महत्वाकांक्षी योजनाएं हैं। इन योजनाओं के लिए पूर्व में एन.डी.ए. की सरकार ने पैसा भी स्वीकृत किया था और यह कहा गया था कि चार साल में यह योजना बन जायेगी।

17.00 hrs.

लेकिन यूपीए सरकार ने जो बजट पेश किया, उस बजट में अंदर इन योजनाओं के लिए जो स्वीकृत राशि थी, उसके बारे में कहीं कोई प्रकाश नहीं डाला। मुझे इस बात को कहते हुए बड़ा दुख है कि जहां एक तरफ हम अकाल से जूझ रहे हैं, पीने का पानी नहीं है, वहीं दूसरी ओर पानी की योजनाओं के संदर्भ में केन्द्र सरकार बिल्कुल संवेदनहीन है। वहां मसला चल रहा था कि पंजाब ने जो हमारे अधिकार का .6 एमएफ पानी रोक रखा था, उसमें भी किसी प्रकार का हस्तक्षेप केन्द्र सरकार ने नहीं करके एक तरह का सौतेला व्यवहार किया है, क्योंकि पंजाब में कांग्रेस की सरकार चल रही है और राजस्थान में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार है। श्रीगंगानगर में आप देखें कि किस तरह से वहां पानी के लिए आंदोलन चल रहे हैं, लोग सड़कों पर आ गए हैं, लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी इस संवेदनहीन सरकार पर किसी प्रकार का असर नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि केन्द्र सरकार पीने के पानी की योजनाएं, जो यहां पर राजस्थान से आई हैं, उन योजनाओं को जल्दी से जल्दी स्वीकृत कराने का कष्ट करे। कैलेमिटी रिलीफ फंड के तहत राजस्थान में अकाल राहत के कार्य शुरू किये गये हैं मगर उसके लिए मात्र 272 करोड़ रुपये ही

राजस्थान के पास हैं। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी यहाँ विराजमान हैं। मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि 2007 में राजस्थान के अकाल राहत के लिए जो आवश्यकता होगी, 2380 करोड़ रुपये आंकी गई है, उसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार को राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा प्रोपोज़ल भिजवाया गया है, उसे भी जल्दी से जल्दी स्वीकृत करने का कष्ट करें ताकि राजस्थान जो अकाल से जूझ रहा है, वहां जो अकाल राहत के कार्य शुरू करने हैं, वे अकाल राहत के कार्य अच्छी तरह से शुरू किये जा सकें और वहां की जनता को राहत दी जा सके।

यही नहीं, वहाँ जो अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के हमारे भाई हैं, जो सहरिया और कठौड़ी जनजाति के हैं, उनके रोज़गार के लिए पूर्ववर्ती एनडीए सरकार ने एक योजना चलाई थी कि हर परिवार को एक वर्ष में 100 दिनों का काम दिया जाएगा, लेकिन ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा इस योजना हेतु आम बजट में किसी प्रकार का प्रावधान नहीं किया गया। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि इसमें भी 21 करोड़ 30 लाख रुपये सैंक्शन करने की कृपा करें, जो राजस्थान की इन जनजातियों के भाइयों के लिए एनडीए सरकार ने स्वीकृत किये थे, लेकिन यूपीए सरकार ने अपने बजट में इसे नहीं लिया।

प्रधान मंत्री ग्रामीण सड़क योजना के संदर्भ में भी मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि एनडीए सरकार ने 500 की आबादी के गाँवों को मुख्य सड़क से जोड़ने की योजना बनाई थी और 2005 तक इस योजना को पूर्ण रूप देना तय किया गया था। लेकिन आज तक अगर देखा जाए तो सभी प्रदेशों की मोटी-मोटी जो बात हुई है, उनमें मात्र 900 की आबादी के गाँवों को ही मुख्य सड़क से जोड़ा गया है। गाँवों के विकास के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि प्रधान मंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के अंदर जो 500 की आबादी वाले गाँवों को मुख्य सड़क से जोड़ने की बात थी, उसे भी स्वीकृत करने का कष्ट करें।

सभापति महोदय, हमारी पूर्ववर्ती सरकार द्वारा पूरे भारत में जो एम्स स्तर के हॉस्पिटल बनाने की घोषणा की गई थी, जिसमें बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, राजस्थान और उत्तरांचल हैं। इनमें हर राज्य के अंदर एक एम्स हॉस्पिटल बनाने की योजना थी।

सभापति महोदय, इस योजना में भी राजस्थान के साथ भेदभाव किया गया है। एम्स की तर्ज पर केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा जो स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र स्थापित किए जाने थे उनमें से एक केन्द्र की जोधपुर में स्थापना का प्रस्ताव था, लेकिन इस बजट में उसका कोई प्रावधान नहीं रखा गया है। यह बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि जब सरकार बजट पेश करती है, तो उसके अंदर जो भेदभाव पूर्ण नीति अपनाई जाती है। यह हम सबके लिए शोचनीय विषय है।

सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारी पूर्ववर्ती सरकार ने किसानों के फायदे के लिए जो योजनाएं चलाई थीं जिनमें फसल बीमा, पीने के पानी और सिंचाई हेतु पानी की उपलब्धता बढ़ाना आदि प्रमुख थीं, उन्हें चालू रखने एवं उनके लिए कुछ न कुछ धन आबंटित करने पर विचार करे।

महोदय, राजस्थान के साथ यह सरकार भेदभाव कर रही है। मेवाड़ कॉम्प्लैक्स की एक योजना है जिसके लिए 12.5 करोड़ रुपए स्वीकृत किए गए थे, उसके बारे में भी अनुदान की अनुपूरक मांगों में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। इस योजना के अन्तर्गत राष्ट्र पुरुष महाराणा प्रताप जी की जन्मस्थली और उनके जीवन से जुड़े अन्य स्थानों को जोड़ने की योजना है, लेकिन वह योजना भी रोक दी गई प्रतीत होती है। सिर्फ यह कह देना कि इसकी कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है, यह ठीक नहीं है। इससे ऐसा लगता है कि यह सरकार जिस प्रकार से वीर सावरकर के नाम की पट्टिका के साथ जो छेड़छाड़ पोर्ट ब्लेयर में की गई और वहां से उनकी पट्टिका हटा दी गई। उसी प्रकार से मेवाड़ कॉम्प्लैक्स की योजना को धन न देकर राजस्थान और महाराणा प्रताप के साथ

भी वैसी ही भावना को उजागर कर रही है। यदि यह सरकार ऐसा करेगी, तो मैं कहूंगी कि वर्तमान सरकार हमारे राष्ट्रपुरुषों को भुलाने का प्रयास कर रही है। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से यही निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि यू.पी.ए. सरकार इस पर ठीक प्रकार से विचार करे और सभी राज्यों के संपूर्ण विकास के लिए पर्याप्त धन दे और किसी राज्य विशेष के साथ, चूंकि वहां इनकी सरकार नहीं है, इसलिए भेदभाव की नीति न अपनाए और बजट में सभी को बराबर का हिस्सा दे।

महोदय, जहां विशेष परिस्थितियां हैं, जैसे राजस्थान है, वहां अकाल की स्थिति बनी हुई है, वहां लोग लगातार अकाल की मार झेल रहे हैं, उसका विशेष ध्यान रखकर, ज्यादा से ज्यादा धन प्रदान करें। अन्त में, मैं इतना कह कर अपनी बात समाप्त करती हूँ और आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपके प्रति भी आभार व्यक्त करती हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, while extending my support to the Demands for Supplementary Grants, I want to make some critical observations regarding the functioning of the Government.

I may point out that we have passed a statute last time for fiscal management and budget responsibility. There was a Bill, if you remember. We all together passed that Bill. The aim of that statute was to have a control on budget management and fiscal responsibility as well. However, it is an irony of fate that we follow the old procedure of coming to the House with Supplementary Demands for Grants even after passing that statute.

On going through these Demands for Supplementary Grants we find that they relate more or less to all the Ministries. Nowhere I find any unexpected item of expenditure. When the Budget was discussed, all these things were there. All the items given in these columns relate to expenditure which was quite expected. However, unfortunately, due to mismanagement, if I may put it that way, the Finance Minister is again coming to the House for Supplementary Demands, even after passing the Fiscal Management statute. It is an irony of fate.

We should deviate from the old practice. For that purpose we have passed the statute. If this is the position, what is the use of passing a statute like this for fiscal management and financial responsibility, and all these things? They will have to bear this in mind.

Hereafter, I would advise the hon. Finance Minister, who is an expert in this matter, not to come another time with the Supplementary Demands. He should strictly follow the guidelines enshrined in the Statute. The Statute is passed by the House with a purpose and that purpose is not served. With these general remarks, I would like to make some observations. I cannot go into all the details. There are many details.

In page 1 of the Demands for Grants, we have the demand for agriculture. I am coming to the State of Kerala. There is a crisis as far as agricultural produce in Kerala is concerned. Price stability is not there anywhere in Kerala and the prices deviate, fluctuate day by day. The poor agricultural farmers are in

a state of starvation. Our hon. Finance Minister is in my neighbouring State. He is quite aware of the position in Kerala. The position of Kerala is fully worst.

We are now in the last quarter of this financial year. When you come to the House next time with the Budget proposals, you have to see that stability in the agricultural produce market is ensured. You have to take necessary steps so that the poor agricultural farmers would not commit suicide in the near future. I think, you will give a patient hearing to their grievances and something will be done to save the agricultural farmers of not only Kerala but also of throughout the country from further frustration and further loss of lives.

Secondly, I take the case of education. Education is more or less a matter of commerce. It is not a matter of service; it is not a matter of culture. It has become, pure and simple, a commercial business. Higher education has become more or less, cent per cent commercial education. When I refer to higher education, I refer to functional colleges. The admission for medical or engineering college seats is given for Rs.10 lakh or Rs.15 lakh. That is the position. So, we should have a sound educational policy. The Minister should stop this Rs.10 lakh bargaining for the admission in medical colleges. He is also quite aware of it. In Tamil Nadu also, hundreds of colleges are mushrooming and they are demanding Rs.10 lakhs or Rs.15 lakhs from students who are migrating to Tamil Nadu. This is the usual practice and experience. So, until and unless we take some drastic steps, we would not be able to control the situation. For that purpose, I would suggest that please bring in a Central legislation - a Central legislation defining the purpose and the manner in which higher education will have to be given effect to in our democratic country. Please bring in a legislation.

The legislation which you have brought in the matter of minority education is also dangerous. It has certain provisions which will allow these people in the name of minority education, extract, extort lakhs and lakhs of rupees from the students who are seeking admission. It is more than extortion. For that purpose, we have to define the Admission Boards and we will have to define the powers of the management, whether it is private or otherwise, whether it is minority or

otherwise, we will have to define their powers of admission. There must be a uniform policy, a uniform law applicable throughout India. Education, I understand, is in the Concurrent List. But we must have a Central legislation to curtail the powers of management in collecting fees from the students.

Thirdly, coming to literacy, the United Nations have declared that in the 20th Century, almost all the people will become literate. Even now, in India, we are having the largest number of illiterate people. We have 35 crores of illiterates in India. Even then, we do not have a policy. We do not care as to what steps we have to take.

The National Literacy Campaign is there on paper only. It is not functioning properly. I would advise the Government, through you, Sir, that the Finance Minister must take some methods by which the National Literacy Campaign becomes a reality and there should be no one in India who is unable to read or write. That must be the policy. I would request him to adopt such a course.

Coming to transfer between the Union and the States, now we are at the stage of introducing a new tax system, the Value Added Tax (VAT). At the same time, there are apprehensions about this tax system being introduced. The traders are very much afraid of it. They want that each and every State should have a separate system of VAT. There should not be a uniform system in India. It is better if the VAT can be introduced in a varied form in each and every State, taking into consideration its geographical condition and other things. At this stage, I would tell the hon. Finance Minister that when we introduce the VAT, my State Kerala will be a loser. We were getting forty per cent of the total income from the sales tax and this will be lost. Naturally, there will be a loss for the State in terms of revenue in so far as Kerala is concerned. What is the remedy? Hon. Finance Minister may say that the Centre will compensate. That compensation will not be a matter of perpetuity. It may be done for two to three years. But, in the long run, Kerala will be a loser. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this issue of transferring some service taxes to the States. Now, the

Centre is collecting all service taxes. The Hon. Finance Minister must consider giving some service tax to the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There are so many things to say. I do not want to go into the details because of lack of time. There are items which can be easily transferred to the States in the matter of collecting service taxes in lieu of sales tax. That matter may be looked into. I think, the Finance Ministers of the States and the Union Finance Minister will discuss all these matters and come to the rescue of the States.

Ours is a federal State. The Centre should definitely be strong enough and at the same time, it should not be at the expense of the States. So, the States should also be encouraged in having a viable financial status in so far as this tax is concerned.

Another thing is textiles. Handloom is facing a crisis. Textile is also in the Demands for Supplementary Grants. The textile policy is there. But that policy has not been implemented so far. That policy is still on paper. No administrative orders have been issued. I will cite one example. The Cannanore district of Kerala has been declared as the centre for handloom textiles. To my knowledge, the connected matters have not been given effect to. The net result is that after a lapse of six months since you came to the power, nothing has been done in this respect to implement this policy in detail.

Lastly, I come to corruption. The Lokpal Bill is discussed. It has not been passed. Corruption is the order of the day. There is corruption from top to bottom. We experience corruption in every walk of life. Of course, there are courts and vigilance department.

The effectiveness of the Vigilance Department also is a matter of dispute now. We should not claim that we are doing justice, but the people should also feel that justice is being administered. That must be the criterion. We all claim that we have a very good vigilance, CBI investigation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr.Radhakrishnan, please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister that when he comes next time with the Budget, he should see that this Bill is passed. A fair trial should be given, and the investigation into corruption charges should take place with due care and caution. I hope that he would look into all these matters.

With these words, I support the Demands for Supplementary Grants.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2004-05. After passing of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, the Government requires to review the receipts and expenditure relating to the Budget.

The hon. Finance Minister has admitted that one of the weak areas of the current economic situation is inflation. Secondly, the hon. Minister has also appreciated the last year's performance of the NDA Government to achieve more than 8 per cent GDP. So, they did well in the agriculture, industry and service sector. According to the Mid-term Appraisal and even the quarterly appraisal, these sectors have done well.

17.22 hrs. (Shri Arjun Sethi in the Chair)

We have to see the ground reality. That is the most important thing. Here, we are framing the policies. We are giving the figures etc. But they do not coincide with the ground reality. Regarding the price rise, I would submit that this is the highest inflation ever. It had not reached so high earlier. In the recent months, it had reached more than 8 per cent. Prices of all the essential commodities have increased. Recently, the Government has increased the price of petroleum three time. They have increased the price of gas two times. Now, the common man, the lower-income man, the middle-class man is suffering a lot. We have all this information.

Therefore, the Government should take suitable measures to control the prices of all the commodities. Even the State Governments are levying more than 30 per cent tax on the petroleum products. So, they should convene all the Chief Ministers' Conference to sort out these issues. All the State Governments are accusing the Centre, whether it was the NDA Government or whether it is the UPA Government in power. So, they have to take a considered view. They have

to reduce the excise and customs duty. Simultaneously, they should request the State Governments to reduce the sales tax. Then, the prices will be reduced.

Regarding agriculture, I would submit that the farmers of this country are providing food for more than 100 crore people. But it is a pity that they have no respect, they have no credit, they have no basic amenity, and they have no infrastructure. This is the fate of the Indian farmers today.

Last year, the Congress party led by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and other State leaders accused the NDA Government and also the TDP Government for these suicides by the farmers. It is true that the farmers are committing suicide. The farmers are committing suicide not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in Karnataka, Maharashtra and various other parts of the country. The farmers are committing suicide. Everybody knows the fate of the farmers of this country. But Sir, my friends from the other side, have taken the political advantage. Okay, they have taken the political advantage. They had criticised the policies of the NDA Government at the Centre and they had also criticised the policies of the TDP Government in Andhra Pradesh. But what are they doing now? After the Congress party came to power in Andhra Pradesh as well as at the Centre, why did they not stop the suicidal deaths of the farmers? Why have they not taken steps to control all these things?

In Andhra Pradesh, about 2000 farmers had committed suicides in 200 days of their ruling. It is really a shameful thing. Even the foreign Ambassadors, after reading the newspaper reports, came to Andhra Pradesh to enquire about it.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please sit down.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (TIRUPATI): Sir, he is giving wrong figures. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Yerrannaidu is saying.

*(Interruptions) . **

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions) . **

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Shri Parsuram, a student of MBA, has collected all the district-wise, mandal-wise, village-wise information and compiled it in this book. This book is the basis for me. I am not blaming them. They have been criticising the NDA and the TDP Governments for it. They made a promise that if they come to power, the suicidal deaths of the farmers would be stopped in this country. On the contrary, on an average, every day ten suicidal deaths are taking place in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. My question to this Government is, what comprehensive policy does it have to control suicidal deaths of farmers.

The Government has made an announcement to the effect that in coming three years the credit to the farmers will be doubled. This is a good step. I also appreciate it. In reality, what happened in Andhra Pradesh or for that matter everywhere? How about the corporate sector of this country? All the cooperative banks, even the cooperative credit societies have no money. In the morning, one of my colleagues had raised this issue. Under the RBI Act, a number of banks are below the network and thus are not able to provide credit to the farming community. The Government has given money for re-capitalisation of the UTI as also of the nationalised banks but for the cooperative sector it has just appointed a Committee. The NDA Government had also appointed Kapur Committee. On Shri Vikhe Patil's recommendation also, another Committee was appointed.

* Not Recorded

Every Government is appointing committees but nobody is looking for re-capitalisation.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : I have just started. Please give me five more minutes.

So, in the interest of public the Government has given money to UTI. To give breathing to the commercial banks, after Shri Devi Lal announced moratorium, the Government has lent money to them. But, to the cooperative banks, no money was given. This is very important issue. Suicides by farmers is really shameful for all of us in this country. The Government should look into the reasons of the farmers' suicides.

SHRI K.S. RAO (ELURU): Support Price is the main reason for this.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Support Price is one of the problems. Now, Andhra Pradesh Government has announced a moratorium. They are not getting money. Even the private money-lenders are not providing money. All these are the factors responsible for farmers' suicides. So, a comprehensive policy in this regard, especially for the States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra where farmers are committing suicides, has to be announced by the Government of India. This is my earnest demand to the hon. Finance Minister.

Now, I come to the Employment Guarantee Scheme. The hon. Finance Minister has recently told the Media persons that he will be bringing a Bill in this Session itself. Only two days are left and I am expecting that the Government will come with a Bill before the House adjourns *sine die*. As per Media reports as also as per my CPI, CPI(M) friends, the Act is now diluted. We are introducing the first of its kind of an Act. It should have stringent provisions which should be helpful to the unemployed persons. Taking help of this Act, they should be able to go to the Court or approach the District Administration and demand their right. So, the Government has to incorporate some stringent provisions in this Act, otherwise, it is of no use. Some States like Maharashtra has already had this Act. Some other such Acts are there in other States. Taking into consideration

the deficiencies of all the existing Acts, the Government should enact a stringent Act in this regard.

Cotton farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price. Recently, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Members of Parliament met the hon. Prime Minister and the concerned Ministers also.

Even in Maharashtra, MARKFED is purchasing at Rs.2500 per quintal. But in Andhra Pradesh, they are not getting even Rs.1600 per quintal. The groundnut farmers, particularly in Rayalaseema are not getting Minimum Support Price.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Yerrannaidu, you may continue after one announcement.

Hon. Members, the hon. Speaker has received a request from the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation that in view of some urgent work, he will not be able to attend the Half-an-Hour discussion listed for today regarding proposal for new airports. Hon. Speaker has postponed the same for tomorrow.

So, we will continue this discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants till 6 p.m.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : The cotton farmers are not getting MSP. Even groundnut farmers in Andhra Pradesh are not getting MSP. The Finance Minister should instruct the Cotton Corporation of India to open more purchasing centres for purchasing their product at the Minimum Support Price.

As regards amendment of Seeds Act, 2002, the previous TDP Government demanded this amendment. The present Rajasekhara Reddy Government and even other State Governments are also demanding it. There is no financial involvement in the amendment of Seeds Act and it would protect the Indian farmers. We are taking years together to do this. It is a shameful thing. Even the previous Government delayed it. That is why, my request to the hon. Minister of Agriculture would be to bring an amendment Bill to amend the Seeds Act in the next Session. There are a lot of loopholes. The present Act is not able to control the spurious seed sellers. That is why, the Finance Minister should take all the steps to control the suicide of farmers. You are saying that the country has 130 billion dollars foreign exchange. That is all right. The stock

exchange is going up steadily. But what is the use? The farmers are committing suicide. There are starvation deaths. Is it not shameful? Who will believe that we have 130 billion dollars of foreign exchange reserve? So the first priority should be to prevent the suicides. From tomorrow onwards no suicidal deaths should occur in this country. Only then you and this Government would get the praise. Otherwise, nobody would believe that you will double the agricultural credit in three years. That is why, the Government should take all necessary steps to improve the condition of the farmers in this country.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, time and again, hon. Members have raised their genuine concern about suicidal deaths. I think it is very shameful if any farmer in this country is driven to suicide and invariably because he cannot repay the loan. But I want to put this in a proper context. Please allow me to do so. I feel very deeply about it and I want to put this in the context. Studies conducted in Andhra Pradesh reveal that invariably the farmer who has committed suicide is a farmer who has taken a loan from a money lender. I am not saying in every case but, by and large, invariably he is a person who has taken money from money lenders. The money lenders lend at usurious rates and it is impossible for any one whether he is a farmer or a businessman to pay those interest rates. The answer is to bring all the farmers under what we call "institutional credit". There are 10 crore farmer households in this country. When this Government took over, only four crore farmer households get bank credit. Six crore households do not get institutional credit. Now, it is impossible for any Government to jump from four crore to 10 crore in one year or six months. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that everybody gets credit from a bank. But that cannot be done, however well meaning we are and whoever is the Minister, it cannot be done in one year. What have we done this year? This year, we have said that four crore farmers will be increased to 4.5 crore farmers. We are adding another 50 lakh new borrowers, among farmers, to institutional credit.

In the 18th July policy also I have said and I want to make this appeal to all those farmers who have borrowed from the moneylenders that they could come to any bank, the bank would take over that loan and give them the principal amount to pay off the moneylender and the farmers, in turn, can become institutional borrowers. That is, if a person has taken a loan from a moneylender at 30 per cent, then he can come to a bank and the bank would advance him the principal amount and the farmer then can pay off the moneylender and in the process become an institutional borrower.

I concede that this message has not spread throughout the country. It is going to take us some time to spread this message. I am travelling as much as I can. I have urged the hon. Members of Parliament to please travel in their

constituencies, to go round to the banks, talk to the bank managers, talk to the farmers and tell them that if anybody is driven to a point where he cannot simply service the loan of a moneylender, then he should be taken to the bank and it must be seen that the loan taken from the moneylender is taken over by the bank and the moneylender is paid off. I would like to urge the hon. Members to please co-operate in this matter. This cannot be done by one person or one Minister or by one Government. Until all of us pull our weight together, this cannot be done. Believe me, over a period of time we will ensure that almost all farmers come under institutional credit. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) . **

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I just want to ask one question .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can seek clarifications when the hon. Minister will reply to the debate.

. (Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I agree with what the hon. Minister is saying. There was a question on this sometime back and I had given suggestions to the hon. Minister about this. We are taking his message but I would like to request the hon. Minister to appoint them in some advisory capacity.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Kharventhan, will go on record.

*(Interruptions) . **

*Not Recorded

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2004-05. I rise to support the Demands.

Sir, all political parties before elections make promises to the electorate. Now, this is the time to take stock of things and find out to what extent the promises made by the parties before elections have been fulfilled. The leader of our Party, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and also the alliance partners of the UPA made certain promises to the people. It has been around 111 days that the UPA Government has come into power. I would like to mention some of the achievements of this Government in these few months that it has been in power.

Sir, first of all, the FDI ceiling in the civil aviation sector has been raised from 40 to 49 per cent. The Foreign Institutional Investment Security and Exchange Board has reduced the time of processing applications from 13 working days to seven working days. The Government has raised the ceiling for FIIs in debt from one billion dollar to 1.75 billion dollar. Two per cent cess has been levied both on direct and indirect taxes for funding basic education. Collateral security on education loan up to 7.5 lakhs has also been removed. A Task Force has been set up to recommend action for revamping the Co-operative Banking Sector. The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund has been revived with a corpus of Rs. 8,000 crore. Instead of the BIFR, we now have the Board for Re-construction of Public Enterprises. The interest rates for Central loan to State Governments has been reduced from 10.5 per cent to nine per cent. Furthermore, thousands of crores of rupees were allocated to the city of Chennai for setting up a de-salination plant in the city.

This is number one scheme throughout the world which comes under Reverse Osmosis Programme. If the Scheme is implemented, it will produce 200 million litres of water per day. But it is unfortunate that the State Government has not taken any steps to implement this Programme. Of course, money is given from the Government.

As regards Value Added Tax, I would like to mention that areas under my constituency like Ottanchattram and Kangeyam and an area under my neighbouring constituency, namely, Oothukuzhi are famous for butter and ghee. They are exported to various countries of the world. In Tamil Nadu, there is no sales tax for butter by the State Government. There is no TNGST and CST for ghee sold in Tamil Nadu. If ghee is sold in Tamil Nadu, the general sales tax is levied at 10 per cent and if it is sold outside the State, then it is four per cent. We came to know that the proposed Value Added Tax for butter and ghee is 12.5 per cent. But there is no tax for *desi* butter sold by *Khadi Bhandar*. It will affect the farmers in places like Ottanchattram, Kangeyam and Oothukuzhi. I would request the Hon. Finance Minister not to levy any tax for butter and ghee.

With respect to problems relating to agriculture, Mr. Yerrannaidu has raised certain questions. Our hon. Finance Minister has visited some places in Tamil Nadu and instructed the banks on the spot itself to give loans to farmers. But officers of the nationalised banks are asking individual farmers to get a clearance certificate from not less than ten nationalised banks of that region. After getting such a certificate from all those banks, they are simply saying that they are having the IRDP loan of Rs. 500 only and thus, the farmers are not sanctioned the loan. This is the situation. The co-operative banks are also not giving any loan to them. So, farmers are struggling for getting fresh loans. Those who regularly repay the loans are also not given fresh loans. So, the Government should take steps to give loans to farmers. Those farmers are living below the poverty line. Hence, if loans are not waived, at least the penal interest should be waived off.

In the Demands for Supplementary Grants, there is a head for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The National TB Control Programme is allocated Rs.

14 crore for meeting an additional expenditure of anti-AIDS Control Campaign under the National Aids Control Programme. The allocation for this Programme is Rs. 190 crore. While discussing about this aspect previously, I had mentioned that there are many NGOs who are getting crores of rupees from both our Government and abroad for AIDS Awareness Programme. Most of these NGOs are not spending a single rupee for this Programme. In a village which has only 150 people, they are showing bogus bills for 2000 condoms and so on. So, the income tax authorities and other authorities must check these NGOs regularly. Otherwise, giving funds to them is of no use.

There is another column under the Ministry of Rural Development. There is a programme called the National Food for Work Programme which has been allocated Rs. 2020 crores. There is already a Programme called Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana under which we are giving foodgrains for the workers. We are giving Rs. 50 per day as their salary as also foodgrains at the block level. The rice given is totally taken away by the local politicians and being sold outside. The contractors are not giving any rice to the people. If that scheme is successfully implemented, then it will serve some purpose.

Another important is about the judiciary. I am not disputing that it comes under the State. Throughout the country, wherever we have moffussil courts are functioning, they have no building and other infrastructural facilities. The Government has to allocate a separate fund for construction of court buildings. As regards advocates, each State is having the Welfare Fund Scheme. For example, in Tamil Nadu, the Welfare Fund Scheme is exempted from tax but Karnataka is not exempted from Income Tax. The Welfare Fund Scheme for advocates is implemented by the State Government throughout the country and it should be exempted from income tax.

I would like to make one more request, which is regarding farmers. In the Northern States, there is a lot of water, because it has rivers like the Ganga, Brahma Putra and other rivers. But if you go to South, there is no water at all. Unless the rivers are inter-linked, the problem will not be solved. Our Government has to allocate more funds for inter-linking of rivers.

श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ (यवतमाल) : सभापति महोदय, हम 2004-2005 की अनुदानों की अनुपूरक मांगों के ऊपर विचार कर रहे हैं। महोदय, जब यह सरकार आई और देश ने श्री चिदम्बरम, श्री मनमोहन सिंह, श्री आहलूवालिया जैसे आर्थिक अर्थशास्त्री पाए थे तो चित्र ऐसा उभरा और यह दर्शाया गया कि यह सरकार कुछ अलग काम करने जा रही है। इसके बाद न्यूनतम साझा कार्यक्रम, राष्ट्रपति जी का अभिभाषण, प्रधान मंत्री जी का देश को संबंधित करने वाला भाषण सुनने में आया। हर मंच पर ये भाषण यही रोशनी डालते थे कि देश को आगे बढ़ाने में यह सरकार पीछे नहीं रहेगी। इस बीच मिड यिअर रिव्यू हमारे सामने आया। बजट एक आईना होता है। इसके माध्यम से जनता के सामने यह बात आई कि महंगाई कितनी बढ़ी और किस हद तक बढ़ी? मुझे याद है जब गैस के दाम सरकार ने पांच रुपए बढ़ाए तो कितना हंगामा हुआ था? आज इसकी वजह से बहुत महंगाई हो गई है। मैं देख रहा हूँ कि पिछले 6 महीने में एक लीटर के पीछे पेट्रोल, डीजल के दाम कितने बढ़े हैं? यह बहुत चिन्ता की बात है। परसों माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने मुद्रास्फीति के बारे में जो कुछ कहा, वह चिंतनीय बात है। हमने देखा कि मंत्री जी ने एक हाथ से दिया लेकिन दूसरे हाथ से ले लिया। जब भी वित्त मंत्री जी का भाषण होता है और बजट यहां रखा जाता है, उसके दूसरे दिन बड़े-बड़े अखबारों में उसका रिव्यू होता है। हम जब वह समीक्षा पढ़ते हैं तो पढ़ने से दूसरी तस्वीर सामने आती है।

महोदय, मैं आपको एक बात याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ। इन्होंने ट्रेक्टर के ऊपर 2-4 परसेंट टैक्स हटा दिया था लेकिन दूसरी तरफ स्टील के ऊपर टैक्स बढ़ा दिया। हमारे यहां के विद्वान लोगों ने लिखा कि आर्थिक संकल्प कृषि को बढ़ावा देने वाला है। मैं अधिकतर यह बात देखता हूँ कि टेलीविजन और फ्रिज के दाम बढ़ गए, कम हो गए, सिगरेट के भाव बढ़ गए, कम हो गए। क्या गांवों में रहने वाले गरीब लोगों पर इसका इफैक्ट पड़ता है? इसका कोई इफैक्ट नहीं पड़ता है। बजट कैसा भी रहा हो, उसका कोई इफैक्ट उनके ऊपर नहीं पड़ता है। न उसको फायदा होता

हैं, न नुकसान होता है। जब तक यह बजट गरीबों तक नहीं जाएगा, जब तक इसका लाभ गरीबों को नहीं मिलेगा तब तक हमारा बजट किताबी और बड़ी-बड़ी बातें करने तक सीमित रह जाएगा।

मैंने देखा कि बिहार को 3225 करोड़ का विशेष पैकेज दिया गया है। मैं महाराष्ट्र से आता हूं। महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने कई प्रोजेक्ट केन्द्र सरकार के पास भेजे हैं जिनमें नरीमन प्वाइंट बांद्रा लिंकिंग रोड वर्ली का एक प्रोजेक्ट है। इस योजना पर 3900 करोड़ रुपये लगने हैं। महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने इसके लिए 1580 करोड़ रुपये मांगे हैं। दूसरा प्रोजेक्ट मुम्बई ट्रंसमीशन हार्बर लाइन के बारे में है, जो शिवडी से न्हावा-शेवा सागरीय मार्ग का प्रोजेक्ट है। इस योजना में 2700 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होने हैं, इसके लिए 1600 करोड़ रुपये महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने मांगे हैं। इसी तरह से इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की बात है तथा कई ब्रिज बनने की बात है। मुम्बई ऐसा शहर है, जहां से पूरे देश का एक-तिहाई रेवेन्यू मिलता है। यह एक इंटरनेशनल सिटी है। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि वह महाराष्ट्र राज्य पर ध्यान दें। जब अगला बजट आयेगा तो वित्त मंत्री जी को इन सब बातों पर जरूर ध्यान देना चाहिए। जब तक कृषि और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की क्या जरूरतें हैं, गरीब लोगों को क्या चाहिए, उनकी खेती को सिंचाई, रोड, बिजली, शिक्षा, रोजगार और गरीब लोगों को मकान आवश्यकता है, यदि आपने इन चीजों पर ध्यान दिया तो अभी जो बातें सामने आ रही हैं, वे सब बातें यहां नहीं आयेंगी।

सभापति महोदय : आप खत्म कीजिए।

श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ : सर, महाराष्ट्र में अभी कल की बात है। डा.बंग समिति की रिपोर्ट आई है, जिसमें बताया गया है कि डेढ़ लाख से अधिक गरीब बच्चे अनाज के बिना मर रहे हैं। यह अहवाल वहां की सरकार ने स्वीकार किया है। वहां भी कांग्रेस की सरकार है और यहां भी आपकी सरकार है।

सभापति महोदय, महाराष्ट्र में कॉटन मोनोपोली स्कीम सरकार द्वारा चलाई जाती है। लेकिन सरकार के पास पैसा नहीं है। हर रोज दो-दो, तीन-तीन हजार ट्रक और गाड़ियां वहां मार्केट में दो-दो दिन तक खड़ी रहती हैं। लेकिन उन्हें देने के लिए सरकार के पास पैसा नहीं है। आज तीन महीने हो गए हैं, मैं चाहता हूं कि आप इसमें मदद करें। कॉटन मोनोपोली स्कीम सरकार के द्वारा किसानों के द्वारा चलाई जाती हैं। आप इसमें उनकी जरूर मदद कीजिए।

सभापति महोदय : श्री एल.एम. शुक्ला वैद्य, आप बोलना शुरू कीजिए। राठौड़ जी, आप खत्म कीजिए।

श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ : सर, आज ऐसे भी लोग हैं जो अपने पेट के लिए बच्चों को बेच रहे हैं। अपनी बेटियों को बेच रहे हैं। कर्नाटक में यह हादसा हुआ है। कल के पेपर में यह घटना आई है और हमने टी.वी. पर भी देखा है। लोग अपने बच्चों को बेच रहे हैं।

सभापति महोदय : आप खत्म कीजिए।

श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ : मैं एक मिनट में खत्म करता हूं।

सभापति महोदय : एक-एक मिनट करके कितने मिनट हो गये हैं।

श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ : यदि हम यह सब नहीं देखेंगे तो कौन देखेगा। यह बात सुनने के लिए हमारे पास एक मिनट भी नहीं है। लोग मर रहे हैं। क्या सरकार बहरी है, सरकार को गरीबों की बात को सुनना चाहिए। (व्यवधान) आज एक तरफ लोग बहुत गरीब हैं और दूसरी तरफ बहुत अमीर हैं।

सभापति महोदय : आपकी पार्टी का टाइम खत्म हो गया है।

श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ : इतना कहकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (KARIMGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 2004-05.

Sir, our Budget is aimed to meet the National Common Minimum Programme. As you know, our economy depends mainly on agriculture and, that is why, maximum thrust has been given to rural development, agriculture, education, new technology and small and traditional industries. Without increasing the investment in agriculture, our economy cannot develop and we cannot achieve the desired rate of growth. That is why, our Government is going to, almost, double the investment in the rural sector.

Just now the hon. Member from the Opposition Benches was stating about the condition of the rural people. We all know the condition of our rural people and that is why the investment in the rural sector has been doubled by the Government. The main realistic effort, the Government made, is the provision for 100-day guaranteed employment.

We know that after its implementation, the economy of the people under BPL will be enhanced. They can join the productive process and that will also contribute to the growth of our GDP. There may be some economic constraint, but we know that our Finance Minister has a innovative vision and initiative and we can overcome this.

Just two hours back, one of the Members in the Opposition Benches was giving a very gloomy picture of our economy. He was stating how a child is developing and that shows how the economy will grow. I want to say how the child is developing and how our economy is developing. Though there were many odd factors, like 12 per cent deficient rainfall, high price of petroleum products, we find that our revenue collection from the indirect taxes, in the first five months of the fiscal year, show an increase of 12.59 per cent. The industrial growth in the first half of the year registered eight per cent growth. The manufacturing sector grew at the rate of 8.2 per cent. The export figures of September 2004 show a phenomenal growth of 25 per cent. In infrastructure, 56 per cent of the works of Golden Quadrilateral projects have been completed, and

in electricity generation, upto October 2004, 7.5 per cent growth has been registered as against 6.9 per cent in the corresponding previous year. In telephony we have a very high growth. Mobile and land phones totalled to 88.4 million in October 2004. This is 27 per cent above the level of previous year, which was 69.6 million. This is the picture how we are growing.

Another point which is very delighting to note is that the world rating by AT Kerney considered India as a superior manufacturing location than the US. 'India has 20 companies with less than 100 billion turnover', in FORBES the list of 2000 world's best companies. These are very encouraging to the investors all over the world. It can be realised what is the potential and power of our economy.

I wish to say something about North-Eastern region, particularly, our State of Assam. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister visited our region and because of his visit the poor people and peasants of our region have become very enthusiastic. They hope that their lives will be changed very soon because ours is a very backward and undeveloped area. Though we have very much potential of development, it is not yet properly utilised by any of the Governments. Our main problem is of transport. It is the bottleneck of our development. Many parts of our State are not well connected by rail or road.

I belong to Barak Valley. Barak Valley is a place where there is no train connection. A meter gauge line was there connecting Guwahati and in the name of conversion to broad gauge train runs upto Lumding. it was withdrawn. Now only a meter gauge line is there. There is no mail train and very frequently the trains are suspended there, which disrupts almost all the communications. The broad gauge construction was started about seven or eight years back. The previous Government could complete only 25 per cent of works and it is due to the negligence of the Government, without sincere efforts we can not get a broad gauge line.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time will you take?

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA : I will just complete within two minutes.

Now the UPA Government has decided to step up the work because without its completion the broad gauge cannot move to Tripura, Manipur or other places. Our agriculture is most undeveloped. We need to introduce technology there. It is because, without application of technology, we cannot develop our agriculture. We have also cultivable land which is to be reclaimed. We have also swamp land, by applying technology we can also have one-time cultivation there.

Sir, every year we suffer from floods in the Brahmaputra and Barak tributaries, and lose billions of rupees. There was a proposal for dredging Brahmaputra and Barak. That has to be implemented. We need to control the floods.

We are proud of our tea industry. It earns huge revenue. Every day, almost half a million people are engaged in this industry. But, this industry is going to sick and the Government must take some action. One garden which is known as Pathni was taken over by the previous Government but that garden has now been abandoned and all the labourers are unemployed there and are spending their time in inhuman condition.

There is a peculiar problem in our State. We have some teachers in permitted and Recognised schools and colleges. They do all the jobs like Government school teachers but they do not get any salary. So, I request as requested earlier that out of the two per cent cess, which the Minister of Human Resource Development is going to get, we have to leave a part so that our teachers can be paid salary. With these words. I support the supplementary Demand for grants laid before the Parliament by the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, 21st December, 2004, at 11.00 a.m.

18.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Tuesday, December 21, 2004/Agrahayana 30, 1926 (Saka).*