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Title: Combined discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2007-08 and Demands for Excess Grants (General), 2005-06.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has sought authorization and has brought the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2007-2008 which includes 42 Grants and one Appropriation worth Rs. 33290.87 crore.[\[r17\]](#)

These proposals involve the net cash outgo aggregating to Rs. 11,869.60 crore. The gross additional expenditure is met by savings of the Ministries/Department, enhanced receipts and recoveries aggregating to Rs. 21,420.82 crore.

Sir, Rs. 11,257 crore is sought for and it is met by the issue of the PSU oil bonds and to cover the losses arising from the selling of petrol and diesel below prevailing global rates. Due to the hike in the limit of the stabilisation fund scheme the Ministry sought Rs. 4,500 crore towards interest payment liability. To counter the impact of the appreciation of 'rupee' against the 'dollar', it is a part of the package worth Rs. 5,500 crore for exporters, and it is observed that the losses are being incurred on the Oil Marketing Companies to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore.

Sir, the NDA Member, while initiating his speech on the Supplementary Demands for Grants, has claimed that the reform process was initiated during the NDA regime. Nothing can be farther from the truth because the world knows and every Indian knows that the reform process in India had been formally launched in the year 1991. However, informally it was initiated earlier.

Sir, we have been criticised for resurrection of the sort of Administrated Price Mechanism. Sir, as you know, spiralling fuel prices have been having a very adverse impact on our economy. If we do not provide any cushion to accommodate the price rise, then ultimately the poor people and the vulnerable section of our society would be affected. We cannot do away with the subsidy regime overnight. Still two per cent of our GDP is being spent on subsidy in terms of fuel, fertiliser and food because still we are suffering from food and energy security. So, this Government has been devising various innovative measures and proactive measures to accommodate the subsidy segment of our economy and to subdue inflation.

Sir, we are in a situation which is unprecedented where we are witnessing large influx of funds, appreciation of 'rupee' and the high interest regime which have been making a dent on our export growth and on interest-related segment. Naturally, it will decelerate the consumer segment. So, it is an imperative for this Government to revive the consumer segment to keep the momentum in our industrial output.[\[h18\]](#)

We have already taken advantage of our huge forex reserves, which have touched the robust amount of 286 billion dollars. We borrowed five billion dollars of forex reserve for local infrastructure development. But still, we have a deficiency and bottleneck of infrastructure.

The most salient feature of our economy is that during the tenure of Mr. Chidambaram for the last three years, we have been registering the annual growth of our economy to the tune of 8.6 per cent, and in the current fiscal, it has gone to 9.2 per cent. The target of 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan has already been achieved. Now, we are going to achieve more success in our economy. We are already resorting to the dictum faster and inclusive growth. Over the years, we have habituated of hearing only poverty alleviation programme. But the approach of inclusive growth does not confine to only poverty alleviation. More so, it relates to distributive justice for fuelling our savings and investment rates, which would help to generate more employment, quality of education, quality of health etc. Therefore, we cannot relent ourselves to see the significant growth of our economy.

Sir, in August, 2007, a surplus amount was registered. It was Rs. 26,070 crore. The surplus amount of our economy always reflects the lower gross fiscal deficit, which is now Rs. 81,200 crore as compared to Rs. 86,461 crore earlier. The gross tax revenue witnessed 24 per cent increase. The buoyancy of our tax regime is attributed to the robust growth of our economy and better tax compliance. This is the first time in the economic history of India that the collection of direct taxes has surpassed the amount collected from indirect taxes.

Sir, Direct Tax has already registered an increase of 85 per cent, and we are very much nearing to the developed countries, insofar as the tax compliance is concerned. That is why the entire credit should go to the Finance Ministry because by providing better tax administration, the number of tax compliance has been growing up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now. We have to accommodate others also.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I know that there is a paucity of time. Within two to three minutes, I am concluding.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the fact that the Public Distribution System, which is

the chief fulcrum of providing food security to the vulnerable people of our country, has not been working to the manner it deserves. [\[r19\]](#)

Sir, the entire PDS in West Bengal has virtually collapsed and already food riots have been taking place. Due to lack of adequate infrastructure, the Food Supply Department of the State Government cannot maintain the required stock. However, the State Government is purchasing APL rice at the rate of Rs.830. Next day, they are selling the same APL rice to the distributor at the rate of Rs.870 per quintal, and naturally they are deriving the benefit of Rs.40 per quintal. When it goes to the distribution level, to the MRP rate, it accounts to Rs.890 per quintal. Similarly, in the case of APL wheat, at the rate of Rs.610 per quintal the FCI is taking and then delivering to the Food Supply Department.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : The Food Supply Department is taking at the rate of Rs.645 per quintal of wheat. Insofar as distribution is concerned, it goes up to Rs.655 per quintal. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister and the Government also to look into this. A number of starvation deaths have already occurred in West Bengal. The entire PDS has collapsed. The problem is that there is no dearth of money but the problem is that percolation, the trickle down effect, which is the *mantra* of our economy, is not being realized. Rather, evaporation of the fund has been taking place. So, I would request the Government to take note of this.

With these words, I am concluding my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I would request Shri B.K. Deo to speak only for five minutes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, only five minutes' time is very less.

Thank you Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget. Though the Finance Minister in his last speech had clearly said that the growth of GDP has improved from 7.5 per cent in 2004-05 to 9 per cent, according to advanced estimates, according to quick estimates, it is 9.2 per cent in 2006-07. The average growth rate is 8.6 which was the target of the Tenth Plan. Of that, eight per cent has been achieved. There is growth in manufacturing and in all these sectors. That is fine.

Here, I would like to say that the mainstay of our economy today is agriculture. Manufacturing sector and service sector play a very important role in the GDP. But at the same time, the most important thing and the mainstay of our economy where most of the people depend upon is agriculture and for that we are supposed to achieve a growth rate of 4.4 per cent but we have reached only 2.3 per cent. So, how do we expect the growth rate? At the same time and in the same vein, the UPA Government says that they have irrigated 2,40,000 hectares and they are going to irrigate additional 4,40,000 hectares, including 90,000 hectares from AIBP. But I do not know what the achievement is because if you go through the State record, it shows that this achievement is also not 50 per cent. Your achievement in the flagship programme in certain Congress-ruled States has not crossed 30 to 35 per cent.

So, I would like to say that this sector has been completely neglected and inflation has not been controlled in the country which should be around 4.4 per cent. It has already crossed 5.4 per cent. I would like to give the statistics about the price of food grains, like our friend from the other side was saying about food security for the poor people and all that. It is not there. I would like to quote the prices per KG during the NDA Government in May 2004. Take the cost of wheat. It was Rs.9 per KG. [\[m20\]](#)

Now its price is Rs. 15. The price of *atta* has increased from Rs. 10 to Rs. 17. The price of *maida* has increased from Rs. 12 to Rs. 17. The price of bread has increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 12. The price of sugar has increased from Rs. 14 to Rs. 15. The price of *dalda* has increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 per kg. The price of mustard oil has increased from Rs. 40 per litre to Rs. 60 per litre. which is the price now in 2006-2007. The price of *arhar dal* has increased. Every consumer item which the *aam aadmi* requires is not available to him. It is because you have not been able to control the inflation rates. You have gone on record here saying that agriculture and the production of wheat and rice has stagnated. Your tall promises in Bharat Nirman which was supposed to have reached the poorest of the poor of the agriculturists at the rural level have not been fulfilled; the benefits have not reached to this level. These are only made in speeches and on paper. But in actual fact, in actual action they have not reached the ground level.

Here, I would like to tell regarding micro finance. It is in a very poor shape. I will mention about the Centre's reform package. The Centre's response assumes every significance as the Reserve Bank of India has recently constituted an internal working group under the chairmanship of Shri V.S. Das, Executive Director, RBI in order to examine the recommendations of the



Radhakrishnan Expert Group on agricultural indebtedness. This Committee's report has not been accepted by the RBI. The starvation deaths are taking place. The migration is taking place. There are so many adversaries attached to the agriculture during drought and flood and it is being affected badly.

Here, I would like to mention that when the Government announces the procurement price of wheat at Rs. 1,000 quintal, why could it not increase the procurement price of paddy at Rs. 1,000? We have more rice eaters than those consume wheat or *atta*. More population is involved in the North-East, Eastern region and Southern region of the country are rice-eaters. The mainstay of agriculture is paddy. Therefore, to protect the farmers the credit policy should be properly done. The interest rates should be reduced to four percent. The M.S. Swaminathan Committee has given a suggestion that to give food security to the country and to protect the farmers, the interest rates should be at four percent and it should be waived to the farmers from the drought-affected and flood-affected areas. I am not saying this from anywhere else but from the lecture given by Shri P. Sainath which was organised by BPST, Lok Sabha Secretariat as part of Lecture Series organised by them which was a very enlightening one. It was on protection of farmers.

But the actual fact is that the farmers are committing suicides. The suicides are taking place. This is a matter of concern. The farmer households are concerned. This needs to be taken into account very seriously. If you want the country to surge ahead this has to be looked into.

Sir, I now come to the mining sector which is very important. Our natural resources are to be exploited. As per the last Economic Survey report, it has been seen that the downfall in the mining sector has affected the revenue earnings. It is to be looked into.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (CALCUTTA-NORTH WEST): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity given. First of all, I would like to say that I accept the proposal given by the hon. Minister of Finance on the Demands for Excess Grants. While supporting this, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to two-three points. As the earlier speaker has said, the GDP growth is nearly 10 per cent. But in agricultural sector we are not getting the desired result. [\[k21\]](#)

As you know, Sir, 70 per cent of our population lives in rural sectors. I think, we can upgrade rural sector, agriculture sector, if the Government is serious to introduce certain measures. Let me give this example. Agricultural products are all perishable items, but we do not have the required infrastructure to preserve these perishable items. So, we need to have cold storage in all the districts and villages, which we do not have. Nearly 30 per cent of the total produce we get from the growers is destroyed every day only because of lack of preservation facilities.

There is a very big market for our products – domestically as well as globally. We can export and we are doing it also, but for the last two to three years, we have been asking the hon. Minister that infrastructure facilities should be provided to export these products. Global market is such a big market that we can send all our items. It is our experience that we are sending our vegetables, fruits, flowers and even potatoes. We are sending potatoes by having refrigerated containers from other countries. Even after 60 years of Independence, we do not have our own refrigerated containers. So, it was our specific proposal that we should have our own refrigerated containers.

Regarding the agricultural products that we are producing, the time has come when we need to have value-added products from our fruits and vegetables. We can have a plenty of value added products from them. For that purpose, they have already taken up a number of food processing units in West Bengal. I understand that in other States also, everybody is trying. There is a tremendous possibility of export if we can extend some help and cooperation to these manufacturing units. Then, they can do very well and grab the global market.

It is our experience that when the new entrepreneurs are approaching the banks, they are not getting so much of support from the banks. Since this is a new subject and they are new entrepreneurs, banks are reluctant to give finance to them. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to give necessary instructions to the banks so that these types of new industries can get some special favour.

The UPA Government is committed to look after the poor people. In the last Budget, I had told that the artisans, carpenters and car-repairing mechanics need to have good tools, hand-tools. The excise duty is 12 per cent on these hand-tools. On other items, the Finance Minister has reduced it to 4 per cent. So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider this. If the artisans get good tools, then it would definitely inspire them to produce good material. It is our experience in the global market that our products, including whatever is produced by the self-help groups, are acceptable. They require this type of small tools.

This rural sector gets the facilities through rural banks. What is the actual position of the rural banks? The rural banks are not getting any facility if you compare them with the nationalised banks, while they are making all the demands. Even the Government is not considering the direction of the Supreme Court ruling. I would request hon. Finance Minister that the problems that these Grameen Banks are facing for years together, should be looked into and solved.

There is a report, and the Finance Minister has already seen it, that every 30 minutes, one farmer is committing suicide in India. It is really a matter of shame for us if we are not serious about and do not give special care to agriculture sector, even after 60 years of Independence. Our GDP growth is good. The achievements of our services sector and engineering sector are really remarkable.[\[s22\]](#)

I would like to congratulate Shri Chidambaram for this, but erosion is continuing in the agriculture sector. Therefore, you will have to address this problem. This will definitely create more employment, and it would serve the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government.

With these few words, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri Shailendra Kumar. I would request him to conclude his speech within five minutes.

**श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (चावल) :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने जो मुझे आज यहां बोलने का समय दिया है, उसके लिए मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूं। वर्ष 2007-2008 के जो अनुदानों की अनुपूरक मांगों पर जो चर्चा हो रही है, उसमें भाग लेने के लिए मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूं। आज अगर देखा जाए तो पूरे देश के अंदर 83 करोड़ 60 लाख जो हमारे भारतीय हैं, 20 रुपये प्रतिदिन से कम पर गुजारा कर रहे हैं, यह स्थिति भी बहुत चिंताजनक है। हम चाहें जितना विकास कर लें, आज लोग इतने गरीब हैं और गरीबी के कारण इतने संकटग्रस्त हैं कि उनकी तरफ भी विशेष तौर पर हमें ध्यान देना होगा। जहां तक देखा गया है, आज देश के अंदर सौ प्रतिशत साक्षरता अभी नहीं हो पाई है जबकि प्राथमिक शिक्षा को बीच में छोड़ देने वाले बच्चों की संख्या कम हुई है लेकिन हमने केवल उस पर इतना ध्यान दिया है कि वह व्यक्ति केवल हस्ताक्षर कर लेता है। बाकी मैं अभी आंकड़े देखा रहा था, नवजात शिशुओं के भरण-पोषण के लिए भी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है और शिशु-मृत्यु दर में कमी लाने की ओर भी हमारा प्रयास इस बजट में तेज होना चाहिए। जैसा कि कहा गया है कि पूरे देश के अंदर सभी के लिए स्वच्छ पेयजल की व्यवस्था कराई जाएगी। लेकिन आज तक वह नहीं हो पाया है और ज्यादातर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में देखा गया है और खासकर जो अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति की बस्तियां हैं, या स्लम बस्तियां हैं उनमें आज भी प्रकाश की व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है। यह देश के लिए गंभीर संकट है और सरकार के लिए सोचने वाली बात है। इस बजट में माननीय मंत्री जी प्रावधान अवश्य करेंगे।

जहां तक ऊर्जा का सवाल है, यह सरकार के लिए चुनौती बनी हुई है। आज हम देखें तो कच्चे तेल का जो हमारे पास सीमित भंडार है, उससे भी समय-समय पर कठिनाइयां उठती हैं और तेल के दामों में हमेशा बढ़ोतरी होती रहती है। आज चाहे वह बायोगैस हो या सौर ऊर्जा हो, कृषिअपशिष्ट अक्षय ऊर्जा या आक्मक दोहन की ओर हम बढ़ रहे हैं, आज यह भी हमारे सामने चुनौती है। इसके लिए भी हमें गंभीरता से सोचना पड़ेगा। हम अगले वर्ष 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लिए पदार्पण कर रहे हैं लेकिन हमें यह देखना पड़ेगा कि पांच वर्षों के अंदर जो सू.पी.ए. गवर्नमेंट की एक प्रतिबद्धता है कि हम पांच वर्षों में गरीबी का उन्मूलन कर लेंगे लेकिन आज गरीब आदमी गरीब होता जा रहा है। बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं जो रोज कमाते हैं और रोज खाते हैं। हमें उनके लिए भी व्यवस्था करनी पड़ेगी। आपने व्यवस्था की है कि जो संभावित टैक्सों की चोरी पूरे देश में होती है, उससे हमारे राजस्व का बहुत नुकसान हो रहा है। उसमें आपने यह व्यवस्था की है कि हम उसको प्रोफाइल बनाएं और जहां तक हमने देखा है कि आज भी देश को आजाद हुए 60 वर्ष हो गए हैं लेकिन 15 वर्षों में असमानता इस देश में बढ़ी है। आज हम उस असमानता को दूर करने में कामयाब नहीं हो पाए हैं। इसलिए हमें गंभीरता से इस पर सोचना पड़ेगा। अगर हम अपने देश की तुलना अमरीका से करें तो हम पाएंगे कि हमारे देश में धनाढ्य लोगों की कमी नहीं है। दूसरे नं. पर अभी देश में धनाढ्य लोगों की गिनती हुई है लेकिन अगर गरीबी देखें तो आज भी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गरीबी जैसी की तैसी ही है। आज हमारी सरकार जो लोग 12 रुपये से कम अर्जन कर रहे हैं, उसमें गुजारा करने वाले लोग हैं, उससे कम को गरीबी रेखा से नीचे मानते हैं। लेकिन बहुत से लोग ऐसे हैं अगर वे काम करने न जाएं तो उनके घर में चूल्हे नहीं जलते हैं, उनको खाना नहीं मिल पाता है। इसकी चिंता हमें करनी होगी। आज भी समाज का एक बड़ा हिस्सा है जो विकास से कोसों दूर है। गांवों में विकास होता है, मेन गांव में तो हो जाता है लेकिन जो छोटे-छोटे हिस्से हैं जहां पर स्लम बस्तियां हैं या एससीएसटी के लोग हैं, उनके यहां आज भी विकास नहीं हो पा रहा है। आज अगर बिजनैस कम्युनिटी इंडैक्स में देखा जाए तो प्रतिस्पर्धा में चीन 57वें स्थान पर है। भारत 31वें स्थान पर है जब कि इसके पहले यह चीन से आगे था। इसलिये हमें इस बात का प्रयास करना पड़ेगा कि यह चीन से आगे बढ़े।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि आज भी हमारे देश में करोड़पतियों की संख्या में बढ़ोतरी हो रही है लेकिन हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी ने अनुपूरक मांगों के माध्यम से और पैसों मांगे हैं। इसलिये मेरी मांग है कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ग्रामीण और विशेषकर कृषि क्षेत्र की ओर ज्यादा ध्यान दें। हमारे एस.सी., एस.टी. और मॉडिफाईड लोग, जो स्लम बस्तियों में रहते हैं, उनके जीवन-स्तर को ऊंचा उठाने और उनकी जिनगी में रोजमर्रा की चीजों की कमी न हो, उन्हें उपलब्ध कराने की व्यवस्था करें, तभी हमारा देश विकास कर सकता है।

SHRIMATHI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (BOBBILI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. While supporting it, I have a few suggestions to make for the kind consideration of the hon. Finance Minister.



The achievements of the UPA Government are noteworthy. So far as the direct tax collections are concerned, it has recorded a growth of over 43.9 per cent from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007 to 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2007. The net tax collections stood at Rs. 1,40,373 crore. I am happy to note that the Income Tax Department has already issued over 30 lakh refunds in the first seven months of this fiscal involving a total amount of Rs. 18.448 crore. As on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2007, India's exports increased by 19 per cent. All these are indicators for the higher economic growth.

Under the Indira Awas Yojana, the unit cost of a dwelling unit has gone up due to increase in the price of raw materials like cement, steel. Therefore, I would request the Government to increase the budget accordingly. As has already been requested by the hon. Member, Shri Rahul Gandhi, the NREGP has to be extended and implemented throughout the country. The list of works under NREGP needs to be increased. For example, work on developing animal fodder plots, construction of *dhobi ghats*, revamping and facelift of burial grounds, etc. There is a demand from the public in my constituency and I think from other constituencies also that the duration of NREGP has to be extended to 150 days instead of 100 days. No doubt, the job scheme for 100 days has effectively checked migration of population from rural areas to urban areas. Under the NREGP, we are able to create durable assets, assured right to work, and assured food, better sanitation facilities. Under the NREGP, if any donor wants to give financial assistance for creating permanent infrastructure like school buildings, anganwadi buildings, roads, drains, etc., it should be welcomed and encouraged.

We are spending a lot of money on health under the Rural Health Mission. Here also we should create permanent infrastructure like primary health centres, primary health sub-centres wherein we can provide a room to a member of the para-medical staff for her accommodation. In the case of emergency, she would be accessible to the villagers.

So far as the mid-day meal scheme is concerned, it should be provided to the school going children up to 10<sup>th</sup> class. What is happening is in a family if there are two boys who are studying in the 7<sup>th</sup> class and 9<sup>th</sup> class, the boy from the 7<sup>th</sup> class is covered under the mid-day meal scheme, and the other boy who is in the 9<sup>th</sup> class is being deprived of it. Here also permanent kitchen building and other infrastructure can be created under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. After the retirement of teachers, those posts are not being filled up. There are vidya volunteers who are coming forward to teach students. They should be encouraged vigorously. There is a need to widen the scope of vocational education by including subjects like music, art, dance, yoga, physical fitness, mental ability, Indian culture and tradition. Additional allocation under the SSA could be stepped up.[\[r23\]](#)

Regarding the agriculture sector, cost of the portable oil engines needs to be reduced. In this connection I wrote a letter to the hon. Agriculture Minister. He was kind enough to assure that it would be implemented. I think it needs to be implemented as early as possible because it will help the small and marginal farmers to a great extent to irrigate dry lands by drawing water from small ponds for growing cash crops like vegetables, fruits, etc.

Making of vermicompost requires low investment and gives high returns. Vermicompost can be utilised in horticulture, pisciculture and other agriculture-related areas. It will also strengthen the rotation of crops pattern and the yield would be more.

Additional allotment of funds for National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme and for Integrated Disease Surveillance Control Programme is a welcome step. This will help in controlling the diseases and will help the R&D effort. In this connection, I want to remind the Government that I have already made a request to open an Institute of Vector Borne Diseases Control and Research at Vizianagaram which would take care of tribal population in Andhra Pradesh as well as neighbouring States like Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. I would once again urge upon the Government to kindly consider setting up that centre in the State of Andhra Pradesh as it will be useful to the adjacent States also.

So far as tax evasions by cine artistes are concerned, the Income Tax Department should not show any leniency in collecting tax dues from them. I understand that there has been a huge Central excise duty evasion by a Gutkha factory. The Department should deal with it firmly to collect the dues.

With these words I conclude and support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

**डॉ. रामकृष्ण कुसुमरिया (स्वजुराहो):** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कहा गया है -

" सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः,

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चित् दुःखभागभवेत्। "

मान्यवर, इस आधार पर यदि हम आपके कार्यकलापों को देखें तो कहीं आप लोगों को सुख-सुविधा नहीं दे पाए हैं। आज लोग महंगाई से परेशान हैं। महंगाई बढ़ रही है और आम आदमी का जीना मुश्किल हो रहा है। लोगों को गांव गांव में जो गैस मिलने का प्रावधान हो गया था, अब फिर से लोगों को उसकी कमी होने लग गई है और वे कहने लगे

हैं कि सांसद जी, आपके कोटे से क्या गैस नहीं मिलती? यह बिल्कुल उलट हो रहा है। इस पर आपको ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। हमने रामराज की कल्पना की है और लोक कल्याण के लिए सरकार को बनाया गया है। रामराज की जो परिभाषा थी, उसमें कहा गया है -

" दैहिक, दैविक भौतिक ताप, राम राज नहि काहू व्यापा। "

लेकिन अतिवृष्टि, बाढ़ और सुखाड़ के कारण तबाही हो रही है। हमारे संसदीय क्षेत्र में टीकमगढ़ छतरपुर, खजुराहो और उससे लगे हुए रीवा संभाग के जिले दमोह, पन्ना, सागर, रीवा, सतना और साथ लगे उत्तर प्रदेश के कुछ हिस्सों में चार वर्षों से वर्षा नहीं हुई है। अकाल की स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। तालाबों और नदियों का पानी सूख गया है। चारा नहीं है। जो फसलें बोई गईं, वे नहीं आईं। नई फसलें बोए जाने का सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता। पलायन हो रहा है। गांव के गांव उठ रहे हैं। उसके बाद भी केन्द्र से कोई दल नहीं गया। हमारे यहां माननीय मुख्य मंत्री शिवराज जी अपने सीमित साधनों द्वारा लोगों की मदद कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अभी तक हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी ने कोशिश नहीं की कि उस इलाके में जाकर स्थिति देखें। [h24]

मैं आपको आमंत्रित करता हूं, आप वहां केन्द्रीय दल को लेकर आइए और मुआयना करवाइए। वहां हालात बहुत खराब हैं। किसानों के पास कुछ नहीं है। उनके पास जो बीज था, वह उन्होंने खेत में बो दिया। उसका जर्मीनेशन नहीं हुआ। सिंचाई के संसाधन नहीं हैं। जितने थे वे सब सूख गए हैं। अब ऐसे हालात में किसानों के पास कुछ नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि एक तो किसानों के कर्ज माफ कीजिए। बिजली में उतना कटौत नहीं है जितना बिजली के बिल में है। उसके कारण आदमी परेशान है। घरों से लोगों की मोटोरे जब्त हो रही हैं, लोगों के ट्रैक्टर जब्त हो रहे हैं। आपकी गरीबों को ऊपर उठाने की पॉलिसी हमारी समझ में नहीं आती। ट्रैक्टरों की कीमत दुगुनी और तिगुनी हो रही है और कर्ज सस्ती हो रही है। यह किसानों का देश है। यह कृषि प्रधान देश है। इस तरफ आपको ध्यान देना चाहिए, लेकिन इस तरफ आपका ध्यान नहीं है। इस प्रकार वहां जो स्थिति बन रही है, उसे गम्भीरता से लेना पड़ेगा।

महोदय, रोजगार गारंटी का जो कार्यक्रम है, उसके अंदर आपके अधिकारी बंदरबांट कर रहे हैं। वहां कोई भी काम ढंग से नहीं हो रहा है। उसे देखने की आवश्यकता है। जनप्रतिनिधियों से कोई बात नहीं होती है। कलैक्टर मनमाने ढंग से वितरण कर रहे हैं। इसे भी आपको देखना पड़ेगा। मैं एक बात और आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि जब माननीय श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की सरकार थी, तब बी.एस.एन.एल. के जितने काम हुए, उसके बाद उनमें कोई इजाफा नहीं हुआ है। कोई नए टॉवर नहीं लगे हैं। दूरसंचार का जो भोपाल सर्किल है, उसके गोदाम से करोड़ों रुपए की चोरियां हो रही हैं। 30-40 अधिकारियों के ऊपर कार्यवाई हो रही है। उन्हें अलग किया गया है। उसके बाद भी वहां जो दूरसंचार सर्किल में जो भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है, उसके ऊपर कोई कार्यवाई नहीं हो रही है। उन्हें ऊपर से संरक्षण दिया जा रहा है।

मान्यवर, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आज गरीबी के कारण आदमी परेशान है। बेरोजगारी बहुत है। काम मिल नहीं रहा है। महंगाई बहुत बढ़ रही है जिससे गरीबी और ज्यादा बढ़ रही है। बड़े लोगों और गरीबों के बीच जो खाई है, उसे पाटने के लिए आपने डिमांड्स फॉर ग्रांट में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की है और न ही हमें इन्हें देखने से ऐसा लगता है कि आपकी कोई ऐसी सोच है कि आप देश में व्याप्त बेरोजगारी और गरीबी को दूर करना चाहते हैं। इसलिए हमारा निवेदन है कि -

जिन्हें रोटी की जरूरत थी, रोटी न मिली,

जिन्हें बोटी की जरूरत थी, बोटी न मिली,

क्या तुम्हारी सियासी तकरीरों को चाटें,

नंगे को लंगोटी न मिली।

महोदय, देश में ऐसे हालात हैं। आप जाइए, जरा देखिए। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हमारे यहां खजुराहो और ओरछा हैं, जो राष्ट्रीय ही नहीं बल्कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यटक स्थल हैं। इन्हें यदि आप इंडस्ट्रीज की तरह देखें और उन्हें लोकलाइज करें, सार्वजनिक करें, तो इससे वहां के लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा, काम बढ़ेगा और लोगों की माती हालत सुधरेगी। सड़कों की हालत खराब है। वहां आवागमन नहीं है। वे टूरिस्ट प्लेस हैं, लेकिन खजुराहो के लिए भी कोई आवागमन की अच्छी सुविधा नहीं है। रेलवे के अन्तर्गत ललितपुर-सिंगरौली रेलवे लाइन बन रही है। आपके वन विभाग द्वारा उसमें अड़ंगे डाले जा रहे हैं। विकास कार्यों में अड़ंगे लग रहे हैं। दूरसंचार के काम में अड़ंगे लगाए जा रहे हैं। उन्हें ठीक करने की आवश्यक है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं आपका धन्यवाद करते हुए, यह निवेदन करूंगा कि हमारे उस संसदीय क्षेत्र में और बुंदेलखंड के उत्तर प्रदेश और मध्य प्रदेश के हिस्से में, रीवा संभाग के हिस्से में, चार वर्षों से वर्षा न होने के कारण भयानक सूखा पड़ रहा है। वहां हालात बहुत खतरनाक हैं। वहां से पलायन हो रहा है। इसलिए वहां के किसानों के कर्ज माफ कीजिए। उनके बिजली के बिल माफ कीजिए। पशुओं के लिए चारे का इंतजाम कीजिए। वहां पीने का पानी ट्रांसपोर्ट कर के पहुंचाना पड़ेगा जिससे लोगों को पीने का पानी मिल सके। उसके लिए इंतजाम कीजिए। इसके अलावा और कोई उपाय नहीं है, क्योंकि वहां नदी-नाले और तालाब सब सूख गए हैं। हमारी बार-बार प्रार्थना है कि इनके ऊपर आप विशेष रूप से ध्यान दें।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I request the next hon. Member to speak, I would like to make a request. I have a long list of hon. Members who want to speak, with me. I would request those hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches, can do so and they would form part of the proceedings.

Now, I request Shri Mahtab to speak, only for about five minutes.

**श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (होशियारपुर):** महोदय, मैं सामान्य बजट पर कुछ लिखित सुझाव टेबल पर रखने की अनुमति चाहता हूं कि हम सब जानते हैं कि सारा देश कर दाताओं के द्वारा दिये गये कर से चलता है और सरकार बार-बार कर दर में संशोधन कर उसे बढ़ाती भी है और यही पॉलिसी रहती है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा कर देशवासियों से कैसे वसूला जाये। जिस हिसाब से करदाताओं को अपना हिसाब किताब रखना पड़ता है और सी.ए. और वकील करके अपने हिसाब किताब को इनकम टैक्स या अन्य टैक्स विभागों में जमा कराना पड़ता है। जो दुर्दशा करदाता की इन दफतरों में होती है वो कबिले बयान नहीं है। करदाता एक तरफ तो कर देता है दूसरी तरफ बेइज्जत भी होता है। जबसे देश आजाद हुआ है देश के करदाता ने कर देना शुरू किया है उसके बदले उन्हें कभी भी मान सम्मान नहीं मिला न ही कोई सामाजिक सुरक्षा जैसा कानून हम उन्हें दे जाये।

इस बहस में बहुत से सुझाव आ चुके हैं बहुत सी बातें रखी जा चुकी हैं मैं उनको दोहराना नहीं चाहता। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री को एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि करदाता



का विभागों में सरकार में व सरकारी कर्मचारियों में सम्मान बढ़े ऐसी योजना सरकार को बनानी चाहिए। उदाहरण के तौर पर जो किसी प्रदेश में सबसे अधिक कर देता है उसको प्रदेश स्तर की किसी भी सरकारी कमेटी में सदस्य लेकर उसका मान सम्मान किया जा सकता है और इस बात को जिला और मंडल इकाई तक लागू किया जाना चाहिए। सबसे ज्यादा कर देने वाले व्यक्ति को 15 अगस्त और 26 जनवरी के कार्यक्रमों में सम्मान किया जाना चाहिए ताकि वे लोग बाकी सभी देशवासियों के लिए प्रेरणा के स्रोत बने। अगर किसी कर्दता की मृत्यु हो जाती है या व किसी कारण विवलांग हो जाता है, तो उसकी सामाजिक सुरक्षा की जिम्मेवारी सरकार अपने ऊपर ले। उदाहरण के तौर पर सभी कर देने वाले लोगों का उनके कर के अनुपात में अगले कई वर्षों तक का बीमा करवाया जा सकता है। अस्पतालों में भी कर्दताओं के लिए विशेष सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

मेरा एक मत है कि जब तक देश का हर नागरिक देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में अपना योगदान नहीं डालता तब तक इस देश का जो विकास होना चाहिए वो नहीं हो सकता। इसलिए एक ऐसी योजना बनाई जाये जिसमें स्वेच्छा से लोग अपना योगदान देश के विकास में डालें। इससे एक तो देश के प्रति प्यार बढ़ेगा और देश के विकास में प्रधानमंत्री से लेकर एक आम आदमी तक का योगदान होगा।

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I am the first speaker from my Party.

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** समस्या यह है कि मैंने सवा दो बजे तक अतिरिक्त अनुदानों की मांगों (सामान्य) पर चर्चा को समाप्त करना है क्योंकि मिनिस्टर साहब ने सवा दो बजे जवाब देना है।

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Okay, Sir. I will try to be as brief as possible.

To a question relating to the external debt of our country, the reply given by the Government was that nearly it has increased by 23 per cent. This is the situation by the end of March 2007. This was the reply which was given. The increase is within the last one year and the money is for getting infrastructure development.

We are not opposed to it. But the actual spending in a time-bound manner is what is required and transparency. Sometime back, the Finance Minister while delivering a memorial lecture in the Harvard University on 18<sup>th</sup> October last year, he had said:

"That the challenge of development in a democracy will become less formidable as the economy cruises on a high growth path. There is no dispute on that. India is rich because of its native entrepreneurial talent. It is poor because many policy and procedural hurdles stand in the way."

My query is this. The Finance Minister has found out the problem. What stops him from finding out the remedy? When the cause is known, accordingly the medicine is to be applied. He has been fortunate enough to deliver four Budgets continuously. I would like to understand because while dwelling on – not all the issues – 3-4 major issues which are of concern today, there is a mismatch between the skills of a young population and the nature of jobs that is available, and that is required to be filled up.

I understand that there is a proposal to spend around Rs.31,000 crore for skill development. We will be happy if the Finance Minister while replying to the Supplementary Demands for Grants can throw some light on this project of spending Rs.31,000 crore on skill development.

But in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, I would like to remind the Government, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of vocationalization of secondary education, the allotment was Rs.350 crore. How do you meet the demand? Where do you get this money? The credibility of skill development in our overall strategy is that we get our skill development act in a right perspective. We will be harnessing the skill – the skill of young persons and the skill of rural India, so that it gives us a demographic dividend. If we do not get these, we would be facing a demographic disaster.

It is time to stop talking about two Indias, which we invariably hear – one is Urban India and the other is the Rural Bharat. [\[MSOffice25\]](#) But a lot of changes have taken place in between during the last 16-17 years specifically because of the economic policy of our country. Today, the cities are unable to accept, absorb and employ unskilled workers. Rural economy has to play an even more significant role in transitioning workers from agriculture into more productive parts of the economy. For them there is a need to have more tax breaks, more simplified regulations and less corruption at the State and district levels. The idea of faster economic growth in urban India rather than in rural India needs to be corrected.

The second myth is that rural India is still an agriculture economy. As of 2000, agriculture accounted for just over half of rural economic activities. It is around 66 per cent. Services on the other hand now account for 28 per cent in the rural India which was 21 per cent in 1981. Manufacturing, utilities and construction activities have nearly doubled their share in the rural economy to 18 per cent in 2000 which was around 10 per cent in 1971. So, the income gap of urban India and rural India is

also getting bridged. These are new developments which are taking place. Accordingly, the budgetary provisions also should be made.

Another abysmal story is affordable urban housing. Infrastructure facilities in urban areas are equally atrocious. Only 15 per cent of the urban households have drinking water, electricity and latrines in their premises. Less than 25 per cent of them have sanitation facility system. The Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Ministry, it is their daughter, which shows that by 2012 the urban housing requirement will be more than 25 million units of which 97 per cent will be of the poor category, below poverty line. Therefore, there is a need to look into this aspect as it is of very serious concern.

In the area of rural electrification only six per cent of the targeted, below poverty line, household have been electrified. We have been hearing from the Minister in charge of energy, repeatedly proclaiming very high sounding words but what is the ground reality. During last two years hardly two per cent of the targeted BPL households have been electrified. In the first two years against a target of creating additional irrigation capacity of 10 million hectares only 2.6 million hectares has been achieved. Only 5 per cent coverage has been achieved in covering the drinking water quality affected habitations.

I, now, come to the Bharat Nirman. Lack of transparency, accountability and authenticity of data are other problems that plague Bharat Nirman initiative. The Prime Minister has described Bharat Nirman as a new deal to rural India but it is actually a raw deal to rural India. There is a need for reality check. For four successive years the economy has out-performed official forecast convincingly. But I am of the opinion that high GDP growth has been largely consumer-demand driven. Restriction on spending will impact industry and check the pace of growth.[\[R26\]](#)

#### **14.00 hrs.**

There is a need to look into the high interest rates. It continues to erode spending.

Recently, I came across an editorial in a Hindi newspaper. It has criticised the scaling down of import of cooking gas. The rural areas and semi-urban areas where the majority of the middle income group people reside, are getting affected and because of this, in rural and semi-urban areas, cooking gas is not being supplied to. I do not know who has advised those oil companies to do that. I would request the Government to re-consider it. These amenities should be provided as per demand. A number of people do not want subsidy on cooking gas. Why can you not make this available?

With these words, I conclude.

**श्री आलोक कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर):** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज सप्लीमेंट्री डिमांड फार ग्रैंड्स 2007-08 पर आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ और इसी के साथ मैं धन्यवाद और बधाई देना चाहता हूँ, माननीय वित्तमंत्री विटंबरम जी को, देश के प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह जी को ...[\(व्यवधान\)](#)

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** बधाई टेबल पर लिखकर भी दी जा सकती है।

**श्री आलोक कुमार मेहता :** यूपीए अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी जी को और लालू प्रसाद जी को। लालू प्रसाद जी को इसलिए बधाई कि इन बजटों में और देश के आर्थिक विकास में पिछले तीन वर्षों में रेल विभाग का बड़ा स्टैक रहा है। देश में भारत निर्माण योजना, शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सर्वशिक्षा अभियान, मिड-डे-मील, संपूर्ण स्वच्छता अभियान, प्रधानमंत्री संपूर्ण रोजगार योजना, इंदिरा आवास योजना, जवाहर लाल नेहरू शहरी विकास योजना, राजीव गांधी विद्युतीकरण योजना, आदि तमाम योजनाओं के माध्यम से देश में विकास की गति तीव्र हुयी है और सरटेनेबल डेवलपमेंट का ट्रेंड बना है। मैं बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि लगातार 8 से 9 प्रतिशत ग्रोथ रेट को बनाए रखने में वर्तमान यूपीए सरकार सफल रही है, जो बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि है।

महोदय, जो बजट से संबंधित जो बातें हैं, उसको विस्तार से हमारे पूर्ववक्ताओं ने बताया। बहुत सारी बातें जो जनोपयोगी हैं, जनहित की हैं, उनसे मैं सहमत हूँ और कृषि क्षेत्र पर एलोकेशन बढ़ाए जाने की मैं इच्छा रखता हूँ। हमेशा से अपने भाषण में हम लोगों ने उन बातों को रखा है। अनाज के साथ-साथ फूट्स और वेजिटेबल, जो प्रति वर्ष लगभग पचास हजार करोड़ रूपए का बर्बाद होता है, जो या तो किसानों के खेत में सड़ जाता है या किसानों को उसका किसी भी तरह से मूल्य नहीं मिल पाता है, उस ओर मैं वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। उस क्षेत्र में कोई सपोर्ट प्रोजेक्ट भी नहीं है। ऐसे क्षेत्र में सपोर्ट प्रोजेक्ट की व्यवस्था यदि न कर सकें, तो कम से कम विकेंद्रीकृत रूप से गांव-गांव तक उसके प्रोसेसिंग का या उसके वैल्यू एडिशन का इंटरजाम सेंटर सरकार को करना चाहिए।

महोदय, जहां तक दुग्ध की बात है, पिछले दिनों यह बताया गया कि नकली दूध का उत्पादन शुरू हो गया है। असली दूध गांवों में छः या सात रूपए किलो बिक रहा है, जबकि नकली दूध की मिठाइयां दिल्ली जैसे बड़े शहरों में परोसी जा रही हैं। ऐसी चीजों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। सरटेनेबल डेवलपमेंट, ग्रोथ रेट को गांव तक विकेंद्रीकृत करने की योजनाओं को बढ़ावा मिलना चाहिए। हमारे यहां कई स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएँ हैं और यहां स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाने की बात भी कही गयी। गांव-गांव में यह गुप बन रहा है। सहकारी संस्थानों और स्वयं सहायता समूहों के माध्यम से हमें उसे मजबूत करने की आवश्यकता है, उसे आर्थिक रूप से मजबूत करने की आवश्यकता है और उन्हें उत्तम किस्म का आधुनिक प्रशिक्षण भी दिए जाने की आवश्यकता है। [\[p27\]](#)

उन्हें धनराशि उपलब्ध करवाने की आवश्यकता है ताकि वे भी आत्मनिर्भर बन सकें और आर्थिक क्षेत्र में विकास के साथ-साथ उनका विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में भी विकास हो



सके।

पिछले दिनों विपक्ष के साथी ने अमरीका के बारे में कहा। देश में भी अमीरों की संख्या बढ़ रही है, यह अच्छी बात है, लेकिन अमीरों और गरीबों के बीच खाई नहीं बढ़नी चाहिए, इस बात पर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

देश में पेयजल में क्वांटिटीव डैवलपमेंट हुई है, लेकिन मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जहां आर्सेनिक और फ्लोराइड आदि जैसे पदार्थ पाए जाते हैं, वहां क्वांटिटीव ग्रोथ की भी आवश्यकता है जिससे बीमारियों पर रोक लग सके।...(व्यवधान)

विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्था का लाभ आये से अधिक लोगों तक गांवों तक पहुंचे, इसके लिए सहकारिता के मॉडल में माफूल सुधार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। पिछले कई वर्षों से विभिन्न सरकारों के माध्यम से समाजवादी मूल्यों का हनन किया गया है और उसे कैपिटलिज्म पैटर्न पर ढालने की कोशिश की जा रही है। इसलिए मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि देश के सहकारी संस्थानों को, जो समाजवादी सिद्धान्तों पर आधारित हैं, उन्हें प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए और विभिन्न तरह की मदद दी जानी चाहिए।

मैं आपको बिहार के बारे में कुछ बातें बताना चाहूंगा। पूरे देश में बीपीएल की सूची में बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर गड़बड़ी हो रही है, लेकिन बिहार में कुछ ज्यादा हो रही है। अभी तक वहां शुद्ध सूची नहीं बनाई गई है। प्रावधानों के अनुरूप उसे पंचायत भवनों में लगाया जाना था, लेकिन अभी तक कहीं कोई सूची नहीं लगी है। यहां से इंदिरा आवास योजना के तहत जो पैसा भेजा गया, वह जैसे का तैसे रखा हुआ है। जॉब कार्ड नहीं बनाया गया है, इसीलिए बिहार में रोजगार गारंटी योजना का कार्यान्वयन शून्य पर है। बिहार में भारी अनियमितता है।...(व्यवधान) बिहार में एक मंत्री का नाम बीपीएल सूची में है।...(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

**श्री आलोक कुमार मेहता :** समस्तीपुर जिले में राजीव गांधी विद्युतीकरण योजना का कार्यान्वयन अभी शुरू भी नहीं हुआ है।...(व्यवधान) उसका उद्घाटन भी नहीं हुआ है। उसकी एजेंसी बिहार विद्युत बोर्ड है। ...(व्यवधान) मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि इंडो-नेपाल हाई डैम प्रोजेक्ट को बनाया जाए।...(व्यवधान)

लालू प्रसाद जी और हम लोगों ने मिलकर प्रधान मंत्री जी को ज्ञापन दिया था कि एटॉमिक एनर्जी प्लांट की शुरुआत की जाए। इसलिए उसे भी अपने एजेंडे में रखें।...(व्यवधान) फॉरिस्टेशन, वाटर मैनेजमेंट और नान-कन्वेंशनल एनर्जी पर एम्फेसिस दिया जाना चाहिए। बिहार में सीडी रेजियो मात्र 33 प्रतिशत हैं जबकि राष्ट्रीय औसत 65 प्रतिशत है। बिहार में इस वर्ष बाढ़ प्रभावितों के साथ-साथ भीषण वर्षा और जल जमाव से कुप्रभावित कृषि क्षेत्रों एवं लोगों को भी विशेष इंदिरा आवास एवं अन्य सहायता दी जाए।...(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing is being recorded now.

*(Interruptions) \**

\*Not recorded

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). I would just like to invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to two aspects. The National Savings Scheme has been very much in vogue in our country. It was earlier a very popular scheme. But since 13.02.2006 there has not been any revision of interest in the National savings, while the banks have several times revised the interest rates of their deposit schemes. Practically the National Savings Scheme has now become very unpopular and there has been massive withdrawal of saving funds which had been with the post offices. Ten per cent of maturity bond was available to the monthly schemes, but that has now been stopped. In case of Kerala, in 2007-08 the net collection over all these months has been Rs. 2600 crore.[\[R28\]](#) So, heavy withdrawal is going to affect the Plan expenditure of the State because this fund which is being collected under the national savings is being given as a grant to the States.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): It is not a grant. It is a loan.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Maybe, it is a loan. Even that loan will not be available to the States and so, this is going to affect the Plan expenditure of the State. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this point.

In the case of cooperative sector, the Cooperative Society Banks were exempted from paying tax under section 80(p) of the Income Tax Act and this has been withdrawn in the Budget, 2006-07. It seriously affects the cooperative sector. The Kerala Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution and the Chief Minister has written to the Finance Minister on this but no decision has been taken about this so far.

Sir, the Government gives exemption from income tax to depositors in scheduled banks. This facility has been extended to the Cooperative banks, especially the Urban Cooperative Banks, the Primary Credit Societies and the Cooperative Banks. In the

case of Kerala, only the Kerala State Cooperative Bank is the Scheduled Bank. So, this adversely affects the deposit position of the Urban and Primary Credit Cooperative Society Banks and results in serious deposit erosion. So, these policies of the Central Governments cuts at the very root of the cooperative system of our country. This is not the case of Kerala only. It is so in all the States.

I would also like to invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to his announcement in his Budget, 2007-08. He had announced in it that a part of our foreign exchange reserves would be used to fund infrastructure. Months after that announcement, it seems that nothing has been done on that point. In fact, everyday, all sections of the House have been demanding for more roads and more investment in various other infrastructure facilities to be developed in our country. Even today morning, we had a discussion with the hon. Minister for Surface Transport but he says that there are no funds. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to make an announcement on what special purpose vehicle has been formed about spending for this from a vast kitty of foreign exchange of 261 billions. Now we are faced with a much more fund flow and with our monetary policy, a difficult management, the issue has become how to manage these funds.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly enlighten us about this matter. In fact, due to the massive fund flow now, our currency rate has become unbalanced, rupee has appreciated and our exports have become very unattractive. Now how did this mismatch has occurred? Our neighbour, China, has got more foreign exchange reserves. In fact, it has got about 1.43 trillions compared to us but, for over a decade, their currency has been stable. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to make better use of our foreign exchange reserves for the development of our infrastructure and also to make a favourable announcement about the cooperative sector.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the kind notice of our hon. Finance Minister the pathetic situation of hosiery industries and garment industries in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu. Tiruppur is the knitwear hub of India. In the year 1968, there were only 250 hosiery units running there. Now, it has increased to 5,000 units. There are 700 bleaching units and 3,000 job-work units are functioning there. During the year 1966, hosiery export was only worth Rs. 13 lakh. In the year 1981, it reached Rs. 350 crore and in the year 1991, it rose to Rs. 600 crore. Now, Tiruppur is having more than 1,000 textile exporters and its revenue reached Rs. 11,000 crore. But this year, the revenue may decline by ten per cent. Nearly 4.50 lakh employees are engaged in hosiery manufacturing units. Due to decrease in dollar rate, the industry is on the verge of collapse. As per the Indian rupees, dollar rate is reduced by Rs. 5, i.e. at the rate of eleven per cent. The hosiery export units are getting orders from abroad at the rate of dollars but due to steep fall in dollar rate, the exports have started declining. Now, the exports have declined to 18.23 per cent. This is the worst export performance year in the history of hosiery industry in Tiruppur. If the present trend continues, the job loss in the textile and knitwear units in Tiruppur may run into lakhs.

The industry players need intervention of our Government's support to solve the current crisis. At the instance of hon. Minister, Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan, our hon. Finance Minister called a meeting of all the stakeholders and announced a package of Rs. 1,400 crore. But this is not enough to solve the problem. The industry players need the intervention of our Government and the Government has to return all State duties imposed on export items and to increase the duty drawback rates. Moreover, they want the introduction of Dual Exchange Rate System to pave way to get a favourable rate in export trade and also interest rate to be reduced to six per cent.

Our hon. Finance Minister who hails from Tamil Nadu is well aware of the problems being faced by hosiery industry in Tiruppur. Hence, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to intervene to save the hosiery industry and save the life of nearly five to six lakh employees serving in Tiruppur.

With these words, I may please be permitted to lay the remaining portion of my speech.

\*Sir, after the assumption of UPA Government at the Centre during 2004, this Government has allocated huge funds for the upliftment of poor agriculturists, rural artisans and education.

Total allocation for education has risen to Rs. 32 352 crore in 2007-2008, an increase by 34% over the previous year. For providing universal elementary education, an education cess of 2% on major central taxes was introduced by our Government. An additional education cess of 1% on major Central Taxes has been introduced in 2007-2008 for funding secondary and higher education. During 2007-2008, Rs. 23,142 crore is allocated for school education. Till November 2006, nearly 1.81 lakh new schools had been opened and 7.38 lakh teachers had been appointed. 1.5 lakh school building and 5.8 lakh additional classrooms had been constructed 1.52 lakh drinking water facilities had been created and 2 lakh toilets had been constructed. Free textbooks were distributed to over 5.78 crore children annually. SSA has improved the enrolment ratio in schools to 96% but the drop out ratio continues to be high. To arrest the drop out ratio, our Government has introduced National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme. Through this scheme, nearly 1 lakh students are getting Rs.6,000 per year for studying IX to XII Stds.



Our Government has planned to open 1000 new schools under Kendriya Vidyalaya System and 700 more schools under Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya System during XIth Five Year Plan. The UPA Government has launched the National Cooked Mid Day Meal Programme for all the children studying in

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\*â€¡\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table

Government and Government Aided Schools. It covers 12 crore children studying

in 9-1/2 lakh schools. For Midday Meal Programme, plan outlay has increased to Rs. 7,324 crore in 2007-2008. Even though Government of India has allocated huge funds for Mid-day Meal Scheme, most of the schools in rural areas are not having kitchen sheds and even not having cooking vessels. They are preparing the foods in open places and serving the meals to children without any proper care and it affects the health of the students. For the improvement of higher education, UPA Government is awarding 350 scholarships annually for Engineering Education and 150 scholarships for Medical Education. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme was launched for funding 2000 fellowships annually. Through Prime Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme to provide scholarships to 5000 students belonging to the family of armed forces personnel. For the past 3 years, our Government has sincerely concentrated to improve the education among the minorities. 2180 new residential Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Schools have been sanctioned over the last three years for providing free residential education upto Class VIM to girls belonging to predominantly to the minority communities or weaker sections of the society. Throughout the country, all the banking institutions were directed to provide Education Loan to all the students studying in India and abroad. Here I want to mention certain hardships being faced by the rural students. The students belonging to rural areas are asked to approach the banks located in their areas. But the bankers are denying to give loan on the ground that the banks run by single person are exempted from the scheme and directed to approach nearby banks situated in Taluk Headquarters. The banks in Taluk Headquarters are not allowing the students to enter into the Bank. I request the Finance Minister to issued suitable directions to the banking authorities to solve this problem.

After assumption of UPA Government in the Centre during 2004, our Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram and his team have taken a lot of effective and bold steps to strengthen the banker-borrower relationship by providing banking services to the farmers, students and rural artisans and Selp-Help Groups. Our Hon'ble Finance Minister has aimed to develop the mindset of Branch Managers serving in both Public and Private Sector Banks towards agricultural credit by providing them with adequate sanctioning power and authority. The total ground level credit flow for agriculture and allied activities has increased from Rs. 46,268 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 86,981 crore in 2003-2004 and further increased to Rs. 1,25,309 crore in 2004-2005 and Rs. 1,41,000 crore in 2005-2006. Nearly 58.3 lakh new farmers have been financed by all the banks. Commercial Banks have provided Rs. 14 crore as advances to 4,074 farmers to enable them to redeem their debts from money lenders. An amount of Rs. 2,939 crore was provided as debt relief by all agencies to farmers in distress, farmers in arrears and under One Time Settlement upto November 20, 2005.

Another achievement of this Government and our Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram is Self Help Groups (SHG) and Banks Linkage Programme. Under this programme, our Hon'ble Finance Minister has given operational freedom to finance the Self Help Groups based on Grading and without any subsidy. During 2003-2004 Banks advanced only Rs. 1,855.53 crore to 3,61,731 SHGs but during 2004-2005 nearly Rs. 2,994.25 crore of rupees allocated to 5,39,365 SHGs cumulatively it is Rs. 6,898.46 crore. As on 31-12-2005 nearly 18.29 lakh SHGs had availed cumulatively credit from banks to the extent of Rs. 9,6376.76 crore. Our Hon'ble Finance Minister has toured throughout the country and personally visited to large number of banks and advised the Branch Managers to solve the credit needs of the lower sections of the society and to provide financial services to the unreached and needy poor in the rural society.

With these words, I am concluding my Speech and supporting the Supplementary Demands for Grants. \*

**श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ (यवतमाल):** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अनुदानों की पूरक मांगों पर इस सदन का अनुमोदन मांगा गया है। आप प्लानिंग करते हैं, हर बार यहां पर चर्चा होती है, अनुमोदन दिया जाता है, यह सिलसिला वर्षों से चलता आ रहा है, लेकिन आम आदमी, जो गरीब हैं, गांवों में बसने वाले, दूरदराज क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले एससी, एसटी, बैकवर्ड, डिनोटीफाइड नोमेडिक ट्राइब्स हैं, उनके लिए इसमें कुछ दिखता नहीं है। मैं देख रहा हूँ कि सप्लीमेंटरी डिमाण्ड्स में

"Settlement of claims of duty drawback to deemed export and reimbursement of Central Sales Tax of Rs. 600 crore and terminal excise duty for Special Economic Zone of Rs. 300 crore. "

मुझे शंका है कि क्या यह बेनिफिट किसानों को दिया जाता है, गरीबों को दिया जाता है या बड़े-बड़े बिजनेसमेन लोगों के लिए ये सारी रियायतें दी जाती हैं। देश में आज 15 करोड़ डिनोटीफाइड नोमेडिक ट्राइब्स के लोग हैं। क्या उनके लिए आपके पास कोई योजना है, क्या उनके लिए कोई प्रावधान अभी तक सरकार की ओर से किया गया है?

वित्त मंत्री जी बहुत योग्य व्यक्ति हैं। इसके अलावा प्रधान मंत्री जी और योजना आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष मोटेक सिंह अहलूवालिया जी भी बहुत बड़े अर्थशास्त्री कहलाते हैं। मैं सोच रहा था कि तीन-चार साल में बदलाव आएगा। इस सरकार को बने हुए करीब साढ़े तीन साल हो गए हैं, लेकिन बदलाव नाम की कोई चीज हमने नहीं देखी। पहले कांग्रेस पार्टी और उसकी सरकार ने 'गरीबी हटाओ' का नारा देश के दिया था, लेकिन गरीब नहीं हटा पाए। बाद में इन्होंने आम आदमी का नारा दिया, क्योंकि गरीबी हटाने की बात पर काफी बदनामी हो गई थी। इसलिए 'आम आदमी' का दूसरा नारा आया। लेकिन अब ये लोग 'भारत निर्माण' की बात करते हैं। इसके तहत अनेक योजनाएं ली गई हैं।

सांसद निधि कोष में इस समय प्रत्येक सांसद को प्रति वर्ष दो करोड़ रुपये दिए जाते हैं। हमने कई बार मांग की है इस राशि को बढ़ाकर पांच करोड़ रुपये करना चाहिए। लेकिन सरकार ने अभी तक इस पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है। राज्यों में विधायकों को, महाराष्ट्र में एक करोड़ रुपये दिया जाता है और मध्य प्रदेश में तो दो करोड़ रुपये प्रति वर्ष दिए जाते हैं, जबकि उनका क्षेत्र सीमित होता है। हम सांसदों के संसदीय क्षेत्र में छ-छ: विधान सभा क्षेत्र आते हैं और कहीं-कहीं तो नौ-नौ विधान सभा क्षेत्र एक संसदीय क्षेत्र में आते हैं।

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय:** पंजाब में भी नौ हैं।

**श्री हरिभाऊ राठौड़ :** इसलिए मेरा अनुरोध है कि इस राशि को बढ़ाना चाहिए। गरीबों के लिए रोटी, कपड़ा, मकान, शिक्षा और विकास जैसी सुविधाओं के लिए सरकार कई योजनाएं बनाती है। मैं सोचता हूँ कि इन छोटी-छोटी योजनाओं के बजाय आप हर गरीब को प्रतिमाह 1500 रुपये स्थाई रुपये से देने का प्रावधान कर दें। मुझे लगता है कि इससे देश की गरीबी मिट जाएगी। इस पर आप गम्भीरता से सोचें और ऐसा प्रावधान करें कि इस राशि के वितरण में भ्रष्टाचार न आने पाए और गरीबों को समय पर पूरा पैमेंट मिल जाए। देश में गरीब और अमीर के बीच खाई बढ़ रही है। कहा जाता है कि देश में लोगों के पास बहुत सा कालाधन है। अगर सरकार कोई योजना लाकर, टैक्स लगाकर उस कालेधन को सफेदधन में बदलने की पहल करे तो बहुत सा कालाधन बाहर आएगा और विकास के कार्यों में लगेगा। मुझे नहीं लगता कि इससे अच्छा और कोई प्रावधान हमारे पास है। इसलिए मेरे इस सुझाव को आप गम्भीरता से लें।

मैंने गरीबी हटाने के लिए ये जो दो-तीन सुझाव बताए हैं, अगर आपके पास इससे अच्छा कोई और प्रावधान है तो उसे आप जरूर देखें। इतना ही कहकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

**श्री वीरेंद्र कुमार (सागर)** महोदय अनुपूरक मांगों की चर्चा में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में ग्रामीण एवं शहरी क्षेत्रों के लोगों की आय में काफी असमानता होने से सामाजिक आर्थिक एवं शैक्षणिक विषमता की खाई बढ़ती जा रही है तथा नौकरियों में एवं बड़े व्यवसायों में शहरी लोगों का दबदबा बढ़ता जा रहा है तथा गांव के लोग शहरों की ओर भागकर केवल मजदूरों की संख्या में वृद्धि कर रहे हैं इस असमानता को खत्म करने ग्रामीण रोजगारोन्मुखी लघु एवं कुटीर अद्योगों को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है पिछले 3.4 वर्षों से देश के कई राज्यों में कम वर्षा होने से किसानों के सामने गंभीर रोजगार एवं भरण पोषण की समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई है मध्य प्रदेश का बुन्देलखंड क्षेत्र जिसमें सागर दमोह पन्ना छतरपुर टीकमगढ़ तथा कटनी सतना आदि जिलों में सोयाबिन की फसल तो खराब हुई गेहूं चना की फसल की बोबनी भी बारिश नहीं होने से किसान नहीं कर पा रहे हैं अतः मध्य प्रदेश के बुन्देलखंड के इन जिलों सहित देश के उन सभी स्थानों में जहाँ किसान परेशान हैं वहाँ विशेष पैकेज देकर रोजगारोन्मुखी को प्रारंभ किये जाना चाहिये। सागर मध्यप्रदेश की बीना नदी परियोजना एवं ऊपर चंदिया बांध की औपचारिकताओं को शीघ्र पूर्ण कर केन्द्र सरकार को शीघ्र ही वित्तीय प्रावधान करना चाहिये जिससे किसानों को राहत मिल सके। देश के कई राज्यों में विधायकों को विकास निधि की राशि एक करोड़ प्रति विधान सभा क्षेत्र दी जा रही है। सांसदों को मिलने वाली राशि प्रति वर्ष 2 करोड़ बहुत कम जिसे बढ़ाकर कम से 5 करोड़ किया जाना चाहिये। सागर के केन्द्रीय विद्यालय कूमांक-3 के भवन निर्माण हेतु राशि का आवंटन होना चाहिये।

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\* The speech was laid on the Table

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2007-08 which entails our request, the authorization of the Parliament to incur a gross additional expenditure of Rs. 33,290.87 crore of which the cash outflow will be Rs. 11,869.60 crore.

Sir, one of the important and salient features of the Supplementary Budgets moved by the hon. Minister is that out of the total outflow, at least 49 per cent of it will go for the Plan outlay and 51 per cent will go for the non-Plan outlay.[\[a29\]](#)

51 per cent will go for the Non-Plan outlay. This is remarkably a reversible trend in the sense that in the fiscal history of



India, we always see the overwhelming importance of the Non-Plan Expenditure which does not create assets for promoting growth and justice. But here we find a distinctly different trend where the hon. Finance Minister has taken recourse to the Plan outlay. Possibly because of this very pragmatic approach of the present UPA Government as well as the hon. Finance Minister that the Indian economy today is registering a growth of 9.2 per cent which is something unprecedented in the annals of the Indian economic history. During this corresponding period when the rest of the countries in the world or the world economy as a whole is moving at the rate of 3 to 5 per cent which we once described as the Hindu rate of growth – by Raj Krishna – now, when the world economy is in that syndrome of Hindu rate of growth, the Indian economy is moving at the rate of 9.2 per cent growth rate. Therefore, we must compliment the Government for this pragmatic approach. I should also compliment the hon. Finance Minister for taking timely monetary measures by making use of the qualitative restrictions on the money supply. He was able to moderate the inflationary forces in the country.

Then the fourth important aspect of this Budget is that despite the outgo of Rs.11,869 crore or so, the hon. Finance Minister will be ending up with the limits of fiscal deficit as well as the revenue deficit. The promise given by the UPA Government earlier that the revenue deficit would be wiped out to zero is nearing the achievement. Fiscal deficit also would be around 3 per cent. Therefore, for all these innovative measures, which are required for a big country like India to leap forward, we should appreciate the hon. Finance Minister. But when I go into the various break-ups of the expenditure, I thought that I can say a few words about each one of them. In the case of Agriculture, out of the Rs.11,000 and odd crore, the Minister is allocating a total amount of Rs.867.94 crore which, I think, would not be sufficient to meet the present challenges faced by the Indian agriculture. Therefore, there should have been a greater amount. What is more worrying is that for all the seven Union Territories in India including the two Union Territories with State Legislatures, including my own Constituency, the Union Territory of Puducherry, the hon. Finance Minister has allocated only Rs.one crore to be shared by the seven Union Territories. For a territory like Puducherry and for the problems that we face in that territory, even this Rs.one crore may not be sufficient. Therefore, the hon. Finance Minister must do something about it.

In the Ministry of Culture, the hon. Minister has allotted some Chairs for Jawaharlal Nehru University. I would request him that on the model of this, he should set up a Chair on Dr. Ambedkar as well as a Chair on the Chintanaichirpi Singaravelar who was the first communist of India, in the country a less known communist but a widely recognised communist all over the world. Therefore, a Chair on Dr. Ambedkar and a Chair on Singaravelar must be established in the Puducherry Central University. I hope the hon. Finance Minister would be able to do it.

With regard to transfer to States and Union Territories, the hon. Finance Minister made a provision of Rs.4,500 crore. But the reports available with the Ministry of Programme Implementation show that in many of the States, the finances given by the Central Government have not yet been utilised. About Rs.4,000 crores are yet to be utilised and the Utilisation Certificates are yet to be received by the Central Government. Under the circumstances, the hon. Finance Minister should be able to probe as to why the amount has not been utilised and what steps can be taken before we give more and more money to the State Governments.

In the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the scholarship scheme gets an amount of Rs.200 crore. But I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider one thing. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has evolved a new scheme for the construction of schools for the Scheduled Caste boys and girls. This scheme must find enough or adequate financial resources from the Government.[\[R30\]](#)

With this, I would like to take one minute more of your time to make once again my repeated request to the hon. Finance Minister to recognise Puducherry as a B-1 city. Sir, I want to appeal to your sense of justice – nothing more and nothing less. Both the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Standing Committee on Home Affairs have recommended that Puducherry is a dynamic city which qualifies to be recognised as city of B-1 status. You are keeping it as a C class city which is equivalent to a village in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Ministry of Home Affairs would not have recommended this case, if they had not been convinced about the qualification of Puducherry as city of B-2 status. Hon. Finance Ministry is harping upon the criteria that the population should be 5 lakhs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : One minute more please. You will be helping our Union Territory. I would like to tell him that equality must be ensured. If you say that 5 lakh population must be there, the same Finance Ministry has recognized Panaji, the population of which is only 1.75 lakhs. You have recognized Port Blair, the population of which is only 0.75 lakhs only. Therefore, there is no reason why Puducherry city should not be given the same status with a population of 2.5 lakhs. On the ground that Panaji and Port Blair have already been recognized, this status should be given to Puducherry also. By doing this, you will go into the heart of the people of Puducherry who have been clamouring for it. I have given them the assurance, on behalf of UPA, that Puducherry will soon get the B-2 status. There is no financial implication or anything of that sort. When the Committees have also recommended, I do not know why the Finance Ministry is standing in the way. We should take a pro-

people policy, as far as this is concerned.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): Sir, we are discussing the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2007-2008 and the Demands for Grants in Excess for 2005-2006. When we are discussing these Demands, this is an opportunity to discuss the economic condition of the country. Hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister are in charge of the financial management of this country for quite a good time. After 17 years of economic reforms, uninterrupted reforms, one should say, we must analyse the results. What is the result that we have achieved during these 17 years. The theory of trickle down effect of rapid growth automatically reaching the marginalized and the poor has proved to be totally wrong. Despite reforms and record of GDP growth, India ranks pretty low on the wide range of indicators, ranging from human development index, corruption, index of economic freedom and other business indicators. This is a world report. World economists have analysed the economic condition of our country and they have given this report that I am just referring to. An economist of British Weekly has ranked India at the bottom of 15 emerging markets. The four indicators used in the process are current account deficit, fiscal deficit, rise in bank credit and inflation are the most relevant. According to the World Bank data, India is ranked at 120 in doing business.

[\[MSOffice31\]](#) It nestles between Bhutan which ranks 119 and Honduras which ranks 121. We are just between Bhutan and Honduras, two small countries. That is the position. That is the remark we have got from the World Bank.

Sir, also in 'starting a business', it ranks 111. In 'dealing with licences' India ranks 134, which is actually worse than the 133 the previous year. In fact, though its overall ranking has gone up from 132 to 120, it scores worse on most parameters. It has been given a boost because of 'trading across borders' where it has improved its rank from 142 to 79. But India does not figure amongst the top 10 countries that have improved their position. This is the remarks made by different economists of the World Bank. They have categorised us in such a position.

In India, the number of procedures for licence or for any business is 20 against 14 for the OECD and 11 for Singapore. The number of days taken was 224 against 153 and 102 respectively for other countries that I have mentioned just now.

The situation has reached such a farcical stage that a Division Bench of the Bombay High Court has also remarked regarding our position. The Division Bench of the Bombay High Court has also ruled that *baksheesh* or speed money is a tax-deductible expenditure. The assumption is that bribery is necessary to get anything done. That is the remark from the Bombay High Court about this Government. This is the economic condition of the country. This is the remark of the world economists and this is the remark of judiciary.

With the shrinking land resources and corporatisation of scarce natural resources, the unskilled rural people are slowly excluded from the economic growth. Strategic intervention is needed to stop this urban-rural divide. Now, people are rushing to urban areas because the rural economy is coming down. They are not getting employment in rural areas. The entire agriculture sector is neglected by the Government. For this purpose, the rural people are coming to urban areas for job, for employment, for their livelihood. The Government should take steps just to see how to take care of agriculture economy so that rural people can manage their affairs in their rural areas and there will be no necessity for them to come to urban areas.

Unless we promote agriculture more as a business, we cannot hope to include our marginalised farmers in the main stream economic development of the country. Agriculture has been mostly neglected during the past 60 years. The 2001 Census has shown that we have achieved only 36.7 per cent only of our irrigation potential. Before Independence, irrigation was 17 to 18 per cent. Within these 60 years, during the most populist reforms period, we have achieved only 20 per cent additional irrigation. If irrigation is not provided for the agriculture sector, agriculture cannot be very much remunerative for them; it cannot give them good crops. So, always they will be depending mostly on nature. That is why, the agriculture sector is not surviving in our country. As per the Sensex index, somebody may be the richest person of the world. We may be proud of that thing because it is the magic of the Sensex index. But, actually the poor people are not getting comforts, amenities and their minimum food requirements. The number of below poverty line people is more in our country.

So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider all these things. About external credit, many things have been told in this House; I do not want to repeat it. I must also draw the attention of the hon. finance Minister that our external debt is rising.[\[r32\]](#)

So, we must take care. I am not against taking loan. I am for taking loan if it is spent on infrastructure. You must have a balance. You are asking the State Governments not to go in for more loans. You are not helping the poor States.

There is existence of regional imbalance in this country. I would like to make a request to the hon. Finance Minister to consider all these things so that the entire country would prosper simultaneously. Otherwise, the regional imbalance will only increase.



My last point pertains to my State. My State has requested – Orissa is facing a severe economic crisis – for the waiver of debt but the Central Government is not considering it. What is the source of the State? I would just like to attract the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to one important thing. This Parliament is a national Parliament, and we are discussing these things here but we are not looking at the economic condition of the States. We have made the laws in such a way, and it is just like a story – the State will feed the cow and the Centre will get the milk.

We have the Mineral Conservation and Development Act. Mineral resource belongs to the Centre and the States have no say in that. The States have no other resource. The State Governments are not getting adequate money from the Finance Commission, nor Plan allocation and also from the Centre through the Budget.

The hon. Finance Minister should consider the economic condition of the States, and the poor State like Orissa should be provided with adequate funds. I also would like to make a request to the hon. Finance Minister that the waiver of debt sought by the Orissa Government should be considered favourably.

**श्री सुकदेव पासवान (अररिया):** माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अनुदानों की अनुपूरक मांग पर बोलने की अनुमति देने के लिए धन्यवाद। देश में किसानों की संख्या सबसे ज्यादा है लेकिन फिर भी किसानों की हालत में सुधार नहीं हो पा रहा है। किसान के लिए अभी गेहूं, आलू, मक्का आदि लगाने का समय है, जो डीएपी की कीमत 475 रुपए प्रत्येक बोरी है, डीएपी अभी किसानों को 750 रुपए से 800 रुपए प्रत्येक बोरी मिलता है। यूरिया, पोटाश, सभी खाद की कीमतों में मनमाने ढंग से किसानों से पैसा लेकर खाद मिलता है। केंद्र सरकार के उर्वरक एवं रसायन मंत्री का कहना है कि खाद की कीमत में वृद्धि नहीं होगी, मैं काफी मात्रा में बिहार में खाद की आपूर्ति दे रहा हूं, जो सही नहीं है। मैं उपाध्यक्ष महोदय के माध्यम से भारत सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि किसानों के लिए उचित मूल्यों पर खाद की आपूर्ति हो, ऐसी व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करें।

धान की कीमत केंद्र सरकार ने जो निर्धारित की है, वह किसानों को नहीं मिल पा रही है। किसानों को 500 रुपए प्रति विन्टल मजबूर होकर बेचना पड़ रहा है क्योंकि धान बेचकर ही गेहूं की खेती लगा पाएगा। किसानों की जूट की कीमत काफी कम हो गई है जो जूट 1300 रुपए स 1500 रुपए प्रति विन्टल कुछ माह पहले मिलता था, वह कीमत घट कर 650 से 700 रुपए प्रति विन्टल कर दी गई है। किसान बैंक से या अन्य उपायों से कर्ज लेकर खेती करते हैं, उसे भरपाई करना दूभर हो गया है। अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति साठ दशक बीतने के बाद भी शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में काफी पिछड़ा है, सामाजिक, आर्थिक आदि क्षेत्रों में काफी पिछड़ा हुआ है। इन्दिरा आवास योजना में मात्र 25,000 रुपए दिया जाता है, पांच से सात हजार रिश्त में ले लिया जाता है, 80 प्रतिशत इन्दिरा आवास नहीं बन पाता है अतः केंद्र सरकार से मैं मांग करता हूं कि कम से कम 50,000 रुपए किया जाए।

अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति के गरीब लोगों के बच्चों के लिए प्रत्येक प्रखंड में कम से कम दो आवासीय विद्यालय, प्रथम कक्षा से लेकर बी.ए. तक केंद्र सरकार के खर्च से चलवाया जाए। विद्यालय में शिक्षा सीबीएससी के सिलेबस के मुताबिक दी जाए ताकि समाज के उत्तम वर्ग के बच्चों के साथ समानता प्राप्त कर सकें। आजादी के साठ साल बाद भी एससी और एसटी के पास रहने के लिए न जमीन है और न घर है। अभी कुछ लोगों को सरकार द्वारा एक एकड़ जमीन का पट्टा दिया गया है, जो समाज के दबंग जाति या व्यक्ति द्वारा दावा किए हुए हैं, केंद्र सरकार ऐसी व्यवस्था करे या राज्य सरकार को आदेश दे कि समय सीमा निर्धारित करे ताकि उन गरीबों को जमीन प्राप्त हो सके।

\* The speech was laid on the Table

सांसदों को दो करोड़ क्षेत्रीय विकास के लिए दिया जाता है जबकि विधायकों को कहीं एक और कहीं दो करोड़ दिया जाता है, मैं मांग करता हूं कि सांसदों को कम से कम छः करोड़ रुपए दिया जाए। एक लोकसभा के सदस्य के पास कम से कम छः विधायक क्षेत्र, कहीं-कहीं 16 विधायक क्षेत्र रहते हैं इसलिए छः करोड़ क्षेत्रीय विकास देना दिया जाए जिससे पिछड़े इलाकों का विकास हो सके।

आपने मुझे बोलने की अनुमति दी, इसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूं।

**श्री हरिभाऊ जावले (जलगांव):** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं वर्ष 2007-2008 की सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड्स पर चर्चा न करते हुए आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी के सामने अपनी पांच-छः डिमांड्स रखना चाहता हूं। मैं महाराष्ट्र के जलगांव संसदीय क्षेत्र से आता हूं। वहां कम से कम साठ हजार हैक्टैअर भूमि पर गेहूं का उत्पादन होता है। लेकिन राष्ट्रीय अन्न सुरक्षा मिशन में जलगांव जिले का समावेश नहीं किया गया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से विनती करता हूं कि जलगांव जिले का समावेश उपरोक्त मिशन में होना चाहिए। जलगांव जिला पूरे देश में सबसे ज्यादा बनाना सप्टाई करता है। इस जिले में बनाना का उत्पादन सबसे अधिक होता है। लेकिन खराब मौसम की वजह से बनाना का नुकसान सबसे ज्यादा होता है। मेरा निवेदन है कि आप जो बीमा योजना शुरू कर रहे हैं, उसमें बनाना क्राप का समावेश किया जाए।

महोदय, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर एक्सीलेंट मिनिस्टर हैं। आपके पास दो तिजोरियां हैं। इनमें से एक शहर में रखी हुई है और एक ग्रामीण भाग में रखी हुई है। मैं आपसे विनती करता हूं कि ग्रामीण भागों के लिए वहां की तिजोरी में पैसा दिया जाए और उसके माध्यम से एग्री बेस्ड इंडस्ट्रीज ग्रामीण भागों में खड़ी की जाएं, जैसा कि हमारे जलगांव डिस्ट्रिक्ट में डिमांड है कि वहां बनाना फूड प्रोसेसिंग इंडस्ट्रीज शुरू होनी चाहिए, वहां एक बनाना पार्क शुरू होना चाहिए। आपकी जो इच्छा है कि एग्रीकल्चर की जी.डी.पी. बढ़नी चाहिए। यदि एग्री बेस्ड इंडस्ट्रीज ग्रामीण भागों में शुरू हो जाए तो वहां के शिक्षित बेरोजगारों को भी काम मिल जायेगा और आप जो भारत निर्माण का काम सोच रहे हैं, उसमें आपको मदद मिल जायेगी। माननीय मंत्री महोदय पूरे देश में रासायनिक खादों की शॉर्ट सप्लाई चल रही है और हम जो वाटर सोल्युबल फर्टिलाइजर इम्पोर्ट करते हैं, वह पूरे देश में हर जगह मिलती है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है कि जब वाटर सोल्युबल फर्टिलाइजर पूरे देश में मिलती है और उसकी कहीं शॉर्ट सप्लाई नहीं है, फिर भी उस पर सब्सिडी नहीं है। अगर किसान इसे यूज करना चाहते हैं तो वे इसे महंगा होने की वजह से ले नहीं सकते। मेरी विनती है कि वाटर सोल्युबल फर्टिलाइजर जो अभी ड्रिप के लिए अच्छा काम कर रहा है, उसे सब्सिडी मिलनी चाहिए**[b33]**।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से एक विनती करना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो जीडीपी 9 प्रतिशत आप कहते हैं और एग्रीकल्चर में जो 2.5 के नीचे है, अगर उसमें बढ़ोतरी होनी चाहिए, आप बढ़ोतरी चाहते हैं तो किसानों को न्याय मिलना चाहिए। मेरी आपके माध्यम से सरकार से एक मांग है कि आपका पूरा सहयोग ग्रामीण भागों में अगर किसानों के लिए रहा तो निश्चित रूप से भारत निर्माण की ओर चल सकते हैं।

**श्री हंसराज गं. अहीर (चन्द्रपुर) :** महोदय, मैं 2007-08 के अनुपूरक मांगों पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। वित्त मंत्रालय अनिश्चित खर्च के लिए सदन में मांगों को रख रहा है। आज देश में आम आदमी की बात करने वाले यूपीए नेतृत्व वाली सरकार से मोहभंग हो गया है। आम आदमी की बात करने वाले सरकार के राज में वह प्रताड़ित महसूस कर रहा है। देश के कई राज्यों में किसान आत्महत्याएं कर रहे हैं। किसानों के लिए उनके उत्पादन का लागत मूल्य के अनुरूप दाम मिले तो किसान समृद्ध हो सकता है। यूपीए सरकार ने कृषि क्षेत्र का वृद्धि दर 4 प्रतिशत पर लाने का वचन दिया लेकिन कृषि क्षेत्र की उपेक्षा के चलते कृषि विकास का वृद्धि दर केवल 2 से 2.5 प्रतिशत तक ही रहा है। किसानों को न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य मिलना चाहिए, केवल सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के खातिर किसानों का शोषण नहीं किया जाना चाहिये। सरकार पीडीएस के अंतर्गत अनाज उपलब्ध कराने के लिए बाजार से अनाज खरीदे तो किसान की अन्य उत्पाद को जैसे अपने उत्पाद का दाम तय कर सकते हैं। इससे कृषि में और निवेश होगा और हम खाद्य सुरक्षा भी भविष्य में कायम कर सकेंगे फिर हमें खाद्य सुरक्षा मिशन चलाने की भी आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ेगी।

इसी तरह मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ जब देश में फल-सब्जियों विशेषकर टमाटर, प्याज के दाम बढ़ जाते हैं तो सरकार उसे नियंत्रित कराने के लिए स्वयं वहन करती है, लेकिन पिछले कई महीनों से सीमेंट, इस्पात के दाम आसमान को छू रहे लेकिन सरकार इसे नियंत्रित कराने के लिए असफल साबित हो रही है। 50 रुपये के लाइम स्टोन से 5000 रुपये का सीमेंट बनता है। मुनाफाखोरी की हद के कारण सीमेंट लगातार मंहगा होता जा रहा है। यह देखने में आया है कि जहां पर ताप बिजली संयंत्र है वहां से प्लाय एश को मुफ्त में उठाकर उसे सीमेंट में मिश्रित कर बेचने के बावजूद सीमेंट संयंत्रों द्वारा दाम का नहीं घटाया जा रहा यह लोगों को बेवकूफ बनाने का तरीका चल रहा और सरकार इस मामले में अनियंत्रित हो रहे हैं, इस मंहगाई से सरकारी परियोजनाओं के साथ आम आदमी का भी भवन निर्माण का सपना दुभार बनने लगे आ रहा है। मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि सरकार भवन निर्माण के लिए उपयोगी इस्पात और सीमेंट की दरों को नियंत्रित कराने के लिए तत्काल प्रभावी कदम उठाये।

\* The speech was laid on the Table

सरकार द्वारा अनुपूरक मांगों के माध्यम से 33290.89 करोड़ रुपये की मांगों को रखा गया है। इससे जाहिर होता है कि बजटीय अनुमान गलत साबित हो रहे हैं। सरकार सेज के माध्यम से उद्योगों को 10 वर्ष के लिए करों में भारी छूट दे रही है। इससे लघु उद्योगों पर बुरा असर पड़ने की आशंका है। लघु उद्योग प्रतिस्पर्धा में टिक नहीं पायेंगे। आज देश के कई जनमानसीय और किसान आत्महत्या प्रभावित क्षेत्र विकास से कोसों दूर है। वहां के उद्योगों के माध्यम से स्थानीय स्तर पर रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सरकार द्वारा सेज की तरह ही करों में रियायत दी जानी चाहिये। आज सरकार ने उत्तर पूर्वी राज्यों, भूकंप ग्रस्त भुज में करोड़ों में छूट दी है। हमारा विदर्भ क्षेत्र भी अविकसित और जनजातीय क्षेत्र है। यहां पर अकूत खनन सामग्री है, लेकिन इसके आधार पर इस क्षेत्र में उद्योग स्थापना के लिए करों में छूट देने की मैं मांग करता हूँ। विदर्भ के आत्महत्या ग्रस्त किसानों को रोजगार के माध्यम से समृद्ध बनाने के लिए करों में छूट देने की सरकार घोषणा करे।

**श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना)** महोदय, देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में लगातार ग्रेथ रेट की वृद्धि बतायी जा रही है, लेकिन जब तक सभी वर्गों की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार नहीं दिखाई देता तब तक मैं इस अर्थव्यवस्था का असमानता से बढ़ने वाला अर्थव्यवस्था मानता हूँ। देश का एक बड़ा वर्ग रोटी कपड़े और मकान की समस्या से जूझ रहा है। देश में सरकारी आंकड़ों पर भले गरीबी रेखा का प्रतिशत घटता दिखाई दे रहा हो लेकिन वास्तविक रूप से गरीबों की संख्या में लगातार वृद्धि हो रही है। भारत निर्माण राज्यों द्वारा यूपीए सरकार वह धरती में कोई बड़ा परिवर्तन नहीं ला सका, सिंचाई का प्रतिशत चींटी के चाल बढ़ा है, किसान दिनोंदिन गरीब हो रहा है, छोटे तथा सीमांत किसान कर्ज के बोझ से पूरी तरह दबा हुआ है। मजबूर होकर आत्मदाह कर रहा है। देश के किसानों को फसल का उचित दाम नहीं मिलता वहीं विदेशों से मंहगे दर में अनाज आयात किया जाता है। अर्थव्यवस्था में खेती का जो योगदान था वह 3 वर्षों में 21 प्रतिशत से घट कर 19 प्रतिशत में आ गया है। देश में फार्मों की खेती बढ़ती जा रही है जिससे छोटे किसानों की संख्या घटती जा रही है।

खेती पर अभी तक 70 प्रतिशत लोग लगे हुए थे अब वह भी घटता जा रहा है। मंहगाई आसमान में जा रही है। जिस पर देश की सरकार रोक लगाने में विफल रही है। देश में अपेक्षाकृत बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है। एनडीए सरकार ने प्रतिवर्ष एक करोड़ लोगों को रोजगार देने में सफलता पाई थी लेकिन यूपीए सरकार में रोजगार गारंटी योजना का उदाहरण दिया जा रहा है जब कि इस योजना में लोगों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी भी नहीं मिल पा रही है। देश के आंकड़े बता रहे हैं कि 25 से 30 रुपये की मजदूरी एन आर जी पी योजना में लोगों को मिल पा रही है फिर लोगों की प्रतिवर्ष आय में बढ़ोतरी कैसे हो सकती है, आंकड़ों में प्रति व्यक्ति आय बढ़ती दिखाई दे रही है जबकि वास्तविक रूप से प्रति व्यक्ति आय बढ़ने के बजाय घट रही है।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बुनियादी सुविधाएं अभी तक पूरी नहीं हो पायी लेकिन गांवों से पलायन बुनियादी सुविधाओं के अभाव में हो रही है शहरों में जनसंख्या का प्रतिशत बढ़ रहा है जिससे असमानता बढ़ रही है, शासकीय सेवा में दिनोंदिन कम हो रही है। प्राइवेट सेक्टर में रोजगार जिनहें मिल रहा है उनमें शहरों का प्रतिशत 80 प्रतिशत से अधिक है ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जब तक नहीं पैदा की जायेगी तब तक असमानता नहीं दिखाई जा सकती है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में तकनीकी शिक्षा देना आवश्यक है।

अंत में मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि देश एक अंधी दौड़ में है जिसके भविष्य का परिणाम क्या होगा।

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members, who participated in this debate on the Supplementary Demands for Grants, and I am grateful to them for the many valuable



suggestions they have made.

As my colleague explained when presenting the Demands, the bulk of the money that we are asking from Parliament, goes to the States. For example, transfers to the States and Union Territories; Rs. 4,500 crore goes by way of cash transfers to the States; Rs. 565 crore is provided as Grants-in-Aid to the State Plans for agriculture; Rs. 198.75 crore additional funds is for the National Food Security Mission, which is really a benefit to the States.

Therefore, what we are doing now is in order to help the States fulfill the many goals and targets that they have set for themselves. At the same time, there are some unexpected obligations that we have to assume. For example, in order to support the Market Stabilization Scheme, we have increased the limit substantially, and that entails an additional interest liability of Rs. 4,500 crore.

We have also gone to the help of our exporters, and I will have something more to say to at the end of my reply. We have provided export-related subsidies of Rs. 900 crore. We have reimbursed losses of the National Agricultural Marketing Federation (NAFED) under the price support operations of mustard for Rs. 200 crore. Each one of these is an unavoidable expenditure, an expenditure that is intended to meet a liability, which is unavoidable; and I would, therefore, seek the support of this House for these expenditures.

I also wish to remind the Members that in the Budget Speech, I had announced the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna. I had set apart money for that Yojna, and today, we are transferring Rs. 1,500 crore for creating a Corpus Fund for implementing the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna. It was launched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2007, and it is my hope that in a period of 12 months from 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2007 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2008, the LIC will be able to enroll one crore rural landless households under the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna.

Likewise, the hon. Members will recall that I had offered an interest free loan of Rs.2.5 crore to every I.T.I. There are 1,396 I.T.Is in this country. All of them are with one State Government or another, and I offered to provide Rs. 2.5 crore interest free loan to upgrade each I.T.I. I said, we will take up 300 this year, and I have set apart Rs. 750 crore. That money is being transferred so that 300 I.T.Is can be upgraded this year.[\[r34\]](#)

Sir, we are also, as part of our commitment to revitalise Public Sector Corporations, providing Rs.562.94 crore for the restructuring plan of Hindustan Copper Limited. Therefore, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the broad support they have given to these Supplementary Demands. I would request them to vote them at the time of voting.

Some issues were raised. Some issues of larger interests and some issues of special interests to the States were raised. Let me in the space of the next five or seven minutes try to answer the main issues.

The best way to help the farmer is to give him a remunerative price. Whatever else we do can only be in support of the main purpose, namely a farmer should get a remunerative price. But when you give the farmer a remunerative price, it also means that consumer would have to pay a little more. The subsidy bill is rising every year. So, even if we increase the subsidy bill, the remunerative price for the farmer will indeed be reflected in some higher price to be paid by the consumer. Each one of us is torn between producer and consumer. When we talk to the farmer, we say we support your case for higher price. When we talk to the consumer we say we support your claim for lower price. I mean this is something which we know. It happens to us everyday. Nevertheless, the UPA Government has consciously decided to give higher prices to our farmers. Let us look at the numbers.

In 1998-99, the MSP of wheat was Rs.550. In the first year of the NDA Government, they raised it to Rs.580. Six years later, they increased it by Rs.10 a year and ended with Rs.630. In five years, they increased the MSP for wheat from Rs.580 to Rs.630. In the four years of the UPA Government, we have raised it from Rs.630 to Rs.850. Now, for the next year, we have announced Rs.1,000 for wheat.

Now what does this mean? If you procure wheat at Rs.1,000 a quintal, the cost of procurement of a kilo is Rs.10. If you procure wheat at Rs.10, it cannot be sold in the retail market at Rs.10. There is a wholesaler margin. There is a retailer margin. There is a transport cost. There is conversion into flour. So, it will reflect in some price rise and that is why we subsidise food. But the fact is that the farmers, who were getting Rs.630 a quintal in the last year of the NDA Government, will get Rs.1,000 in the next Rabi season.

Likewise, it is for paddy. When the NDA Government left office, the MSP for paddy graded was Rs.580 a quintal. It had risen from Rs.520 to Rs.580. We have raised it from Rs.580 to Rs.775 per quintal this year. There is a demand for more price. But the moment you concede the demand, it will be reflected in consumer prices. Therefore, whenever we make the demand and whenever we take the decision, whatever decision we take, we must keep in mind that higher price for producers is justified. But

it will be reflected in some higher prices for consumers.

Sir, agriculture continues to occupy the pride of place in our scheme of things. We intend to take a number of new initiatives for the agricultural sector. Since a number of Members have spoken about the agricultural sector, let me very quickly list some of the new initiatives that have been taken.

Research priorities will shift towards evolving a cropping system to suit agro-climatic conditions and towards enhancing yield potential in rain-fed areas.

14.55 hrs. (Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil *in the Chair*)

Public expenditure on agricultural research will increase from 0.7 per cent of the agricultural GDP to one per cent during the Eleventh Plan Period. [\[m35\]](#)

In irrigation focus will be to complete the ongoing projects by increasing allocation under AIBP. In groundwater exploitation, priority would be in areas of abundant availability like Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, parts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The new National Rainfed Authority will focus on the problems and potentials of the rainfed areas and harmonise Central Government efforts and other expert advice to facilitate States to integrate these in their own agricultural plans. The new Food Security Mission will attempt to reduce the yield gaps and aim at increasing food grains production by at least 20 million tonnes – 10 for paddy, 8 for wheat and two for pulses.

The total outlay in the Eleventh Plan at constant prices as central GBS is tentatively earmarked at Rs. 54,701 crore as against the Tenth Plan outlay at 2001-2002 prices of Rs. 20,513 crore. In addition, Rs. 25,000 crore as Central assistance to States through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana will be provided. Further, for irrigation, total outlay proposed is Rs. 1,82,000 crore under State Plan, Rs. 45,415 crore for AIBP and Rs. 4,470 crore under Central Plan. So, the total allocation for irrigation in the Eleventh Plan is Rs. 2,31,935 crore.

The question is this. Will these moneys be well-spent? Will they be spent efficiently? Will they be spent without leakage? Will they be spent for the benefit of the people or for the benefit for the contractors? I say this with great regret, meaning no disrespect to any State. Unfortunately, the entire system is contractor-driven, not beneficiary-driven. We provide so much money, you vote that money, the money goes to the States, but at the end of the day are we getting full value for the money? Increasingly, this is the only question I ask myself every morning. Yes, this year also I will collect more revenue than budgeted and I will give more money to the States than originally promised. But, at the end of the day, is my conscience satisfied that the money is well-spent? I think our collective conscience must assert itself to answer this. An amount of Rs. 2,31,935 crore for irrigation alone is there in the Eleventh Plan. At the end of the Eleventh Plan are we getting full value for that money? If we get full value for that money, the entire landscape of agriculture in this country will change.

Sir, let us at least promise ourselves today that in the Eleventh Plan we will ensure, whatever happens in other sectors, at least the money given for irrigation is well-spent and beneficiary-driven rather than contractor-driven.

Sir, for agricultural research, in 2003-2004 the total amount was Rs. 1,435 crore and in 2007-2008 it is Rs. 2,458 crore. I do not want to read the intermediate numbers. A thousand crore of rupees more has been given for agricultural research. For research and development in other departments, other than defence, it was Rs. 5,338 crore in 2003-2004; stepping up each year, in the current year it is Rs. 10,338 crore. Money is being provided for research. I am not saying that this is enough. We need to spend far more on R&D. But this is all that I can afford to spend today. But from Rs. 5,338 crore, it has risen to Rs. 10,338 crore. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL : What is the planning for preservation of fruits and vegetables? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there was some question about what are we doing about enhancing the skills of people. We have launched the new Skill Development Initiative. It is a major programme. The scheme aims to deliver short-term training courses for skills in demand. Some 5,114 ITIs and ITCs that are already affiliated to the National Council for Vocational Training will provide the training. [\[k36\]](#)

**15.00 hrs.** [\[s37\]](#)

A mechanism for empanelment of other vocational training providers will be evolved by an apex committee. The minimum age limit for admission is 15 years. The following training fee structure has been proposed. Rs. 1,000 for a module having duration of 150 hours and there is a scale of fee structure. Women and SC/ST candidates will get 25 per cent discount. The DGE&T, Directorate General of Employment and Training in the Ministry of Labour will appoint independent assessing bodies who will prepare a database of assessors and hire them for assessment. An apex committee has been formed at the national level



and an apex committee at each State level for managing the programme. The outcomes are that we expect to train one million young people in the Eleventh Plan period and we have provided Rs. 550 crore for this project and an advance of Rs. 3 lakh will be paid to each Government ITI for starting the training courses. This is an ambitious programme, but we are trying to make it even bigger, even more ambitious. Hopefully, in course of time, I will be able to come back to this House to say whether we can make it an even more ambitious programme.

Some questions about flood management have been asked. Planning Commission had approved an outlay of Rs. 4,619 crore for the State sector to protect an additional 19.3 lakh hectares. This was in the Tenth Plan period. The Eleventh Plan period will also have a flood management programme and adequate money will be allocated for flood management.

A question was asked about how much barren or wasteland has been converted to agricultural land. According to the figures furnished to me by the Ministry of Agriculture, under that Ministry, the National Watershed Development Project, River Valley Project, Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation, Reclamation of Alkaline Soil, Watershed Development Fund Programme, an externally-aided programme, a total of 187.73 lakh hectares have been made cultivable land. The Ministry of Rural Development has reported that under DPAP, Desert Development, Integrated Watershed Development Project, an externally-aided project, 320 lakh hectares have now been made cultivable land.

Growth rate of agriculture is still very sluggish. In fact, it is one of the reasons why there is rural poverty. If the growth rate in agriculture was equal to the growth rate in industry and services, incomes in the rural areas will also be nearly equal to incomes in urban areas. In 2005-06, it was 6 per cent and in 2006-07, it was 2.7 per cent. We think that the average will be around 3.2 per cent. This year, it is likely to touch 4 per cent, but the average will be 3.2 per cent. But this is not good. The average must be 4 per cent and in some of the years, we must aim at 5 to 5.5 per cent growth. For this, massive investment has to take place. While all other investments will help, the real investment that will help – I am sorry to go back to this point – is investment in irrigation. If you take water to the farmer, the farmer will find a way to grow something on his land and everything else will fall in place. So, my appeal to all State Government is to please implement the irrigation projects efficiently and within time.

Sir, some questions were asked about LPG connections and prices of petrol and diesel. Well, I can read the figures of what was done in regard to diesel and petrol. That is perhaps not very important. Today, the crude prices are nearly \$ 100 a barrel and when the NDA was in office, it was about \$ 23-24 a barrel.[\[s38\]](#) I mean, we are lucky in terms of growth rate, but we are not lucky in terms of crude prices. I wish crude prices were \$ 25 a barrel, and then the whole Budget will be a very different kind of a Budget. But wrestling with such huge crude prices, we have still kept the price to the consumers at a lower level thanks to huge subsidies.

There was some complaint about LPG connections. I do not know the reason for it. The number of domestic LPG connections in 2003-2004 was seven crore 69 lakh connections, and in 2006-2007 it is nine crore 42 lakh connections. It is not as though connections have come down. Actually, the connections are increasing. Maybe, there are some local shortages of LPG supply. I will ask the Ministry of Petroleum to look at it. There is no question of cutting down LPG connections. In 2007, so far we have added 27 lakh new connections to the existing nine crore 42 lakh connections. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: There was a talk of reducing the import of cooking gas.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Somebody else mentioned that LPG connections are not being given, and it is not correct. We are giving LPG connections.

There was some question about hand-tools. There is no excise duty on agricultural hand-tools, but there is an excise duty of 16 per cent on industrial hand-tools. But 65 per cent of that is CENVATed. Therefore, the effective excise duty that is paid is only 35 per cent because 65 per cent is CENVATable. If I did not have an excise duty on the final product, then the CENVAT accumulation will not be adjustable. But now that you have mentioned that perhaps 16 per cent is too high, I am willing to look at it.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL : Thank you, Sir.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Bharat Nirman is an ambitious and a serious programme. I again do not want to get into an argument, but Bharat Nirman is not a simple slogan. Bharat Nirman is a target-based programme. I can tell you what we are achieving every year. I have already given you the irrigation potential for the current year under Bharat Nirman. The goal is to create 28.5 lakh hectares in the Bharat Nirman. The target potential under AIBP is 15 lakh hectares, which is expected to be achieved.

As regards drinking water, we have connected 1,07,152 habitations against the target of 73,120 habitations last year. As regards rural roads, in the current year the target is to connect 20,071 habitations by constructing 43,990 kms. of roads. The

number of habitations covered up to September are 2,613, and 8,738 kms. of roads have been constructed. As regards rural housing, up to September 2007, 6.31 lakh houses have been constructed, and 6.68 lakh houses are under construction. As regards rural electrification, up to October 26, 2007, 43,572 villages have been electrified, and 14,92,384 BPL households have been given electricity connection. As regards telephones, it is needless to say that we are far ahead of the target.

Why do we have a target-driven Bharat Nirman programme? It is because these are quantifiable and these are measurable. They take goods or services to the rural people. While there is a large proportion still denied of goods and services, no one can place his hand on his heart and say that nobody is getting any goods and services. More and more people are getting goods and services. Still, I agree that there is a very large number that is denied the basic goods and services. The attempt is that as growth becomes more inclusive and as more revenues are generated, we will be able to apply these revenues in order to make these goods and services reach more and more people in rural India.

States are not starved of cash. Let me repeat it once again. As on 21 November 2007, the treasury holdings of States is Rs. 28,173 crore.[\[r39\]](#) So, money is available; States must spend the money efficiently.

Finally, a lot of reference was made to the difficulties being faced by some sections, especially exporters as a result of the rupee appreciation. I want to place this in context. The rupee appreciated 9.7 per cent against the US dollar between April 3, 2007 and November 20, 2007. On year-on-year basis, between October, 2006 and October, 2007, the appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar has been 15.1 per cent. One of the reasons is the US dollar has depreciated for their own reasons.

The rupee appreciation has been less relative to other hard currencies. For example, against U.K. Pound, in the current fiscal year, it is only 5.6 per cent; against the Japanese Yen, it is only 2.5 per cent; and against the Euro, there has been no appreciation at all this year.

In many ways, the appreciation of the rupee reflects the strength of our economy going forward. You will recall that when the rupee declined, people were criticizing that we were not able to protect the rupee and the value of the rupee was declining. That criticism we bore stoically. Today, the criticism is rupee is appreciating. That criticism also, I bear stoically. There are upsides and downsides to rupee appreciation.

In many ways, the appreciation of the rupee reflects the strength of our economy. The rupee appreciation has a positive side in terms of lower production costs in sectors involving imported raw material and intermediates, lower oil import bill and lower cost of external debt servicing. Nevertheless, the sharp appreciation of the rupee over the last several months has put pressure on the export sectors, particularly those with low import intensity such as textiles, handicrafts, leather and marine products. Government is sensitive to the pressures on these sectors, and is conscious of the need to offer support to export sectors to prevent job losses and to give time to these sectors to make a smooth adjustment to the changing economic scenario.

Towards this end, Government had offered two packages of support to exporters from this financial year. The first package was in July, 2007. The July, 2007 package included:

Accelerated reimbursement of Terminal Excise Duty and Central Sales Tax dues to exporters;

Government decided to provide a subvention in the rate of interest on these credits by two per cent on the outstanding balances for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007. This dispensation was made available to nine sectors including textiles, leather, handicrafts and marine products; and to all exporters for all products from the SME sector;

Upward revision of duty drawback or DEPB rates.

Service tax (refund or exemption) for exports in respect of four services.

The total financial relief on account of the above measures was estimated at around Rs. 1,400 crore.

In October, 2007, the Government offered a second package of support and this included:

Service Tax (refund or exemption) on three more services;

Provision to pay interest on EEFC accounts of exporters on outstanding balances subject to a maximum of US \$ 1 million;

The period for interest subvention on pre-shipment and post-shipment credit extended from 31.12.2007 to 31.3.2008;

Four more sectors were added to the earlier list of export sectors eligible for interest subvention under pre-shipment and post-shipment credit. These were jute and carpets, cashew, coffee and tea, solvent extraction and deoiled cake, and plastics and linolen;



- a. The coverage under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, a scheme aimed at promoting export of agriculture and village industry products, was expanded to include additional products and the budget allocation was doubled from Rs. 300 crore to Rs. 600 crore.

Sir, in my discussions with exporters and the concerned Ministries, I find that it is necessary to offer some more support to exporters. Therefore, I am happy to announce the following package today in order to support our export sector. [\[r40\]](#)

Leather, handicrafts, marine products and textile sectors are particularly hard hit by the appreciation of the rupee in view of their low import intensity and large value added features. The export industry and industry associations have met the Prime Minister, my colleague the Commerce Minister and me. I have also had extensive meetings with them. Based on these meetings, we are now offering the following further support to exporters:

Additional subvention of two per cent (in addition to the two per cent already offered earlier) in pre-shipment and post-shipment credit to the following sectors:

- (a) Leather and leather manufactures
- (b) Marine products
- (c) All categories of textiles under the existing scheme including RMG and carpets but excluding man-made fibre
- (d) Handicrafts

The total subvention will be subject to the condition that the interest rate after subvention will not fall below seven per cent, which is the rate that we give to the agriculture sector. The period of validity is 1st of November, 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008.

The Term of credit is 180 days for pre-shipment and 90 days for post-shipment, excepting the carpet sector for which the term would be 270 days for pre-shipment and 90 days for post-shipment.

Service tax will be exempted for exporters under three more services:

- â€¢ Storage and warehousing services
- â€¢ Specialised cleaning services including fumigation and disinfection
- â€¢ Business exhibition services

The allocation for reimbursement of Terminal Excise Duty and Central Sales Tax has been increased from Rs.300 crore to Rs.600 crore for which provision has been made in the second Supplementary Demand.

Presently, six per cent interest is paid for delay in reimbursement of drawback claims beyond 30 days. For payment within 30 days, no interest is payable. The interest is payable for delay from the date of approval to the date of payment, if delayed beyond 30 days.

Government have decided to extend a similar provision of payment of interest for delays in payment of Terminal Excise Duty and Central Sales Tax.

Customs duty on PSF and PFY is being reduced from the current 7.5 per cent to five per cent, and on other man-made fibres from ten per cent to five per cent.

Customs duty on intermediates for PSF and PFY, namely, polyester chips, DMT, PTA and MEG would also be reduced from 7.5 per cent to five per cent and on paraxylene, which is a raw material for PTA, from two per cent to nil.

There is no change in Customs duty for nylon chips, nylon yarn, caprolactum, rayon grade wood pulp and acrylonitrile. Notification will be issued shortly.

The respective Councils for exports of the textile sector have requested a further revision of drawback rates. They have been asked to submit relevant data to a Drawback Committee which would study the proposal and make its recommendations to the Government. A decision on the matter will be taken based on the Drawback Committee's recommendations.

Sir, I hope that with this third package, exporters will get some relief in the remainder of the current financial year. With these words, I request that the Supplementary Demands be voted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5, 9

to 12, 14, 17 to 19, 31 to 33, 35,46, 51,52, 56 to 59, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 70, 78, 80, 86, 87, 90, 91, 93, 99, 100 and 102."

*The motion was adopted.*[\[KMR41\]](#)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2005-06 for 2005-2006 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos.8, 14, 25, 61, 96 and 99."

*The motion was adopted.*

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**15.21 hrs.**