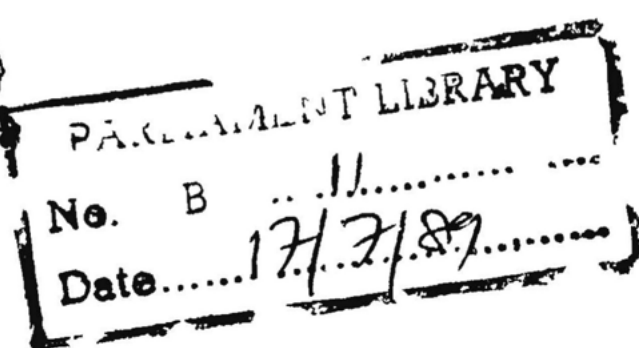


LOK SABHA DEBATES

**First Session
(Fifth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते



(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 12)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, March 23, 1971/
Chaitra 2, 1893 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Twenty
minutes past Twelve of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Hiren Mukherjee (Calcutta-North
East)

Shri Samar Guha (Contai)

MR. SPEAKER : Any other hon.
member who has not taken oath here ?
None.

12.22 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table
a copy of the President's Address to both
Houses of Parliament assembled together on
the 23rd March, 1971.

President's Address

Members of Parliament,

1. It gives me pleasure to address this
Joint Session of the Fifth Parliament of
our Republic and summon you to new
endeavours.

The General Election has once again
demonstrated that durable political power
in a democracy has only one source—the
people. It has proved the people's confi-
dence in themselves and their faith in
the processes of democracy.

2. Our people have made their choice.
They have asserted their sovereignty through
the ballot box. And theirs is a massive
mandate for change, peaceful change that
must swiftly and visibly alter the picture
of poverty and alienation in our land.

3. We have begun this work. But now

we have to address ourselves afresh to
evolving perspectives, policies and practices
even more closely and concretely related
to the needs of our people and our times.

4. My Government have been return-
ed to office on the clear pledge that the
central objective of our policy must be
the abolition of poverty. To achieve
this, my Government are firmly committed
to implementing the economic and social
transformation outlined in the manifesto
which has received such overwhelming
support of the electorate.

5. The Government will soon frame
specific policies and programmes arising
out of the mandate of the electorate. A
mid-term appraisal of the Fourth Plan
will be made. This appraisal will enable
us to review and reorient the plan in
order to increase the pace and effective
use of investment in the economy. As part
of this exercise, Government will also
identify the specific directions in which
developmental programmes could be
further reinforced in a determined effort
to deal with the problem of unemployment.
The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment
which is to be implemented from the com-
mencement of the next financial year
will form the nucleus of a comprehensive
programme for the expansion of employ-
ment. This programme will be linked to
schemes for raising the productivity of
agriculture. The construction and renova-
tion of minor irrigation sources and the
provision of basic amenities such as drink-
ing water supply and link roads will form
part of this programme. The problem of
the educated unemployed will receive
special attention.

6. My Government are convinced that
land reforms are vital for the promotion
of an egalitarian social order and for
maximising agricultural production. In
recent months, various issues relating to
land reforms have received special attention
of my Government. A Central Land
Reforms Committee under the chairmanship
of the Union Minister of Food and Agri-
culture has been set up. As a result of the

lead provided by the Government of India, States in which intermediary tenures have not been completely abolished have taken steps to do so. Further legislation has been introduced in some States to give security of tenure, to reduce rents and ceilings and to restrict exemptions.

7. While recognising that land reforms come within the legislative competence of the States, my Government will continue to press the State Governments for further action in promoting a more equitable agrarian structure. Simultaneously the Government will pursue the objective of imposing a ceiling on urban property.

8. Extension of credit facilities for productive purposes to areas and classes hitherto neglected is one of the important objectives of my Government. A comprehensive credit guarantee scheme has been launched recently. A Credit Guarantee Corporation has been set up under the auspices of the Reserve Bank of India. As from 1st April, 1971, small loans given by commercial and cooperative bank offices will be eligible for guarantee by the Corporation to the extent of about 75% of the loans advanced. The increasing attention paid by the banks to the genuine needs of productive enterprises, including those of agriculturists whose main resort earlier was to money-lenders, is one of the striking new developments which have served to concretise the benefits of nationalisation for the small man.

9. Government also attach high priority to the extension of electricity to rural areas and, in particular to the utilisation of electricity for lift irrigation. The implementation of rural electrification programmes has been appreciably accelerated. 2.66 lakh pumpsets were energised in the first year of the Plan and this tempo has been stepped up in the current year. The Rural Electrification Corporation has begun well with the sanction of schemes of the value of about Rs. 70 crores. This programme will be pursued with increasing vigour.

10. My Government are keenly aware of the intolerable living conditions of the urban poor. The clearance and improve-

ment of slums and rehabilitation of slum dwellers will figure prominently in the agenda of economic and social reforms which my Government have in view and larger resources will be canalised for this purpose. The Housing and Urban Development Finance Corporation has been set up recently and will become an important agency for the augmentation of housing facilities in metropolitan centres and urban areas.

11. Simultaneously, efforts to improve rural housing conditions will be given fuller consideration. The aim is to allot building sites to landless workers on a larger scale, to legislate for the conferment of homestead rights and to assist in the construction of decent, liveable houses for the rural population. This will necessarily have to be a joint programme of the State and Central Government.

12. My Government also propose to :—

(a) appoint task forces to remove obstacles that come in the way of the speedy implementation of investment programmes in the public and private sectors of our industry and to step up the rate of industrial production,

(b) extend the new technology in agriculture to dry farming, to new crops and to new areas which have not been covered so far. Research and extension programmes for a faster growth in the output of fibres and oilseeds which are articles of mass consumption will be intensified;

(c) consult leaders of trade unions and managements in order to evolve sound industrial relations and to secure increased productivity consistent with a fair deal for labour. Improvement in industrial relations is as vital as capital and technology for increasing output;

(d) accelerate changes in the structure and functioning of administrative apparatus, expedite decision making, ensure effective delegation of powers and responsibilities and streamline financial procedures; and

(e) devote special attention to building up a well-equipped managerial cadre for

the public and private sectors.

13. The economy recorded growth almost at the planned rate in 1969-70, and it is likely to repeat this performance in the current year. A good harvest for the fourth year in succession is expected, raising the foodgrain output to 105 million tonnes—5.5 million tonnes more than last year. The wheat revolution is by now an accomplished fact. Our agricultural scientists have released a number of higher yielding varieties of rice. The response of farmers to the new technology is limited only by our capacity to reach them effectively.

14. However, the improvement in the food situation will at best be a reprieve. The results of the new Census will be a grave reminder that the Family Planning Programme has to be pushed forward with much greater vigour. This programme can only be fulfilled if it becomes a movement. The small family must speedily become the accepted social norm. Indeed family planning should be regarded as a vital element in the gigantic task of social transformation that lies ahead.

15. While the general outlook for the economy is hopeful, my Government are aware that the level of prices in recent months has caused some concern. The wholesale price index is now approximately 3.4% higher than the level about a year ago. But it is important to note that amidst this pressure on prices the foodgrain prices have declined by about 6.5%. The Government have therefore sought to keep the rise in prices in check by arranging larger imports of commodities in short supply while taking steps to increase their internal production.

16. My Government intend to draw up and execute a National Plan for the application of Science and Technology to development. This plan will be intimately related to and indeed largely derived from our socio-economic plan. An important feature of such a plan will be the preparation of detailed programmes in a few high priority areas of national endeavour in which science and technology play an important part.

The Government have set up an Electronics Commission to ensure balanced development of the electronics industry. The Commission will concern itself with research, development and industrial operations in the field of electronics.

My Government are anxious that rapid economic development should not lead to the pollution of air, water and soil. There should be rational management of our natural resources taking care not to upset the ecological balance in nature.

17. The persistence of communal tension in some parts of the country and the occasional flaring up of violence constitute a threat to our secularism and democracy and to the basic values of civilised life which we cherish. The Government are determined to overcome this danger. This problem needs to be treated as national task to ensure national survival.

18. In the recent past, violence has grown in West Bengal. The murder of Shri Hemanta Kumar Basu, one of our oldest and most dedicated colleagues in the freedom movement, and of other political workers has shocked us all. Nevertheless the conduct and results of the recent elections in West Bengal clearly indicate a reaffirmation by the people of their faith in democracy.

My Government reiterate their unqualified determination to root out lawlessness and to eliminate the "politics" of murder and assault. Simultaneously my Government intend to accelerate the programme for the improvement of Greater Calcutta with the help of public and private investment. The Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority has begun its work. The Industrial Reconstruction Corporation is about to be launched. Other development works are also being undertaken in West Bengal.

The West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Act was passed in July 1970 whereby the Bargadar's share of the crop was increased and his right to cultivate land made secure and heritable. A Presidential Act has been enacted recently to reduce the ceiling and fix it in terms of the family as a unit.

19. You are aware that orders for the derecognition of the Rulers of [former Indian States were declared inoperative by a majority judgement of the Supreme Court. However, Government's resolve to abolish by appropriate constitutional measures the Privy purses and privileges of Rulers remains unaltered.

20. Hoped and despair continue to co-exist in the larger world around us. There has been relaxation of tensions between Western and Eastern Europe. We welcome the signing of the agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Governments of the U.S.S.R. and Poland. But the situation in South-East Asia and West Asia has worsened.

21. The situation in Indo-China has deteriorated further. Ever widening areas are engulfed in war embracing Cambodia and Laos. This is inconsistent with the interests of peace. We have urged restraint and pressed our view that the only solution lies in a peaceful and negotiated settlement within the broad framework of the Geneva Accord. It is our belief that the best solution will be an international Agreement or Convention, signed by all the Great Powers and others interested in the region.

There is uneasy truce in West Asia. My Government hope that positive response would be made to the series of initiatives recently taken by the U.A.R. showing its earnest desire to implement the Resolution of the Security Council of November 22, 1967.

22. We are concerned at the setting up of military bases by outside powers in the Indian Ocean and the proposed sale of arms to South Africa. As mentioned in the Lusaka Declaration, we should like the Indian Ocean area to be a zone of peace, free from military confrontation and the rivalries of Great Powers.

23. The attitude of the Government of Pakistan during the recent hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane and its eventual destruction was deeply resented by the Government and the people of India. Friendship and understanding which we

seek cannot be achieved by such provocations.

24. My Government will steadfastly pursue its policy of non-alignment. It will arise its voice whenever peace is threaten'd, wherever the independence of sovereign nations is eroded. It stands firmly against colonialism whether in its old shape or in any new guise.

25. Your present session will be a short one confined to the transaction of essential financial and budgetary business. You will be meeting again shortly to consider further business. A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the financial year 1971-72 will be laid before you. Bills will also be introduced for replacing the State of Himachal Pradesh (Amendment, Ordinance, 1971; and the Labour Provident Fund Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971. A Bill for continuing the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 will also be introduced in the current session of Parliament.

26. Honourable Members, the people of India have given their verdict in unmistakable terms. With that verdict the period of political uncertainty and of the politics of manoeuvre ends. After the din of the election battle, we must bend our selves to the service of our people. We can take pride that political democracy and parliamentary institutions have grown and have taken deep roots in the hearts and minds of our people. We must serve the cause of democracy by respecting the will of the people.

The massive majority given to my Government is only the first step on the long and difficult road ahead. To achieve victory in the war against poverty and social injustice requires the sustained and dedicated efforts of the millions of our people. I am confident that Members of Parliament and the people of India, as a whole, will respond, in abundant measure to the challenge of our times.

संसद् सदस्यगण,

1. भारतीय गणराज्य की पांचवी संसद के संयुक्त सत्र में आपके सम्मुख भाषण करते हुए मुझे प्रसन्नता हो रही है। इस अबसर पर मैं देश की उन्नति के नए प्रयासों में लग जाने के लिए आपका आह्वान करता हूँ।

ग्राम चुनाव ने एक बार फिर दिखा दिया है कि लोकतंत्र में स्थायी राजनीतिक शक्ति का एकमात्र स्रोत जनता है। चुनाव से यह सिद्ध हो गया है कि लोगों को अपने पर और लोकतंत्र की प्रक्रिया पर कितना भरोसा है।

2. हमारे देशवासियों ने अपना निर्णय ले लिया है। मतदान द्वारा उन्होंने अपनी प्रभुसत्ता दृढ़ता से व्यक्त की है। उन्होंने परिवर्तन के लिए बहुत प्रभावशाली निदेश दिया है—ऐसे शान्तिपूर्ण परिवर्तन का जिससे तेजी के साथ देश की गरीबी और समाज के कुछ वर्गों की अलगाव की भावना शीघ्र दूर हो और सबको इसका प्रत्यक्ष आभास हो।

3. हमने कार्य आरंभ कर दिया है। लेकिन, अब हमें एक बार फिर अपने युग की आवश्यकताओं और देशवासियों की आकांक्षाओं के अनुरूप नए दृष्टिकोण विकसित करने हैं, नई नीतियां निर्धारित करनी हैं, नई रीति अपनानी है।

4. गरीबी दूर करने की नीति को अपना मुख्य उद्देश्य बनाने की स्पष्ट प्रतिज्ञा के आधार पर ही मेरी सरकार फिर से सत्तारूढ़ हुई है। अब इस ध्येय की प्राप्ति के लिए मेरी सरकार उस घोषणापत्र में उल्लिखित आर्थिक व सामाजिक परिवर्तन लाने के लिए कटिबद्ध है जिसे मतदाताओं का भरपूर समर्थन मिला है।

5. शीघ्र ही सरकार मतदाताओं के निदेश पर आधारित नीतियां और कार्यक्रम बनाएगी चौथी योजना का मध्यावधि मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा। इस समीक्षा से यह जानकारी संभव हो सकेगी कि योजना को क्या नया रूप दिया जावे जिससे कि अर्थ-व्यवस्था में पूंजी विनियोजन की गति बढ़ सके और उसका प्रभावकारी उपयोग किया जा सके। साथ ही साथ सरकार यह भी निश्चित कर सकेगी कि विकास कार्यक्रमों को किस प्रकार सुदृढ़ किया जाए जिससे बेरोजगारी की समस्या हल करने में ठोस सहायता मिले। रोजगार बढ़ाने के व्यापक कार्यक्रम का केन्द्र बिन्दु गांव में रोजगार दिलाने का वह कार्यक्रम होगा जिस पर अगले वित्तीय वर्ष के आरम्भ से काम शुरू होगा यह कार्यक्रम खेती की पैदावार बढ़ाने की योजनाओं से संबद्ध होगा और इसके अंतर्गत सिंचाई के छोटे साधनों का निर्माण और नवीकरण तथा पीने का पानी देने और योजक सड़कें बनाने जैसी बुनियादी सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था भी होगी। शिक्षित वर्ग की बेरोजगारी की समस्या पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जायेगी।

6. मेरी सरकार का यह निश्चित मत है कि समतावादी सामाजिक व्यवस्था एवं अधिक से अधिक कृषि उत्पादन के लिए भूमि सुधार अत्यंत आवश्यक है। पिछले महीनों में मेरी सरकार ने भूमि सुधार से संबद्ध कई मसलों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया है। केन्द्रीय खाद्य एवं कृषि मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में एक केन्द्रीय भूमि सुधार समिति बनाई गई है। भारत सरकार के मार्गदर्शन के फलस्वरूप उन राज्यों ने भी जहां मध्यवर्ती पट्टेदारी अभी तक पूर्णरूप से समाप्त नहीं हो पाई थी उसे समाप्त करने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं। इसके अलावा कुछ राज्यों में पट्टेदारी को सुरक्षित रखने, लगान की कमी और ज़ोत की अधिकतम सीमा कम करने और छूट पर

प्राथमिकी लक्ष्यमाने के बारे में कानून बनाए हैं।

7. भूमि सुधार का विषय राज्यों के विधायी अधिकाधिकार-क्षेत्र में आता है फिर भी मेरी सरकार राज्य सरकारों से बराबर अनुरोध करती रहेगी कि इस व्यवस्था को सामाजिक और आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से अधिक न्यायसंगत बनाने के लिए जाने कारवाई करें। साथ ही सरकार ग्रामीण संरक्षित की अधिकतम सीमा निर्धारित करने के उद्देश्य को पूरा करने में लगी रहेगी।

8. मेरी सरकार का एक महत्वपूर्ण ध्येय यह है कि पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए ऋण की सुविधाएं उन इलाकों और वर्गों तक पहुंचाई जाएं जिनकी अब तक उपेक्षा की जाती रही है। हाल ही में एक व्यापक ऋण गारंटी योजना आरंभ की गई है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के अधीन ऋण गारंटी निगम की स्थापना की गई है। यह निगम 1 अप्रैल 1971 के वाणिज्य एवं सहकारी बैंकों द्वारा दिए जाने वाले छोटे ऋणों पर लगभग 75 प्रतिशत तक की गारंटी दे सकेगा। पहले उत्पादक उद्योगों व खेती बाड़ी की मुख्य रूप से साहूकारों पर निर्भर होना पड़ता था। अब बैंक इनकी वास्तविक आवश्यकताओं पर अधिक ध्यान दे रहे हैं। यह निश्चय ही एक नया और महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन है जिसके द्वारा अब साधारण को बैंक राष्ट्रीयकरण के लाभ का प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव हुआ है।

9. सरकार श्रमिक क्षेत्रों में बिजली पहुंचाने के काम को, और विशेषकर सिंचाई के लिए बिजली के उपयोग को विशेष महत्व देती है। श्रमिकों में बिजली पहुंचाने के कार्यक्रमों में तेजी लाई गई है। इस पंचवर्षीय योजना के पहले वर्ष में 2.66 लाख घण्टीय सैटों के लिए बिजली दी गई थी। पांच वर्षों में यह काम और तेजी से किया गया है।

ग्राम बिजली निगम ने लगभग 70 करोड़ रुपये की योजनाओं स्वीकार कर अपने कार्य का शुभारंभ किया है। इस कार्यक्रम को भी और आगे बढ़ाया जायगा।

10. मेरी सरकार को अच्छी तरह माफूम है कि ग्रहों में गरीब लोग कितनी बुरी हालत में रह रहे हैं। आर्थिक और सामाजिक सुधार की कार्यसूची में गंदी बस्तियों की सफाई और उनके सुधार को मुख्य स्थान दिया जाएगा, और इनके लिए सरकार अधिक से अधिक साधन जुटाने का प्रयत्न करेगी। हाल ही में आवास एवं नगर विकास वित्त निगम की स्थापना की गई है और इसके द्वारा बड़े-बड़े नगरों तथा शहरी इलाकों में आवास की सुविधाओं में वृद्धि हो सकेगी।

11. साथ ही गांवों में मकानों की स्थिति सुधारने पर भी और अधिक ध्यान दिया जाएगा। लक्ष्य यह होगा कि भूमिहीन कामगारों को अधिक संख्या में मकान बनाने की जमीन दी जा सके, आवास भूमि का अधिकार देने का कानून बनाया जाए और देहाती आबादी के लिए अच्छे रहने योग्य मकानों का निर्माण करने में सहायता दी जाय। इस कार्यक्रम में निश्चय ही केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों को मिल कर आग लेना होगा।

12. मेरी सरकार के कुछ अन्य प्रस्ताव इस प्रकार हैं :—

(क) उद्योगों के सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों में विनियोग (इन्वेस्टमेंट) कार्य कर्षों पर टैजी के साथ कम करने के रास्ते में आने वाली रुकावटों को दूर करने के लिए विशेष बस्ती नियुक्त किए जाएं और औद्योगिक उत्पादन की दर में वृद्धि की जाए;

(ख) इन्डि में मध्य तकनीकी क्षेत्र कम सुखी

बेटी, नई फसलों और नए क्षेत्रों तक विस्तार किया जाए, जहाँ अभी तक वह नहीं पहुँच पाया है। रेवे और तिलहन जैसी बहुत खपत वाली वस्तुओं का लेबी से उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए अनुसंधान और विस्तार कार्यक्रमों की गति को और बढ़ाया जाए ;

(ग) मजदूर संघों के नेताओं और प्रबन्धकों के परामर्श से स्वस्थ औद्योगिक संबंध विकसित किये जावें, जिससे उत्पादन में वृद्धि के साथ-साथ कामगारों को न्यायोचित व्यवहार भी मिले। उत्पादन की वृद्धि के लिए औद्योगिक संबंधों में सुधार उन्नता ही आवश्यक है जिसका कि पूँजी और तकनीकी ज्ञान ;

(घ) प्रशासनिक तंत्र के स्वरूप और संचालन में ऐसे परिवर्तन किए जाएँ जिससे कि अधिकारों का वास्तविक प्रतिनिधान (डेलीगेशन) हो सके और शीघ्र निर्णय लिए जा सकें ; और

(ङ) सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों के लिए सुव्यवस्थित प्रबंधक संवर्ग (मेनेजरियल काडर) का निर्माण करने पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाए।

13 भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था में 1969-70 में वृद्धि लगभग नियोजित दर से हुई है और चालू वर्ष में भी इसी प्रकार की वृद्धि का अनुमान है। आशा है कि गत तीन वर्षों की भांति इस वर्ष भी फसल अच्छी रहेगी और पैदावार पिछले वर्ष से 55 लाख टन अधिक होकर साढ़े दस करोड़ टन तक पहुँच जाएगी। वेष्ट के उत्पादन में हुई क्रांति सर्वविदित है। हमारे कृषि वैज्ञानिकों ने जापान की अधिक पैदावार देने वाली कई किस्में निकाली हैं। नए तकनीकी ज्ञान को किसानों तक हथ मिलाने प्रभावकारी ढंग से पहुँचा पाते हैं जसका ही यह उसे अपनाते हैं।

14. तथापि, खाद्य स्थिति में जो सुधार हुआ है उससे हमें सिर्फ थोड़ी राहत ही मिली है। नई जनगणना के परिणाम गम्भीर चेतावनी बने कि हमें परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम को और अधिक शक्ति के साथ धाने बढ़ाना है। इस कार्यक्रम की सफलता के लिए इसे एक आंदोलन का रूप देना होगा। यह अत्यन्त आवश्यक है कि शीघ्र से शीघ्र छोटे परिवार के प्रति आस्था हमारा एक नया सामाजिक मानदंड बने। सच तो यह है कि सामाजिक परिवर्तन का जो महान कार्य हमारे सामने है, उसमें प्रमुख स्थान परिवार नियोजन का होना चाहिए।

15. यद्यपि हमारी अर्थ व्यवस्था का सामान्य स्वरूप प्राशाजनक है मेरी सरकार को इसका पूरा ज्ञान है कि पिछले महीनों में कीमतों के बढ़ने से कुछ चिन्ता उत्पन्न हुई है। धोक मूल्य का सूचक अंक प्रायः एक वर्ष पहले की अपेक्षा अब लगभग 3.4 प्रतिशत अधिक है। लेकिन कीमतों के इस प्रकार बढ़ते रहने पर भी अनाज की कीमतों में लगभग 6.5 प्रतिशत की कमी हुई है। इसलिए जिन चीजों की कमी है, उन्हें बड़ी मात्रा में बाहर से मंगवाकर सरकार ने मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने की कोशिश की है और साथ ही देश में उनका उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए कदम उठाये हैं।

16. मेरी सरकार देश के विकास में विज्ञान और तकनीकी ज्ञान को व्यवहार में लाने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय योजना बनाकर उस पर अमल करने का विचार रखती है। यह योजना मुख्य रूप से हमारी सामाजिक-आर्थिक योजना पर आधारित होगी। इस योजना की एक विशेषता यह होगी कि राष्ट्रीय प्रयास के कुछ ऊँची प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों में किस्तुत कार्यक्रम तैयार किये जायेंगे जिनमें विज्ञान और तकनीकी ज्ञान का प्रमुख रूप से उपयोग होगा।

सरकार ने इलेक्ट्रानिक्स उद्योग के संतुलित विकास के लिये एक इलेक्ट्रानिक्स कमीशन की स्थापना की है। यह कमीशन इलेक्ट्रानिक्स के क्षेत्र में अनुसंधान, विकास और औद्योगिक कार्य के सम्बन्धित होगा।

मेरी सरकार को इस बात की चिंता है कि तीव्र आर्थिक विकास के फलस्वरूप वायु, जल और धरती दूषित न होने पाए। प्राकृतिक सधनों का प्रबन्ध बिबेकपूर्ण ढंग से होना चाहिए और इस बात पर विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए कि जीवन और परिस्थितियों का पारस्परिक संतुलन न बिगड़ने पाये।

17. देश के कुछ भागों में साम्प्रदायिक तनाव रहने और कभी-कभी हिंसात्मक उपद्रव होने से हमारी धर्मनिरपेक्षता, लोकतन्त्र तथा सभ्य जीवन के आधारभूत मूल्यों के लिए खतरा पैदा होता है। सरकार इस खतरे पर काबू पाने के लिए कृतसंकल्प है। यह राष्ट्र के जीवन-मरण का प्रश्न है और इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि इस समस्या के समाधान को राष्ट्रीय महत्व का कार्य माना जाये।

18. पिछले दिनों पश्चिमी बंगाल में हिंसा बढ़ी है। स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के हमारे एक वरिष्ठ व कर्मठ साथी श्री हेमन्त कुमार बसु तथा अन्य राजनीतिक कार्यकर्ताओं की हत्या से हम सभी को आघात पहुंचा है। समाज विरोधी गुट प्रायः राजनीतिक ढोंग रचकर बदला लेने की भावना से काम करते हैं। फिर भी, पश्चिमी बंगाल में हाल के चुनावों के परिणामों से साफ पता चलता है कि लोगों ने लोकतन्त्र में अपनी आस्था पुनः स्थापित की है।

मेरी सरकार का यह दृढ़ निश्चय है कि वह अव्यवस्था और हत्या तथा हिंसा की 'राजनीति' को समूल नष्ट करेगी। इसके साथ ही वह निजी और सरकारी विनियोग की सहायता से कलकत्ते के कामाकल्प करने

के कार्यक्रम पर तेजी से काम करने का विचार रखती है। कलकत्ता महानगर विकास अधिकरण ने अपना कार्य आरम्भ कर दिया है। औद्योगिक पुनर्निर्माण निगम भी शीघ्र स्थापित होने वाला है। पश्चिमी बंगाल में विकास के और भी कार्य आरम्भ किये जा रहे हैं।

पश्चिमी बंगाल भूमि सुधार (संशोधन) अधिनियम जुलाई 1970 में पास किया गया था जिसके अनुसार, फसल में बर्बाद का हिस्सा बढ़ा दिया गया है, और भूमि पर खेती करने और उस पर विरासत पाने का उसका अधिकार सुरक्षित कर दिया गया है। जोत की अधिकतम सीमा कम करने और परिवार की इकाई मानकर उसे नियत करने की दृष्टि से हाल ही में एक राष्ट्रपति अधिनियम बना दिया गया है।

19. आप जानते ही हैं कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के बहुमत निर्णय से भूतपूर्व रियासतों के राजाओं की मान्यता समाप्त करने के आदेश रद्द घोषित कर दिये गये हैं। फिर भी, राजाओं की प्रिवी पर्सों और उनके विशेषाधिकारों को समुचित सविधानिक उपायों द्वारा समाप्त करने के सरकार के निश्चय में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है।

20. अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में कहीं आजा है कहीं निराशा। पश्चिमी और पूर्वी यूरोप के देशों के बीच तनाव में कमी हुई है। जर्मन संघ गणराज्य और सोवियत संघ तथा पोलैंड की सरकारों के बीच हुये समझौतों का हम स्वागत करते हैं। लेकिन दक्षिणपूर्व एशिया और पश्चिम एशिया में स्थिति रिगड़ी है।

21. हिन्द-चीन में स्थिति और बिगड़ी है। कम्बोडिया और लाओस में मुक्त क्षेत्र बसा-बर बढ़ ही रहा है, जो शांति के क्षिति में नहीं हैं। हमारा हवेसा यह अनुसंधान रहू है कि

समस्याओं से काम लिया जाये। हमने इस बात पर जोर दिया है कि अनेक समस्याओं के अंतर्गत शांतिपूर्ण तरीके से बातचीत के द्वारा ही समस्या का हल किया जाये। हमारा विश्वास है कि सबसे अच्छा हल यह होगा कि एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समझौता हो, जिस पर संसार की बड़ी शक्तियाँ और इस क्षेत्र में दिलचस्पी रखने वाले दूसरे देश हस्ताक्षर करें।

पश्चिम एशिया में विराम-संधि के होते हुये भी बेचैनी है। संयुक्त अरब गणराज्य ने हाल ही में कुछ एक कदम उठाकर यह स्पष्ट किया है कि वह वास्तव में सुरक्षा परिषद् के 22 नवम्बर, 1967 के प्रस्ताव पर अमल करना चाहता है। मेरी सरकार को आशा है कि इस पर स्वीकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया होगी।

22 हिन्द महासागर में विदेशी शक्तियों द्वारा सैनिक बड़े बनाने और दक्षिण अफ्रीका को हथियारों की प्रस्तावित बिक्री से हमें चिंता हुई है। तुनाका घोषणा के अनुसार हम चाहते हैं कि हिन्द महासागर शांति का क्षेत्र बना रहे और सैनिक मुठभेड़ और बड़े राष्ट्रों की होड़ से बचा रहे।

23. हाल ही में इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के विमान के अपहरण और बाद में उसे नष्ट कर देने के सम्बन्ध में पाकिस्तान सरकार के रविये पर भारत सरकार और यहां की जनता में गहरा रोष था। इस प्रकार भड़काने वाली कार्यवाहियों से मित्रता और आपसी समझ-बूझ पैदा नहीं हो सकती, जो कि हम चाहते हैं।

24. मेरी सरकार अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्दबन्दी से अलग रहने की अपनी नीति पर अडिग रहेगी और उसका निर्भयता से पालन करेगी। जब कभी शांति की सतार होगा, स्वतन्त्र देशों की स्वाधीनता नष्ट होगी, और उप-निवेशवाद को उसके पुराने या नये रूप में लाने की कोशिश की जायेगी, मेरी सरकार आवाज उठायेगी।

25. आपका यह सत्र छोटी अवधि का होगा जिसमें आवश्यक वित्तीय और बजट संबंधी कार्य ही निपटाए जायेंगे। आगे के कार्यक्रम के लिये आप कुछ समय बाद फिर एकत्रित होंगे। 1971-72 के वित्तीय वर्ष के लिये भारत सरकार की धामदनी और खर्च का ब्योरा आपके सामने रखा जायेगा। हिमाचल राज्य (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, 1971 तथा भ्रम ज्विष्म निधि नियम (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, 1971 के स्थान में सरकार बिल प्रस्तुत करेगी। आयात और निर्यात (नियन्त्रण) अधिनियम, 1947 को जारी रखने के लिये भी संसद् के इसी सत्र में प्रस्तुत किया जायेगा।

26. माननीय सदस्यगण, भारत की जनता ने स्पष्ट शब्दों में अपना निर्णय दिया है। इस निर्णय के साथ ही राजनीतिक अनिश्चितता और दांवपेच की राजनीति समाप्त होती है। चुनाव की सरगमों के बाद अब हमें अपने देशवासियों की सेवा में लग जाना चाहिए। हम सब को इस का गर्व है कि राजनीतिक लोकतंत्र और संसदीय संस्थाओं का विकास हुआ है और उसको जड़ें हमारे देशवासियों के दिलों और दिमागों में गहरी बैठ गई हैं। जनता की इच्छा का आदर करते हुए हमें लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ बनाना चाहिए।

मेरी सरकार को जो भारी बहुमत मिला है, वह उस सम्झौते और शक्ति यात्रा का पहला कदम है जिसे हमें तय करना है। गरीबी और सामाजिक अन्धकार के विश्व लड़ाई में विजय पाने के लिये हमारे लाखों करोड़ों देशवासियों को बड़ी लगन और निष्ठा के साथ परिश्रम करना होगा। मुझे विश्वास है कि संसद् व सदस्यगण और भारत की जनता समय की चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिये अपने पूर्ण सह-योग देगी।]

12-25 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of seven of our friends, namely Shri Muhammad Islammuddin, Dr. Edward Paul Mathuram, Shri Nath Pai, Shri C.N.P. Sinha, Shri K.M. Munshi, Shri B.P. Chaliha and Dr. D.C. Malik.

Shri Muhammad Islammuddin was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1952—57 representing Purnea constituency of Bihar. He passed away at Lakhipur on the 18th December, 1970 at the age of 77.

Dr. Edward Paul Mathuram was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1952—57 representing Tiruchirappalli constituency in Madras. He passed away at Tiruchirappalli on the 17th January, 1971 at the age of 67.

Shri Nath Pai was a member representing Maharashtra in the Second, Third and Fourth Lok Sabha during the years 1957—70. He was a talented Parliamentarian, a veteran socialist and an eloquent champion of the rights of the common man. He was a member of United Nations Human Rights Commission in 1964. His amiable nature had earned him the affection of all. So far as Lok Sabha is concerned, he was one of the most capable and active members who lost no opportunity in bringing before the House issues which had great bearing on our national and international affairs and the functioning of the parliamentary democracy. He attained the near status of a leader very early in his life and retained it throughout his parliamentary life. His unique knowledge of Rules of Procedure and Constitution gave him a special point in the House and in the Committees and he was heard with attention whenever he spoke on these issues. He was a personal friend of mine and I will be deprived of his advice on procedural and constitutional issues. He was a model parliamentarian who studied his facts, brought to bear on a matter a new approach, persevered in his endeavours despite failures and bore no malice towards anyone. He passed away at Belgaum on the 18th January, 1971 at a young

age. We feel deeply sorry that a very promising career has been cut short in the prime of its youth.

Shri C.N.P. Sinha was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the year 1952 representing Muzaffarpur North West constituency of Bihar. He passed away at the village Bhandari, on the 6th February, 1971 at the age of 50.

Shri K.M. Munshi was a great patriot and national leader. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during the years 1946—52. He was the Union Minister of Food and Agriculture during 1950—52. He served the former State of Bombay first as a Member of its legislature and then as Home Minister. He also held the office of Governor of Uttar Pradesh during the years 1952—57. He was a versatile genius. He was an ardent freedom fighter, educationist, author, constitutional expert and a lover of Indian art and culture. He had suffered imprisonment for a number of times for participating in the struggle for freedom of the country. Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan is his greatest contribution to the country of which he was the founder President. He passed away at Bombay on the 8th February 1971, at the age of 84.

Shri B.P. Chaliha was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1954—57. He had been Chief Minister of Assam right from 1957 to 1970 when he relinquished the office on health grounds. He played a leading and significant role as member of the Nagaland Peace Mission. He was a valiant freedom fighter and always fought for the poor and down-trodden. He had a remarkable organising capacity and rendered a great service for the emotional and cultural integration of the hills and plains people of Assam. In recognition of his services to the nation he was awarded Padma Vibhushan this year. He died at Shillong on the 25th February, 1971 at the age of 59. By his death the country has lost one of its sagacious statesmen.

Dr. D.C. Malik was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during the years 1959—62 representing Dhanbad constituency of Bihar,

He passed away at Dhanbad on the 22nd February, 1971 at the age of 77.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a sense of sorrow and loss that I associate myself with the tributes which you have paid to the seven parliamentarians who had served the Lok Sabha and the Constituent Assembly.

Shri Muhammad Islamuddin was a veteran public worker of Bihar who was deeply interested in civic and social problems. He was active in our party and also in the field of education.

Dr. Edward Paul Mathura a who was an independent Member of the First Lok Sabha, served Tamil Nadu as a dedicated doctor and also took a prominent part in various other fields of social activity. He was chairman of the Tiruchirappalli Municipal Council and was the guiding spirit of the scout movement and of several Christian service organisations of the region.

Shri D.C. Mallik joined the non-cooperation movement and renounced the practice of law when he was still a young man. He was closely associated with the political life of Dhanbad throughout his life and was prominent in the Congress organisation of Bihar. He took interest in various constructive activities and, as you have pointed out, was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha.

Shri K.M. Munshi was one of the last representatives of our renaissance, a combination of restless energy and creative endeavour. His personality had many facets. He left a mark on many fields, most of all on law, literature and study of our culture. I do not know which of his contributions he valued most—his record as lawyer and lawmaker, his work as minister in Bombay

at the Centre and later as Governor, or the books and essays which he wrote.

I had the privilege of knowing Shri Bimla Prasad Chaliha for many years and of working closely with him. He was one of the wise statesmen of our country. I found him to be one of the gentlest figures in our political life, yet very firm when the situation so demanded. His obvious sincerity and the trust he was able to evoke from all sections of the people in Assam made him somewhat of a father figure there. He was devoted to the cause of the underprivileged, specially in the rural and tribal areas. As you have remarked, Mr. Speaker, he had a special contribution to make in keeping the very varied population of that region as an integrated whole and it was largely because of his counsel and the influence which he wielded among the different people, that we were able to have a satisfactory solution to very thorny problems. Shri Chaliha was one of those people who remained calm, no matter what the crisis or what the provocation, and his counsel was marked by wisdom and total lack of rancour. He had been ill for a long time but continued to shoulder his responsibilities, and has left us comparatively young.

Even younger was Shri Nath Pal, who was with us until only the other day. A personal friend not only of yours, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps of every Member in this House. He was one of those rare beings whose sensitivity was in no way blunted by the rough and tumble of politics. His conscientiousness shone through his eloquent and impassioned advocacy of the people's causes. His intellect and interest covered a wide range. His was a questing spirit which yearned for justice for all. But, above all, he was a very warm-hearted and sincere person of great charm, who made a very special place for himself in our political life and here in the Lok Sabha through sheer dint of ability and hard work. He will be greatly missed. He had a great future before him. He has left a void in Parliament which cannot be filled.

May I request you to convey our deep grief to the bereaved families of these distinguished and devoted colleagues?

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN (Palghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the noble sentiments expressed by you as well as by the Leader of the House. Among the seven friends who passed away, one belonged to the Provisional Parliament and Shri Nath Pai was the one with whom I had personal contacts not only when he became a Member of Parliament but before he became a Member of Parliament in the Samyukta Maharashtra Smiti agitation as well as in the Goa liberation struggle. In all these agitations I had the opportunity to be with him and to work with him. Everybody of the old Parliament who is here knows how active a parliamentarian he was. Certainly, his loss will be felt by all the Members of this House.

On behalf of my group in Parliament, I request you to convey our condolences to the bereaved families including that of Mr. Nath Pai.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has almost become an undecidable excruciating routine that whenever the House meets, we are compelled to condole the sad demise of our colleagues working along with us or working in the Parliament for the last so many years.

Of the seven Members who are no more today, I had personal contact and association with Mr. Nath Pai who was one of the parliamentarians, a man of nice qualities and one of the finest flower with fragrance that the country has ever produced, an able orator and a skilful debater. He was inspired by socialistic path in his mind. Whenever he rose on the floor of the House, he necessarily made contribution to the parliamentary tradition of the country.

Regarding others, I had no personal contact. But I am told that their contribution was immense to the parliamentary tradition of our country. Rightly, Sir, you as well as the Leader of the House has pointed out that the loss of these people is irreparable. I associate myself on behalf of the DMK. Party in Parliament the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House as well as the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. A.K. Gopalan in bemoaning the sad demise of these Members.

Sir, I request you to please convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of these departed souls.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been asked by my party to speak on this occasion presumably because I happen to have known so many of those whose loss we are mourning today a little better and for a longer period than the rest of us.

Sir, in the beginning of every session, we have to place on record our sense of loss at the passing away of our erstwhile colleagues. And we know death will come when it will come. On every occasion, there is not much point in mourning because the human span is limited. But there are occasions when death takes away from our midst people who should have been with us a great deal longer than they were permitted to remain with us. I do not think there is much need to say a great deal about people who have died full of years and honours like Dr. K.M. Munshi whose devouring passion in life was an interest in the resuscitation of the values of Indian culture and which is a variegated one. I think, he will be remembered almost entirely through the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan which has conducted such magnificent work and which remains a memorial to a son of India who deserves to be cherished in the memory of his death.

In the case of such of our friends as Shri D. C. Mallik, whom we knew as a type of the old-time Congressman, simple almost to a fault but devoted to the country's interests, or in the case of Shri C. V.P. Sinha, who was a popular member of the First Lok Sabha, who was quite a notable figure in many ways or in the case of Shri Mohammad Islammuddin or Dr. Edward Paul Maiburam, we have at least the consolation that they died at a point of time when there could be no grouse as far as we are concerned against their passing away. But when we learnt of the death of Shri Bimla Prasad Chaitra—we knew he was ailing for a long enough time—we were not quite ready for his death, because he was a type of person who should have been spared a great deal longer in the interests of our country. I remember him very vividly as a member

of the First Lok Sabha. His very presence was an influence. As the Prime Minister said, there was about him a sense of calm and poise which nothing could disturb and his qualities came into the picture when the politics of Assam, which is a paradise of ethnologists and a sort of laboratory for political experimentation, came into the limelight; when the problems of Assam pushed themselves into prominence, it was a man only of the type of Shri Bimla Prasad Chaliha who could tackle them.

I remember when some of us went to Nagaland, we met him in Shillong and on other occasions also. We could see how he had earned the respect and confidence of the people belonging to the multitudinous tribes we have in that emerald area of our country. It was his being at the helm of affairs which at one time had meant the safeguarding of the interests of Assam as well as of India, I think he is one of the very few people in the recent political history of the country who will be regarded as a person endowed with the qualities of statesmanship, and it is a very great pity that he has gone away.

But the pity of all pities is the passing away of Shri Nath Pai who will ever be missed by whoever came in contact with him. And it is not only members of Parliament who came in contact with him but the whole country, because his name was a name to conjure with not only in Maharashtra but in the rest of India.

He should have gone hereafter. So many of us stay behind, but they went away, and in a manner which, in some ways, is, of course, most desirable. He made a speech, I think it was somewhere near Belgaum. He spoke longer than he should have, because of the condition of his health, I remember on so many occasions in this House, we would try to restrain him, because we knew he had a heart ailment and it was wrong of him to put himself on any avoidable strain; but he just could not avoid the strain because he thought that was part of his duty to his country. Greater love than this had no man that he laid down his life for his country, and Nath Pai's speaking in Belgaum or somewhere else in Maharash-

tra and dying a few hours after he made that important speech, would remain cherished in the memory of our people.

But we in this House who miss him, who have watched him in action, who have heard his mellifluous phrases, who have noticed his appropriately youthful exuberance in regard to certain matters, who have appreciated his dexterity not only with words and phrases but with all the subtleties of constitutional and parliamentary technicalities, who have known him as a human individual with a warmth of heart and sensitivity of feeling—for us the loss is so big and so great that it can never be compensated. It is the pity of pities that he has gone. He is gone, and that is all there is to it, and all that we can say is that our hearts are heavy with sorrow, particularly at the passing away of a man who died in his prime, who should have been spared a great deal longer for the sake of this country, but who was not. Those whom the Gods love die young, but between Gods and man there is a sort of tussle going on, which is the definition of civilisation. And men would never be reconciled to the kind of thing which has at once taken away from our midst and the midst of the Indian people a person of the calibre of Shri Nath Pai.

I would request you to associate our party with the messages of condolence and sympathy which you would send on behalf of the House to the bereaved families.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मृत्यु क्षरीर का घर्म है। लेकिन जब श्री नाथ पाई जैसे साथी संघर्ष के मार्ग पर असामयिक निघन को प्राप्त होने है तो हृदय विचलित हो जाता है और जीवन की क्षण-भंगुरता अपनी सम्पूर्ण भयानकता के साथ हमारे सम्मुख स्पष्ट हो जाती है।

श्री नाथ पाई के बिना लोकसभा की कल्पना करना ही कठिन है। जब यह समाचार सुना तो सहमा विश्वास नहीं हुआ। इतनी जल्दी ऐसा व्यक्तित्व हमारे बीच से उठ जायेगा इस की कल्पना करना भी कठिन था। हृदय में देश-

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

भक्ति की बहकती ज्वाला, अंतःकरण में मानवता की स्वतन्त्रता, समता और गरिमा के लिए झूट निष्ठा, सदैव संघर्ष के लिए उद्यत भ्रमर ममकौते के लिए बड़प्पन के साथ तैयार, शब्दों के जादूगर, लाखों लोगों को मंत्रमुग्ध करने की क्षमता, अपने तर्कों के तेज तीरों से व्यंग के बाणों से, नथ्यों से प्रतिपक्षी को व्याकुल बनाने की क्षमता किन्तु कभी उन्होंने ऊँचे स्तर से उतर कर वार करने का प्रयत्न नहीं किया। कोई विवाद जब क्षिप्र पड़ता था, किसी चर्चा में जब मदन की रुची कम हो जाती थी, श्री नाथ पाई को खड़ा कर दीजिये, सारे विवाद में एक जान आ जाती थी। चर्चा एक ऊँचे स्तर पर चली जाती थी। संविधान का गहरा अध्ययन, नियमों का पूर्ण विचार और बाल की हम तरीके से कहने हंग कि जिममें केवल प्रखर आलोचना ही नहीं होती थी अपितु प्रतिस्पर्धी को अपने दृष्टिकोण का बनाने का प्रयत्न भी परिलक्षित होता था। सारा मदन, सारा देश विशेष कर तरुण वर्ग, हम सब लोग नाथ पाई के निधन से दुखी है। शायद अब हमारे दुःख को व्यक्त नहीं कर सकेंगे।

उनकी पत्नी के साथ, उन के बच्चों के साथ स्वाभाविक रूप से हमारी समवेदना जुड़ी है। श्री नाथ पाई के रूप में हम ने एक होनहार राजनीतिज्ञ को दिया है।

जहां तक डाक्टर कन्हैया लाल भास्कर लाल मुंशी का सवाल है, वह अपने जीवन में ही एक संस्था बन गये थे। यदि वह राजनीति में न भी आते, प्रशासन का कार्य न भी सम्भालते तब भी एक महान साहित्यकार के नाते और शब्दों के एक शिल्पी के नाते भारतीय इतिहास में और विश्व के साहित्य में उनका स्थान अमर था। एक महान विचिन्नेता, शिक्षाशास्त्री और भारतीय विद्या भवन के संस्थापक के रूप में

उन्होंने भारतीय संस्कृति की, भारतीय साहित्य को चिरस्थायी रखने और उसे विकसित करने के लिये जो प्रयत्न किया वो इतिहास में सदैव अंकित रहेगा। उनके निधन से हमारे सार्वजनिक जीवन को एक अपूर्णता क्षति हुई है।

श्री बी०पी० चालिहा असम के मुख्य मंत्री के रूप में सारे देश में अपना स्थान बना चुके थे, किन्तु सब से बढ़कर उनके व्यक्तित्व की जो बात आकर्षित करती थी वह थी उनकी सज्जनता, उनकी सरलता। राजनीतिज्ञ के लिये सज्जन होना बड़ी कठिन बात है, लेकिन राजनीति के सारे दाँव पेंचों में उन्होंने अपनी सज्जनता को बनाये रखा और असम को भारत के एक भाग के रूप में विकसित करने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। श्री चालिहा के निधन से केवल असम की क्षति नहीं हुई है, सारे भारत के सार्वजनिक जीवन में से एक महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तित्व उठ गया है।

जो अन्य महानुभाव हम से बिभुड गये हैं उन के प्रति भी हम अपनी विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि समर्पित करने हैं और दिवंगत व्यक्तियों के परिवारों के प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करते हैं। मैं आपसे अनुरोध करता हूँ कि आप हमारी भावनाओं को उनके परिवार तक पहुंचा दें।

SHRI P K DEO (Kalahandi): The cold hand of death has taken away from our midst some stalwarts from this country, from this House, and the public life of this country has been deprived of some of the eminent persons with whom I had the privilege of being personally associated.

Nath Pai and I came to this House in 1957 and the loss of Nath Pai is a personal loss to me. Politically we differed on various issues but I always respected him, and his parliamentary activity will be remembered for all times to come. A Lok Sabha without Nath Pai is unthinkable. His subtle interpretation of the Constitution and the various rules of procedure of this House were remarkable. He brought life to the debates

in this House and he was all along a champion of the downtrodden, and he tried to project that image in every debate in which he participated in this House. Mr. Nath Pai's loss to the House but also a personal loss to me; he was a very dear friend of mine.

I had the privilege of sitting at the feet of Kulapathi Munshi and of taking lessons when he was the Vice President and founder member of the Swatantra Party. He was humility and dignity personified; he was an institution by himself. His great contribution in the freedom struggle and especially his most important role in the liberation of Hyderabad and in the integration of the princely States will be written in golden letters in our history.

His Vidya Bhavan will be remembered for ever, and the way he brought about the renaissance of Indian culture is really remarkable.

Sir, regarding Shri B.P. Chaliha, I had the privilege to know him, and in that problem State of Assam, he managed the affairs magnificently, and it is also a personal loss to me.

Regarding the death of all our other friends, I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you and by the Leader of the house, and on behalf of the Swatantra Party, I pay my tribute to the departed souls and express my condolences to the bereaved families.

DR. MELKOTE (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I associate myself with the deep sentiments already expressed in this House? I would like particularly to mention two personalities whom I know pretty intimately. One of them was Kulapathi K.M. Munshi. In 1947, with the declaration of Independence of India, when the ex-ruler of Hyderabad wanted to declare his own independence, while the people wanted to join the mainstream of the citizens of India and become part of them. Mr. K.M. Munshi came there as the Agent-General of the Government of India, and for nearly a year, he pleaded our cause very ably before the Government of India and it ultimately culminated in the police action,

This liberation transformed the feudal system of the Government which then prevailed to one of Democratic Government united with the rest in India, and we in Hyderabad can never forget those memorable days. We are grateful to Mr. K.M. Munshi for all that he did for us.

About Mr. Nath Pai, it is difficult to feel that he is no more with us: an able parliamentarian, a person with geniality, acutely aware of the problems that faced us in this Parliament on every occasion, every-time, with his enlivened this House with his timely and erudite remarks. He was one of those people who would ever be remembered as a friend and an able parliamentarian. That he is no longer with us is a matter of every great sorrow for us.

May I, on behalf on the Telengana people, express our deep sentiments of sorrow, and request you to convey our condolences to the families of these people.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the death of one person of standing in our public social and cultural life should be enough to shock us and put us out of gear, but here we are confronted with a number of deaths of eminent colleagues and outstanding personalities in our political, social and cultural life.

Mr. Speaker, believe me it is no more formal words when I say that our party is deeply grieved over the great void created in our public life as a result of the passing away of these seven eminent persons. Although it would appear less than adequate and less than satisfying to himself to say that I can do no better than to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you—I can do no better due to the limitation of time—but I must say that although the words used might be briefer, the sentiments cannot be scantier on that account.

In fact, briefer words should be a more effective vehicle for deeper sentiments.

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, there were some persons really intimately and passionately known to

[Shri Shyamnandan Mishra]

us. Naturally, we feel a wrench in our hearts on account of their passing away. But may I say on this occasion that I would not like to name them? I would only satisfy myself by requesting you to associate our party with any method you might choose to express our deepest condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

Finally, I would pay not only the humble tribute of my party but the humble tribute of myself to the memory of all these able, departed, eminent persons.

SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, with a deep sense of sorrow, I associate myself with the tribute that has been paid to various parliamentarians here. It has been my singular misfortune that I represent in this House the same constituency which Barrister Nath Pai represented for 14 years. I am carrying on my shoulders the same banner of democratic socialism which Barrister Nath Pai held aloft for the last 14 years and more. My presence here in this House is a sad reminder to me every moment about the absence of Barrister Nath Pai. He was a great Parliamentarian, who upheld the values not only of democratic socialism but parliamentary democracy as well. What we experienced this morning in the joint session only remains us that we need many Nath Pairs in Parliament.

Nath Pai represented in a true sense the combination of the spirit of revolution and the spirit of renaissance. He was a fearless man. He literally lived with death from *from moment to moment. I may be permitted to read out what he wrote from Geneva before his death. He wrote:*

"At my ear, I always hear Time's winged chariot drawing near. The few occasions death came very close, I felt only a sadness, deep and overpowering for all I adored and loved, for that strongest passion of our life—India, for my mother, for my children and Christie. But there never was even a faint shadow of fear. To defy the perennial challenge of death is the only way to live."

That is how Nath Pai lived in his life and that is how Nath Pai passed away. The greatest passion of Nath Pai's life was to establish the supremacy of Parliament and the sovereignty of the country. I think the greatest tribute to Barrister Nath Pai would be to see to it that Parliament restores to itself the sovereign right to amend the Constitution, so that the Constitution becomes a true symbol of the genuine hopes and aspirations of the down-trodden people of this country. I am reminded about a great debate in which Nath Pai participated. It was a great debate between the protagonists of the Constitution Amendment Bill and the opponents of the Constitution Amendment Bill in Bombay. One who was opposed to Nath Pai's Bill spoke at length. The Chairman of the meeting then asked Nath Pai to speak. But before he invited Shri Nath Pai to speak, in a humorous tone, he made a comment: 'Now the Prime Minister of the opposition will speak'. After this comment a rare sense of humour was displayed by Nath Pai. Without having any illwill towards any Prime Minister Nath Pai said: "I have seen the performance of all the Prime Ministers on the floor of the Parliament. Somehow or other, I have a feeling that they have not shown the ability to put forth cogent arguments on the floor of the House. Probably the Chairman of the meeting wants to undermine my capacity to put forward my case and that is why he described me as the Prime Minister of the opposition." Of course, he said all that with a sense of humour, and I am sure that even the Prime Minister here will consider that remark with a sense of humour. Whenever there was tension in the House, with his sense of humour, Nath Pai could see to it that the tension was completely removed.

I am reminded of the tension that was created in this House on the Mysore-Maharashtra border issue and some of our friends from Mysore were very much agitated. The paradox of the situation was that when Barrister Nath Pai, to whose views they were opposed spoke the agitated M.P.s from Mysore listened to the advice of Barrister Nath Pai and passions came down. That was the magnetic personality of Shri Nath Pai.

As my friends have said, whenever Barrister Nath Pai spoke he touched the inner-most chords of our life. Let me point out the reasons for this. The stream of Nath Pai's thoughts emanated from his head, but the stream of his emotions flowed from his heart and it was actually the confluence of his emotions and thoughts on his lips that made his speech powerful and appealing. Whenever Shri Nath Pai spoke, either in this House or outside, he touched the inner-most chords of our life. That was the great personality of Shri Nath Pai.

His dream was to establish the sovereignty of Parliament to amend the Constitution. Therefore, in the end, while paying tribute to Nath Pai, let me say that if real tribute is to be paid to Barrister Nath Pai, let us see to it that the Parliament of the becomes the sovereign Parliament of sovereign India having the sovereign right to amend the Constitution in conformity with the requirements of social change.

I also associate myself with the tribute that has been paid to other parliamentarians. Men like Shri Munshi have played a remarkable role not only in the freedom struggle but also in framing the Constitution of free India. Therefore, we owe to these parliamentarians, to whom we pay our tribute, to see to it that in the light of their work in past we try to make a new history and try to take steps in consonance with the work that these great parliamentarians have done.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every time this House meets fate snatches away some of our very fine leaders and today we are mourning the loss of seven of our colleagues who have passed away. Many of them are known to me ever since 1932 when I was elected. They were my leaders and I have learnt to respect them. The gap left by them can be felt by all of us. Perhaps more than that of anybody else, the loss of Shri Nath Pai is a personal loss. Nath, apart from being a popular and very effective Member of Parliament, he was a human being in the true sense. He was sincere. Nath was a true socialist in every sense of the term. I have known him for the last

fourteen years in this House and we have been sharing the same seat for some years together. Those who knew Nath Pai as a human being will miss him for all times. M.Ps. will come and M.Ps. will go but a man of Nath Pai's calibre will not be found so easily to occupy this seat in Parliament.

We, Independents, join in the grief expressed in this House and convey our condolence to the bereaved families of the departed leaders.

SHRI M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL (Mangli) : Sir, I associate my party the Muslim League, and myself with the sentiments expressed in the House on the demise of the seven gentlemen, whose names have been placed before us. Dr. Paul Mathuram was a noteworthy social worker and an affable gentlemen having a great circle of friends.

Shri Nath Pai really was an exceptionally great parliamentarian, untiring and extraordinary in his pursuit of knowledge. He was a man of immense scholarship and convincing eloquence.

Shri K.M. Munshi was a great patriot, a venerable national leader, an eminent and talented lawyer, scholar and writer.

The other gentlemen also had their affable qualities. It is a matter for great sorrow that such men are departing every now and then from our midst causing loss not only to the parliamentary life but to the country as a whole. I associate my party with the condolences which may please be conveyed to the members of the families of these departed and affable gentleman.

SHRI GOTKHINDE (Sangli) : Mr. Speaker Sir, Barrister Nath Pai had a career which for many of us, who had taken part in the freedom struggle in our college career, was a source of profound inspiration. In the untimely death of Barrister Nath Pai, Maharashtra has lost one of its most illustrious sons and the country one of her most famous silver-tongued orators. Such was his mastery of reason and eloquence that even the Treasury Benches used to hear him

[Shri Gotkinde]

with attention and honour. By death of this veteran parliamentarian and seasoned politician this august House has been rendered poorer. Henceforth this green-carpeted and marblewalled House will not be resounding with that famous eloquence. A tireless champion that he was of the supremacy of this house, his performance in that respect cannot be easily emulated.

Maharashtra will never forget the efforts he had made in the long-drawn Maharashtra-Mysore boundary dispute. He had heroically done his duty towards the Marathi people in the boundary areas and like a fighter he has laid his life in his beloved city of Belgaum while acting for the cause he held so dear.

We in Maharashtra have lost only one seat to the Opposition but we are not sorry for it. I am told, the electorate there, even though they knew that Barrister Nath Pai was no more, were under the impression that they were still voting for Barrister Nath Pai in that particular constituency.

The House can give no better tribute to this departed soul than by asserting the supremacy of this House in all spheres.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA (Marmagoa): Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a personal tribute to our senior colleague, Mr. Nath Pai.

The first time that we in Goa saw a lot of Mr. Nath Pai was a few years ago when he arrived and made his customary impact, propagating a view that has since receded into history. But across the gulf that separated us at that time started growing a grudging admiration for this master of the spoken word. In later years, we got to know each other better.

Among Mr. Nath Pai's greatest quality was the fact that a senior Member like him could, and always did, treat a junior like me as an equal. We seldom crossed swords but we often worked at cross purposes in the lobbies and in the dovecotes of Government. Yet, through all this, the grudging respect grew into fondness and our acquaintance grew into friendship.

Mr. Nath Pai was very much a national figure. But we the Konkani people will always have in our hearts a special place for him, for he was one of us. As I stand today in tribute to a great parliamentarian, I mourn the loss of a personal friend.

श्री रामवेर्बासह (महाराजगंज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दिवंगत आत्माओं के लिए माननीय सदस्यों ने जिन शब्दों में अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की है और अपनी भावनाओं को व्यक्त किया है। मैं और मेरा दल उस के साथ है। मैं उनमें से श्री नाथ पाई जी 'को अच्छी तरह जानता हूँ। उन के साथ काम करने का मौका मुझे मिला था। जब हम प्रजा सोशलिस्ट पार्टी में थे तो उन के साथी बनकर उन के नेतृत्व में हमने काम किया था। आज उनकी इस देश को बड़ी आवश्यकता थी। वह देश के समाजवादी आन्दोलन के सेनानी रहे हैं। इस आन्दोलन में उन को बहुत बड़ी देन रही है। आज सब प्रजातांत्रिक समाजवादी देश का निर्माण हो रहा है तो इस निर्माण के काल में उनका हम में विलुप्त जाना यह निश्चिन्त इस देश के लिए दुर्भाग्य की बात है। लेकिन मृत्यु का यत्र चक्र इसी तरह से चलता आया है। उन के चले जाने से बड़ी क्षति इस देश को और इस देश के समाजवादी आन्दोलन को हुई है।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप के माध्यम से हमारी श्रद्धांजलि और हमारा शोक उनके परिवार को पहुँचा दिया जाय यह मेरा आप से निवेदन है।

MR. SPEAKER: The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ORDINANCES UNDER ARTICLE 123
(2)(a) OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under provisions of article 123(2)(a) of the constitution :

1. The State of Himachal Pradesh (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971 (No. 1 of 1971) promulgated by the President on the 5th January, 1971. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2/71*].
2. The West Bengal Security (Tripura Re-enacting) Amendment Ordinance 1971 (No. 2 of 1971) promulgated by the President on the 24th January, 1971. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3171*].
3. The Labour Provident Fund Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971 (No. 3 of 1971) promulgated by the President on the 13th February, 1971 [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4171*].

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL
SERVICES MAINTENANCE ACT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : On behalf of K. K. Shah I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S. O. 923 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1971 declaring service connected with the supply, distribution and transmission of electrical energy to the public and the maintenance of operational efficiency within the areas of, or served by, the municipal electrical undertakings at Madurai, Coimbatore, Karur, Thanjavur and Pollachi in the State of Tamil Nadu, to be an essential service for the purposes of the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968, under sub-section (2) of section 2 of the said Act [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5/71*].

MR. SPEAKER : SHRI K. C. Pant,

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : On a point of order, Sir, Before he lays the paper on the Table of the House, I want to raise a constitutional point.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please sit down? There is nothing before the House...

SHRI P. K. DEO : The paper that he is going to lay on the Table of the House is not even worth the paper on which it is printed. It should not be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House. It has absolutely no constitutional backing. It should have been laid in this House within two months. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to article 356 of the constitution, It cannot be laid on the Table of the House. Under no circumstances, the House can take cognizance of the paper... (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please sit down ? I am on the legs. This is dated 11th January, 1971. The House had already been dissolved. This is the earliest opportunity available to them to lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI P. K. DEO : In that case, if the earliest opportunity was to be taken, the Rajya Sabha should have been called. There is a clear provision in the Constitution. (*Interruptions*) It says that in the case of the President's Proclamation, if the House is dissolved, then the proper forum for ratification by Parliament is the Rajya Sabha. The Government has completely failed in that. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are an old member. The House had been dissolved. How do you think in spite of the dissolution of the House the Rajya Sabha could meet ? I am very sorry.

SHRI P. K. DEO : This paper has no constitutional backing. This is my first point of order.

My second point of order is this. The Chief Minister of Orissa resigned on the 9th January and his resignation was accepted. There was no caretaker Government and this Proclamation came into being on the 11th. So, on the 9th, 10th and 11th, there was absolutely no Government. The elections and other executive orders passed

[Shri P. K. Deo]

during that period are being challenged in in the Orissa High Court. Under the circumstances, we want a clear explanation from the Government, before any paper is laid, in this regard, as to what happened during that period and who was ruling the Orissa State. *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow it any more. There is no question of whether there was government or no government. A proclamation came. This is just a simple procedure to lay it on the Table. What is all this about.

SHRI P.K. DEO : It cannot have retrospective of effect.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him not force me. Shri K. C. Pant.

PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 356(3) OF THE CONSTITUTION, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS ATOMIC ENERGY AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. C. PANT) : I beg to lay on the Table :

1. (i) A copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 11th January, 1971 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the state of Orissa published in notification No. G.S.R. 67 in Gazette of of India dated the 11th January, 1971, under article 356(3) of the constitution.
- (ii) A copy of the order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 11th January, 1971, made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above proclamation, published in notification No. G.S.R. 68 in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 1971. *[Placed in Library. See LT-6/71].*
2. A copy of the Wireless Messages dated the 11th January, 1971 from the Governor of the Orissa to the

President *[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7/71].*

3. A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 23rd January, 1971 issued by the President under clause (2) of Article 356 of the Constitution revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 11th January 1971 in relation to the State of Orissa, published in Notification No.G.S.R. 119 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1971, under article 356(3) of the Constitution. *[Placed in Library. See No. LT-8/71]*
4. (i) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 23rd January, 1971 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Orissa published in Notification No. G.S.R. 120 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1971 under article 356 (3) of the Constitution.
- (ii) A copy of order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 23rd January, 1971, made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above proclamation, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 121 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1971. *[Placed in Library. See No. LT-8/71]*
5. A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Governor of Orissa dated the 20th January, 1971 to the President. *[Placed in Library. See No. LT-10/71].*
6. (i) A copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 23rd March, 1971 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Orissa published in Notification No. G.S.R. 398 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1971, under article 356 (3) of the Constitution.

- (ii) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 23rd March, 1971, made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above proclamation, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 399 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1971.

A copy of the Trunk Telephone Message dated the 22nd March, 1971 from the Governor of Orissa to the President. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9/71].

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE ACT

SHRI K.C. PANT : On behalf of Shri Annasahib Shunde :—

I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 152 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 1971 declaring service in the Food Corporation of India to be an essential service for the purpose of Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968, under sub-section (2) of section 2 of the said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11/71]

NOTIFICATION RE-SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN BIHAR

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : On behalf of Shri Siddheswar Prasad :-

I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S. O. 217 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 1971 declaring service connected with the supply of electrical energy to the Public in the State of Bihar or with the generation, storage or transmission of electrical energy for the purpose of such supply, to be an essential service for the purposes of Essential Service Maintenance Act, 1968, under sub-section (2) of section 2 of the said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-12/71].

13.24 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1970-71

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1970-71.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL) 1970-71

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1970-71.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (MANIPUR) 1970-71

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Union Territory of Manipur for 1970-71.

13.25 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 1971-72

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to perform the pleasant duty of placing before the House the annual financial result of the Indian Government Railways showing the receipts and expenditure for the year 1971-72.

2. Hon'ble Members of the House have had a strenuous time convincing the electorate of their stand and seeking their suffrage. We all meet in the House with a sense of new spirit and dedication but we have not yet had the time to apply our minds in detail to the various

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problems pertaining to the Railway Administration. It is therefore, that I am not placing to-day the complete and final picture of the working of the Railways. I am now submitting to the House a mere annual financial statement relating to the Indian Railways together with connected documents. I seek the approval of the House to the 'Vote-on-account' for the estimated expenditure of the first four months only of the financial year 1971-72. In the light of the observations, criticisms and comments Hon'ble Members may be pleased to make, a full fledged budget will be placed before the House for consideration a few months later. The statement, however, will enable the House to appreciate the financial position of the Railways in its true perspective.

We are now at the close of the second year of the Fourth Plan. During these two years, 186 kilometres of new lines have been opened for traffic, 420 kilometres of track doubled; and 326 kilometres have almost been converted from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge. The Railway Rolling Stock has been augmented by 418 locomotives (226 diesel, 79 electric; and 113 steam), 2857 coaches and 26,702 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) 91 new trains were introduced and the runs of 78 existing trains were extended, thereby the Railways have added 17,404 train kilometres per day. 145 new trains were introduced and runs of 37 existing trains extended on the suburban sections, adding 7,436 train kilometres per day.

Accounts of 1969-70

3. I shall first deal with the financial results of 1969-70 -- the last completed year. The gross traffic receipts amounted to 951.28 crores. It is almost the same as the Revised Estimate of 950.55 crores. The Revised Estimate of Ordinary Working Expenses was 683.05 crores. The actual expenses of 684.94 crores were higher by 1.89 crores. After taking into account the other items, like the annual appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund, Pension Fund, Net Miscellaneous Expenditure and Dividend Payment to General Revenues,

the shortfall came to 9.83 crores against 12.55 crores foreseen at the stage of the Revised Estimate. This shortfall of 9.83 crores was met by a loan of 8.86 crores from General Revenues and balance by withdrawal from the Revenue Reserve Fund.

The Railways maintain a Development Fund for financing unremunerative works of operating necessity, amenities for passengers, and staff quarters. A sum of 17.08 crores was spent on these works in 1969-70. This Fund is normally fed from the revenue surplus after fully meeting the liability of Dividend to the General Exchequer for the Capital-at-charge. As will be explained later, the Railways were not able to earn any revenue surplus in the year. Hence, an amount of 18.51 crores was raised; by a loan of 18.15 crores from the General Revenues and 36 lakhs from the meagre balance available in the Development Fund. The loan liability of the Railways to the General Revenues under Development Fund rose consequently at the end of 1969-70 from 25.30 to 43.45 crores. The total indebtedness to General Revenues amounted to 52.31 crores.

Revised Estimates, 1970-71

4. The Budget Estimates as originally presented for the year 1970-71 envisaged a surplus of 22.38 crores. In deference to the wishes of the House last year, my predecessor had given up certain proposed increases in third class passenger fares and in freight rates, particularly those on food-grains. Thereby, we had to forego 13 crores of revenue. As a result, the surplus shown in the Budget Estimate came down to 9.38 crores. As against this, the Revised Estimates now show a shortfall of 23.69 crores. The gross traffic receipts fell by 5 crores and the working expenses increased by 30.77 crores. There was a reduction of 1.42 crores in miscellaneous expenses and 1.28 crores in the Dividend payable to General Revenues. The cumulative effect of all these factors is a shortfall of 23.69 crores.

The estimates of gross traffic receipts were, at the time of the preparation of the budget for 1970-71, based on a revenue

earning traffic of 18.39 million tonnes as against 173.8 million tonnes in the preceding year. Actually, however, instead of an increase of 10.1 million tonnes, the revenue earning traffic this year will be some 4.3 million tonnes less than that last year. There has been a significant drop in the traffic to and from steel plants, of coal for general purposes and of other goods. Fortunately, the effect of fall in the originating tonnage of traffic has not been proportionately adverse on railway earnings. It is because of two favourable factors, namely, improvement in leads to the extent of 2.2 per cent on an average, and a larger proportion of high-rated traffic in the overall traffic carried. The railway earnings could have been decidedly higher but for the unsatisfactory law and order situation in some places in the eastern and north-eastern regions, the unauthorised wild-cat strikes and the breaches caused by floods in Gujarat. Hon'ble Members would agree that essential rail services had to be maintained and, therefore, the Essential Services Maintenance Act had to be invoked thrice during the year. The lightning strike in the Dhanbad Division of the Eastern Railway last month and in the Tatanagar yard and shed of South-eastern Railway earlier this month are instances in point. The former almost choked off the supply of coal for domestic and industrial consumption to the rest of the country and even resulted in the curtailment for some days of over 900 passenger train services. The latter jeopardised vital supplies of iron ore, coal and coke to the steel plants. A common and regrettable feature of these two strikes was that they were sparked off on trivial and flimsy grounds. They were in no way related to industrial disputes and trade union rights and responsibilities. In one case it was merely a quarrel between two railway families and in the other it was an altercation between a loco employee and a compounder in a railway hospital. This highlights how irresponsible and misguided agitations can jeopardise vital national interests.

A brochure has been included in the Budget documents circulated to the Hon'ble Members giving brief particulars of important incidents that occurred during the year resulting in destruction of property and

assets, and dislocation of railway services on account of disruption of communications, demonstrations, bundhs, strikes and attacks on railway staff. Hon'ble Members will share my relief that in spite of these adverse factors, the gross receipts are only 5 crores short of the modified Budget.

During the current year a number of important factors beyond the control of Railways have thrown a heavy burden on the revenue expenditure of the Railways. Working expenses increased by 36 crores on account of interim relief to the staff sanctioned by Government on the basis of the recommendation made by the Third Pay Commission. Large sums of money had also to be found to meet heavy expenditure on other items, such as, 2.40 crores on flood damage, about one crore for payment of arbitration tribunal awards to staffs 1.25 crores on account of increase in the rates of travelling and daily allowances and about 5 crores on account of increases in prices of various materials. During the first half of the year, falling income and increasing expenses presented a gloomy picture. A persistent and vigorous campaign was, therefore, initiated to maximise earnings and to reduce expenditure. The results achieved from these drives have been encouraging. In the mid-year appraisal, it had been feared that the Railway deficit would be as high as 47 crores. Because of various measures taken to improve earnings and reduce expenditure, the deficit has been halved. Even so, after appropriating 100 crores to the Depreciation Reserve Fund, 15 crores to the Pension Fund, and 165.81 crores as Dividend to General Revenues etc., the Railways will be in the red to the extent of 23.69 crores at the close of the current year. I admit that the financial position of the Railways is not very happy. However, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Members an encouraging feature of the year's working. But for post-budgetary developments throwing up a burden of 45.65 crores on working expenses the Railways might still have ended with a surplus of almost the same order as foreseen in the original Budget, man-made disasters and natural calamities notwithstanding.

Light Railways

5. During the year 1970-71, three Light

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Railway Companies under the management of Messrs Maruti Burn Limited, Calcutta, with aggregate kilometrage of 246 have closed down their operations. These are (i) Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway (148.9 Kms) in Uttar Pradesh which closed down from 1st September 1970; (ii) Howrah-Amta (70.3 Kms); and (iii) Howrah-Sheakhalla (27.1 Kms) Light Railways in West Bengal which closed down 1st January 1971. All these were Narrow Gauge Railways, catering mostly to short distance passenger traffic. The Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway carried about 12,000 passengers per day while Howrah-Amta and Howrah-Sheakhalla Railways together carried about 25,000 passengers per day. The Management announced that the closure was forced on the Companies by increasing losses year after year due to severe road competition in the areas served by them. The accumulated losses on these three Light Railways amounted to 36 lakhs. The rolling stock, track, and other assets of these Railways had not been maintained properly. They were in a worn out condition requiring considerable expenditure for rehabilitation. The standard of passenger amenities on these Railways was also much lower than that obtaining on Indian Government Railways. Nationalisation of the Light Railways or assumption of management by the Ministry of Railways was considered. But careful examination showed that it would not be in the public interest. Not only will we have to spend considerable amount of money in replacing and rehabilitating the equipment, but also the running costs would go up sharply due to our having to bring their working to the standard of Government Railways. The transport needs of the public in the areas served are being met by the respective State Governments augmenting the road services. In order to prevent the staff of the Light Railways numbering about 3,000 from being thrown out of employment, the Central Government have decided to absorb these personnel in suitable categories on Indian Government Railways.

A Year of Challenge

5. This has been a year of challenge and trial for the Railways and railwaymen

particularly those serving in the Eastern Region. Smooth and regular operating of trains became impossible on several occasions. There were a large number of attacks on railway property causing dislocation of traffic and immobilisation of rolling stock. There were also assaults on railway employees on duty, especially staff connected with the running of trains such as drivers, motormen, guards and assistant station masters. The railwaymen had to suffer some bomb attacks by extremist elements, resulting in some cases in serious injuries.

A few days back, one Assistant Officer of the Eastern Railway was murdered in broad day light in Calcutta area while returning home from his place of work. On 15th March 1971, a bomb was thrown by some extremists near the locoshed at Anjal, which hit a guard and a shunter. The shunter succumbed to his injuries on the spot while the guard was wounded. In encounters with dangerous and violent criminals, 23 men of the Railway Protection Force lost their lives and another 165 were injured during the year. There have also been some cases of robbing railway cash. In one of them, an armed gang raided the premises of the State Bank of India at Chittaranjan killed one Railway Protection Force guard on escort duty and looted 18.84 lakhs of rupees, while it was in the process of being taken over by the railway cashier. We are going to take firm and unrelenting steps to check this menace and bring the criminals to book.

The incidence of thefts and pilferages of railway equipment continued to be heavy. Such thefts not only result in financial loss to the railways but also seriously affect the efficiency of rail operation. As the House is aware, the entire route from Calcutta to Mughalserai over the Grand Chord is now electrified. The theft of overhead traction copper wires puts the entire train operation out of gear on the electrified section for several hours each day. During the period April to December, 1970, as many as 436 cases of thefts of overhead traction wires occurred on the Eastern and Southeastern Railways. The tele-communication control, on which the entire train operation is dependant, was

also interrupted frequently due to thefts of tele-communication cables and equipment. Every theft of tele-communication cable results in interruption of train control by about ten hours during which period the movement of trains gets slowed down appreciably, resulting in heavy detention to trains. The extent of these thefts can be judged from the fact that on the Eastern Railway alone there were as many as 4,163 cases of theft of tele-communication cables and equipment during the period from April to December, 1970.

Passenger Amenities

7. I know the Hon'ble Members are very particular of providing better passenger amenities. An amount of approximately 4 crores is being spent on this objective every year by the Railways. I am glad to say that as a result of concerted efforts at all levels, considerable improvement has taken place in items like train lighting, fans, water supply and the like, but I am aware that much still remains to be done. Unfortunately anti-social elements resort to wanton destruction of railway property and indulge in systematic thefts. Many of these fittings, like fans, are in short supply and it becomes difficult to replace them as fast as they disappear. The Railway Protection Force have been alerted to keep a close watch on passenger coaches and other stock, particularly in those yards where such thefts are most marked. We are taking steps seriously and earnestly to maintain and improve the equipment in our coaches.

Movement of Foodgrains

8. The "Green Revolution" has increased food production all over the country. There have been bumper food crops particularly in Haryana and Punjab. Railways have risen to the occasion by transporting these increased quantities to the distant corners of the country. During the period of ten months ending January 1971, the Railways loaded as many as 3,83,093 Broad Gauge wagons.

Budget Estimates, 1971-72

9. Let me now deal with the Budget Estimates for 1971-72. The gross receipts

for the year 1971-72 at the existing level of rates and fares are estimated at 1,044 crores which are 40 crores higher than in the current year. The estimate of earnings under 'Other Coaching' has been prepared, assuming the normal rate of growth. In the case of passenger traffic, however, the expansion may not be as brisk as has been witnessed in the current year. Therefore, in 1971-72 only a 3 per cent rise in passenger receipts has been adopted. It has also been assumed that all the additional 9 million tonnes of traffic expected to be carried by the Railways next year, would be revenue earning in character. They will add 30 crores to our freight earnings.

The net Ordinary Working Expenses have been placed at 765.44 crores, i.e., 33.68 crores more than in the Revised Estimates for the current year. The increase is mainly accounted for by staff costs 17.53 crores, fuel 7.80 crores, repairs and maintenance 5.03 crores and miscellaneous 3.32 crores. The appropriation to the Pension Fund has been kept at the same level of 15 crores as that for the current year. The appropriation to the Depreciation Reserve Fund has been stepped up from 100 crores to 105 crores as provided for in the Fourth Plan. The expenditure on Open Line Works Revenue together with other miscellaneous items is expected to go up by 2.79 crores to 17.91 crores. Consequent on an increase in the Capital-at-charge, the Dividend to General Revenues is expected to increase from 165.81 crores in the current year to 173.77 crores. In the net result, the Railways at the current level of rates and fares and cost of staff and stores will fall short by 33.12 crores in meeting their full liability of dividend payable to the General Revenues. It will be necessary to take a loan from the General Revenues to make good this deficit.

From the figures of financial result for three years given by me, the Hon'ble Members would have seen that Railway Finances are not on an even keel. In fact, the downward trend started from 1964-65, from which year they could not meet the full liability for Development Fund works. From 1966-67, the Railways

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could not meet fully even the annual dividend liability to the General Exchequer. The accumulation in the Revenue Reserve Fund, which stood at 63 crores in the beginning of 1966-67 has been exhausted. In addition a loan of 8.86 crores had to be taken in 1969-70 and another loan of 24.92 crores in 1970-71 for meeting dividend liability. For meeting the full dividend liability in 1971-72 and repaying one third of the earlier loans, the Railways will have to borrow 45.51 crores from General Revenues. It will raise their indebtedness to the General Exchequer to 65.08 crores on this account at the end of the next year.

The Railways will have to borrow a further sum of 21.58 crores in the current year and another 23.49 crores during 1971-72 for meeting the expenditure of development fund works. The total loan liability to the General Revenues on account of development fund works would aggregate to 88.52 crores at the end of 1971-72.

The total indebtedness of the Railways to the General Revenues at the end of 1971-72 would amount to 153.63 crores under the two sets of loans. The Railways have, therefore, to generate resources enough not only to repay these accumulated loans but also to rebuild the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Development Fund. I may add that in the above calculations no allowance has been made for the additional financial burdens that may be imposed as a result of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission and the awards of the Railway Arbitration Tribunal.

Works Expenditure

10. Works expenditure in 1969-70 was 30.83 crores, less than the Revised Estimate of 243.30 crores, mainly due to slower progress of certain works and some hold-up and delay in the procurement programme of materials, particularly steel and less out-turn of rolling stock.

The Revised Estimate of net expenditure on Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock for the current year has been placed at about 241 crores, against the Budget Esti-

mate of 280 crores. The reduced level of Revised Estimates has been determined after taking into account the physical progress of the works, out-turn of rolling stock from the Production Units and expected deliveries and supplies from outside agencies. The provision for expenditure on Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme for the Budget year 1971-72 has been put at 280 crores. This is about 28 crores less than the outlay which was fixed for the year under the original Fourth Five Year Plan. The reduction in the outlay was necessitated by the rate of growth of the economy in some particular sectors not coming upto expectations. A summary showing the important items of Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock is circulated as usual along with the Budget documents. Details are given in the Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme which also forms part of the Budget documents.

Railway Convention Committee, 1968

11. A Committee of both Houses of Parliament known as Railway Convention Committee, reviewed in 1965 financial arrangements between Railways and General Finance. In the light of their recommendations accepted by Government, a Resolution defining the relation between the Railway Finance and the General Revenues was passed by both Houses of Parliament in December 1965. These arrangements were to be co-terminus with the then envisaged Forth Plan for the quinquennium commencing 1st April, 1966. There was an interregnum of three annual Plans and the new Forth Plan commenced from 1st April 1969. It was, therefore, felt that a new convention arrangement should be made to be co-terminus with the current Forth Plan commencing 1st April, 1969. Accordingly, in November-December, 1968, a Resolution was passed by both Houses of Parliament constituting the Railway Convention Committee, 1968. This Committee held some meetings and saw the Production Units and a few railway headquarters. However, the Committee could not complete their deliberations and present their report as it ceased to exist with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in December 1970. The need

for such a Committee continues to remain and it has to be reconstituted by a Resolution of the House as soon as possible.

Staff Relations And Welfare

12. The *per capita* expenditure on staff welfare increased from 138 in 1965-66 to 175 in 1969-70. The cost of medical and health services alone, which was 15.92 crores during 1968-69, rose to 17.08 crores during 1969-70. It is expected to rise further to 17.80 crores in 1970-71

During 1969-70, more than 6,000 staff quarters were constructed bringing the total number at the end of the year to more than 5 lakhs. Total investment by the end of 1970-71 on staff quarters excluding the cost of land will rise to about 200 crores.

Other welfare and recreational facilities provided to the Railway employees include Holiday Homes, Institutes, Clubs and playgrounds. Over 3,400 employees availed of the facility of 21 Holiday Homes during 1969-70.

I am glad to say that relations with organised labour during the year have continued to be cordial and satisfactory. On occasions when some irresponsible and unruly elements went on wild-cat strikes on trivial issues totally unconnected with their work, the two Federations acted as responsible Trade Unions and helped to restore normalcy. The Permanent Negotiating Machinery functioned well at all levels. It helped to resolve a large number of staff problems and produced satisfactory results. The House may be aware that an Arbitration Tribunal had been set up sometime ago to consider certain matters on which agreement could not be reached with workers' Federations. The Tribunal has already made certain recommendations which are in the process of implementation.

This year has been a year of some difficulty and set-back for the Railways. Railway properties have suffered damage at the hands of criminals, extremists and political demonstrators. The Railways have been subjected to vicarious attacks from those who want some thing or the other from the Central or State Government. These strains and stresses have not

cowed down the spirit of service of those who are running the Railways. They have exhibited commendable courage and have done their duty by the Nation. In the ultimate analysis, it is not coal, oil or electricity that runs the trains, but the spirit of dedication of the railwaymen. They have promised continued service and co-operation. There in lies the hope of improving not only the efficiency but also the finances of the Railway Administration.

Permit me, Sir, to thank you and the House for the patient hearing given.

13.52 hrs.

MANIPUR BUDGET, 1971-72

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I beg to present a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Union territory of Manipur for the year 1971-72.

There is a statement also which, with your permission, I lay on the Table of the House.

मणिपुर के संघीय राज्यक्षेत्र के 1971-72
के बजट के सम्बन्ध में बक्तव्य
(23 मार्च, 1971)

महोदय,

1. मणिपुर की विधान सभा को भंग करने के सम्बन्ध में राष्ट्रपति के 16 अक्टूबर 1969 के आदेश की अवधि बाद में 13 अक्टूबर 1970 को जारी किये गये आदेश द्वारा बढ़ा दी गयी थी। इसके अनुसार, इस राज्यक्षेत्र की विधान-सभा की शक्तियों का प्रयोग संसद् द्वारा किया जावा है। तबनुसार,

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

इस संघीय राज्यक्षेत्र का बजट संसद के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है।

2. जहाँ तक इस राज्यक्षेत्र की बजट सम्बन्धी स्थिति का सम्बन्ध है, इस वर्ष राजस्व-प्राप्तियों का अनुमान 2.22 करोड़ रुपया और राजस्व से किये जाने वाले व्यय का अनुमान 15.79 करोड़ रुपया लगाया गया है। इस प्रकार, चालू वर्ष में राजस्व खाले में होने वाली कमी को पूरा करने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा दिये जाने वाले अनुदानों की राशि 13.57 करोड़ रुपया होगी, जबकि बजट-अनुमानों में 12.30 करोड़ रुपये की व्यवस्था थी। अगले वर्ष, इस राज्यक्षेत्र में 2.57 करोड़ रुपये की प्राप्तियों का और राजस्व से किये जाने वाले व्यय का अनुमान 16.76 करोड़ रुपया लगाया गया है। राजस्व खाले में होने वाली 14.19 करोड़ रुपये की कमी को, केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा दिये जाने वाले अनुदानों से पूरा किया जायेगा।

इस वर्ष पूंजी खाले के व्यय के बारे में 4.31 करोड़ रुपये का अनुमान लगाया गया है जबकि बजट अनुमान 3.71 करोड़ रुपये का था। अगले वर्ष 4.77 करोड़ के व्यय का अनुमान है। इसकी पूर्ति केन्द्रीय सरकार से प्राप्त ऋणों से की जायेगी। प्राप्तियों और भुगतान का पूरा ब्योरा व्याख्यात्मक ज्ञापन में दिया गया है जो बजट पत्रों के साथ परिचालित किया गया है।

3. अगले वर्ष के बजट में संघीय राज्य-क्षेत्र की आयोजना के लिए 5.72 करोड़ रुपये की व्यवस्था की गयी है। जैसाकि माननीय सदस्यों को विदित है, इस राज्यक्षेत्र के पास, जो भारत के पूर्वी छोर पर स्थित है, देश के शेष भाग के साथ सम्पर्क का केवल एक विश्वस्त साधन अर्थात् इम्फाल से नागालैंड के रेल-बीच (रेल-हैड) दीमापुर

तक की सड़क है। संचार के एक वैकल्पिक और बेहतर साधन की व्यवस्था करने के लिए, अमम के सिल्वर नामक स्थान से इम्फाल तक एक सड़क बनाने का काम कुछ वर्ष पूर्व शुरू किया गया था। सदन को यह जानकर प्रसन्नता होगी कि सड़क बनाने का काम अब लगभग पूरा हो चुका है। अगले वर्ष के बजट में, इम्फाल को जिला सदर मुकामों के साथ और सब-डिवीजनल सदर-मुकामों को एक-दूसरे के साथ जोड़ने वाली अन्य सड़कों के मुधार के लिए भी 95 लाख रुपये की व्यवस्था की गयी है।

4. इस राज्यक्षेत्र में उपलब्ध होने वाली बिजली, आवश्यकताओं की अपेक्षा बहुत कम है। इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए, चालू वर्ष में और अधिक डीजल सेट लगा कर स्थापित क्षमता लगभग दुगुनी अर्थात् 5,500 किलोवाट तक कर दी गयी है। चूंकि अभी क्षमता भी पर्याप्त नहीं है, इस लिए अगले वर्ष भी बिजली के उत्पादन और वितरण में और वृद्धि करने का इरादा है। इसके अलावा लोकटक पन-बिजली प्रायोजना के लिए केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत 2.85 करोड़ रुपये की व्यवस्था की जा रही है।

5. अनाज का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए कृषि क्षेत्र में भी अधिक रकम खर्च करने का विचार है। संघीय राज्य क्षेत्र की अगले वर्ष की आयोजना में इस प्रयोजन के लिए 57 लाख रुपये की व्यवस्था की गयी है। अनुमान है कि अधिक उपज वाली किस्म की खेती के क्षेत्र में 4,000 हेक्टेयर की वृद्धि हो जायेगी। इसके प्रतिरक्त, कच्चा और अन्न-ट के विकास तथा अधिक फसलें उपजाने की तकालियों का प्रदर्शन करने के काम को और जोर-धार बनाने का विचार है। कृषि के अन्य क्षेत्रों, जैसे मछली-पालन, मुर्गी-

पालन, सुधरपालन, बनी आदि का भी विकास करने का विचार है।

6. अगले बजट में शिक्षा और लोक-स्वास्थ्य योजनाओं के लिए पहले से अधिक रकम की व्यवस्था की गयी है। इसके अलावा, आदिम जाति विकास, परिवार-नियोजन और मलेरिया उन्मूलन जैसी केन्द्र-प्रायोजित योजनाओं के लिए भी व्यवस्था की गयी है।

7. इसमें सन्देह नहीं कि विकास की गति तेज करने के लिए अधिक रकम खर्च करना जरूरी है। परन्तु जिस रकम की व्यवस्था की गयी है, वह उतनी ही है जितनी कि उपलब्ध साधनों को ध्यान में रखते हुए की जा सकती थी और मुझे विश्वास है कि इन उपायों से इस संघीय राज्य क्षेत्र का और विकास करने में सहायता मिलेगी।

Statement on the Budget of the Union
Territory Manipur - 1971-72
(23rd March, 1971)

Sir,

1. The President's Order of the 16th October, 1969 dissolving the Legislative Assembly of Manipur was extended by a subsequent Order of the 13th October, 1970. By virtue thereof the powers of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory are exercisable by Parliament. The Budget of the Union Territory is accordingly being placed before Parliament.

2. As regards the Budgetary position of the Territory, the revenue receipts this year are placed at Rs. 2.22 crores and the expenditure met from revenue at Rs. 1.579 crores. Grants from the Central Government for meeting the gap on revenue account would thus be Rs. 13.57 crores in the current year as against the provision of Rs. 12.30 crores in Budget Estimates. Next year's receipts in the Territory are placed at Rs. 2.57 crores and the expenditure met from revenue at Rs. 16.76 crores. The gap of Rs. 14.19 crores

on revenue account will be covered by grants from the Central Government.

On capital account the expenditure estimates this year provide for Rs. 4.31 crores as against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 3.71 crores. Next year's provision for expenditure is estimated at Rs. 4.77 crores. These will be covered by loans from the Central Government. Full details of the receipts and disbursements have been given in the Explanatory Memorandum which has been circulated with the Budget papers.

3. Next year's Budget includes provisions for the Union Territory Plan amounting to Rs. 5.72 crores. As the Honourable Members are aware, the Territory, which is situated in the eastern corner of India, has only one reliable means of communication with the rest of the country namely, the road from Imphal to Dimapur, the rail head in Nagaland. To provide alternative and better means of communications, construction of a road connecting Sikkhar in Assam with Imphal was commenced a couple of years ago. The House will be happy to know that the road is now almost complete. A sum of Rs. 95 lakhs has also been provided in the next Budget for improvement of other roads connecting Imphal with the District Headquarters and the Sub-Divisional Headquarters with one another.

4. Availability of power in the Territory has been far below requirements. To make up the deficiency, the installed capacity has almost been doubled to 5,500 K.W. through installation of more diesel sets in the current year. As this is still not enough, next year also further augmentation in the generation and distribution of power is contemplated. Besides a provision of Rs. 2.85 crores for the Loktak Hydro-electric Project is being made in the Central Sector.

5. In the agricultural sector too, larger outlays are proposed for raising the food production. The Territory's Plan next year includes Rs. 57 lakhs for this purpose. The area under high yielding varieties is also expected to increase by over 4,000 hectares. Besides, it is proposed to intensify cashewnut and walnut development as well

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

as demonstrations on multi-cropping patterns. Other areas in the agricultural field such as Fisheries, Poultry Farms, Piggeries, Forests are also proposed to be developed.

6. Next Budget includes larger provisions for education and public health schemes. In addition, provision has been made for Centrally sponsored schemes such as tribal development, family planning and malaria eradication.

7. There is no doubt that for a faster pace of development, larger outlays are necessary. Nevertheless, what has been provided for is what could be conceived within the resources available and I trust that these measures will help in the further development of the Territory.

13.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March 24, 1971/Chaitra 3, 1893 (Saka).