

**Statement showing reasons for not laying
Annual Report of and Audited Accounts
of Damodar Valley Corporation for
1985-86 within stipulated time**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1985-86 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT. 3786/87.*]

12.03 hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thirty-Fourth Report**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I beg to move : "That this House do agree with the Thirty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1987."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it a supplementary budget ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

12.05 hrs.

**MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S
ADDRESS—CONTD.**

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to Parliament. "The debate on the President's Address has, by and large, been very constructive and interesting, and I would like to thank all the hon. members who participated in that debate for making it so constructive. I would like to specially thank the members of the opposition who had so little to raise that they have made it constructive."

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Send them your compliments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No comments please.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I can answer their comments.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : The Prime Minister is fond of commenting on others' speeches.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, one of the points that was raised was that of having accords and trying to settle differences by talking across the table. Although I have already clarified in great detail outside the House, as it has been raised in the House, I think it is necessary that we put certain records straight in the House.

We have heard criticisms of the Punjab Accord, the settlement in Assam, the discussions, the agreement on Mizoram and in this vein it is relevant to recall Indiraji's Accord with the Sheikh in 1975. I would also like to quote a sentence from the Punjab Accord which says :

"This settlement brings to an end a period of confrontation and ushers in an era of amity, goodwill and cooperation which will promote and strengthen the unity and integrity of India".

I am specially quoting this because in the past few days we have had a joint effort in Punjab with all the opposition parties the parties in Punjab, our own party, all working together. For what? Perhaps, before I come to 'for what' it is necessary to go into how we are working together and how we are able to work together. If there had been no Accord, this would not have been possible. This is only possible because there is a democratic Government in Punjab. That is why it is possible. While it may be difficult to complete every single aspect of the Accord, yes, we are having problems. I am not denying it. On our side I have said, we are ready to do things. But there are problems, whether it is in the States or elsewhere. But the major issue with an Accord is not the issue of whether this BARIKI has been done or that BARIKI has been done. The major issue is that many Members sitting in this House today, more especially in the Opposition, would not have been in this House if that Accord had not been signed. These Accords are a major steps forward in bringing the democratic process to the fore in solving our problems. Let this not be decried.

Hon. Members have raised the question of whether this has not been done or that. We would not have been here to raise that question if that Accord had not been signed. So, let us not forget that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to West Bengal later, Dattaji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to West Bengal, do not worry.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Elections are there.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will give you plenty of time for the blood pressure to go up.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Whose blood pressure are you worried about, Mr. Prime Minister? Yours or mine?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Yours, not mine.

Sir, while we believe in accords, many of my friends sitting opposite me believe only in discord.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Not we.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : And we firmly believe that a large country such as India, a country with a heritage like India's heritage, with our value systems which we would like to restore, with our culture, our diversity, a country such as this can only be run by raising a consensus amongst all our people. And we will continue, in our effort, to run this country, especially on major national issues by getting a political consensus; and I would like to thank our Members from the Opposition who are cooperating with us in having such a consensus on Punjab.

Much has been said about Punjab, about the special problems of Punjab in this House during the past year. I do not want to go into the details and the pros and cons of the debate that has already taken place. But today when all of us are working together in Punjab, the stand of the Government of India stands vindicated. Let that be clear. What we stood for, the support that we have given to the Government of Punjab, today, after a long time, is bearing fruit when we see that the forces of secularism, the forces for separating religion and politics are standing together against factional tendencies, against terrorism, against fundamentalism, against the forces which are out to destroy the country. And, once more, I thank all sections of this House for cooperating in this fight in Punjab.

In the accords on Punjab, on Assam, on Mizoram, we have gone into the implementation. Yes, there are items in the Accords which are not completed. But my stand that there is nothing pending with us, we are not stopping anything, we are not blocking anything from the Centre, remains.

I know the hon. Members from Assam have been agitated. And I am meeting the Chief Minister this afternoon. And I have no doubt that after our meeting I will have convinced him that on our side there is nothing pending. If there are some doubts, we will clear them this afternoon.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : But Mr. Prime Minister, I have pointed out to you in the speech—unfortunately you were not there—that all the queries and all the help that we have asked for, the replies are being awaited in clause 5(4), clause 7 and so on and so forth. I hope, you will give specific answer to this because you have given an impression round the country that the Central Government has done everything. And I have tried to point out... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I did not want to raise it here because we are talking this afternoon. And it would unnecessarily vitiate the talks this afternoon if I took a strong position on what we have done. And I would not like to do that just now... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why should it be a private talk? Why do you not take the House into confidence?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Because I cannot take the House into confidence about the talks I am to have this evening.

I will do that if you wish.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I do not want you to take the House into confidence. But I hope, you will revise that position that everything that the Central Government has to do has been done, and Mr. Chintamani Panigrahi's position that 90 per cent of what the Central Government has to do has been done. Kindly revise that position... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : In some items, for example, we have gone well beyond what we were required to do...

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : But in some... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is a balance you have got to strike. There is nothing

pending on our side. I will clarify that very clearly today. If the Chief Minister wants we will make a public statement bringing it to the notice and laying it on the Table of the House... *(Interruptions)* You should let that be between the Chief Minister and us and we will decide how to handle it. And if we feel that it should be made public, because ultimately what do we want...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No dialogue...

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Ultimately it is not a question of making a debating point.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Not at all...

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is a question of getting things normalised in Assam. I tell you what the problem is... *(Interruptions)* I will tell you what some of the problems are. Some of the problems arise when certain chauvinistic attitudes start coming out. Now, we cannot put up with that. Of course, there are going to be problems. But the Accord does not say that it is to be implemented in the manner in which the Assam Government wants. The Accord says that there will be discussion on certain things which will be done. So do not jump to conclusions that we must do every word that you say, because we are not trying to act in our interest or against your interest. We are trying to act in a manner which is in the interest of the nation, which is in the interest of Assam...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I am not allowing...

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I am not yielding the floor, Sir...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not yielding...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will not allow it to go on record. Nothing will go on record...

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami, please take your seat...

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not allowing anything. Nothing will go on record...

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, we will not deviate from what is written in the Accord. Let me reiterate that. But we will not allow anything to take place which in our view endangers or weakens the national integrity of this nation. Let me be very clear about that... *(Interruptions)*. I am just making a statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, communalism is one aspect which is worrying every section of this House, which is worrying every section of society in our country. It threatens the nation as a whole and there cannot be any partisan considerations when we are faced with the threat of communalism. We must join together to fight communalism, to isolate and defeat the minority of fanatics and fundamentalists and terrorists who try to build their strength on either religion or other forms of communalism. We must be careful and work unitedly, as we are doing in Punjab, to fight this evil. In Punjab, together we have demonstrated that on issues which are important, we can rise above party differences and we must rise above party differences. We must get together and face these challenges squarely. It is time now, I think, the nation is ready for a full debate on separating religion from politics, and the follow up action from that in this House as may be required from whatever comes out of that debate, and I am willing to start such a debate, participate in such a debate with the Opposition, with anyone, because this spectre must be faced by all of us

together. I hope that we will get cooperation from all sections of the House in bringing these issues up and, perhaps most important, in being able to concretise these issues, and not just have a grand debate and then leave it as a nebulous end with no results. It is time that we concretise these issues and specifically set in motion certain steps to separate religion and politics and the interference of religious bodies in the political system. It is going to be difficult to get the definitions and get the finesse that may be required but even if it is difficult, I think it is time that we put our heads together and got something down on paper and got something going which will stop... *(Interruptions)*. We will welcome any suggestion from you provided it is constructive... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K.V. SHANKARA GOWDA (Mandya) : ...Provided Government is serious in implementing it... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our economy is very buoyant and just a few days ago, while presenting the Budget, I pointed out many highlights of the economy.

But, perhaps, the biggest indicator of the buoyancy of the economy is the despondency of the opposition.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : How do you measure the depth of that despondency ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The results in the economy have indicated our policies and have indicated that the innovations that we have brought in have been correct.

One important point, and one which I have been reiterating for two years now, but it is necessary to say so again, is the question of socialism. Socialism is not the spreading of poverty as Panditji has said. Socialism is more equitable distribution, it is the uplift of our people and the most important aspect is that we can only move towards socialism if we have a greater productivity, if there is more wealth to distribute. Only then can we distribute more wealth. We must generate

**Not recorded.

that wealth. We have shown in these past two years that the Indian economy is resilient and is capable of generating just this sort of development. We have continued the strategy that was started by Panditji. We have continued along the road that Indiraji had taken us.

But just as Panditji, during his 15-16 years of Prime ministership, and Indiraji, during her 16-17 years of Prime minister ship, had during these periods modified specific programmes, yet kept in mind the basic ideologies, basic philosophies, that were the roots of those programmes, so are we required to do that to-day. It is no use us now saying that Panditji in the 50s said that steel plants are the most important thing. Yes, steel plants are the most important thing. But Panditji brought in steel plants because that was the need of the day. The idea behind it was technology was required. New techniques were required. New knowledge was required. The steel plants, the massive new temples of India as he called them, were only manifestations of that idea. To-day those ideas must remain the same, but the manifestations will change as technology changes, as India develops and as our needs change. We are going along the same road because we believe that the strength of the country, the integrity and unity of India, our self-sufficiency lies in those very ideas that were laid at the foundations of our development. We do not wish to deviate from those ideas. But we will develop those ideas with time. We have shown that by sticking to those very ideas, those concepts, we are able to show very high growth rates-8%, over 8% over three years. This is the first time in twenty years that the Indian economy has shown this rate of growth.

The other day I was sitting in the House and one of the hon. Members was speaking and he was very confused about the numbers. I do not want to tax his mind further. It seems to have been taxed already too much.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Between the old and the new series... *(Interruptions)*
Why did you keep out 95 items of the old series from the new one and not brought them in the new series ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I cannot be held responsible for low rates of growth in certain parts of our country.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Wonderful !

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : And Members from those parts of the country obviously have the perception from their home ground in views.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is a fraud on the nation— the figures that you have put up.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, if the hon. Member really wants some answers, those figures represent new industries. If the hon. Member feels... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What has happened to the old industries ? Have they died out ? 95 industries have been taken out. Do you know that ? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta, no interference please.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Certain industries such as petroleum, such as electronics...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has the right to speak. When you were given time, you were also speaking.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Without mentioning my name, he is referring to me.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I beg your pardon. I did not mention any Member by name. It is not for me to identify those that feel guilty of being confused.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is very easy to identify.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, if the cap fits, I can hardly be responsible for the size of the head.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Prime Minister, don't touch West Bengal. Otherwise, either Kumari Mamta Banerjee will be angry of he will be angry.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, all our Members from West Bengal are needed for campaigning. Some are preferred to be kept outside the state.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : As Prime Minister if he says this, then it is derogatory to Parliament. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, I don't want to hurt the hon. Member's feelings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No, no, you are not hurting me ; you are hurting the nation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Datta, take it easy.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, I did not mean to hurt the hon. Member.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then what exactly did you mean ? Campaigning is more important than attending the Parliament ? That is what exactly you meant ? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta, don't figure out like this.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, if I have hurt the hon. Member's feelings, I apologise to the hon. Member. But if he is upset that he has not been invited to campaign, we are willing to invite him to campaign if nobody else does.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : As Prime Minister, it is not proper for you to say like that. It lowers the dignity of Parliament. Please try to uphold the dignity of Parliament.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, it is an open invitation and if the hon. Member wants to take it up, I will talk with him after the debate.

Sir, we have shown that by improving productivity in our public sector, by improving the efficiency of its functioning, we have brought about a change in our economy. But there are tremendous challenges ahead. It is not going to be an easy task and the biggest challenge is going to be to bring about a new ethos, not just in industry, which is important, in the public sector, which is more important—but, perhaps most important of all, in the system of delivery of the Government. I raised this point in my Budget speech and we intend to go into this in great depth. I have no illusion of quick answers or ready remedies. It is going to be a long drawn out exercise. It is going to require a total change in the way the Government and the organisations of Government function, not only at the Centre which again may be, perhaps, easier to handle because of the type of tasks that are assigned to the Centre, but right down at the State levels, right down at the district levels, where it gets much harder, the lower you go, the closer to the grass-roots you get—And again we will require cooperation from every section of the House if we are to be successful in this. This is not a task which can be left only to Government. It will require the involvement of all our people. And we would like to open a debate on this at any level in the House, outside the House, anywhere, and come to conclusions which we hope will help this process. Again I have no illusions about trying to do this fast or quickly, but we must see that every step is in the right direction, is in the direction of reducing the costs of delivering our programmes. When I go to the rural areas, when I go to the remote villages, we hear tremendous complaints about how the programme that we start from the Centre changes its character, changes its effects by the time it gets down to the roots. Of course, this happens, we do not deny that, but it is not adequate to make noises here, to correct it. That is only the starting point. We must go into this in depth and see why this has happened, what the blockages, what are the problems are, and try and remove those problems. The costs are too high. It is not just a question of

deviation from targets. The cost of the programme or its implementation is too high, the cost of taking it down absorbs so much of the cost of the programme that by the time it is ready to get to the weaker sections, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the other disadvantaged sections, what is left of that programme after—what shall I say?—deductions for administrative costs is a very small fraction of what we started with. So, this is what we have to take as the next step in improving our functioning. Government is very clear that it is going to tackle this, and we would like the full involvement of the whole nation in tackling this task.

In the agricultural sector, growth has not been as what we would have liked it to be. We have invested a lot more in irrigation and power and fertilizers and other inputs for agriculture, we have given higher prices to farmers than have ever been given before, yet production is not increasing as it should, and this needs serious attention. We will be giving it serious attention.

We have had a number of years of drought. A number of Members from different States have been raising this question and it has also hindered agricultural growth. But in spite of these numerous droughts and the damage caused by floods, our agricultural production has increased, admittedly not as much as we would have liked it to increase, but still it has increased in spite of these difficulties and in spite of nature not helping us. The food situation is comfortable. We have used a very large quantity of foodgrains for giving work to those sections in difficulties. I must thank our farmers, our farm technologists, every one involved in the agricultural sector, for giving us this production in spite of the difficulties that they are facing because of bad rains.

The Seventh Plan has envisaged much greater allocations in the first three years than any other Plan. For the first time we will be completing 63 per cent of the Plan in the first three years. This is another major achievement of the Government.

Our investment in the public sector has been much more than in any preceding two year period. This shows the importance that we give to the public sector. It is part of our Plan, it is part of our development process, and we have no intention of reducing its importance. In the Seventh Plan, we have also given tremendous importance to anti-poverty programmes. The amounts that we have allocated for anti-poverty programmes are higher than ever before. As I pointed out in the Budget speech, this year we have allocated Rs. 2,000 crores for rural development. This compares with the total Sixth Plan allocation of Rs. 3600 crores. And in these two years—1986-87 and 1987-88—we will have allocated more for rural development than in the total Sixth Plan. That is the importance we are giving to rural development; that is the importance we are giving to fighting poverty.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You give us the discounted figures. Value of money has fallen.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will only discount you further by giving you more figures. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I want to be confused by you. That is why, you give discounted figures and compare them. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would not allow this kind of interruptions. It should not be recorded.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We also see anti-poverty programmes in a wider perspective. Anti-poverty programmes cannot be limited to programmes that are hand-outs and help directly because that is only possible within a very limited area, no matter how much we allocate for it. We

have allocated Rs. 2000 crores this year which is a very high figure. But no matter how much we allocate, the figure will always be such that we can only reach those that are really at the bottom and those that are the very poorest. To reach out to the rest, we have to see anti-poverty programmes in a broader perspective and that broader perspective is industrial growth; that broader perspective is agricultural growth. Because that is where the real anti-poverty action is taking place. We only help those who are too poor and too weak to even be able to grasp these programmes by our direct help, anti-poverty programmes.

Perhaps the most important part of an anti-poverty programme and certainly what I think is the cutting edge of our anti-poverty programme, is the education programme. There can be no removal of poverty without education. We can keep handing out, helping, doing everything but if we cannot lift up the next generation—all right, we cannot do it effectively with the generation which is already with us. We have a major programme for adult education but we realise the limitations of that programme. But let us at least... *(Interruptions)* Unfortunately, some Members are totally unformed and there is very little I can do about that.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What is your programme? A very small amount has been allocated for adult education.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : In case the hon. Member is not aware, we have a technology mission on that.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Nothing has been done on that. Don't harp on things which the Government cannot achieve.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We only have steel production today because Panditji laid the foundation-stone in the early '50s. You start a programme...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You have the same steel production as in the early '60s.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Except in Bengal where perhaps it is lessening. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : You were present only when he was making his speech. That is creating the trouble.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : No. I was there for other speeches also. But fortunately others were disciplined and stayed within their time limits, while certain other Members just kept on and on and on talking, wasting the total time of the House.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Most of your time is being spent on Amal Datta.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : You are absolutely right. We shall send him for campaigning!

Education is the basis of our anti-poverty programme.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Why are we people also being involved? It is between you and Shri Amal Datta only.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We are telling you about the education. We hope that some other people will also learn along with you.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : That is right.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Education is the crux of our development. It is becoming more and more important as technology develops in the world. I have been talking about this to other Heads of States. It is not a problem which is limited to India. This same problem exists, the dimensions are different, the details are different but the basis of the problem is the same. Technology, industry develops fast. If our workers, if our younger generation, does not get educated equivalently or at equivalent rates, then they will start falling behind. Much of our self-confidence depends on the confidence of our people to cope with what they are faced with today. We have to decide whether we are going to live by

running our industries as they were run 50 or 60 years ago. Is it really in the interest of our worker to keep him doing the same job that a worker 50 years ago was doing or is it in the benefit of the worker that the working environment changes, that he upgrades himself, his technology is upgraded, his know-how is upgraded and in stead of operating an outdated machine, he operates a much more sophisticated machine, in a much more sophisticated environment ? We should not limit our vision of improving the lot of the worker to only giving him some better cloth and giving him a better salary and perhaps a television set and a little be better food. These are very limited perspectives. We must improve the life-style. We must improve the working environment of that worker and this will require going into our whole industry in depth and it will require a very major shift in thinking of many of our labour organisations. *(Interruptions)*. I was not referring to you, Dattaji.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Modernisation benefits are passing on the employers, not to the workers. That is what happened in textiles.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : He does not want to change his way of thinking !

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsour) : Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, both these Dattas are fighting with you simultaneously.

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Benefits should pass on to the workmen.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Absolutely correct. Benefits must pass to the workmen. But what are the benefits we are talking about? This is important. I am trying to get to the root of the problem. Are the benefits only improved salary or are we looking for a better working environment for the worker ?

Do we want him to operate in the same environment ? I have seen how some textile mills operate. I have seen how terrible the

working environment is there. Are we doing anything to improve that ? No. We are only fighting for his wages which is important. Wages are important but wages cannot be the end. *(Interruptions)*. Wages are only one part of the package that the worker must get.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : A very candid admission, I must say.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Education is not something which can be limited to educational institutions. *(Interruptions)*. Why are you feeling guilty ? I am talking on a very serious matter. Unfortunately, it is going well over your head ? *(Interruptions)*. Education is something which must not be limited to educational institutions. Education is not something that ends when you leave college or when you leave school. Education must continue throughout your life because, if it does not then, your society will start stagnating. It must continue throughout the life of an industrial worker. Upgradation of his skill must take place continuously. We must make this investment in our people and it is this that we have tried to start by bringing a new Head called Human Resource Development. It is this broader concept. Unfortunately, the resource has not developed. What can I do ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Our resources are being stolen by you. What can we do ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to that also. We started with many ideas. I do not want to go into great depth on all the ideas. But I think, one is worth mentioning. And that is the Navodaya vidyalayas. We have started a totally new system. The Navodaya Vidyalaya has been called elitist by some, they have been called all sorts of things. But it is necessary I think for me to go into this once again because we keep getting the same argument. What is an elitist education ? I think elitism must be seen in two ways. Elitist, what ? Does 'elitist' refer to money ? If it refers to money and the financial strength of a particular family or a particular individual, it is very bad and we must not allow that to interfere in any way with the education system. But if 'elitist' refers to brains, then, I think, we

must go in for elitism. We must go in for getting the best brains in the country. Today, we are not getting the best brains in the country because we are not able to reach out to the rural area for the brains that are available in the rural areas. We are limiting ourselves to urban area and certain areas, perhaps around urban areas, which can reach out to the better institutions. Today, the system is very categorically elitist. It is weighted against the intelligent brains in the rural areas who do not get an opportunity to come out. The only opportunity that the intelligent people in the rural areas get to get a good education is if they are rich. If they are poor in the rural areas, not a chance. If they are poor in the towns, again they go to our NDMC school or municipality schools or Government schools and the quality of the school is not such, the quality of the teachers is not such, that they can reach out and pick up the intelligent. It is not such that they can differentiate to find out which child is good for which subject and how they should bring them up. We just do not have that capability in our system today. The system today is very elitist because it discriminates against those with brains in favour of those with money, in favour of those in urban areas. This is what we want to change with the Navodaya Vidyalayas. And this is what we are going to change with the Navodaya Vidyalayas.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the education system—and this is something again that we must work together on—is the value system that it builds in our society. Unfortunately, for whatever reason our society has drifted away from our traditional value system. It has drifted towards a very materialistic value system. That is even reflected here in the House because when we have debates. On major debates, what do we want ? What are the demands ? They are monetary demands. Invariably, it ends up with monetary demands fiscal control. It invariably reflects very materialistic system of values that we are developing today. Our society has its roots in much deeper values, in spiritual values, in aesthetic values, in

our culture which has developed over thousands of years. Our culture, Indian culture, is not just one culture. It is the culture of tens of different people. It is the culture of Assam. It is the culture of Tamilnadu. It is the culture of our tribals. It is the culture of...

AN HON. MEMBER : West Bengal ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I was going to bring Bengal at the end by raising it. It is the traditional culture of Bengal ; it is not what is sought to be projected as the culture of Bengal—and this is an important point—the culture which sometimes we seek to project because we seem to see it in a very political perspective, we try to make it a tool, a platform, for our own individual benefit or progress. It is this that we must break when we talk of values and bringing back our values. And we hope that the new system will be able to do this. I have no doubt that the directions that we have given are correct. They will require corrections as we learn from experience. It is not something that you can cast and then just let it go. We will have to work, we will have to debate, discuss, develop and fine-tune this policy as it develops. I have no doubt that we will get valuable inputs from every section of the House, and I hope that these inputs rise above our party positions or our regional positions or the petty chauvinism that we hold within us. We must rise above that if we are to strengthen the country today and bring in the values that I know that each one of us sitting here really wants to bring back into our society.

Economic growth is not just the responsibility of the Central Government. It is an area where we work together with the State Governments. Sometimes I have been told that there is a lack of coordination. Sometimes I have been told by Chief Ministers that the Central Government takes too long to clear things. Earlier it was on environment, but we have cleared that block and now environment works very fast. But complaints have been put to me and as Mr. Amal Datta has said, these complaints were put to me by the Chief Minister of West Bengal as by many other Chief Ministers. This complaint was put to me by the Chief

Minister of West Bengal. I had gone to Calcutta for a programme and at that meeting he told me that we were having a very step-motherly attitude towards West Bengal, that the Centre is not paying attention to West Bengal and the Centre is depriving West Bengal. So, I said: "Alright if that is how you feel, we have nothing in our hearts; we do not want to deprive West Bengal; we will do everything that is within our power to help West Bengal." Immediately after that either we sent a group to West Bengal or West Bengal sent a group to Delhi, but I think both the exercises were done; a Group from Bengal came to Delhi and a group from Delhi went to Bengal. We spent a number of weeks going in great depth into every aspect of the problem that was raised with us, all the pending problems that were raised with us. And at the culmination of that exercise, I went to sit down and finally iron out all the problems that were still left and which needed a certain political decision to say, "Alright; we will override what the bureaucracy has brought up, we will cut through all the red-tape and to certain things which were getting stuck for whatever reasons." And, at the end of that exercise we were able to produce a package of over a thousand crores of rupees for Bengal. This was not something which we thought was a great idea. The idea was that of the Chief Minister of West Bengal and we took him up on that idea. And I am glad we were able to help West Bengal in taking a massive package of a thousand crores of rupees to Bengal.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Election publicity.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I am at a total loss. Just a few minutes ago, the hon. Member questioned my giving a thousand crores to Bengal. Now he says that giving a thousand crores to Bengal is election publicity...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am not questioning the figures—AD HOC Rs. 1007 crores. This was debated in the House, and when the Planning Minister could not answer, the House had to be adjourned. You

must be knowing what a predicament you had put your Minister into... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : There is no question of the total being wrong. We can give the full total.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): You have given a thousand crores to Bengal. Why not give the hundred crores to Bombay which you have promised?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to Bombay. The idea of going to a State and sorting out their problems started at this level with the suggestion from CM Bengal and I must thank him for this suggestion because it has helped us in many other States also. But even before that when I tour a State, after the tour, on the last day I would spend five or six hours with the Chief Minister or the Lt. Governor and the Chief Minister and the Administration and iron out all the problems. This is not something which started with West Bengal. We did it in Arunachal Pradesh, we have done it in a number of other States—in Gujarat, in Kerala and a number of areas I don't have the list here. So I don't want to give a partial list.

It is an exercise in removing the red-tape and the blockages. And it is then for the State. Because once we have cleared a package, then it is mostly the responsibility of the State to take advantage of this package. If we give a thousand crores or four hundred crores and the State does not want to make use of this, and the State still whines instead of getting down and going and working, then what can we do about non-implementation? Implementation of almost every single project is with the State Government. There are a very few items with the Centre even when they are our plans and programmes. Almost every programme of the Centre is finally handled by the State Government and the efficiency of the State Government in handling those programmes reflects on the percentage of that programme which actually accrues to the beneficiary. If a State Government is inefficient, then less gets to the people. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No comments.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is allocating money to the capitalists. If they want it, they can have it.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, there is no question of allocating money to the capitalists. But we have also seen and it is necessary to bring another point out that certain State Governments have for the past five or six months stopped all work on their rural development programme and anti-poverty programmes. I wonder why they stopped it. One Particular Government I am aware of, has not done any work.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What particular State ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Well, whomsoever the cap fits, he is welcome to wear it !

AN HON. MEMBER : Why are you feeling guilty ? The Prime Minister has not named any State.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you referring ? Don't make such comments.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : India's foreign policy has been targeted on the basic philosophy of strengthening India. India is strong of non-alignment is strong in the world. If alignment becomes strong, if blocs become strong, then developing countries, those countries which won their freedom after tremendous struggle, will lose that very freedom. Even today we find that, although we have thrown off the colonial yoke and are independent, the world economy is not independent as we would like it to be.

In Many ways, colonialism and imperialism exist in the world economy. This is the next challenge that is facing us. This challenge cannot be faced by looking inwards and ignoring what is happening in the world. If we ignore that challenge, India cannot stand on its own feet, India cannot stand as India is standing today, India will not be independent if we cannot keep the newly independent countries independent all over in the world.

13. 00 hrs.

This is not a task that we can shirk from. It is a task that we must face up to and fight. It is sad sometimes to get a feeling from certain Members that it is irrelevant what happens around the world. It is sad to see certain sections of this House feel that one can ignore what is happening in the world and just look inside and survive. That is the attitude which enslaved us. That is the attitude which dropped India from its heights of glory to the low low levels of slavery that we were reduced to. It is this attitude that we must watch out for today. Today India gives the lead in the world in many areas. We will not give up this lead. We will keep this lead. We will fight for it. What we are looking for today is not a mere change in the economic set-up of the world. That is important. We have fought and we have fought hard and we have won even when we have been faced by the strongest all aligned against just a handful of countries but because we were right, because we have the will, because we have the determination we have fought for what was right and we have won what was right.

Today the challenge is much more important than that. The challenge is to get the world to look at ourselves in a different perspective. Just as we say that we are one nation ; just as we want to remove the caste, region, linguistic barriers which divide our country so we must remove the other barriers that divide humanity in this world. It is only when we start seeing the world as one humanity that the strength of countries such as India, which rely on basic principles and values as opposed to brute force and alignment it is then that our strength will come out. It is then that the world will become a truly livable place. It is this challenge that is in front of us today. It is not a question of helping the blacks in South Africa just because certain atrocities are taking place, but because they are part of our family. We are one humanity, That is why we are reaching out to help them. If we fight against wrong attitude anywhere in the world it is because we want to change this attitude from one of "us" and "them" to all of us together, as one

humanity. It is this that Panditji started off and it is this task that we must continue on.

Today when India speaks it is not the India of 1979 where nobody even bothered to listen to us. Today when India speaks India is listened to. It is heard. India counts. In 1979 in the international scene India did not count. This is the difference that we have made. If we now once more look inwards, if we follow the wrong policies outside, we will be back to the stage where we were the mockery of the world. Do we want our country to go back to that stage?

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : No, Sir.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We in this Government will not allow it go back to that stage.

We have taken a major initiative on disarmament. The Six Nation Five Continent Peace Initiative has set the stage in the world environment, in the atmosphere in the world for the Reykjavik Summit that took place. We were disappointed that conclusions were not reached but we are not totally disheartened because the proposals are still there. Verification is a major problem. We from the Six have offered certain solutions. We will be continuing along that road. We welcome the new initiative, the new Soviet initiative, on the intermediate nuclear weapons and we hope that this will be successful.

We have been trying to improve relations with Pakistan but some serious problems remain. There is the clandestine effort for a nuclear weapons programme. It has been gathering momentum for the past several years. Those who have had the responsibility and the means to halt this programme have failed to do so. Instead they have helped Pakistan to launch an ambitious armaments programme.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Shame.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The present situation is that notwithstanding legal safeguards against non-proliferation, Pakistan continues to get assistance. It is quite

extra-ordinary. Let there be no mistake about the determination and capacity of the people of India to defend their sovereignty and integrity.

In the south in Sri Lanka, they have sought our good offices and we have offered our good offices. Much progress has been made which culminated in the final clarifications of 19th December, 1986. The clarifications of 19th December 1986 relate to proposals which go back many months and are a consolidated lot of proposals. Unfortunately, certain steps that the Sri Lankan Government has taken have caused us great pain and they have brought this process to a halt. We find it difficult to continue that process as long as violent conditions in Sri Lanka prevail. Violence must be brought to an end before we reopen the issue on our side. We have made this very clear to the Sri Lankan Government. We are clear that there can be no solution with violent means. Only non-violence and negotiations can bring about a solution. We have made this also very clear to the Sri Lankan Government. We hope that they will respond positively by reducing the level of violence and coming to the negotiating table.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Why not we stop this genocide first? Military action is going on.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is violence.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Hundreds of people are dying. Today, I have found in the papers some response from Shri Jayewardene to India's call, to the Prime Minister's call. I would request the honourable Prime Minister to let us know the position first.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : After we sent a Communication, a letter to the President, the level of violence has come down. But we are not satisfied with the level it is at today. We hope it will come down further and that we will be able to have a negotiated settlement because no other settlement will be a lasting settlement.

With China, there has been tension on the border. We want a peaceful settlement of the border issue. What is needed is

patience, restraint, wisdom, statesmanship and perhaps, most of all, vision from all concerned.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : And firmness ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : And firmness — that was included in 'wisdom'.

We are two ancient civilisations and it is in this perspective that we have to view solutions to our problems.

Sir, the very survival of a political order is dependent on the foundations of the moral order that it is based on. Our freedom struggle was based on the two values of truth and non-violence. Contemporary nation-building, the moral inspiration that we have in building our nation, comes from these values. It comes from our traditional values of tolerance, of absorption, of synthesis, of respect to all religions, of the cross—fertilisation of ideas. But this only comes about when there is self-confidence in ourselves. If we are not self-confident, we are always afraid of losing our culture, of losing our religion, and we turn within instead of looking beyond. It is this self-confidence that we need in the country today to destroy the barriers that we are building to protect ourselves in our regions, in our languages, in our religions and in our castes. The need of the hour is unflinching secularism, unity in our democracy in maintaining the essential values of our heritage. Panditji has said that we are small men serving great causes, but because the cause is great, something of that greatness falls upon us. It is in that spirit that we shall strive undaunted, undeflected and unfazed. //

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately ?

I find nobody is pressing. I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 17 to 27, 298 to 303 and 312 to 333 were put and negatived.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Just now, the Prime Minister said that there should be no genocide, but you have put all the amendments to genocide.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have done that with the consent of the Members !

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put the main Motion to the Vote of the House. The question is :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms.

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 23rd February, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

13.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at Twenty Minutes past Fourteen
of the Clock*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *(in the Chair)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up matters under Rule 377 Shri Raj Kumar Rai.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Need to take stringent measures to curb the production of spurious medicines in the country.**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to submit the following :-

Delhi Administration has conducted enquiry into 103 drug manufacturing companies. It is not only a social but also a national obligation that drug manufacturing