

[Shri C. M. Stephen]
question about the Government's action with respect to the Maharashtra issue. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What you are asking about West Bengal. (Interruptions). Your behaviour in Maharashtra is undemocratic, high-handed and arbitrary. This is why we are walking out. (Interruptions).

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The Prime Minister made a statement that he has nothing to do with. (Interruptions). These are the very fundamentals of the way the polity has got to function. (Interruptions). It is submitted that the Governor. (Interruptions). It is for the Prime Minister to say, to give up his basic responsibility in a federal polity against that attitude. (Interruptions).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We will also disturb you. (Interruptions).

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: It is for the Prime Minister to say. (Interruptions). Government will have nothing to do with it. (Interruptions). To give up his basic responsibility in a federal polity against that attitude (Interruptions). (3) A people selection took place. Members who have returned. It is fundamental that a Ministry must be formed and any constitutional lawyer says. (Interruptions). Either the major party can be called or the party which commands a majority can be called. Here two parties emerged. One is the Janata Party. The other two Congress which happen to be in the parliamentary parties the major parties, they should have been. (Interruptions).

AN. HON. MEMBER: Only in Maharashtra. (Interruptions).

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): 150 Members. (Interruptions). What happens is this. In Maharashtra, elections took place on the plea that it was necessary.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I want to know, Sir. (Interruptions).

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: (Interruptions). To continue in this House. (Interruptions).

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA (Chickballapur): For the same reason, we also show our protest and walk out. (Interruptions).

At this stage, some hon. Members left the House.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, we protest. The Governor, who is acting in utter disregard of the Constitution, should be recalled immediately. We make a protest and walk out.

MR. SPEAKER: Prime Minister.

12.55 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): May I say, Sir, that it is very unfortunate that all this time should have been taken for doing what they have done now. I do not think it helps any cause. Yet, I cannot quarrel with their liberty to do even wrong things which they want to do. Why have I to say anything? But I do say that, when they think about what has happened, they will realise that they have said all this for nothing; for nothing they spent their energy, and the time of the House. I do not know how much money has been wasted. But all these things are inescapable in Parliamentary life and, therefore, I have no quarrel about it. But in this matter I do not see how this Government is to blame for anything. We have issued no directions whatsoever; we cannot issue directions in this matter, and we will not issue any directions in this matter. Even now if they want me to say, 'Expedite it', I cannot do that. But if the Governor acts wrongly, then certainly I can take action, but I cannot force him to do anything. That must be understood by the hon. friends. But they cannot forget their habits they have acquired. That is the

difficulty. If they want me to act as they did in the past, I am not going to do that, I am not going to act in that manner whatever may be the provocation. That is all that I can say.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): Sir, I want to make a clarification.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: He can make his clarifications afterwards.

I was surprised that the same arguments are being repeated every time even when satisfactory explanations were given. It was said that the President should not have been apologetic for his inability to deliver the Address in Hindi. He was not apologetic at all. I do not know why the President should be apologetic. Those who are against Constitutional propriety ought to be apologetic. It is not for him to be apologetic. That must be realised. There is no question of this Government wanting to force Hindi on anybody. That is not the idea at all. But that does not mean that those who want Hindi cannot say that there should be Hindi. If they call them fanatics they are greater fanatics. They are fanatics against the Constitution; if I may say so. What is the meaning of saying such things? That does not help anybody. I have explained that Government will not force this issue, but the compulsion of patriotism will force it, and I am waiting for that to happen. And that will happen; I have no doubt about it.

AN HON. MEMBER: You cannot force it.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I cannot force anybody to be good; I know the result will be otherwise. Therefore, I never make that attempt.

Then, it was said that Hindi Communications go from the Centre to Kerala and other non-Hindi speaking States. I do not know from which office. This is not the practice of the Central Government. We send Communications in English and a copy

of that in Hindi is sent along with it. I do not know why that should be objected to. That is the policy.....

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: They send only in Hindi.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: No: Chief Minister has complained to me I have met the Chief Minister and he has not told me about it at all. If any government department does that, I will certainly hold it up for action. I do not want any department to do that kind of a thing. That will not be done. Point out to me if there is any failure in that matter....

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: The President expressed it. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The President has not said that.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: The President expressed it. We presented a memorandum... (Interruptions)

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I am not yielding. This is not the way to deal with the whole matter. I do not stop him even when he shouts. Why does he want to stop me when I am speaking? He can speak when he has a chance to speak, when he has occasion to speak, but he must not go on interrupting in this manner. I have said very clearly that whenever instances are brought to my notice, I will certainly take action and see that it is not repeated anywhere.

13 hrs.

One inadvertant thing had happened. When a reply was sent to a Member who had written in Hindi, and it was sent to me. I found, that no English version was sent and asked for it. They said it was a mistake that the English version was not sent along with it to me. But that was a solitary instance where it was a mistake. When a mistake was admitted as a mistake, there was, therefore, no question of forcing anybody in this matter; force cannot do anything. My Hon. friends ought to recognise that they

[Shri Morarji Desai]

cannot force me to do what they want me to do. That must be recognised. I cannot force them to do anything and they cannot force me to do anything. It would not be right and it is not provided in the Constitution.

But what I surprised me was when some Hon. Member said that the address was imposed on the President, that he was not allowed to say that he wanted to say. Being a Member of Parliament, he does not even know what the Constitutional practice is and what the functions of the President and the Government are! when the President gives an Address on the opening day of Parliament it is always the statement of Government policy. It is not the first time that the President has delivered an Address. But when nothing could be said, what else would be said?

I was more surprised when it was said that the President's Address lacks sharpness, inspiration and direction. Now, we do not want to be sharp with anybody: that is left to my hon. friends. I don't like to be sharp at all with anybody, nor would the President like to do that.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara): You are always blunt!

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I am not blunt: I am truthful. If what I am saying now is bluntness, I cannot help it.

Then, Sir, it was said that it was disappointing. If they are disappointed, they are disappointed, how can I say they should be satisfied? I cannot order satisfaction. But I do not see any evidence of disappointment on their faces. That is all I can say.

Then, it was said that it contains half truths. Now, what are the half truths that we have given? It was said that there are half truths about prices. What are half truths? Is it not a fact that the prices today are not higher than the prices in March last? There have been fluctuations in wholesale prices during the year, that also we have admitted. We have not kept back

anything: we have published them from time to time.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): What about consumer prices?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Consumer prices are also being regulated: they are also coming down.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I have read out a para from the Economic Review which shows what is the rise in prices in different areas, particularly the consumer prices so far as the people are concerned.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: That quotation proves that we have not kept back anything.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: We are discussing President's Address.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I am also doing that. Then, a very serious thing was said that we are not acknowledging Opposition's cooperation. This is very unkind. I have tried as best, as I could, to take as much cooperation and I have received cooperation in some matters, not in all matters, but this is not for me to complain. But to say that I did not acknowledge this is not right. I have said that we are bringing in constitutional amendments for undoing some of the things we all disapprove and that we want to take the Opposition with us and we are in the process of it. I am very thankful to them that they have agreed on many things. I have said that and said that publicly at many places, and I wish we continue to do that more and more. If the Speaker was elected unanimously, it was due to the Opposition's cooperation. It was true about the election of the President also. I have publicly acknowledged it. I have thanked them for it. If we take the credit for achieving this cooperation for the first time in thirty years, are we very wrong in it? Why is it said that our claim is wrong?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: The importance is of those who give cooperation and not those who ask for it?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It is only when we give cooperation that we receive cooperation. Cooperation is always given, not demanded. I do not demand cooperation, therefore both of us have got to give cooperation without demanding it. Who oblige whom? We oblige each other, not anybody else. We are doing our duty to the country and to the Parliament. That is all I would say.

Well, at any rate, I am glad that my hon. friend approved of the President not coming in a horse carriage. At any rate, there is some approval of what has been done. I am glad, he wants us to go further; that will happen in course of time. I wish, they had begun it and not left it to us. Is it also not the first?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Creditable.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Then it is said that the Janata Government claims credit as if things are now being done for the first time in the history of the country. I think, that is a caricature of what we meant to say. The country has advanced in thirty years. Who can deny that? We cannot say that all that has been done has not yet reached the people. It has not reached the majority, that is all we have been saying. We want therefore to give a new direction. That is all we are claiming. If the country had not advanced, where would we have been? Not only that, but I have always said that everything that was done by the last Government cannot be wrong. There can be some things which were wrong, but not all. We have affirmed that we will honour all the obligations which have been undertaken even in our foreign relations as well as all agreements and treaties, etc. We are bound to honour them. We did not start on a blank slate. The only difficulty is that we started on a muddled slate. Therefore, it takes time to clear it up before we can write. That is my difficulty. That is what is sought to be pointed out. I am sorry

I could not point it out in a manner that the muddle could be cleared and given a different meaning. How can I do that? I have not got that capacity.

Then, it is said that the law and order problem is not mentioned at all. I do not know what was to be mentioned. It is said that the law and order situation has not improved much. I have no objection to it. But why has it come to this pass? Are we responsible for this? Or are those who were carrying on before us responsible for this thing in the country? If we did not say that, should we be made to say that? That was not done because we did not want ill-feeling to arise. That is why we did not say some of those things.

Then, it was said that MISA is being continued. MISA is not being continued. The old Preventive Detention Law which has been there all the while and which was vitiated and made terrible during the two years of emergency is being done away with. But law is required to cope with violence. I would even earnestly plead with my hon. friends opposite that we have to find some methods of solving these problems. Is it good for all of us that we should spend time in the manner it was spent in the first 45 minutes? Can we not do it more peacefully and more usefully? If a method is not found, then some way has to be found to see that we do not spend our time for nothing.

Therefore, let us not always find fault with everything that is being done with the best of intentions and in the interests of the country in the conditions as they exist.

Then, it was said that the liberty of the individual would be permanently damaged if MISA continues. MISA does not continue but the preventive law is introduced and is put in the Criminal Procedure Code and it is done in a more straight forward manner.

[Shri Morarji Desai]

There are provisions already in the Criminal Procedure Code where people can be taken up without a judicial trial. It is being introduced in the relevant chapter for violent people. It is not being done for political work at all, but if political work becomes violent, then it will get into that category. That also must be understood.

SHRI A BALA PAJANOR Mrs Gandhi also said the same thing.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI My hon friends opposite cannot say that the same thing was done in emergency. It is we who can say what was done in emergency and not they. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A BALA PAJANOR When the Prime Minister says something against facts we have to protest. We are a separate party having a separate identity. He says there is the merger and I want to know the clarification from them also. When I said that this was the tone Mrs Gandhi used when she introduced MISA I was present here. It was the same kind of 'one that she used.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI My hon friend does not realise what I am saying.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah) It is correct what my friend is saying. Similar arguments were given when MISA was introduced. But we have our life's bitter experience. Out of the bitter experience we have the same apprehension. By another name you are keeping this MISA.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI Well, is it the time for arguing this matter? I do not know why my hon friend is interrupting in this manner in this matter. I do not know why this should be brought up just now.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE Our silence should not be taken as consent. MISA should go lock stock and barrel. It should be brought in no

other form. It should not be kept in any other form. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MORARJI DESAI They can say it at the proper time when the Bill is here and when it is discussed they will have full time to say. Why drag me into discussion on this? I have to say about these matters because these things were mentioned in the debate on the President's Address, otherwise I would not have mentioned it at all here.

Mention has been made about the Minorities Commission. It was a very unkind thing said by an hon Member that Shri Minoo Masani is pro-Israel and anti-Arab. This is totally wrong.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI He held a demonstration.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI I do not want to go into that just now. But this is not correct.

In the same breath it has been said that the policies of the Government are the same as that of the Swatantra Party. What I have to say is that party's policies are policies of the Janata Party and we have said that we will follow the Gandhian lines to the best of our capacity.

Then it is said Government should bring out a White Paper on minorities, hill States and weaker sections. I do not know what kind of White Paper they want. If they tell me or if they inform me I can consider.

There is again a reference to the Centre-State relations here and also in the other House. It is said that there should be a national debate. Well, national debate is probably being carried on in newspapers. But I cannot arrange a special national debate on this matter. I am not going to do it. Let it be understood. But I am prepared to discuss with anybody who wants to discuss it as many times as

he wants. Until we convince each other we can go on discussing. I am going to do that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Your partner in West Bengal is demanding.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: His party has been issuing contradictory statements. Naturally we are within our rights to take up the matter seriously. Some of his party men want Jammu and Kashmir special status under Article 370 to be scrapped. There are contradictions within Janata Party.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Then the question of unemployment was raised saying that it has not been mentioned in the Address at all. But it has been mentioned positively what steps are being taken for economic improvement. That is a matter to relieve unemployment. Therefore, if it is felt that nothing specific has been said, we will be more careful about it next time. That is all I can say.

I do not know how it was said that there is concentration of economic power in a few hands. Well, we have not done it. We have several things and if there was more concentration, it was during the last six or seven years than ever before at any time. One firm or one family whose assets were Rs 300 crores have risen to Rs 1200 crores in this period. Who is responsible for it? Are we responsible for it? There are other houses like that. We are not responsible for it. Why throw dust in our eyes?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): You can stop it.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: You do all the harm and we do all the good. We want to do it, but it will take time. It is easy to destroy a house. It is not so easy to construct a house. That takes time. We are doing it.

We are going to see that that concentration does not remain. It cannot

be one overnight. (Interruptions) I know the philosophy of my hon. friends. In this matter we differ.

Well, I have already said about prices. We are taking positive steps. It is not as if no positive steps were taken. We have taken positive steps, especially, in the matter of articles which are in short supply and those which can be imported we have imported them and the prices have come down. In respect of several things where exports were allowed and therefore prices were going up, the prices have come down.

Sugar prices have come down and people are now clamouring for a rise in sugar prices. One interest says that prices should come down whereas another interest says that prices should go up. We have to balance all these interests. We cannot only say that one interest is right and not the other interests.

The real interest, the paramount interest, is that of the consumers. But the paramount interest of the consumers cannot be safeguarded unless the interest of the producers is legitimately safeguarded.

Therefore, we have to balance both these things. And that is what we are trying to do. I am sure that results will be seen as time goes on and as measures become more effective.

But, the most surprising thing of all was when Commissions of Enquiries were referred to by my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition. Well, he protected himself by saying that he had made no research. That means, he said things based on what he had heard or what he had perhaps seen in some irresponsible newspapers. Can we expect that from the Leader of the Opposition? And, what are the facts? He said, 49 Commissions are appointed. The Centre has appointed seven Commissions of Enquiry. One has already submitted its report. Therefore it is not as though they will go on indefinitely. We will see that they do not

[Shri Morarji Desai]

go on for more than three to four years and that they must end as soon as possible

But, when he came to the statement about expenditure on them I don't know what happened. He said Rs 900 crores will be spent. I don't know how. I did not know that he had even this kind of imagination that when it is not even Rs 9 crores it goes to Rs 900 crores!

AN HON MEMBER Zero has no value for them

SHRI MORARJI DESAI It won't go beyond Rs 1 crore whatever happens, and yet he says Rs 900 crores. So far on these Commissions, Rs 35 lakhs have been spent. And we want to see that they are completed as early as possible. More has been spent in the case of one Commission because it has to make enquiries in all the States and therefore Enquiry and Investigating Teams have to be appointed which has involved this expenditure. Otherwise it would not have been even this.

18 Commissions or so are appointed by the States with which the Centre had nothing to do. Out of these 10-18 are appointed in the States where my hon friends are ruling. Now should that also be laid at my door? Does that not mean that it is necessary to have them? When they also think it is necessary how is it right to say that it should not be necessary for us?

Then there was reference about Land Reforms. It was said that Government's policies will benefit only the rich farmers. That may have been so in the last few years perhaps. I had started this crusade against big farmers or big landlords in Bombay in 1937. My hon friend the Leader of the Opposition was a partner in it from 1946 and he knows that in Bombay we made the tenants owners of the land and we abolished all crop sharing and the rents were reduced to a proper reasonable thing in cash.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: We have done that. That is the tradition in Maharashtra. But what about the Guarantee Act for employment?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI Guarantee Act may be all right but to give doles, I am dead against doles because it creates beggary and the experience, all the world-over, where this has been given is that those who are given what you call unemployment allowance do not want to work when it is given to them because they get allowance without work. This mentality cannot be allowed. And I won't be a party to it whatever happens on that score. Give work and pay. This is all that should be done and that is what we seek to do now. We are now doing what you omitted to do. That is all I wish to say. I wish a line had been said about it.

Then a suggestion was made that wages should be linked with production. I agree entirely. We are trying to do whatever we can in this matter.

Then it is said the rate of industrial and agricultural production was much higher during the Congress Rule. That is just not true. Yes a year before last the rate of industrial production was higher than the rate of industrial production last year. That is some what true. But the agricultural production has been higher last year than that of previous years. This is not to the credit but we have mentioned it. There are many such things which have happened.

The per capita income in rural sector is lower—not now but it has been lower. We want to see that it comes up and up. That is why we are making a drive for rural development and we are giving it the first priority. All that is being done. I do not want to advertise these things which are being done but only those things that actually serve the people so that no paper propaganda is necessary. I do not want to make paper propaganda without action being taken afterwards and feel satisfied that everything is good in

the state of Rome. We do not believe in this kind of a policy. And the most surprising statement made was that the public sector is being diluted. I do not know where it is being diluted. Public sector receives not only much attention but better attention to-day. We are making it more efficient and, wherever public sector is required, we will have it. There is no question of that at all. What we want is that there should not be such wrong attitude. Both public sector and private sector must work in cooperation and supplement each other. Then alone the country can thrive. There is a common policy, accepted by all of us except perhaps some, that there should be a mixed economy. And that is what is being followed.

Therefore, let there be no apprehension that public sector is going to be diluted in any way. It will be made stronger, more efficient and more profitable, more productive and more serviceable to the people. It is said that the latest *Economic Survey* is a bonus document I do not know if hon. Member has any restraint on language. I do not want to name him. I am sorry I was not present during the debate. I could not be I must apologise (*Interruptions*). I am not saying it to you. I am saying that somebody said it. I am also sorry that some of my colleagues were not present during the debate and at one stage it was complained that there was no Cabinet Minister present. That is against all of us. So, we will all have to be careful in this matter.

Again a statement is made about the commissions, namely, the commissions are appointed to give employment to persons. What a fantastic statement to make. Let it be pointed out as to who from the party have been provided in these commissions and I will give a reply to it.

In the matter of family planning, it was said that this programme has got to be re-oriented and strengthened. I agree it has to be strengthened. We attach the highest importance to it.

But we suffer from a reaction which was caused on account of some forcible operations during the Emergency. But I am quite sure that the reaction is now ending and we will have much better results during the next two years.

It was said that anti-Defection Bill should be brought before the Parliament soon. I should like to bring it tomorrow if my hon'ble friends agree. I should like to have it passed without further delay.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: We agree.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: We will see. And it was said by an hon'ble Member that Lokpal Bill should cover PM and judges of High Court but not MPs. Why? Is it because MP is the reverse of PM? I do not know why that distinction should be made. All should be included in it because all have to be above board. Members of Parliament are the source of Ministers and if the Members of Parliament do not have that reputation, what will Ministers alone do. Therefore, we must have MPs also included in it. I do not have any doubt about it.

I would now touch only the last two points where it was asked, why should there be special relations with Iran and Japan? There is no question of special relations with anybody. We have equal friendly relations with everybody. That is what we want. But if some people understand it more and are more helpful than some others, that cannot be helped. That depends upon the conditions in every country. That also is not a question of unwillingness. But I must admit and acknowledge with thanks that all the countries are cooperating with us even better than I can do with them. Therefore, I am very happy about it. This is also a condition for which Janata Government can certainly claim a legitimate satisfaction. We have improved our position in the whole region. Now the conditions are much better and they are going to be

[Shri Morarji Desai]

so well-sorted out in a friendly manner that there will be no ripple of any kind in future. That is what we are attempting to do.

In regard to the prohibition programme, it was said that it should be implemented immediately, and it was also said that it should be given up as it was a fad. I do not know how it is a fad. Is it in the Constitution? Is the Constitution a fad? I do not understand. Are people now wiser than the framers of the Constitution, the fathers of the Constitution? It was put in there unanimously. There were Members of the Constituent Assembly who were addicted to it and they also agreed with it. Therefore, where is the question of going back on it?

Prohibition is meant for the uplift of the poor more than anything else. The condition of the poor is getting worse as a result of this temptation of shops and they throw all their income in that and their families starve and are naked without clothes, and unless this is stopped unless this temptation is removed from their path their position will never improve. That is the peculiar position in this country. Therefore, prohibition is an imperative necessity and one who opposes prohibition is an enemy of the poor. I should say. (Interruption.)

SHRI K LAKKAPPA: What about Shri Subramam Swamy's statement?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: After all they are all bound by my statement. That must also be understood. Every Member is bound by my statement and they are. They are not to be told about that. But if you want to create difference you will fail. Be sure of it that you are not going to succeed in this matter at all.

SHRI A BALAJANOR: Not on prohibition?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: On any matter.

SHRI C M STEPHEN (Idukki): Your Members will agree with that,

but will continue to be drinking.... (Interruptions).

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Well, I am glad that you came back. Now, one last point which I will make, which was referred to also here, is that the action of this Government in removing the Ministry in Karnataka before elections was wrong. It must have been seen that there were elections at that time in six States. We did not remove ministry in any State except in this State, where we did not create conditions for it. It is their split and their quarrels which created a situation of complete instability and therefore we had to do it to ensure that the election was free and fair and it must have been seen that the election was fair otherwise you would not have come back to power. What more proof is required for the election to be fair under this Government? It is the best proof for it. Whenever you see it will have to be freely acknowledged. Therefore I would request my hon. friends to look at matters more objectively and dispassionately. They have every right to find fault with me. Wherever they see a fault I shall be grateful if they point out those faults to me. But please do not see where there is no fault to find. Unnecessarily you will expose yourself to another criticism.

AN HON. MEMBER: What Criticism?

DR KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): May I with your permission, Sir, ask the Prime Minister one small clarification? The entire House and the nation welcomes the setting up of the Minorities Commission, because it is a sacred duty that the minorities must be fully protected. I just want to point out that there are some States where only the Hindus are in minority. Will the hon. Prime Minister kindly clarify and confirm that in those States where the Hindus are in a minority the Minorities Commission will also be applicable and will bring it under its purview?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It is a very peculiar position in this country that

every community can claim to be a minority everywhere or somewhere. It is left to the Commission to decide.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Will Jammu & Kashmir come within their purview?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: That will be for the Commission to decide.

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is a national problem. It should come.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a number of amendments moved by the hon. Members.

श्री रामधन (लालगज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ। इस लम्बी चोड़ी स्पीच में शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के बारे में एक शब्द भी नहीं कहा गया है। उन पर जो ब्रह्माचार होते हैं उन के बारे में सरकार का क्या रुख है, इस पर प्रधान मंत्री जी कोई प्रकाश डालेंगे ?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I thought I had spoken about it twice or thrice in this House and that it was not necessary for me to reiterate. I have made that clear and I thought that was clear. I am keen, I should like to emphasise that I feel keenly, but not more keenly than members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can feel because I am not in that position; therefore I cannot claim that, but I want to see that this complaint does not remain at all and it is therefore that we appointed a permanent commission. I have issued instructions, or suggestions if I may say so—because I cannot call them instructions, I do not want to interfere with the state in any matter; it would be wrong and so it would be a wrong use of the word. I have advised them that they should take prompt action against

officers where any such instance takes place so that they are always careful to see that these things do not happen, that is in the case of not only all Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes but also all backward classes, particularly in the matter of communal tension or violence, they must be alive to it and take preventive action before anything happens and if something does happen they must take prompt action against persons concerned. If any officer is found wanting, he will not be able to continue in service; that is what I have said. I do not think I need to say more. This is a national question and I hope all parties will make it a point to co-operate in this matter so that we remove permanently this evil blot on the life of this country and get rid of it.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the amendments to the Motion of Thanks to the vote of the House.

All the amendments were put and negatived.

MR. 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 to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 20th February, 1978."

The motion was adopted.

13.43 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

BETWA RIVER BOARD RULES, 1977 AND ANNUAL REPORT OF INDIAN DIARY CORPORATION BOARDS FOR 1976-77

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): I beg