

only their rights but also their dignity. I am afraid we in the Congress see in all this, a clear pattern for dismantling the special protection extended by our founding fathers and enlightened Governments to the weakest sections of the society. We will remain vigilant and we will certainly not stand by and idly watch the demolition of the edifice of affirmative action.

The President's Address says it is unfortunate that the Constitution Amendment Bill to reserve seats for women has not yet been enacted. But, why is the Government not pressing matters to a vote? The required two-thirds majority is readily available.

In regard to Jammu and Kashmir, the nation's patience is wearing thin. I heard with disquiet the self-satisfied tone in which the President's Address spoke of progress towards peace. In the larger national interest, the Congress has lent and will continue to lend support to peace initiatives even though the Government is rather reluctant to take us into confidence.

But Sir, when civilian killings and attacks on our security forces increase, when there is no meaningful dialogue with any of the parties concerned, when the political will of the Government appears paralyzed by disputes within itself, how can we possibly remain silent spectators?

With due respect, Sir, it is not blind faith but reasoned support which the Government needs in pursuing national goals in the troubled State.

Sir, as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, we are extremely concerned because we fear that the Government does not have a clear and well-focussed policy on Jammu and Kashmir. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please. What is this running commentary?

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Sir, secularism is the bedrock of our nationhood and Ayodhya is its litmus test. What is the Government's stand on the extreme position being taken by many of its most ardent supporters who are scoffing at the law and threatening to take things in their own hands as they did in 1992? We would also like to know the steps that the Government proposes to take to rectify the technicalities that are holding up the trial of three of its Ministers in a court of law.

The President's Address tells us that national security is the highest priority of the Government, and so it should be. Sir, the 17 Points of negligence and worse in the Subrahmanyam Committee Report on Kargil hardly support this claim. Even on the nuclear doctrine is there any clarity of vision? Last year, in the debate on the

President's Address, the hon. Prime Minister raised a laugh by challenging me to tell him what the Congress party's policy was on the nuclear deterrent. I do not begrudge the Prime Minister that laugh, for he is, after all, one of the wittiest parliamentarians for the last 50 years! But, Sir, we regard the national security as far too important to be settled by banter on the floor of the House. So, let me throw the question back, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir to the Prime Minister. What is the NDA Government's nuclear doctrine? For 18 months, the recommendations of the National Security Advisory Board have been gathering dust. The little three words "minimum credible deterrent" do not amount to a policy. They have to be fleshed out; they have to be spelt out as a policy. When that is done, as a responsible party in the Opposition, we shall react to it, and if possible, certainly we shall lend the Government our support. But how can we, Sir, lend our support now? How can we endorse this policy which, as far as we know, does not exist.

In foreign Policy, our inspiration has always been and is Jawaharlal Nehru. From him, we have learnt that Foreign Policy is the external expression of our sovereignty. The fierce independence he taught us raised India to influence in world affairs, quite out of proportion to our military might and our economic strength. Not less than two-thirds of the international community and almost all countries which came to freedom in the second half of the twentieth century followed India's lead into non-alignment.

Now, Sir, today, we are into securing certificates from others. We are a nuclear power. All right. But we have lost our moral lead.

Many of our peers in the Non-Aligned Movement are drifting from us in the region. We are pursuing neither peace nor progress. I call this regression. It is therefore with a heavy heart that when we look back at this past one year we look at it as a lost year, a wasted year, a despair of good governance of the NDA coalition.

The NDA Government more often than not likes to claim that it is only following the Congress' policies. We certainly do not see it that way; what we see is a parody of our policies that is undoing much of what the nation has earlier achieved. We will oppose it as it is our democratic right and our duty to do so.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on President's Address is going to be concluded now. I thank all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion. Unfortunately, I could not attend the House at many times when hon. Members were

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

speaking. Sometime it becomes necessary to attend the Rajya Sabha session also. I am really very sorry about it and would like that it may not follow in future. Therefore, the business of the House should be arranged in such a manner that the discussion on the Presidential Address may be held in a continued manner. It creates difficulties for all, when the discussion is held in piecemeal and I think that under your leadership all the political parties will together formulate a programme to hold the discussion in a continued manner so that no member face any difficulty to attend it.

The Government of National Democratic Alliance is going to complete its three years. Our Government have disappointed those who were in the favour of the fall of this Government. Our's is a strong Government and political stability has been maintained in the country. We are progressing very fast on the path of development. The entire world has seen our achievements. We are among the 10 countries who are progressing very fast on the economic front. Our country has ample stock of foodgrains and has become self-sufficient in this regard. The credit goes to the farmers. However, I would like to mention one thing. Emphasis has been given to food production but required attention has not been paid to store the increased production of foodgrain. Perhaps we have been thinking over scarcity economy till now but now the time has come to think about the plenty economy. Some problems are being faced in some cases especially in foodgrains. However, efforts are being made to remove such shortcomings. Concrete steps have been taken in the current budget in this regard. The Government want that farmer should switch over to crops other than wheat and rice. For this purpose farmers should be assured of remunerative prices. The problem is that we never pre-plan farming. However, now efforts are being made in this regard. During my speeches in Punjab, I stressed upon to grow vegetable and fruit crop alongwith rice and wheat. Production of oilseeds and pulses are also required, but farmer takes time to change the prevailing system of crop which creates problems. Prices of cash crops have also reduced. Government want to procure these crops and make such arrangements so that farmers may not suffer losses. But there is a limit for the Government intervention. Efforts are being made to export the surplus foodgrains. In this regard some relaxations are being given. For example the quantum of wheat and rice production in our country is more than sufficient. That's why it is being exported. Rice and wheat crop has a good market in foreign countries. We are hopeful to get good prices of them. Efforts are also being made to reduce the cost of agriculture production. A policy is required to be

formulated in this regard with the consensus of all the parties.

It is inappropriate to state that President's Address does not mention about employment. It is also a misconception that economic liberalisation will lead to increase in unemployment. Some people will certainly be affected but that can not be escaped. However, more number of employment opportunities will be made available. I would like to quote President's Address in this regard :

[English]

"For example, India can command a significant competitive advantage in the international market in labour-intensive industries like garments, light engineering, toys, handicrafts, leather, and in IT-enabled services. The Government will encourage large-scale investment in such industries and create necessary infrastructure for their rapid growth."

[Translation]

I am aware of the problems arising due to our participation in WTO but these problems can not be solved by back track. Challenges should be faced. There is a need to see that we should not remain backward in this regard. The old process of farming should be replaced with the new one. It is necessary that we should stay in international market. For this purpose, quality of the crops should be emphasised. If we can improve the quality, since we are connected with W. T. O. we can face their challenges especially in respect of small scale industries and agriculture. I was in Bangalore yesterday. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has suggested me to call a conference of Chief Ministers of States to consider upon the problems arising in agriculture due to W.T.O norms and take any decision in this regard. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh repeated the something on telephone today in the morning. I agree with their suggestions and with regard to the agriculture related problemes arising out of our WTO agreement, we will convene a conference of Chief Ministers, wherein we will try to evolve a consensus and find a way out. By increasing Excise duty, we want to protect our Industries and agriculture. But we have increased it to a certain limit, we have increased the excise duty whenever there is a need and if necessary it can further be increased. . . .(Interruptions)

We have to make an effort to find permanent solution to it. Therefore, I feel that it is necessary to evolve consensus over this but there are many hindrances in this. Some of our colleagues have decided to formulate such policies in the economic field which are old and have no use but they continue to see things on the same ground or criterion. . . .(Interruptions) Success cannot be achieved

from that. We have been opposing the "quota permit raj" from the very beginning. The system of licensing breeds corruption and our past experience in this field has been bitter. But inspite of our best efforts the 'quota permit raj' is not coming to an end as it should have been because there are lot of difficulties when the question of its implementation arises. This will be possible once a broad consensus is arrived at on the question of economic reforms. I am not saying that there will not be any difference of opinion but we should try to remove those differences. We can also launch movement over our differences of opinion and go to people because finally they have to decide. But it is necessary to evolve consensus over some questions and among that one question is this also and I hope that the Congress party will not take any such step which may lead the Congress being accused of doing volte-face. "badle-badle mere sarkar nazar aate hein" . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : It appear as if the country is likely get ruined. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, I have left this for you. . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very essential that we should move with self-confidence. Among us some play the role of 'shalya' who are in 'pandava' side but talk in such a manner so as to create despondency and disappointment. This policy is not good. . . (Interruptions) We are not averse to criticism and are ready to learn from criticism. . . (Interruptions) We have not run the administration earlier but are trying to understand it, but our intention should not be doubted. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : First you please tell as to who is shalya and pandava. . . (Interruptions) It should be clear to the House. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the NDA Government has been instrumental in promoting decentralisation and devaluation of powers to the State Government in the country. The Centre-State relations are very good today. Today, we have a coalition Government at the Centre and the government of different parties in different States. We have never resorted to discrimination and if at all anything happens then we will try to solve that immediately. My friend from West Bengal must be agreeing with me. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You have resorted to discrimination. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just having a look at some figures. The Public Undertakings

which have been closed down in West Bengal or is in the verge of closure, their number is not less. The problems. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You have closed down those Undertakings. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : We are setting up new undertakings. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You are doing good. We want you to achieve success because your success has become doubtful. . . (Interruptions)

Today, we have a coalition Government at the Centre and the Governments of different parties in States. This is the time when we should work unitedly and endeavour to strengthen our democratic institutions. You can implement either multi-party democracy or any other structure, whichever you like, in your State.

Now, my next question relates to electricity. The power sector is undergoing a state of crises. A conference of Chief Ministers was held recently. In that they formed an opinion. Chief Ministers of all parties were involved in forming that opinion. All have decided that there should be improvement in power sector and power generation should be increased but the pilferage of power reported to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This pilferage is more in Delhi.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The power generation units are running in losses in every State. We are producing electricity but we lack in its distribution management. Now this is not a question of any single party, Centre or States. We have to find a way out unitedly. The future is full of challenges. I would like to quote what Hon. President has exactly said. He gave the reference of Dr. Ambedkar and presented his quotation. I would like to quote his wordings.

[English]

"The cautionary words of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar should guide us in our March forward. While presenting the draft of the Constitution, he had said with great fervency, I quote.

"On January 26, 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics, we will have equality; and in social and economic life, we will have inequality. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest."

[Translations]

Baba Saheb Ambedkar sounded warning at that time. Even today the India is in a paradoxical situation - one in which India is progressing facing challenges and its production is increasing. There is stability in technology and in other fields. We have also achieved progress in the field of communications. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There everything is in a mess. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now, we do not have to wait for telephone connection. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now there is no need to take the help of any M. P. for cooking gas. People are getting gas connection easily. We should accept the progress made in the field of communication. The rate of telephone calls have been drastically slashed. The whole world recognises our strides in the development of information technology. We do not need certificate from anyone. Our work is being appreciated by the people. The prestige of India in the world has increased due to the fact that she has always pursued universal values which are fundamental of our foreign policy. But there are shortcomings also. We are very lowly placed in human development index. But whether we should see only one aspect? We should see the condition of India as a whole, we should see both aspects together. There are shortcomings but we will try to remove those shortcomings. For this resolution is essential and in some cases this resolution is necessary in all parties. Today, we are in power, tomorrow some other party will be in power. We were also in opposition but used to oppose upto certain extent. We were surprised that day when Shri Somnathji had said that this Government is neither national nor democratic and nor an alliance. He has finished everything by saying this. We are neither national nor alliance but he is international.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : This Government is for allies. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But nobody recognises him in world. He is unable to understand as to with whom he should associate himself. He gave a judgement that we are neither national nor democratic. We have been elected in a democratic manner. We have come here with people's support.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, you do not worry. Communists are always international.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have alliance with different parties.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Our's is a left alliance.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have not united for power. Prior to election, we had alliance. We fought election on the basis of common agenda and were successful in achieving more seats. Even today, we have opportunity.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You look into the other aspect also. Advaniji had said.

[English]

There is no question of ideology and there is no question of policy. It is a question of remaining in power. He has said that more than once. Then, what is the ideology of NDA? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is correct. There can be only one ideology as to how to protect the sovereignty of our country and how to work for the welfare of the people. Any type of "ism" will not do. Now it has become outdated. The only ideology should be to see that our behaviour is in order and it should be oriented towards fighting corruption and to provide good governance to the people and not to fight over the non-issues. This will not do. Different parties are in power in States but they are running the administration on the basis of decentralisation. There are complaints and these are addressed only if one speaks loudly but no attention is paid towards the cooperation. You also have to move ahead in this direction. "No annayay panth vidyate" there is no other way out. The Congress party had decided that they will not have alliance with anyone.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are surviving by pampering them. We all know that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Congress had decided not to align with any party. Later on the decision

was reversed and they entered into electoral alignment in Bihar. What principles were involved there? We have united for the unity of the country, stability and good governance. Our conduct is transparent and that is why there is no alternative to us.

(English)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are giving certificate to yourself. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is usual in democracy. Now democracy cannot work without some amount of self-publicity. If you are not ready to mention good when you see it at least we would call it so even if it relates to ourselves. But the real standard is the merit and conduct.

13.00 hrs.

We have attempted to promote peace process in Jammu-Kashmir. The issue of Jammu-Kashmir is an old one and it is delicate too, since terrorism is involved there. Our neighbouring country is helping to increase the terrorist activities there. But when Ramadan cease-fire was announced, it was welcomed in the country, abroad and also in Jammu-Kashmir. India desires peace, world recognised it. International opinion about Kashmir is changing now. The statement of Kofi Annan is a pointer in this regard.

People who mocked at the Lahore visit, should look within themselves. Diplomacy is necessary but along with it we should also take our own people in confidence. Definitely there has been some delay in the start of negotiations in Jammu-Kashmir. I do not want to go in the reasons for that, but Government is not responsible. There are some other reasons which would be disclosed later. But we are going to start negotiations soon, we will talk with all parties and would try to find out a solution of Kashmir problem. There is no dispute about that and the complaint that we do not take others in confidence is baseless. I do not know how much more can we take others in confidence? Meetings are held and no important step or decisive step are taken without having consultations. . . .*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj U. P.) : In Rajya Sabha, you are able to arrive at an understanding with Congress.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But it is the responsibility of all and we need to shoulder it together. The negotiations will start and we will try to find out a way. Pakistan should change its ways. Pakistan should try to change its perpetual unfriendliness towards India. This is our hope. We thanked them for helping in the Guajrat

tragedy. We also would not hesitate to extend a helping hand if, unfortunately, they also have to face some trouble. This is a question of humanity. Mulayam Singhji got sentimental about it yesterday and said resources permitting, we would extend not 6 times but 8 times help to them. He agrees to what I say and I agree to what he says. We should try to come together on the issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon. Prime Minister, please accept our four demands-one, end the dispute relating to temple construction in Ayodhya ; two, end your talks about repealing Article 370 ; three, change your opinion about minorities, especially Muslims; and four, break your relations with RSS. We would automatically come together. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was talking about India and Pakistan. We cannot have trucks with Shri Mulayam Singhji. I do not know what will happen to the person who befriends Mulayam Singhji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are compelled to do that. It is for the sake of country. Otherwise the country will be sold off. Nobody is buying the loss making enterprises and in the national interest we are opposing the sale of profit making enterprises.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No one in the world has the guts to buy this country.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : But there are people who are ready to sell it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If it is so, people would throw them out. We have the example. . . .*(Interruptions)*. We should not talk of selling and buying. At least patriotism should be above suspicion. We have not done that, and we won't allow anybody to do that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am not saying that.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Then what are you talking about? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The capital of the country is being sold. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The problem is that we cannot agree with everything Mulayam Singhji says. He has said that had India been powerful, we could have prevented the destruction of Buddha statues in Afghanistan.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This is true. It is true that no country in the neighbourhood of America can take liberty. If our country was powerful, Afghanistan would not have dared. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mulayam Singhji has been a former Defence Minister. Do not speak in a way undignified for a Defence Minister.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Invasion is not required. It is the prestige of the country that matters. Today our prestige is low among our neighbouring countries. Our policy is not to invade but our prestige should be such as to create fear among others.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go in that dispute. The whole world has condemned what happened in Afghanistan. It was an act of barbarity, but there is a limit. There is no reason to suppose that if we had power we could have stopped the destruction. It was impossible. But we should ensure that such elements are not encouraged, promoted and allowed to overwhelm the world and towards that end we are trying to create a world opinion about fundamentalism. We want an international agreement on terrorism and that is possible only if the problems are discussed in depth. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why Babri Masjid was destroyed. You should condemn it. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what is this going on? Please take your seat. Shri Ramdas Athawale, if you are not interested in the reply, Please go out. What is this?

[Translation]

Shri Athawale Ji, you are obstructing the proceedings by raising time and again, what is this? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that he is the leader of the House also. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that before raising a matter in the House, if that matter is based on magazine or newspaper articles, they should be examined with regard to the fact content in that. After all Members of the Parliament are responsible persons. Newspaper have their own politics. They have their own games, sometime we fall victim to it and sometimes you do. But hurling baseless allegations are meaningless. PMO is in controversy. Did I create it? I have not. It is working since the time of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Group of Ministers is an issue. The cooperative environment and the free atmosphere in which the present cabinet is working is probably without precedent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion takes place on all the matters. Decision is not announced before the discussion and if the House fails to agree on a subject, it is referred to a few Ministers for consideration. That is how, 'Group of Ministers' is formed. Thereafter the report of 'Group of Ministers' is submitted to the Cabinet. There is no question of bye-passing the Cabinet. Representatives of different political parties. Consider and decide on the matter. There is no restriction on debate but the final decision is taken by the Cabinet. Cabinet takes the final decision. These type of allegations do not add to the prestige of the country, but adds to disappointment in my heart. But I believe that before levelling allegations, some sort of investigation is necessary. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Let JPC investigate it. Let it investigate our allegations. (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very serious issue and creating pandemonium in the House will not serve any purpose. Please consider the issue with a cool mind. Having debate on the issue will achieve nothing. A weekly magazine was quoted in a large measure. I also want to quote the same magazine. The last part of the editorial says-

[English]

"The tragedy of Indian democracy is not our present rulers (is there much to choose between the PMO we have now and the one we had under Rajiv?), the greater, much greater, tragedy is that we possess an Opposition led by Sonia Gandhi, Somnath Chatterjee and Mulayam Singh Yadav. I wonder what sins the people of this country have committed to deserve them."

[Translation]

Now if you get misled by the article and raise the matter in House, and expect that. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, if the hon. Prime Minister were to yield, I would make it clear. I raised it. I made it very clear. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, he is not yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has obviously referred to my speech. Kindly give me half a minute. I made it very clear. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, he is not yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please allow me. I made it very clear. Mr. Prime Minister, you were not here then. . . .(Interruption) Unfortunately, you were not here. I accept your statement that you were busy elsewhere with Parliamentary duty. I said that I was bringing this before this House because I wanted an explanation from the hon. Prime Minister. A senior bureaucrat has made these charges which remain unrefuted. There were serious allegations made. There is no response from the Government. Therefore, after considerable deliberation, I have brought it before the House. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister of India what is the true state of affairs. Mr. Prime Minister, what do you say with regard to a Secretary who says :

"Because I objected to certain decisions against a business house. I was transferred the next day."

So, please say whatever you wish to say. That is not my statement. . . .(Interruption) He now says that he is quoting the editorial because I raised it then. It is most unfair. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, he made that allegation on that day. That is what he said. . . .(Interruption) Without any doubt, I would say that he made that allegation. He read it from the magazine. That is the allegation he made. . . .(Interruption) I objected to it. Sir, you were also present on that day. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this is too much. You are disturbing the entire House. When the hon. Prime Minister is giving the reply, you are making these kinds of remarks.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the proper way.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is written in India Today magazine-farmer dies in your regime. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This debate has consumed nearly 12 hours and 27 minutes of the House. Thirty-four speakers have participated in the debate. Still, you are confronting the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret that. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is creating a new precedent in the House. I have been observing the hon. Member from the beginning. What is this type of confrontation when the Leader of the House is replying?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Prime Minister, it is lunch time now. Everybody is hungry.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am not hungry but angry. Mr. Speaker, Sir, report which has been published does not have name of any secretary. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Name is there, you can read the report. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper, please take your seats. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not only this time, every time, you are doing like this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition speak you must have some patience. What is this?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : General allegations have been levelled and such alligations can not be taken seriously. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : But he is not yielding, Shri Jaipal Reddy. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : No, you please sit down Shri Jaipal Reddyji you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are all senior Members of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only said that it is expected from Members of Parliament that they should try to find out variety of issue published in Media . . . *(Interruption)* before raising them in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When the Leader of the House is replying, is this the way to behave in the House? You are creating a new precedent in the House. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : If you try to prevent the leader of the House from speaking in this way then would you think your leader will be permitted to speak ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of the Prime Minister.

*(Interruptions)***[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, issue relating to Ayodhya was mentioned by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and she asked what the Government is doing. Let me clarify the view point of the Government on this issue.

[English]

Ever since our Government assumed office, it has remained fully committed to the due process of law. Neither it has ever interfered in the legal process in any matter nor will it ever do so.

Unlike in the past, our Government has never withdrawn any criminal case against any individual or individuals associated with the Government. Even the prosecution lawyers arguing for the CBI in the Ayodhya case are those appointed prior to my Government assuming office three years ago. The CBI is an independent investigating agency. The Government does not issue any direction to the CBI nor can it in law issue any such direction. The CBI's position before the Special Judge in Lucknow is that its chargesheet against various individuals in the Ayodhya case is maintainable notwithstanding the judgement of the Allahabad High Court. The matter is *sub judice* before a Special Judge. Therefore, I wish to make no further comment on it.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Law will take its own course and there should be no doubt about it to anyone.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to conclude my speech. President's Address dwells at the Problems and condition prevailing in the country. Therefore, President's Address can act like reference book. The position of President is different in our country. There is difference between what President speaks on various occasions and what he speaks while addressing the Parliament. Therefore, sometimes we feel that Address is boring and quite long. If everything is to be included in it then we can not avoid these things. We are grateful to the President and thank him.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi raised the issue of Nuclear policy. We want to have discussion on matter of Nuclear policy. We should sit together and discuss it. Nuclear policy would not be the policy of one party rather it would be the policy of whole country. This policy will be binding on the future Government also. There should be no difference of opinion and ill-will among us about it. I am grateful to all the Members who . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, today you are Harbhajan Singh in Indian Parliament. They are bowled.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you. Namaskar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by hon. 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 shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

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 the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for