

Some MNCs, some international organisations are being attracted to this sector and bids, etc. are going on. I think by augmenting our own production and also by bringing about some discipline in the economy, relating to Oil Pool Account, etc., we can bring a better situation.

Since you have already cautioned me about the time, I do not like to take more time even though I have many things to say. I would conclude by saying that this unprecedented price hike to this extent at a stroke was uncalled for and was not wise. I am reminded of one shloka.

"skandham no badhte raja, sarv badhti badhte."

Even our Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, who is known as bhumputra because of his concern for the farmers, while talking to the Press. I think at Lucknow, after this price hike, justified it. Of course, I do not find fault with him.

18.00 hrs.

But, at the same time, he said that this would not at all affect the interests of the peasants and farmers. I think this is too much and at least the Bhoomi Putra should have realised that this is not going to spare even the peasantry. Therefore, his own precedent is these and the CPM supremo and the Chief Minister and all those are warning about one thing that is very very hefty, very very steep and this should not have been done at a stroke and it should have been done in phases or instalments. Sir, this is the national wish. The national wish is reflected in Parliament. It is the collective responsibility of the Government to bow down to the national wish, whatever may happen.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Panigrahi. Please conclude now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I appeal to the Prime Minister that he should revive and reconsider this aspect. As I said, by giving statistics, he has inherited a very good and buoyant economy. He need not be upset at all. (Interruptions) What happened in 1991-92 Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao and Dr Manmohan Singh managed the economy... (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Shri Panigrahi, you are going back. You do not have to repeat what you have said earlier. I was listening to you from my Chamber.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, there should be no difficulty in managing with some increase. He should withdraw the increase in the price of diesel by another ten per cent and in petrol by ten per cent and by fifteen per cent in the LPG.

Sir, I make an appeal to have a dispassionate view and he should consider all these aspects and effect reduction of price hike.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Members, the time allotted for this was two hours. We have already spent four hours and fifty two minutes. I think the debate is good enough, Mr. Prime Minister may reply now.

(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to appeal to all sections of the House including the former Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition when I try to substantiate with all reasonings about the decision we have taken to increase the prices of petroleum products before the Session starts, five days earlier.

Sir, forget for a moment that this is a coalition Government and this Government consists of 13 Parties and this Government has another big Party supporting from outside. Let us not mix politics in this issue. Let us take a pragmatic view about the decision taken by the Government.

Sir, about propriety, your goodself has given a ruling. I do not want to question your ruling. I will bow my head. When the hon. Speaker from that exalted Chair gave a ruling, we have to respect the ruling of the Chair. I do not want to say anything about it.

I am not going to justify the decision taken by me or my Government. Sir, if you go back to the history, how many times did the hon. Speaker, sitting in the same Chair, has given rulings about the decisions of the previous Governments whose numerical strength was so monolithic two-thirds majority, and at that time how the administrative prices were increased prior to the Budget session? I can give any number of instances.

What made this Government take such a hurried decision of the decision six days or a week prior to the Budget Session? Let us have a clear picture before we come to any conclusion.

Sir, the issue before us was the same issue which was placed before the previous Government. The same issue was placed before our senior most leader, the former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

I have got the highest regard for Jaswant Singh. Whenever he spoke, I used to sit there and hear his speech very carefully. At times, I was unable to understand some of the words he used or expressed. I am not so knowledgeable a person so far as English is concerned, but I could understand the message which he tried to convey to the nation from this House.

I am just quoting for his benefit what he said this matter came up before the previous Government. When the file was submitted to the Ministry of

Finance, the last views expressed by the Finance Minister were:

"*Primer facie* it seems inevitable that an across the board increase in POL price is required urgently to eliminate the pool deficit".

That is what he as Finance Minister had observed. I am not going to say that he took that view from the Ministry of Finance...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Is this the decision of Jaswant Singhji?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Yes.

I have got the highest regard for our former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, I respect him, Sir. The Finance Minister has also observed that cumulative oil pool deficit is going to rise to a level of Rs. 11,700 crores at the end of this year from a level of Rs. 5,700 crore last year and as such an across the board, increase in petroleum prices is required urgently to eliminate the pool deficit. I am going to read again the words 'urgently to eliminate the pool deficit'. What was the pool deficit? It was Rs. 5,700 crore for the last year and the figure projected for 1996-97 is Rs. 11,700 crore. "While action on these points shall be taken separately the OEB as approved by the Ministry of Finance is submitted for approval". The then Prime Minister approved it and also directed necessary action to be taken on the observation made by the Finance Ministry headed by Jaswant Singhji. *(Interruptions)* I do not want to mix politics here. Forget that this is a Government which is headed by 13 political parties and supported by you friends. I have not come in search of any job in Delhi. My temperament is totally different

This is a thing which was forced on me. I highly respect you, wherever you may be. Nobody can prevent the destiny. If destiny is there on your side, you can come and sit here and somebody can go and sit there. That is not the issue. But when you attack as a senior parliamentarian I am too small a man. Let me honestly speak, compared to you I am too small a man. The Oil Pool Account deficit must be erased. That is your own decision and I have carried it.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to interrupt the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr Speaker, Sir, the matter of deficit in oil pool account has not been

settled yet and prices of petroleum products are soaring high. We being in opposition have been warning the Government for years against it. I have not given orders to convene a session of Parliament. It is your decision to announce an increase in the prices of petroleum products five days before convening of the session of Parliament.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, let the Leader of the Opposition and Shri Jaswant Singh admit that they recommended a steep hike.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, now that I am asked a direct question, I will respond only if you permit me to do so.

Sir, there are two issues involved here. Firstly, references to notings on files—whether those references to notings on files are a matter that has to be discussed and debated here. That is a different matter. That is one thing.

The second thing is that I have been asked by my senior colleague as to whether I had made any recommendation of this nature, of a sudden steep hike. No, Sir, I certainly expressed grave concerns at the deteriorating situation that the deficit would go upto Rs. 11,000 plus crore or more.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The cat is out of the bag.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is an estimate. Certainly it was on record that if corrective action was not taken, the situation would be difficult. But that corrective action will be a 30 per cent hike was certainly not part of our notings. We would have found out alternatives to doing it and doing it not on the eve of a Budget Session of Parliament. Definitely not. I say this only because this matter was raised.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : This view was expressed on 25.5.1996, about 20 days earlier. I took over the office on 1st June and it was to be proved in Parliament as to whether this is a legitimate Government or not. So, I was unable to touch the file for another 12 days. I am not going to just drag the name of the senior leaders for the purpose of defending this decision.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You are trying to score a debating point. That is all.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please hear me. On the other day, when your goodself was speaking, other hon. Members attacked me so much, I was patiently watching them. I did not even react a word to them. Whatever may be the insult, I just swallowed it.

Mr Jaswant Singhji, your own Committee—a Committee appointed by the Parliament—had recommended that the subsidy on LPG should be gradually reduced. He was heading that committee. While speaking to the Times of India on inflation,

you said that the inflation rate has been kept artificially low by not increasing the administered prices. You further added, this is particularly true in terms of the petroleum sector as there is Rs. 6,000 crore deficit in the Oil Pool Account. This is what you have told the Press...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are totally exposed.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, I do not think that is required.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I would like to apprise the House and through this House, to the nation what were the circumstances. I am not going to say that you support me. I am prepared to take the blame. But at least through this House I must also tell the nation under what circumstances I have taken this decision. That much liberty I have got.

Sir, on 17th June one refinery said that FOB payments due to IOC for crude supplies to the tune of Rs 49 crore had been deferred. Delaying payments to other suppliers, contractors, etc., you will agree, will lead to a serious loss of image. If OCC resorts to further retrenchment of this nature CRL will be expected to serious financial problems which may even lead to the refinery operations coming to a grinding halt. One of the refinery Chairman and Managing Director wrote like this to the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum. Sir, there are series of correspondence between several refineries and the Ministry of Petroleum. I would like to quote only one case as I do not want to take much time of the House. It says

"We are afraid if this situation continues IOC may be under a great stress to default its foreign commitments for imports as well as loan repayments which will adversely affect its credibility in the international market"

They went on stressing the Ministry of Petroleum to take early decision. Some people say that I have done the biggest mistake. Even now by March, 1997 the deficit will be ranging from Rs. 4,700 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore. That is the projected figure.

I would just like to draw the attention of the House to the previous hikes in the prices of petroleum products. I want go back to the previous events that took place so far as the price increases in petroleum products are concerned. In 1979, after the Budget was placed in this very august House on 28.2.1979 - Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister at that time - the price of HSD was increased by 8.5 percent, SKO by 8.3 percent and LPG by 9.2 percent. When the late Shri Charan Singh became the Prime Minister, on 17.08.1979, six months after the Budget was passed in this very same House, price of the LPG was increased by 20.4 percent.

When Madam Gandhi was the Prime Minister, on 13.01.1981 — the Budget was placed on 28.02.1981 — one-and-half months' earlier, the price of LPG was increased by 17 percent and the price of HSD was increased by 18.9 percent. Within six months, that is, on 11.07.1981, in the middle of the year again, the price of HSD was raised by 13.7 percent. If you add 18.9 percent and 13.7 percent, the total comes to 32.6 percent in respect of HSD alone, the price of LPG was raised by 17 percent on 13.01.1981 and on 11.07.1981, it was, again, raised by 14.5 percent. The total price rise comes to 31.5 percent in respect of LPG. The kerosene price was raised by 18.5 percent within six months in two instalments, in two dosages.

Coming to the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's period, on 01.02.1996 — on 28.02.1996 the Budget was placed in this very august House — LPG price was raised by 23.1 percent and subsequently he had given some reduction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : How much was the reduction?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : It was minus nine percent.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : He raised the price and subsequently reduced it.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am coming to it. That is why, I said, let us forget the party issues now. We have to see as to how we can set right the present crisis. Not only this; there are various other problems and we have to collectively think over those things. In 1991, NSD price was not raised. On 25.07.1991, LPG price was raised by 20 percent, on 16.09.1992, it was raised by 24.1 percent, and on 12.01.1994, it was raised by 20.6 percent. In three years, only on LPG, the total price rise comes to 64.6 percent. Later, a reduction was given, which was minus 6.9 percent. It means, 58 percent was the total price rise, in three years, only on LPG. You were all saying that the Prime Minister had no knowledge of the common man's problems. I am prepared to bear all these criticisms.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are genuine *bhoomi putras* who are sitting on this side.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I told you under what circumstances we were compelled to take this decision. Our demand — it was placed before you and before me also — in 1994-95 was 65.5 million tonnes and it has gone up to 72.5 million tonnes. It is further expected to go up to 78.5 during the current financial year.

As I told you a little earlier, even after this price hike, the projected figure is about Rs. 4,700/- to Rs. 5,000/- deficit by 31st March, 1987.

How much subsidy are we giving? We are giving a subsidy of Rs. 4,870/- on kerosene. We have not

raised anything. We are giving a subsidy of Rs. 4.17 paise per litre.

It was as if we have done it by midnight decision. It is not a midnight decision every time when the administrative price hike is going to be implemented. It is only because the decision will be given effect to when almost all the accounts of the oil pumps and petrol pumps will be closed only at about 10.30 or 11 o'clock.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : They have to raise.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : That will be there. I do agree. I do not dispute that point. I do agree that all these things are bound to happen. It is not as if I have taken a midnight decision. It is the decision taken by the Department. Yes. It should come into operation the next day. That is why, they will inform the concerned dealers after the closure of their accounts.

Even today we are giving subsidy amount of Rs. 62.50 paise on one LPG gas cylinder

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : If subsidy of Rs. 62 is being given on LPG then it should be stopped.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : If you want to totally remove that means totally remove...after this Government collapses, if you come to power, you can do that... (Interruptions)

If we take LPG users whose monthly income is below Rs. 250/-, they come under the purview of below the poverty line. It comes to 3.8 percent

The percentage of people whose monthly income is Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1,500/- comes to 25.9 and Rs. 1,501 to Rs. 2,500 comes to 29.1 and Rs. 2,501 to Rs. 4,000 comes to 23.5 and over Rs. 4,000/- comes to 17.7

These are the figures I am placing before the House

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : By whom has the survey been done?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : It is done by the Department, not by any news agency. Even after the price hike of Rs. 8.46 per kg of LPG gas in India, if you go back to other neighbouring countries, in Malaysia it is Rs. 16.12, in Bangladesh — they are richer than us — it is Rs. 13.58, in Myanmar Rs. 22.37, in Sri Lanka Rs. 13.4 and in Thailand Rs. 15.4 per kg of LPG.

About the HSD, in the case of road transport, yes, there is some effect on the transportation of the commodities. I do agree. The total consumption by

the Road Transport Department in the whole of the country is to the extent of 61.8 percent; in the case of Railways, it is 4.3 percent; in the case of Shipping, it is 0.4 percent; in the case of agricultural sector, it is 16.3 percent and in respect of the industrial sector, it is 17.2 percent. This is the sectoral consumption of HSD.

About vehicle population, there are 3,10,412 diesel cars; jeeps are to the extent of 5,98,191; commercial vehicles are to the extent of 21,27,504.

I now come to MS consumption profile. The car population is to the extent of 1,36,76,000. The total consumption is 1,98,10,973 metric tonnes. I have given the figures about the sectoral consumption as well as diesel vehicle population, car population and all these things. The consumption is about 1,98,10,973 metric tonnes.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What about tractor?
... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I told you how many farmers are using it. I do agree that whenever the price of any commodity is going to be increased, some sections have to bear the burden. I do not dispute that point. But, at the same time, let us also think about the other people. Nitishji, I thought that you are coming from the farming community
... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has jettisoned it. He has gone to construction of Temple business! (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I have got the highest regards for him. Shri Nitish Kumar, I heard your speech though I was in my office. But I was unable to understand the full speech because you spoke in Hindi. But I tried to get the information. At least, you have not mentioned even a single word about the fertiliser subsidy which this Government has given.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have appreciated that. But Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has not reported it properly.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : If you have mentioned it, thank you very much. In my opinion, India can be economically split into two parts: one is rural India and the other is urban India. Do not be under the impression that I am biased towards the urban people or unbiased towards the rural people. Forget that. Just I am giving you the figures. In Bombay, Calcutta and Madras alone, the Railways suffer a loss of Rs. 220 crores for which we are providing subsidy. It is for suburban trains.

Shri Nitish Kumar, about the post-cards, registration and the sale of inland letters, in the Communications Department alone, we are giving subsidy to the tune of Rs. 600 crores.

Who is going to get the benefit? It is the people. There was a massacre in Bihar. I got that message two days back on Saturday morning at 7.30. I told the Home Secretary, "I want to go today afternoon to the place where this unhappy incident has taken place." The Home Secretary contacted the Chief Secretary, Bihar. And he gave me the information within two hours. He said: "Even though you can go to Patna by the Indian Air Force aircraft yet you cannot reach that village by helicopter. We can arrange for a heliped two miles away from that village. You have to walk two miles." This is the true picture of India. You are coming from that State. I am only just giving one instance. What happened on the 27th? I wanted to go to that place on the very same day because it was a holiday and there was no sitting of the House. The Home Secretary conveyed to me, "you have to walk two kilometres; and we are not going to advocate you to go there today." As I told you, economically, we can split India into two parts - one is rural India and the other one is urban India. How much subsidy are we giving to various elite sections of the society? I am not against that. But you must also think in terms of those people who have no voice. This House is meant for those people who have no voice. I have taken a decision which is not going to be liked by so many elite sections of the society I know, they are the opinion-makers. Let them form the opinion against this Government. But so long as I am here, I must tell you very frankly, I am going to take the decision in favour of the rural masses. I am prepared to say this. I am not afraid of this Chair. So long as I am here, I am going to take the decision in favour of my constituents, these people who have been neglected all these 48 years. Certainly, they must be given their due share. There is nothing doing on this issue

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bihar) : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, the class whom you are trying to benefit will itself be affected adversely by increase in the prices of diesel, petrol and other petroleum products. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the increase in prices of petroleum products is going to affect the poor whom the hon. Prime Minister is proclaiming to protect. (Interruptions)

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, who is responsible if there. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down
(Interruptions)

[Translations]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, you are the leader of farmers. Can you walk upto 2 kms. on foot. (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, with your kind permission, I say that the opposition has got the right to attack. Whatever harsh language they have used, I never opened my lips. Please bear with me for a moment. We are all human beings. We have come here to take care of those people also. It is not a monopoly of Deve Gowda. Please permit me to speak.

If I quote Bangalore, you may say that I always try to quote Bangalore. How much subsidy on milk are we giving in Delhi? It is to the tune of Rs. 50 crore. The Delhi Milk Scheme is subsidised to the extent of nearly Rs. 50 crore. In Delhi for power supply, 40 percent subsidy is there. There is no question of billing. About transport in Delhi alone, Rs. 120 crore subsidy is there.

Let us all collectively think in terms of those people who have no mere basic needs even today.

Sir, I called the Chief Ministers' Conference before this price is increased. I wanted to hear them. I myself had drawn the agenda with my background. I communicated to all the Chief Ministers 12 days earlier, to come prepared with their views, with their opinions and with their stand. Let me also hear them. I sat for two days. Normally no Prime Minister will sit for two days; he will inaugurate and go. I am saying this because I was also the Irrigation Minister of Karnataka for nearly five years and I attended three Irrigation Ministers' Conference. When Madam Indiraji was the Prime Minister and subsequently Shri Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister, they normally inaugurated and went. I sat for two days, for 16 hours because I wanted to hear every Chief Minister. Then we have unanimously adopted - irrespective of any political party - identifying the priorities in seven areas viz., communication, drinking water, primary health, primary education, public distribution and mid-day meal.

Sir, 48 years after Independence in Uttar Pradesh about 63,000 villages - the Governor of the Uttar Pradesh has given this account. Based on that I am giving the figures, it is not mine - 35,000 villages have no school building. It is the State which has produced six Prime Ministers. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : They have ruined all that. (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : Please reply to my question. What you have done...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : You are responsible for it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, order in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, 1.18 lakh villages including some hamlets have no roads. This is the figure given by the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Everybody knows, 48 years have passed. But who is responsible for this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : A member of your party had been Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. What did he do?

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : How have you helped the rural people by taking a decision of hiking the price of diesel?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. Please.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Who is responsible, who is not responsible is not my concern. My concern is, how best we can help those people. That is all my concern. That is why I called all the Chief Ministers for the Conference. I am happy to inform the House, irrespective of the political affiliations, almost all the Chief Ministers including the BJP Chief Ministers have cooperated to adopt a unanimous resolution to give the upper most priorities for these items which I have just now indicated. It should be a time bound programme. By 2000 A.D. we must complete whatever is the shortfall in the next four years. That is our decision. We have unanimously agreed and I am going to tell this august House that we want to increase every year 15 percent of the allocation in so far as these areas are concerned. Every year there is going to be a 15 percent increase in the allocation by the Central Government. We will place the money at the disposal of the State Government, whether it is run by the BJP or the Congress Party or the DMK, I am not concerned with that. I want to see that at least in the next four years, before the 21st century, in these areas the basic needs would be provided to the common man. That is our concern.

If we want to achieve this object, our hon. Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister did ask in his speech on the day of the Vote of Confidence as to where do we get the resources from. His good self has asked: 'you may have one hundred one

schemes in your mind, but where do you find the resources from?' I am quoting the Common Minimum Programme about how do we generate resources. Unless we touch the people who have got something to spare, it is not possible. Can they not give Rs. 26 more per LPG cylinder?

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Ask the CPI (M) people.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I will ask everybody. That is why I said, let us not mix politics.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Our views are principled, yours are not.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : What principle? Just moving from this side to that side.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I do not want to take much of the time of this House. I only appeal to the users of these commodities that they should also cooperate with the Government to overcome the present deficit in the Oil Pool Account.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : You do whatever you want. That is your right. How can I prevent that? You have got every right to attack me inside and outside this House. Nobody can stop that. You have got every right to tell the public that here is a person who has got some biased opinion against the LPG users. You go and tell them. I do not want to prevent you from attacking me both inside and outside the House. But through this House, I appeal to all the consumers, to my sisters and brothers, to cooperate with the Government to overcome the present crisis. That is all the appeal that I can make. My primary responsibility is to overcome the present problem being faced by the country.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : This is the reduction slip

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Already we have given 15 percent reduction on diesel

There is no question of any more reduction

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Now a days, the price of fuel wood is soaring high.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : You have got ample time to attack the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I will only appeal to all sections of the people to cooperate with

the Government for the decision that we have taken now.

◀ MR. SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned.

18.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, July 16, 1996/Asadha 25, 1918 (Saka).
