

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As far as the kidnapping part is concerned, the Hon. Minister may kindly look into it.

I have told the Minister now. You please sit down. I have told the Minister to take whatever action that is possible.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not understand this. Hon. Prime Minister is going to reply to the debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria because his was a special case. Do not take undue advantage.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)\*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply to the debate on the Address delivered by His Excellency, the President, to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you talking?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please keep quiet, Mr. Katheria. What else do you want?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Home Affairs may say something on the incident...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I cannot shout...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you behave or not ? Please do not force me to take an extreme step. Mr. Katheria, I have done a favour to you and you are not behaving now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. What is this ? Do not take the House to ransom. I am not going to tolerate this any more. Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

12.14 hrs.

[English]

### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Prime Minister will reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, before I start my reply, I would only like to inform my colleague and hon. member who has expressed a serious apprehension about the whereabouts of his family Members, that I also have got the same concern.

It seems, Sir, your goodself has given a consent for having a Short Duration Discussion tomorrow or today itself after my reply. I will sit here and I will hear every word of the events that took place which is going to be a ... (Interruptions) Either today or tomorrow, any time ... (Interruptions) I am going to ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is referring to the earlier ruling of mine, regarding UP

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : This is regarding Uttar Pradesh. I am only saying this to that hon. Member. A serious allegation was made by the hon. Member. Hon. Speaker told me yesterday that there would be a Short Duration Discussion concerning Uttar Pradesh. I do not know under what Rule the hon. Speaker is going to allow. It is up to the House and the hon. Speaker. I am only going to give an assurance on behalf of the Government that whatever situation that is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh will be discussed in the House. Sir, you have also given a ruling to constitute an Advisory Committee of the Members of Parliament. So, all these things are going to come up... (Interruptions) No, I am not going to ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : First of all, may I know this ? Why can the Prime Minister not agree to have a discussion under Rule 184 ? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I will agree to whatever the hon. Speaker decides. I do not know ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But you are not opposed to that!... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am not going to ...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Leader of the Opposition wants to bring that Motion under Rule 184. If his intention is that the Motion may be adopted and the Government may go, please do not worry about it. If that is his intention, I am not worried about that. Whether the Motion under Rule 184 is going to be voted here in favour of the Government or against the Government, I am not bothered about that; please do not worry about that.

Now I am only confining myself to the reply to the debate. That is all I would like to say.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to express my thanks to the Hon. Members who have participated in the 'Governor's Address' ...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry, the 'President's Address' ...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)* That is my habit ...*(Interruptions)* That is my habit. All right ...*(Interruptions)*

Nearly 52 Members of this august House have participated in the debate. They have given valuable suggestions and constructive criticisms also. I welcome all those suggestions and constructive criticisms, from the point of view of toning up the administration. I welcome all those suggestions made by the Hon. Members and I am grateful to them.

Sir, I would like to go back to the past events. On 1st June 1996, we took over the responsibility of running this country. I do not want to go back to whatever had happened before the 1st of June 1996. I would like to refresh my memory again, only from the 1st of June 1996, as to what are the things that have happened in this country.

Sir, on the 1st of June, I do not think, my party had got any mandate. We are hardly 44 people. Thirteen political parties have formed the United Front. Certain independent Members have also extended me cooperation. This Government was — with the support of the Congress from outside and with the support of CPI (M), also from outside — installed by the respected Rashtrapatiiji.

What were the circumstances this Government was facing at that time? Every day, there was a suspicion in the minds of the people, a suspicion in the minds of the bureaucrats, a suspicion also in the minds of the media, a suspicion outside the country and inside the country as to whether this new experiment would work; and how could this Government — of 13 political parties with different ideologies, with different manifestoes and with different programmes — can function?

This was the atmosphere prevailing on that day in the country. Even the bureaucrats were countering whether this Government would survive for three months or one month or two months. I am not going to blame anybody. But that was the atmosphere prevailing in this

country on the day when I took over the responsibility with my colleagues to run this country. Sir, with this background, anyway we have completed nine months. And what is that we have actually achieved? Have this Government done anything tangible in these nine months from the point of view of the development of the nation and to create an atmosphere that even this new experiment can successfully manage the affairs of the nation? Whether we have done it or not is a matter which we shall now place before the House.

Let me now try to narrate what we have done in the last nine months. Sir, for the first 12 days, there was total uncertainty. The stability of the Government had to be established by the voting and mandate of this House. The vote of confidence was taken on 12th June. From 12th June onwards, we started our functioning.

Sir, we have got our own party programmes, our own party manifesto and our own ideologies. For the smooth functioning of the Government, we all sat together and accepted the Common Minimum Programme. That was our guideline. That is our barometer. We wanted to function very smoothly without creating among ourselves any major areas of difference. We wanted to see that this new experiment should be successful and the mandate given by the people in the Eleventh Lok Sabha should be honoured. No political party was able to get the mandate including the Congress, including the larger party, the BJP or smaller parties. No political party was able to get a clear mandate. With this background, when we took over the responsibility, we wanted to see that this experiment should be made successful with the cooperation of the supporting parties and the parties which are in the Government.

Sir, I am only placing the accountability of the Government, of what we have done in these last seven to eight months, to the nation through this House. I have gone through some of the points raised by the hon. Members about agriculture, regional imbalances and Defence. I have gone through some of the issues raised by the hon. Members in this House. I would like to cover almost all the points, with your kind permission.

Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi has said as to what we have done in the agricultural sector. I have gone through his speech. The first decision which the Government took within fifteen days after the vote of confidence was given by this House was to give Rs. 2500 crore to the agricultural sector as a subsidy component to di-ammonium sulphate and phosphatic fertilisers. That is the first decision we have taken. I know that the President's Address is a policy document. I will come to the policies and programmes of this Government at a later stage. What have we done in seven months? The people of the nation are expecting us to tell them what this Government has done because they are our masters. We have to place our accounts and achievements in the last seven to eight months.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

Sir, today, the result of Rs. 2500 crore which we have given to the farmers is that in the agricultural sector, our production has gone to 191 million tonnes. That is only one point that I would like to say.

I convened a meeting of all the Chief Ministers because we are working in a different political atmosphere. The regional parties and the national parties are involved to form this coalition Government. And I do not want to discriminate between one State and another State. So, I convened the meeting of all the Chief Ministers. The Chief Ministers' Conference was held in Delhi for two days. We have arrived at a consensus decision. The decision is for identifying seven areas where we have to give more allocation because they are the priority sectors according to the views expressed by all the Chief Ministers of the States. The first Budget for 1996-97 was placed by Dr. Manmohan Singh. After the election, we got the opportunity to place the second Budget in this very House for 1996-97. For that purpose, in that Budget for nine months, we have provided Rs. 2,466 crore or so and distributed the same to all the States. There is no question of any discrimination between 'X' party Government or 'Y' party Government. We have taken a firm decision. This was the second step taken by us.

In our Budget for 1996-97, I am going to highlight some of the issues. I do not want to take credit for this. For a short duration of three years and ten months, I was also a Member of this House. When I used the term "Governor's Address", somebody tried to take it as a sort of this thing. For 35 years, I was there in the Assembly ...*(Interruptions)* That is the practice that we follow there. For four years, I was sitting there. Our senior leader, Shri George Fernandes, was here. Shri George Fernandes and myself were together. Fortunately, even when I was sitting there, I was unable to come nearer to him ...*(Interruptions)* I was sitting there.

I requested the former Minister of Agriculture, Shri Balam Jakhar, in this very House — our former Speaker used to sit here — to, at least, restore the subsidy for the phosphatic fertiliser and diammonium sulphate; otherwise, the agricultural community was going to suffer. The records will disclose it. There is nothing new for me. I never expected that I was going to become the Prime Minister of this country ...*(Interruptions)*

The first decision which I took was that I identified the area of the agricultural community. In the budget for irrigation, we had requested the Government about it not only in this House but also by writing directly to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Irrigation. We have provided Rs. 900 crore for acceleration of irrigation works. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi is not here in the House. We have provided subsidy for tractors of 18 HP and power tillers.

This Government is committed to the rural masses. This Government is committed to the poor sections of

the society — that too from the agricultural sector ...*(Interruptions)* I will tell you very frankly ...*(Interruptions)* I request your goodness that if they want any clarifications, I am prepared to cooperate. But let them allow me to express my views.

MR. SPEAKER : You can carry on. If there is any question, they can ask it later on.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, Rs. 250 crore has been allocated for the development of the slum dwellers. We all are rich people and that is why we have allocated Rs. 250 crore in the Budget for these people.

Sir, I would like to submit on what we have done so far. This is done not to take any credit. The impression outside the country was that there was a lot of red tapism, corruption and bureaucratic hurdles which would create problems for investment and the investors in this country. That was the impression prevailing outside about this country. Dr. Manmohan Singh himself accepted and openly expressed that he had not been able to clear the power projects because of procedural hindrance. This was his open admission. We have taken some steps to decentralise powers with the sole objective of accelerating our economic reforms whether it is infrastructural development or industrial growth; whether it is inflow of private investment for the agricultural sector or for the power sector.

The Foreign Investment Promotion Board was directly under the control of the PMO. I have delegated powers to the Minister of Industries. Within a short span of four to five months, almost all the pending projects before the Central Government involving an amount, I think, of seven million dollars was cleared.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : What is the *havala* amount in it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, it is totally unacceptable ...*(Interruptions)* Was that justified even as an interruption? There is a limit to heckling a Prime Minister when he is replying to the Address and making an allegation of that kind without any basis whatsoever. Does the Leader of the Opposition support that ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I did not hear what he had said. Kindly repeat it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He said that what was the *havala* amount ...*(Interruptions)* What does that mean ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are not in favour of any interruptions. The Prime Minister knows it ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : There is a limit to that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not allow your leaders to handle things ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Members of all sides, not only the BJP Members that in these nine months if we have been involved in any scam or in any *havala* — do not try to play politics at every stage — I would repeat again that if any scam has taken place during the tenure of this Government in Office or any *havala* deal has been transacted, let the matter be brought before this House and a No-Confidence Motion moved against this Government. If I am involved, I would tender my resignation in this very House. If my colleagues are involved, I am going to sack them. I can assure you to this extent. Please for God's sake, do not spare us. You have every right and every privilege to move a No-Confidence Motion or bring in any type of motion under the Rules. I have no objection to it. But there is no need for a sarcastic remark.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : The Minister in your Government has not replied to a case involving Rs. 546 crore. This is a big scam ...*(Interruptions)* I have received a letter ...*(Interruptions)* That has been accepted on the floor of the House but he is not revealing the names ...*(Interruptions)* What are they talking about ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am prepared to hear ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Prime Minister finish his speech.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I have only said 'this Government', the Union Government headed by Deve Gowda in the last nine months.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I have received a letter.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : You keep that letter safely. Do not waste that letter. Use it at an appropriate time. That is all I want to say on it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, delegation of powers to Foreign Investment Promotion Board was done only to see that the projects are cleared in time, the investors have confidence, and there is no delay either at bureaucratic or at political level. With this background I took that decision.

About power projects, there were eight mega-power projects for which MOUs were signed under the earlier Government. Counter-guarantees were given only in two power projects. The Maharashtra Government, when Sharad Pawarji was the Chief Minister, cleared the Enron Project. And what happened subsequently, we know the whole thing. Subsequently, the present Government went to the extent of filing an affidavit before the Court. Whatever allegations were made were only under the political circumstances and there is nothing wrong. That is the situation there.

Why is it that in the Eighth Plan we are unable to achieve the target in power sector ? I do not want to go into the details about the figures. Today the power problem in the whole country is very acute, barring one or two States. Even if for three hours, four hours, or maximum six hours, power is made available to agriculturists in a State, that is the happiest State. Except in one or two States, everywhere the power problem is very acute.

In the next five years, if we want to achieve the target that we have fixed for the Ninth Plan not only for power generation but for distribution and allocation — all these things put together come to about Rs. 3,20,000 crore — how do we get the money ? How do we generate the resources ? Is it possible for us to generate the resources unless we create a climate for investment either domestic or global ? We took the decision to see that these projects are not delayed. The impression the overseas investors had got about this Government, first of all, was the suspicion whether this Government will survive, and whether stability will be there. The life of the Government was hanging according to those people. Everyday when you went through the media and the newspapers, the first agenda that you found was that this Government will go day after tomorrow, or next week, and we have completed nine months. Today, I am happy to say that on matters we intended to take decisions, we have taken decisions. Whether the Government is going to survive or not going to survive, is not my concern.

Today, in the whole country and in the whole world an atmosphere has been generated after the Budget is presented by my colleague Mr. Chidambaram. Today, there is all-round appreciation by investors, by industrialists, by the common man. This is the impression that we have created today.

I am going to list out the areas which we have touched in the Budget. Power sector, yes, I decentralised it. I left it to the States. Up to 25 megawatts, the States can clear the projects; there is no need for them to come to us. If they want to go in for a higher magnitude of power project, then they should come, and that too only on three issues. One is the fuel, because we have to allot it. Then comes the problem of allocation, because if they produce surplus power, the national grid has to agree to purchase it.

About the technical feasibility and the price fixation, suppose one State says Rs. 6 per unit, then how can I purchase ? Only on these three issues, we have issued instructions to the States to consult the Central Government or the Union Government that within two months or eight weeks we are going to clear the projects. Whatever may be the magnitude and size of the project, we do not want to withhold it, we do not want to unnecessarily delay it. If it is 250 kw and above then they must come before the Central Government. This is how, we have delegated the powers and requested the State Governments to cooperate.



[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

Sir, about some of the pending issues like the *Mahakali* Treaty between Nepal and our country, sharing of river waters between Bangladesh and India, I am not going to claim that we have done a miracle, but we have made sincere efforts to improve our relationship with our neighbours. Whether you are going to appreciate or not, it is for the people to judge, I am not bothered. But only thing is that we have done this in a short span of seven or eight months. I am not going to take it as an individual achievement; it is the achievement of this House because you have all cooperated and we have done our little bit to the nation.

Even on the CTBT issue, if you have not cooperated, if the people of the nation have not cooperated, it would not have been possible for the Government to take such a hard decision. I could say that it is a minority Government. Some people say that we have got 330 hon. Members including the outside support of the Congress. That is a different matter. Unless I get the cooperation of the people, unless I get the cooperation of the House, it is rather difficult for me to take certain hard decisions. Even on the CTBT issue we took a hard decision expecting that the House would stand by us. For that, I would like to express my thanks to the entire House for their cooperation.

When we congratulated our scientists for the successful launch of the Prithvi, some people on that day asked, what about Agni? The other side, were also expressing their concern. I would like to tell the House that as far as giving necessary support by the Government to our scientists is concerned, we will extend full support. Even on the issue of 'Agni' missile we will extend our full support. That is all I would like to say at this stage.

About the regional imbalance, I would like to say that even today, after 50 years of Independence when we are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year in 1997, I think, six States are more backward, namely, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : No. It is Assam.

These are the six States.

As far as North-Eastern States are concerned, they altogether, come under different category. In the North-Eastern States, not only backwardness but also insurgency problem is there. I am going to give the details as to what we have done there. I took personal interest, and I took all my officers there. I stayed there for six-and-a-half days. Without mixing politics, I had meetings with the Leaders of every political party, the Non-Governmental Organisations, Christian Missionaries, the Governors, the Chief Ministers, the MLAs whichever Party they may belong to. I tried to meet every section of the society for getting a feedback.

Before I left Guwahati, I announced a financial package. After consulting almost all political party leaders, we have identified Rs. 6100 crore worth of development works. The Home Secretary was there. Some of the senior officers were with me. All those works, I would like to mention today in this august House, have been included in the Annual Budget and some of the major projects were included in the Ninth Five-Year Plan. Sir, some allocations were made for the first year of 1997-98 and some of the very major projects worth Rs. 1000 crore or Rs. 12000 crore projects were brought under the purview of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Similar is the case of Kashmir. I had made three visits. I had also announced certain financial packages. Sir, with all sincerity, we wanted to implement the financial package which we had announced. All those works have been cleared. In this year's Budget also, we have provided certain amount of money. The details of it will be given by the Finance Minister. All those major works also were brought under the purview of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : What about Bihar ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : We have not given special package for Bihar and U.P. I have announced economic packages only for the North-Eastern States and Kashmir.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You have taken Ganga water from Bihar but you have neglected the interest of Bihar.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, you must come out with a package for these six States also. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : When will you consider economic packages for Bihar and U.P.?

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : A period of more than six months has elapsed but so far work has not been taken up even on a single project in Kashmir.

*[English]*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please wait. I will tell you what we have done ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think the Prime Minister can go on answering to every query. Mr. Prime Minister, you can carry on now.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Do not worry.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Let the Prime Minister conclude first. Doubts can be raised and allayed later. If hon. Members go on interrupting like this and the Prime Minister continue to reply them, his speech will go bereft of continuity.

*[English]*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, for the benefit of the hon. Member I will read out the figures from the list. This list includes the Central Works including the Annual Plan of 1997-98.

We have given, this year, Rs. 100 crore for Udhampur-Baramulla Railway line. We have also given in the current year's Budget Rs. 300 crore for Uri Hydro-Electric Project; Rs. 112 crore for Dulahasti Hydro-Electric Project; Rs. 12 crore for one year for National Highway; Rs. 10 crore for Mughal Road; Rs. 2.4 crore for setting up of a Convention Centre at Leh; Rs. 23 crore for development of Kargil Airport; Rs. 300 crore for rural infrastructure and basic minimum needs; and Rs. Five crore for sewerage component of Dal Lake. The debt relief to borrowers comes to about Rs. 118 crore. We have waived-off that component at the rate of Rs. 50,000.

Sir, the list of projects in the Ninth Five Year Plan include Rs. 2,000 crore for Udhampur-Baramulla Railway line. We have also included in the Ninth Plan Dulahasti Hydro Electric Project and have allocated Rs. 3,000 crore for that. Development of Kargil Airport is also included in the Ninth Five Year Plan and we have given Rs. 23 crore for this. We want to complete it but if it is going to be carried over, it will be carried forward to the next year.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it will create further imbalances.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rudy, you are in the habit of interrupting too much.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, the hon. Member from Jammu & Kashmir wanted to know what we have done for that State *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Rs. 400 crore was released out of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 7000 crores.

*[English]*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, for the first time, the Annual Plan for Jammu & Kashmir is for Rs. 1550 crore in a financial year.

Similarly, we have given packages for the North-Eastern States. I have got the list which has been cleared and has been included in the current year's Budget and also in the Ninth Plan. I do not want to read out all those things here, but if it is necessary, I will circulate it to all the hon. Members. This list shows the works that we have included in the current year's Budget and also in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : The Government have not said anything about Narmada Project. Hon. Supreme Court has issued injunction *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Let me complete my speech, then I will answer to your queries. Please cooperate.

Sir, this Document, the President's Address, normally is a policy document. It states our programmes for the next year, that is 1997-98. It also states whether we have made any necessary allocations for the programmes which have been announced through this Address, which the President delivered to the joint Session of both the Houses of Parliament. It further states whether we have taken care of those programmes *...(Interruptions)* I would like to request the hon. Members to please bear with me.

Sir, for the basic minimum service works, last time we have given Rs. 2,466 crore and this time we have increased it to Rs. 3,300 crore. We have given Rs. 8,000 crore for PDS.

George Saheb and myself have addressed a public meeting collectively. On fertiliser subsidy and on food subsidy we collectively addressed the public meeting. At least you must say one word, 'You have done some good work'. You must say that.

Some hon. Members wanted to know as to how much money goes to different States under this category *...(Interruptions)* Please wait. Assam will get a sum of Rs. 472 crore under this category. Kerala's share is the highest one because they have implemented this scheme from the beginning. Kerala, Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu have already implemented this scheme and of course, Maharashtra also, if I am correct. Since all these States have already implemented this and subsidised the PDS, they are going to get a little more. The other States have to identify the people who are below the poverty line and we have requested the State Governments *...(Interruptions)* I will read out the money allotted to every State *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : How much money has been allotted to Haryana *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a Question Hour.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Andhra is getting about Rs. 452 crore; Assam — Rs. 472 crore; Bihar — Rs. 314 crore; Gujarat — Rs. 279 crore and Jammu — Rs. 536 crore. This is based on the Lakdawala norms regarding the people

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

below the poverty line. It is based on the norms and the guidelines that have been adopted by the Planning Commission. And this amount of Rs. 8,000 crore is going to be distributed to the beneficiaries in case the States are going to implement this scheme. If any State is not going to take advantage of this scheme that has been announced, we cannot straightway ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : The people of Haryana are very poor. When you are telling about all states, then tell about Haryana as well ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Both the food subsidy and the agricultural subsidy put together comes to about Rs. 17,000 crore. Unless the State Governments are going to implement this scheme, the question of releasing the subsidy amount is ruled out. We are not going to release this amount to any State unless they cooperate, identify the beneficiaries and issue the cards and prepare all infrastructure. Particularly on the issue of diverting this money for some other purpose, we are not going to oblige. We have requested the Chief Ministers of all the States to see that at least in the next two months, the beneficiaries must be identified. This money should not go to the traders. This House will agree with me that this huge amount should not go in the pocket of the vested interests. That is what I would like to make it clear to all the Chief Ministers through this House. Let them take this opportunity and see that this scheme is implemented as early as possible ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Ask from the Governor as well ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, now I come to irrigation sector. What is the responsibility before us ? Shri Sharad Pawarji has mentioned several issues. What are all the responsibilities before all of us now ? In the power sector itself, a sum of Rs. 3,20,000 crore is required. For completion of all the pending irrigation works or the works that are lingering on for the last several years, we need about Rs. 40,000 crore ...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You take care of only Shri Sharad Pawar. Other people have also spoken.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Your goodness has suggested about the basic minimum programme. In your

speech under agricultural sector, you have also mentioned all these things. Only on the power sector, you tried to impress what exactly the quantum of the burden that is before all of us. The official figure is Rs. 3,51,000 crore.

Regarding irrigation projects, 194 major and 176 medium projects are lingering on for the last 20-25 years. To complete these projects at the current rate, it requires about Rs. 42,000 crore. After all, we have provided only Rs. 1300 crore. Last year, we had provided Rs. 900 crore and this year, we have provided Rs. 1300 crore.

Sir, for housing, we have provided Rs. 330 crore for the urban people, who are living in slums and for the first time we tried to launch this scheme. I do not think this country belongs only to some affluent sections of society. Those people have no voice. For the rural masses, there is no scheme. For landless labourers, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, we have Ambedkar Yojana or Indira Avas Yojana. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : The selection of beneficiary is very faulty ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I know that. I am telling about that. Why do you lose your patience ? Indira Avas Yojana and Ambedkar Yojana are for landless and for those people who have no roofs. A person who has got two acres, three acres or five acres of land and who want to construct some houses which will have some modern facilities, there is nobody who is going to advance money for him ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The selection of the beneficiary is faulty. The money is not being properly distributed. This has been brought to your notice earlier.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Under Indira Avas Yojana and Ambedkar Yojana, the beneficiaries have to be identified for the houses that we are going to allot or the funds that we are going to allot. One of the demands of our hon. Members is to see that the beneficiaries should be identified by us. That is one of the demands. But the only thing is that there are Panchayat Raj institutions, which we have accepted in principle. The matter whether we should take over the powers again to identify the beneficiaries or to allow them is to be decided again by this House. Sir, I will only be guided by this House. I do not want to interfere at this stage.

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI (Siddipet) : The M.Ps. are not being associated in Indira Avas Yojana. Money is being allotted to District Collectors only. It is a Central Scheme, therefore Members of Parliament should be associated in it.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : We will discuss that issue. ...*(Interruptions)* For the first time, we have launched this scheme to provide financial assistance from the financial institutions whether it is Life Insurance Corporation or Banking Institution to the tune of Rs. 2 lakh per house. This time initially we wanted to identify up to 50,000 beneficiaries. We want to launch this scheme in the rural areas. I myself discussed with the executives of some of the financial institutions who said that in the rural areas, we cannot expect the appreciation value of the house as we expect in the urban area. In addition to that, we cannot take the land as a collateral security. That is why we do not want to risk ourselves. This is the argument they try to advance in response to the question as to why they are not going to advance the housing loan for the rural areas. When I discussed with the officers, they are not prepared for that. In this country, somebody has to broach this subject. I do not know whether it is the destiny which has been on my head but now this responsibility has been shouldered.

I would like to make myself clear. There were bad debts to the tune of Rs. 39,000 crore in the banking sector.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Is Shri P. Chidambaram not doing anything ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : He is doing his best. You wait for that. It is not yesterday that they had accumulated. Bad debts to the tune of about Rs. 4,000 and odd crores have already been waived. We thought several times about the rural people because they are not organised, they have no voice and we have to do something.

Yesterday in the Budget speech Shri P. Chidambaram has said that lending had been increased to Rs. 6,000 crore for the first time for the agricultural sector. Is that not an achievement ? We wanted to go further. There is no question of any hesitation on that. We have provided the Infrastructural Development Fund which is in the third phase, and which is only for the rural areas. We have provided Rs. 3,300 crore for basic minimum services in the rural areas. My colleague Shri Yerrannaidu who is looking after this Employment Assurance Scheme, Indira Avas Yojana knows that for rural development itself we have provided this time Rs. 9000 and odd crores. About Rs. 8000 crore is under the Plan expenditure. We have increased it to Rs. 9,000 crore. Is it not enough for the sake of the poor people that we have done this ? The programme that we have launched by the Address of Rashtrapati is not a mere programme. We have provided sufficient cushion, sufficient allocation even for the implementation of this programme.

In the name of Kasturba Gandhi we have launched a new scheme, i.e. Residential Schools for Girls. We have provided Rs. 250 crore for the Residential Schools for Girls.

When I went to the Mewar region, I found that not even two per cent of the people are educated. Eighty per cent of the people residing there are Muslims. When I went to Madhya Pradesh — some of our MPs who are here know it — the memorandum given by the Scheduled Tribes in a Tribal Conference showed that in the tribal area not even two per cent literacy was there. I mentioned to the Finance Minister that we could not allow it to continue like that. The entire responsibility of running the residential schools, including feeding, providing the shelter, clothing, books, everything should be borne by the Government. We have provided Rs. 200 crore. Each school may cost one crore and 250 schools are there. We are going to start 250 schools this year itself.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Prime Minister, do you know that Forty-five girl child schools in West Bengal have already been de-recognised. 'De-recognised' means the Government acquisitioned the schools. The Government has already passed a resolution that they should be acquisitioned by the Government. That is how they were acquisitioned. This has already been announced.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is done by the Government. By the resolution 45000 girl children are affected. They are not going to get educational facilities. What about that ? ...*(Interruptions)* Do something for them.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Even if it is a State subject, I would like to request the concerned State Chief Ministers, if at all there is any grave deviation, to intervene. ...*(Interruptions)*

For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the other minorities the small and marginal agriculturists we have introduced a new scheme called the 'Ganga Kalyan Scheme' to give free water.

And in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for five years, even the maintenance charges will be borne by the Welfare Department. The money is going to be provided by us and only implementation is the duty of the State Government as we cannot implement it. We need cooperation of the State Governments whether it is the implementation of the Public Distribution System, whether it is the implementation of the Ganga Kalyan Scheme or whether it is the implementation of the Housing Scheme. We are going to provide financial assistance to one million educated unemployed youth this year and identification of those beneficiaries is to be done by the State Governments. I need cooperation of the State Governments. Otherwise, it is practically impossible for us to implement all these schemes. So, irrespective of the party affiliations, I only appeal to all the Chief Ministers to see that they fully cooperate with the Government for implementation of some of the schemes which are going to help the poor sections



[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

of the society. This is a very humble appeal I am going to make.

The other thing is about the price rise. It is one of the major issues raised by the hon. Members. Under the Essential Commodities Act, the Centre cannot have any right. I got it examined whether we can make a surprise raid. But they say that it is not possible unless the State Governments cooperate. So, I have written to the Chief Ministers of all the States to see that the hoarders should be tackled firmly under the Essential Food Commodities Act. One or two States have cooperated. *(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER : Which are those States ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I do not want to cast aspersions on other States. I only appeal to all the States to firmly deal with the hoarders. Otherwise, the Centre cannot do anything. The Centre can only advise them. The Centre can insist upon them to see that they should take firm action so far as this area is concerned. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prime Minister, you please carry on with your speech. You do not have to answer to everybody. Otherwise, there will be no end.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : What about poor people of poor States ? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : One of the important issues is about the resource mobilisation. Under the power sector, the outstanding dues from the Central Public Sector Undertakings and the Ministry of Power are Rs. 8,512 crore. Almost all the Electricity Boards, barring one or two, are in red. We do not know how to cooperate with the State Governments. What are we doing now for the National Power Grid for supply of power ? A total amount of Rs. 8,512 crore is pending — Uttar Pradesh Rs. 1,791 crore; Bihar Rs. 1,771 crore; West Bengal Rs. 876 crore; Delhi Rs. 863 crore; Madhya Pradesh Rs. 697 crore; Haryana Rs. 571 crore; Jammu and Kashmir Rs. 325 crore. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : What about Bihar ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I told you. You are not attentive. What can I do for that ?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : You write them off.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : We can write them off. That is very easy. *(Interruptions)*. Even regarding the coal supply, an amount of Rs. 6,000 crore and odd is due from various States to the Central Government, that is, the Railway Department and the Department of Coal.

Unless they cooperate with us it is very difficult to extend the same facilities. Now we have taken a decision to give

it on 'cash and carry' basis. Otherwise, there is no question of allowing the States because they think that everything can be made available by the Centre. It is practically impossible for us and we have made it amply clear that from here-onwards it should be on 'cash and carry' basis. So, this is one of the decisions which we have taken. I need the cooperation of the House.

They have raised about the law and order problem and other issues of North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to refer to it.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about backward States ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Backward States also will get a major share under some of the new scheme which we have launched, not Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh....*(Interruptions)* They will get the major share ...*(Interruptions)* Major share will go to them.

Sir, I am not going to deal with the U.P. issue because a separate discussion has been allowed. The successful conduct of Assembly elections and the installation of a popular government in Jammu and Kashmir have been the major steps forward for restoring the normalcy and putting the State back on the path of economic development. There has been a qualitative change in the security situation after the elections in the State. Some violent incidents intended to disrupt peace continue to come in the way of complete restoration of normalcy. That is largely due to frustration of terrorists and their mentors across the border, after the failure of their designs to thwart the democratic process in the State. We are keeping a close watch on the situation and are in regular contact with the State Government. I have visited the State three times during the last few months and have sought to ensure that all the assurances given by our Government have been fulfilled so far as the economic package is concerned.

The disturbed conditions in some of the States in the North-East are clearly a matter of concern. In the recent weeks, there has been an escalation of violence in Tripura. Conditions in Manipur and Assam are also not satisfactory. In October last year I visited all the seven North-Eastern States to study for myself the problems faced by the people of these States. At the end of my visit, I announced a package of programmes containing several "New Initiatives for the North-East" with a view to restoring normalcy and increasing the tempo of development in the region. We are closely monitoring the schemes and programmes mentioned in this Package. A High Level Commission has been set up to identify gaps in Infrastructure and Basic Minimum Services in the North-Eastern States. A High Level Expert Committee on employment of the educated in the North-East has also started its work in right earnest.

This is a very important thing which I would like to disclose. During my tour to the North-East, I made a public

announcement inviting the underground groups for discussions without preconditions, in order to find a political solution which would ensure durable peace in the region. It was also my assessment that the common people in all these areas genuinely desired restoration of peace and normalcy so that they could pursue their avocations without hindrance and unemployed youth could find employment. My call was responded to by National Socialist Council of Nagaland and I had a meeting recently with Shri Isac Swu, Chairman and Shri Muivah, General Secretary of this organisation. It has been agreed that further talks would be held. I also discussed this matter with the Chief Minister of Nagaland and other leaders and they have also agreed to extend their full cooperation so far as bringing normalcy in Nagaland is concerned.

It is a very complicated issue. But the first response was, they had given an assurance that they were going to extend cooperation. This is one development which I would like to disclose in this august House.

I take this opportunity to repeat my offer to all the insurgent groups in the North-East to give up the path of violence and come to the negotiating table to work out an acceptable solution. This is one issue about which the House is very much concerned. As regards the North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir, what the Government has tried within its limits is to see that we get cooperation from some of these tribal groups or militant groups. That is why I gave an unconditional call and two leaders, of course, have met me and have given their assurances. With the cooperation of the State Government and the cooperation of other leaders, we have to see that normalcy in some of these three or four States is restored. We must bring normalcy. It is a very difficult task. It is not so easy. It is not so simple. The House knows it. But we will try our best. With all sincerity at my command, I assure this House ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : I want to know whether a part of the cost of counter-insurgency operations will be shared by the Centre because the States have no money ?

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : The previous Government and the former Prime Minister had announced a package of about Rs. 5,500 crore for KBK. You also visited that particular backward area and announced Rs. 50 crore for natural calamity and drought. I want to know whether you are going to adjust all the funds against drought-prone areas or not ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Every State is representing its problems. Now it has started district-wise. How long will the Prime Minister go on replying ? After all, we should show much of courtesy when the Prime Minister of the country is replying to a very important debate.

If any questions are there, they can put them later on. The hon. Members have followed the procedure in the past. I request them not to do this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : They thought that the speech is over.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I promised on the other day about Orissa, about which his impression was that while releasing the funds I had discriminated so far as Orissa is concerned. The whole idea was that I had shown favour to Andhra Pradesh and not to Orissa. That was the feeling or the impression. I will tell you frankly that on that day, I assured the House that I was going to give a detailed reply so far as the amount that was released to Orissa for the drought-prone areas is concerned. Sir, after I visited Orissa, I made a promise to release Rs. 50 crore. On the other day, these people had doubted that it was not being released. That is one of the issues raised by some of the Members from Orissa. We have released Rs. 106 crore initially and then Rs. 38 crore ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is almost 1.30 p.m. Mr. Prime Minister, it is better if you wind up on important issues rather than responding to everybody's queries.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Both the figures put together, we have released Rs. 144 crore under the Employment Assurance Scheme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, even though the earlier money had not been spent and the utilisation certificate was not given. In addition to that, over and above this, the State Famine Relief Fund, according to the Ninth Finance Commission, was also fully released and as a special case Rs. 50 crore from Famine Relief Fund was also released to Orissa. This is what I would like to say ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prime Minister, you need not react to every query. You should respond only to important issues.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I will conclude within five minutes.

Sir, the object of this Government is to see that the infrastructure is provided for agricultural growth and industrial growth. Our intention is not to encourage foreign investors by giving them several concessions. The very object is to see that sufficient private funds or private investments, either domestic or global, are attracted. We need money. There is no question of any hesitation to say this. That is why we have taken certain decisions and we have stated it in the Presidential Address itself.

Sir, I am not an economist. There may be several economists in this august House itself. I have tried to take the advice of several economists. I had a meeting in New Delhi itself on the 30th December, 1996 where I invited

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

industrialists, economists and some of the experts in the investment sector. I had a frank discussion with them. The Finance Minister was there, The Commerce Minister was there and all senior officers were also there. We tried to hear them for one day. We took their views. In addition to that, I have met the global investors in Mumbai. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra arranged that meeting. Then, I separately met the small scale industrialists. I tried to get their views also and ultimately I have come to the conclusion that unless we encourage investments by giving certain concessions, it is practically impossible for this country to grow faster.

Sir, a small country like Myanmar is going to have \$ 4 billion of global investment. Today, China is a communist country and they are able to get \$ 100 billion of investment. Till now, we are able to get only \$ 1.7 or \$ 1.8 billion of investment. We have cleared the projects to the tune of \$ 7 billion. Our whole objective is that we must, at least, get \$ 10 billion of investment this year. We have opened up the power sector, mining sector, coal sector and the highways sector. We have opened up some of these areas ...*(Interruptions)*. I do not think that the opening up of the health insurance sector should hurt you.

We have opened up even the communications sector. The very object is to see that we must get sufficient investment. Otherwise, wherefrom do we get Rs. 3,54,000 crore required for the power sector? Where do we get this money from? Are we in a position to generate that much amount? How much internal resources have we been able to mobilise in these 50 years? Some honest efforts might have been made. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring one fact to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister. There was a power project in Bihar and OECF was willing to fund it. But the Department of Economic Affairs sat over the file and they turned down the offer of OECF. Now, he is saying that he is encouraging foreign investment in the power sector!

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, we have not only given encouragement to the investors, but we have also given sufficient thought over the growth of agricultural sector, social sector and education. We have increased the allocation to the field of human resource development by Rs. 2,000 crore this time. We have given sufficient weightage to the field of primary education and other educational needs. We have also given sufficient weightage for the social sector and the minorities. We have allocated Rs. 40 crore to the Maulana Azad Trust, Rs. 40 crore to the Minorities Development Corporation and Rs. 70 crore to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation. We have tried to see that sufficient care is taken this time in all these areas.

What I would like to say is that this Government is not only for the industrial growth, this Government is also for agricultural growth. The Government is also here to take care of the poor people of the rural areas whether they are Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or Backward Classes or the minorities or the poorer sections of the society. We have taken sufficient steps to provide necessary allocations for these areas ...*(Interruptions)*.

With these few words, I would like to conclude. Thank you.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, what about the National River Water Policy?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, we are bringing the Lokpal Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA : What happened to the Women's Reservation Bill?

*[English]*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I have already requested the Law and Justice Minister to introduce the Lokpal Bill which is before the Standing Committee. We are determined to pass the Lokpal Bill during this Session...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, kindly let us know the present state of affairs with the Women's Reservation Bill whether that is going to come in this Session or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I would like to take all the political party leaders into confidence and see that this time, the Women Reservation Bill is passed. I would like to see that this Bill, with the opinion of all the political party leaders, is also going to be passed this time.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, a number of amendments have been moved by the Members to the Motion of Thanks.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Prime Minister, you, as Chief Minister of Karnataka, fought for the National River Water Policy.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, a number of amendments have been moved to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or that any hon. Member wants any particular amendment to be put separately?

...*(Interruptions)*