

[English]

- (viii) **Need to give financial assistance to Assam for ensuring regular supply of electricity to the areas in Lakhimpur Parliamentary Constituency.**

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur): Lakhimpur parliamentary constituency consists of nine Assembly constituencies. It is a matter of great regret that total electricity failure predominates this area, day and night. Due to total electricity failure, till today, there has been no scope for establishment of even a small scale industry. The tea gardens also suffer due to non-availability of electricity. The student community also faces great difficulty in pursuing their regular studies, especially during examination. Due to electricity failure, a number of deaths have occurred during the time of operations in Lakhimpur Civil Hospital. Theft is predominant due to electricity failure. So, I request the Central Government to investigate into the causes and financially help the State Government to make immediate improvements in the supply of electricity, particularly in Lakhimpur parliamentary constituency.

12.20 hrs.

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

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House now will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri B.R. Bhagat and seconded by Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi on the 24th February, 1988:—

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

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in the Session are deeply

grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1988."

Shri R.L. Bhatia.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: (Amritsar): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The other day, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri Amal Datta and Shri Bhattam said that 85 per cent time of this House was wasted by discussing other things and the Budget was not discussed properly; 85 per cent of the Budget was passed by Vote on Account. That is true because our friends in the opposite start discussions on subjects which are less important or which are important from their point of view; and the result is that the valuable time of the House is wasted and important discussions do not take place.

During the last session, Mr. Speaker, you know that most of the time was taken for a discussion on Bofors and all that; and the result was that the Punjab issue was not taken into consideration in the proper sense that it required, drought was not taken into consideration from that angle. So, the national and important issues were not taken into consideration because we insisted that less important issue should be taken up.

Every day, after the Question Hour, after 12 noon you know that they stress on small, small things. Shri Amal Datta said that the planning in this country was arbitrary and was not functioning the way it should have been done; it is under the Executive and it is not playing its role properly. It is not arbitrary because the planning Minister always discusses the planning with the State Chief Ministers. They come with their plans and discuss them with the Planning Minister and then wherever they agree that particular programme starts. So, they cannot call it arbitrary.

[Shri R.L. Bhatia]

The President prescribes the problems before us. He also explains the goals before us and also gives us a message of hope. We pursue the growth in this country within the framework of two parameters—freedom of our country and freedom of our nation. We build institutions in this country to strengthen and guarantee the citizens their democratic rights so that they can take up challenges facing the country. Whether it is with regard to our sovereignty; whether it is with regard to any other problem facing our nation. The biggest problem we had was drought. Drought was so big that in the last century we did not see any example of it. We have seen how the Prime Minister has taken personal interest in the matter. He went to all the States and met local leaders, State Governments and officers and evolved schemes by which we can help those States. This drought is in 15 States and about 45 million hectares of land was involved. Such a gigantic problem has been very nicely tackled because of the management system which the Prime Minister evolved. He himself is monitoring all these schemes and immediate relief was given to all the affected States; even the foodgrains which was required in those remote areas was supplied through fair price shops; a network of fair price shops was opened and such a big and colossal drought was met very nicely.

Even we remember, some time back, when the Britishers were here, in Bengal there was a famine and two million people had died. But see the colossal drought that we have in 15 States and a very big area is involved in it. Everywhere drinking water has been supplied, fodder has been supplied, relief camps have been opened and the result is the nation is tackling this drought problem very nicely. The credit goes to the Prime Minister and his cabinet team.

The other problems that we have are, communalism, terrorism and fundamen-

talism. With regard to all these matters the Prime Minister initiated action. He had a meeting of the National Integration Council and in that Integration Council all the leaders of different parties were involved and some Chief Ministers were also made members of that committee. The committee had many deliberations and a 15 point programme was made by which we could tackle the problem of communalism in this country to satisfy the minorities. Now the process has been sent to different States with the request that they may implement it very soon and I hope by implementing this 15 point programme the communal situation will improve in the country and minorities will feel satisfied.

The question of terrorism and fundamentalism is there. It is such a big problem that it needs that we all face together. We should not take any political advantage out of this situation. We should cooperate together to tackle this because this is a very serious problem. In Punjab it is going on for the last five to six years. By now some other States have also been affected by it. So far as Punjab is concerned it is very evident and clear that the foreign forces have a hand in it, they want to weaken it, they want to destabilise there, they are training our people, they are giving them money, they are giving them arms and they are playing havoc with our country.

The Congress Government, the Central Government made many experiments. First of all Shri Rajiv Gandhi had the Rajiv Gandhi—Longowal agreement, but somehow or the other the other divisions in the Akali party could not help us in this situation. Then we had elections in Punjab. The Akali Government come into power. So, I think a second experiment was taken up that if they come into power perhaps they may deal with the problem, they will tackle the problem of terrorism and they will try to explain to those boys and bring them to the national mainstream. But unfortunately Mr. Barnala with all his efforts could not succeed, because there was a division in

his party and his partymen did not let him function and the result was that he could not succeed.

Now we have another experiment when Mr. Badal has been released. After the release of Mr. Badal there was a great hope that Mr. Badal will try to consolidate all the elements in Punjab, that he will also talk to the boys and give us an alternative. The Press also expected a lot. The opposition parties also felt that Mr. Badal was the answer. But unfortunately what we have seen is that Mr. Badal and his later utterances do not help us. It has rather complicated the situation.

12.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja): Why do you expect Mr. Badal to help you?

MR. R.L. BHATIA: We want Mr. Badal to play a role in Punjab. After all there are only two parties in Panjab, either there is the Akali party or the Congress party. So, naturally we gave our expectations. Not mine. Even the Press said so.

SHRI VIR SEN: Wrongly placed hopes.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: There are two problems which the foreigners wanted to take advantage of. One was the dissensions, the communal rift among the people and the other was that they wanted to carve out an area known as Khalistan. That is how the foreign powers were trying but they have utterly failed because the people of Punjab have rejected both the points. There is no communal rift among the people of Punjab, Hindus and Sikhs are living like brothers and all their efforts have miserably failed to divide the communities and secondly the question of Khalistan does not arise at all.

Now the question arises as to how we deal with the situation. In this regard I also request the Home Minister and the Prime Minister that they should consult the lead-

ers of the opposition and form a consensus and then we should act so that the situation in Punjab may be better.

The Central Government initiated a new education policy. This policy is an endeavour to meet our national requirements. The new policy envisages that with this new education system we will be able to inculcate in the minds of the students nationalism, patriotism because, at present, there are so many different kinds of schools and teaching shops going on which do not bring the nation together. With this endeavour we have tried to see that we inculcate new education to the children and bring them to the common thought based on our heritage. In the 'Operation Blackboard' that has been introduced, the sole idea is to give them more information and instruction so that the child is well equipped. There is a scheme of teaching 5 lakh teachers so that those teachers spread all over India will be able to give a common line of thinking so far as education is concerned. And about two lakh schools have been opened. This is a very good scheme which the Government of India has started and it is likely to give very good results in the years to come.

The performance of the industrial sector is commendable. It reflects the Government policy and thinking how to stimulate investment as well as production. In 1987-88 the industrial production has gone up to 10.2 per cent from April to November and I think, it will cross 8 per cent in the full year. It is the result of the Government policy that we have got such a good growth.

The small scale industry has also played a very good role. The Government of India has started the fund to help the small scale industry because in the small scale industry with an investment of Rs. 1 lakh there is an employment of 6 to 7 persons, but in the big sector if you invest that much amount, the employment is just for one person. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the small scale sector which has played a very good role in the growth of this country.

[Shri R.L. Bhatia]

The infrastructure has also been improved. The economy has shown health with the availability of more infrastructure. The growth in power has been 10.2 per cent, coal 7.5 per cent and rail freight 7.4 per cent. All these factors indicate that our economy will be strengthened and will be able to meet the challenges of the present circumstances.

Our foreign policy has safeguarded our sovereignty. To promote national interest, we have been able to contribute in a democratic and just world order. Right from the beginning it has been our policy to strengthen the forces of peace. We have been playing our role in all the forums of the world to see that there is peace in the world because we are a developing country and for us, peace is a must and very imperative.

We can only develop if there is peace. So India has been playing a very important role right from the time of Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and now Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The Six-nation appeal, Delhi Declaration with Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi are very important. Our Prime Minister's role in Harare is the most praise-worthy. He played a leading role in this direction. Even today, both the super powers appreciate our role in this direction because India wants to promote peace and wants to improve the relations with other countries. We have tried to improve our relations with our neighbours also. We have SAARC by which we have been able to have more relationship with our neighbouring countries by way of trade, culture and commerce. But unfortunately, our neighbour, Pakistan, is not promoting that feeling of friendship and brotherliness that we require between the two countries. They are getting arms beyond their need and are trying to create a situation in which both countries have not been able to improve their relations that we want. Our Prime Minister invited Mr. Zia for talks, but he has not come. Now we are sending our Secretary to discuss Afghanistan and

other related matters. We hope better result will follow after the return of our Foreign Secretary.

We attach great importance to China our neighbour. Mr. Pant and Mr. Tiwari have visited China, and their delegation had also come some time back. We hope that we will be able to improve our relations with them because the friendship between India and China is a very vital factor in our foreign policy. The improvement of relations between the two countries will help the growth of trade between them. A 100-crore population market will be open to us and we will be able to play our role together in this region.

We are also supporting the efforts of the General Secretary Mr. Gorbachev in Afghanistan and we wish that the initiative taken by Mr. Gorbachev giving a framework for withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan should take place because that will have a very important bearing in this region. We have got a great relationship with the Soviet Union. We have very cordial relations. We have exchanged leaders. Mr. Gorbachev came here and our Prime Minister also went there. New vistas of science and technology have been opened by which India again very much benefited. We completely support Mr. Gorbachev in his peace initiative because that has also our role.

Last but not the least, you have seen that on the other day our SS Missile 'Prithvi' has had a successful experiment. This is the result of our science and technological advancement which this country has made. We congratulate our scientists, but we also congratulate the Prime Minister who has a special interest in the science and technological development in this country. It is the result of that effort that we have been able to have a big success in this missile system. It has given us a confidence. It has improved our self-reliance in the defence, and India will be able to meet any outside challenge that will come to us.

In the end, I would request that all our friends on the opposite side should also cooperate with us, should not have negative attitude, and should not always try to find loopholes in everything. If they also cooperate, we will be able to meet the dangers which the President has explained to us in his Address—internal as well as external. With these words, I support this Motion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): I rise in support of Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

I have gone through the President's Address which has covered all the important issues. In spite of the unprecedented drought and the disastrous flood, not only the whole nation faced the circumstances boldly, but also the way in which Government controlled the whole situation, deserves appreciation.

There was unprecedented drought in the country and the Prime Minister himself assumed charge of the President of Relief Committee and devoted himself to the relief works to meet the situation arising out of the serious drought. In such a critical situation, the people co-operated with the Government while the main opposition parties did not realise its importance and make concerted efforts to destabilise and root out the Rajiv Government. All of them were supposed to cooperate with the Government when the poor people in the States were craving for help. But at such crucial time, the opposition attempted to weaken the well established Government. The way in which reactionary elements and saboteurs have been tackled and every effort has been made to solve each and every issue, through mutual discussion in democratic manner, is in itself a great achievement. Union territories like Goa, Arunachal Pradesh have been given the status of State. It shows the Government's unflinching faith in the democracy and its clear policy of strengthening it. It is the result of the Government clear policy. I would urge the Government to consider the cases of other Union territories also and bring them under the democratic set up.

I would like to tell you one thing Elections have been held recently in the three North-Eastern States—Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura. The people of these areas have given their clear verdict that they want to strengthen the country. We want the unity of the nation. We do not want to create any situation which can harm the unity and integrity of the nation. The main opposition parties do not want to realise this thing. That is why they criticise the Government. This is why they organised a regional party and raised a regional issue. But they could not succeed because the people of that area wanted to join the main stream of the country to strengthen it. This is an important point. It has been possible because in spite of the various castes, languages and religions in the country, the government adopts the policy of providing equal opportunities to all for the stability and strength of the country.

This is the result of that policy. Recently elections were held in Tripura. The Government needs to be praised for the steps it took there to preserve democracy and protect people and their voting rights. The people of that state have proved that it is futile to use politically motivated violence to intimidate people and to take their votes forcibly. The ruling party which had been ruling in that State for the past 10 years has been removed from power. In this manner, the people of Tripura have expressed their verdict against a Government which had denied them their rights and personal liberty.

Just now some hon. Members raised the question as to why the Central Government deployed troops in that area. In reply to their criticism, I want to reiterate that circumstances in the State were such that three days before the elections, 50-60 people were killed in a day. And all the victims are from the poor classes. At that time people over there pleaded that they did not want elections but wanted their lives, their assets and their children to be protected. In such a situation it became necessary to take such a step. If this step had not been

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakta]

taken then 40-45% of the population would not have cast their votes. The final result, then, would not have been a clear manifestation of the will of the masses. The deployment of troops has provided security to these people against the G. N. P. and its activists. For this also the Government deserves to be praised. As to the question of calling in the army at the time of elections, I want to say that elections were held on 1st-2nd only one battalion could reach Tripura on 1st. The remaining troops reached there after 5th-6th. It is true that even before this, the Chief Minister of the State constantly urged the Central Government to send the army and para-military forces to the State. It is not a fact that they never asked for help. When the army actually landed there, the State Government did not oppose it. Then elections were held. Till that day the Chief Minister of the State thanked the people of the State because the elections had been conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. When the counting of votes started, even at that time, he did not utter a single words against the deployment of troops but when the counting was complete and he saw that his party had been ousted and the Congress had won, from this point of time, he started criticising that the elections had been rigged and it was high-handedness of the congress party

What happened in the recent Panchayat election in West Bengal.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): What the Speaker disallowed, now you will allow.

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: In the Panchayat elections that were held**

I would like to say one thing more that**

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is a ridiculous charge.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It would not go on record.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Why? I am not naming anybody. I have not named anybody. How can you say so? It is my right to say.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Regarding the State Ministers, that can be discussed in the Assembly, not here. The hon. Speaker has already given the ruling that this cannot be discussed here.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: No When the Opposition leaders have alleged against us that we rigged the election, how did you allow that. Arbitrarily it cannot be said. It has been said publicly by the Ministers. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is your habit, new culture that every time, Speaker's ruling is challenged.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: When you are alleging against us, then it is good. When we can reply to you, you do not want to listen. At that time, you oppose that. What is the fun?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (JADAVPUR): You please digest it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why should I digest filthy thing.

I would not touch it. (Interruptions.)

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I also want to say that after losing in the elections in Tripura, the Communist Party of India (Marxists) is crying that the Congress Party has rigged the elections. You should

first see the situation which has been created in Tripura. Elections were held on the 2nd, the Government was constituted on the 5th and only after that date, 63 members of the T.N.V. were captured. After their capture, not a single untoward incident has taken place in the State till now. I would like to draw your attention to the statement made by the former Chief Minister of Tripura. He has said that we people are not in power. So, now there will be bloodshed over there and peace will be disturbed. He is making provocative statements and creating fear in the minds of Adivasi people. A former Chief Minister is saying that just because this party is not in power, there will be riots and disturbances. And all this when history is witness to the fact that in 1980 when his party was in power, a lot of Adivasis and others were killed in riots. This is the reason why feelings of secessionism and separatism are growing in this country. These feelings grew among the people whenever opposition parties came to power in various States. The Assam Movement and Punjab problem can be cited as recent examples.

Another point I want to reiterate is regarding Vijay Harangwal, the T.N.V. leader in Tripura. Many others have also mentioned that the sedition case against him was withdrawn when the Left Front Government came into power. I would like to ask members of the opposition as to how many people were apprehended and how many were punished. The democratic environment in the State has been adversely affected. But now, the people of Tripura with their courage and aspirations have saved democracy in Tripura and have restored it there.

While concluding I want to say that I support the Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address. With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Trirunelveli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, on

behalf of All India Anna DMK, I support the motion moved by the hon. Member Shri B.R. Bhagat.

Following the path shown by our late great leader Shri M.G. Ramachandran, we support this motion.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Which group?

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: I am coming to clear the doubts of this House.

We are with the people. I am replying to our colleague. Our great leader Shri M.G. Ramachandran fully supported the Rajiv Government. We are always in coordination with the Rajiv Government.

But to our disappointment, just a day before the President's address, I found in the newspaper that one of my colleagues has said that they will boycott the President's address.

Our leader is not only in this Parliamentarians' heart but in the heart of the people. He is still living in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu. I promise to this House that we follow the path of our great leader Shri Anna consistently and continuously and I support this motion.

I hope this august House will be cleared of its doubts. It is not the faction that counts but it is the fact that we are one with the people.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They will debar you.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: The dismissed party may claim like that. I have cleared the doubts of this House in the most democratic and the most parliamentary way. What are we and where are we? We are with the people as our great leader was with the people.

Due to the worst droughts in 1966-67 and 1979-80, 15 states, nearly 269 districts

[Shri Kadambur Janarthanan]

and 45 crore hectares of land, have been affected by drought. The inflationary wholesale price index has been contained at 9.8% unlike that of 21% in 1979-80. We have to congratulate both the Central and State Government Administration. They have monitored the Administration in such a way that the worst drought has not affected the people in the worst manner as it ought to have affected.

In the President's address, it has been mentioned that 471 million mandays of employment have been created under the NREP and RLEGP. It would have been better if they would have announced the number of beneficiaries instead of mandays.

We are glad that in the President's address it has been noted that the nation can be strengthened only if the farmers and the farming community are strengthened. We are really glad to see these lines in the President's address. But looking to the practical condition of Tamil Nadu, I find that the Cauveri water problem is causing lot of trouble to Tanjore, the rice bowl district of Tamil Nadu. I do not know how the Government is going to achieve the 166 million tonne foodgrain target for the year, 1988-89, if we delay the reference of the Cauvery dispute to the tribunal.

I appeal to the House and through you to the Ministry of Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government that the Cauvery dispute should be referred to the tribunal and that it should be settled. This was the main aim of Shri M.G. Ramachandran. Otherwise, the whole of Tamil Nadu will be lacking in rice production. I hope and trust that the Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi would come to the rescue of the Tamil people by referring the Cauvery dispute to the tribunal sooner.

13.00 hrs.

We hope, the Government of India will form a tribunal to settle the Cauvery Water

Dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu hope and believe that the new National Water Policy of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government will definitely solve and settle the Cauvery Water Dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by allowing it to a tribunal.

Coming to the National Housing Policy, though it is late it should be set up in this Session without fail so that the shelterless people of our country will be guaranteed shelter-ownership before the end of 1995 at least. Further, our achievement of self-sufficiency in foodgrains by our Kisans' effort should be followed.

Coming to education, the President has mentioned about the students character and mentioned about the building up of the moral fibre of our students. It is a welcome measure. Character building of students should be done at the very base of primary and elementary school education. It should be a syllabus in the educational curriculum. Further, to discipline the students at the stage of University and Secondary Education is impossible in the modern days. Therefore, it should be imparted even at the primary stage and elementary stage of school education.

Coming to industrial sickness, I would like to say that the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction set up under the Sick Institutional Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1987 alone cannot solve the problem. Pouring money into a sick industrial unit which is non-viable is something like injecting blood into a deadbody. Coming to this point, I would like to bring it to the notice of this hon. House that the President's speech has commended the industrial sector. He said: "Since 1984-85, industry has grown at the rate of between 8.5 to 9 per cent per annum. The momentum continued into 1987-88 with the general index of industrial production showing a growth of 10.7 per cent in April-November 1987. For the year as a whole, it is likely to exceed 8 per cent as the effects of the drought become evident in the non-agriculture sectors." This is the statement

contained in the President's Address. But I would like to quote the Prime Minister's speech while he was speaking on the occasion of presentation of the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for 1987. In that function he said: "The industrial growth rate in the past few years had gone up from three per cent to five per cent." Here, I would quote the Prime Minister's exact wording: "If we measure it with the population increase ratio, it comes down to one or two per cent. This state of affairs was not acceptable since the figure is even lower than some developing countries, let alone the developed ones." Our Prime Minister has said this. I would further like to tell the House that the prestigious Shram Ratna and Shram Bushan awards have not been awarded to anyone in that function. These awards are given to the workers of outstanding calibre for contribution in production and showing innovative abilities of a high order. Therefore, these two awards have not been awarded to anybody, in the Public sector. Definitely, there is a difference between the President's Address and the Prime Minister's speech, as far as industrial growth rate is concerned. Therefore, it is evident that the functioning of the Public Sector is not up to the mark. But we expect and hope that at least in the new years to come—before 2000 AD—the Public Sector will recognise its importance and rectify their fault. We have to diagnose as to where the cause for industrial sickness lies. But, to my mind, the sickness lies in the management. Therefore, the management should be toned up. Only technical people should be appointed as Head of the Institutions in the Public Sector. Our Prime Minister has said: "Paying more than the income would ultimately lead to industrial sickness which is neither in the interest of the worker nor the Nation". Therefore, regarding labour-payment and labour wages also it is true that we have to rethink and put a ceiling as to where we should stand in the Public Sector. Financial discipline should be enforced in the Public Sector. Unless financial discipline is enforced in the Public Sector, the Public Sector can never give the results what the country is expected to give.

Lastly, I come to point of foreign policy. We thank the Rajiv's Government for having the Indo-Ceylon Accord, which after three or four years of dreadful nights in the neighbouring ceylon we, Tamilians have got some hope. Now just four days back train has started running between Colombo and Jaffna for the first time. Therefore, whatever we are doing the sincerity has borne the fruits. But according to the latest position, the House must know what is the real position of the LTTE there? Is there any secret talk going on between the Government of Colombo and the LTTE. The House must be clear on that idea. There is no use of our IPKF people dying there for the neighbouring country. If that is so, Government must be very careful and at this juncture, I want to stress about the Sethu Samudrum Project in the national interest. In the Presidential Address, our Hon. His Excellency Venkataraman, coming from Tamil Nadu, we expected that he should mention something about the Sethu Samudrum Project which is good not only for the whole of Tamil Nadu People but for the entire nation's defence and everything. As long as we have proceeded with the Indo-Ceylon Accord, if that Accord has to come to success by 1989 or 1990, Sethu Samudrum Project is a must and it must be included in the Plan. Sir, as our great leader MGR was stressing to the dynamic, young Prime Minister Rajivji, we appeal to the House through you that the Sethu Samudrum Project should be included in the plan. With this, I thank you and conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We adjourn for lunch and re-assemble at 2.05 P.M.

13.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Haroobhai Mehta.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): Sir, I am grateful to the esteemed President for his Address which encompasses a broad spectrum of national and international issues. The Address highlights our national achievements in our march towards the realisation of our national goals. The Address rightly underlines our re-dedication to the ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism.

The President has rightly emphasised that our Independence was the precursor of our further national struggles for building a society informed by socio-economic justice. It was quite right for him to highlight that our primary goal has been rapid eradication of poverty and establishment of all round equality. Several steps have been taken by our Government led by the young dynamic leader, Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The direct assault on poverty through poverty alleviation programmes has registered a remarkable success. It is heartening to note that last year alone through IRDP 23.4 million families have been lifted above the poverty line. 71 million mandays of employment were generated through our NREP and RLEGP.

In my respectful submission, the brightest portion in the President's Address is the one relating to India's contribution to the cause of world peace. As a leader of the non-aligned movement, India has given a remarkable contribution in the expression of the opinion of the third world against the armament race and in favour of creation of a world without violence.

The President has rightly appreciated the historical development, that is, the INF treaty signed between Mr. Regan, President of the United States, and Mr. Gorbachev,

General Secretary of the CPSU. If I may say so, the foundation for this agreement was laid not in Moscow nor in Washington. It was laid at New Delhi in the shape of Delhi Declaration made by Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the General Secretary, Mr. Gorbachev in November, 1986. The importance of this has been acknowledged in terms by Soviet Ambassador to India, Mr. V.N Rykov. Mr. Rykov had said that Delhi Declaration, which called for nuclear-free and non-violent world, was the forerunner of this Treaty, signed in Washington on 8th December 1988.

The six-nation initiative pioneered by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and developed by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi expressing the public opinion of five continents representing six nations belonging to various camps has played a very vital role in ensuring that reason must prevail over sense of domination through warmongering. The Stockholm summit of these six nations held in January this year, wherein our Prime Minister played a leading role, is an important follow-up of the impact of INF Treaty.

Sir, India-Soviet friendship is strong mainly because the people of the two nations share the common ideals of world without violence. The language of the Indian people spoken by Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the language of the Soviet people spoken by Mr. Gorbachev on the necessity of ensuring the world without violence, while addressing the historic festive meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, are identical. I have the honour to testify this to this august House since I along with two other esteemed colleagues of mine, Shri Ram Ratan Ram and Shri C.K. Jaffar Sharief had the proud privilege of representing the AICO at the said meeting of the Central Committee of the CRSU

The India festival in Soviet Union and the soviet festival in India will further strengthen the bonds of friendship.

The President has given realistic assessment of our relations with the USA in juxtaposition with reference to the strong friendship with the Soviet Union. True, the Indian people and the people of USA are equally friendly. It is, therefore, that our bilateral relations with USA, particularly in the technological and economical fields, have been developing from year to year. We cannot, however ignore that the USA continues to assist the provocative efforts of Pakistan, which is today used as a strategic US surrogate for possible military action against both the Soviet Union and India. US provides military assistance to Pakistan without imposing conditions against nuclear proliferation.

The environment of India-US relations has unfortunately been heavily polluted by US policies and it will not be easy to disinfect it so far as the vast majority of Indian population is concerned. Similarly, the continued US denial of readiness to demilitarise Indian Ocean and to prevent CIA from carrying de-stabilisation efforts against the Government established by law in India and to de-establish our democratic system in general. The economic exploitation of various US dominated financial, economic agencies can also not be overlooked. The cautious approach regarding our relations with US implied from the graceful expression of the President in para 59 of the address, deserves to be understood in the right perspective.

Sir Gujarat is beholden to the Prime Minister and the Government for the clearance given by the Government of India to Sardar Sarovar Project is both from environment and forest angles. Narmada is the life-line of Gujarat. Therefore, take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to the Government of India for giving the clearance of this Project. The achievements of India have been rightly highlighted in the President's Address. We have all reasons to be proud for that especially because the same have been achieved in the midst of grave internal disturbances and impediments-natural as well as man-made.

I am, however, confident that this is the Government which will not like to rest on laurels. The President's Address itself points out the need to endeavour for further achievements especially towards the eradication of poverty. We are aware that while a lot has been done towards this goal, much more requires to be achieved. As of today, 280 millions of people are living a sub-human life being below the poverty line. There is achievement in the field of economics too. We have undoubtedly crossed over from dependence to independence, but we have to be cautious in the assessment also. The GNP record may not be always reflecting the real progress in terms of benefit to the last man of our country. As has been rightly pointed out by Professor Bhabatosh Datta in his article on Economic Growth, Development and Progress, published in Yojna, a Rs. 500 crore outlay on luxury apartments may make a larger contribution to the GNP statistics than a Rs. 400 crore outlay on low income housing. Similarly, a Rs. 100 crores investment in polyester fabric production may contribute equally to GNP as a hundred crore rupees outlay on a project for handloom cloth production. But the GNP computed in terms of prices without any consideration of social priorities, cannot provide realistic measure of economic growth.

The President has rightly pointed out that we have built substantial buffer stocks. However, until and unless we are in a position to ensure that every citizen of India gets a square meal, gets 450 to 470 grams of foodgrains, which is the per capita per day availability of today-irrespective of his purchase capacity, we cannot feel a full sense of satisfaction. For in a country dedicated to socialist ideals, we cannot bear with a situation where some crores of people cannot get two square meals a day merely because they are unemployed or they have zero purchase capacity. Our achievement in the matter of food production and distribution of grains will have to be measured in these terms. Food must be made available equally to all irrespective of their purchasing capacity.

[Shri Haroo Bhai Mehta]

I am reminded of Mr. Aneurin Bewan in the Houses of Commons saying on one occasion that England is founded on coal and is surrounded by fishes but it is suffering from shortage of both coal and fisheries. Let this not be said about India. We have abundant agricultural production but millions of people go without two square meals per day.

The President has quite rightly held out a promise for bringing more beneficial legislations for industrial workers and has narrated steps taken by Government for unorganised workers. But there also, I may point out with all humility that something more is required to be done.

About 1.5 lakh industrial units are closed today. 130 textile mills are closed in India. In Gujarat alone 28 textile mills are closed. In the city of Ahmedabad, 16 private textile mills are closed. There is gross mismanagement on the part of private mill owners, siphoning of funds for their personal ends and sometimes they finance their diversification programmes at the cost of parent textile mills. The House is aware that about Rs. 4600 crores of bank loans are today bogged down in sick units. There is brazen faced violation of Sections 25M, 25N and 25O of the Industrial Disputes Act in the matter of lay off, retrenchment and closures. All these factors have conspired together to throw thousands of industrial workers out of job.

The national textile policy and our industrial policy may have to be reviewed in order to arrest the process of closures, drastically punish the offending employers and revive the closed units. This is an urgent need and any delay or complacency will be detrimental to the working people of our country.

The President has rightly emphasised the need to curb communalism in our country. The last year witnessed gruesome occurrences at Meerut. The Meerut riots that took place in May-June, 1987,

resulted into 320 victims dying in Meerut and Maliana. In Gujarat alone there were 94 incidents of communal violence. A number of incidents of communal violence took place in Karnataka also and according to the figures given in the *New Age* and *a Congress (I) Weekly*, 726 such incidents took place in Karnataka between 1985 and 1987. It is, time to remind all people to what Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said, namely that it is the duty of the majority of Indian to protect the life and property of the minorities. Urgent steps are necessary in order to restore a sense of security among the minorities and build a confidence among all people that this country is devoted to secularism and that the people of all communities shall live with mutual trust and without any hatred. And for this, we have to gird up our institutions including media which must include the TV and other public media under Government control towards propagating secular ideas. After all, it is really no use trying to pose as if secularism means merely equal freedom to all religions and nothing more. It is much more. Secularism also means fighting obscurantism and denial of State patronage to religious functions and dogmas. This is precisely what is needed today. Secularism is under great stress today and that is why obscurantism and communalism are the biggest damagers to our national fabric.

The broad spectrum of the Address can hardly be fully discussed in a compass of 10-15 minutes but I have tried to deal with certain glaring aspects thereof.

Progress is a continuous process. Every programme must open the doors for attaining further heights. More, it must be applied as an instrument of social transformation and its benefits must be within the reach of all.

In the forty years of freedom, progress has been registered in every dimension ranging from agriculture to atomics. We have travelled a long distance, but still we have miles to go.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balla):
 Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. First of all I want to thank the President of India for his first thought provoking Address. I whole-heartedly support all the issues included in his Address. His Address is highly encouraging and enlists various achievements. A special mention has been made about eradication of poverty. Emphasis has also been laid on the need of increasing employment opportunities in urban and rural areas. Speaking on the reconstitution of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission, he mentioned that the importance given to the welfare and development of the deprived classes can be assessed from 14,000 crores outlay for them in the Seventh Plan. While speaking on the drug abuse, he said that it not only endangered the youth of our country but also weakend the social and moral fabric of the nation.

While throwing light on the 20 Point Programme the Hon. President has declared it to be an important tool and guideline of the responsive administration. In the Address satisfaction has been expressed on the progress of these programmes and the policy of making cheap and quick justice available to weaker sections. He has stated that 20 Point Programme has aroused new hopes in the rural areas. While dealing with the Punjab problem, the indication given by the Hon. President to start negotiations and renounce violence in his Address is definitely praiseworthy. Some misguided secessionist elements cannot be allowed to disintegrate the country. The Government should simultaneously try to find a solution to this problem through negotiations and also deal with the secessionist elements firmly. Government should try to check increasing terrorism in Darjeeling and Tripura also on the same lines.

The Hon. President has expressed regret in clear words about non-cooperative attitude of Pakistan in his Address. I believe all the hon. Members will

also express their dissatisfaction over the non-cooperative attitude of Pakistan in improving relations between India and Pakistan.

The Hon. President acclaimed the political farsightedness and wisdom of the Hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues while referring to the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of July 1987 in his Address. While praising the gallant soldiers, the Hon. President has reiterated that the sacrifice of the soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force shall not be in vain.

The Hon. President has rightly expressed his displeasure over the supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan by America. This action of America has encouraged arms race in the continent. As far as the question of relations with Soviet Union is concerned, the Hon. President has reiterated that the relations with Soviet Union have always been warm and friendly and significant advancement has been made in several fields. The mutual goodwill of the two countries has found spectacular expression in the Festivals organised in the two countries.

We must appreciate the achievements of the various programmes run under 20 Point Programme for the upliftment of farmers, rural agricultural labourers and other backward sections of society. The Government must take these programmes to those areas which have till now remained untouched.

For the emancipation of women Government have taken several steps, but desired results could not be achieved in the direction. The Government should take measures on war footing for the emancipation of women in every field to enable them to participate in the all round development of the country.

The indication given in President's Address to set up a National Housing Bank for solving the housing problem of weaker and poor sections is quite useful and significant. There is dire need of providing

[Prof. Chandra Bhanu Devi]

regular employment to economically weaker sections. They can derive the benefit from various schemes provided they get regular employment.

In the Address mention has been made about remarkable progress achieved in the field of family welfare but there is need to further bring down the birth rate in the country as a whole. In my view family welfare programme should be implemented on war footing, as basically this is the root cause of all the problems.

It is necessary to attract the Youth towards self-employment. Unemployed youths soon get frustrated and adopted the path of destruction and play in the hands of anti-social elements. It is absolutely necessary to increase the employment opportunities by setting up small and village industries opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I attach much importance to this Address for our Republic in the beginning of the year. We must try to achieve what has been envisaged in the President's Address and we shall definitely achieve the same.

Last year we achieved success on various fronts. I want to submit that the need of the hour is that all of us must work together to maintain the tempo of development and this is the opportune time for us to unite and work for strengthening democracy and secularism in the country, in order to fight the anti-national forces trying to destroy the unity and integrity of the nation.

~~With these words, I once again support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.~~

[English]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. I stand here to oppose it

because it has failed to give any direction to the nation on all the major problems which are being faced by the country. While moving this Motion, our colleague Shri Bhagat said that the biggest challenge at the moment is the Punjab problem. But it is very unfortunate that the Central Government which has created this Punjab problem has failed to take any action or come out with any proposal to solve it. I think it is the policy of the Central Government to prolong problems first, complicate them and to exploit them for the narrow political considerations. It prolonged the Mizo problem. It prolonged the Naga problem. First, it created the Punjab problem and—Mr. Bhagat has himself said it—now it has complicated the problem. May I ask him who has complicated it? It is the non-action of the Government; it is the narrow political consideration to further the interests of the ruling party which has complicated the problem. Now, when it has been complicated, who stops the Government from solving it? He has himself also said that there must be some political will. Who is lacking that political will? Is our Prime Minister lacking in it? Firstly, he took some initiative. He signed an Accord with Longowal. He never took any step to implement that Accord. For us, for all practical purposes the Rajiv-Longowal Accord is no more. It is dead. After signing the Accord, it was the sole responsibility of the surviving person to implement it. It was the sole responsibility of our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to solve the problem. But due to reasons best known to him, whether he lack political will to solve it or implement it—it is better known to him—this problem has not yet been solved. The Government is tackling this problem and talking is as a law and order problem. It cannot be solved through the measures which can solve a law and order problem. This is basically and fundamentally a political problem. It can be only solved through political initiatives. As I was saying, first they prolong it and then complicate the problem. Our Prime Minister is very quick in signing the Accords. He has signed the Assam Accord. But that is also not being implemented properly. There is unrest in

Assam also. He has involved India in signing Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. I think, this is a mis-adventure. We are losing in terms of both money and men. There is no sight of any solution to the Sri Lankan problem. Even our High Commissioner in Sri Lanka has voiced his concern that some elements some responsible people in the Sri Lankan Government are having secret talks with the militant, with LTTE, over the head of the Indian Government. So, no solution is visible in Sri Lanka also I think we have unnecessarily involved ourselves in this problem.

So far as our institutions are concerned one by one Government is scuttling everything. The judiciary is under strain. Democratic institutions are being violated.

May I know what the Central Government did when thousands of Sikhs—men, women and children—were burnt alive, and their properties worth crores of rupees looted and burnt? Does not the Constitution give them the right to be protected? In the very capital of this country—Delhi—Government has failed to protect them. What did the Government do? What has Government done after that? Has any person—political, bureaucratic or anti-social—been punished so far? Has anybody been arrested?

So far as detenus in the Jodhpur jail are concerned, have we heard anywhere else that for years together, people are put in jail without any proper trial? Is the judiciary, this democratic institution, giving the same protection to Sikhs who have sacrificed a lot, in much greater proportion to their population, for securing independence for this country? Even after independence, for maintaining and protecting this independence, they have given their lives. But today, in response to the propaganda in the media, they are being made suspect in the eyes of the people. Is it the reward they are being given?

I think India is democratic and secular country. But the minorities are not feeling secure here. There are clashes in so many parts of the country. Hindu-Muslim

clashes are there. Sikhs are being hated. I think Government must do everything possible to win the confidence of the minorities. Otherwise, it will be a stigma on the very secular character of our country, if minorities feel insecure. The weaker sections of the society are also being exploited. Force is being used against them. Women are also being exploited and gang-raped. I think property, life and every thing else of people are insecure in the country. There is pessimism everywhere. Lawyers are on strike. Factory workers are disgusted. Government employees are also on revolt. Everything should be done according to law. But in Punjab fake encounters are held, false cases are being cooked up against people and government is not providing security to the people. There should be a rule of law everywhere and everybody should be equal before law.

This trend of the government to concentrate, to centralise power is a dangerous trend. Decentralisation of power is the core for development. Non-Congress Government in various States have got a raw deal at the hand of the Centre. Governors are being appointed over and above without their proper consultation just to create trouble for the non-Congress governments. Government have failed miserably to control the prices. The prices are touching new heights because government is patronising and is very soft towards hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers. Blackmoney is running a parallel economy. They are co-existing with each other and the President has failed to announce any steps to unearth this blackmoney, which is the main problem, which is the basic problem and which is increasing inflation.

Corruption has become a household word; corruption is in high places, in high political places. We have been discussing Bofors deal, Fairfax deal, German Submarine deal, etc. The names of banks and middle man have been mentioned, but nothing has been done to out corruption; no proper steps have been announced to root out corruption from high places, from

[Shri Charanjit Singh Walla]

high political places, bureaucratic places and from our society.

Unemployment has also increased due to the wrong policy of the government. Now, about 3 million people, educated youths are unemployed. Under-employment and rural unemployment are beyond any number. So, the government must formulate some police, concrete policy to root out unemployment, to bring down unemployment.

So far as farmers are concerned, their demands are not met. They do not get remunerative prices for their produce.

In the end I would like to say that the government says that the unity and integrity of the country is at stake. It is not at stake. Nobody can question and mar the unity and integrity of the country. It is the wrong policies of the government, it is the tendency of the government which is responsible for creating this suspicion, for creating this sense of uncertainty.

I hope and suggest that the government must reformulate, reschedule its policies. They should abandon narrow political considerations and in the interest of the country, they should come out with concrete proposals for solving the problems of the country.

In the end, I again oppose this Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The Hon. President has mentioned in detail the various welfare programmes run by the Government for every section of the society:

Today, our Government is running var-

ious programme for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who has a soft corner for the underprivileged classes. He has done a lot to eradicate poverty. Various welfare schemes have been launched to help the middle class and the farmers. While going through the 20-Point Programme we find that no section of the society has been left untouched and all sections are going to benefit from this programme.

It is highly diplorable that some persons as well as opposition parties are trying to undermine the good work done by the Government and are misguiding people. I want to submit that all the inputs e.g fertilizers, seeds, water and electricity needed by the farmers for cultivation are being made available to the farmers and not a single farmer faces difficulty in procuring these inputs. In spite of the present shortage of electricity, if somebody wants to obtain an electricity connection and submits a form duly filled in, efforts are made to grant electricity connection to him

I want to state that our Government is definitely determined to establish big industries in all the districts. Side by side, efforts are definitely being made to spread a network of small scale industries in all the districts to provide work to those willing people who are jobless.

The main task of Central as well as the State Governments today is to provide fresh and pure drinking water to people of all section living in the country and the states. We are providing such water to them through the India Mark-II pumps. There were such villages and places in the east where no arrangements could be made for supply of potable water. We had tried to supply water through small water tanks and by laying pipe-lines but we were not able to supply enough amount of water. By installing India Mark-II hand-pumps, we are trying to supply water to two hundred to two hundred and fifty people today. We are trying to supply water through these means to the localities inhabited by farmers and poor people who

belong to scheduled castes and weaker sections and to the villages and districts inhabited by our *Advisai* brethren. I have stated again and again in this House that there are such places in the area in our Tehsil where water could not be supplied even on occasions of marriage and sometimes the marriage parties had to return due to non-supply of water. By providing India Mark-II and by spreading a network of this type of pumps, our Government has arranged for adequate supply of water. But I want to say that there is still shortage of India Mark-II type hand pumps and there is need to increase their number so that the people can get water properly.

I would also like to say that our nation can be strengthened only when agriculture of this country is strengthened and our farmers become stronger. Our efforts towards becoming self-reliant in food have proved very effective. We have created big buffer stocks of foodgrains and have been able to overcome very difficult situation. Under various programmes for production of rice, etc., production has gone up in the eastern states. The Government is determined to increase food production to 1750 lakh tonnes by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan. More attention would be paid towards increasing production in this critical situation. A working group has been established in this connection. I wanted to say that many such plans are being implemented.

Besides, I would also like to say that Indo-Sri Lanka Accord is being appreciated by the people of our country. This can be observed, whether one is sitting in a tea stall, and whether travelling by a train or a bus. Everywhere one hears people appreciating this agreement. Our Prime Minister has concluded this agreement with great courage and bravery. The way he is working today, is before you all. But efforts are being made to mislead the people of the country. The name of Bofors is being talked about. Our colleagues in opposition parties mention Bofors. The people in our opposition parties have gone to the extent of saying that the guns supplied by Bofors are stuffed with hay. But I want to say that

when the state of guns was analysed, the capacity of the guns revealed that it was even more than given out. Therefore I want to say it now whether it is Bofors or Fairfax, the people would not be taken in by those who want to mislead them. The people of our country know it very well that our Government, our leaders, the Members of Parliament and others are serving them well and are making efforts for the welfare of the people.

I would also like to say that we are trying to provide electricity in each and every hut, we are trying to provide water to every field and we are also trying to provide educational facilities to all near their homes so that they have not to cover long distances for receiving education. Our Navodaya Vidyalas are of the type with which culture of our nation is interlinked. Today, our boys of Jaunpur and North India go to South India and the boys from South India come to North India for education. Thus, our culture will get intermixed and this is in progress. I want to stress that there are some people in our country who want to destroy every thing and want to mislead the people. Therefore, I want to say to my colleagues in opposition that they should appreciate if something good is done for the welfare of the society about which they are also worried. Just now Bofors was being talked about. Some days back when a motion for extension of the tenure of the Bofors Committee was under consideration in the Parliament, colleagues in the opposition parties opposed it. Earlier they had insisted upon to form a Committee and when now the Committee has been constituted and his work is going on properly and inquiries are being made properly, it is being opposed by them now. On the one hand they have an eye on the press and on the other hand, they walk out after expressing their views. That has been their one point programme. They don't want to express themselves and if others want to say something, they are not prepared to listen to them. If somebody talks in public interest, they should try to listen to him.

About environment, I want to state that if

[Shri Kamla Prasad Singh]

we do not get fresh air or pure water, we will have to face problems definitely. We are trying to purify air now by planting new trees. We are striving to provide fresh air to the people. We are definitely trying to build hospitals in every district from the health point of view. I also wish to point out that crores of rupees are granted as drought relief to the drought-affected people. We are trying to construct roads to connect various Judicial Panchayat villages. We are self-dependent as regards foodgrains. Our Government, our Hon. Prime Minister, our Chief Ministers and our Ministers have been saying that no person will be allowed to die of starvation despite the prevailing situation of drought. This is my challenge that no person has so far died because of drought. If the Government is doing such a good work, we should appreciate the Government.

With these words, I wish to say that we will have to make efforts to make rapid development, and maintain unity and integrity of the country. But today, I see that some people are trying to create hindrance in the way of development, unity and integrity of our country. Disunity in our country will definitely result in its disintegration. So, I wish to say that both the ruling party and the opposition should unitedly try for the unity of the country. Country is supreme, and in order to maintain unity, integrity and pace of development of the country we should not do anything which obstructs our country's progress. All Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians in our country are united. In such a state, we are fully determined to maintain unity, integrity and the pace of development of the country. I want to congratulate the Prime Minister and all my colleagues for our commitment to develop our country rapidly. In this task, 75 crores of our people are with the Congress Party and Rajiv Gandhi and are also ready to shed their blood at one call.

15.00 hrs.

Today, the people who are trying to mislead the public are being opposed tooth

and nail. They will not be successful in their mission and they will not be able to mislead the people who are very vigilant. All their accusations have already been refuted and there is now nothing left on the basis of which any section of our society can be misled.

With these words, I heartily welcome and support the Address.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vai-shali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Our Hon. President has indicated what type of India we want to make. Much emphasis has been laid on secularism, social equality and the protection of democracy. From the picture of our country which he has drawn before us, it is quite obvious that we want to ensure equality, social justice, removal of poverty and disease by making use of scientific methods. Thus, he has shown us the goal. The objectives inspired by Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom struggle and later well-clarified under the guidance of Jawaharlalji have again been set out before us.

15.02 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVRAJESWARI in the Chair]

A resolution to establish a socialistic pattern of society was adopted by the Congress at Avadi which was enshrined in our Constitution during the period of Indiraji. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had also introduced a planned development programme and had made efforts for making country's economy self-reliant. By following the same policy Indiraji led the country to progress in every field.

Similarly, the President has mentioned in his Address about the development of industries. Indiraji had first given much emphasis on removing poverty in order to bring social equality. She adopted a twenty-point programme to wage a war

against poverty. Presently, our Prime Minister has also given priority to this programme and a huge amount of money has been earmarked for it. Special programmes have been launched for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and now special attention is being paid towards them. Much emphasis is being given on the programmes for eradication of poverty

It is true that in the last 40 years, our country has progressed a lot during the last three years our country has progressed much more under the leadership of our Prime Minister. This progress is praiseworthy and noteworthy. Our Prime Minister has even visited villages after villages to assess the progress so far made and also visited the poor and backward areas to take stock of the situation. The Prime Minister himself has visited the distant places of the country to review the progress made under various programmes.

The Hon. President has mentioned in his Address that 234 lakh families living below the poverty line have been helped but there is still a lot to do. There is great discontent in the tribal areas. There is need to find out the reasons for this discontent. Only such Officers should be posted there who are concerned about the problems of tribals and are also dedicated to serve them. Our objective is to uplift the poor and the deprived class of the society so that the gap between the rich and the poor may be reduced and the disparities removed. There is a need to pay more attention towards the poverty eradication programme. The Government must see if the tribals are being benefited or not by these programmes which are made for their welfare. There is a need to change the present system to improve the existing social set-up.

Our Prime Minister has adopted a new Education Policy. There is two-fold education system in India. The first one is fol-

lowed in public schools through which the children from prosperous families are benefited and the second one is followed in Government schools. The standard of education in Government schools is very low. The education policy and the standard of schools is being improved through the Operation-Black Board and the standard of Education is being raised. The talented ones do not get opportunities to develop their talent for lack of good arrangements in Government schools. In my view, the Operation Black Board will serve the purpose. There is a plan to train five lakh teachers every year. There is a lot of improvement in the salaries and other service conditions of Teachers. It is hoped that Teachers will do their job loyally and devotedly. There is an arrangement to give special education in Navodaya Schools in which admission is given on the basis of the marks obtained in the qualifying examination. It has been said just now that almost 41% of the students belonging to the poor families have been able to get themselves enrolled in these schools. The Government would bear the whole expenditure. I think when they live and learn together, then there will be no question of any complex or a sense of inferiority in their mind. They all will get the same facilities. Therefore, the new education system would be very much helpful in the creation of a new society under the Education System. More emphasis has been laid upon moral values. The next generation will be free from the existing corruption. Everyone knows that corruption affects developments of the nation very badly. Therefore, the new generation will be free from corruption. They will have the determination to fight the evils. Since corruption affects the speed of development, therefore, it becomes our main duty to root it out from our society.

The programme to ensure the participation of women in the national life and development has been encouraged. They have been provided equal status legally. Efforts are being made to root out the social abuse evils. But still we are to do a lot, we have achieved some targets

[Shrimati Kishori Sinha]

but still there are some targets which are yet to be achieved. You may take the example of Anti-Dowry Act. In my view the law has yet not become effective and the menace of dowry is increasing day by day. Now the value of I.A.S., I.P.S., Doctors and Engineers in terms of dowry has increased and that has almost been fixed now. Press reports in the last six months show that 42 women lost their lives in Delhi due to the dowry system. The incidents of rape of women are increasing day by day. Recently whatever the police have done with 5-6 women in Deogarh was a very painful and disgraceful event and that is a matter of great shame for us.....(*Interruptions*). As the Government has informed the House, there were 284 rape cases in Delhi alone. The education must be spread among women. They should be provided more opportunities of employment and along with this a strong public opinion should be formed to fight the social evils. By this way only they can get their proper place. The Hon. President has mentioned about the position of unorganised labourers. Most of these unorganised labourers are in the rural areas. They do not even get those wages in time which are fixed by the Government. Due to this, the situation has become very tense resulting in clashes between the farmers and the labourers. The Government has formed a National Commission. It is hoped that it will submit its report very soon. I hope that there will be a lot of improvement in the situation if its recommendations are implemented. This sort of explosive situation is detrimental to the progress of our country. We are self-sufficient in regard to our foodgrain requirements. Efforts are being made to extend green revolution to the eastern states. Much damage has been caused due to drought and floods this year. In order to control floods and to prevent their occurrence, solid steps should be taken, a concrete programme should be prepared and the crop insurance scheme should be implemented. The area to which I belong is a flood-prone one but the farmers there do not get seeds in time and yet they have made ceaseless efforts to produce the Rabi crop.

The President in his Address has called for safeguarding the unity and integrity of the country. We have met every challenge facing our country under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister. Under his leadership, we shall strengthen our democratic system and we shall be successful in our efforts in this regard. The forces challenging secularism will be dealt with sternly.

With these words I thank the Hon. President. I thank you also for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Madam Chairman, the President was pleased to address the joint session of Parliament on the 22nd of this month. We are all thankful to him.

The President's Address is a reflection of Government thinking and policy. Here, I am afraid the Government has adopted a misplaced and misguided attitude of complacency towards various problems that we are facing, that the nation is facing. Indeed nobody can deny that our country has made considerable progress during the 40 years of independence. Still the fact remains that India faces its worse economic plight during these days, in almost every sector of our life. Let, therefore, there be a frank and candid admission of the grim realities of the situation. There is no escape from the fact that we are already in the grip of double digit inflation. The rupee is fast losing its value, both internally and internationally. There are several other features that one can go on describing but it pains to see that instead of there a frank admission of the reality of the situation, an attitude of complacency, of dangerous complacency has been adopted in this particular Address.

Madam Chairman, you know very well that economic situation today is very grim. Take the question of growth in GNP. We find that the growth in the national gross product was at a dismal figure of 4.9% during the first year of the 7th Plan, i.e. during

1985-86. In the following year, it further fell to 4.1%. Madam Chairman, it is shocking to note that in the current financial year, this GNP is likely to be hardly 1 or 2%. There is, therefore, absolutely no room for any complacency. The 7th Plan has a target of 5% growth in national product. It seems we will hardly reach this particular growth rate during the 7th plan.

Indeed the industrial production is at the commendable growth rate of 10.2%. However, we must remember that in the late '60s, our country was the 10th most industrialised nation in the world. Today we are rated 17th and we are even behind several of our Asian countries which had practically no industry nearly two decades ago.

Our share in the international trade has fallen from 2.4% in 1951 to 0.48% currently. These are very shocking figures.

The President, in his address takes credit for a great and a considerable increase in exports. But why practise this self-deception? We must candidly and frankly admit that our exports have stagnated. Let us not be deceived by statistical figures. We must remember that while the rupee value of exports has been steadily increasing, in 1980-81, India's exports measured in terms of dollars aggregated to 8,710 million dollars.

Let us see the performance further.

In 1985-86, India's exports measured in terms of current dollars, had almost doubled. But that is a very deceptive figure in terms of current dollars.

In terms of the constant 1980-81 dollars, the exports had stagnated at 8,800 million dollars in 1985-86.

Similarly, in the first nine months of 1987-88, India's exports measured in terms of constant 1980-81 dollars, is only 6,800 million dollars. This would again mean stagnating at 8,800 million dollar level.

We, therefore, find that these figures of growth in rupee value measured in terms of the current dollar value, are very deceptive. The gross reality of the situation is that India's exports have stagnated in terms of the constant 1980-81 U.S. dollars. That is because the value of rupee is constantly declining and it is said that there has never been a country with the currency which depreciates so fast. That is the verdict we are having upon our economy and, therefore, I must caution the Government to come to grips with the realities of the situation and take necessary measures.

Coming to several programmes of our Government, I must speak about the 15-Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities. The President himself has admitted and I quote:—

"The Centre and the States must make sustained efforts to implement the 15-Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities."

This is a correct picture of things. The implementation of the 15-Point Programme is in a sad state of affairs. I may even say that whether it is the Centre or whether it is the States, there is a criminal neglect in the implementation of this 15-Point Programme. In the first place, we find that various items in the 15-Point Programme are couched in ambiguous terms. They appear very good but they are couched in such ambiguous terms, that the implementation suffers. For example, we find that there is a reference to special considerations for recruitment of minorities. This does not lead us anywhere. I must, therefore, urge upon the Government to see that administrative instructions and detailed guidelines are given with respect to any ambiguous terminology used in the 15 Point Programme. Then, in several States—I am sorry to say that even in States ruled by the Opposition that is, by those who are in the Opposition in this House—there also the implementation of the 15 point Programme is in a very sad plight. Some of those States have, even refused to accept some of the points of the

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Programme. I may refer to various States which are there. But then, I have to run along. Therefore, I emphasise upon proper implementation, assessment and monitoring of this programme and it should be there. Take for example, even the Central Guidelines. Under the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities, the Central Government has advised our Lead Banks in each of the 40 districts with concentration of minority communities that an exclusive officer be appointed to monitor the increasing flow of credit to the minority communities and also to see that the minority communities are associated in adequate number in our banking sphere. But then, we find that there is hardly any implementation of this particular policy of the Central Government. A recent survey shows that banks have not taken these instructions seriously. In most cases, they are not even bothered to designate an officer exclusively for the task—not to talk about the implementation of the guidelines. I must, therefore, suggest that the implementation and monitoring machinery must be strengthened. I understand that there is a Cell for the implementation of the 15 Point Programme in our Welfare Ministry. I further suggest that there should also be a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the same lines as we have the Committee for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Nearly four years have passed since the high-powered Committee on Minorities headed by Dr. Gopal Singh has submitted its Report to the Government. But the Report has not been placed on the Table of the house. It has not been published. Whenever we ask a question in this House with regard to this, a stock reply is given saying that the report is still under consideration. There is a great agitation and restlessness among the minorities. There is a lackadaisical attitude of the Central Government with respect to the problems being faced by minorities. I must, therefore, urge upon the Government to see that this attitude is given up.

The problem of the weavers is there. The textile policy has been declared. But everybody is unhappy with it—the Composite mills, the Powerlooms, the Handloom, everybody is unhappy. All are badly hit. Therefore, the question of Textile policy should not become a prestige issue with the Government. There is a need for a review of this policy. There is a need to have a second-look upon it. The weavers are in a sorry state of affairs—whether they are Powerloom-weavers or Handloom-weavers, both are in a sad plight; especially the case of the powerloom weavers is very sad. There is hardly anything to help them in their critical situation. So many looms have been closed down. They are addressing representations and asking for various helps. I must urge upon the Government to see that an All-India Powerloom Federation be formed to look to their needs.

I must urge upon the Government to see that the export of yarn is either prohibited or drastically reduced and the cost of yarn for the weavers is reduced. It has a crippling effect upon them. There is a need to read the writing on the wall and to see that the problems of the weavers and the farmers are taken up in the right direction.

I will simply refer in a few sentences to one or two points and conclude.

We have the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act 1987. There is growing restlessness with respect to the various provisions of this Direct Tax Laws. Specially, I must refer to the adverse impact on various provisions of Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act 1987 upon trusts and wakfs. It is having a crippling effect upon them. Let the Government realise this particular thing and have a second look as per the representations that have been made to the Government. I have also made a representation in this particular regard about the destructive effects of the various provisions of this Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act upon the trusts and wakfs. I hope they will receive due consideration at the hands of the Government.

Madam Chairperson, the fate of Haj ship services is hanging in the balance. Perhaps, it has been decided by the Government that there will be no further Haj ship service. If that is the case, I must say that it is going to bring great hardships to the people. Already resentment is growing. Because there is no time, I will only conclude by saying that there should be a re-look on this decision of not to have the Haj ships. People are poor. All cannot afford to go by air. This is a religious thing. Let them not offend the religious susceptibility. I am sure that the matter will receive serious consideration and the Haj ship services will be restored.

Of course, we are thankful and we are grateful to the President for having addressed us. We only hope that the various areas of our failures which have been outlined here, not in a spirit of confrontation but in a spirit of cooperation to see that our nation progress and has a good future ahead, that these suggestions have been made, I hope, they will be received very well by the Government and proper steps will be taken in accordance therewith.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. President has addressed the Joint Session of Parliament and has offered certain guidelines for the future. In this connection, a Motion of Thanks has been moved and I support it wholeheartedly.

The Hon. President in his Address has expressed his views regarding the problems facing our country since independence and also about the functioning of the Government. He has shown special concern about the situation prevailing in our neighbouring countries. He has emphasised on this point that our ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism as enshrined in our Constitution should be fully realised; social justice in with equality

of opportunity for every human being should be ensured; poverty and disease should be wiped out by the help of science and technology and the economic development should be made by preserving and not by exhausting the bounties of nature.

I want to submit a few points in this regard. In spite of natural calamities, our country has made considerable economic progress. This is a symbol of the intelligence and understanding of our Hon. Prime Minister. In 1984-85 our industrial growth rate was only 8.5 per cent, this year we have achieved 10.2 per cent growth in spite of natural calamities. Our coal production has been enhanced by 7.5 per cent. According to the figures of April 1987-88, coal production has increased by 10.2 per cent. Similarly, 5.4 per cent growth rate has been registered by our Railways. Our friends in the Opposition oppose every step we take as a matter of convention. This is their fundamental right. But it is also their responsibility to at least praise those policies which are good. They are fully aware of their rights, of course, but not of their duties.

I want to submit that our 20th point of our 20-Point Programme is to make the administration sensitive to the needs of the people. But it is regrettable that our administration is still being run on the lines of the Indian Kings' Commission. The administrative system framed during the British rule is still being followed. It is due to this reason that we have not been able to make as much progress in this field as we should have made. I want to request the Government through this august House that if it believes in an administration which is sensitive to the needs of the people, then it should change the entire administrative structure to make it conform to the requirements of the Indian people. It will result in better implementation of our policies. That is why I want that Government should restructure the existing administrative system. Only by making the administration sensitive to the needs of the people we can get positive results. One of the earlier decisions was that a district Collector will have

[Shri Ramswaroop Ram]

to spend one night in remote areas once in every 15 days. Can you tell us if any Collector had ever stayed overnight in any village as a part of his duty to make the administration more sensitive to the requirements of the people? You will not find even one such example. The Collector does not move outside his headquarters and records after every 15 days that he stayed in such and such village. I want that the administration should be made more responsible. Only by taking such measures, our policies will be given a true shape and our administration will be able to function in accordance with the needs of our country.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A movement must be going there.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: In our area there was a target of distributing 35 thousands acres of land. We have distributed 35 thousands acre of land and have also given title rights. Our district has topped in India, so far as land reforms are concerned. This land was distributed during the tenure of Shri Bindeshwari Dube. I think, Mr. Comrade, in spite of being in the leftist fold, you have even failed to achieve the land distribution target of 5 thousand of acres in your area. This is your theory and that is of the Congress. I hope, it is a challenge to the administration to give possession in respect of the 35 thousands acre of land which has been distributed... (Interruptions)... Any way, I don't want to raise any dispute in this regard as I have many things to say

We all should share the anxiety expressed by our hon. President about Communalism and social tension. This is not a political matter but above that. It should be judged in the national perspective. Today, in India, communalism and social tension are two big evils. Communal tension and social tension or caste tension which are based on the caste system and the region are such evils which are destroying the social fabric. We should not take the anxiety expressed by our President lightly like Shri Somnath Chatterjee....

(Interruptions)..... We will have to take it very seriously and bring about a national consensus about it. That is why I say that we have adopted secularism and socialism. Have we adopted casteism? He should consider casteism? He should consider casteism and religion above the society.... (Interruptions).... Religion is a personal property of anyone whether he goes to a temple or a Gurdwara. It should not be exhibited at public places. It should be totally banned. Religious and meetings should be organised in their respective Gurudwaras, Mosques and Temples but not at the Boat Club. I urge upon this august House that these should be banned at public places... (Interruptions).... That was not a religious one. It was a farmers movement where farmers were addressed.

Religious processions should, however, be banned at public places. I have to say a few things in relation to farmers. Eighty per cent of our population has to depend on rural economy. But while formulating plans, this sector of economy is ignored somehow and it does not get its share to which it is entitled.

In order to compensate the farmers against the damage caused to the crops either by drought or by flood, a crop insurance scheme has been presented to and approved by this august House. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention towards Bihar. You would have noticed that flood in Bihar is such a horrible curse that all our economic growth become futile when food comes as a natural calamity and hundreds of acres of our crops are destroyed resulting in a loss of crores of rupees. This is why a Commission has been constituted for crop insurance. As hon. President has directed, it would be a matter of great pleasure if our rivers which cause so much damage are harnessed and their surplus water is made available to the farmers for better use. I think we should welcome the national water policy. Secondly, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the report submitted by Dr. K. L. Rao in 1974-75 in which it has been recommended that surplus water of

the Ganga, the Kosi, the Kauveri should be utilised for development purposes.

I would like to point out one more thing that we have been successful in improving the condition of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes under the leadership of our Prime Minister. Previously, there was 99% or 100% poverty among the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and hill people. But now our Government have succeeded in raising their standard to some extent. By implementing the policies evolved by Indiraji and followed by Rajivji, the number of people below the poverty line which was previously 54% has now been brought down. I would like to say that the quota of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in services as enshrined in our Constitution by the founding fathers of our country like Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru has not been completed yet in every department as figures prove. Maybe that the mental faculty of our people had not developed to the required extent but are they not even fit for becoming peons and clerks? Their quota of 25% is not being fulfilled even after 40 years of independence. When we go to villages we find that hundreds of educated youths belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are wandering here and there in search of jobs. Although I know that there is a ban on new appointments due to economic crisis but I would like that our Prime Minister must issue a direction to fulfil the reservation quota wherever it has not been fulfilled.

I would also like to say about justice. In comparison to other countries the justice in our country is more expensive. The poor are unable to reach to the last stage of justice. They cannot even afford to go in for appeal to the High Court if they are imprisoned by a lower court for 10-20 years due to some or the other reason. So, we will have to make justice inexpensive. We come to know that our Shri Somnath Chatterjee is a reputed lawyer. Probably he

would demand 4 thousand rupees if somebody wants to engage him. Although he claims to be the greatest socialist among the leftists but a poor will have to sell at least two bighas of his land to engage him.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Madam, I rise on a point of personal explanation....(Interruptions). He has been referring to me quite often in his speech and he was showing his finger towards me.

I do not render only lip-service to the cause of the poor. Not a single person can say that I have been charging fees from the ordinary people. I am not like them, paying only lip service. I exploit the rich people and naturally I get high fees from them, but they pay me not for any political considerations. I exploit the rich people and look after the poor people in my humble way. I am not drum-beating like them.

That is what is wanted to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: I was telling about the persons who are in his profession. He is the representative of lawyers. I feel that the justice has become so much expensive that it is necessary to make it cheaper.

Now, I want to say something about my State. I come from the area of Gaya, Jahanabad, Navada and Aurangabad where the labourers are awakened now and they raise their voice against exploitation. But thousands of scheduled caste families there have been jailed in the name of law and order. I ask the Government whether there is any *prima facie* case of killing against them. The Officers have to reply about it. They say that we have to fulfil the quota. It is ironical that we have to go in thousands to jails to get the quota fulfilled. For the reservation of jobs we have to go somewhere else. I request the Government

[Shri Ramswaroop Ram]

to give directions to the State Governments for the scrutiny and examination of the previous records of the people jailed in the name of law and order. If no step is taken in this direction, then their will be resentment among them. I understand that their main demands are of minimum wage and of land reforms. It is right that we have achieved some success in the direction of land reforms and we have to hand over them the titles of ownerships.... (*Interruptions*).... Through newspapers we have learnt about the Pararia case about which the Government has taken action. I want that they should take more stringent action in this case so that such incidents do not take place in future. The hon. Home Minister has also expressed anxiety in this matter. 14 Police Officials have been suspended. What more can be done?

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): How will suspension help?

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: If suspensions are not acceptable, should they be shot dead. I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Hon. Madam Chairman, I support this motion of thanks on the President's address moved by our hon. Colleague Shri B. R. Bhagat.

Let me first welcome the Proclamation of the President issued under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to Tamil Nadu. The Proclamation unseated the minority Govt. in Tamil Nadu headed by Mrs. Janaki. The Proclamation also paved way for the proper implementation of welfare schemes in Tamil Nadu.

For the past 20 years that is since 1967, corruption was reigning supreme in Tamil Nadu under the rule of Dravidian parties. Over these 20 years, many Corporations and Boards were created and these Corporations and Boards were Governments

themselves within an elected Govt. under the Chief Minister. They were havens of corruption. These corrupt deals and other malpractices must be inquired into and culprits booked. The people must come to know what happened over these 20 years under the rule of Chief Ministers whom they had endorsed in elections. By exposing these corrupt men, the people will come to possess confidence in the President's rule.

20 or 25 days have passed since the imposition of the President's rule. But still these non-official political appointees continue to head the corporations and Boards. These Corporations and Boards must either be dissolved or the non-official Political appointees be removed. These non-official Chairmen of various Boards and Corporations are swallowing gorgeous amounts of public funds. One of the Chief reasons for imposing the President's rule was to streamline the State administration. The Governor and his advisers must, therefore, set themselves upon toning up the present administration in the State which is ridden with innumerable malpractices.

For the past few years, Tamil Nadu is reeling under severe drought conditions. The previous Govt. was not able to estimate and convey in definite terms the extents of relief required to counter drought conditions. A fresh survey must, therefore, be conducted and revised estimates about the extent of drought relief must be made. When the Prime Minister visited Madurai he met the Members of Parliament. We appealed to the Prime Minister for generous allocation of funds as drought relief. But, by sheer luck, the areas visited by our hon. Prime Minister received rainfall. The areas which were not visited by our Prime Minister did not receive rainfall.

These areas continued to experience dry spell. But the officials and the Ministers

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

in the then Govt. were not able to determine the exact quantum of relief that should have been asked from the Centre. I queried a Tamil Nadu Minister in the then Cabinet about the petty amount of relief that is Rs. 35 crores released from the Centre as against the State's demand of Rs. 350 crores. I desired to know from the Minister where exactly the calculations went wrong. He replied that the State officials did not cooperate with the Govt in putting down firmly the extent of relief that was to be asked for. But the real fact was that the Ministers themselves were uncertain about the quantum of relief. Bharat Ratna Dr. MGR was really a blemishless person. But he could not extract the right work from men, from his own Ministers.

Even this year, there are fears that the monsoons may fail. I recently toured my Parliamentary constituency comprising six assembly constituencies. The public there were very much aggrieved over the drinking water shortage. Officials, therefore, be deputed to various districts to ascertain the people's sufferings on account of this drinking water shortage. Drinking water must be provided to all on priority basis. Last year's experience is still green in my memory. They promised many things but did not do anything. This situation should not recur. Drinking water must invariably be provided to all villages in Tamil Nadu. Further, irrigation canals must be immediately repaired. If agriculture flourishes, employment opportunities will be created. I made many demands in this regard to the Tamil Nadu Govt. At least the administration under Governor must repair these irrigation canals. Lakes must also be desilted. The Kaveripakkam lake which irrigates 10,000 acres of land, the Veeranan lake and the Mamandur lake which irrigates 8,000 acres of land must be desilted. Hon. Minister may kindly bear this in mind.

The Cavery and Palar rivers are dry.
Hon. Madam Chairman belongs to Karnat-

aka. She may have the kindness to move the Karnataka Govt to release water in Cavery and Palar rivers for 3 months during the rainy seasons. This would help to battle the dry conditions in Tamil Nadu. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister were very kind to approach the Karnataka Govt in this matter. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has, with large heartedness, agreed to release water from Karnataka in lieu of electricity to be generated and supplied by Tamil Nadu. I express my sincere thanks to the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Home Minister and the Chief Minister of Karnataka for this fine gesture. I wish that this attitude must be there on the part of the Karnataka Govt in the future years also.

Sir, all along the banks of Palar river right from Vaniambadi upto Ranipet. Many tanneries have sprung up recently. The chemical effluents from these tanneries flow into the Palar river and thus rendered lands near by uncultivable. For the past 2 or 3 years, I had been consistently inviting the attention of this august House and the Ministers concerned to this problems of pollution. The Minister assured me to do something to deal with this ever increasing problem but that assurance does not suffice. Some concrete steps must come forward. Instead of allowing these chemical effluents freely flow and mix with river water, these can be treated and used otherwise. Pollution control measures have to be effectively enforced.

Further, nearly 60,000 weavers are there in my constiteuncy. Cotton yarn scarcity have caused serious hardships to their livelihood. The Cooperative weavers have made a strong plea against export of cotton yarn from this country. Cotton must be imported from foreign countries and yarn be supplied to these poor weavers without delay. Weaving is the main profession next only to agriculture of our poor folk. Even Mahatma Gandhi patronised weaving. He encouraged handloom weaving. Nearly 2 1/2 lakh TN 46 Janta sarees have stagnated in my constituency. The Karnataka Govt agreed to take these sarees. For some unknown reasons, the Karnataka Govt

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

returned these sarees. The amount involved is Rs. 85 lakhs. For the past 3 years there are no takers of these TN 46 sarees. I also submitted a memorandum to Hon. Minister Shri Mirdha and requested him to make the Govt. itself to purchase the sarees as the amount involved was not very big.

Our nation has one of the biggest pool of scientists in the world. The testing of a nuclear device and the launching of the surface to surface missile 'Prithvi' stand testimony to our scientific progress. Scientists must, therefore, be paid adequate remuneration and their service conditions must also be improved. We must praise their efforts in raising our standards.

Teachers should also receive proper attention. Their service conditions must be improved after holding talks with them in this regard. The conditions of the Govt. servants also require attention.

The imbalance between rural and urban areas must go. Industrial development must take place in rural areas also. This would stop exodus of rural poor to urban areas.

The 20 point programme needs to be extended to rural areas. 50% subsidy must be paid to rural poor for building houses. This should be done under the RLEGP programme. Bharat is an ancient land. Over the past 40 years since our independence, we have made rapid strides. For continued progress, let us pledge to strengthen the hands of Shri Rajiv Gandhi in this task of building a stronger India.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): I have gone through the President's Address. For the last three years, I am trying to read and understand all these things. I think this Address is just an articulation of some ideas, which lead to nothing. Some suitable figures, whatever Government liked to give, have been given.

Sir, if you want, I can talk a lot about what Government has done, and what it is talking. They have mentioned some Directive Principles, and used some good words

here and there. But I think the true economic situation in the country is not reflected in the Address, nor is the poverty and unemployment faced by seven crores of people. Because of rise in prices, the average man is suffering. In Bombay, out of a population of 95 lakhs, 4 lakhs are staying in the platforms and roads, and not even in hutments. All this information is not given in the president's Address. Whatever little information Government wanted to give, has been properly included in the Address.

I think that in respect of all these posts—President, Governors and such other posts—our Constitution tallies with the British Constitution. We are following that Constitution all along the line.

It is my strong opinion that we should not continue with all these decorative posts of the President, Governors and others because it involves crores and crores of rupees and it is all loss. Let us amend the Constitution and remove these posts. The Treasury Benches like this type of sweet words, articulated words just to back them up. I am totally oppose to this move

They give the target of stock of foodgrains for the next year. Then the government says that such and such target must be there or, say, 117 million tonnes must be there. For the last four years, they have not crossed 1.15 million tonnes. Last year, it was less. This year, they have done ~~to~~ 140 million tonnes. Due to shortage of foodgrains, now the prices will go up in 1988 like anything. If there is a shortage of 10 per cent, the average man will be exploited by the hoarders. At present, we are having only 14.14 million tonnes of foodgrains which is less than what was in the last seven years. This shows we have to import foodgrains worth more than Rs. 1000 crores in 1988. In 1981, there was a little shortage. We had imported Rs. 700 crores worth of foodgrains; and because the rates of the foodgrains have gone up and the population of the country has also gone up, after 40 years of independence, our country is going to import foodgrains

worth more than Rs. 1000 crores in spite of the fact that we always talk of boosting our agriculture and giving more food to the people.

Regarding labour, the government use sweet words and say that their relations with the workers are nice, this thing and that thing. There are 20 crore workers in this country out of 70 crores population. 15 crore workers are in the unorganised sector; out of this, about 12 crore workers are below the poverty line. In this House, I have been repeatedly talking about all this in my speeches. Of course, I am sure, nobody from the government bothers to take note of the opposition speedness. But I think, even the Treasury Benches, even the previous Labour Minister, Mr. Sangma had also admitted it. What have you done in the last three years? One commission has been appointed. Its reports will come after two years. There is no will, no desire, to help them. Sugar factories are making good profit; tea and coffee Boards are making good profit. When they are making good profit, why not make about Rs. 20-25 as the minimum wage and link it with DA. Is there any difficulty? Why has the government not done it? If they have not done it, why is your President regretting for that? Why such a simple matter has not been solved?

Regarding bonded labour, what sweet words are used? It has been mentioned here that the private agency will look into that matter, the private agency will look into the matter of the bonded labour. After 40 years of independence, what the President has written in your programme? The organised labour is always blamed. They are gaining something because of their strength, but still they are blamed. After 40 years of independence, there is no law what should be the share of the workman. Therefore, it is a pitiable condition for the labour. The prices of everything are going up but the salary of the workers is not increasing accordingly after increasing the

industrial production in this country. It is so surprising that the figure has changed to 8 per cent, 10 per cent, 12 per cent. I think each member of this House has said something about it. As per your old index, it is 5-6 per cent only because the method of counting industrial production the government had intelligently changed last year. According to the measures which are used for the last ten years, your industrial production was 4 or 3 per cent; now this may be 4 or five per cent. Now, you are adopting more and more measures by which you are removing textile and jute industries and taking electronics and other new items; and electronic items production you are showing more; that is the only thing done in this unit.

All the members talk regarding Rs. 3000 crores given as subsidy and help for fertilisers, cement, etc. After taking this much of subsidy, is there any relative production increase if you compare it with 1970 and 1980? I have got the figures regarding the relative growth of the industrial production. Who controls the production of cement, fertilisers, etc.? Who controls the production of top five big industries? It is controlled by a particular big group. I know because I have got my union. They create a little shortage; then they close down a particular unit and come to the government and ask for subsidy. They get publicity and the report also. This is the way the Government is working. It is concerned about the needs and requirements of the big houses in the country which are 25 to 30 and that is how the industrial production is reflected.

Madam, I spoke in this House several times and mentioned that 1,50,000 industries are closed. Out of them about 700 sick industries employ more than 1,000 people. And one lakh and five thousand are small industries. Fifteen per cent of the total industries of this country are getting otherwise sick.

We are talking about going to the backward areas. But people in Bombay and Calcutta closing their industries. Though

[Dr. Datta Samant]

they have diversified the funds they have got lot of surplus money with them. They handle those items which they want to take, and the remaining are left to the Government to take over. That is how your industrial production is reflected. And in the process Rs. 5,000 crores are lost. Even thousands of crores are involved in the economy. The big industries they take the money from the Government, they start the factory. They go on diversifying the money and make it sick, and start a new industry again. This is the unfortunate policy of this country and the Government is unable to control this trend.

I will mention two points and conclude. Sick industries have also been mentioned. The Board is appointed. I was a strong speaker there. Not a single director was changed. Nobody was punished. Nobody's property was taken. The Government could not touch them. The big industries are not touched.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): They have not started working.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: They get the certificate of sickness. Three hundred sick industries are there. The sick certificates are issued to big factories like Rayon and Nirlon also.

[Translation]

Sir, our industry has become sick. We may be exempted from payment of bonus and the wages may also be reduced.

[English]

Really, these are the things happening. The sick industries Board which is appointed to punish these people does not take any action. They do not change the directors, they just take the money and make use of it. They only create the sick industries. And the Government is a party to all this. It is a pitiable condition. This is not good for the economy.

If Tatas close their mills and start some new factories the Government is going to give them money.

Madam, I talk in this House hundreds of times. But I do not think that the Government is concerned regarding the average man or the average workers in this country. One point, just I want to mention about the textile policy. After agriculture it is the biggest industry in the country. Crores of rupees are involved. When the new textile policy was announced, I opposed it. Now even Congress members like Shri Sharad Dighe are obstructing the roads and urging for a change in the textile policy. It is the biggest blunder. In this textile industry Rs. 750 crores to Rs. 1000 crores of money is involved. So many new mills are getting closed and so many people are removed. About one crore and fifty lakh workers were retrenched. Fifty percent of the powerlooms of this country are affecting the economy. The handlooms sector is suffering and needs to be looked after.

In this House the textile policy was discussed for one week. It is the biggest blunder and it is going to ruin the economy of the country. Therefore, I again appeal in this House that the Government must withdraw that policy and make some reasonable changes. Otherwise it is going to create problems.

Regarding your foreign policy, today I read in the newspapers that your Army Commander in Sri Lanka has made a statement that if Mr. Prabhakaran comes out he will be shot at. But who told you to go there and become heroes there? About one lakh of your troops are there in Sri Lanka and you are spending Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 7 crores daily for fighting 5000 LTTE militants. More than Rs. 600 crores to Rs. 700 crores have been spent so far for fighting the battle for others. The other day, LTTE has started negotiating with Mr. Jayewardene and his Government. This is backstabbing. You are spending this money for the prestige of the Prime Minister. I think, this is not fair. I think, we have done this

blunder of sending our troops in Srilanka and spending crores of rupees there.

Regarding Bombay no mention has been made in the Address. Bombay is not all what you feel. You have seen Malabar Hills and Cuffe Parade. Please do not think that this is the real Bombay. 55 lakhs people are staying in hutments and another 20 lakhs in Lal Bagh and Parel in old dilapidated buildings where people die because of collapsing of buildings. You are taking Rs. 3000 crores as revenue from Bombay, but you do not make any provision for Bombay.

The pass-holders and daily ticket purchasers are more in Bombay. Because of the hike in railway fares and postal rates, the Bombay people are going to pay about Rs. 400 crores. Bombay is always taxed more. Of the total revenue 60 per cent of it is collected from Bombay. But they are not giving proper share to Bombay. Therefore, such an attitude of the Government should change.

I oppose all such types of Addresses by the President. The works are good and articulated. But the poor President, I do not think, has any power to describe the real picture of the country. Therefore, let us change this British Constitution and let us abolish the decorative posts of President, Governors and others on which we are wasting crores of rupees.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY (Ballia): Madam Chairman, I am grateful that you have given me an opportunity to express my views on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

I support the motion whole-heartedly which has been moved to express thanks to the hon. President. The hon. President has expressed his views in detail on the progress made by our country during the last forty years of freedom, the action to

be taken in future in this regard and about the security of the country.

There is no doubt that during the last forty years of freedom, our country has made progress in all spheres, it may be education, industry, agriculture, irrigation or electricity. Our leaders should be congratulated through whom our country has made such a progress but it is also a fact that there are many areas where there has been no development at all. The Government should pay more attention towards these areas. For this I want to give some suggestions to the Government through you.

I come from the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh. Ballia district lies in the far eastern Uttar Pradesh from where Bihar starts. As it is a far-flung area, whatever development has been made in the state, it has not reached there. The Government should pay more attention towards such areas so that these areas are also benefited. It should not be so that one area is much developed while the other is ignored.

I am very proud to say that Ballia has an important place so far as freedom struggle is concerned. Any leader who goes to Ballia praises the valiant sons such as Sarvashri Sarju Pandey, Mangal Pandey and Ram Baghel Ojha. But beyond that nobody bothers about Ballia. So, the residents of Ballia and the people of eastern region are very much in trouble. As a representative of the people, I want to bring their feelings to the notice of the Government and want that the Government should give more attention to the backward areas.

I have requested the hon. Prime Minister that Ballia, Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Jaunpur and all the other districts of eastern region can be developed if these districts are connected with a broad gauge railway line. But I am sorry to say that I do not find any such thing in it. I am very much pained. I again request the hon. Prime Minister and I am quite hopeful that in order to ensure development of the eastern region, he will give necessary sanction for a broad gauge line.

[Shri Jagannath Chaudhary]

I would like to congratulate the Minister of State for Railways who had assured me about the building of a overbridge on the railway crossing of Ballia, without which the people were facing many problems. He accepted our demand and fulfilled his assurance. He is a person to be congratulated.

The former Agriculture Minister had given an assurance of opening a centre for agricultural science for the welfare of the farmers of Ballia. But it is no mentioned anywhere in it. Through you, I want to request the Government that our Uttar Pradesh is a village of farmers. But there are no big industries, especially in Banaras-Kanpur and Bombay-Kanpur side. It seems that the Government is totally unconcerned about giving facilities to the farmers, though it is on these very farmers that the Members of Parliament, the Ministers and the citizens of the whole nation are dependent. If the farmer stops producing foodgrains, then we will all surely be unable to survive, I regret to say that when an industrialist threatens to close his industry for not getting adequate price for his goods, then the Government feels scared. But when a farmer has to pay higher charges for water, seeds, manure etc. and is highly disappointed, the Government pays no attention to him. The farmer of our country is helpless as he has no other job but agriculture, due to which he cannot do anything. In such a situation, I would like to request the Government that if you do not want to increase the price of his foodgrains and sugarcane, then you should at least reduce the prices of manure, electricity, water and strike a balance between the two sets of prices so that the farmer does not have to suffer any loss. You should pay special attention to the fact that the morale of the farmer does not go down. Our hon. Prime Minister has stated that despite this severe drought, we will not have to beg from any country. For this the credit surely goes to our farmers. If the morale of our farmers goes down, we will have to beg from other nations. Therefore, Sir, I want to alert the Government through

you and request that they should not let the morale of the farmers go down.

The production of our crops will increase only when we make arrangements for providing adequate irrigation facilities, manure and seeds. Sir, there is no proper arrangement for irrigation in my district, 1/4th area of my Ballia district is irrigated by Turtipar Canal and the remaining 3/4th of land is unirrigated. For this purposes 12 years ago, the Uttar Pradesh Government had started the construction of Sharda Canal but I regret to say that despite all my requests to our Chief Minister, the Uttar Pradesh Government has not succeeded in completing the construction work of the Sharda Canal even after 12 years. I suggest that the construction of the Sharda Canal may be completed at the earliest so as to enable the farmers to face such a severe drought. But if you do not give irrigation facilities to the farmers, how will the farmers will be able to face this drought and enable you to proclaim with pride that we have not sought any help from any nation despite the severe drought. For this the credit goes to our farmers and it is in the fitness of things that we should extend every help to them and strengthen their morale.

I do not agree with the view of some of our friends that the prices of foodgrains should be increased. If you increase the rates of foodgrains, then the workers of factories will start starving. Therefore, I want that the Government should itself hear the loss and supply manure, electricity and water to the farmers at subsidised rates. Only then we will be able to make progress and make our country prosperous.

The Government have made suitable arrangements for education in Ballia district. But several young graduates are loitering on the roads. Leave aside a good job, they are unable to get even a peon's job and they are thus creating a problem for us. They say to me that if they do not get a job according to their qualification then

they may be posted as a peon in some office or school. But where should I appoint them as a peon? There are no factories in Ballia, nor are any industrialists ready to go there. In that case where should these educated people go? I regret to say that Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi are full of people from Ballia. The only reason behind this is that there is no job or work in Ballia as a result of which its people are scattered in every corner of the country. In such a situation, I request that some factories should be set up in Ballia so that the educated people may earn their daily bread.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Choudhary, how much time would you require to conclude your speech?

[Translation]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY: With these words, I heartily welcome and support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now adjourn for half-an-hour to meet again at 5 P.M. for the resresentation of the General Budget.

16.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned to meet again at seventeen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Seventeen of the Clock.

MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*

17.00 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1988-89.

[English]

श.रि. व. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): The Finance Minister's speech appears to be very weighty, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your assumption?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): We wish him a long life despite the Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a good omen.

Mr. Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): Sir, I rise to present the Budget for the year 1988-89.

The Economic Survey for 1987-88 was placed before the House a few days ago and contains a detailed review of trends in the Indian economy over the past year. Economic performance and management during the year have been dominated by natural calamities of drought and floods. The drought this year has been one of the worst in this century, with 21 out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions receiving deficient or scanty rainfall during the monsoon months. In most of the Eastern states the problems was not too little but rather too much rainfall leading to devastating floods. What is worse, this year of drought and floods followed three successive years of poor monsoon.

Despite the very severe strains and distress, the economy had demonstrated remarkable resilience. It had done so for two good reasons. First, sustained development and diversification of our economy, over the years, has created a capacity to withstand temporary shocks. Second, Government has responded with timely interventions across a wide front to contain the economic and social costs of the drought.

The buffer stock policy pursued by the Government enabled us to build large food stocks which stood at 23 million tonnes on 1st July, 1987. With the help of these stocks, a massive and sustained effort was launched to ensure adequate supply of foodgrains throughout the country, particularly in drought affected areas. Other important Government programmes to