

[Dr Prabhat Kumar Mishra]

of the Government medical facilities will be made available to everyone in the country by the turn of the century. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact, that the benefits of different schemes do not reach to the tribals areas in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh.

In these areas, neither there are any hospital buildings nor are there any doctors. If in some area the doctors are available then the building is not there and if both exist, then medicines are in short supply. Postdelivery cases are often fatal because of the lack of medical treatment and quacks treat the patients as a result of which they have to undergo a lot of pain and they are also economically exploited.

I want to urge upon the Central Government to provide facilities for the spread of information about such fatal diseases like cancer, AIDS etc. in the rural areas under the New Medical policy so that they can take necessary precautions.

In this connection, I would also request for the opening of medical colleges at the regional level and to open a medical college at Korba which is an industrial town under the district of Bilaspur, so that the public sector employees and the adivasi areas of this region can get medical facilities.

12.28 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-Contd

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri V. N. Gadgil and seconded by Shri R. L. Bhatia on the 23rd February, 1989 -

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

'That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which, he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 21st February, 1989.'

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Sir, it is unfortunate that when one of the most important debates is going on in this House, the Opposition is absent. In spite of the fact that the Prime Minister expressed his regret yesterday, they have not participated in the debate. I would appeal to them to reconsider the stand and to participate in the debate because this is one of the most important debates of the year.

So far as President's Address is concerned, I support it fully. It gives a new direction, new vision as also our achievements in different fields of activity.

In the area of foreign policy, we have achieved a great success and the Prime Minister deserves congratulations for his personal initiative and because of his outstanding statesmanship. India has reached a position in the world, where India stands as a symbol of peace and peaceful cooperation, not only that, for good and cordial understanding with neighbours also. I am sorry to point out that unfortunately, attempts have been made to replace the bipartisan foreign policy which is normally followed in a democratic polity. Some opposition parties are trying not to associate themselves with the foreign policy which has been evolved by the party in power and it is a continuous foreign policy being followed since the time when Pandit Nehru was the Prime Minister.

So far as we are concerned, we fully support the foreign policy of the Government, but some other sections of the opposition have different standards. If you take the question of Sri Lanka, there are parties in the opposition, who do not support our stand. If you consider the question

of China, there are some parties in this country, who do not support even the visit of our Prime Minister to China.

I must ask them: Is it not a new vision in the international diplomacy? Is it not a progress towards peace and cooperation? Apart from that, they must see the positive gains that we have achieved with the Prime Minister's visit to China and the developments thereafter. We must be careful about that. When the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited China and raised the Kashmir issue and said: "We have always received your support", the Chinese Prime Minister said: "We need peace and cooperation in South-East Asia". He avoided this. Similarly, when the question of Afghanistan came, the President of Pakistan had made a proposal for a confederation of Pakistan and Afghanistan, but when that question was raised, the Chinese Prime Minister was very categorical and he said that they wanted Afghanistan an independent, neutral and non-aligned country. Therefore, this is a positive gain and a new atmosphere, new vision, particularly when new thrust towards peace has been generated on account of our Prime Minister's personal efforts.

Let me now come to another question and that is relating to Nepal. It is very much disturbing that when in the centenary year of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our Embassy there wanted to have a photo exhibition of Pandit Nehru, that was not allowed by Nepal and some Ministers were not given permission to participate in that exhibition. We should not ignore. As a matter of fact, I put the question, but it was not allowed.

These are the basic facts which we have to make into consideration.

My submission with regard to Pakistan is that we fully appreciate the spirit of cooperation and the spirit of friendly relationship that Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has shown. But at the same time we must also bear in mind that she is not fully in control of the affairs in Pakistan. I am afraid it is so as she does not even know whether Pakistan is

manufacturing atomic bomb or not. About the Nuclear programme the Army is the supreme administrator and Mrs. Bhutto in the beginning agreed that there will be certain areas where the Prime Minister will have no control and these include the fight against the hegemony of India in this region and the Pakistan's relationship with USA and also Pakistan's view regarding the Afghan policy. According to her these are the areas which should not be interfered by the Prime Minister and they are to be decided by the Security Council in which Mrs. Bhutto is invited. So, in this background we must be very very careful. In spite of the agreement signed in Pakistan with regard to Non-interference in the Nuclear Establishments of both the countries which we have agreed to, after this agreement and after the withdrawal of Soviet Union from Afghanistan, what is the necessity of Pakistan to go ahead with its nuclear programme and what is the necessity for Pakistan to negotiate for F-16 Aircraft from U.S.A. and F-7 Aircraft from China? Not only that they are even trying to revive its nuclear cooperation with China. One does not understand why this preparation is going on. I would say that it is definitely directed against India. My submission in that background would be that we cannot ignore our security consideration. We must be very very careful in this regard and we must prepare ourselves to meet any contingency that may arise.

A proposal has come from the Prime Minister of Pakistan that we have to vacate from the Siachen which is now under our occupation. I would say, 'Why' because everyone knows that the Pakistan has absolutely no claim over it. They had sent some expedition troops and subsequently they made a claim. So, in that background withdrawal of India from any portion of Siachen glacier is not advisable and we cannot concede that demand.

So far as the economic situation is concerned, no doubt our policy of liberalisation has succeeded. Our growth has been spectacular but all the same there are certain problems which we have to take note of. We are grateful to the Prime Minister of India. He is personally looking into the

[Shri Braja Mohan Mahanty]

programme to remove poverty and unemployment from the country. He has taken some decisive steps in this direction. Yesterday's Budget indicate how the Government of India is looking towards this problem.

However, there is one difficulty and that is that the bi-partisan policy is being given a good bye by some of the Opposition parties. So also there is a spirit of confrontation with regard to the internal domestic policy which does not strengthen the democratic system of this country. So far as the Opposition is concerned, they have not spelt out any policy to answer the major problems of this country. It is not my observation. Mr. Chandrashekhar was the President of the Janta Party and he was the President of that Party for 12 years.

He laments that no alternative policy can be evolved by the Opposition. He says that he is helpless. Not only that, he adds that he is opposed to the policy of casteism which in short is nicknamed as 'AJGR' policy. Besides, the Opposition does not have any policy with regard to the Punjab problem, communalism, unemployment, poverty and so on. We have to fight against poverty and unemployment. How can we remove the concentration of wealth? In this regard, I would like to mention one point. 25 industrial houses have accumulated of Rs. 9576 crores during the last three years. How one fights against this concentration of wealth? How do we fight against the concentration of land in the hands of the big owners? The Internal Appraisal of Plan has indicated that 71 per cent of the land is in the hand of the big land owners and only 28 and odd per cent is in the hands of the marginal farmers and small agriculturists. Naturally, a strategy has to be worked out to help the poor farmers and landless labourers and not the big people. How can we fight against this problem and remove inequality? In the rural areas, households owning Rs. 10,000 or less worth of property constitute 39 per cent of the total households. But the total ownership of these 39 per cent households

comprises only 5 per cent of the total assets. This shows that we are far away from the goal of evolving an egalitarian society. These are the problems that we have to solve and we have a commitment as per our Constitution to build up an egalitarian society. But what is the thinking of the Opposition on these vital issues? May I invite the attention of the House to the 71-Point programme projected by the Janata Dal President? Does it indicate any answers to these pressing problems? Is there anything in the programme with which we can fight against feudalism, capitalism and concentration of wealth? Does it spell out as to how an egalitarian society can be built up? Are they having any strategy to fight communalism? Nothing is said about these things. This is what Mr. Chandrasekhar laments. He says that in 1971 basic issues used to be discussed. But now, these are not discussed any more. This observation of Mr. Chandrasekhar is very significant. They do not have any programme which carries conviction. He also says that several opposition leaders are trying to manage the system without any sound basis. They have not struggled for or agitated over real issues. Policies and programmes appear to be only a sort of window-dressing for them. Naturally, real issues are not being raised and discussed. And today there is a vacuum in the country. The Opposition criticises the Congress for every thing but they themselves do not evolve their own policy. This is the greatest tragedy of our democracy.

We do have a long list of achievements. But there must get some more effective measures to curb blackmoney. The Opposition does not have any strategy on this problem either. On the contrary, there are discussing only peripheral issues like corruption. Since they are not present, I cannot be very vociferous in my criticism against them in their absence. But my submission is that they are compromising with corruption. What is happening in Andhra Pradesh? What is happening in Karnataka? Their total stand was to remove corruption from very high places. Have they not compromised in Karnataka,

Andhra and Haryana? So, this is the tragedy of our public life

Now I will recite a cinema song

Ghar ghar may Diwali

Mera Ghar Andhere mein

In every house there is a candle But my house is in darkness

So far as Orissa and Bihar is concerned—because Mr Ghafoor is a good friend of mine—we are working in darkness

During these years the per capita productivity of Orissa was 216 and the per capita productivity of Bihar was 215

So far as the infrastructural development is concerned, the national average is 100, Orissa's figure is 94 and Bihar's figure is 90 Not only this As far as average per capita income of Orissa is concerned, we are behind compared to other States

As far as the per capita allocation of the Seventh Plan is concerned, we are much below the national average Orissa's figure is 1025 and Bihar's is 900 or something like that So Orissa and Bihar are far behind as far as national average is concerned

Last time in the Presidential Address, it was promised that vigorous efforts will be made to remove inter-State and inter-districts disparities But Sir, I do not find any sign of it My submission is that there should be some emphasis on this A time must be fixed for removing the disparities How can it be done? The Sarkaria Commission has analysed the whole thing They have stated in their report that the position of Bihar is 18 and the position of Orissa is 17. How can our substantial resources from the richer and affluent States are transferred to the backward States Otherwise we cannot achieve that On the contrary they are getting plan allocation, financial assistance from the Central Government, assistance from the Finance Commission regarding distribution of funds and

also devolution of funds and so on But we find that we are left far behind the affluent States There are getting more than what the backward States are getting My submission would be that bold steps should be taken to remove internal regional disparities so that we can assure unity and integrity of this great country

Thank you very much

[Translation]

SHRI K N PRADHAN (Bhopal) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks moved by hon Shri Gadgil on the President's Address

The President in his Address has mentioned the achievements of our country in the domestic and the international fields Hon Shri V N Gadgil has dealt with these points in detail It is a fact that inspite of adverse conditions like the four year long drought, the floods, the Punjab crisis and attempts to create riots in different parts of the country by outside forces, we have achieved considerable success in the production front which is commendable

Similarly, in the international field, we have established cordial relations with our neighbours and diffused tension in the region and in the same way we have been successful in creating an atmosphere in the world in which even the super powers were compelled to destroy their stockpile of nuclear weapons These are big achievements which have been appreciated all over the world and I think that it will also be recorded in history But it is our misfortune that in our democracy in which there should have been a responsible opposition we have an irresponsible opposition and it seems sometimes that talking about constructive matters to them is like throwing pearls to swines Their eye is set on the chair only which is proved by their absence today in the House when the Hon Prime Minister has thrown light on the whole incident and has expressed his regret as well but their sole intention is to get power, then as the saying goes 'count your chickens before they are hatched

[Shri K.N. Pradhan]

which applied in their case as they are wrangling for positions even though they have not got actual power so far. If they get power, then the extent of ruin which they will bring to the country is clear and the people are also fully aware of it. The Congress party is the only hope of the country. It has done considerable work for the country and there is still much left to be done.

There are many problems facing the country which have also been mentioned in the President's Address. For example, as it is mentioned in the Address that the balance of payment situation of our country is a matter of serious concern. Similarly, price rise and unemployment are such problems which require special attention as it is only then that our country can make progress. The hon. Finance Minister had indicated in his budget speech yesterday that expenditure of the Government Departments would be curtailed and directions have been issued to different Departments in this regard, but my submission is that only by giving instructions, necessary reduction in expenditure cannot take place. Therefore, we have to specifically identify those areas where it will be possible to make curtailment in expenditure and until necessary instructions are issued in this direction we cannot curb wasteful expenditure.

Similarly, as regards saving foreign exchange, we have to pay special attention in this direction as well. In regard to the foreign tours, I want to submit that we have not paid attention to find out as to which foreign tour is important and which is not important. If special attention is not paid here we will not be able to achieve our target.

Similarly, a serious shortcoming in our country is that of the implementation machinery. The Hanumantuaiah Commission for Administrative Reforms was constituted 18 to 20 years ago and it had also submitted its report. I do not know as to how much of it was implemented but one definite point concerning the lacuna in our im-

plementation machinery is that instead of its structure being like a pyramid, it is the other way around and the number of officers and supervisors are increasing so rapidly that it is becoming extremely top heavy. The position is the same whether it is the public sector or the Government. If the top of the pyramid broadens, then imbalances will definitely follow. Imbalances in our implementations framework is constantly increasing. In fact it can be said that we are running a marathon race in a way. The definite speed and definite direction which is required is lacking.

Similarly, we are faced with the problem of unemployment. The problem of the educated unemployed is a separate matter. Regarding the unemployment problem in the rural areas no one has drawn attention to the biggest problem of under-employment there. Employment in the rural areas is of seasonal nature. The remuneration which they get is not adequate to meet the necessities of their lives. However, it is gratifying that one provision in the Budget has been specially designed for removing unemployment and it is the new shape which has been given to the IRDP and NREP programmes by combining them into a single programme. Similarly, it has been granted to provide employment to at least one member of each family. One point which I would like to make is that this procedure of granting extension in services should be done away with. Extension should be granted only in cases where it becomes imperative to do so. If it is a matter of specialisation where it is difficult to fill the vacancy, then under those circumstances, extension may be granted. The different vacancies should be filled by young unemployed people and as earliest as possible. I think that when the First Five Year Plan was being prepared, then by chance, the extent of emphasis which should have been placed on agriculture was not done. Subsequently, this Plan was amended and more emphasis was laid on the agriculture sector to bring about progress in this field. It was the far-sightedness of those times which has made us achieve self-sufficiency today.

Similarly, the second greatest achieve-

ment of our Government has been the White Revolution's about which I have mentioned. The subject of 'White Revolution' has been taken up in the past but necessary emphasis was not accorded to it. We have not paid required attention in this direction. There are 60 to 61 crores of cattle-heads in our country but their conditions is not proper. Arrangements for fodder production is still not effective and if we want to bring 'White Revolution', then particular emphasis has to be placed on fodder production. In the same way, arrangement have to be made for improving the breed and for medicines to maintain their good health. Unemployment and under employment are the two problems of the rural areas. We say that we have identified the people to be lifted off the poverty line. We have prepared the cluster. Will we be able to lift them all at the same time? We are not being able to do so. Do you think that the people whom we are not able to help, will wait indefinitely for a time when they will get help or at least their son will get it. For that it is essential that attention should be paid to White Revolution under which cattle rearing in the rural areas, should be encouraged to the maximum extent. This will help us in getting energy and better quality fertilizers. All these things are going to prove beneficial for use.

Similarly, during the last two years, an awareness has developed that energy should be conserved but no concerned effort has been made in this direction. The Government has not formulated any such programme in this direction to encourage development of such awareness in the country. Conservation of energy is the best means of securing energy without incurring any expenditure. This will go a long way in assisting the country in marching forward. The Government has not paid attention in this direction but I hope it will now do so.

It is said that the foodgrain stock in our country is better than it was earlier. But no attention is being paid to the fact that quantity of ration supplied in every village of the State is very less. Due to this, we have to bear with criticism from the public.

Due to rise in prices, the foodgrain which is supplied through the Government shop is now not that being supplied. I feel that there are certain elements in the administration who try to malign the Congress Party and the Congress Government in a critical situation. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that at least the foodgrain supplied in the entire country should be sufficient enough for meeting the needs of people. Prosperity is a different thing but I would like to submit that the main necessity of the farmers is that of bread and butter. Now the number of people living below poverty line in our country has been identified. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had introduced a scheme to provide subsidised food to the adivasis. Wheat was provided to them at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per kg. Today, the Government should seriously consider that it is different thing that there will be prosperity when the production would increase but at present there are people who are living below poverty line. We do not allege that they are starving but it is right that they are unable to meet their needs. Subsidised food-grain should be provided to all those people who are living below poverty line. Similarly, electricity connection should also be provided to them for lighting a bulb. We welcome the step taken by the Government to increase the pension of freedom fighters.

13.00 hrs.

But even after so many years, a number of cases are still lying pending and have not been settled till date. They should be settled. The Government has made a separate list of the freedom fighters for the Centre and the States. A uniform pattern of pension should be adopted for them. Attention should also be paid to grant pension to the destitutes.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the problem of drinking water. We feel that there has been good rains this year in our country and therefore everything will go smooth but I would like to submit that there are many such parts of our country where you will find that the level of water is not as high as it should have been and such places are going to

[Shri K.N. Pradhan]

face problem during the ensuing summer. I can say especially about Madhya Pradesh that the problem of water will arise there and if attention is not paid towards it now, people will face great hardships.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of Muslims in our country is much higher than it is in some of the Muslim countries. The highest aspiration in the life of a Muslim is to go for *haj* but no one is prepared to pay attention to the problems of the haj pilgrims. They reach jedah by special flight of Air India but for this they have to first go to Delhi or Bombay and stay there for 15-20 days. They have to incur heavy expenditure on food, boarding-lodging and travelling. Therefore, arrangements should be made in such a way that all their official formalities of forms etc. are completed in their State Capital itself. Further after travelling by Indian Air-lines, they should get a connected flight in Delhi and Bombay to enable them to perform further journey. I feel that the Government should look into this.

I would now like to refer to Bachawat Commission. The reports of this Commission which has been set up for the welfare of journalists should come at the earliest. It is only after this report is received that the question of implementing it will arise. My suggestion is that the advertisements should not be given to the newspapers unless they implements the recommendations of the Commission. Now-a-days, many newspaper owners are not giving bonus to their workers. My suggestion is that the Government should deduct a part of the money received through advertisements and arrange for providing old age pension to the working journalists. We have divided the newspapers into 2 parts. One is the big newspapers and the other is medium or small newspapers. Medium and small newspapers should also be separated so that the small newspapers may survive and their interests could be saved.

I would like to draw your attention towards D.A.V.P. There was a time when there used to be limit of 45 days during

which D.A.V.P. had to make payment but now no payment is made even upto 6 months. The Government should pay attention to this state of affair.

In the end, I would like to submit regarding the gas victims. A decision has already been taken in this respect. There should be a provision of periodical fixed deposit for the amount which has been received. We can get Rs. 20 lakh everyday in this manner with which we can help the people. The Supreme Court should expedite the work of formulating the scheme so that the arrangement may be made for the distribution of amount and the affected people may get relief.

With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble at 14.05 hours.

13.03 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: Now, I call Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. I feel satisfied and express our gratitude to the President for starting in detail the policies of Central Government, its achievements, and public

welfare programmes I would like to draw the attention of the House towards 2-3 points While on the one hand foreign policy, economic progress, accommodation, New Education Policy and technological assessment have been dealt with in detail but at the same time certain points have not been touched I would like to refer to the New Education Policy, which has been explained by the President very clearly However, there is one lacuna in it Funds and scientific know how are required for modern education and the Central Government has paid full attention to it But Sanskrit language which by virtue of mother of all Indian languages is needed for refinement of one's self and composition of ancient literature has been totally ignored I feel that there is a need of such change in the New Education Policy in which the position of Sanskrit may remain safe and secure because without Sanskrit, it will be difficult to know and protect the cultural heritage of our country

My second submission is that no mention of Indian languages has been made by our hon President in his concern expressed for the whole India Our Constitution makers entrusted the responsibility of the development of Hindi as national languages and other languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to the Indian Government but hon President has made no mention in his Address I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that if the policies of official language and other Indian languages will not be implemented properly then there is a possibility of heavy damage It seems impossible that in any independent country, its languages are ignored The opportunity to develop Indian talent cannot be made available fully unless attention is paid to the development of Indian languages

I find that today while Sanskrit language has been ignored in the Education Policy, at the same time, the attention which requires to be paid to other languages is also now being paid I may further state that the way Indian languages should be used with regard to education, Constitution and different fields of public relations is not being done. The policies which should be

adopted in this regard are not being adopted In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the fact that 3 reports have been presented by the Official Language Committee of the Parliament to the Central Government but they have not at all been mentioned in the Address This should have been done I find that it is getting difficult to secure appropriate place for the Indian languages Whether it is the Supreme Court High Court, District Court, or any other field, it is being observed that the Indian languages are not being given their due and they are rather being ignored

The status of English is being maintained which is of little value to the masses since they are unable to understand things through English medium But we are not so much vigilant as we ought to be and our attention is not drawn to that matter I want to say something on the Labour Policy When we want to increase productivity through modernisation of industry, we forget that the national industrial policy which was encouraged by the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and which is being pursued by hon Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the development of the workers, farmers and backward classes gets frustrated at one point Matters get complicated when we develop on the industrial policy and retrench labour in the name of modernisation Recently in my constituency, Kanpur, the Pandey award was implemented in central Government undertakings like NTC and BIC But labour protested against the Pandey Award by squatting on railway tracks and disrupting rail traffic for 5-6 days This caused inconvenience to the general public But we did the same thing for 5-6 days I request that while framing the industrial policy or increasing production capacity, the interests of labour should be kept in mind Otherwise it will become difficult to manage such affairs in a welfare state

Mills which are 100 years old or whose machinery cannot bear the required workload have not been modernised Machinery in Kanpur cannot handle as much work

[Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi]

load as its counter part in Bombay. When we resort to modernisation we must ensure that the Labour Policy is not detrimental to the interests of the labour. Industrial policy should not affect the livelihood of workers and evoke protests and demonstrations from the labour community. We tried to dissuade labourers from taking that stand. But we thought that their demands were justified. Labour would not be retrenched and employment would be provided to the needy. When we are in a position to provide gainful employment to labour we will see an increase in productivity and upliftment of the poor which is the slogan of hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi. To protect Indian languages we should not neglect Sanskrit, which is the mother language. With these words I express my support for the Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to thank the President for his Address to Parliament and for the references which have been made to particular subjects which deal with some of the subject that I deal with in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The last four years, since the Rajiv Gandhi Government took over, have seen many new programmes launched for the development of women and children as well as in the field of youth affairs and sports and I feel it is my duty to mention some of these in the House today. The allocations for women and child development went up from Rs. 256 crores in the Sixth Plan to Rs. 741 crores in the Seventh Plan giving us a great deal of scope for launching new schemes and programmes for women who were for long neglected in many spheres of the country's life. It is true that one of the amendments which have been moved by the hon. Members on the other

side—unfortunately they are not here today—is about the non-mention of the atrocities on women which are going on this country. I would like to begin by saying, if more figures are available, if more crimes are recorded and if more and more women are complaining and seeking legal remedies, it simply means that the laws have become more effective, that the awareness is growing and that women know that they have a right to protect and to be protected against atrocities. And I believe that this is one of the positive results of the steps which have been taken over the last few years. A number of measures were taken including amendments to the existing laws. The Equal Remuneration Act of 1976 was amended in order to prevent discrimination against women both at the time of recruitment and after recruitment as well. The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act was again amended to make the provision more stringent and also to extend the scope. The Dowry Prohibition Act was amended and new provisions for the onus of proof to be shifted to the families of the husband in dowry murders were introduced besides consequential amendments to the Criminal Law and the Evidence Act and so on. Regarding the Family Courts Act which was passed in 1984, we have been trying to chase with State Governments for implementation. But I am sorry to say that except for six States in the country today, the other States have not yet responded. We hope that all the States will respond because it is essentially their responsibility. We also passed the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act of 1986 to prevent the representation of women in the media and otherwise in a way derogatory to their Status. We set up two Commissions during the last four years. One was the National Expert Committee on Women prisoners under the chairmanship of Justice Krishna Iyer and the recommendations of this Committee are being implemented through different agencies who are involved. We have the report of the National Commission on self-employed women which was headed by Shrimati Ella Bhatt. It has made very valid recommendations which are in the process of study and will be imple-

mented as far as possible. This dealt essentially with the women in the unorganised sector are the most exploited class because of their being in vulnerable position. The National Committee on Women was re-constituted with the Prime Minister as its Chairman and has had two meetings already. We have brought into it women from different walks of life to advise on issues concerning women.

We have had a number of new programmes. One of them which was launched was the Women's development Corporations and I am glad to say that 11 States have already set up the Corporations and there are in the process of being set up. The outlays for this have been increased in yesterday's General Budget as well. What is important is that these Corporations are emphasising the developmental aspects of women's programmes which essentially are for funding of training and of new employment programmes as well as credit, marketing and other such supports to them.

The Centre gives 49% of the capital as matching grant for the 51% put in by the State Government. We have set up a Women's Division in the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development which has been doing very good work over the last 2 years. We are planning to build this up into the National Resource Centre for Women which will respond to a long-felt need for having a central point for studying women's programmes and putting in the necessary research and other inputs for policy planning on women's issues. We have expanded our programme of working women's hostels. As we had a great response to this programme and therefore we have a plan to set up 600 new hostels during this Plan period and we are confident that we will be able to achieve this target. Besides this, a scheme for short-stay home was also launched and we have today got 49 homes throughout the country to help women in distress.

A number of important administrative measures were taken. I would like to mention a few among them. First of all, the instruction have gone from the Department

of Personnel for posting of husband and wife together wherever possible, if both are working either in the public sector or in the Government. The second is making it compulsory to have a woman on all selection boards of Government and autonomous bodies.

The third is, to have the correct interpretation of the provisions of the Maternity Leave Rules and the other one is the programme of sensitizing the administrative officers, IAS, IPS and other officers. The sensitizing process in their training programme was introduced as implementation of policy depends essentially on the bureaucracy. This programme has been launched as a compulsory component of their training programmes. Besides this, we took initiatives for creating special cells in different Ministries to deal with women's programme and lay emphasis on implementation. We have now cells in 5 Ministries. We have also launched a programme for opening up creches in different Ministries. Government being the model employer, we wanted that the Ministries in Delhi should first respond to the needs of the women. Many of the Ministries have responded very favourably and started them. We have also launched a big programme of para legal training and legal literacy for women, knowing that unless women know their rights and are able to know the procedure for enforcement, all our legislations go waste. We have also introduced free legal aid and counselling centres, besides homes for women in distress. Educational and media campaigns for prevention of atrocities on women have been launched in a big way. Also the media is used with exhibitions, posters and TV and radio programmes. We are hoping that before long, we will be able to respond to a repeated demand for a commission of women's rights. This proposal is still under consideration and it is being studied in its different aspects.

The monitoring part of the programme for women is being looked after by our Department. 27 beneficiary-oriented programmes are being monitored irrespective of the Ministry which is implementing them, by our Department. We are hoping

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

that when the National Resource Centre comes, we will have a much better thrust in this field

The new education policy has given a certain impetus to education for equality which we believe is the starting point as far as the change of the status of women is concerned. The first announcement actually made by the Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1985 was free education for girls up to the high school level. All costs incurred by States Governments on women's education up to the high school are reimbursed by the Centre. Unfortunately, this is still lagging behind in the States and we hope that the State Governments will take advantage of this and see that more and more schools and facilities are made available for girls. We have also got a special cell in the Department of Education, to deal with the special problems of women's education. And a new thrust for vocational training and technical education for girls has been launched. We have 25 Centres for Women's Studies in the Universities now which are dealing with the special issues of sensitisation of the community as well as the issues of women students besides research and other inputs which they can help us with.

On the health side, we have noticed that the sex ratio has shown an improving trend from 930 females to a 1,000 males in 1971. We have reached 935 females to 1,000 males in 1981 in a decade. Life expectancy for women has risen from 31.7 years in 1951 to 51.2 years in 1981. This shows that the health component of women has been receiving special attention. Besides this, immunisation of women against tetanus and many other programmes are being launched by the Ministry of Health. We headed the SAARC Technical Committee on Women during the last three years. In fact, India was the first to head this Committee which was set up and we have had many useful and very satisfying programmes. One of them was the training programme which we offered to rural women in the SAARC countries which was organised at the Institute of Ru-

ral Management at Anand. We had a workshop on women in industry at Jaipur. We had the SAARC Conference on the female child. First it was said (by UNICEF since 1942) ever organised on the girl child in the Asian context and, as a follow-up of this exercises, and of the emphasis which was laid on improving the status of the girl child, I am glad to say that 1990 has been declared as the Year of Girl Child in the SAARC region by the Heads of Government Meeting in Islamabad recently.

We have presented a national perspective plan for women which has been very kindly mentioned by the President in his Address to Parliament. The plan aims at the concept of bringing women into the mainstream of development processes and not to be treated as a group outside the mainstream of development. Though initially there was a little hesitation from certain women's groups and there was criticism, I am glad to say that as a result of many consultations we have had at over 10-12 seminars in the last two months in the different regions of the country, a unanimous acceptance and appreciation of the plan has now come forth and the plan is before a Committee of the Cabinet and we are hopeful that before long, many of these programmes will be approved for implementation, and, once done, I am confident that it will have a tremendous impact on the status of women and their participation in the national life.

On the side of child development, I am glad to say that the Integrated Child Development Service which we handle was started with 33 projects in 1975-76. It was launched by the late Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi as the nation's first initiative for the care and special attention to the pre-school child in the 0-6 age group. This programme from 33 blocks in 1975 had reached 1030 blocks in 1985. I am glad to say that because of the personal interest and commitment of the Prime Minister to this programme and the special allotments which are repeatedly made for its expansion in the course of the last four years, we have been able to reach 1,736 blocks. We have added almost 700 blocks in the course of the three years. It is a tremen-

dous expansion and I am glad to say that the Budget this time has given us an increased allotment for expanding this programme.

I can only hope that before long it will really become a programme that will cover every Block in the country. It deals with immunisation, with Pre-School activity, with Special Nutrition as well as the care of the pregnant and nursing mothers. Today, we have got 1,45,380 Anganwadis. All of them are managed by women. This is also a field which is providing employment for rural women.

Besides this, the Early Childhood Care Programme was transferred to our Department from the department of Education. I am glad to say that from 1023 Centres when it was transferred to us just in 1987, we have already been able to establish 4300 Centres. This programme also provide a certain supportive mechanism to the older girl. These Centres attached essentially to primary and middle schools provide atleast some place where the girl can leave the younger children, go to school and have these younger brothers and sisters looked after in the Early Childhood Care centres. These have become extremely popular particularly in the educationally backward States of the country.

At the initiative of the Prime Minister, we introduced, in 1986, a Special Wheat-based Supplementary Nutrition Programme for children in the drought-prone and tribal areas. I am glad to say that from the allocation of 40 lakh m. tonnes of wheat which was released in 1986, we have reached a level of 100 lakh m. tonnes in the year 1989. It is a great boost for the nutrition programme of the children in the areas where nutrition has been a great problem. During the drought season, we expanded the nutrition programme in a big way in the last two years for which a special allowance of Rs. 55.51 crores was made to the States for expanding the programme for the nutrition for children. We have been visiting some of these centres. It is admitted that because of this programme which was launched so efficiently through voluntary

groups and the State Governments a lot of children were looked after during the very serious drought situation which we had experienced in the last two years.

Sir, the President has referred particularly to the role of youth in the future years. He had spoken about the need to involve them also. The Department of Youth Affairs again received a great deal of impetus in its work and our outlays which stood at Rs. 13 crores in the Sixth Plan was raised to Rs. 100 crores in the Seventh Plan. During the last few years a number of programmes and initiatives have been taken. I am glad to say that to mark the 40th year of our Independence last year, the National Youth Policy was finally formulated and has already been presented to Parliament. I hope that it will be discussed before long to be approved. We have also set up a National in Youth Advisory Committee bringing in voluntary groups, representatives of the States, Youth Organisations and others in order to advise us on the content of the programmes. The Youth Festival which had been abandoned in the 1960s was restored in 1985 and it has become one of the most popular programmes. Annually, it brings students from different universities together for the Youth Festival on cultural and other activities.

Sir, we have also got the Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathans. It has now been made an autonomous organisation. When we took over in 1985, there were 196 Kendras in the country i.e. in 196 Districts. We have to-day reached the level of 357 Kendras, by 1989. We have made a commitment/that during the Nehru Centenary Year, as our part of the celebration, every District in the country would have one Nehru Yuvak Kendra. The programme is being expanded. We are registering the Nehru Yuvak Cooperative which will help provide finance and other support for self-employed youth under our programmes in the rural side and marketing and other outlets for their produce are will be made available. We have also got through the adventure programmes. We have got rural sports activities and a Nehru Trail in the Himalayas for trekking and the activities are becoming

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extremely popular I am glad to say that during the drought, the Yuvak Kendras in Punjab were able to collect huge amount of fodder which they took to Rajasthan for distribution through the Yuvak Kendras in Rajasthan as a mark of solidarity with the drought affected youth of that state

The National Service Scheme also has been expanded since 1985 We are planning to reach ten lakh NSS volunteers by the end of this Plan Today we stand at 9.72 lakhs, which is almost three and a half lakh increase since 1985 NSS Integration Camps and Work Camps and others have been expanded One of the most successful experiments has been the Joint Integration Camp between the NYKs and the NSS bringing the university and the rural youth together to bridge the gap which has existed for long between the urban and the rural youth We have also got a programme of youth hostels which has been expanded very much We had 18 hostels in 1985 We have sanctioned 38 more during the last four years and hope to have another 12 reaching 50 for the Plan period

We introduced in 1985 National Youth Awards for the first time for rewarding outstanding work among the young people in the country One organisation every year also gets a grant of Rs 1.00 lakh for the best work done in the field of youth development

We have tried very much to get the youth involved in a big way Now with the voting age coming down to 18 and the youth having to play a very important role in decision making and also on the political side, I do feel that much more emphasis would have to be laid on getting them involved in our political and democratic processes But perhaps, the greatest problem has been unemployment I am glad that in the Budget, under the new scheme of providing employment opportunities to rural youth will be provided necessary impetus and incentives for them to be involved

A number of debates have taken place on sports in the House and I do not want

to go into very many details except to say that from one centre over the last 25 years at Patiala, since 1986 we have been able to create six regional centres all over the country which has been in response to the great need that was felt for many more training facilities These six are at Bangalore, Imphal and we have had one in Calcutta, we have got one coming up at Shimla Besides that we also have them ready at Gandhinagar and Delhi These have all been made operational over the last two years

As far as grants to States are concerned, from Rs 3 crores in the Sixth Plan, they have gone up to Rs 60 crores in the Seventh Plan for creation of infrastructure in the States Artificial surfaces and synthetic tracks are also being laid in the different States and in the different regions We have got three artificial hockey surfaces laid in the last two years and three are in the process of being laid

We have launched two important programmes There was a great deal of criticism that we were not starting young as far as training is concerned Therefore, the National Sports Talent Competition Scheme was launched for under-twelve under which more than 1,200 children are now in specially adopted schools, sixty of them We are providing specialised training to these children

As far as other programmes are concerned, that is there is the Special Area Games Programme in this, talent from undiscovered areas of the past are being detected and put into special hostels for training

We have today got 12 sports hostels in different parts of the country where we are providing all the running costs if the State provides us with the building We introduced the Dronacharya awards for coaches in 1985 for the out-standing coaches of the country and the award has gone up from Rs 20000 to Rs 40000 now When Arjuna awards for outstanding sports persons were introduced in 1961 it had only Rs 5000 cash prize It has been raised to Rs 20000 with effect from this year

We have had protocols signed with a number of countries in the field of sports on the side of youth affairs and sports. Perhaps more and more cooperation would be necessary. I wish to say a word of special thanks to the Soviet Union for all the help that we have been receiving particularly in our national centre of excellence at Bangalore.

There are two important things which the House perhaps would have to be involved with. Firstly our efforts in bringing sports on to the Concurrent List. There has been a demand that the Centre should play a much greater role in working out some systems as far as sports development is concerned. We have introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha in the last session. Yet the very persons who criticise it—unfortunately they are not here today—want everything done and they are hesitant to all of the Centre even to bring it on to the Concurrent List so that some kind of a role by the Centre would become legally possible.

The Anti-Apartheid Bill is already under discussion in the other House to give effect to the UN Convention to which we are signatories which calls for imposing certain restrictions on sporting contacts with countries and individuals practising apartheid.

I am glad to announce that the first Afro-Asian games ever will be hosted by India in 1991 in New Delhi. It has been allotted to us very recently. It will be much bigger than the Asian Games and next only to the Olympics. We hope that the country will be able by then to be prepared to host these games.

It is true that programmes and plans of the Government as far as the Ministry of HRD is concerned have been expanding. I have placed before the House some of the things that have been done. But unfortunately in the name of criticism—I am talking about my friends on the other side—there is generally a tendency to criticise and find fault and say that nothing is happening or nothing is being done. Given the constraints of finance and given all the other problems which we face in a country of this

size we have been able to move along very efficiently in the last four years.

There are perhaps unfortunately certain trends today where it is believed that in the name of democracy anything and everything can be said and done. And that the Government, simply because it is the Government, has to be prepared to listen and to accept every type of criticism.

I come from an Opposition ruled State where we have seen what democracy is and what is happening. I come from Karnataka where the Home Minister of Mr Ramakrishna Hegde's Government is today facing charges in a murder trial. His son is summoned before the court for criminal breach of trust. I have got here all the cuttings. Members of his own party in Karnataka are speaking about 125 land deals in which fourteen of his relatives are involved.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Madam

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA I am just saying what one talks. I am quoting paper reports.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER That is there, but you cannot make allegations.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA He is facing charges in a trial in the court. It is an open trial going on. It is nothing confidential. I am not making an allegation. I am just mentioning the facts of what is happening in the courts. Yet the impression that has been given over the years is that here are the clean set of people and everybody who sits on this side is not clean and their hands are not clean. What I am trying to say is that running a Government is a responsibility. But I think there is a tremendous responsibility also on the Opposition to play its role as the people have elected it to play the role of an Opposition.

Just character assassination and one point programme of maligning is not going to solve the problems either for the youth or for anybody else. The positive side has to be seen. Unfortunately it is only the

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negative side which gets focussed by the Opposition with the result that young people around the country are beginning to feel that the system itself cannot work or the system itself may not work.

I think, therefore, that as representatives of the people and as those who are involved or rather responsible for strengthening the system there is great need for us to strengthen our democratic institutions without which the democratic process cannot itself last. It is true that their voice must be heard but there must be a certain amount of responsibility in the statements which are made and the charges which are made and in all that is said because this does not give the impression that everybody sitting on the other side is really committed to what all of us want to achieve.

With these words, Sir, I once again thank the President for the references which he has made to the role of women and youth and, I hope, that the commitments which we have made as a government would be totally fulfilled by the end of this year.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN (Tiruchendur): Sir, I am rising in this august House to support the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. Mentioning Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's centenary celebrations, President has touched all measures taken by the Government to uplift India in all fields. The Government under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has gone in the right direction and on the right path.

Sir, internally during the last two years we have faced unprecedented drought. Prime Minister has taken special care to drive away the drought from the country. I am proud to say that no Prime Minister in the Indian history like our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has travelled such a long distance, visited nook and corner of the typical villages, seen their living conditions and consoled them. When he came to my area he did not take lunch but

wanted to see the drought prone area and the drought affected people. I am proud that we have got such an affectionate Prime Minister.

As concern to the internal stability and security and due to sincere efforts made by our beloved Prime Minister we have achieved peace in the North-eastern area which was an insurgent area. In Mizoram eighteen years lads with sophisticated weapons fought against our Government and shot down our top officials. The insurgent leader Shri Laldenga was called from London to negotiate and a settlement was arrived at. The Congress Chief Minister was asked to step down in Mizoram and Shri Laldenga was offered the Chief Ministership. So Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi preferred national unity rather than his own party. In the same way in Mizoram in the recent elections Congress had handsome victory because of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's policies and principle. In Assam and Punjab also we have purchased peace at the cost of the Congress party. Shri Rajiv Gandhi gives priority to national unity at the cost of his own party.

He has solved Gorkhaland problem to maintain peace there. In Punjab also, 99 per cent of the people want peace. But a meagre section is indulging in violence at the instigation of our neighbouring countries. Militants are being trained by these neighbouring countries. So, I urge upon the Government to take strong action against the terrorists in Punjab.

In the international scene, India's position is very high. Our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, stands as the leader of the non-aligned nations in the world. He leads the Third World. After the historic Delhi summit, the power blocs—USA and USSR—came to a decision to abolish the nuclear weapons and other dangerous missiles. It is a great success to the efforts made by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

We are glad to know that this Government is pursuing the principles and policies of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Amma In-

dira to maintain the international relationship firmly without any diversion In the international scene, our achievements are marvellous We are the first country to recognise the Palestine and we have rendered all sorts of help to the PLO leader Mr Yasser Arafat who was struggling for a piece of land for his citizens Even though we stand hand by hand with USSR, on the Afghanistan issue, we persuaded the Government of Russia to withdraw their army from Afghanistan We are showing friendly hands towards Pakistan which has elected Mrs Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister in a democratic process of election After two and a half decades, our Prime Minister has visited China to seek her cooperation in all developmental aspects We want to maintain peace prosperity and development

In a crucial situation, by the prompt act of our Defence Forces, we have saved Maldives, a Muslim State, from the armed hooligans and allowed the democratic form of rule there

In Sri Lanka, the ethnic war continued for over 40 years Shri Rajiv Gandhi has made a sincere effort to solve the Tamils' problem in Sri Lanka He played a diplomatic role and forced Sri Lanka to come for a settlement for the Tamils After the peace agreement, all the claims of the militants, except for the separate Elam, have been solved and the Tamils have got their legitimate rights within the framework of Sri Lankan Constitution

Tamil State—North East Province—has been formed to the extent of one-third of the total territory of Sri Lanka As per the agreement, peaceful election was conducted and a Tamilian, Varadaraja Perumal was sworn in as Chief Minister of North East Provincial Council Tamil language is now accepted as official language of Sri Lankan Government

But for the Indo-Sri Lankan Pact, the enemy countries might have legged their base and threatened not only the Sri Lankan Tamils but also the Indian safety and security

15.00 hrs.

The IPKF is sacrificing their lives and maintain peace in the island Some people especially some DMK leaders who once demanded to send our Military Force to Sri Lanka now demanded to withdraw the IPKF Some DMK Secondary leaders and Speakers are abusing the Indian Army It will affect the morale of Indian Army So, I urge the Prime Minister to pass a Bill in the Parliament to enable the abuser of Indian Army being punished severely

I wish to ask Mr Karunanidhi that what is the stand on Sri Lanka Tamils?

If we withdraw our IPKF, what will be the repercussion? Will Karunanidhi be able to save the Tamils from the Singala Militants and JVP Militants? After a calm situation we can withdraw the IPKF from Sri Lanka Before sending IPKF every day we could read in newspapers that so many Tamils were killed, Tamilian shops were robbed and Tamil girls were raped After the deployment of IPKF, can we read a single news of any Tamilian attacked by Singalas? I thank the IPKF for their wonderful service they are rendering in Sri Lanka

Mr Karunanidhi is changing his stand on Sri Lanka Once the same Mr Karunanidhi handed over Mr Kuttimani and other Militant Tamil Leaders to Sri Lanka Government Once he disowned the LTTE Leader Prabakaran and called him ** now praised Prabakaran as Mighty son of Tamil Mother

Before the election he criticised the Union Government's stands on Sri Lankan Issue After becoming the Chief Minister, his approach has changed But to what extent? I am informed that one leading DMK MP has been sent to Sri Lanka to meet LTTE Leader Prabakaran But the DMK Party Secretary, Mr Anbalagan told the Press that the MP visit is personal He did not get permission from the DMK High Command I wish to ask one question Did the DMK Party take any disciplinary action

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair

[Shri R. Dhanuskodi Athithan]

against the MP who has gone to Sri Lanka to meet the militants without the knowledge of DMK, Supreme? I ask Mr. Karunanidhi not to play drama. The people are very clever. He cannot cheat them. The External Affairs Ministry denied of issuing visa to the MP. So, what will be the punishment for a law Maker who becomes a
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In Tamil Nadu, the one year Governor Regime made excellent performance to tone up the administration and erase corruption. It has taken steps to eradicate the illicit arrack and enhance the college teacher's salaries to the UGC scale. The one year Governor Regime is the golden rule for the Tamils. So, many sick units got revived. The tax on IMFD was increased and the income of the Marketing Corporation enhanced sizeably. From that income only, Governor announced various concessions on Taxation to promote industrial development. In Governor Rule, two long pending—20 years pending Reservoir Projects in my Constituency Namliyar and Poigaiyar Schemes were sanctioned with Rs. 10 lakhs financial allotment. Indeed it is really an achievement.

In Governor rule, all mistakes of the previous Government including the arrack scandal were found, checked and rectified without tarnishing MGR's image who was ill for four years before his demise.

But Mr. Karunanidhi expected that the Janaki group might merge with DMK. On contrary to his wish, this group merged with Jayalalitha group and he wanted to tarnish his friend MGR's image. He exposed the arrack scandal done in MGR's rule as he himself found it. Governor rule already enhanced revenue from the IMFL sales. Mr. Karunanidhi's action is like a man to beat the dead snake. The Governor rule enhanced the college teachers' salaries, but Karunanidhi's Government made propaganda as if their DMK Government enhanced the college teachers' salaries. Like-

wise in all aspects, Mr. Karunanidhi wants the name.

In Panchayat Raj also, our Prime Minister wanted to amend the Constitution to give more powers to the Panchayat. Knowing that, Karunanidhi now has given some powers to the Panchayat Unions. Earlier, during DMK rule, they were responsible to take away the powers from the Panchayat unions. So, the same DMK Government knowing Congress Government's idea to amend the Constitution now gave some powers to the Panchayat Union. The same Mr. Karunanidhi for a political stunt told that the exchequer is empty and the granary is empty. The same mimicry was tuned up by their leader when DMK came to power in 1967. It is nothing new; instead of praising Governor's rule, he wanted to criticise its functioning.

In Tamil Nadu, no doubt, the people are found of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his leadership. DMK got only 33 per cent of total votes polled in Tamil Nadu elections. If Mr. Karunanidhi told the people that DMK's success is national front's success, the people would not have voted for DMK. More than 65 per cent people voted against DMK. In these 33 per cent votes, 10 per cent false votes are also included. In so many constituencies, the DMK men systematically organised for false voting. In all the booths they had deputed some volunteers for the false votes. At some places, both capturing was made and the weaker sections of the community could not vote. Their votes were cast by DMK goondas.

So, I urge upon the Government to be cautious and give photo identity cards to all voters for the ensuring parliamentary elections. During elections, Mr. Karunanidhi did not mention about the national front. But after the elections, when he was at Delhi as Chief Minister, he told the press that his party's victory is national front's victory.

Before elections, a number of national front leaders went to Madras for negotia-

tions in connection with seats, and they got only ten seats Mr Karunanidhi is a diplomatic man he now thinks of the ensuing parliamentary elections He is sure of the defeat in Tamil Nadu in the ensuing parliamentary elections He can easily make the same reply after the defeat of his party in the parliamentary elections in Tamil Nadu He will say "It is the national front's defeat" After the elections also, in so many places, DMK indulged in vandalism and violence in so many areas

In Tuticorin the Congress candidate was under threat The Congress people were assaulted Not only Congress, many places the ADMK members were also assaulted and even murdered by the DMK men So, I urge upon the Home Minister to direct suitable instruction to the Home Secretary to maintain law and order in Tamil Nadu and assure the public to give protection to their life and property

Sir, I wish to suggest some important schemes which are long pending The Sethu Samudram Scheme which shortens sea route and at the same time gives vital strength to our Navy in Southern most area, should be implemented Likewise the proposed Airport at Vagaikulam should be speeded up for its early completion Then we have a Ganga-Cauvery Link scheme

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER I will go through your speech to see if there are any objectionable remarks

Shri Vir Sen

Translation]

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja) Mr Deputy-Speaker Sir, this is the Jawaharlal Nehru birth centenary year This finds mention on the second para of the Presidential Address One of the fundamental pillars in our national structure is that of democracy Jawaharlal Nehru erected that pillar and we accepted it as the basis for our Constitution But I see a danger to democracy in our country Democracy is based on the

ballot and in the present-day election scenario we see the dominance of the bullet over the ballot Recently elections to the Panchayats, Gram Sabhas and blocks were held in Uttar Pradesh People who were victorious in these elections were those who had been convicted for heinous crimes Voting rights of the weaker sections have almost become non-existent In my 40 years of political life I saw this happening for the first time in 1952, when this process started, particularly in Chaprauli where the poor are not allowed to exercise their right to vote In many areas it has become difficult for the people to cast their votes Governments have been formed by using bullets and muscle power As long as the present Government of Haryana stays in power it will not be possible for the poor to cast their votes In the Fardabad bye-election poor people living in villages complained that they were not allowed to vote Can we call this a democracy? If such practices continue democracy in this country will remain only in name The country's reins will be taken over by people who win elections by using money or muscle power.

15.15hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

We need to pay attention to this warning, find a solution to this problem The question of Electoral reforms has been much debated People who feel that issuing identity-cards will solve the problem are under a wrong impression Any one person can present identity-cards of 15-20 people and cast their votes Just as these days when one man casts votes for 15-20 persons This will make the problem more complex in future If arrangements are made at polling stations to take photographs of people who come to vote then there will be proof of the genuineness of voters If a person makes repeated visits for voting he can be arrested for impersonation The cost of such an arrangement will naturally come high, yet it is essential to keep the democratic structure of the nation alive

[Shri Vir Sen]

Mr. Chairman Sir, recently elections to Zila Parishads, Block Heads and Gram Pradhans were held in my constituency. Each candidate for the post of Gram Pradhan spent about Rs. 1.5 lakhs while candidates for the posts of Chairman of the board and the President Zila Parishad incurred several lakh rupees. If power is transferred to the hands of people who win elections using black money, we can understand that the days of troubles are there in near future. The next elections may see the dominance of people who win elections through money or muscle power relegating us, the democratically elected representatives, to the background.

This august House has witnessed discussions regarding women many a time. Hon. President has also referred the issue of women's equality in his Address. If we look to the statistics related to dowry deaths, we find no decrease in the number of such deaths despite strict laws. On the contrary, statistics with me indicate a daily increase in the rate of dowry deaths. Dowry alone accounts for nearly 1700 deaths in the country. Although we want to protect women but such cases are seldom taken to the Court. Barely 10% of the cases are admitted in Court, the rest being put under the wraps in connivance with the police. How can we think of women's equality in such a situation? Just now we heard the hon. Minister's long speech on the protection of women. According to my information women in this country do not get the respect that they deserve. Nobody can deny that even today women are treated as slaves. As has been said in our Shastras:-

"Nariyastu Yatra pujanya, vasante tatra devta". But women are beaten in homes and made to lead a life of slavery. Everyone knows that a wife is the cheapest servant one can get. How can we talk of giving respect to women in this situation? The only way to accord a respectful status to women is to give them economic independence. Until they get economic independence nothing can be achieved because they shall

be at the mercy of those on whom they are dependent. Giving speeches is very simple but it is not the solution to the problem.

There is a danger all around us. Although we welcome the restoration of democratic rule in Pakistan we should not forget that the military still has considerable clout in that country. It is wrong to conclude that there would be a shift in U.S. policy towards India because Mr. George Bush has replaced Mr. Ronald Reagan. During Mr. Regan's time, the C.I.A. made covert attempts to topple Governments. Now the U.S.A. openly helps Panama, Nicaragua and Afghanistan by supplying arms to rebels in those countries. The same thing is happening in Libya. Governments which do not toe the U.S. line are toppled.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us remember the fact that Pakistan is making a bomb. We should note that they have missiles which can be directed towards Delhi. We welcome the on set of democratic rule in Pakistan. The father of the present Prime Minister of Pakistan had said that their country would keep fighting with India for a thousand years. He said "We playfully took Pakistan, now we will forcibly take Hindustan", China may be prepared to reach an agreement on trade but it does not want to discuss the border issue. These points should be kept in mind.

In the end I shall touch upon the sorry plight of people of Indian origin in Fiji. Fiji could become another South Africa. The hon. President has said that we should oppose the institutionalisation of discrimination. Only the pious phrases will not help. We should oppose discrimination wherever it exists in the world. The people living in Fiji are of Indian origin.

We should, better, adopt the policy of sanctions against Fiji as we have adopted in the case of South Africa and even advocate the same by other countries of the world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I intended to speak on various issues, but as time is short, I

would conclude just with one issue i.e Panchayat Raj which is being discussed extensively and our experience in this context is that if houses are proposed to be constructed in accordance with Government policy they will be built at places where they are not useful at all. So much so that even pavements are constructed in the areas where people of high caste reside while the areas where Harijans reside, are totally neglected in the same way, even the hand pumps are installed in the areas occupied by only high caste people. Harijan areas are deprived of even such facilities. So I would like to urge upon the Government to give equal importance to people of all classes at the time of formulating policy and implementing the same. Although rights have their importance but monitoring is also necessary to ensure that they are not misused. The Government should ensure that the plight of the people of scheduled castes is not made so miserable that their condition becomes worse than slaves.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude only with one sentence. Harijans are elected as Members in Gram Sabha at the time of the election of Panchayats and Block Pramukhs but not even a single Harijan member is elected as a Pradhan at district level. So the Government should look into this aspect as Harijans cannot be elected in unreserved constituencies. I would like to draw the attention of the Members who oppose the provision of reservation and also the Government to this problem.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) Mr Chairman, Sir, Harijans have become Deputy Chairman in 18 Zila Parishads in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI VIR SEN What is the use of become Deputy-Chairman. No Harijan has become chairman. What I mean to say is that these people can never occupy high positions without reservation facilities. The Government should hold direct elections, as one of the hon. Members had also demanded last time. With these words I support the Motion of Thanks.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah) Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the President's Address and also the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Gadgil.

The members of opposition are not present in the House and it appears that some members of our own party are playing their role. It is good for the opposition to play their role and it is also good to point out one's own shortcomings in the interest of the country. At the same time I differ with some of the points referred to by my friends. With regard to matters concerning women, it is necessary to understand that immediate results cannot be expected of measures taken by the Government. It is a long drawn process and we would be able to achieve the results of those programmes, which have been formulated, in due course. Respect of women varies from one family to the other. But I am sure that my hon. friend must be giving due respect to the women folk in his family. It is natural that everyone will have to change his attitude towards women in order to give respectable position to them in the society, and no Government can reform the society within a few days. It is possible to change the psyche and morale of the people through launching effective programmes. The programmes being implemented by our Government would bear results in due course.

Our hon. friend is quite senior and has been active in politics for the last forty years. He is fully aware of what politics used to be in British period. The Hon. President has also mentioned it in his Address. Issue of terrorism in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh has been highlighted in it. It is absolutely true that States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal were badly affected by feudalism. Its main reason was that the British rulers entered the country through West Bengal and the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were badly effected by landlordism. Many changes have taken place with in the last forty years. It would be unfair to say that only Bihar is the centre of terrorist activities. We are aware of the fact that feudalism had the maximum impact on the States

[Shri Manoj Pandey]

of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. But the programmes implemented by our Government in the last forty years have checked this trend. We always forget that along with one's gradual development, one automatically develops negative thinking also. We should not anticipate development only in positive sense, it includes negative aspects too. When a poor man becomes rich, his mode of thinking is not changed. It is changed in due course of time. The prevailing conditions in Bihar are its living example. I do not mean to say that it applies to Bihar only, it applies to other States as well, I am sorry to point out that. The British rule might have been the primary cause of terrorism in the State of Bihar as it has been indicated by the hon. President, but same is not the case with Andhra Pradesh.

Members of the opposition are not present in the House today. The State Government is chiefly responsible for encouraging feudalistic tendencies in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, if the programmes implemented by the State Government are evaluated, then it will become clear that...**....the Chief Minister himself is involved and the programmes...(Interruptions)....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No allegations against the Chief Minister. Not allowed. Don't record.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY: I am not referring to the Chief Minister I was just making a reference to his deeds. He.....**.....and it is revealed from the elections held that he enjoyed the support of a big power. The hon. President has also taken it seriously. If incidents of terrorism continue to take place in future also then

the Central Government would not sit silent and definitely take effective action.

Another important issue covered in it is agriculture. It is a well known fact that India is an agricultural country. Never before, so much attention has been paid in this field as it has been paid during the last ten years. It must be appreciated. We can prove this through the fact that we have succeeded in achieving the target of 3.6 per cent of growth rate, inspite of facing drought situation. The hon. President has also pointed out this feature in his Address. It is a great achievement in itself. We have also been able to increase our production of foodgrains to 166 million tonnes and it is likely to touch 170 million tonnes. The whole credit for this achievement goes to farmers and agricultural labour of the country.

Our programmes have been the major contributing factors in our achievements. The schemes for farmers envisaged in the last budget which are presently under operation by the Government have had their substantial impact on the record production of foodgrains. Even in future we will be able to show to the entire world that in the field of agriculture India stands amidst the advanced countries of the world.

Another major achievement of our Government under the leadership of hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been the development of science and technology. Our hon. Prime Minister has paid maximum attention towards this aspect. Today we talk of 'Embryo-Transfer Technology' and many other things which were inconceivable 10-15 years ago. We are thinking of ways to increase our cattle-population. Enriched cattle-population is always an asset to the farmer. We are well-aware that the prosperity of farmers embibes the well-bring of our country. By developing rural areas in any form we are, in effect, developing the country. The present Budget has many welcome provisions related to the development of rural areas.

What is sad about it is that whenever there is such a Budget we find a number of obstacles in our way. We have not been able to implement some of the programmes of last year's Budget. I would suggest that all the provisions made in the Central Budget should be evaluated in real terms at the state level and particularly at the district level. The 'Jaldhara' scheme was part of last year's Budget but this scheme has not been implemented at all places. It is so even in the case of the 'Kutir Jyoti' scheme which envisaged the provision of a single-point light connection for Harijans in their houses. Development blocks in my constituency are yet awaiting its implementation. What I mean to say is that the provisions made in the Central Budget have become meaningless if they are ineffective at the village, Panchayat and Block level. Implementation work should be expedited but there are many obstacles. My hon. learned friends who have spoken earlier, have pointed out that the Bureaucracy is reigning Supreme and because of it programmes originating at the Central level get lost in transit somewhere at the state Government level and those originating from the states get blocked at the district or block-headquarters, level. If these programmes do not reach the Panchayat level the very purpose of the budget is defeated.

Another important point which requires mention is that the efforts of hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi have paid rich dividends at the international level. But I regret to say that whenever it comes to the appreciation of our Army Jawans, the opposition keeps mum on it. This is a matter of great shame. Will all their national issues hon. Shri Ajay Mushran will agree with me that the objective of the Sri Lanka Accord is being realised in Sri Lanka. Till yesterday the opposition was interested more in finding fault with the Accord. Today with the restoration of democracy in Sri Lanka we can say that the action taken by our Government was most appropriate and we praise our Army Jawans. Lauding their dedication in his Address, the hon. President said that India is capable of exercising its entire might in upholding the ideals of democracy anywhere. Hon.

Members of the Opposition are not present here otherwise we could have heard their views or reaction on it. The Opposition should have praised this step but they have not done it.

A massive campaign has been launched against drug-abuse which is most praiseworthy. It is having a positive effect particularly in metropolitan cities. But the number of de-addiction clinics opened for this purpose is not adequate. As more drug-abusers are turning to de-addiction clinics, more of such clinics need to be opened and existing ones to be strengthened in terms of their efficacy. I would like to request you to have a separate discussion on drug-abuse.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks, moved by Gadgilji and supported by Bhatiaji, on the President's Address to Parliament.

From 1965 the soldier has come to the attention of the people's representatives and the people at large. I would like to concentrate only on two points, the slogan which was given by the late Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, "Jai Jawan — Jai Kisan". Today we talk of the 'Jai Kisan' which is the order of the day and the necessity of the day. But we seem to be forgetting the Jai Jawan part of it. In the last five years, I must have heard right from the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister, the Finance Minister and practically all the Members of this august House showering praises on the soldier, his dedication to duty and his sacrifices for safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of the country. But that is all about that. We, in the last thirty years, have not been able to really look after the soldiers or the ex-servicemen in spite of convinced praises which have been showered by all sections of the House and each Member of the Cabinet.

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

As you know Sir, there are about forty to fifty lakh ex-servicemen in the country and every year fifty-five to sixty thousand servicemen retire from the services. They retire at comparatively younger age and their rehabilitation and resettlement is a problem, which is being looked after to a very little extent by the Directorate General of Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence. But today only one demand of ex-servicemen is assuming economic and political dimension of a very grave nature. There are various political parties, who are exploiting the ex-servicemen on this issue and that is, 'same rank same pension' or what we call 'one rank one pension'. As you are aware, at the moment there are three scales of pension authorised to an ex-serviceman. Over the years, the revision has been done three times. A soldier who retires today gets a pension which is about ten times more than a soldier who retired before 1962. A soldier who retired before 1947 is in absolute dire strait so far as his livelihood is concerned. This demand was projected to the hon. Prime Minister signed by one hundred MPs to have a serious look at this matter. I was glad to understand from the hon. Prime Minister that he agrees and approves in principle that everybody who retires after assumption of a rank irrespective of the year of retirement, should get the same pension but because of paucity of funds, it has not been possible. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) It is to be raised from time to time according to the rise in prices. There must be some understanding about it.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN After every Pay Commission, the pensions were revised. But the cut-off dates for the authorisation of those revised scales was such that the person who retired before 1947, before 1963 and before 1981, does not get that much pension which an ex-serviceman who retires today gets. That is the main problem. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. N. G. RANGA Therefore you suggest that it should be raised from time

to time in accordance with the rise in prices, once in every ten years or something like that.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN I am coming to that. I will give an example. The pension which a Captain gets today is the pension which a Major General got if he retired in 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950 and so on and so forth. The pension which is given to a retired Subedar Major today is the pension which the Brigadier got in the older days. Those who are destined to live longer but retired earlier are getting a pension which is not worth the same. So, my demand, the demand of the ex-servicemen, is that the principle of 'same rank same pension' should be adopted. The Supreme Court was moved on this matter and the Supreme Court gave, I should say, half decision in our favour. Another application for revision is pending in the Supreme Court.

My request to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister, who was also speaking in glorious terms yesterday so far as soldiers are concerned, should seriously review the situation because now it is assuming political dimension. The opposition parties have openly advocated to the ex-servicemen—I would not call it revolt - to resort to strikes, dharnas and public agitational demonstration. You can well imagine that when such a disciplined body takes to streets, it does not augur well for the law and order of the country. It is high time that the Government takes a serious view. We have got the Indian Ex-Servicemen League, which is supposed to be a non-political body. Because of the intervention of a political party—I will not name it—it has totally politicalised this body. Recently they have circulated a questionnaire to every member implying that the people should take to streets. My submission is that instead of waiting for the Supreme Court judgement, the Government should consider and take credit for looking after these ex-servicemen. After all, those people who are getting the older scales of pension are very few. They are of advanced age who are not going to live longer. If at all, the pressure on the exchequer is going to minimise over the years. But we should not allow it become a matter of law and order or a

matter of political gains and pressures I am fully confident that so far as this House is concerned, it has always spoken and supported the cause of the ex-servicemen. But this one single factor of not paying the same scales of pension to the same ranks of ex-servicemen is going to assume serious proportions in times to come. I am very sure that as mentioned even by our President, the services rendered by the servicemen will be kept in mind. It is a matter of great pride for the country that the freedom fighters pension has been raised to Rs 750. If freedom fighters are given this raised pension, I think, people who hold the freedom and defend the freedom, should also be considered to be given their due. The Supreme Court judges for their own pension came out with a judgement that all judges irrespective of the date of their retirement will get the most latest revised pension, but this case will not be treated as a precedent for all other sections of society. Now what decision the Supreme Court gives in the case of ex-servicemen is a different judicial matter. So far as Government is concerned, it must rise to the occasion and give the due to the ex-servicemen.

In the end, I want to say something about *jai kisan*. Every odd session there is a rumour floated that the agricultural income is going to be taxed. I know, Government has no intention of doing it. But in categorical terms the Government, the Agriculture Minister or the Finance Minister, in his reply in the Budget debate, must scotch these rumours and must come out with a firm declaration that there is no question of taxing the agricultural income.

The development of urban areas has resulted in acquisition of agricultural lands of surrounding villages. These lands are being taken at a much lower rate, even lower than what an agriculturist gets if he sells his agricultural land as agricultural land. I personally feel that the Government must lay down a separate rate for acquiring the agricultural land of the surrounding villages for expansion of the urban development so that the agriculturist who is losing his land and his livelihood also, gets correct compensation.

With these words, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR (Kutch) Mr Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Address delivered by our learned and hon President.

Mr Chairman Sir, Today we are celebrating the birth centenary of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru who while following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi, won a place for our country amidst other nations of the world. Later the masses confided their trust in Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri but he could not last long with us. Then the people entrusted country's reins of power to Shrimati Indira Gandhi who carved a special place for herself in the hearts of the people. Misfortune befell us in the form of Shrimati Indira Gandhi's sudden and untimely demise. With it the mantle of managing the country fell on the young shoulders of our hon Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi who is working day and night and putting in his untiring efforts for the welfare of the masses. Although I am speaking on the President's Address I must express my appreciation on the Budget which was presented yesterday. Hon Shri Rajiv Gandhi has contributed a lot in the formulation of several ambitious schemes which have been included in the Budget.

Our country had to face the worst ever drought of the century and Gujarat reeled under drought for the fourth consecutive year. My constituency also was struck by drought but no difficulty was experienced on that account due to adequate supply of fodder and water for the cattle over there. Moreover, Hon Rajiv Gandhi visited my constituency twice and assured people of all possible help. For this the people of Gujarat, and those of the Kutch in particular, indebted to the Centre and hon Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The hon Prime Minister has suggested the use of satellite to keep a watch on the supply of water in my constituency. For this also we thank him. As there is no river in the area, farmers have been demanding tube-wells for

[Shrimati Usha Thakkar]

irrigation purposes. Similarly construction of Machhu Dam-II in the Kandla Complex is a must for the solution of the drinking water problem of this area.

On an earlier occasion Hon. Shri Shankaranand had stated that the approval of World Bank is being sought in this matter. The Gujarat Government has also agreed to it and I think that the approval of World Bank can be easily obtained since it is a drinking water scheme.

The President's Address also touches upon the problem of unemployment. Youngsters find it hard to seek employment which is making them a dismayed lot. I also welcome the Nehru-Employment Scheme for backward areas which has been included in the Budget. Kutch is a backward district. I would like to suggest that 70% of the employees in an industry or educational institution be it of the Central or the State Government or a private one, set-up in a backward district should be from that very district. During his visit the hon. Prime Minister had spoken of the expansion of education in border areas. Accordingly, a poly-technic has been set up there where 70% of the seats have been reserved for the local people. My constituency Kutch is the second largest district in India. Our hon. Prime Minister has laid down a policy which provides that a growth centre would be developed in every backward district of every state to make it an industrial district, for which the Central Government will provide assistance. I would like to request you to develop such a growth centre even in my constituency which is a backward area.

15.57hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The hon. Prime Minister has said that Panchayat Raj will help the country make progress. It will also be helpful in the upliftment of the down-trodden. Our hon. Prime Minister has gone around each and every village of the country which means that the down-trodden would be fully

benefitted by the Panchayat Raj. Recently he had convened a conference on Panchayat Raj. Only yesterday hon. Shri Vyasji was saying that he had been associated with the grass-root level from the very beginning and had also been a Sarpanch. I have also been a Sarpanch for 25 years. I extend my support for the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and conclude my speech.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. President in para-9 of his address has expressed a national resolve to stamp out terrorism from the country. I would like to express my hearty gratitude for this. To-day terrorism is posing a great danger to the unity of our country. This tendency can be checked with the co-operation of the people. It would have been more timely had the hon. President made a mention of one more tendency. Terrorism may pose a threat to the national integration and we may solve this problem with democratic means, but the tendency which has developed among the people of opposition, i.e., some how or the other, to malign and blame the national leadership and go along to the extent of character assassination is in no way less dangerous than terrorism. Sir, we can meet the challenges of terrorism by our political conventions and values, but the tendency adopted by our opposition leaders and the way they are trying to malign the political character of our national leadership is eating the very vitals of our democratic system.

16.00 hrs.

This tendency is in no way less dangerous than terrorism. In the year 1977, a party was born which was generally called the Janata Party by those people by misleading people and by spreading rumours about family planning. In the year 1989 also similar unfounded charges are being levelled by spreading false rumours among the people. This thing becomes clear when we find that the opposition is making efforts in this direction by taking up the Bofors and such other issues. It is a secondary issue that the political figures of the so-called Janata Dal do not themselves

know as to who is to lead them and on this issue they are lighting among themselves and it is hoped that it will die a pre-mature death. So, we are not to be worried about this. We and the parties believing in democracy are required to be vigilant against such tendencies. That is why I was going to submit that it would have been better had it been mentioned in President's Address. It is generally seen that as long as a person remains in the Congress Party or in the Council of Ministers, a lot of charges are levelled against him, but when he joins the opposition all his sins are washed away and he becomes clean. It pains me when I see this tendency among our journalist brethren. Till a person remains in Congress, efforts are made to malign him as a corrupt man. I would like to quote the instance of Shri Arun Nehru. As long as he remained in Congress efforts were made to call him the messiah of corruption. But when he joined the opposition he became a clean man. Similarly, as long as Shri Vidya Charan Shukla was in Congress, he was branded as the patron of emergency and a ghost of emergency. But the same ghost is being treated as a God in the opposition. The same is the case of Mafti Mohammed sayeed. As long as he was in Congress a lot of charges were levelled against him, but to-day in the opposition he is a clean man and a leader of good character. As long as Shri V P Singh remained in Congress it was said about him that he prepared a conservative Budget and he is pre-capitalist and a lot of other things. But now, when he joined the opposition, efforts are being made to make him a progressive leader. There is no need to go too far for this. Let the opposition review its own performance. It is not only the Congress and the Government but the people and the men in opposition also, should come forward to check this tendency. To-day there is no difference between Shri V P Singh ** The ways being adopted by Shri V P, Singh in the country and efforts, he is making to assassinate the character of political leaders, he is indulging in the same type things ** The press is trying to suppress it and play it

down. Just now hon Minister, Shrimati Margaret Alva made a mention of Karnataka she said that many charges have been levelled against Shri Hegde. Nobody is demanding an enquiry into these charges. Even Shri V P Singh does not say that these charges should be investigated. There are cases in the courts against the former Chief Minister of that State, but nobody is trying to disown him. Sitting in the Rajya Sabha, one of our colleagues is supporting the causes of Khalistan but nobody is trying to disown him. Structures were passed twice in the High Court against the Chief Minister of a State, but nobody raised a hue and cry against that. It is the moral of the Congress Party and Shri Rajiv Gandhi that a Chief Minister of the Congress stepped down from his office following a minor structure against him by the High Court though we are fully confident that he was innocent and his innocence could not be suspected. It is really a matter of regret that such basic values are missing in the people of opposition.

The hon President narrated the achievements of this Government in his address, for which I would like to express my thanks to him. Here, I would not like to compare Rajivji with Shri Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Both of them were great personalities and great leaders.

But I would definitely like to only say that if his Prime Ministership of 4 years is compared with the time of former Prime Ministers, it will be found that the achievements of Rajivji is no way less than the achievements of earlier Governments, rather equal. We may cite the case of Punjab Accord. Even if terrorism has yet not been wiped out of Punjab, but required dialogue and political process has started through that Accord. Prior to 1984 it never seemed that a political process could be started in Punjab at any time, but it was with the efforts of Rajivji, who initiated negotiation with Shri Longowal that a political process could be started there. I am confident that peace to a great extent will be es-

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair

[Shri Harish Rawat]

established in Punjab and political process will continue there again.

Let us take the example of Assam. Earlier it was just burning. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government established peace in Assam and get the political process started there also. Some people in Mizoram had turned rebels. They were brought to the mainstream. The Gorkhaland problem was posing a challenge before us and a time came when we expected a danger from them and became apprehensive that they might choose a wrong direction. To-day there is peace in Darjeeling. In the external front also, I can say confidently that the achievements of Rajiv Government are in no way less than any earlier Government, rather they are more. Let us view the SAARC issue. The role played by our army in Male to provide stability to the elected Government there is highly commendable. Our policy in respect of Sri Lanka and China is being acclaimed widely. That is why, the Government elected through democratic means in Pakistan wants friendship with us. Dialogue and political process with China was totally closed. Shri Rajiv Gandhi re-opened it again. I am confident that the border dispute with China will be solved in near future. There must be friendship between the two countries. We will march ahead in this direction.

I can say confidently that Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government has made remarkable achievements in the economic field. When our country confronted drought for two consecutive years it was apprehended that prices of various commodities will go up, people will suffer from scarcity of commodities. But, the Government took strong steps and did not allow anybody to be affected. Otherwise, a very serious situation would have arisen. Nobody was allowed to suffer. It was possible only with the economic policies of the Government which it adopted in the country from the very outset. We did not allow the food-grains production to suffer, rather it increased progressively. There has been no fall in the gross national productivity and

the rate of national growth, rather there has been an increase in these items. There has been a rise in the rate of agriculture production and industrial production. All these achievements are illustrative of the fact that Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government is also marching ahead and it is progressing on the path of development with firmness with the help of those very policies and ideologies which we have been following and which were set forth by Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Gandhi's Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the foremost need of the hour is to launch a programme for poverty eradication. The Government under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi have reiterated this resolve through the President's Address. I would like to extend my heartiest thanks to the hon. President and his Government.

Sir, I would also like to thank the Government for the proposal to launch a new employment scheme in the name of Pandit Nehru; as has been stated in the Budget presented in the House. I am sure that the effective measures being taken by the Government would bear positive results. The hon. President has concluded his Address with the following words: "so long as we remain true to these principles, true to our priorities and true to our goals, the new India will emerge from this transition and fulfil its destiny." I am also sure that we would succeed to fulfil our resolve under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. In the year 1984, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi stood silently before the funeral pyre of his mother, nobody had even dreamt that he would succeed in taking the country forward on the path of democracy, secularism and non-alignment with so much determination. Shri Rajiv Gandhi deserves appreciation for taking the nation forward by implementing the schemes formulated by Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Gandhi.

In the end, I would like to thank the Hon. President for his remarkable Address.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved on

the President's Address Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this year being Nehru's birth centenary year, it is really laudable for the Hon President to mention the contribution of Pandit Nehru in his Address. Pandit Nehru had formulated certain fundamental principles for the development and advancement of the nation and also for the alleviation of poverty. He chose socialism for the upliftment of poor and to provide employment. He wanted to build a strong nation. He established democratic set up, which guarantees equal rights to all. Democracy guarantees equal rights to all, whether one is poor or rich, Harijan or from a high caste, an officer or a lowly placed person. Besides, he adopted secularism which ensures equal respect to all religions and a equal treatment to all. But unfortunately, we have failed to benefit from secularism. The anarchaic situation prevailing in different parts of the country in the name of caste, language or regionalism is not good for the country. Fanatics are vitiating the atmosphere and causing harm to the feelings of brotherhood and are, thus, creating differences among the people. They are responsible for rendering the children orphans and women widows. All that is going on in the name of religion pose a serious threat to the nation. We shall have to review the basic principles, formulated by Pandit Nehru, in the present context and do some re-thinking. We shall have to ponder over the prevailing situation in the country as a whole and in Punjab in particular and put a question to ourselves as to where we are heading towards.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon Member who spoke prior to me and said that our Government has succeeded in solving numerous problems such as the problem of Assam, Terrorism in Mizoram and the Manipur problem. Many steps have been taken in Punjab too. But it would not be fair to claim that peace has been restored completely in that state. Daily we come across the headlines in the newspapers about the massacre of some families. A number of people are being hanged to death and innocent children are being killed brutally. Though the Government is determined to solve the problem

and is taking all possible measures in this regard, yet it has not been able to control the situation fully. The measures taken by the Government have no doubt yielded results but such results are not yet evident to the public. It has been asserted repeatedly in the House that a very small number of misguided elements is responsible for terrorist activities in the State. I would like to know who exactly are these people, as their number is increasing inspite of the fact that many have been killed and a large number of them have been put in jails. From which country are they getting assistance and who is harbouring them? The Government will have to take stringent measures in order to control the situation which has extremely deteriorated. The situation is very grim. The way the people are being subjected to brutality and mass murders, it is really a matter of great concern. It is time to take action. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this.

The Hon President has mentioned in his Address that the Prime Minister wants to vest more power in Panchayats in order to make them more powerful. I am highly thankful to the Hon Prime Minister for this. He wants to uplift the women particularly those living in rural areas who form 35 per cent of the total women force so that equal opportunities to progress could be made available to them and they could contribute in the development of the country. But we would not be able to strengthen the Panchayats merely by giving them powers. The Government will have to provide them financial assistance. The economic condition of the country cannot be strengthened unless we provide financial assistance to panchayats. We would not be able to accomplish the schemes meant for rural development without giving financial assistance to Panchayats and thus, their success cannot be ensured.

One of the previous speakers have already emphasised the need to protect the Panchayats from those anti-social elements who wield influence and control over them through muscle and money power. The Government will have to provide protection in contesting Panchayat elections to

[Shrimati Vidya Vati Chaturvedi]

the sincere people who are capable of assisting in the effective implementation of the Government policies can work towards development of the rural areas and establish healthy traditions

I am grateful to the Hon President for making reference to regional imbalance in his Address. Even after 40 years of independence, we cannot deny that some regions are still being subjected to gross regional imbalance. I would like to refer to my own constituency-Bundelkhand-in this regard. The Bundelkhand region forms part of small principalities and this area was devoid of any development activity. The prevailing conditions in those districts are same as they were forty years ago. Too much attention is paid for the development of certain areas, whereas the others which are already backward continue to be neglected completely. The Hon prime Minister has reiterated his resolve to remove the regional imbalance by taking effective measures and formulating good schemes. But it is a matter of regret that effective measures have not yet been taken in this regard.

The people of my constituency-Khajuraho—are extremely poor and most of them are unemployed. Not only this, this area has been a dacoit infested region. Innumerable people are migrating to Bombay, Delhi, Punjab and other States in search of employment. They are forced to migrate because neither there is any railway line in the area nor any irrigation facility. So much so that no industry has been set up there. Incentives should be given to industrialists to set up industry in that area. Though the Government have already provided a number of facilities and have promised to provide more, yet the industrialists hesitate to set up industries there in the absence of railway line.

My submission is that will those areas continue to suffer if industrialists do not come forward for setting up industrial units? Is it not the duty of our Government to pay attention to this matter? Our Government has been assuring all along to set up at least one heavy industry in every dis-

trict. But there are a number of districts where not even a single industrial unit has been set up so far. It is the duty of the Government to set up at least one heavy industrial unit at such places, in order to provide the means of livelihood to the people and facilitate development of the country. *(Interruptions)* Precious stones like diamond and emerald and metals like iron are found there. You will not be able to understand the importance of that area.

Khajuraho is a world famous tourist spot but no railway facility has been provided there. So much so that the area completely lacks facilities of communication. It is unfair on the part of the Government to treat that area in this manner. In spite of the fact that required money has been deposited by the residents, facility of telex has not yet been provided to them. Small places have been provided with the facility of STD, but not Khajuraho—the place which is a centre of attraction for the foreign and domestic tourists. These tourists have to face a number of inconveniences. It is really very inconvenient for a tourist to contact to Bombay and other big cities from Khajuraho. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Communications towards this problem.

It is essential to set up at least one heavy industry in every district in order to create employment avenues. Accordingly, the Government should prepare a blueprint for the purpose. Priority should be given to set up industrial units in backward and 'no industry districts'.

Once again, I support the Motion of Thanks and express my thanks to you.

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Before I call the next speaker I would like to inform the hon Members that we will be completing discussion on this subject today. Tomorrow most probably Prime Minister may reply. Therefore, those hon Members who want to speak may wait after the half-an-hour discussion is over.

Now Mr C P Thakur

SHRI C P THAKUR (Patna) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Gadgil on the Presidential Address

One of the leading newspapers has given two comments on this Address. It has said that this Address lacks the future direction of the Government, and, second it has praised the activities of the Government too much. On the first count, I say that para 51 and other paras of the Address say that this Government under our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, will make a better and brighter India in which the people of all castes and creeds will prosper and develop. On the second count I would like to say that during the last four years in spite of many challenges put by natural calamities as well as conspiracies by some foreign powers, our Prime Minister has done so much on the economic, domestic and the foreign fronts that this is a simple statement of facts and there is no exaggeration at all.

Sir, two important issues have been raised just now by an hon. Member of this House. He has said that democracy is dying in this country. I think it is not true. Democracy is maturing in this country. Secondly, he has said about the status of women. Regarding the status of women in this country, the Prime Minister has recently laid too much emphasis on improving the status of women. In our society also, women have been respected since long. One of our authors, Jai Shankar Prasad has said

Nari tu kewal shradha hai'

This has been our tradition. Our Prime Minister has pointed out in many meetings recently. It has also been enunciated by the Minister of State in the Departments of Youth Affairs and Sports and Women and Child Development that all efforts will be made to improve the status of women in this country.

If we survey the activities of the Government on the foreign front, I must say

that this Government has done an excellent job. What has been done by our Prime Minister? He has tried to restore democracy if it is attacked. He has tried to improve the functioning of certain neighbouring Governments, say, in Sri Lanka. Actually, Sri Lanka accord was one of the finest accords. If India would not have gone there, some big power would have come there. This would have threatened the security of our country. Therefore, it was an excellent work done by our Prime Minister. Then again, the action of the Government in Malé was that it has saved democracy in that country. The visit of our Prime Minister to China has bettered relations between the two big neighbours. Now, I think, the atmosphere of talk to settle all our long-standing disputes will be in a much better condition as shown by the recent utterances of the Chinese leaders when Mrs. Benazir Bhutto visited that country.

The visit of our Prime Minister to Pakistan also has bettered the relations between the two countries. I suggest that Government of India should also invite Mrs. Bhutto to visit India. At this time, the democratic Government of Pakistan also needs some encouragement from India. The attitude, as shown by our Prime Minister should continue towards Pakistan. It will encourage the democratic growth of that country.

On the economic front, this country has done extremely well. Many economists used to say that Indian economy is totally dependent on agriculture. In spite of drought, its economy has done well. That shows the resilience of Indian economy. By the process of modernisation, as adopted by our Prime Minister, the Indian economy has really reached the take-off stage. In some years to come, it will be able to compete with the economies of the most developed countries.

On terrorism, I can say that Rajiv Gandhi will be known in history as the Prime Minister of accords. He has tried to bring all the disgruntled people throughout the country into the national mainstream by the process of talks, reconciliation and

[Shri C. P. Thakur]

mutual understanding. He tried in Punjab; he tried in Mizoram; he tried in Nagaland; he tried with the Gorkhas and at other places. The Address also shows the resolve to solve the problem of Punjab. I must say here that the Punjab problem is a ticklish one. There should be a three-pronged attack on this issue. The first should be from the administrative side. The terrorism should be curbed by all means. Second should be a political one. All political parties, whether it is my party, Congress party or other parties, should try to solve this problem in their own way

Thirdly, there should be some approach to wean away those youths who are really misguided by others. This approach should also be adopted.

Now I come to Gram Panchayats. This is another area in which our Government, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, is going to introduce the third tier of Government. Our people are afraid that if the power is given to the gram panchayats, it will be misutilised. This is not the fact. I will give one good suggestion that all powers should not be with the District Magistrate. He is such a busy person and thus should not be over-burdened with work. Therefore, there should be a separate officer either equivalent to the District Magistrate or senior to him to deal with the gram panchayats.

As Bihar is mentioned in the Report, I will fail in my duty if I do not say a few words about this State. Now Bihar has become politically, economically sick and as any sick person needs treatment, Bihar also needs treatment. This should be in the form of massive dose of economic inputs. When India became independent, the per-capita income of Bihar was third or fourth in the country. Now it is the lowest in the list. Therefore, the second largest State needs the pointed attention of the Government. Unless a major economic input is made for this State, I think, it would not recover from its economic backwardness.

There is a mention about development of extremism in Bihar. We held a seminar and we met people who were extremist and who then gave it up. This extremism is a socio-economic issue. I suggest for the removal of regional imbalance. There should be a separate cell in the Department of Finance or any other department to monitor the growth of a particular area and if there is any deficiency, they should try to remove the same.

There are other problems in Bihar which have been raised many times by many hon. Members and I would like to repeat them again. One of them is the renovation of Sone Canal which is the oldest canal in the country and which has worked for 110 years. Now because of its damages and breaches, it is not able to supply enough water to five districts of Bihar. And because of this, there was drought this year in these districts and millions of people suffered as a result of this. Therefore, I urgently request, through you, that the State Government alongwith the Central Government should take up the scheme which has been worked out by the World Bank also.

Secondly, one of the western philosophers said that if you want to solve the problem of society, take care of education. Bihar needs that at least one university of Bihar should be made a central university. Patna University being the oldest University, should be made the central University.

Regarding connection between the North and South Bihar, long back a survey was done that there should be a rail bridge on the Ganges and so far this has not been done. This has been raised by many Members and now I earnestly request the Ministry of Railways, through you, that this rail bridge on the Ganges be taken up in the right earnest.

There are many big industries which have become sick in Bihar. This needs pointed attention of the Government. A few such industries are Rohtas Industries, Phulwari Cotton Mill and Ashok Paper Mill. There is already dearth of industries in Bi-

har and whatever industries are there, most of them have become sick. As I said, they need pointed attention of the Government.

With these few words, I conclude and support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S BUTA SINGH) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am disappointed to see the benches lying vacant on the other side. Democracy is functioning in our country in the real sense of the word. There are certain traditions of democracy and according to them both the Ruling Party as well as the Opposition Party have a responsibility. But there are certain basic principles like the unity of the country, dedication for the country on which there is no difference of opinion, irrespective of the Party which is in power, because this concerns the very existence of the country. We are fortunate in being imparted those principles by the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. By following those principles, we not only achieved independence and worked for nation building but guided the neglected people, neglected sections and neglected countries. These are some issues on which there can never be a difference of opinion and we should cut across party line in these matters. The point on which the leaders of the Opposition Parties have taken offence, is one such issue which involves the unity and integrity of our country. All the parties should along with the citizens of our country, fight against terrorism which disintegrates the country, no matter whether it is in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar or any where else, in order to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. This was the reason why our Hon. Prime Minister made an appeal in this House in the name of unity and integrity and asked everyone to unite and launch a *Jehad* against secessionist forces, terrorist forces and separatist forces. If there is some discussion, debate, difference of opinion on this subject today, then it is not appropriate. If democracy, and unity and integrity are to be main-

tained in our country then there can not be any difference of opinion on this subject.

It is only when we work for the unity that our country can progress. Moreover the two pillars of the democracy are suggestion and negotiation, through which we have to solve the problems of the people. Therefore, both the Opposition and the Ruling Party have a duty to perform in this regard. They are like two wheels of a carriage and democracy can progress only when both of them run simultaneously. An Urdu poet has said

Chaman main ikhtlafa rango bu se banti hai

Tumhi tum ho to kay tum ho, hum hi hum hein to kya hum hain

Our country is known for having unity in diversity. In spite of diverse ideologies, we strengthen our country. This is the secret of our country and its unity, strength and integrity.

While the President Address is an important occasion in our democratic system, it is also an extremely serious and important message for the country. It is not simply a formality. It has a message and an inspiration for all the citizens as well as whole of the country. We get an opportunity to see our past in retrospect, analyse our present and move towards the future. These three aspects are a part of the President's Address whenever he addresses the hon. Members of both the Houses of Parliament together. The Hon. President has obliged us by delivering his Address to the Parliament. These three aspects have been highlighted in it. In his brief Address, the Hon. President has thrown light on these three aspects. It has created zeal and a hope in our countrymen. The President's Address has made a survey, an analysis of the performance of our Government during the past 4 years. He has mentioned them in very clear terms.

First of all I would like to submit about the two misunderstandings which have created through the press and which have also been discussed by some hon. Mem-

[S Buta Singh]

bers in the House Shri Dighe and Shri Dinesh Goswami submitted that the Hon President has said a few sentences which are not clear They expressed some doubt on it The first one is on paragraph 4 of page one -

[English]

As we enter the final year of this Parliament, we can look back with satisfaction to 4 years of constructive endeavour'

[Translation]

It is clear that this Parliament means Lok Sabha This will be the last Budget session of this Lok Sabha A new Lok Sabha will be elected for the next Budget Session As per the provisions of our Constitution, this will be the last Budget Session of this House Though I am not good at English but I do understand that this will be the last Budget Session of the present Lok Sabha

Similarly, Shri Sharad Dighe has drawn attention to as paragraph 30 wherein it has been stated

[English]

'National Housing Policy has been passed

[Translation]

This policy has already been passed in the Rajya Sabha I think that it will be passed in this House in this Session Thus there was a minor misunderstanding at these two points I feel that it will be removed through this clarification

National Housing Policy is about the efforts which are being made for the weaker sections of the society That is a highly appreciable step taken by the Central Government That policy will be passed in this House as well There are many issues in it on which I will express my views in a short while from now That will prove what all steps has the Government taken

for the poor, the neglected sections, tribals backward people, farmers and especially the women and the youth A detailed description of it is found here

Many hon Members have raised points in their speeches and I would try to reply to all of them, one by one I would like to express my views on the challenges that the country is facing today The biggest challenge is that a new kind of opinion is being propagated among the masses today which is challenging our country's unity and integrity This has been discussed in the House also a number of times It is indeed incredible that all the religions of the world are growing together in our country and they have been given full liberty There is freedom of religion in our country Unfortunately, some languages are being linked with religion today whereas language should not be mixed with religion Religion can be popular through any language but it is only in our country that some languages have been linked with religion This is done to incite the citizens so that people belonging to one religion be divided on the basis of language When our ancestors thought of uniting our country through the medium of language and decided for linguistic States they never meant that people speaking a different language in a State should feel alien in another State Today it is extremely regretting that we have fallen prey to chauvinism due to which people who have been living in a State since centuries, are facing problems because their mother tongue is different from that of the State in which they are living I am not talking about a particular State This is happening in a number of States No State from Assam to Jammu and Kashmir is free from this problem Under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi we have made efforts and said special attention in the New Education Policy, so that such narrow considerations on the basis language, caste and state do not affect the future generations and thereby endanger our country's unity and integrity Rather all the regional and national languages should be propagated in such a manner that we may feel proud of them If I am a Punjabi I should feel proud if I am conversant with Tamil, Kannada or Telugu Similarly a person from South India

conversant in Punjabi, Gujarati or Marathi should feel proud of it. But what is happening today. Here if I name any State then some or the other Opposition Party will feel that I have tried to pass a remark on his State. But the fact is that in some States — whether it is the case of Maharashtra-Karnataka or any other State—ordinance have been issued, banning Government jobs for those, who are State subjects by Domicile and have been living there since many generations, but their mother tongue is different because they have been living on the border of both the States. Not only are they being denied the State Government jobs, but their entry is banned in the local branches of the Central Government Offices also, where manpower is required, on the pretext that they are not conversant with the language of that State.

This is a challenge faced by us and we have to face it together. We have to create a feeling so that all the languages of our country may get an opportunity to grow and spread in the same manner because they are a storehouse of knowledge. Take up any language and you will see that all of them are ancient. All these languages have monumental literature of their own. We are proud that the knowledge, literature and culture of all the languages of our country is very deep. We should be benefitted by it rather than indulge in violence or think of dividing the country in its name. The second challenge is that of religious fundamentalism. Our country is known for having maintained religious harmony and respect since centuries. On viewing the history of any State from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari you will find that people share each other's moments of joys and sorrow with a friendly emotion and love. But at times I do not know from who is inciting these forces which encourage people to indulge in violence with their own neighbours. Even after forty years of independence, there is no end to communal riots in the country and we have to hang our heads in shame. We feel ashamed. Are we the citizens of same country where Mahatma Gandhi sacrificed his life so that a person belonging to one religion may not fight with a persons having faith in another

religion and that our country may follow the path of truth and non-violence.

Even after paying such a heavy price, innocent people are being killed in the name of religious fundamentalism. The issues may be minor, major simple or complex, full freedom has been guaranteed under the Constitution to raise them in the Panchayats, Parishads and the Lok Sabha Amendments to the constitution and other such matters can be raised in this House and we may take a decision here. For whom are the discussions held and relevant provisions made for providing amenities and the setting up institutions? They are meant for the benefit of the people and the country. What happens is that a story concerning a local and a minor issue may appear in a newspaper but somehow it receives undue importance and turns into a national issue. The people who are completely unfamiliar with the situations may get involved in it as is visible in the case of Ram-Janam Bhoomi—Babri Masjid. Another storm has been created by a book. Today in the morning, I met the hon. Members of both the Houses jointly and I said that the Government always takes steps in such cases where our communal harmony and our secular set up are threatened. When we come to know is October 1988 that such a book was going to be published or had already been published, we immediately alerted all the custom points in our country to ban the entry of this book and directed the concerned authorities to confiscate the book if it has already entered our country. Circulars to this effect were issued to the Chief Secretaries of all the States to alert the State Governments about the seriousness of the situation. This may have disturbed our communal harmony and our secular set up and we are happy that the instructions were fully complied with. A good thing has happened today. A group of 40 to 50 Members of Parliament met the Hon. Prime Minister and congratulated him and appreciated the steps taken by the Government for averting a communal flare-up. But certain fundamentalist, instead of appreciating these steps are trying to create communal tension in the country. Unfortunately, riots

[S. Buta Singh]

broke out in Bombay which were successfully controlled by the State Government.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): But the community as a whole has appreciated the stand of the Government of India.

S. BUTA SINGH: That is what I saying. But I am more worried about those people who are still trying to raise this issue, whereas there is no rationale, and there is hardly any relevance of this issue in our country. Why should they raise this issue? This is my concern.

[Translation]

When some good steps are taken they should not only be appreciated but public opinion should be mobilised in that regard. All religions are equal in this country. We give equal respect to all the religions. Secularism does not mean abandonment of religion but tolerance to all religions. Tolerance has been the hallmark of our history and culture since the vedic Age. Tolerance has been propounded in every religious text and it is our biggest inheritance. If we lack this quality then we will be no different from the people of other countries. In many countries of the world, establishing places of worship like the Temples, the Mosques and the Gurudwaras is not allowed. But in India you will find different different religious institutions and people of different faiths worshipping in one colony. The fundamentalist forces are of maximum concern today. There are the forces which are bent upon the disintegration of our country. They are people who call us multinational but I told them that our country is one nation with single citizenship and that we all are the citizens of this great country. We are proud of being Indians and of our single citizenship. On one can cast a doubt in this regard. You will find people belonging to different faiths in this land. The theists as well as the theists live here in perfect harmony. Neither the atheist is ever insisted upon to adopt a particular

religion nor the theist is insisted upon to abandon his religion. We have always accorded equal respect to all faiths. It is a unique quality of our country and I am proud to say that perhaps in no other country of the world, can one observe a scene where about one and a half or two crores of people are collected at one place for undertaking a ritual bath as an auspicious occasion as we witnessed recently during the Kumbh festival. I will call this a good fortune, and God's grace that such an atmosphere of harmony between the different communities and mutual respect for each other has been possible in our country. Never have I seen such a large gathering of humanity taking both and perhaps a similar example cannot be found in any other country. The reason behind this is our tolerance, amity, feelings of brotherhood and mutual respect for each other. We consider the guest as God. It is on account of these things that our country is great and has the capability to make progress. But the fact remains that serious challenges are being posed by language chauvinism, regionalism and religious fundamentalism which cannot be combated by Government alone. I agree that the duty of the Government is to maintain peace within the framework of the Constitution and ensure united efforts of the people during the hours of crisis but the responsibility of meeting the challenges cannot be left to the Government alone, the cooperation of the entire population of the country, particularly of the Opposition is required in this regard. It is because Government has twin responsibilities. One of nation building, tackling poverty, ushering development and the other of ensuring participation of all the people in the nation's progress. Fortunately, we have got this ideal of the united efforts of the people in the country's progress as a legacy. As I had submitted earlier that we have been following the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi from the very beginning. We are going to celebrate the birth centenary of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru this year in which all the people of the country will participate. The whole world is witnessing the celebration of the birth centenary of a great leader who set an ideal not only in front of his own country but in front of the

whole world and in whose policies of socialism, secularism and parliamentary Democracy there was the capacity to take the people along irrespective of whether they belong to this country, or abroad or to the non-aligned movement Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was such an ideal man who realised the dreams of the Father of the Nation Even today we are taking the country in the direction shown by him Panditji placed repeated emphasis on secularism and socialism which is indicative of the fact that we shall not let the unity and integrity of the country be harmed at any cost Practically secularism would mean keeping the people of the country united and maintaining the unity and the integrity of the country, according equal respect to all religions and recognising socialism as the basis of the development The hon Prime Minister has repeatedly stated inside and outside the House that the meaning of socialism lies in the removal of exploitation, in reducing the gap between the rich and the poor and in providing opportunities of development to the future generations and also in providing assistance to the neglected sections of the society whether they be the harijans, the adivasis, the backward classes or the women We have to pay maximum attention towards women because they are very backward in the matter of education and there are many areas where they have not got full opportunity They should get full opportunities for development and equal share in national reconstruction This is what is called socialism It is the result of the policies of Pandit Nehru that the women are making progress in every field today Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi followed the ideals and principles of her father and not only while she was in power but also when she was out of it, she worked for the upliftment of the deprived sections of the society Fortunately, I got an opportunity of serving her and I observed her during those days when she was out of power Even then her maximum concern was for the upliftment of the deprived classes, the harijans, adivasis and women I think that the number of tours which late Shrimati Indira undertook during the days when she was out of power, she could never do the same when she held the position of the Prime Minister. it

implies the extent of affection she had for her countrymen and for the neglected sections in particular Where she should not reach on foot, she would use such means of transport as bullock carts, elephants and horses and would meet the people at every cost These are the ideals and the basic policies of the Congress party

The hon Minister of Finance presented the Budget yesterday If some other party was in power, it would have presented what is termed as a populist Budget It would have tried to mislead the people by giving cheap slogans and populist programmes, but this is not the policy of the Government We never take any steps with an eye on the interests of the party but we always keep the interests of the nation in mind while doing so

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the history of last 4 years of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's rule is to be written, I will say that he is the first Prime Minister who paid attention to divisive forces immediately after assuming the office You may recall the happenings during those days Assam was burning, Punjab was in bad shape, Mizoram was in flames, demand for Gorkha land was being made and mass killings were being committed every other day in Tripura Keeping these prevailing situation in view, he found a way out and gave an assurance that the Government was prepared to negotiate even with the extremists to solve the problems big or small, if that was within the framework of the Constitution and served the cause of unity and integrity of the country Consequently, a Government was formed in Assam If he had the interests of only one party at heart or it were one party policy, such an atmosphere would not have been created We are pleased that a new Government came into power in Assam and decisions were taken after paying due consideration to the situation Unfortunately, the leaders of our opposition parties are not here today, who usually repeat such things I can confidently assert that Assam accord has been more implemented by the Central Government than by the State Government We have discussed all the clauses of the accord with

[S Buta Singh]

the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues time and again I have myself discussed the things and found solutions to critical problems after visiting Guwahati but desired efforts to implement them were lacking I am not accusing Even today we are ready I have again called the Assam Chief Minister to discuss and to remove any obstacles in complete implementation of the accord, which was arrived in the interest of the people of Assam But the hon Members sitting in this House, say lot may things I was pained to go through the speech of Shri Dinesh Goswami He has levelled baseless charges not only about Assam accord but about other things also He has said that the Home Minister has a hand in the Bodo agitation raging in the State Nothing can be more shameful than this If a Home Minister of a country is involved in such a thing, which leads to the division of a State, he has no right to continue as a Home Minister

We constantly strive to carry the disident elements along with us If they do not come along, we try to persuade them in accordance with the provisions of law and if they do not realise even then we taken strong steps to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country Which are the places where we have not taken such steps?

Shri Madhav Reddi is not present here We were the first to take initiative in Andhra Pradesh and warned the Chief Minister and the Government to beware of rising terrorism in the State We made efforts, we sent high official from here The Home Secretary held discussions with the Chief Secretary of the State The Secretary of the Planning Commission also went there We tried to explain to them that this problem could be solved in two ways Firstly, we told them that we are ready to help them in maintaining law and order Secondly, we asked them to implement the steps to remove those social disparities which are the cause of rising naxalism and terrorism in the State There are problems like land deprivation, rural indebtedness and exploitation of scheduled tribes We

told them to make such provisions so that exploitation of these people can be checked, land reforms could be implemented and they were not deprived of their land For this, we suggested that the Secretary of the Planning Commission should pay a visit to formulate the detailed programme in consultation with the State Government This programme should not be formulated for Andhra Pradesh only but also for Bihar and Madhya Pradesh Some steps have been taken in Bihar but it is regrettable that Andhra Pradesh Government has not sent any information regarding its implementation, though we have written to them time and again Later the Central Government is blamed by the State Government of partiality and neglect While we make all efforts we have never bothered which party is in power in which State We treat them at par We always help the people and try to remove their difficulties Wherever riots take place, signal is immediately flashed to send C R P F and B S F After assessment of the situation, we send adequate police force to tackle the situation but what should we do about the Chief Ministers who publicly say that naxalites are their brothers and they are doing good job What they do is that they kill the Adivasis and spread terrorism and violence in the villages The State police does nothing to tackle it

What is Bodo agitation about? It is regrettable that such things are happening there Assam police is avoiding even its normal duties Additional C R P F and B S F battalions are demanded Later through local bodies and political parties publicity is given that it is the Rajiv's police which is beating the innocents in Gorkha land, Bodo and Andhra Pradesh and not the local police It is regrettable that in some States, to defame the force, the local muscle men are dressed in C R P uniforms and they indulge in mass killings All these things have come to light I do not understand how these leaders of Opposition parties create illusion among the people, exploit them and assert that they are ignored by the Centre Such things are happening even today Today, when I am speaking to you, Bandhs are being observed at 2-3 places It is being observed ¹¹

Assam and Bihar and a call for *Bandh* in Gujarat has already been made. Besides, there is a strike in the Punjab.

As I have already stated, we have always been ready to provide all possible help to the States where the unity and integrity of the country is threatened, no matter whether it is in Jammu-Kashmir, Bihar, Assam, Bengal and Punjab or anywhere else. For this, not only additional battalions of Central Reserve Police are sent but also good communication equipment and good transportation facilities are provided so that the local police and local officials can face terrorist and disruptive forces effectively. But it is unfortunate that in spite of all this, the first attack is made always on Rajiv Gandhi's Government by the Opposition ruled States, instead of terrorists and they say that we create confrontation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now you may decide which side creates confrontation. We go there to assist them and provide them all the necessary equipments. Not only this, we send additional forces too. But the facts are twisted in such a way that it seems, we are being the killings. Such news are blown out of proportion in the newspapers too. This confrontation is being done by small parties.

Shri Madhav Reddi has made wild allegations that there was rigging in Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura elections. Why did not he say that rigging took place in Tamil Nadu. Allegations of rigging is made wherever it suits them. If Congress comes in power in a State, they think that rigging has been done. In fact, rigging took place in Haryana. An evidence to this effect was produced in this House. This was the first time in our country when orders were issued for repolling at so many booths in one constituency. The leaders of Opposition were silent then. They were not only silent but they even applauded the Haryana Government. If rigging is done by the Opposition parties, they are applauded but if Congress comes to power, they say that rigging has been done. This not only creates misunderstanding among the people, but also hurts the democratic system of our country. Democratic system can prevail

only if all the people of the county get same rights and they vote without fear and favour.

I would not like to go into details. You can well imagine the state of affairs in Andhra Pradesh, where the Director General of Police has stated that the State Government is converting the State Police into an organised *goonda* force. The I.A.S. Association of I.P.S. Association, which are normally two strong arms of any Government, have given up in frustration. The top most officers have given in writing that they do not wish to work with such a Government. God knows how many officers have left their jobs. It will be a very sad thing, if I have to submit the details before this House. Many officers, who did not toe the line of the Government, were shunted out and in some cases their dismissal was sought.

Several persons were suspended and there were half a dozen such persons who were restored in service by the competent authority after making reviewing their cases. I would like to cite a small instance before you. These are the people who are thinking of providing an alternative to the Congress. They created a chaotic situation in the administration even though it is a small part of the country, a small state. They suppressed the two major All India Services, the I.A.S. and I.P.S. to such an extent that they had to raise their voice. The I.A.S. Officers association went to the extent of passing resolution against it. The judiciary in the state has collapsed in a state of fear. The same people are dreaming to become an alternative to the Congress. As I said in the beginning, though it is a political party, yet the ideals of the Congress are above politics. Our ideals are far above humanity. Our ideals accord utmost priority to the unity and integrity of the country. The poor secure highest priority in our ideals irrespective of the caste they belong. All the religions receive equal respect. The country is confronting some problems which need immediate solution. The question was raised a number of times. I have also asked several times but I received no reply. The people of National Front never thought about them what to speak of the Janata

[S. Buta Singh]

Dal, who have no stand at all. Their complexion changes at a fast pace. It is one at the time of breakfast and another at the time of lunch. By the time dinner approaches, it is left with none. All of them leave. It is such a labyrinthine affair which, I am afraid, will not be able to take shape in the next five years. It has no identity before us, because its very constitution is based on dishonesty. It has been constituted by discarded people of this party. Of course, I take into account the question of the National Front. They have no restrictions whether somebody went against it and somebody supported it. They have raised a new party. From the very beginning the base of this party was founded on the ideology of cheating one another. It will not be proper on my part to name any particular person. The big wings, the top leaders in this party are always in the look out for an opportunity to cheat others. Their chairman, the poor fellow, will be left in the lurch. It is for the first time that the chairman of a party staged a walk out from its meeting. It shows the extent of hollowness in them. They have no ideal, no policy with them. How can they walk together. Is it possible for them to do so on the basis of caste? Certainly not. The way the Congress party has strengthened its policies and the way it has permeated in the minds of the people, the Janata Dal cannot emerge as an alternative to the Congress. It is not for once but time and again I asked the Janata Dal and National Front as to what are their proposals with regard to major problems facing the country. Let us take the stand of the National Front on Punjab. They did not utter a single word about Punjab. Perhaps they are observing as to who will emerge stronger from among the various factions of the Akali Dal. As soon as they are able to decide about the heavyweights, they will say that he is a good man and that his proposal should be accepted. Their politics is the politics of opportunism. There was a time when they were with Shri Barnala and now they have discarded him. They are waiting for a leader of their liking to emerge from Punjab and as soon as someone comes to their fold, they will declare their policy about Punjab. The situation has

taken such a turn in Punjab that the people are struggling between life and death. Every effort is being made from Government's side to protect the lives and property of the people. None of the leaders of the National Front have so far declared his policy about Punjab which is the most complex problem facing the country. If at all they did anything, it was so that one gentleman went to Chandigarh and openly supported Khalistan slogan and said that the Government should hold negotiations with the terrorists and it should be left to them whether they want to be a part of India or not. We will firmly meet the challenge of any force which wants to divide the country. Today I would like to reiterate on behalf of the Government of India that terrorism will be rooted out from Punjab. Our battle against terrorism is on and we cannot call those people the friends of the country who are with the terrorists and encouraging them. Neither the National Front nor any of its leaders has so far declared their policy about it. That is why I feel that their talking of providing an alternative to Congress does not involve the welfare of the country. They are not bothered about the unity and the integrity of the country. Were they concerned, they would have expressed their views on Babri Masjid issue. Views of the people in the National Front vary from one another. Have they any consensus among themselves on the question of official language today? What is common in them? Could Shri Karunanidhi and Shri Devi Lal unite on language issue? I do not think so. That is why the National Front has no solution to the problems facing the country. The Ram Janambhoomi — Babri Masjid issue was discussed here and we fulfilled the promise that we made during the earlier session. We made efforts and held dialogue with top leaders individually and collectively and also in groups. Finally, it was decided to refer the case to the Uttar Pradesh High Court and all the parties concerned should present their case before it. Thereafter, the court verdict will be binding on all. I am happy to note that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has already taken a step in this direction. We called the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh here for discussion and listened to his views as to what further steps the Government of

Uttar Pradesh would like to take for this. It is a matter of pleasure, though I do not claim that all the parties concerned fully agreed to the step, yet most of the people said that it was a right approach. But it is distressing that when we arrived at a decision and took steps, the Chairman of the Janata Dal made a statement that the case should be referred to the court. It was just an eyewash. That is why I say that neither the National Front for the Janata Dal has any alternative for any issue of national importance.

This House held discussion for the last 5 to 6 days on the Address of the hon. President. I am grateful to several hon. Members, especially, Shri Gadgil who moved the Motion of Thanks in the House. I have read his speech. He made a lot of constructive suggestions. Similarly, I have replied to the points raised by Shri Sharad Dighe, Shri Bhatia, Shri Ram Swaroop Ram, Shri Madhav Reddi, Prof. Chandresh Thakkar and several other hon. Members and we will send written replies to the rest of the members. I am fully confident that in the present context, we are proud of our past performance whether it was about the economic policy, agricultural policy, social policy, international trade policy. So far as out international policy is concerned, it is not only we but also the eminent international figures and powerful nations of the world are saying that the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi placed a very nice programme, broad-based programme with a time schedule before the United Nations on behalf of India, which will help in establishing peace in the whole world and eliminate the danger of nuclear weapons. It is not in our country alone that we developed and strengthened democracy, we did it in the neighbouring country, Sri Lanka too. We came to their rescue to protect democracy. It is due to our policy and decision that democracy could rise up fully in Sri Lanka. Our men also went to Maldives. Efforts were made to assassinate the newly elected President there. Our country saved their President and protected their democracy. Therefore, I am of view that it is a very good thing that the hon. Members listed to the President's Address. During these 4 years, the Government of India

rendered service to the people under very difficult situations under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It saved the country, maintained its unity and integrity and strengthened its borders even during unprecedented drought and flood situation through which the country was passing. Everybody knows how our brave soldiers set a gallant tradition in the Siachen border. It has no parallel. No amount of praise would suffice for it. Their action in Sri Lanka not only established peace there but also restored democracy in the island. I would, therefore, like to congratulate our brave soldiers on behalf of the whole nation as also on behalf of the entire House and I offer my tributes to those who became martyrs in the service of the country. I am fully confident that if we continue to march ahead in this way under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, one day our country will reach the dizzy heights of development about which the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi once dreamt.

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now, we will take up Half-an-hour discussion.

The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will continue after Half-an-Hour discussion. I have already informed the House about it. I think, all will accept it. Today we will have to complete the Members' participation. Tomorrow, I think, most probably, PM will reply.

17.31 hrs

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

Recommendations of National Commission on Urbanisation

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now, we will take Half-an-hour discussion. I request the Members to be very brief. Let it be half-an-hour discussion and not one-hour discussion.

Shri Sharad Dighe