

(vii) **Demand for financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh for development work**

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision to bring the pay scales and pension rates of Himachal Government employees at par with their counterparts in Punjab was taken when some parts of Punjab were merged into Himachal Pradesh. On this very basis, when ever there is an increase in pay scales in Punjab, the pay scales in Himachal Pradesh also increase in the same ratio. The employees of Himachal Pradesh are being paid according to the Report of Pay Commission of Punjab. Besides, the State had to bear additional expenditure of providing relief for loss of crops, damage to roads and houses collapse in villages due to heavy rains. Due to this, the State Government is facing acute financial crisis and all the development works have stopped. So I would like the Central Government to provide Rs. 90 crores as immediate relief so that the development in the State is not hindered.

12.14 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."

Dr. Phulrenu Guha.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no need to illustrate the achievements of the Government of India. We are surrounded by strong neighbours but the Government very tactfully handled the situation and improved the relations with the neighbouring countries. Our relations with all our neighbouring countries have improved, and there is a great achievement in the international arena. On the international front, Government have great achievements. The prestige of India has gone up because of our successful foreign policy. India was the first nation which accorded recognition to independent Palestine.

Our leaders have solved the issue of Gorkhaland. There is peace in Nagaland and Mizoram. The entire north-east region has joined the mainstream of the country.

As far as world peace and non-aligned movement are concerned, a beginning was made by the Government of India. Misuse of religious places has already been restrained through legislation. The public sector's performance has also improved. A proper stress has been laid on science and technology. We have solved the problem of food deficiency. But India is a country of villages. Small Scale industries, cottage industries etc. should be set up in all the villages, so that the people in the villages, particularly women, are not forced to migrate to other places in search of work.

The fundamental issue facing us is the integration and unity of the country. The first thing to do is to place emphasis on what unites us, rather than on what divides us. In spite of various achievements, the country is facing serious problem of rising prices and unemployment. Production should be increased, so that prices could be maintained.

The voting age has been reduced to 18 years, because the Congress and the Congress Government have great faith in the youth. In some places, during the time of