

[Shri Manmohan Singh]

portfolio. The Long Term Audit Report which was given in the past only for public sector banks will now be given in respect of all banks, including foreign banks.

Sir, a system of Concurrent Audit has been introduced for all large and exceptionally large branches of commercial banks to ensure that fraud and malpractices are quickly detected. As regards the reform of the Public Debt Office, the SGL operations at eight major PDOs of the Reserve Bank have already been computerised. Reconciliation is now carried out promptly and credit advices to buyers of securities are tendered the same day. This will minimise the scope for the bouncing of SGLs that came to notice in the course of the scam.

With regard to foreign banks about which Members have expressed concern, I would like to assure the House that foreign banks in this country will have to function within the four corners of laws of this country and if they have committed any irregularities, proper action will be taken against them. But at the same time, I want to lay emphasis that we are members of a civilised community, we will do everything to ensure fairness and equity and that we owe to ourselves as a proud nation. But this does not mean that foreign banks or any outside agency or the multinational companies have a licence to do whatever they like in our country. They will not be allowed to get away with any violation of our laws. As a preliminary to that, the Reserve Bank has carried out scrutinies of the securities transactions of foreign banks. In addition, special audit by external audits of four major foreign banks has been carried out. Profits of banks involved in securities irregularities in the year 1991-92 have been withheld. Irregularities have been

brought to the notice of their home country regulators.

Sir, all that I want to say is that both in the functioning of the banking system and in the functioning of the securities market, we have learnt lessons. A vigorous process of reform is under way and we will come back to this House in the course of the next three months, item-by-item our views as to how we propose to act on the various recommendations of this Committee.

In conclusion, once again I compliment the Committee. I do not want to go into the issues of whether it was a system failure or human failure. Both were at work. But, by and large, the Committee has recognised that there were serious deficiencies in the functioning of the system going back to at least 1986. We owe it to our country, we owe it to our people to redress those weaknesses and to take remedial measures and I can assure this House that Government is fully committed to doing that.

MR. SPEAKER: Well the debate is concluded and the Session is about to be concluded.

19.16 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that one more eventful session has been completed and we are now about to adjourn. I congratulate all Members, present and absent right now, in the House for their very valuable contribution, not only in this particular

debate of yesterday and today but all through the Session.

On the whole, this Session, as you had promised me, Sir, has been quite a high level kind of Session. Yesterday and today, yes, the speeches have been of a very high order, views have been expressed forcefully, naturally and at the same time, they have come out with whatever the report contains and what is proposed to be done on the report, things have been very well clarified.

On this occasion, Sir, I once again reiterate what my Finance Minister has just said, this is a matter which has nothing to do with parties. JPC has come out with a useful report on the whole, we will go into every word of the report and take action, wherever action is called for.

That is the final word on behalf of the Government on this. We did not have time. During the last 4-5 or 6 days no one could have expected this voluminous report to be gone through and the Government to come up with action report or proposed action report. That was understood even when this debate was fixed. Everyone knew that this was not going to be possible, but still we wanted, we welcomed full-dress debate on this just to know what the views of the hon. Members are on each aspect of the report. We are happy that we have had their views.

Now in the light of whatever has been said, in the light of whatever we will find on detailed examination of the report, action will be taken.

In the end, I would like to thank you and congratulate you on the monumental patience and tact which is growing day by day for the last two and a half years. You have noted us and you have studied us;

we have studied you. So, I think, whole House is with me when I say that.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMW
(Chimur): We endorse it.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:
The best performance in the Session is of person who speaks the least and that is the Speaker, Sir. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members shall have to make a formal and usual report to the House which I am doing now. The current Session will come to close a little while later and the House will go recess. Starting on 2 December, 1993, hon. Members are aware, the Session was originally scheduled to be over on December with 17 sittings.

However, owing to certain unfortunate events, the House had to be adjourned on several days. The sitting 24th December had to be cancelled to enable hon. Members to celebrate the Christmas festival. Naturally, in order to complete urgent business, the House decided to sit for extra hours and also have additional sittings on four days. In toto, the House met on 20 days and worked for over 90 hours. Although relatively a short Session, the business transacted was notable.

32 Questions in the Starred Lists were answered orally. Written replies to 3772 Questions were laid on the Table of the House. 12 Statements on important matters were made by the Ministers. Under Rule 377, 70 matters were raised by Members.

On the opening day of the Session, Sarvashri P. Shivaraman and P. Kumaraswamy, elected in the recent bye-elections, as Members of this House, made affirmation and took their seats.

[Mr. Speaker]

References were made in the House on the passing away of three of its hon. Members, namely, Sarvashri Nani Bhattacharya, Frank Anthony and Shiv Saran Sinha and some former Members. The House also condoled the passing away of Bharat Ratna J.R.D. Tata. The House expressed its deep grief on the colossal earthquake tragedy which engulfed Marathwada Region in Maharashtra and adjoining States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and resulted in large scale loss of life and property. The House expressed its satisfaction on the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Union and State Governments and appreciated the assistance rendered by various voluntary organisations.

Coming to legislative business, seven Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha. 17 Bills were passed by the House, important among them being the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1993 and the Protection of Human Rights Bill, 1993. Two Bills were referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committees. In deference to the wishes of this august House, I requested the hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha to refer the Public Sector Iron and Steel Companies (Restructuring) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1993 to the Standing Committee on Industry before its introduction.

The Standing Committees submitted their Reports in respect of four Bills referred to them in the last Session. The Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 1993-94 were discussed and voted.

The House had three discussions under Rule 193. Although Rule 193 provides for Short Duration Discussion, actual discussions went on much beyond and the Chair had to be indulgent because of the importance of the subject matter and keenness of large number of Members to participate. The first discussion was on population problem, which was discussed for four hours eight minutes and 14 Members participated. The discussion could not be concluded because of paucity of time. The other discussion was on Statement of Minister of Agriculture about Earthquake Tragedy. The discussion took place for two hours and fifty five minutes and 17 Members participated. Yesterday and today, the House discussed the Report of the JPC constituted under the mandate of the two Houses to enquire into irregularities in securities and banking transactions. As many as 22 Members participated in the discussion which lasted over 14 hours. I wish to congratulate and thank the Members for maintaining a very high level of debate throughout.

Private Members business had also its own share in the business transacted during the current Session. Nine Private Members Bills were introduced. Dr. Laxminarain Pandey's Constitution (Amendment) Bill seeking to provide that any Bill affecting any religion or religious places of worship shall be passed by special majority was discussed but negatived.

Another Bill, the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, moved by Shri P.P. Kaliaperumal was discussed and later withdrawn by leave of the House. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan's resolution suggesting the need for a Uniform Civil Code was discussed further during the current session and was finally negatived after the discussion. Dr. Asim Bala's res-

olution suggesting exploration of Oil and Gas in Eastern region was discussed inconclusively and will be taken up in the next session.

Responding to the wishes of Hon. Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister announced on 23 December, 1993 introduction of "MPs Local Area Development Scheme" under which each Member could suggest to the District Collector works to be done not exceeding Rupees one crore within his or her constituency. The scheme, I am sure, would enable the hon. Members to help their constituents as well as the process of development. I would like to thank the Prime Minister, the Government and the Parliament for this. On 11 November, 1993, I reconstituted the Panel of Chairmen by adding four hon. Members on it. I do hope hon. Members on the Panel of Chairmen would help me and my colleague hon. Deputy Speaker in sharing the responsibility in smooth conduct of the House.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all the hon. Members for the kind cooperation extended to me and my colleagues - hon. Deputy Speaker and the Members of the Panel of Chairpersons — in the smooth conduct of the business of the House. I would specifically like to thank the Leader of the House, the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of various Parties and Groups, as well as the Whips for their courtesy and wholehearted cooperation to me which made my task easy. I would like to convey my good wishes for a very Happy New Year to the hon. Members of the House and through them to all our countrymen and women and children.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, with your permission, I would like to wish a very Happy New Year to all our Members and to you Sir, and to all our constituents through this august House.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to thank all my officers and colleagues who have worked overtime to facilitate the smooth working of this Parliament. I would also like to thank the media persons for their very objectively, interestingly and very lucidly reporting the proceedings of the House to the people of India.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Thank you, Sir. We will meet next year.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the hon. Members may stand up for *Vande Matram*.

19.28 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song was played)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

19.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.
