

smoking in the non-smoking zone of the plane is violated more than it is observed, thereby exposing the aircraft to a fire mishap. Similarly during monsoon season, when there are frequent bumpings due to air pockets, there is a tendency to develop nausea, which is further aggravated by the smoke of a cigarette.

It may not be out of place to mention here that in USSR smoking is prohibited in the internal flights of Aeroflot, Saudi-Arabia has also banned public smoking in Hospitals and Government Offices in 1983 on grounds of health hazard.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that in order to make air journey safe and comfortable, free from any risk, smoking on Indian Airlines flights should be banned.

(xii) Need to introduce air service to Koraput (Orissa).

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Sir, Koraput district is not only the largest district of Orissa but also one of the biggest districts in India predominantly inhabited by the tribals. This district is not well served by railways either with Bhubaneswar, the State headquarter or, Delhi. A large number of Public Undertakings like National Aluminium Company, Mig Factory, Dandakaranya Project of Central Government and Upper Indravati Multipurpose Project, Kholab Multipurpose Project, Balimela Multipurpose Project and Machkund Hydel Project of State Government, are functioning in this district. In addition to this, there are two private paper mills at Rayagada and Jeypore and Silicon Factory near Rayagada. There are a large number of Class I Officers in Government, Public Undertakings and Private Undertakings. These officers while going out on duty and others visiting these industries take lot of trouble and time to reach here and vice versa. I draw the attention of the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation to provide a small air-service for the industries and the people there.

13.40 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1984

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will take up legislative business. Hon. Members, 15 hours have been allotted for all the three stages of the Finance Bill, 1984. If the House agrees, we may have 12 hours for general discussion, 2 hours for clause-by-clause consideration and one hour for third reading.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I move* :

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year, 1984-85 be taken into consideration."

Sir, the salient features of the main proposals in the Finance Bill have been explained in my Budget Speech. The details of the proposals contained in the Bill have been spelt out in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated along with the Budget papers. I do not, therefore, propose to take the time of the House by going over the same ground again.

During the general discussion on the Budget, hon. Members made valuable suggestions in regard to the provisions in the Bill. I have also received a large number of suggestions from trade and industry, professional organizations, economists, tax experts and others. I would like to convey my gratitude to the hon. Members as well as to others for their suggestions and comments on the budget.

After giving careful consideration to these suggestions, I have decided to modify some of the provisions in the Bill. I shall now briefly explain the proposed changes starting with proposals in respect of direct taxes.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

The hon. Members will recall that, the Bill seeks to withdraw the concession under section 80CC of the Income-tax Act for investment in equity shares offered for public subscription after 29th February, 1984. In deference to the views expressed by several hon. Members as well as the investing public, I propose to continue this concession for a period of three years, that is, in relation to shares offered for public subscription before 1st April, 1987. This will provide sufficient time for a further review of the impact of this concession in stimulating new investment.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur) : Very good.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : It was your suggestion.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I also propose to make some changes in the proposals relating to contributions to so-called welfare funds for employees. Under the Bill, no deduction will be allowed in computing the taxable profits in respect of moneys contributed by employers to such funds. It has also been proposed that this should apply retrospectively from the assessment year 1980-81.

I am persuaded by the argument that retrospective operation of this provision might create hardship in cases where the trustees of these funds have, in fact, utilised such contributions for the welfare of the employees of the contributor. With a view to avoiding hardship in such cases, I propose to provide that any expenditure incurred by the trustees of a fund before 1st March, 1984, for the welfare of the employees of the contributor will be allowed as deduction in computing the taxable profits of the employer in respect of the accounting year in which such expenditure has been incurred.

I also propose to make appropriate provisions in the Bill to enable any employer, who has made such contributions before 1st March, 1984, to claim that the contributions remaining unutilised be returned by the trustees. Where such contributions have been utilised for acquiring any capital asset, such as, land and building, the employer will be entitled to claim that such asset should also be transferred to him by the trustees.

While these modifications are intended to remove legitimate concern against the retrospective operation of the provision in the Bill, it is also necessary to prevent attempts by companies to circumvent this measure through novel devices. One such ingenious device seems to be the formation of new companies under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. As the provision in the Bill applies only to contributions made to a trust or fund, the intention seems to be to defeat this measure by making contributions to such new companies instead of trusts or funds. I, therefore, propose to extend the scope of the provision in the Bill to contributions made by employers to companies, associations of persons, bodies of individuals, societies registered under the Societies Registration Act and other institutions, besides trusts and funds.

Under a provision in the Bill, all charitable and religious trusts, including those entitled to exemption under section 10 of the Income-tax Act, would forfeit exemption from wealth-tax if they do not conform to the investment pattern for trust funds laid down in the Income-tax Act, or which use the income or property of the trust for the benefit of the settlor, trustee, etc., in contravention of the provisions contained in the Income-tax Act. On forfeiture of exemption, wealth-tax shall be charged in such cases at the maximum marginal rate. As the provisions relating to forfeiture of exemption from income-tax for contravention of the relevant provisions contained in the Income-tax Act do not apply to charitable and religious

trusts which are entitled to exemption under section 10 of that Act, it has been urged that it would be anomalous to provide for forfeiture of exemption from wealth-tax in such cases. I think there is merit in this contention. Accordingly, I propose to bring the provisions in the Bill relating to forfeiture of exemption from wealth-tax in the case of charitable and religious trusts in line with the corresponding provisions contained in the Income-tax Act. This would secure that charitable and religious trusts entitled to exemption under section 10 of the Income-tax Act do not forfeit exemption from wealth-tax under the provisions in the Bill.

I should also clarify that the relevant provision in the Bill, which provides for taxation of the entire income received by trusts at the maximum marginal rate, is applicable only in the case of private trusts having profits and gains of business. So far as public charitable and religious trusts are concerned, under the provision of last year's Finance Act their business profits are charged to tax at normal rates laid down in the rate schedule applicable to individuals. This position remains unaltered. Of course, in case charitable and religious trusts contravene the provisions of the Income-tax Act in regard to investment pattern or use trust property for the benefit of the settlor etc. then the other income of such trusts will be charged at the maximum marginal rate.

Under the Income-tax Act, income derived by a taxpayer from investment in specified financial assets is exempt up to an aggregate amount of Rs. 7,000/-. In addition, under a separate provision contained in the Unit Trust of India Act, a further deduction up to Rs. 3,000/- is allowed in respect of income on units of the Unit Trust of India. The Bill seeks to enlarge the list of specified financial assets to include deposits under the National Deposit Scheme. The Bill also seeks to place such deposits on a par with units of the Unit Trust of India by providing that income from

these two sources would be eligible for a further deduction upto Rs. 3,000/- in the aggregate.

With a view to providing greater incentive to taxpayers to make larger deposits under the National Deposit Scheme, I propose to give an additional exemption up to Rs. 2,000/- in respect of interest on such deposits. I also propose to similarly provide an additional exemption under the Wealth-tax Act in respect of such deposits up to Rs. 25,000/-. I may remind the House that as mentioned by me in the Budget Speech the National Deposit Scheme is a temporary scheme and will be discontinued when the target of receipts is reached or earlier, if monetary developments so warrant....

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : This is suspense. You are keeping people in suspense.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur) : This is additional Rs. 2000.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : This is a welcome measure no doubt.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : The Bill provides for compulsory audit of accounts in cases where the annual turnover in business exceeds Rs. 20 lakhs or the gross receipts in profession exceed Rs. 10 lakhs. With a view to allowing some time to trade and industry, as also to those in the professions of law and accountancy to adjust themselves to the new measure, I propose to raise the monetary ceiling of Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : I suggested Rs. 50 lakhs. You are so miser. I don't know why.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I am nearer to you.

I would also like to clarify that the proposed provision regarding compulsory audit does not imply a second or separate audit of accounts of companies whose accounts are already

required to be audited under the Companies Act. The new provision only requires that companies should get their accounts audited under the Companies Act before the specified date and, in addition to the report required to be given by the auditor under the Companies Act, obtain from him a report, for tax purposes, in the form to be prescribed in this behalf by the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Under the provisions of the Income-tax Act, the Central Government is empowered to acquire immovable property having a fair market value exceeding Rs. 25,000/- in cases where the declared consideration for the transfer of the property is less than its fair market value. Under the Bill, this monetary limit is being raised to Rs. 50,000/-. In order to provide relief to a large number of small house owners, I propose to further raise this monetary limit to Rs. 1 lakh. This is also your suggestion.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : My amendments you have accepted. Then what am I going to speak ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I anticipated that.

As logical consequence, I also propose to provide that the prescribed statement regarding transfer of immovable property need be filed before the registering officer only in cases where the consideration for the transfer exceeds Rs. 50,000/-, as against Rs. 25,000/- proposed under the Bill.

Hon. Members will recall that in my budget speech I have referred to a large variety of exemptions and deductions that have been built into the tax system over time and which taken together had the effect of complicating the tax administration and providing scope for tax evasion as well as for litigation. This is particularly true of expenditure related concessions and, as a matter of policy, under the Bill all weighted deductions as available under the different provisions are proposed to be with-

drawn. Some of the provisions regarding weighted deductions relate to expenditure on scientific research, and it has been represented to me that withdrawal of these exemptions may have an unfavourable impact on development of indigenous science and technology.

I have carefully reviewed these representations. There is no question of Government reducing its support for R & D efforts. However, our experience shows that, on the whole, the impact of weighted deduction on development of indigenous R & D has been relatively insignificant and, in any case, not upto the expectations of our scientific community. I, therefore, believe that we should identify alternative methods of providing additional support to domestic R & D, innovation, and commercialisation of the results of indigenous R & D. A separate announcement in this respect will be made in due course.

I shall now refer to the modifications that I propose to make in the proposals made in the area of indirect taxes. Hon. Members will recall that the Budget proposals contained a package of concessions for the paper industry. In this context, certain representations have been received from small and medium paper mills producing paper out of unconventional raw materials. These state that the lowering of the general rate of duty has reduced the advantage enjoyed by them earlier, even though the duty to be paid by such paper mills was also reduced proportionately. With a view to provide further relief to the small and medium paper mills, I propose to increase the existing concession for such paper mills. The rate of duty payable by such paper mills with clearances upto 3000, 7500 and 16500 M.T. in the preceding financial year will be Rs. 275, 550 and 730 per M.T. respectively.

- Broadly, after the proposed modification, the concession enjoyed by small and medium paper mills will be 10 percentage points more than

was the case earlier. I also propose to introduce a new slab in respect of paper mills not having any bamboo or wood pulp plant, and with clearances exceeding 16500 M.T. but not exceeding 24000 M.T. in the preceding financial year, the rate for which will be Rs. 950 per M.T. for printing and writing paper as against 7% advalorem plus Rs. 645 per M.T. earlier and Rs. 1200 per M.T. for specified kraft paper as against 7% advalorem plus Rs. 900 per M.T. prevailing now. The proposed concession will, however, be restricted to only those varieties of paper for which duty was reduced in the Budget. The revenue implication of these concessions is expected to be about Rs. 9 crores.

Hon. Members may recall that I had proposed reduction in the Customs duty on wood pulp imported for the manufacture of paper so as to reduce the pressure on our forest resources and to make available the imported raw material at a reasonable price. It has been urged that the same considerations should apply in the case of wood pulp for the manufacture of paper board also. I, therefore, propose to extend the same concession to wood pulp imported for manufacture of paper board and reduce the duty from the existing level of 87% to 30%. This measure involves a revenue sacrifice of the order of Rs. 1.47 crores in a year.

A members will be aware, specified machinery and equipment for the newspaper industry were being assessed at a concessional customs duty of 35%. The auxiliary duty in respect of such items went up by 5 percentage points on account of the increase in the rate of auxiliary duty announced in the Budget. As a special case, I propose to exempt such specified items from the auxiliary duty increase effected this year. The revenue implication of this concession is estimated to be Rs. 3.5 crores.

23. Excise duty on polyester blended fabrics containing more than

40% but less than 70% polyester was reduced to 2% ad valorem in this year's Budget proposals. This concessional rate of duty was not made applicable to the blended fabrics containing polyester filament yarn. As a measure of further relief to the textile industry. I now propose to extend, with some modifications, the concessions given to the polyester cotton fabrics in this year's Budget to such fabrics containing polyester filament yarn also. The exemption, however, would not apply to fabrics whose value per square metre exceeds Rs. 25. This concession would cost the exchequer Rs. 8 crores in a full year.

24. The concessions I have just announced in respect of indirect taxes would result in a revenue sacrifice of Rs. 22.02 crores. The concession on the customs side would be Rs. 4.97 crores and on the excise duty side Rs. 17.05 crores. Notifications giving effect to these concessions are being issued today. Copies will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

25. The other amendments in respect of direct and indirect taxes are minor or of drafting nature and I would not like to take the time of the House in dealing with these amendments.

26. Finally, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I would like to refer to a matter which has been of concern to this House. This relates to the price situation. The Hon'ble Members will recall that during the discussions on this question in August and November last year as well as in reply to Parliament Questions, I had outlined the measures taken by the Government to control the price situation. I had also expressed the hope that in view of the good monsoon and the measures taken by Government, it should be possible for us to contain the annual rate of inflation to a single digit figure in 1983-84. The wholesale price index for 31st March, 1984, is now available and I am glad to inform the House that the annual rate

of inflation on that date was 8.8 per cent. In view of the improvement that has taken place in the price situation, I am also happy to announce that it has been decided to release three instalments of D.A. to Government employees which had become due for consideration by December, 1983. The expenditure restraint measures taken by the Government have paid dividends, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the cooperation that I have received from my colleagues in various Ministries, Public Sector organisations and employees in implementing these measures. We would need to remain equally vigilant in the future as there can be no room for complacency on the price front.

27. I request the Hon'ble Members to lend their support to the Finance Bill with the modifications I have proposed.

28. Sir, I move that the Finance Bill 1984 be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1984-85, be taken into consideration."

Now; Mr. Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Sir, have I the permission to withdraw some of my amendments to the Finance Bill since the Finance Minister has already accepted the proposals that I suggested ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can mention about them when you speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, it seems now that we have to discuss the Finance Bill with the Agarwala touch and the influence of Agarwala on Mr. Pranab

Mukherjee is, I find; quite phenomenon. Sir, Mr. Agarwal always makes good suggestions and I find some of them are accepted or seems to be acceptable to the Minister. One good thing he has announced is about the payment of Dearness Allowance. He has pre-empted one of my suggestions.

13.59 hrs.

[SHRI F.H. MOHSIN in the Chair]

Sir, as we all know, this year's Finance Bill, as it has always been, is to give legislative shape to the Budget proposals of the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister, on his own admission, was particularly mindful of what he called a certain forthcoming event, which is of importance to all of us in this Parliament. Although he hastened to describe the event as the formulation of the Seventh Plan, but the country knows what he had in mind, is the coming elections to the Lok Sabha and rightly that is so.

14.00 hrs.

Now having made the election prospects of his party the touchstone of his budget proposals, the Finance Minister has necessarily pre-empted his projections and options. The result is, what we find, that in his assessment of the economic past and the projections of the economic future, he has to take recourse to some window dressing and some cosmetic treatment here and there.

A polished gentleman, as our Finance Minister is, he has tried to polish the exterior of our economy but once the veil is lifted and the facade is ripped open, we find deprived and disillusioned humanity in this country, which makes to a large extent a mockery of our so-called economic progress and prosperity.

As a politician, the Finance Minister seems to be happy that he has given a soft budget to improve the

election prospects of his party, but as the Finance Minister of country, has he been able to brighten the dark areas of our economy and illumine the pervading gloom and to extricate the teeming millions from extreme poverty and perennial despair and extortion?

This country has immense natural resources including mineral resources. But its greatest asset is human resources, but these people have been kept, even after nearly four decades of independence, as mute spectators, always at the receiving end, exploited not for their sake but for the sake of others, ill-fed, under-nourished and they are not even today enjoying the modicum of civilised existence. That is the fate of a large number of people in this country.

In discussing the Finance Bill, we have necessarily to discuss the economic realities of our country. We cannot discuss the Finance Bill in abstract or in isolation, divorced from the economic realities of the country and the present situation. Unless the budget culminating in the Finance Bill takes note the real maladies, which are afflicting our economy, and seek to provide a solution, it will be nothing but a ritual given the form of a document, whereby people are taken for a ride with sweet words, ultimately degenerating to humourless and contrived jokes.

What is the direction and what is the thrust that we find in this year's budget proposals which are now in the form of the Finance Bill? There are measures which are nothing but an exercise in populism, these are measures which do not tackle the deepening economic crises; they only provide for some palliatives here and there, some sop here, some sop there. Some of the proposals are nothing but proposals which tinker with the taxation proposals. The basic issues still remain as problematic and acute as ever. We have to find out what are the priorities that this Government has fixed for itself. What are the

areas where the Government wants to achieve certain results? It had no doubt promised to provide the Government that works, but how far has it worked to eradicate poverty?

How far has it worked to reduce the rigours of unemployment in this country; how far has it worked to provide drinking water to the people of this country; and how far has it worked to provide two square meals a day to our people? We find that the priorities are not properly fixed, because this Government is more concerned to provide colour TVs than drinking water to the people. This Government is more concerned to build stadia and fountains and to widen the roads of Delhi than to construct bridges and hospitals. This Government is busy providing incentives to monopoly houses and private sector than saving the workers of the sick industries from being thrown to the streets, even in respect of industries which are run by the Government.

I saw in the papers and also today on the floor of the House that the Minister has referred to the rate of inflation being kept at a single digit figure. He may have a feeling of satisfaction that according to his statistics, the inflation rate has not crossed the single digit figure. But not I would like to know whether he feels satisfied when industry after industry under Government management is being closed down, and workers are being reduced to mere skeletons. Does he feel satisfied when millions of people in this country are without any source of livelihood whatsoever?

I am glad that the hon. Minister has referred to the price front. So far as prices are concerned, I have got the last year's report of the Reserve Bank of India, but I need not refer to it. So far as this year is concerned, from 1980 onwards the issue price of rice and wheat for the public distribution system has risen—from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 208/- per quintal—Rs. 58/- per quintal increase in four years in respect of rice. With regard to wheat,

in 1980 it was Rs. 130/-; now it is Rs. 172/-. This is for the public distribution system.

So far as the all-India consumer price for industrial workers is concerned, it has risen by 13.4 points to 408 points in December 1980, and further by 52 points to 460 in December 1981, by 37 points to 497 in December 1982 and by 62 points to 559 in December 1983.

So far as whole sale price index which the hon. Minister has referred to is concerned, it was 182.1 on 20th March 1977. It is now 319.6 in December 1983. I have given the rise in the issue price of rice.

So far as the wholesale price index is concerned, in respect of cereals from 158.8 it has gone up to 253.4 in December 1983; in respect of tea, from 352.2 points it has gone up now to 462.4 points. About coffee etc., I do not want to give figures and tax your patience.

Just before this year's budget also, the price of coal has been raised. On 8.1.1984 the price has been revised by Coal India, from Rs. 149.90 to Rs. 183 per metric tonne. In the Singareni collieries, there is an increase from Rs. 154.75 to Rs. 192 per metric tonne. In the case of levy sugar, it has been raised from 1st February 1984. There is a rise of Rs. 25/- per quintal.

There is an all-round price increase. Even if you look to the Reserve Bank of India's annual report for last year, you will find that was the situation also. It says, "the increases in issue prices of foodgrains have been higher than those in the procurement prices. This may bring the former closer to prevailing market price which can have some dampening effect on the offtake of the public distribution system."

Last year we had seen and we had criticised that the system of raising the administrative prices which according

to us is not the correct method, an improper method because it takes out the budgetary exercise or parliamentary control over these increases and also it deprives the State Governments of legitimate resources. The increase in the consumer price index which was discernible in 1982-83, that has been maintained and still that increase is going on. We have been demanding that so far as prices are concerned, if you don't think of the vulnerable section of the society, then there is no possibility of giving some relief to them; and that is why we have been demanding that the essential articles should be distributed to the ordinary people through the public distribution system; and if any subsidy has to be provided that has to be provided by the Central Government.

The hon. Minister is happy that there is a single digit inflation, so far as the wholesale price index is concerned. But in our country we do not have even today, the Finance Minister of India does not have with him any figures of the increase of the consumer price index. Therefore, he cannot say consumer prices index is restricted to single digit inflation.

You have provided Rs. 4000 crores for the 20 point programme. Very fair. I do not mind if it is properly utilised. But how much you would have to spend to provide essential articles for common people of this country with a certain level of income and resources to be given these essential articles through public distribution system? Therefore, I demand that the hon. Minister should respond favourably to this. This is the urgent necessity in our country.

What is the position with regard to the people below the poverty line? We have got the estimate of the survey made by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the survey which was made on consumer expenditure; the latest available survey is for the year 1977-78. I am quoting from the answer given by the Government either in this House or in other House. The Planning

Commission appointed a task force; and according to this task force, the poor are those whose per capita consumption expenditure was below the mid point of the monthly per capita expenditure class having a per capita daily calorie intake of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. I find that this is almost a bizarre formula; but even applying this in 1977-78, according to the government figure, 302.8 million people are below the poverty line. Now, no fresh survey has been completed. We are told it is under process as on 1983. But even then although we are told that the survey figures are not available in 1980-81, the number came down to 292.3 millions; in 1981-82, it came down to 282 millions. Of course, this is all guess; no basis has been indicated, although in an answer to the question in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, these figures have been given; but even on the basis of what one may call the "guesstimate" the number of poor in this country is colossal. Out of these poor people, the rural people comprise 15.82 per cent while the urban poor represent 38.19 per cent.

And even according to the guess and estimate the combined percentage is 48.13. In 1977-78, in Orissa the percentage of the poor people was 66.40, in Tripura it was 59.73, in Bihar it was 57.49, in Madhya Pradesh it was 57.73, in West Bengal it was 52.54, in Tamil Nadu it was 52.12, in Assam it was 51.10, and in Uttar Pradesh it was 50.09—after 30 years of independence!

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): What about Rajasthan?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will give you.

The Planning Minister said in this House—not in this House, I am sorry, in Rajya Sabha, —on 1st March 1984, giving the reasons for the rural poverty, he said, that rural poverty is due to the fact that "there is still a large number of marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers who have

very little by way of assets of production to enable them to increase their income above the poverty line." I was trying to go through the Finance Bill after it was brought before the House by the Finance Minister, and also the financial proposals made by the Finance Minister, if there is anything to meet this situation. What is there? There is a programme for some relief of landless people. But what about Land reforms? West Bengal's Land Reforms Bill is gathering dust in the archives of North Block or South Block, I do not know where, for the last three years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: North Block. Home Ministry does it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It concerns Rural Development Ministry, I think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: State Bills are cleared by the Home Ministry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are right. You were a Minister. You must have withheld many Bills.

So, this is the position. So far as the unemployed people are concerned—I do not know—the figures are that their number was 162 lakhs in 1980, and in 1981 it was 219.53 lakhs. Out of them, the total employment in 1980 was 3.47 lakhs—as per the figures of employment exchanges—and in 1981 it was 3.72 lakhs, in 1982 it was 3.42 lakhs, and in 1983 it was 3.35 lakhs. These are according to answers given questions on the floor of the House. And so far as the number of—what is known as—educated job seekers is concerned, it is 108.64 lakhs, in 1983 it was 64.5 lakhs, in 1978 and so far as the technical persons are concerned, there are figures given, which says that the number of engineering graduates as on 31-12-1983 was 24,239, according to the records of employment exchanges; medical graduates were 19,177 people, and I will give you one more figure with regard to this. So far

as the number of job seekers is concerned, it is now 183 lakhs. Out of them non-matriculates are 92 lakhs; matriculates are 73 lakhs; graduates are 14.43 lakhs and post-graduates are 1.59 lakhs. This is the situation so far as unemployment in this country is concerned. Now, what we have found is that so many programmes have been announced. There is the programme of providing self-employment to the educated unemployed youth. I would earnestly urge upon the Finance Minister that if this programme is properly implemented, some relief can be given to the unemployed youth. But how is it being done and how much money has been distributed all over the country? I would like to know the figures Statewise. There has been, if I may say so, a proper criticism because of the way it is being done. Sometimes you do good things in a manner that you invite criticism. There has been, what has been described as loan melas. I would like to know how many opposition MPs are being taken into confidence so far as this programme is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not even Congress MPs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am happy to know this, because this was my next sentence. Not even ruling party MPs are taken into confidence. I do not believe that if some money is being distributed in my constituency under my presidency or in my presence there, I would necessarily get the support of the people at the time of elections. Our hon. Finance Minister may have such ideas. We find that the number of his visits has increased in a particular area of this country. He is welcome. I do not mind that. But this is not the way. You please tell the House and the people as to how you are utilising these schemes and how many youths have properly got the benefit and what is the selection process. It seems to be concentrated in Delhi for certain purposes which are clearly known.

What is the position in our country with regard to the industrial

scene. The position is this. In 1972 the assets of the Indian monopoly houses were worth Rs. 2883 crores and they have gone upto Rs. 8987 crores in 1981. Kindly see the percentage of increase. So far as the turnover is concerned, the turnover of Tatas has increased from Rs. 2389 crores in 1981 to Rs. 2883 crores in 1982. This is the position. I do not want to read all of them. So far as our monopoly houses are concerned, they are expanding their assets, turnover and profits. The total assets of the monopoly houses have increased from Rs. 14,000 crores to Rs. 21,000 crores their turnover has increased from Rs. 20,000 crores to Rs. 24,000 crores and their profits has increased from Rs. 1100 crores to Rs. 1334 crores. Increase of assets is 45 per cent in two years from 1980 and 81. The turnover has increased by 22 per cent and their profit has increased by 19 per cent in one year. Therefore, who is getting the best of the resources of this country and for whose benefit it is being utilised?

The multi-nationals are also there in this country. They are getting the best of both the worlds. Their turnover is increasing, their profit is increasing and the number of their subsidiaries are also increasing. Their assets have increased from Rs. 1739 crores to Rs. 1893 crores and their profit has increased from Rs. 267 crores to Rs. 282 crores in two years i.e. from 1978 to 1980. This is the position. Multi-nationals are getting the benefits. The small and medium industries are going out of the scene. Government-run industries are closing down. The best of the facilities are being obtained by the multinationals and monopoly houses.

Coming to the revenue collection structure, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that our revenue collection structure shows that the Government has adopted such measures that the affluent sections of the people, the rich people bear the least burden of new taxes. Direct taxes, as everybody knows, are on the affluent sections of

the people. Now there is reduction in the direct taxation while the indirect taxes which cover almost the entire spectrum of our population, are increasing by leaps and bounds. That is why I commented earlier also that it is very clear that these rich people and the monopolist friends of this Government are able to reduce the burden of direct taxation and it shows the influence of this section of the people of our country on the policy making power, on the decision making power in this country. Without sharing the burden, they are enjoying most of the development process programmes in this country.

So far as the proportion of direct and indirect taxes is concerned, it is very important and I would request you to kindly see. The direct taxation which was 43.32 per cent in 1952 has come down to 20.97 per cent, that is, to less than half, whereas the indirect taxation has increased from 56.68 per cent to 79.03 per cent. That is, 4 : 1 is now the proportion of indirect and direct taxes in this country. Therefore, the larger section of our people which comprises of poor people....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What was the proportion when Mr. Agarwal was there in the Ministry with your backing ?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL :
75 : 25.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Very well Sir, when you have put the question, I will give it. I am quoting from Government figures. If I start from 1977, the percentage of direct taxes was 27, for 1978-79 it was 24 per cent, for 1979-80 it was 23.53 per cent and since then it is an gradual decline. It has come down to 20.97 per cent for 1983-84. The decline is discernible from 1969-70. Therefore, so far as the indirect and direct taxes are concerned, the position is that it is 4 : 1. This is the financial position and the economic condition of the people of this country with mounting unemployment, with mounting poverty,

with accentuated poverty, with greater and greater benefits for the multi-nationals and the monopoly houses.

Now, let us see what is the financial proposal this year. This year, there is a reduction in the direct taxes. So far as the income-tax is concerned, the reduction is to the extent of Rs. 180 crores. Now, who is getting the benefit of this ? Because of the reduction in the income-tax rates, those in the lowest income slab with a taxable income of Rs.16,000 per year will experience a gain of mere 0.4 per cent in their after-tax income. It will be 3.9 per cent for those in the income slab of Rs. 50,000 per year, 8.9 per cent for those in the income slab of Rs. one lakh per year and 14.8 per cent for those in the highest income bracket of Rs. five lakhs per year. This reduction in income-tax, when very few people in this country pay income-tax, is to the extent of Rs. 180 crores. But he has calculated this reduction at Rs. 59 crores because he hopes that there will be better compliance with the tax laws. But the reduction is to the extent of Rs. 180 crores. Therefore, the benefit of the 5 per cent reduction is all along the Board or all along the line. Whatever be the terminology, the benefit is going to the person who is in the highest income bracket.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This 5 per cent reduction is not for all ; from Rs. 50,000 to 65,000 it is not there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Perhaps it is not there only for one slab. Probably you are disclosing your income at that figure.

I am happy to see that only yesterday the hon. Finance Minister has told a meeting of big businessmen that he would not tolerate and he would not like to see that the benefits are utilized for the maintenance of the hereditary system of management in companies. I am happy and it was with great interest that I read it. I hope he really believes that heredity is not a *sine qua non* for any sphere of of life in this country.

AN HON. MEMBER : Except politics.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : So far as increase in the customs duty and central excises are concerned, in this budget the increase in customs duty is Rs. 465 crores and Central excises Rs. 33 crores. Of course, he has given certain exemptions today. All this will add to the prices and all this will go on mounting the quantum of indirect taxes.

So far as the direct taxation in the present Finance Bill is concerned, it comes to a reduce quantum. But, so far as the indirect tax is concerned, it is increasing by nearly Rs. 400 crores. Therefore, according to us, this is a policy which is not beneficial to the common people of this country.

So far as monopoly houses are concerned, we find that the tax arrears of Birlas rose to Rs. 144 lakhs in September 1982, of Sri Ram to Rs. 174 lakhs, of Bangur to Rs. 24.50 lakhs, of Tatas to Rs. 5.94 lakhs, of Mafatlal to Rs. 12.94 lakhs and of Singhanian to Rs. 3.64 lakhs. They do not pay taxes and they get all the benefits with an out-fit of the hereditary system. This is the position with regard to the taxation structure in this country. That is why we say those who are enjoying the most, they are having the highest influence and the greatest influence on the policy making process in this country, so far as distribution of taxes burden between direct and indirect tax is concerned.

The deficit this year is Rs. 1,762 crores. Of course, this has been achieved primarily by transferring the surplus fund from the oil sector which according to us, will have an inflationary effect on the economy. But, I must admit, there are some good features in this budget. Provision has been made to stop binami holding of property. Previously, it was a joke. It was done one day before the filing of the proceedings and it was being mis-utilized. He has stopped it. Then there was the provision for

taxation on trusts and charities, the so-called charities etc., although they have been somewhat diluted today. Then there is his insistence on summary assessment of income-tax, exemption of duty on khandsari and other items. Though minimal in the total budgetary system, even then these are welcome proposals.

While I wish to give compliments to him with regard to time of his taxation proposals, I shall immediately come to the effect of the present taxation proposals on the State Governments and the serious situation that it has created. As I have said, because he has put the election prospects of his party in the forefront, he has to take these populist measures. He has increased the allocation for the 20-Point Programme by Rs. 4,030 crores, an increase of 47 per cent. He has reduced the income-tax rate, he has reduced the excise duty rates on consumer goods which are used by middle income-groups and he has tried to avoid the general rise in the tax burden of the middle class people.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : And they are all good.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : What will happen to the price rise ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The only thing, Mr. Ranga, is, we appreciate when do you something good. But the result is disastrous in most of the sectors.

Now, the position is this. The effect of the taxation proposals on the States is considerable. This is a matter of very great importance. I am not going into the overdraft question because we shall have an opportunity to discuss it later, I hope the Finance Minister will be here on that day when we shall have an occasion to discuss. So, I am not going into that. But I would like to ask the Finance Minister that if he thought it fit that the income-tax rates should be reduced, why did he not reduce the rates of surcharge ? It is because, as you know,

that surcharge amount does not go to the States, it is all appropriated by the Centre. Last time when he increased the rate of surcharge, we all knew why it had been done, so the everything remains here in Delhi and all the Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers of States have to come here.

About indirect taxes, customs duty has been raised by about Rs. 400 crores. As you know, customs duty is not to be shared with the States. About the Central Excise duties which are shared with the States, there is a minimal increase. Even today exemptions have been given. Now, what is the result so far as the States are concerned? There is a reduction of Rs. 180 crores from the amount of the income-tax and the States' share of aggregate receipts from taxes levied by the Union Government which was 28.8 per cent in 1980-81, will now come down to 24.4 per cent.

Sir, it has been stated in an article that were the proportion of the receipts from Union taxes going to the States the same as it was in 1980-81, the States should have got over Rs. 1000 crores more by way of the share of the proceeds of the taxes in 1984-85. Prof. Ranga, if the rates your Government had introduced in 1980-81 had been followed, then Rs. 1000 crores more would have gone to the States.

So far as the net tax revenue of the Centre is concerned, the increase is Rs. 272.88 crores, this is more than half of the additional revenues of Rs. 193.8 crores, as the losses are to be borne by the States.

Now, the position is like this. So far as the reduction in income-tax for which he is taking credit is concerned, the direct result is lesser revenue to the States. Now, he is asking the States to mobilise greater and greater resources. The Central Government has got various methods of raising resources—printing notes, taking loans from within and outside the country and borrowings. Everything is there,

But so far as the States are concerned, if the Central allocation from the divisible pool is reduced, it will result in reducing the States to a state of penury. This is a very serious matter.

So far as the divisible pool is concerned, we find that there is a steady erosion of the amount which is distributable amongst the States. Therefore, we strongly urge that this method which has been adopted is against the interests of the States and this shows that the Central Government wishes to monopolise the financial resources in this country although the responsibility of implementing public welfare projects are all imposed on the State Governments under the Constitution itself.

So far as the outlay for the States and Union Territory Annual Plan is concerned, in the Central Plan resources there is going to be rise of 25%. So far as the State Plan resources is concerned, it is to rise by 9.5% only. The Central assistance will rise only by 12%. Therefore, the available resources with the Centre will be more. It will be less with the States and this is bound to effect the implementation of the Plan so far as the States are concerned.

The Plan as formulated had proposed more than 51% of the total outlay which fall within the sphere of the States and Union Territory. However, taking the allocations for 1983-84, 1984-85, the Central Plan would end up accounting for as much as 53.7% of the total outlay over five year period. That means the State Plans will be effected. Now we are against this. We submit that this is not the way which will bring about a proper development of the country. The disparity between the area and area, region and region is being perpetuated and this is not good for the development of this country.

I cannot but refer to another very pernicious system which is still prevailing in this country inspite of our repeated objections and protests—i.e.,

the system of freight equalisation. We have been raising it. Up till now we have not been given any acceptable reasonable ground why this system was introduced and why it should still be in vogue. You are aware, in 1957, Shri Krishnamachari introduced this system by which coal and steel are available throughout India at the same rate. There is price equalisation by means of freight equalisation—that is these articles are available throughout the country at the same rate. But so far as cotton is concerned, so far as fertiliser is concerned, so far as salt is concerned, so far as chemical, sugar and other things necessary for industry and production units are concerned, are not available in the Eastern India and this includes Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and North East India. We have to pay much more. We have to pay the normal freight to get these goods and the geographical advantage of Eastern India has been lost. We do not mind the development of any part of this country. We want it. We are not unhappy. We are not chary about it. But we say, as a part of it, we must have the similar facilities. Nothing more we are asking. If we have to pay more for our cotton, if we have to pay more for industrial alcohol, if we have to pay more for other ingredients, our cost of production is bound to be more. That benefits, so far as steel and coal are concerned, which are available to the other parts of the country, are not available to us in respect of other goods. Therefore, we demand what was recommended or believed to have been recommended by the Marathe Committee, asking for the abolition of this system. We were told that exercise was going on for abolition of freight equalisation. So far as steel and coal are concerned, that should be expedited. We should know what is the result.

There are more things, and I have done. There is not one word in the Budget speech, subject to correction, which refers to black money in this country.

Sir, there is a parallel economy in the country. The Government introduced the Bearer Bond Scheme and about Rs. 900 odd crores, I believe, they got it. They were very happy, although the estimate is that Rs. 20,000 crores, or some say Rs. 30,000 crores of black money is in circulation in this country. I do not know how much is there in the banks of Mr. Poojari—or what part of it. Sir, the Bearer Bond Scheme only brought about Rs. 900 odd crores. Then, what are you going to do with this black-money? It is not known in this country that the blackmoney is ruling the economy? What about this smuggling that is going on with blackmoney? Smuggled goods are available in all the cities and in all the States openly. Now, this blackmoney is being utilised for the purpose of generating more blackmoney and as I said on an earlier occasion, when we discussed the Bearer Bond Scheme, it is the scheme in which white money is driven out by the blackmoney. This is the position in this country. But it seems the Government is not at all conscious, not at all worried about it, as no proposal, no scheme has been mentioned and there is no administrative or political will to control and eliminate black-money in the economy.

One more point is about the sick industry. I have got one particular appeal to make to the hon. Finance Minister. The Government units are being closed down. Government-run Government-managed and Government-controlled industrial units are being closed down one after another on, the ground of non-viability. I would like to know the policy of this Government. You are not providing any alternative employment to them. In how many of them, the workers are responsible? Has any study been made? In my constituency, there is a very big factory called Biecco Lawrie Company Limited in which 1400 workers are there. It is manufacturing switch gears and other things. Customers are there from all over the country. State Electricity Boards of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal etc.,

are all its customers. I was shocked to hear that a decision has been taken to close it down. I am told that a final decision is being taken. I would implore upon the hon. Finance Minister and if any other Cabinet Minister is present here at least to see that it is not approved of in the Cabinet.

In Burn Standard Co., two units have been closed down. Industries which have been run by the Government for years like Carter Cooler Co., and Containers and Closures Ltd. have been closed down. I am happy and we have been thankful to him that he has made some efforts. I know, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has made some efforts and I am openly acknowledging his efforts for the nationalisation of Inchek and National Rubber. About the Indian Rubber, I do not know, what will happen. He is helpless. How can the Finance Minister of this country, the Finance Minister of India allow this situation, I do not know. It is being done on the plea of non-viable units which have been under their control and management for years. Containers and Closures Ltd., have been managed by IRCI for 10 years and now they are just closing it down. Now, I am appealing to the hon. Finance Minister and to the Government, "Please don't do this".

You are also encouraging the private sector in this way. If the Government can close down any industry on the plea of lack of resources or without a proper study on viability, what will happen. Sir, in Biecco Lawrie Co., Ltd., I am the President of the Union. There has been no trouble. We have been carrying on with all sense of responsibility. It is a Government concern and we want to help it. We are believers in public sector. There is a section of the officers, a section of the people in this country who want to denigrate the public sector; want to bring bad names to the public sector. They are opposing nationalisation; they are opposing Government control. They are trying to create a situation as if every

Government industry will run at a loss or cannot be run and that is why, almost a conspiracy is going on to create an atmosphere in this country so that the Government units are being closed down one after another. You please think of the workers. What will these 1400 workers do? They have not been told of their crime. They have never been consulted. I ask the hon. Minister concerned about it. You have never asked me if there is anything to be done. Let us sit across the table any try to rectify. But you cannot just take a decision of closing down a well-established units which has run for years.

This is a very serious matter. I would have expected from the hon. Minister, both in his Budget Speech and in some financial proposal, some concrete steps taken so far as these sick units are concerned. Some of them have been made sick though the management was with the Government. Who should bear the responsibility, the workers or the Government? If any public sector unit does not run properly, we are not happy. But whether it is a management problem or a labour problem, one has to ascertain. Is it a financial problem or not? We have been seeing that in so many cases the managements is not in proper hands.

With regard to the National Jute Manufactures Corporation, I have so many times brought to the notice of the successive Commerce Ministers. But since they have such patrons somewhere, nobody can touch them—I got a reply, "Yes, the complaints were made but they have not been found to be of any substance." Who looked into the complaints? It is the management against whom the complaints were made which looked into them and they themselves said, "We are good people."

This is the way the inquiries are being made. There is a case in which the CBI itself intervened because certain looms in running conditions were being sold as a scrap. My union people caught hold of them, brought

he police there, brought the management there and informed the CBI. The CBI itself have started a case. Now, the hon. Minister says on the floor of the House that nothing has been proved. New looms are being sold as a scrap. This has been detected by the employees and they, brought it to the notice of the management. But this is the result they are getting. The Government is white-washing them.

So far as the present price situation is concerned, the hon. Finance Minister had a dig at what he thought "prophets of doom" had said with regard to IMF loan.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Cassandra.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He said, "prophets of doom". Without this oil sector surplus, who would have been the prophets of doom? One would have been it. But kindly do not forget one thing. I would like to remind the hon. Finance Minister that in the year that has gone by, the expected normal decline in the price index did not take place after September despite a very good food-grains output. Don't forget that. You cannot expect such production necessarily in future also.

The most important thing is an uncertainty which the hon. Minister has referred to, the forthcoming event which creates an uncertainty in the minds of the Members of Parliament. An uncertain event which induced the hon. Finance Minister to grant tax reliefs and to keep taxation at a low level will, I have no doubt, lead to an additional expenditure with a view to, if I may quote Prof. Bhabatosh Datta, for making the "event" meaningfully eventful. With a view to making the event meaningfully eventful, necessarily you will have to incur more expenditure. Nearer to the election date we come, the greater will be the expenditure. That is why there is not only a possibility but there is a certainty of a supplementary budget showing a larger deficit. Higher taxes would be

proposed and the Seventh Plan would necessarily entail heavy taxation.

That is why, you find all the Congress-I States have to follow the lead of the hon. Minister of Finance. Whatever may be, this is election year. Don't forget. Don't irritate people. Don't levy further taxes. Go on reducing them and do it in a manner which would show that you are greatly concerned about people's welfare !

MR. CHAIRMAN : What about West Bengal ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have increased. Although the hon. Minister of Finance never seems to be happy. I do not know. The position is this that your attempt to placate the people by these types of gimmicks, in a sense, will not derive for you the benefit you want. The people would give their verdict. Don't forget that in this country there are still 60% people below the poverty line. Crores of people are still unemployed. Crores of people do not get drinking water. 70% of the people are still illiterate. Don't forget those things. Don't be carried away by what you have in Delhi and what you see in Delhi. I had also once told Prof. N.G. Ranga that being too much close to the seat of power, losing perspective.

I submit that although on the surface, this Finance Bill had some good features so far as it reduces incidence of taxation on the common people, we certainly welcome it, but so far as it gives subsidy and provides greater benefits to the affluent section of the people, we cannot accept it.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री राम सिंह यादव (अलवर) : सभापति जी, माननीय वित्त मन्त्री जी ने सदन में जो वित्त विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

माननीय सभापति जी, पश्चिम बंगाल से साम्यवादी दल के माननीय सदस्य जिनसे यह आशा की जाती थी

कि वे मार्क्स और लेनिन के सिद्धान्तों के आधार पर वित्त विधेयक और मौजूदा बजट प्रस्तावों के संबंध में अपनी साम्यवादी विचारधारा और समाजवादी विचारधारा के सुझाव देंगे। आपने बड़े-बड़े धन्नासेठों की वकालत की है, आप उन्हीं लोगों को मंत्री जी से कन्सेशन और सुविधायें दिलाना चाहते हैं। माननीय सदस्य की सबसे बड़ी मांग आज अपनी बहस में यह रही है कि इनकम टैक्स में सरचार्ज की दर को कम किया जाए। इनकम टैक्स में सरचार्ज कौन व्यक्ति देता है, वही देता है तो कैपिटलिस्ट ग्रुप में आता है। लेकिन सी० पी० आई० (एम) के सदस्य उन्हीं पूँजीपतियों की वकालत यहां खुले दिल से कर रहे हैं, तो मुझे इस बात को सुनकर बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ कि वास्तव में आप लेनिन और मार्क्सिज्म के सिद्धान्त पर चल रहे हैं या बिरला-टाटा के सिद्धान्तों पर चल रहे हैं? क्या आप उनकी वकालत करने के लिए आज सदन में खड़े हुए हैं... (व्यवधान)... मैं आपकी बात समझ रहा हूँ, माननीय सदस्य ने आज इस सदन में इनकम टैक्स में सरचार्ज को कम करने की वकालत की है।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Kindly give me a second. I will explain to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will tell him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes. Please tell him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His point was, by skipping surcharge, States will not get their share. That was his point.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes. If there has to be reduction, why not in surcharge and why in

income-tax, he has not followed. Kindly explain.

श्री राम सिंह यादव : आपका जो मकसद था, उसको आपने इनडायरेक्टली कहा है। असल बात को आप छिपाना चाहते हैं। वरना इस तथ्य को आपने स्वीकार किया है।

15 hrs.

मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा—पश्चिमी बंगाल की आर्थिक स्थिति के बारे में आपने नहीं कहा है। आज पश्चिमी बंगाल में आपको सरकार है, सी० पी० आई० (एम) की सरकार है, जिसको खासतौर से रिजर्व बैंक ने ओवर-ड्राफ्ट के लिए मना कर दिया था। मैंना इसलिए किया था—आपको जितना पैसा प्लाण्ड और नान-प्लाण्ड स्कीमज के लिए दिया गया था, उम्मीद यह की जाती थी कि पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार अपने स्रोत से और अधिक रुपया इकट्ठा करके जो प्लानज आपको दिए गए हैं, 6ठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के मुताबिक, जो टारगेट्स थे, आप उनको एचीव करेंगे। लेकिन पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार ने अपने स्रोत में कितना टैक्स लगाया, कितनी आमदनी की, 6ठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो पैसा आपको दिया गया, उस पैसे को आपने कहाँ इन्वेस्ट किया है? किन प्राजेक्ट्स के लिए किया है या ऐसे कार्यों के लिए किया गया है जिनसे कोई आमदनी नहीं होती है। इन सब के बारे में आपने कुछ नहीं कहा।

मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा—पश्चिमी बंगाल में एग्रीकल्चर के प्रोडक्शन में सन् 1980 से 1984 तक आपके यहां कितनी वृद्धि हुई है और दूसरी स्टेज में,

जो कांग्रेस (आई) शासित प्रदेश हैं, उनके यहां कृषि उत्पादन में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है। मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा—आपने पश्चिमी बंगाल की इकानामी के बारे में यहां पर कुछ भी जिक्र नहीं किया। वहां पर आपकी क्या स्थिति है? आपने आज जो जैनरल पिक्चर खींचने की कोशिश की है, आप यह जानते हैं कि केन्द्र में कांग्रेस शासन स्थापित होने के बाद पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो लक्ष्य रखे गये थे कि राष्ट्रीय उत्पाद 5 प्रतिशत होगा, उसमें आज तक 5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इतना ही नहीं, राष्ट्र की जो औसत आय है उसमें 5.4 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। राष्ट्र की पर-कैपिटल इन्कम में 3 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा—भारत ने आइ० एम० एफ० में जो 5 बिलियन डालर्स का ऋण लिया था, उसकी आखिरी किश्त भी भारत ने स्वीकार नहीं की, इसका कारण यह था कि हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति में काफी सुधार हुआ है। इन सब बातों को देख कर क्या आप इस नतीजे पर नहीं पहुँचते हैं कि हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो किया है—वह अपने आप में प्रशंसनीय है और उससे देश की आर्थिक स्थिति सुदृढ़ हुई है।

इतना ही नहीं—यह बात हिन्दुस्तान के इतिहास में लिखी जाएगी कि श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व में इस देश के किसानों ने 144 मिलियन टन खाद्यान्न उत्पन्न किया है, जितना बनाज इस देश में कभी पैदा नहीं हुआ। खाद्यान्न उत्पादन का लक्ष्य केवल 142

मिलियन टन था, लेकिन वास्तविक उत्पादन 144 मिलियन टन हुआ। उत्पादन में यह वृद्धि किसके नेतृत्व में हुई, किस सरकार के नेतृत्व और प्रोत्साहन से यह उत्पादन हुआ है?

मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा—एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन के साथ-साथ इण्डस्ट्रीयल प्रोडक्शन में जो हमारा लक्ष्य था उसमें आज हमारी पिछले 4 वर्षों से प्रोडक्शन वृद्धि 5 प्रतिशत से कहीं अधिक है।

15.04 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member will continue on the next occasion. We have to take up the discussion under rule 193.

15.04 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS ON 17th APRIL, 1984 RE BURNING OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN PUNJAB AND SHOOTING OF SOME PERSONS AT AMRITSAR

MR. SPEAKER : Now, discussion under rule 193. Dr. Swamy.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East) : Sir, I rise to raise a discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs in the House on the 17th April, 1984, regarding the burning of railway stations in Punjab and the shooting of some persons at Amritsar. Punjab today is No. 1 problem in the country because the national unity is at stake. Poverty is not, in my opinion, as of now such an important problem. I think the crisis that is there in Punjab is so serious that its implications for