

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

All the amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That an Address be presented to the Vice-President acting as President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Vice-President acting as President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 28th March, 1977."

The motion was adopted

15.31 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE
CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE
PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF
TAMIL NADU

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH):

SIR, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 31st January, 1976, in respect of Tamil Nadu, issued under Article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of one year with effect from the 10th March, 1977".

As Hon'ble Members may be aware the Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of Tamil Nadu was issued by the President on

31st January, 1976. This was done in pursuance of a report received from the Governor of Tamil Nadu in which grave allegations of corruption and mal-administration were also made against the Government headed by Shri Karunanidhi. The President's Rule was again extended for a period of six months in September, 1976 by another Resolution of the Parliament. Before the expiry of the last extension, the previous Government moved a Resolution in the Rajya Sabha on 1-3-1977, for the continuance of President's Rule in that State for a further period of one year with effect from 10th March 1977 which also was accorded approval. The legal position is that as the resolution for extension of Proclamation has been passed by Rajya Sabha for the continuance of President's Rule, a resolution by Lok Sabha to the same effect is necessary within 30 days of its 1st sitting after re-constitution.

According to the amended provisions of article 356(4) of the Constitution of India, the period of extension of President's Rule now stands raised to one year. This is, however, only an enabling provision, because the Proclamation in this regard can be revoked at any earlier time. I do not wish to go into the merits of imposing President's Rule in Tamil Nadu nor into the justification for extending it indefinitely. Our Government is committed to restoring normalcy and early popular rule in the States under President's Rule.

Hon'ble Members would bear with me that it is not possible to revoke the Proclamation without holding Elections in the State, since that would mean an administrative vacuum. It will be the endeavour of Government to have elections in Tamil Nadu in the course of next few months. I would, therefore, request the House to pass the Resolution for continuance

*Amendment negatived: Nos. 1 to 5, 26 to 91, 102, 103, and 160 to 162.

of President's Rule for a period of one year, so that administration could continue to function till a popular Government is in position.

With these words, Sir, I commend the Resolution for approval of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976, in respect of Tamil Nadu, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of one year with effect from the 10th March, 1977."

15.34 hrs. -

[KUMARI ABHA MAITI in the Chair]

SHRI P. KANNAN (Salem): Madam Chairman, President's rule in Tamil Nadu is being extended but the people of Tamilnadu want an early poll. I should request the concerned Ministers to hold early elections because we should like the same results now as we have got here. We also want that there should be no withdrawal of any case. Chargesheets and trials are pending in courts in Tamil Nadu against some of the Ministers and M.Ps. All corrupt persons should be brought to trial. I request the Central government not to withdraw any case. This is what was done in respect of Mr. George Fernandes and Shri Subramaniam Swamy. This Government should assure us that there will be no interference in judicial matters; in fact they assured the people that they would not do so but the first act done by the Janta Government was to withdraw those cases. I do not think that they are doing justice to the judiciary. We want no interference with the judiciary and we told the Congress Party government and Mrs. Indira Gandhi also that they should not do so. But the very first act of this government was to withdraw

those cases. It is for the judiciary to give verdict that Shri George Fernandes and Shri Subramaniam Swamy were innocent or not. If they are proved innocent, then it is well and good. But it is for the judiciary to come to the conclusion whether they are innocent or not. It is not for the executive to decide this. Because these two gentlemen happened to be elected on Janta Party ticket, should the cases against them be withdrawn? There are thousands of cases against innocent and poor persons in other parts of the country. But those cases have not been considered by the present Government. Let not the withdrawal of cases against Mr. George Fernandes and Shri Subramaniam Swamy as happened at the Centre be repeated in Tamil Nadu where there are cases against the erstwhile Chief Minister and other Ministers, because you have won three seats in Tamil Nadu in alliance with the DMK. I do not think that you will get even one seat in Tamil Nadu State Assembly Elections if the cases against the persons belonging to DMK were to be withdrawn. The desire of the Tamil Nadu people is not to withdraw the cases against them. The Sarkaria Commission has given findings on 7 charges. Action must be taken against the persons and they should be punished. Action should also be taken on other cases that are pending trial. After the President's rule in Tamil Nadu, all the labourers have been paid Wages, the bounded labourers have been released and rescued during the Congress regime under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The hill tribes have got the benefits by way of implementing the 20-Point programme in Tamil Nadu. All the cases that were not detected during the previous Government have been detected and discovered during the President's rule. The Statewide sensational case called the Poolavari double murder case—where a father and his son were murdered—in which Mr. Karunanidhi was involved was not pursued. Mr. Karunanidhi

[Shri P. Kannan]

screened the offenders but the case was treated as undetected. We gave a petition to the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, when she visited Tamil Nadu. At the instance, special police were deputed to detect the case. Now, the case has been detected and the persons responsible were chargesheeted in which the District DMK Secretary is an accused. The people of Tamil Nadu desire that the proceedings and pending trials should continue and they should not be withdrawn, as has been done in the cases of Shri George Fernandes and Shri Subramaniam Swamy. Proceedings of the pending cases against all the DMK Ministers and others should not be stopped. We will be supporting the Centre for all progressive measures that they may take, otherwise, we will not be supporting your Government.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam): Madam Chairman, I welcome this Resolution because it is to fill the gap in the present difficult situation. The question is as the elections cannot be held here and now, President's rule has to be extended. As per the Resolution brought forward by the Home Minister, President's rule is to be extended for one year. But I am glad that the Minister has clarified that it does not mean that the President's rule will go on for one more year and the elections would be held as soon as possible. In this connection, I would like to say that I have heard the Prime Minister's broadcast to the nation yesterday. It was a welcome one and it was marked by wisdom and humility. It looks to me that he is a changed man now. He has to live down several of his past reputations. I think he will be slowly doing it, which can be inferred from the way he took back his comments that he made on women in general and from what he said on the radio yesterday. I hope he has changed. We are interested in seeing that the trends of change taking place

in him are strengthened. Recognising the inherent lacuna in the geographical distribution of seats won by the Janata Party in the last election, he has hastened to assure the people of the south that he will be considerate towards them and see that their interests are safe in his hands. He claimed that his is a national government and no segment of the population will feel orphaned. This is a welcome assurance, taking a realistic view of the results of the election, unlike some Janata members who fell foul with us when we pointed out that very fact. But mere assurance is not enough. Government should think of some institutional arrangements and spell them out so that the above assurance is translated into suitable action. He has also assured the State Governments that he will be even handed in dealing with them and also he will not indulge in securing defections or toppling State Administrations. This is also a welcome statement of policy.

But what do we find? Already at party level and governmental level efforts have started to secure the defection of the All India ADMK from its electoral alliance with the Congress, CPI and Muslim League and get it attached to an alliance with the Janata Party. The leader of All India ADMK in Parliament is being wooed. The General Secretary of the All India ADMK, Shri M. G. Ramachandran, is being pursued and passionately wooed because the realisation has dawned on the Janata Party that when they clubbed themselves with the DMK in the last elections, it was an embrace of death. Now they want to retrieve the situation by aligning themselves with the All India ADMK. Is this not an effort at defection? On the other hand, the DMK leader is rather afraid and he is giving a hot chase to the Janata Party so that he may retain their friendship so that he may get a few more seats in the Assembly election tomorrow. But I think the

Janata Party has learnt its lesson and will not have any more truck with the DMK. Even on the eve of the last election, we do not know whether this alliance was struck on the initiative of the local leadership or whether the local leadership was over-ruled by the All India leadership and they were advised to have this alliance. But let us wait and see whether the Prime Minister keeps his promise and refrains from weaning the All India ADMK away from its present stand or tries to force that party into an alliance with the Janata.

The Prime Minister has also said that an autonomous machinery to probe charges of corruption or misuse of office at all levels is proposed to be established. The statement is not quite clear. The other day the Home Minister said, he will have three separate enquiries conducted into Maruti, Nagarwala episode and charges against the former Defence Minister, Shri Bansilal. I want to know whether the Prime Minister's statement supersedes that of the Home Minister or whether the autonomous body is an addition to the bodies mentioned by the Home Minister. This may be made clear.

Again I am thankful to the Prime Minister for giving a categorical assurance on the floor of the House that the Sarkaria Commission of Enquiry will be continued. I wanted to have such a categorical assurance because the term of the Commission came to an end on 1st February this year. So, unless the term of the Commission is extended, it will not be possible for it to go into the other allegations made against the erstwhile DMK Chief Minister and the erstwhile DMK Ministers. If I heard the Prime Minister aright he said that he had asked Mr. Sarkaria to complete the enquiry within a period of four months. I would like to submit that the time that is allowed to Mr.

Sarkaria is not enough. Of the total allegations Mr. Sarkaria chose 28 and it took one year for the Commission to complete enquiry into seven allegations. Now there are 21 more allegations and they are very important and very complicated. I would like to read these 21 allegations. They are:

1. Mekala pictures.
2. Anjukom Pictures.
3. Gopalapuram House.
4. Anjukam Pathipakam—Murasoli.
5. Son's house, Tiruvarur.
6. Dharma.
7. Vaidyalingam.
8. Veeranam. That is a project to bring drinking water to the city of Madras from Veeranam lake. Crores of rupees have been swallowed in that.
9. JKK Angappa Chettiar.
10. Samayanallur Power Station.
11. Sugar scandal.
12. V. S. T. Mudaliar.
13. Amirtham.
13. Kodai-Palani Road.
14. Private Trusts.
15. Anbil Dharmalingam.
16. Aditanur Vellandu Bank.
17. Trade Union.
18. Intimidation of Press.
19. Misuse of State machinery for party.
20. Police excesses.
21. Sakthi Pipes.

These are the 21 allegations that are yet to be enquired into by Mr. Sarkaria. So to say that Mr. Sarkaria should complete his enquiry into all these allegations which are very complicated and which are having ramifications within that short period with that short period year to enquire into only 7 allegations, I would submit is not realistic. I do not want the Government to ask Mr. Sarkaria to hasten with the enquiry. I want that Mr. Sarkaria should be given more time so that he completes the enquiry. Now it is for the Government to take action.

I entirely agree with the Prime Minister that discipline should not be imposed from outside but it should be self-discipline. That is what Gandhiji had said. I would be excused if I say

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

that it was the Janta Party which was responsible for creating conditions of indiscipline in the country which brought about the then much needed emergency. Now emergency has been lifted. Several things have happened in the State of Tamil Nadu after the lifting of emergency and I would like the Government to take note of them because they are straws in the wind. There was a bus strike to which the hon. Prime Minister made a reference while replying to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. I do concede that the workers employed in the transport corporation may have had pent-up grievances. But what happened is this: one driver was transferred from one depot in the city of Madras to another and immediately, there was a strike. Thousands of students who had to write their examinations were inconvenienced. Many more thousands of others going to offices and other places were inconvenienced. People were talking in the streets that this was the first taste of the Janata government. I do not decry anybody. I am only pointing out that these are straws in the wind. The bus strike provided a certain amount of disillusionment to the people in the city of Madras who returned two non-Congress candidates out of the 3 constituencies.

Then there was another incident. Immediately after the lifting of the Emergency, some 30 or 40 students stormed the room of the Vice-Chancellor in the Madras University. They did not even seek permission for an interview. They just went there and demanded an interview, got into his room and wanted that all examinations should stand postponed. Naturally, the Vice-Chancellor was not able to give an immediate answer. I beg to think, Madam Chairman, that if campus indiscipline again spreads, it will not be to the good of the country, and to that of the younger generation of this country. Again, I am told that

the janata meal which was being supplied for one rupee has been given up by the hoteliers in the city of Madras and elsewhere. This has caused great hardship to the ordinary people and to the poorer sections. I am not able to know the reason why this healthy change which was introduced during the Emergency—this is not a case of arresting persons or putting them in jail—has been given up. The Home Minister may perhaps taken the trouble of finding out and seeking that this at least is restored.

I have already spoken about the electricity department which is in a very very bad way. It requires a thorough overhauling. I am sorry to say that the Advisers' regime did not have time to look into this. It so happens that on the day the new Minister of Energy who hails from Tamil Nadu—I wish him well and wish him success—was taking his oath of office, news came in that there will be a further cut in the electricity supply. There was already a 30 per cent cut.

They now propose to make it a 50 per cent cut. I am told that the cut is now 40 per cent. Madam Chairman, you know that this is summer and that for having good crops, it is necessary for the pump sets to be working well, so that the standing crops do not wither away. (*Interruptions*) I am not saying anything against your government, or against Mr. Ramachandran. He has started well. He said that he will look into the ongoing projects, assess them and see what can be done. So, I am bringing this to his notice, even though he may not be here now. It is very unfortunate that on the day of his taking the oath (*Interruptions*) a further cut was announced in the supply of electricity. The reason why I am pleading thus is that the Neyveli project has produced 75 per cent more power this year, than last year. Most of it is being supplied to Tamil Nadu. When that is the case, there is not much convincing reason why this cut should be continued in the first instance

and, secondly, why it should be increased further. So, I would like the hon. Minister to look into the matter. Because, we read in the newspapers that he is visiting Madras on the 9th of this Month and he is going to have discussions with the officials of the Electricity Department. That is why I am urging that he may have a good look into the power projects of Tamil Nadu and try to improve matters.

I would like to say a few things about the imperative needs and requirements of my constituency. I have been pleading for a long time for a bridge near Pallipet on a road which is an inter-State road connecting Tamil Nadu with Andhra Pradesh. The people have been put to much difficulty there for want of this bridge on the river. Though the Central Government was willing, the DMK Government was not recommending the work to be taken up. Now that there is President's Rule, which is being sought to be extended for a short while, I hope the Advisers' regime will see its way to recommend this work and see to it that it is taken up immediately.

There is also a proposal to establish a sugar factory in Tiruttani Taluq in my constituency. That has to be cleared by the Central Government because of which the project is being delayed. I hope the hon. Minister will ask the concerned Ministry to see that this proposal to establish a sugar factory is cleared.

There is a very famous temple in my constituency at Sholingar. The hon. Prime Minister felt offended when the Leader of the Opposition called the Janata Party a strange animal, and a reply came from the other side that it is something like a....

CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH: I do not know what the hon. Member is speaking about. The House is now considering a very limited question just now, whether there should be an extension of the President's Rule or not. That is all. All questions about elec-

tions, alliance, Janata Party etc. are not relevant here.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Perhaps the hon. Minister is not well acquainted with the practice in this House. It is customary, it is usual during such discussions to make reference to these things. We can say that such and such things should be done and until the elections are held it is for the Government here to deal with those things, because Parliament is in charge of the administration of Tamil Nadu. In fact, the previous Home Minister was presiding over a Committee of MPs on Tamil Nadu, which was looking into these matters. In fact, the other day in my speech I requested the Government to see that this Committee of MPs on Tamil Nadu should be set up as early as possible. So, I am very relevant when I am urging these things. This refers to the administration of Tamil Nadu and they have to do all these things. The Home Minister has to take note of them and see that these things are done.

16 hrs.

I am coming to a temple. The other side answered back saying that we are aware of Narasimhavatra where the Lord Himself took the shape of both a man and an animal. So, why should they be very much ashamed of being called an animal? In this temple, the presiding deity is Lord Shri Lakshmi Narasimha. It is a very beautiful temple. Many pilgrims and tourists go there. I want that a road should be made and a winch should be provided so that all people may reach the temple and have a good darshan.

The hon. Education Minister made a statement today. It was a preliminary statement. Naturally he could not go in any depth into the various matters that have to be looked into by him. I have no grievance about that but I would like to draw attention to a brochure published by the expert

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body, the National Council of Educational Research and Training, where there is discrimination made in the teaching of English between non-Hindi and Hindi States. It has been mentioned in that brochure that the teaching of English in non-Hindi States can start from the ninth standard and that too for two periods in a week. On the other hand, they have said that the teaching of English could start in the Hindi-speaking States from the sixth standard and will be taught for five periods. I drew the attention of the erstwhile Education Minister also to this very great discrepancy and the discriminatory treatment that has been meted out to the Hindi and non-Hindi States. He said that he would correct the discrepancy, that he would declare a new policy. So, I would beg of the new Education Minister to study this matter, I would not hustle him, and see that this discrepancy is removed and that in the matter of teaching English to the boys, whether they are in the Hindi States or non-Hindi States, the same policy is followed, and that there is no discrimination.

With these few words I support the Resolution moved by the hon. Home Minister.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity of saying a few words.

At the risk of being told that I am out of order by the hon. Home Minister, I would like to take this opportunity of drawing his attention to a few very important and urgent problems that exist in my State today.

First and foremost is the fact that in Tamil Nadu more than in any other State in this country, we are beset by the problem of drought of very serious proportions. This is a continuation of the drought conditions which have been there for a very long time. Dur-

ing the period of the DMK regime, from 1972 onwards, we had the miserable experience of finding all drought relief money being channelled into pockets other than those intended, with resulting loss to the State as a whole. Therefore, on this occasion when we are discussing the Resolution for extending President's rule, it is but correct and meet that I should draw the attention of the new Government to this very important problem, so that it is immediately taken up by the hon. Minister through his agencies and put on a war footing.

As a result of this, there will be a lasting effect. It is not that we only want our agricultural labour to get employment by digging earth work roads here and there but the long distant perspective on irrigation schemes. That work can be undertaken as drought relief work so that on the one hand, we will have income through employment for agricultural labour and on the other hand, we will have already this ground work of new irrigation schemes.

Apart from that, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that there was a problem of sinking bore wells in the drought areas. These give enough water and the water is available as drinking water for the villagers. But when the existing bore wells go out of order, then there is no arrangement for maintenance so that they continue to function properly. The water is there; the bore well is there and the statistics are there, but because the bore well is out of order, the water is not there as drinking water for the villagers. Therefore, it is extremely necessary that immediate steps should be taken to solve this problem. For the simple reason that these pump sets were given on contract to a particular firm outside Tamil Nadu against the advice of the officials by the erstwhile Karunanidhi Government and the whole matter was not handled properly. The mechanics who are responsible for see-

ing them function properly do not bother about it. Then there is a commission which is also looking into it. Meanwhile, please take up the work of maintenance of existing bore wells and drought relief measures for the people of my State, if they are to receive any relief whatsoever.

Then there is a problem for the handloom weavers which we raised also in the form of an amendment to the President's Address. The Prime Minister, when replying to the debate on the President's Address just escaped by saying that we are new; we do not know all the problems; we have to study problems. So, I can, in all humility, bring it to the notice of the Home Minister, this problem so that at least they can take up these problems, study them and see that very quick results are found.

Then there is a question of sales tax on hosiery products in Tamil Nadu. As a result of this, the manufacturers and the workers in the hosiery industry have to suffer a lot. This is a discriminatory sales tax which has gone against the hosiery industry in Tamil Nadu and the traditional market has now been lost on account of this. Unfortunately, the earlier Karunanidhi Ministry had introduced this tax. We had brought this matter to the notice of the Central Government during the President's Rule. The matter was on the anvil. We were assured that it would be reviewed. Therefore, I would like the Home Minister taking over this portfolio to look into this matter of my State and see that a decision is taken very soon in order to give relief to this key industry. There are thousands of workers dependent on it and this is a small scale industry. The Prime Minister yesterday assured that small scale industries are going to be helped. This can be a magnificent step by the Central Government that they would help the hosiery industry in Tamil Nadu by seeing that this discriminatory tax is removed there and protection is given

to them so that that industry can prosper once more as in the past.

There are a series of lock-outs in the glass and enamel factory in Salem, in Metres Instruments in Madras. And certain mills are closed in my own constituency of Coimbatore either for financial reasons or for other reasons. There is the Lotus Mill. They made a request for financial assistance from the banks that was necessary to get it going. I hope the Minister will see that this is immediately looked into so that in this period our workers are guaranteed employment and the normal and democratic system of our country continues to function smoothly as a result of the elections which were conducted.

Another point that I would like to make is about our indigenous system of medicine i.e. Ayurveda. In the south and in many other parts of the country, many people go in for Ayurvedic medicines. The Health Minister is not here. I would like to bring to his notice one thing. In the south, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pardash, there are many Ayurveda pharmacies. Particularly, in Tamil Nadu, quite a few Ayurveda pharmacies, hospitals and nursing homes have come up because they have been able to serve the people and many people from the North also go there to get treatment for certain ailments which allopathy cannot cure. So much so that the WHO has decided to have a research scheme along with Ayurveda pharmacies in Coimbatore. It is a great credit to our country because the UNESCO and the UNO themselves are recognising that India has got a good heritage in the medical field also as we have in education and other cultural fields. The erstwhile Karunanidhi Government had a kind of allergy—I do not know why—particularly to Ayurveda medicines and pharmacies which are concentrated more in Kerala. So they introduced a 40 per cent sales tax on Ayurvedic drugs. We had brought this to the

[Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan]

attention of the Government and pointed out that it was most unfair that our indigenous system of medicine was being discriminated against. I am not speaking as a person coming from Kerala or from the South. I am speaking in terms of encouraging the indigenous system of our medicine. The 40 per cent sales tax on Ayurveda medicines which the poor people are using is something which is just beyond one's imagination. Of course, the people of my city Coimbatore go to Palghat and pay Rs. 4/- more to go by bus and get the medicines. But what about others in Tamil Nadu? Why this discrimination against our indigenous system of medicine?

Surely, the Minister of Health can go into this matter and see that the protection is given to our Ayurveda medicines and this discrimination is removed. This will benefit the poor people who take to Ayurveda treatment. This will be a great move forward in removing discrimination between one State and another and between allopathic medicines and indigenously prepared medicines.

Lastly, when we are discussing the extension of the President's Rule in Tamil Nadu, I would like to say that elections in Tamil Nadu should be held at the earliest. The Home Minister has said that the elections will be held in a few months. We have been seeing various reports in the newspapers that the elections may be held in three months or four months or six months or two months. We have been demanding elections to the Tamil Nadu Assembly at the earliest possible time to give an opportunity to the people of Tamil Nadu to have a duly elected popular Government to deal with these problems and many other problems which we cannot discuss here for want of time today. I do not think the hon. Minister is in a mood to reply to all the problems. That is why I have

brought only a few problems to his notice and I would appeal to him to look into them immediately. I would appeal to him to give an assurance here and now as to how soon the elections will be held. The elections should be held not in a few months but, at the earliest giving time to the people of the State to have the electoral rolls rectified. During the recent elections in our State, we were horrified to find that many voters of long years of standing suddenly found themselves outside the electoral rolls. We had this experience and we overcame it. We do not want to accuse anyone of rigging the elections. But that attempt was there. We are glad that we overcame it and that is because of the strength of democratic spirit, democratic ideas and democratic norms that exist in our State.

In conclusion, I would again urge upon the Home Minister to give an assurance that democracy will be taken one step forward by having the State Assembly elections as early as possible and ensuring a duly democratically elected popular Government in the State.

SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: (Nagercoil): First of all, I wanted to point out one thing. The hon. Member Shri Alagesan misquoted our Prime Minister when he referred to the Sarkaria Commission. Our Prime Minister had said that Justice Sarkaria wanted four months. There is no question of giving four months. Our Prime Minister asked Shri Sarkaria about the investigation and the Justice asked for four months time to complete it, which was agreed to.

Then, another Hon. Member spoke about electricity cuts. In what way is our Prime Minister responsible for that? In what way can the Janata Government take the responsibility? It was your regime which was there at that time and you were responsible for it. The present Minister has said that we will see that the present

projects and systems are fully utilised. That means you have not utilised them properly and fully, so it is a reflection on your own regime.

Then, there is another thing. The lady Member who spoke just now said that some names were found missing from the electoral rolls but that she did not want to find fault with anybody. The responsibility can be placed only on the previous Government and that is why she did not want to find fault with anybody. Not only have they left out some names, but there were attempts at rigging also. I have ample proof of it. I have a bundle of papers duly signed by the Presiding Officer. With the permission of the Chair I can place it on the Table.

Then, another Hon. Member mentioned the first strike after we took over. Without lifting the rifle and without using any force we could bring the strike to a happy ending. You should give encomiums to the Janata Government for this.

Another thing is that the Janata Government will not swing in its responsibility of upholding justice. As I said yesterday, our measuring yard will not swing or bend in favour of anybody. At the same time it will not leave out anybody from the purview of enquiries by the Commissions.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Just a point of personal clarification: the enumerations were done when the DMK was in power in 1975. So, he should stand corrected.

SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: It was revised when your Government took over.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Not my Government; I never had my Government.

SHRI A. ASOKARAJ (Perambalur): Madam Chairman and Hon. Mem-

bers, it is a happy occasion for me to deliver this maiden speech as a member of the All India Anna D.M.K. from Tamil Nadu.

In the month of January 1976 the corrupt D.M.K. Government was dismissed and President's rule was imposed. The Tamil Nadu people expected Assembly elections along with the Parliamentary elections but, unfortunately, it was not so.

The Home Minister has announced the Assembly elections to the Kashmir Assembly within three months. I wonder and don't understand why the Hon. Minister has not said anything about the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections though it was dissolved fifteen months ago. Some officials are acting in a highhanded manner and the people are unable to express their feelings. Hence I request the Prime Minister through the Chair to announce immediate elections to the Tamil Nadu Assembly. If the Government do not announce it immediately, the people of Tamil Nadu will have doubts regarding the credibility of the statement that democracy is said to be flourishing now. Government says that they have faith in the people's verdict: then why don't the Government allow the people of Tamil Nadu to give their verdict? The present administration may be a good one, but a popular. Government will be a better, and the people of Tamil Nadu will give their verdict for a better one.

There is no popular Government in my State now. Therefore, I have to talk about my constituency here. My constituency, namely, Perambalur, is a very backward area, it is a drought-hit area. People belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward classes are living in huts. Human beings cannot live in such huts, we should really be ashamed of this. These huts are often destroyed by fire. So, the Government should come forward with comprehensive plans to change these huts. The drinking water problem is an

[Shri A. Asokaraj]

enormous one. People have to go for miles to fetch a pot of water. Protected water supply must be ensured. I would request the Government to come forward immediately with plans for this purpose and also arrange for execution of these plans immediately. I would like to warn the Government through the Chair that, if Government do not make the necessary arrangements to meet the basic needs of housing and water supply, I am afraid, people would resort to revolutionary methods.

I would request the Government to allocate funds for small and cottage industries as it is a drought-hit area.

Regarding education, I would like to express my views as I was a reputed teacher for ten years prior to my election. The present system has neglected the essence of Indian culture. Government should try to help the teacher to restore his personality in the educational set-up by means of suitable methods. At this juncture, I would like to congratulate Dr. P. C. Chunder, the present Minister of Education, through the Chair, for his thinking on reforming the secondary school system. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister of Education that autonomous boards may be set up for Elementary, Secondary and Collegiate education, so that they can function without interference from the bureaucrats.

We should not forget that poverty compels the parents to keep their children out of school so that they can work and supplement the family earnings. It is a sorry state of affairs. The Education Minister plans to employ two million primary school teachers and high school students for spreading literacy in the villages where their schools function, each taking on ten illiterates. On behalf of the All India Anna DMK, I congratulate the Education Minister for this concrete proposal, and I would request him to have it implemented honestly.

Regarding secondary education in Tamil Nadu, the graduate teachers are in two administrative wings, namely, 'A' wing and 'B' wing. It was discussed elaborately with the former DMK Ministers, but they did not take any action for the unification of the wings as they always tried to separate the teachers for their political gains. I request the Education Minister through the Chair to do the needful to abolish the separate wings of graduate Assistants in Tamil Nadu.

The Acting President has noted in his speech that the family planning programme which was implemented last year has caused public anger and resentment. I would like to draw the attention of the Education Minister through the Chair that the teachers in Tamil Nadu are made to bring family planning cases. Thus, they are humiliated and they are losing their prestige and image among the public. They are not allowed to teach, but are compelled to bring family planning cases. On behalf of our *Puratchi Thalaivar* Shri M. G. Ramachandran and our All-India Anna DMK, I thank the acting President for mentioning in the Address that the family planning programme will be pursued vigorously as a wholly voluntary programme and as an integral part of a comprehensive policy covering education, health, maternity, child care, family welfare, women's rights and nutrition.

In his Address to the Joint Session of both the Houses, the acting President has observed that, in the economic sphere, the Government is pledged to the removal of destitution within a definite time-frame of ten years. Though it is not easy to achieve it within ten years, I wish for it.

The farmers have been denied reasonable and fair price for their products. I request the Government to improve the conditions in villages—for their betterment. Handloom weavers must be given all sorts of assistance.

As we have already promised, our All India Anna DMK would support the Government in all their constructive and progressive measures.

*SHRI A. MURUGESAN (Chidambaram): Madam Chairman, on behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to say a few words on the Resolution seeking to extend the President's rule in Tamil Nadu.

At the very outset, I would refer to the regrettable omission in the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament. It is unfortunate, that the Acting President in his Address has not reiterated the solemn assurance of late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, which was scrupulously observed in letter and spirit by late Lal Bahadur Shastri and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, that Hindi would not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking people of our country. I hope that at least the Home Minister in his reply to this Debate would assure us that Hindi would not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking people of India.

The Acting President in his Address has assured that his Government, which swears by the name of Mahatma Gandhi and which professes to follow the footsteps of the Father of the Nation, would give a pivotal place to rural India in its scheme of economic development. I am an agriculturist by birth and I am spending my life among the agriculturists. There is a proverb in Tamil which says that, when the agriculturist starts his calculations, he will find that only the measure is with him and nothing else. His grievances are manifold. The Government should arrange for the supply of improved varieties of seed, fertilisers, tractors etc., at the appropriate time and at reasonable prices. He does not get remunerative price for his produce. For the last one year, he is undergoing untold indignities and his

labour is not honoured properly. The President's rule in Tamil Nadu has stopped even the bonus of Rs. 10 per bag being paid to him. Yesterday, the hon. Minister of Agriculture of the Government of India has, in his discussions with the State Agriculture Ministers, pointed out that the agriculturists of the country would be paid remunerative prices for their wheat, paddy etc., and as an incentive for increased production they would be given some bonus also. I welcome this wholeheartedly. I need not say that the agriculturists are the backbone of Indian economy and as repeatedly pointed out by Mahatma Gandhi, unless their welfare is assured, the nation's welfare will be in jeopardy.

After the enactment of the law liquidating rural indebtedness, the agriculturists are finding hard to get credit facilities for their operations. Before the local money-lenders were shunted out, alternative credit giving institutions should have been established in the rural areas. I do not mean to say that the agriculturists live on loans only. But, on account of the fact that they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce, they are perennially in debt. Here lies the importance of having alternative credit institutions for them. This must be done by the new Government at the earliest.

In most of the rural areas of our country, drinking water is so acute that the villagers walk many miles to get drinking water. In particular, the village women have to face this ordeal throughout the year. In my district this is a chronic problem. Ulundurpet, Kallakurichi and other adjoining areas face drinking water shortage for so many years now. The new Government at the Centre must provide this primary need of the people living in the rural areas.

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. Murugesan]

The former Central Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam gave an assurance about the opening of second-cut mine in Neiveli and here I need not emphasise the need for the setting up of Thermal Plant there for generating electricity needed for this purpose. Electricity is required for bringing out under-ground water and for so many other important economic activities. I request that this must be sanctioned immediately.

In Chidambaram and Tanjore Districts, which are known as the granary of Tamil Nadu, the land which gives three crops a year has become dry for want of water. Even after the construction of dams across Hemavathi and Harangi the Karnataka Government is not honouring the 1924 agreement in regard to the sharing of Cauvery water between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. If this water dispute is not resolved forthwith, the entire Tamil Nadu is likely to become an arid zone. The Janata Party Government at the Centre must find an immediate solution to this problem.

Our leader, Shri S. D. Somasundaram, has in his speech referred to the necessity of having representative Government in Tamil Nadu as early as possible. My leader Puratchi Thalavar M.G.R. and the national leader, Shri J. P. has also emphasised the urgency of having State Assembly Elections. I request that immediate elections to the State Assembly must be conducted in Tamil Nadu.

Immediately after freedom, Mahatma Gandhi stressed the role of Panchayats in a democratic system and pointed out that they should be vested with necessary powers. In my capacity as the Vice-Chairman of the Keerapalayam Panchayat Union, Chidambaram Constituency, I have felt the need for this. I stress with all the force at my command that the Panchayats should be vested with adequate powers so that

the villages can get the benefit which they deserve.

At the end, I suggest that the following programme of activities must be undertaken in my constituency, Chidambaram. Construction of revetment between Orattur and Sakkangudi on Vellar, Dairy and Poultry farms with financial assistance to run them, khadi and village industries, increased supply of drugs and appointment of staff in Chidambaram Hospital, enhancement of wages to the agricultural labour and their general upliftment, protected water supply, street-lighting, provision of house-sites and also financial assistance to Harijans backward classes for constructing houses, improvement of roads, raising into a post-graduate college the Government Nandmar boys and girls High Schools, Chidambaram.

With these words, I conclude after thanking you, Madam Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to speak in this House.

*SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Dharmapuri): Madam Chairman, the people of Tamil Nadu will regretfully welcome this Resolution which seeks to extend the President's rule in Tamil Nadu by another year. I say this because the Prime Minister and the Home Minister of the Janata Party Government, immediately after their assumption of high offices, assured that elections to the Assembly would be held as early as possible. Now this Resolution seeking to extend the President's rule in Tamil Nadu might create an impression in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu that the Janata Party Government would hold Elections to the Assembly only after Janata Party becomes popular among the people of Tamil Nadu.

This is my maiden speech and I have chosen to speak in my mother-tongue Tamil. For the past several years I have been watching the proceedings in this House. I get the feeling that the established rules and traditions in the

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

conduct of the business of this House have gone to the winds. In 1957, in this House, Shri E. V. K. Sampath spoke in Tamil and secured this right of speaking in our mother-tongue in this House. The late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave a solemn assurance to the non-Hindi Speaking people that English will continue so long as the non-Hindi speaking people want. This assurance has been implemented till the Congress Government at the Centre has scrupulously adhered to the assurance of Jawaharlal Nehru. Now we are afraid of the future. The Janata Party which has come to power at the Centre is a conglomeration of parties with different ideologies. It consists of Hindi fanatics also—Jana Sanghis and Socialists. These leaders in their tours of Tamil Nadu have sown the seed of hatred in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu. I would like to have a categorical assurance from this Government that they would honour the sacred and solemn assurance of Jawaharlal Nehru that Hindi will not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking people, and English will continue so long as they wish.

If what I have heard is true, then it is a matter to be condemned by all of us here. I understand that in the Health Ministry non-Hindi knowing officials are being thrown out. If this is true, then the separatist tendency which has died down in South will get a fresh lease of life. This Government can allay the fears of the people of Tamil Nadu by reiterating unequivocally the solemn assurance of Jawaharlal Nehru in regard to non-imposition of Hindi on the people of South.

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY (Calcutta South): There will be no imposition.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): The hon. Member is raising a

very important point on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu but the hon. Home Minister who is going to reply to the debate is not listening to his speech. I request him through you Madam Chairman, to kindly note down the points the Member is raising and reply to them.

SHRI K. RAMAURTHI: The Acting President's Address has been discussed in this House. Neither in the President's Address nor in the speeches of the ruling Party members there has been no indication about the ruling Party's economic programme. "We will change the laws; the freedom of the Press would be restored; all the detainees under MISA have been released; the dreadful MISA has been repealed"—these seem to be the theme-song of the ruling Party Members. What does this Government propose to do for the 24 crores of people not even getting an income of a rupee a day? Unfortunately in the D.M.K. rule, Tamil Nadu has come to the last position in the economic map of States in India. Maximum number of people below the poverty line are in Tamil Nadu. What is the economic programme of Janata Party Government for these people, I would like to know. The Central Government have given guidelines in regard to the standard acres as stipulated in different land reforms laws enacted by the States. It is strange that in spite of this, in Tamil Nadu the minimum prescribed by the State is higher than that stipulated in the guidelines of the Central Government. Under the President rule, at least the State land reform law must be brought on par with the Central guidelines.

After the liquidation of rural indebtedness, as per the 20-Point Programme it was thought that the moneylenders in Tamil Nadu would have been decimated. After the Parliamentary election it is strange that the moneylenders have come

[Shri K. Ramamurthi]

back to the surface. It is more astonishing that immediately after the Janata Government resume office in the Centre, they have started pressurising the poor people to give interest dues and the loans. I wonder whether they are the sponsors of Janata Party in Tamil Nadu and are also sympathetic towards the ruling Party at the Centre now. It is a matter to be condemned that with the coming to power of Janata Party the released bonded labour has again become slaves. Naturally, the extension to President's rule in Tamil will not give satisfaction to the people of Tamil Nadu.

As pointed out by the hon. Member, Shrimati Parvati Krishnan, drinking water is so acute a problem in Tamil Nadu that even if you are prepared to pay money you will not get drinking water. In my constituency, Dharmapuri boring wells have been dug, tanks have been desilted and underground water is being exploited. Still the people are suffering for want of drinking water and they have to go four or five miles for it. Dharmapuri has been declared as a backward area and yet nothing has so far been done to provide drinking water to the people. Shrimati Parvati Krishnan pointed out to many hundreds of lock-outs and lay-offs in the industrial sector of Tamil Nadu. The Plantation workers are not getting their dues according to the Plantation Workers Act as well as the minimum wages as per the Minimum Wages Act. The wages of labour are being denied. For the past four months, the Glass industry workers in Salem have been denied their wages and unemployed due to the illegal closure. This should be looked into by the Central Government as Tamil Nadu is directly administered by it.

Before I conclude, I would stress that elections to the Assembly must

be held forthwith in Tamil Nadu. I thank all the hon. Members for having heard my maiden speech in Tamil patiently and conclude with the hope that a Notification regarding Elections to the Assembly in Tamil Nadu would soon be issued by the Central Government.

SHRI MOHANARANGAM (Chengalpattu): Madam Chairman, I am very thankful to you for having given me the opportunity to express my views and my feelings on the extension of President's rule in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is now ruled by the officials acting in the name of the President. We have been asking them to conduct the elections for the State Assembly for the past one year and elections to the municipalities for the past 5 years. Municipal elections were conducted in 1969. The period expired in 1972. We asked for Municipal Elections in 1973. The period was extended to 1974 and then again to 1975 and 1976. For the past few years we have been asking for Municipal Elections to be held. We have been asking for elections to be held to the Panchayats. Panchayat elections were held during the year 1970. The period expired during the year 1975. The then Chief Minister Mr. Karunanidhi told us that elections will be conducted within 6 months. After 6 months he again said that this will be conducted in another 6 months. Afterwards, that Government was dismissed. For the past one year we have been asking our President to conduct elections for both municipalities and panchayats but no step has been taken so far. I hope that necessary steps will be taken by the concerned authorities now.

With regard to the Film Industry, under the regime of Mr. Karunanidhi the entertainment tax was increased to 65 per cent. This was done just to reduce the political popularity of

Mr. M.G.R. who is our leader. Mr. Karunanidhi increased the tax to 65 per cent in Tamil Nadu whereas the tax is 40 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 35 per cent in Karnataka. You cannot see anywhere in the whole of India any State where it has been increased to 65 percent as it has been increased in Tamil Nadu. That was done only to reduce the popularity of Mr. M.G.R. who is our leader.

With regard to language issue, I request the Prime Minister to give a categorical assurance on the floor of the House that Hindi will not be imposed on the people of the non-Hindi speaking areas. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had given this assurance. But what we find is that from Fifth Standard onwards Hindi is being imposed on the students of Tamil Nadu. I request the Prime Minister through the Chair, to give this categorical assurance that Hindi will not be imposed on the non-Hindi people. Immediate instructions should also be given to non-Hindi speaking States not to compel the students to learn Hindi. With regard to language, I wish to point out that our State is not like any other State. We have not our own rich literary traditions. We have a hoary past and a rich language in which our poets have given sermons and scriptures. We want that equal status should be given to our language on par with Hindi. Improvement of a language should not be at the cost of another language. So we want all importance to be given to our language.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why don't you speak in Tamil?

SHRI MOHANARANGAM: If I speak in Tamil language, the Members and the Ministers will never be able to understand that. That is why I am speaking in English which is an international language. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may carry on.

SHRI MOHANARANGAM: Madam Chairman, after the election was over, in our State, the A.I.D.M.K. volunteers were beaten up by the D.M.K. volunteers with the help of the police force. I do not know why the Janta party has joined hands with this discredited and corrupt Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi in the election. That is the reason why the Janta party has not even got half a dozen members out of the forty from the Tamil Nadu. (*Interruptions*). Shrimati Indira Gandhi never joined the D.M.K. You were talking about the 1971 election. Our leader, M.G.R., was in D.M.K. at that time and Shri Jagjiwan Ram was in the Congress. Now, the entire political force is in the hands of M.G.R. in Tamil Nadu. Certain things, Madam Chairman, were intimated to the concerned authority to rectify during the regime of Shri Karunanidhi. There were some officers who had no political affiliations were acting and doing certain things according to rules. As a result, some of the high officials were even suspended and dismissed or they were asked to retire voluntarily. I shall give here some instances. Some officers of the Tamil Nadu Government were asked to retire voluntarily. I asked the concerned authorities to take steps to reinstate those officials who were compelled to retire voluntarily in Tamil Nadu Government. All the time I had been asking the Government to take necessary steps in conducting the elections not only for Assembly but also for Municipalities and Panchayats Boards. We only want that the entire administration of my State should be run by a properly elected Government and not by the officers under the President's Rule.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam): Madam Chairman, I support the resolution moved by the hon. Home Minister seeking another term for the President's Rule.

While supporting this Resolution, I would like to point out with anguish

[Dr. Henry Austin]

the fact that the great State of Tamil Nadu is bereft of a popular government, for reasons well known to every honourable member of this House. The sad circumstances under which the previous regime had to be removed by the Government still brings in our ears. The decision of the then Government has been subsequently justified beyond any shadow of doubt by the recent Lok Sabha elections.

This clearly showed that the endeavour to detach a part of our country from the national mainstream by trying to create a cess-pool of reaction and limited loyalty will not be tolerated by the people of our country. Despite the fact that they have got great cultural achievement and despite the fact that they are guided by certain cultural rejuvenation and regeneration in recent years, still, they are proud of the national heritage of our country. The recent election is a positive proof of a new resurgence, of nationalism and desire to make our country great and to make their culture part of the composite culture of our great country. Sir, I do not want to make a long speech here. But, I would like to say that the experiment, the device, taken by the previous Government in constituting a Committee of Members of Parliament to advise the Administration run by the President was a very good move. I hope that the Home Minister will look into the possibility of reconstituting the Committee for whatever period the President's Rule may subsist as an interim measure. (*Interruptions*)

CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH: Do you want the holding of the elections as early as possible?

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: I am not referring to the elections now. Of course, I welcome the statement of the Prime Minister regarding early elections. There was a consultative

Committee of Members of Parliament to advise the Tamil Nadu Administration under President's Rule which was presided over by the Home Minister.

That Committee was of great help in making the necessary suggestions and, perhaps here, the reviving of such a Committee would be helpful.

Sir, one of the reasons for my participation in this debate is highlight the existing severe drought conditions in Tamil Nadu. Sir, in the areas that I visited a few months back the scarcity of essential commodities and particularly that of drinking water is very acute. It is a very bad situation indeed. Of course, the previous Administration had been helpful in boring 6,000 bore-wells but I am very sorry to say that the maintenance work has been neglectful and many of these wells are in disuse now. This is a serious situation which might be attended to.

Sir, in Karur, Chengalpattu and other areas the handloom weavers are facing a very serious problem in as much as that they cannot find a market for their produce. They have been in this handloom industry for ages and the goods produced in those areas have a acquired a certain standard. But today because of neglect thousands of people—if not lakhs—are suffering and the Administration might take adequate interest or devise measures to relieve the workers involved in this large industry from this situation of unemployment and possible extinction of this industry.

Sir, another serious situation that obtains in Tamil Nadu is the fact that many mills in Coimbatore and Madurai—centres of textile industry—are running sick. I think about eight or nine mills have already been declared sick mills and Government—as I am told—has only decided to take over one sick mill. It is a very bad situation. If the textile industry comes into bad days, then it will affect our whole economy.

Now the thing which interests not only the people of Tamil Nadu but also the people of entire South is the completion of Jammu—Kanyakumari railway line. The railway line has already been extended upto Jammu and only certain missing links are there in the South. I do hope the hon. Home Minister, who takes up matters seriously, will look into this. Though I know it is not directly under his control.

Again, Sir, there has been great interest—both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu—for starting a railway line connecting the ancient city of Madurai with the developing port of Cochin. Sir, I represent Cochin. It is in my constituency. I think certain survey has already been undertaken and I do not know what its present stage is. This railway line would also create facilities for the development of tourism because hundreds of foreigners are coming to Madurai to see the Madurai temples and also to Cochin. On the way is Idikki where we have the giant hydro-electric project. Nearby we have also a great game sanctuary at Thekkady. All these places could be connected if this railway line from Cochin harbour to Madurai is started. This will throw open the hinterland of Tamil Nadu to Cochin Harbour.

Now, another thing I have noticed in my recent tour to Tamil Nadu is the tremendous scope for development of fisheries. On the Kerala coast, as is well-known, there has been a great blue revolution since 1952. I had also a part to play in initiating this great blue revolution which has revolutionised the coastal Kerala. It has now spread to some other coastal States also. Tamil Nadu offers tremendous potential for the development of fisheries.

One of the nine fish breeding centres of the world, as marine biologists have pointed out, lies hardly about 800 kilometres of the coast of Tutu-

corine on the coromondal coast. According to marine biologists, if you exploit the potentials of Wadge Bank as it is named after a German biologist in the later part of the 19th century, we will have fed the entire South and South-East Asia by high protein food, sea-food of various kinds. Today the sea-food industry is catching up and in Kerala alone we have exported in the course of the last year about 350 crores of rupees worth shrimps and other frozen sea-food in foreign exchange. Kerala coast is nothing when compared to the great Wadge Bank and in the Sixth Five Year Plan we are planning to have what we call deep-sea fishing and Tamil Nadu offers much more than Kerala and other coastal States for the development of fisheries, through deep sea fishing.

Sir, I have said enough. I would like to say that a fresh wind is blowing in Tamil Nadu. I told this to my friends in the North when I met them some time back in the AICC or in the Parliament itself. They used to ask what was happening in Tamil Nadu—why so much of provincialism, chauvinism and limited loyalties were fostered there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is up.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: One more minute, Madam. So, that phase seems to be over and every one should be proud of it. Of course, people of Tamil Nadu and the South in general are proud of their culture and their heritage, but we always considered those cultural achievements as an integral part of an integrated whole—the composite culture of India. Towards this end we have been striving and we are glad to say that this desideratum has excited a lot of people in our country. Let us stand for the unity of the country and in the process let us also throw more emphasis on the development of the south and satisfy the aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu in particular and the entire south in general.

SHRI S. NANJESHA GOWDA (Hasan): Madam Speaker, hon. Member.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, Madam Chairman.

SHRI S. NANJESHA GOWDA: I am a new Member. I am new to parliamentary affairs also. So, kindly bear the mistake of mine.

Now, I am speaking in support of the Resolution already moved. Many of my friends, Sir, have spoken many things. I also want to say something about what happened in Karnataka. About Tamil Nadu, I share the feelings of all Tamil Nadu friends. There is no doubt about it.

Regarding Karnataka also, I want to say something because I had no opportunity, in spite of requests, to speak on any occasion previously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should speak on Tamil Nadu.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI S. NANJESHA GOWDA: I must speak only on Tamil Nadu? But I observed that many friends spoke beyond the subjects every time. As a new Member, kindly give me the opportunity to say something. As my friends already said, in Karnataka there are no elections for Taluka Boards and Panchayats and all those things for the last 8 years. On this occasion, I request, through the Chairman, this honourable Government to conduct elections to those august bodies fairly and honourably. Regarding the last elections, I want to say a few words. My friend Lakkappa comes from Karnataka, from a constituency which is adjacent to my constituency. He says that people came in a procession to vote for Congress. He also says that the Congress has done a lot in the past

thirty years. He has forgotten that before 1971 he was saying quite the opposite: let him say what his feelings were then and what he was doing before 1971. He used to fight like a tiger and criticise the Congress. (Interruptions) I am sorry to say that he has become a circus tiger during the last 18 months during emergency just as the circus tiger is being controlled by somebody else, he was controlled by somebody else. On Karnataka elections and other things so many persons spoke about north and south, about regional feelings, communal feelings, etc. I do not think that it is a healthy feature.... (Interruptions) In so many constituencies people did not come in procession; they were not in love with the Congress. I know that people were paid in some constituencies for coming in processions. So many ministers have spent so heavily for elections; they took advantage of the poverty of the people. One Minister spent lakhs and lakhs in my constituency. That money is corrupt money, black money. I have got records to show that he amassed corrupt money. Here is the report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Karnataka legislature. The Committee consists of 10 Congress MLAs and 5 opposition MLAs and the Accountant General. In 1974-75 they submitted this report to the Government of Karnataka; this is a unanimous report; ten Congress members and 5 opposition members sat with officers of the government and examined the records and they put on record what has been proved and they give the details of all the scandals and then they give their final conclusion and I shall read from that for only one minute. It is true that money was looted. Now, he is a Minister in the present Government. He was the President of the Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation. The charges are framed against him by the Congress Party people themselves. In this connec-

tion, I will read out the relevant portion of the Public Accounts Committee Report of the Karnataka Government. (Interruptions). As per the report of the PAC, it is stated that Shri Srikantiah was the President of the Karnataka Co-operative Marketing Federation. I will read out the relevant portion at pages 261-62:

"Ad hoc decision of the President to transport fertilisers to Belgaum from Bangalore instead of from Hubli contrary to the advice tendered by the officers in July 1970 that causing a loss to the tune of Rs. 73,000...."

Then, there are other items involving Rs. 1.5 crores by defrauding by the same person. I will take up this matter on some other occasion as time is limited. Thank you.

SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU (Tiruchengode): Madam Chairman, President's rule in Tamil Nadu has been extended. But now the people are unable to send their representatives to the State Legislature. The people are unable to express the difficulties faced by them through the medium of Legislature. The people are as a whole in practical difficulties because they are not able to get their grievances redressed through their elected representatives. On behalf of the All India Anna D.M.K. I plead, on the floor of the House, that the elections to the State Legislature should be conducted at an early date. Now, there was a system adopted by the erstwhile Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu—the mass contact system. This does neither good to the people nor to the Government. I would say that this system should either be followed in its true sense or it should be dropped. By taking advantage of the President's rule, the D.M.K. power-mongers are threatening the public endangering their life and security. During the regime of the DMK Government, the party people tried

to engage the Government machinery for their own personal ends. The police are indirectly supporting the DMK rowdy elements and some of the Anna D.M.K. volunteers have been threatened and beaten up. On top of it, the police registered cases against the Anna D.M.K. volunteers and not the DMK volunteers. This fact was brought to the notice of the I. G. of Police by the Anna D.M.K. leaders. But so far no action has been taken by the Police I would request the Government to look into this matter seriously and take necessary steps immediately so that justice is done to the aggrieved persons of Anna D.M.K. There are some pending cases against the DMK leaders and those cases should be expedited. I would request the Government to take suitable steps to implement the pending public work schemes that have been left undone by the previous Government. In many parts of constituency in Tamil Nadu, there are no village link roads. I request the government to look into the matter. Only when the villages are linked by proper roads, education will improve. In my constituency most of the villages are not at all connected by roads. So, the children find it very difficult to go to school. So, I request the government to take steps to construct link roads as soon as possible in an economic way.

In Tamil Nadu, the farmers have to deposit huge sums to buy a tractor by way of loan. This amount should be reduced. We know that this government is mainly for the uplift of the poor sections of the people and we hope that the water problem in the villages will be solved. Certainly we lend our cooperation and support in eradicating poverty in the country if the will of the people is duly respected and really weighed.

On the floor of this House, I request the government to expedite the execution of the work on the Salem

[Shri R. Kolanthaivelu]

Steel Plant. The inter-State water dispute also must be settled as soon as possible. The Kalpakkam atomic power station has been pending for a long time. This must be looked into. The Tuticorin thermal plant also should be given due consideration and the government must take suitable action.

With these words, I conclude my maiden speech.

*SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for this opportunity being given to me to participate in the discussion on the Resolution seeking to extend the President's rule in Tamil Nadu. So far as my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, is concerned, there can be no two opinions about the need for holding elections to the Assembly in Tamil Nadu at the earliest. In 1975 State Conference of D.M.K. we demanded that along with Parliamentary elections the elections to the Assembly also must be held. The former Central Government held the Assembly Elections in Kerala. But they were hesitant to order Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu because they were inhibited by the fear that the Congress Party might not be able to win the elections in the State. The D.M.K. would welcome unreservedly any time the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu.

It is necessary for me to analyse here the background and the basis on which the President's rule was imposed in Tamil Nadu. This House must know that the duly elected D.M.K. Government was in power in the State. In 1971 General Elections, the Congress Party was having alliance with D.M.K. and through its influence and support the Congress Party could get its members elected

to the Lok Sabha and also to the Assembly.

On June 12, 1975 the Allahabad High Court set aside the election of the Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi to Lok Sabha. Immediately, our D.M.K. President, Dr Kalaingar Karunanidhi, declared that Shrimati Gandhi must step down in order to set up firm democratic traditions in the country. This annoyed Shrimati Gandhi and she started nurturing her desire to dismiss the D.M.K. Government in Tamil Nadu. On June 25, 1975, the Emergency was proclaimed all over India, and all the national leaders were put behind bars. On 27th, two days after the declaration of the Emergency, the D.M.K. Executive Committee passed a unanimous resolution demanding the revocation of Emergency and the release of all national leaders. The D.M.K. was the first political party to pass such a resolution. Naturally, Shrimati Gandhi's desire to dismiss the D.M.K. Government became a determination. On the basis of a Petition submitted by Shri M. G. Ramachandran, who parted company with D.M.K. in 1972, on January 31, 1976 the D.M.K. Government—a majority party Government in the State—was dismissed unceremoniously. Even the Governor of the State was kept in darkness about this unholy act. An illegal and anti-democratic act was perpetrated with least compunction.

Many of us were arrested forthwith. From January 31, 1976 the Police was hounding and hunting the D.M.K. members. From February 1, their efforts intensified and 20,000 D.M.K. workers including many leading lights of the party were taken into custody. Under MISA 2000 persons were arrested. Many prominent leaders of D.M.K. were put in Madras Central Jail. They were put in the Cell in 9th Block where leprosy

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

patients had been kept. On February 2, at about 7 P.M. we were taken away from our rooms along with other criminals and we were all cruelly beaten. Shri Chitti Babu, a former M.P. from D.M.K., later succumbed to the injuries sustained in this beating. Another worker, Shri Balakrishnan died in Madurai jail as a consequence of such atrocious action on the part of the police. The Jail Superintendent could not have by himself done this. He was instigated by a Central Minister for the purpose of instilling fear in the workers of D.M.K. Shri Om Mehta, the Central Minister, is reported to have encouraged the Jail Superintendent in this atrocity. I demand that a parliamentary inquiry should be ordered immediately in the dispicable conduct of this Central Minister.

After the imposition of President's rule. Shrimati Indira Gandhi visited Madras and she was gracious enough to announce publicly that water from Krishna river would be brought to Madras as if it could be done in a fortnight. One year has gone by after that and till now not even preliminary talks have been initiated with the Andhra State Government for this purpose. Is it not a deliberate deception practised on the gullible people of Madras?

The hon. Member from Kerala referred to the need of nourishing national integration. It has been misconstrued that the D.M.K. preaches separation. I have to state with all the force at my command that the D.M.K. is not a party preaching separation. It seems to be the other way round. Shri C. Subramaniam in his speech on the floor of this House spoke glibly about the pattern of voting in the Parliamentary elections—North voting for Janata Party and the entire South voting for the Congress. In spite of the Allahabad High Court's stigma on her, if only Shrimati Gandhi had won in the elections, with the majority she has from South. In all probability she might have declared

a separate South India and become its Prime Minister. D.M.K. has been preaching for more than three decades the need for national integration. There is no South or North and India is one country. D.M.K. has unflinching faith in this.

It is being bandied about that there should be a stable Central Government and then only the inter-State disputes could be solved amicably. Has Cauvery water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka been solved though there is a stable Government at the Centre for the past thirty years? Has the Pandiyar Ponnampuzha dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala been solved though the Congress Party has been in power at the Centre for the past three decades uninterruptedly? Devaraj Urs Ministry and Achutha Menon Ministry in Karnataka and Kerala respectively were toys in the hands of Mrs. Gandhi. Even then these disputes have not been solved. None can touch the unity of the country and none can show his evil designs on the integrity of India. India should be and will become a great power in the comity of nations.

North India is afflicted by floods with monotonous regularity. Similarly there is recurring drought in South. In order not only to solve this twin problem but also to foster national integration, river Ganga must be linked with river Cauvery. Some people have expressed fears about the enormous sum needed for this purpose. But once in this very House, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia has referred to the need for the creation of a land army. We have got more than enough manpower in this country. The labour employed for digging canals in different States can be given food and clothing. They can be assured of 4 acres or 5 acres of land on the banks of canals dug by them. Naturally they will work with all their enthusiasm. Besides solving the problem of unemployment, irrigation and

(Shri A. V. P. Asaithambi)

agriculture will also get a fillip by this arrangement. The Janata Party Government should pay attention to this scheme in all seriousness.

In Tamil Nadu two MISA detainees died in prison. Many hundreds must have died in North India. I suggest that all the bereaved families must be given a life pension of Rs. 1000 a month by the Central Government. Then only we will be doing our duty by the dead.

It is expected that the President's rule must be impartial and honest. But in Tamil Nadu during President's rule corruption and malpractices have multiplied beyond imagination. The Congress people have secured positions of profit during President's rule. The former Congress Minister, Shri Ramaya has become the Vice-Chairman of Planning Body of the State. The former Minister, Shri Rajajram Naidu has become the President of the Housing Board. Even after the ignominious defeat of the Congress Party in the recent elections they are clinging to their seats. Either they must themselves resign or they must be pushed out by the Central Government.

Many have referred to perfidious role of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Sukhadia, who is reported to have resigned. The Congress Members seem to have become his staunch defenders in this House. It is rumoured that he is likely to become the President of the All India National Congress. At the time of elections, he went from village to village and compelled the leaders of villages and their followers to vote for the Congress. Dr. Handa, a prominent supporter of the Congress, has attacked his activities during the election. An inquiry must be ordered by the Central Government in regard to his role in the recent elec-

tions. D.M.K. wholeheartedly welcomes elections to the Assembly in the State and the Central Government must conduct this at the earliest.

With these words, I conclude my maiden speech.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirapalli): Mr. Chairman, this Resolution for the extension of President's Rule in Tamil Nadu, I appreciate, is inevitable. But, at the same time, I will join the previous speakers in urging that the elections to the State Legislature must be held as early as possible, and the elections should be as fair and as free as possible. The people must be allowed to have a government of their own choice, without any interference from the Centre. This will be the test before the people of Tamil Nadu for the new Janata Government in Delhi. The verdict passed by the people of Tamil Nadu recently during the Lok Sabha elections is clear. They have rejected the DMK, and they have also rejected the Janata. That is why the previous speaker, my esteemed friend, Shri Asai Thambi, was so sober in this House. He was waxing eloquent about national unity, about linking Ganga with Cauveri, I have no hesitation in supporting him in that demand. They have at least now become wise after their defeat. If the DMK had not been defeated, whether Chaudhuri Charan Singh is sitting here or Shri Morarji is sitting here or Shrimati Indira Gandhi is sitting here, nothing can prevent them from fomenting separatist and chauvinist slogans. I am proud that my party and the all India Anna DMK stood in the forefront in fighting against their separatist policy.

SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI: Without the help of ADMK these people could not come here.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: He was narrating in this House the

sufferings undergone by the DMK people after the dismissal of their Government. Some of them may be true, or may not be true; I am not prepared to challenge them. I would sympathise with them, if they have suffered, because I would not support any action like that. But, may I ask Shri Asaithambi whether he has forgotten all the things that were done during the regime when his party was in power. How many political murders took place then? Do not try to hide those facts from this House. The days of misleading this House are over. There was a time when 22 members belonging to that Party were sitting here, the most eloquent and very effective speakers. All their top leaders like Karunanidhi, Anbazhagan, Neduchezhiyan, were free to campaign as they liked.

SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI:
 What about Shri Manoharan?

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:
 All the details which the hon. Member, Mr. Asaithambi, mentioned here in this House were placed before the people. But the people rejected them and gave a clear verdict in favour of the progressive alliance and the policy pursued by the alliance. This is what the Government here should take note of. Do not play with the mood of the Tamil Nadu people. For the first time after nearly 15 years the people of Tamil Nadu have joined the mainstream. The Janata wave is there in a different way. Please listen to my point seriously. I have no political motive. I am only trying to place some facts before this House for the consideration of the new Ministers. After the formation of this Government, the DMK is more jubilant than even the Janata Party itself. They are celebrating the victory in the hope that they can hide themselves or seek shelter for their crimes.

Secondly, all the blackmarketeers and hoarders have become very active in the past one week. What has happened to cement? The fixed price

of cement is Rs. 19.20, but you cannot get a bag of cement anywhere in Tamil Nadu for less than Rs. 30 or Rs. 31 now. This is the position today. I challenge anyone to contradict me. Thousands of building workers are unemployed. I have visited important centres for two days. All private constructions have come to a standstill. Cement is not at all available in the open market.

Yarn, especially of coarse variety, used for making carpets, bedsheets and towels, has shot up by 50 to 60 per cent in the course of one week. It is not available in the open market. Thousands of handloom weavers are starving for want of yarn. Such things are happening. The prices of edible oils, pulses and other essential commodities have shot up. The wholesale traders think that their Raj has come and that they will be free to do whatever they like. In your anxiety to undo everything that was done during the Congress regime, please do not undo the good things that they had done. One good thing that they did was to remove DMK from power and to appoint a Commission of Enquiry. Some other good things have also taken place by way of implementing the 20-point programme, especially giving relief to the rural poor and cultivating tenants.

Today, drought conditions are very serious in my State. Even the Cauvery delta is drought-affected. Three lakhs of acres have remained fallow for three years consecutively. The Janata Party leaders are believers in national unity. If you want to preserve the unity of this country, bring the people of Tamil Nadu into the stream of national reconstruction so that we may build a new India. Whatever may be our political attitude towards this Government, we will not be wanting in our efforts for rebuilding and restructuring the national economy of our country. Please take this point seriously.

[Shri M. Kalyanasundaram]

If the Cauvery water dispute was not settled earlier, if the Krishna water does not come to Madras, I will not blame the former Central Government alone, because the DMK Government was the main culprit. Because the DMK was in power, it could not come. Mrs. Gandhi did not announce the decision about the Krishna water suddenly on 15th February. It was there in the Gulhati Commission's report ten years ago. When Mr. Sanjiva Reddy was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, it was settled that Krishna water would be available to Madras for drinking purposes. That was settled ten years ago.

It is nothing new. The DMK Government failed when they were in power. What is their real demand. How does he explain their attitude regarding the State autonomy and Joint Government at the Centre? They are still pursuing this demand. In Coimbatore, in December 1975, did he not say that if there were elections, Mr. Karunanidhi will be the Chief Minister and if there were no elections, then Mr. Karunanidhi will become the Prime Minister. Is he going to become the Prime Minister of India? Is it not a veiled threat to separate the State?

The drought conditions are very serious there. I would request the Government to send a team there to study the whole thing. Some lasting benefit must be given. The water table is going below, because there is no water in the river. In the non-delta area, it has gone very low. We are in a very unfortunate position. The whole of Tamil Nadu is bleeding due to this nusery. There is no drinking water available in many villages in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. There the sand is so hot and so dry. That is the position of the Tamil Nadu area. Kindly show some mercy to Tamil Nadu. Please

do not view their problem from a political angle. Please send a team there immediately so that they may study the whole thing and give them relief immediately. If the Centre gives adequate relief and earns the good will of the people of Tamil Nadu I will have no political jealousy on that.

Recently, there was a railway accident. The Government is being misled here. When I was speaking on the Railway Budget, there was an assurance that the Minister will be very vigilant and he will be able to control even the Railway Board. What is the position? Does anybody know how that accident took place? Does anybody know the real cause of that accident? West Coast Express Train was running at a high speed. When it was passing through Sevoor station, suddenly, the bogies got derailed and so on. What happened to the passengers and the railway workers who were sitting by the side of the cabin. Thirty people must have been killed. The railway authorities said that only six people were killed. Today, they have increased the number to nine. Even today, they are not able to tell the truth about the accident. What kind of enquiry is taking place. The enquiry is there to suppress the facts and hide the causes of the accident. There was a warning when the train was in Salem, that is 150 miles away. The driver again reminded that some peculiar noise was being heard. One of the parts of the coach slipped down and was caught between the wheels when coaches derailed, one after another and capsized.

I would request the Government to hold a proper enquiry into the causes of the accident. The enquiry by the railway inspection officers is not proper; it will not give you the truth about the accident. If you want to get at the truth in the interest of the nation to avoid such accidents in future, you must hold a proper

enquiry. Our railways have got a proud record in the matter of accidents.

Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had given us an example. He was not responsible for that accident. The natural causes were there. But till he resigned.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Mr. Alagesan?

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Let us emulate the example of Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, not of Mr. Alagesan.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: On a point of information....

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I am not yielding. Two Members cannot speak at the same time. He cannot interrupt me. I will not allow him to interrupt me.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Who is he to allow or not allow me to interrupt. It is for the Chair. Sir, on a point of personal explanation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since you have referred to him, let him explain.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I placed my resignation in the hands of the then Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru. He advised me not to be hasty. He said, "Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri has already resigned. You do not resign." So, on the advice of that great leader, I did not press my resignation. Let the House know it.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I want a thorough inquiry to be made into that accident. You send a senior officer from the Railway Board and the State railway officer. You also depute some senior officer from the Home Ministry. It is welcome. Let there be a proper inquiry to find out the real causes of the accident so that

proper lessons may be drawn for the future of the safety of the rail travel. This is a very serious matter. I want a thorough probe into the matter.

With these words, I resume my seat.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad to find that the resolution has not been opposed by any hon. Member. And yet long speeches have been delivered. I raised a point of order but I was overruled. Perhaps, it seems that the hon. Members were right in saying what they did. The question, however, is whether I can reply to all the points raised from fishery development to railway development and the railway accident. The hon. Members have covered a very wide field. I do not find myself competent to answer all those points raised at such a short notice.

I would only refer to three or four specific points that have been made on which the Government can take some action. Firstly, about the question of drinking water, I will see what relief can possibly be extended at the instance of the Government of India as soon as possible. I do not know the extent of the problem. But, as I have said, I will do my best so far as the Government of India is concerned.

Secondly, some cases of excesses committed during the President's Rule were also mentioned....

AN HON. MEMBER: And also during the DMK's régime.

CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH: Here, I am concerned only with the President's rule. If specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government, I assure my hon. friends there that strict action will be taken. An inquiry will be held and if the persons who are accused of crimes and excesses committed by them are found guilty, strong action will be taken against them.

[Chaudhuri Charan Singh]

Another point that was made was about the constitution of the Advisory Committee. I said that perhaps no such Committee was necessary. But I find I was wrong. It is a statutory Committee. I understand that the Home Ministry has already taken necessary steps in the matter and soon a Committee will be appointed.

Now, there is a question about Hindi. Some of my friends have imported heat into this question but that heat was imported unnecessarily. This Government has absolutely no intention of imposing Hindi on any State or Union Territory.

Now, so far as elections are concerned, the Resolution itself says that the elections will be held within a few months. Supposing I had said in the Resolution that they will be held 'within three months' or 'within four months' or 'as early as possible' I think matters would not have improved thereby. I have already committed myself to the statement that the elections will be held within a few months and the term 'few months' can include a period of two months to four months also. I am ready to amend the words of the Resolution to read 'as soon as possible' if that will satisfy the Hon. Members.

So far as the fairness of the elections is concerned, this question need not have been raised at all. We ourselves have been victims of unfair elections. I therefore assure the Members there that so far as we are concerned, we will do our best to see that the elections are free and fair.

Now, I may say that in as much as the people of Tamil Nadu will soon be in charge of their own destiny, perhaps no emotion need to be spent over this issue any more. With these words, I hope the Resolution will be accepted by the House.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: There were some points regarding closures and so on. Will the Consultative Committee be formed soon and these matters be referred to them, as these are of extreme urgency?

CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH: The Consultative Committee is being formed very soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 in respect of Tamil Nadu, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of one year with effect from the 10th March, 1977."

The motion was adopted.

17.48 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF NAGALAND

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): I beg to move the following Resolution in the House:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 22nd March, 1975, in respect of Nagaland, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of one year with effect from the 26th March, 1977".

The State of Nagaland came under the President's Rule with effect from 22nd March, 1975, the date on which the proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution was issued by the President. This proclamation was approved by the Lok Sabha on 25th March, 1975 and by the Rajya Sabha on 26th March, 1975. Since then, three extensions of six months each