

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol. XXXV

First Day of the Tenth Session
of the Fifth Lok Sabha

No. 1

LOK SABHA

Monday, February 18, 1974/Magha 29.
1895 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Thirty-five
Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

- (1) Shrimati Roza Vidyadhar Deshpande (Bombay Central)
- (2) Shri Ram Hedao (Ramtek)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MR. SPEAKER: Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 18th February, 1974.

President's Address

Honourable Members,

You reassemble at a time of difficulty and trial. The people face many hardships as a result of high prices, scarcity of essential commodities and interruptions in production and supply caused by strikes, *bundhs* and unrest, which in some parts of the country have taken a violent turn.

The international oil crisis has cast an uneasy shadow on the economy. These unforeseen events have undoubtedly slowed down the pace of our social and economic development. In this situation, the people's mood is one of understandable anxiety. I have deep sympathy with the people, particularly the poor sections who have had to suffer.

2. Seldom has a country faced such gignatic problems in quick succession, year after year, as we have these last three years. It has been a continuous testing of the nation's mettle. The nation has survived these difficulties and has not allowed them to come in the way of its basic endeavours towards development. This is no mean achievement and should not be ignored, even though positive aspects are at to be overlooked in difficult times.

3. There have been a number of welcome developments. One of these is the manner in which the people of Andhra Pradesh have solved the problem of intra-regional tensions which only a year ago appeared insurmountable. I congratulate all sections of the people of that State on the wisdom and spirit of accommodation which they displayed. The six-point formula which has been evolved should lead to fuller integration and to the accelerated development of the backward areas of the State.

4. Two other hopeful trends are in the economic sphere: the rise in export earnings and the improvement in the performance of public undertakings. Until about two years ago the