

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, March 23, 1971/
Chaitra 2, 1893 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Twenty
minutes past Twelve of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Hiren Mukherjee (Calcutta-North
East)

Shri Samar Guha (Contai)

MR. SPEAKER : Any other hon.
member who has not taken oath here ?
None.

12.22 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table
a copy of the President's Address to both
Houses of Parliament assembled together on
the 23rd March, 1971.

President's Address

Members of Parliament,

1. It gives me pleasure to address this
Joint Session of the Fifth Parliament of
our Republic and summon you to new
endeavours.

The General Election has once again
demonstrated that durable political power
in a democracy has only one source—the
people. It has proved the people's confi-
dence in themselves and their faith in
the processes of democracy.

2. Our people have made their choice.
They have asserted their sovereignty through
the ballot box. And theirs is a massive
mandate for change, peaceful change that
must swiftly and visibly alter the picture
of poverty and alienation in our land.

3. We have begun this work. But now

we have to address ourselves afresh to
evolving perspectives, policies and practices
even more closely and concretely related
to the needs of our people and our times.

4. My Government have been return-
ed to office on the clear pledge that the
central objective of our policy must be
the abolition of poverty. To achieve
this, my Government are firmly committed
to implementing the economic and social
transformation outlined in the manifesto
which has received such overwhelming
support of the electorate.

5. The Government will soon frame
specific policies and programmes arising
out of the mandate of the electorate. A
mid-term appraisal of the Fourth Plan
will be made. This appraisal will enable
us to review and reorient the plan in
order to increase the pace and effective
use of investment in the economy. As part
of this exercise, Government will also
identify the specific directions in which
developmental programmes could be
further reinforced in a determined effort
to deal with the problem of unemployment.
The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment
which is to be implemented from the com-
mencement of the next financial year
will form the nucleus of a comprehensive
programme for the expansion of employ-
ment. This programme will be linked to
schemes for raising the productivity of
agriculture. The construction and renova-
tion of minor irrigation sources and the
provision of basic amenities such as drink-
ing water supply and link roads will form
part of this programme. The problem of
the educated unemployed will receive
special attention.

6. My Government are convinced that
land reforms are vital for the promotion
of an egalitarian social order and for
maximising agricultural production. In
recent months, various issues relating to
land reforms have received special attention
of my Government. A Central Land
Reforms Committee under the chairmanship
of the Union Minister of Food and Agri-
culture has been set up. As a result of the