

YSR-ASC/11.00/1A

**The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.**

प्रश्न संख्या : 141

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक ने 1992 में 2700 रुपए के बॉण्ड कितनी संख्या में जारी किए थे और क्या 25 वर्ष की अवधि के बाद उन्हें एक लाख रुपए डिस्काउंट देने की बात कही थी?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already stated the factual position. Yes, the IDBI issued this Bond from 31st March 1992. The terms and conditions were laid down. The minimum requirement was that one has to buy at least one Bond of Rs.2,700 with the prevailing rate of interest at that point in time. Another was that if somebody buys a Bond, after the maturity period of 25 years, in 2017, they will get Rs. one lakh per Bond of Rs.2,700. But even when this offer was made, there were conditions for either of the parties, namely, the bondholders and the IDBI. The bondholders will have the right to withdraw at the interval of every five years and the IDBI will have the right of redemption/call option at the end of every five-year period. And when it will be withdrawn at the end of five years or it will be redeemed at the end of five years, each bondholder will be paid according to the deemed face value of the Bond on that day. These were the terms and conditions which were laid down very clearly at the time of the offer.

So far as the number of such Bonds is concerned, about 11 lakh bondholders were there. After ten years, it was found that interest rate variations were substantially changing. Then the IDBI also wanted to

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redeem it. At the end of the tenth year, that means year 2002, a substantial number of bondholders were paid back the money. I am told that about 11 lakh were original subscribers and about ten lakh claims have already been settled.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Sir, I am satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Finance Minister. But I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The bondholders were given the assurance that after the maturity period of 25 years, they would be paid Rs. one lakh. The bank has used the call option and now it is paying Rs.12,000 to the bondholders.

I understand that 90 per cent of the bondholders have been paid the money. But the ten per cent of bondholders have not been paid on time. Nor have they been given the interest on it. They have only given Rs.12,000.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly enquire into the fact how the bank authorities have used the call option after five years. There is no doubt that there was an agreement in the Bond that the bondholders can withdraw and bank can also use the call option. But, Sir, only Rs.12,000 have been paid to them. No interest was paid on it. On the other hand, they are charging income tax on it from the bondholders. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to enquire into the fact and the bondholders, who have not been paid the money due to them, should be paid the money immediately.

(Followed by VKK/1B)

-YSR/VKK/1b/11.05

Q. No.141 (Contd.)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, even as late as April this year, the remaining around one lakh bond-holders have been intimated by the IDBI to come and collect their deemed value at the end of the tenth year, that is, 2002 which will be Rs.12,000. Now, as the hon. Member is aware, IDBI has also transformed its character. From a financial lending developmental institution, now, it has converted itself into a commercial bank. Earlier there was no question of paying interest. But, as it has transformed itself into a commercial bank, now, the Reserve Bank has instructed that those who have not yet withdrawn their money or those whose money has not yet been paid, should be paid at the rate of savings interest, that is, 3.5 per cent. So, now those who have not received back their money will be entitled to interest.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, when the Industrial Development Bank of India was established, the role assigned to it was development finance. Over the years, I find, there are attempts to change the role of IDBI. It is being encouraged to function as a commercial bank and not as a development finance bank. Sir, tomorrow, there is going to be a strike in IDBI. I would like to know: What is the response of the Government to restore the role of IDBI as development finance bank? What is the response of the Government to the strike?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so many institutions change and transform their character with the passage of time. It has not happened today. This transformation took place on 1.10.2004. Therefore, almost five years have passed when they had transformed themselves from the

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development financing to commercial banking. There is no dearth of developmental financing. There are other institutions to meet the requirements. So far as the strike is concerned, I am not in the management of the IDBI. There are so many financial institutions and organisations. Sometimes, there are disputes between the employees and the employer. They settle these disputes through their own mechanism. That is their job.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am asking a very fundamental question. What is the basic objective of this deep discount bond issued by IDBI? To what extent, this objective has been achieved? Whether it is to the advantage of the bond-holder or to the advantage of the bank.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the basic fundamental objective is to collect money. These bonds were issued in 1992 in the financial situation prevailing at that point of time. Simply if you ask the public to deposit money in a bond, they are not going to do it unless this becomes attractive. So, Sir, it will have to be that interests of both the bond purchasers and the bond givers are being provided for.

(Ends)

Q. No.142

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, the primary objective of starting Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is to have an alternative to universal free and compulsory education in the country. But, if you see the objective and accomplishment, there is a big gap. There are more than 75,884 schools in India with just one teacher and there are 6,647 schools where there is none at all. In spite of incurring such a huge expenditure of Rs.11,133 crores, as many as 1,36,00,000 children are out of school. So, how are you going to meet the serious lapse? What are the steps you are envisaging in the immediate future? This is my question.

(Followed by MKS/1c)

MKS-AKG/11.10/1C

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, though the question that the hon. Member has asked does not flow out of the question that is being answered by me because the question relates to diversion of funds and misuse of funds. Since the hon. Member has asked the question, I would like to just place on record the fact that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been a relatively, in fact, a largely, very successful scheme, and I just want to place some figures. In fact, in 2002, only 86 per cent of the habitations, in India, was served with primary schools. In 2009, 98 per cent of them are being served, Sir. This is a huge success; 92 per cent of the habitations served by upper primary schools, up from 78 per cent, in 2002; the GER up from 96.3 per cent, in 2002, to 111.2 per cent, in 2007-08, at the primary level; the GER up from 60.2 per cent, in 2002, to 73.6 per cent, in 2007-08 at the upper primary level. The dropout rate has declined from 39, in 2001, to 25.4 in 2007-08; the pupil-teacher ratio

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has reduced from 38:1 to 33:1. So, there is, I mean, no scheme at this level, and with this kind of magnitude, the way annual allocations are something like Rs.13,000 crores, no such scheme can be 100 per cent perfect. But, I think, we are achieving our objectives at the primary level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. ...(Interruptions)... Is there any second supplementary?

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, to the question the Minister may say that it does not flow from the original one. But, Sir, I am talking, overall, about the functioning of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; the shortcomings which are there, are corruption and irregularities. That is one thing that is being pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, but there are other things which we have to also look into seriously. The Audit Report itself says that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being established to see that there is one primary school within a radius of one kilometre. But, then, as we see, the Audit Report reveals that there are 31,648 inhabitations in 14 States. This is also another serious shortcoming. And for coming out from these shortcomings what is the Government going to do? This is also concerning the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Well, Sir, the hon. Member should know this, and I would like to inform the hon. Member here, that in this Session itself we have brought the Right to Education Bill which deals with all the problems that we are talking about, so that we have a neighbourhood school in every habitation. That is the purpose of bringing the Bill. But that does not mean that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has not worked

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well. Wherever it has worked, it has worked exceptionally well; wherever there is a gap, we are trying to fill that gap, and that is why the Right to Education Bill.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I compliment the Minister for making the wide coverage, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since within the habitations, the focus, normally, is on the richer sections, and this has been raised in the last Session also, whether he will assure us that they will take a bottom of approach while sanctioning the school buildings. Sir, the SC/ST localities should be taken first; then, the others be covered because the dropout rates are mainly among the poorer sections. I know that it is left to the sarpanches. But is there any guideline issued, while sanctioning the school buildings under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, that the bottom of approach should be taken?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as you know, we are, in fact, trying to take particular care of the weaker sections of the society, SCs/STs. But there are some problems that are beyond the control of the Government, which afflict those communities, and we need to address those problems very seriously. And we are doing so. In fact, the whole Right to Education Bill looks at that issue as well. And we have to reduce the dropout rates, because at the primary level they are fine, but when children go to Class V, Class VI or Class VIII, the dropouts are up to 50 per cent; we have to deal with that problem. But that does not mean that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is not doing well. What it means is that the State must do more. What it means is that we must address

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that problem and resolve it. And this is exactly what we are trying to do.

(Followed by TMV/1D)

-MKS-TMV-SCH/1D/11.15

श्री कलराज मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें यह बताया है कि जहां-जहां अनियमितताएं बरती गईं, उनमें से कई राज्यों के विरुद्ध राज्यवार आधार पर कार्यवाही की गई है। पश्चिमी बंगाल के बारे में बताया गया है कि वहां के एक जिले में आठ कर्मचारियों द्वारा 517.80 लाख रुपये की राशि धोखे से निकाल ली गई इसलिए सीआईडी ने सात लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया और उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही चल रही है। मान्यवर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो कार्यवाही चल रही है, वह किस प्रकार की है? इसके बाद आपने इसमें दिया है कि उनसे पैसे वसूल कर लिए गए या उनको दंडित किया गया, लेकिन आपने जो बताया है कि कार्यवाही चल रही है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वह किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही चल रही है?

मान्यवर, साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि वर्ष 2000 से प्रारम्भ सर्वशिक्षा अभियान में सरकार ने अध्यापकों की नियुक्ति का कुछ लक्ष्य निश्चित किया था, जिसे 2006-07 में 6.60 लाख, 2007-08 में 8.10 लाख और 2008-09 में 9.66 लाख रखा गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इनमें से अभी तक कितने अध्यापकों की नियुक्ति हुई है? अगर आप यह जानकारी दें तो अच्छा होगा।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, first of all, the latter question as to how many teachers have been appointed has nothing to do with this question. The question relates to diversion of funds meant for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. (Interruptions)...

श्री कलराज मिश्र: मैंने इसलिए यह प्रश्न पूछा ...(व्यवधान)

श्री कपिल सिबल: एक मिनट, एक मिनट। You have asked the question.

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Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member wants to say that he has asked this question because it is not a part of the question. I am grateful to my learned friend.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: नहीं-नहीं, अभी तो मैंने पूरा सवाल पूछा ही नहीं और आपने उसका उत्तर दे दिया।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: However, there are two kinds of actions that any Government can take under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan where there is diversion of funds. Diversion of funds is of two kinds. One is that the funds are spent *qua* an activity which is not authorised and the second is that the funds are misused for a private purpose. As far as diversion of funds is concerned, when they are spent on an activity which is not authorised, like spending on civil works instead of authorised activity, what we do is we recoup the money from the State Government and to the extent it is not recouped we take it from the share of the State Government for the next year. That is what we do *qua* diversion of funds, and *qua* embezzlement, we file criminal cases and wherever there is embezzlement, we have to suspend the officials and file criminal cases. The FIRs are lodged and prosecution goes on. That is exactly what is happening.

As far as the appointment of teachers is concerned, this is one of the biggest problems that this country is facing. We don't have enough teachers at the school level. We need to have a national programme to recruit enough teachers and we are doing so, both under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and otherwise.

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श्री कलराज मिश्र: नहीं-नहीं, अभी तो मैंने पूरा सवाल पूछा ही नहीं और आपने उसका उत्तर दे दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: One supplementary, please. Shri Tariq Anwar.

श्री तारिक अनवर: सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है, यह बात सही है कि सर्वशिक्षा अभियान काफी हद तक कामयाब है। यह बात ठीक है कि भ्रष्टाचार की कुछ शिकायतें हैं, लेकिन फिर भी आज गांवों में जो स्कूलों की बिल्डिंग्स हमें दिखाई पड़ रही हैं, यह सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के कारण ही दिखाई पड़ रही हैं। लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी से ज़रा इससे हटकर यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत सारे ऐसे बच्चे हैं, जिन्हें स्कूल उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, लेकिन मदरसा और संस्कृत विद्यालय, जो राज्य सरकार के द्वारा आर्थिक सहायता प्राप्त हैं, क्या उनको भी सर्व शिक्षा अभियान में लिया जा सकता है, जिससे उन बच्चों को भी पढ़ने की सुविधा प्राप्त हो सके?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I think what we need to do is to have separate schemes to deal with some of these issues. As far as the question of Madrasas

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: I talked of Sanskrit Vidyalayas also.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: and also Sanskrit Vidyalayas are concerned, we have separate schemes to deal with them. As far as Madrasas are concerned, in fact, we want to develop a consensus through which we can impart secular education in Madrasas without impacting on the religious education that is imparted there. We are hoping in the times to come to give them an equivalent of a CBSE degree. If they get a degree which allows them to move on to polytechniques or to a university system, which is not available at present, I think the Madrasas would benefit greatly. We are contemplating that stream and I am in the

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process of developing a national consensus on that. I think the
Members of this House will also support me in that. (Ends)

(Followed by 1E/VK)

VK/1E/11.20

Q. No. 143

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I recall that the Wanchoo Committee, in its report, in 1971, described the black money as a cancerous growth in the country's economy. In reply to Question No. 294, in this House, on 21.12.2004, the House was informed that the amount of black money in the country, in 1983-84, was estimated between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores. It has again been repeated, today, in reply to my question. There was a study conducted in 1985. But there has been no further study since then. We have also been informed that the Government has set up an Expert Group to recommend special schemes to unearth black money and assets. But till date, the report has neither been Tabled in this House, nor has the Government Tabled any action taken report on the recommendation of the Expert Group.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question? Please avoid making a statement while putting a supplementary.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: My first question to the hon. Finance Minister is this. What action has the Government taken, so far, on the recommendation of the Expert Group and the quantum of black money unearthed between 21.12.2004 and 31.3.2009?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question of black money is concerned, it is true that there is a pernicious impact of unaccounted money on the overall economy. So far as the quantum and quantification of unaccounted money is concerned, various studies have been undertaken by various individuals, but no precise amount has

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been arrived at. I have referred to a statement, in response to the main question, where I have stated in the first paragraph itself that it is a Government-sponsored study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, which conducted the study in 1985. They have given the figure between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores, in the year 1983-84. The authors themselves said that there were numerous assumptions and approximation, each of which could be challenged on either side. Somebody may say it is much higher; somebody may say it is lower. It is true that, thereafter, the Government did not undertake any official initiative to quantify it. But certain individual studies have taken place, from time to time, and we have received those studies. For instance, I can give some information to the House. One Prof. Suraj B. Gupta, retired Professor of the Delhi School of Economics, undertook some study, in 1992, in his book 'Black Income in India'. They made some study that in 1980-81, it was 41.7 per cent of the GDP, amounting to Rs. 50,977 crores; in 1983-84 - 45.81 per cent, amounting to Rs. 85,208 crores; in 1987-88 - 50.71 per cent, amounting to Rs. 1,49,297 crores. Certain other types of studies have also been made. Another study has been made by Prof. Arun Kumar, of JNU in his book 'Black Economy in India'. In this book, he has stated that in the year 1995-96, there was an estimated black money of Rs. 4,87,185 crores. From these figures itself the hon. Members will appreciate that there are very wide variations. In a situation like this, there would be wide variations. Then the question is, what is the Government going to do? The Government is going to unearth the black money. There are two very

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effective instruments, that is, the instrument of search and seizure and the instrument of survey through which the income tax departments collect the information. With the computerised scrutiny system in place, it has been possible, on the one hand, to spare a large number of taxpayers from rigorous scrutiny.

(Contd. by 1F)

RG/11.25/1F

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (contd.): But, whenever there is a doubt, and through the computerised scrutiny system, if it is found that certain accounts will have to be scrutinised, then, it is scrutinised thoroughly so that it becomes really a problem for tax evaders and tax avoiders. Through search and seizure operations also -- if the hon. Members are interested in having some figures, I have that; but I would not like to waste the time of the House by quoting those figures -- the Income-Tax Authorities get the relevant information. Through the documents which they seize from there, they arrive at an assessment; from there, they realise a large quantum of revenues, which get reflected in the details of the Budget documents which we give every year.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, we have noted from the reply that a study by the NIPFP has been conducted by the Government on the amount of black money prevailing since 1995. Very recently, we came to know that Mr. Falco Galli, spokesperson of the Ministry of Justice, has said that the documents, in respect of Hasan Ali Khan, submitted by the Government of India, in 2007, were forged. I want to know from the hon. Minister what action plan the Government of India is

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undertaking to curb the menace of black money in India *vis-a-vis* the money deposited in Swiss banks by several Indians and Indian companies.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of search and seizure operations on Hasan Ali Khan and the documents seized from there are concerned, as per the practice of the Income Tax Department, whenever they conduct a search and they seize the documents, they prepare a list of documents which have been seized so that the persons, whose premises are being searched, cannot claim that the officials have taken away their valuable properties and other things. Now, one such document appeared to be a forged document, and after some time, after some scrutiny, -- it was not possible to make a scrutiny on the spot -- necessary clarifications were issued by the Revenue Department through a Press Release. So, that aspect has been taken care of. And, as regards the information which we have received from the search operation conducted in that particular premise, the Department has gone vigorously, and they have valued and re-valued everything. Some money is being deposited -- we have got the evidences -- in the Swiss bank. We have sought the advice of the Solicitor General as to whether we should issue a legal *rogatory* to get the necessary information. But, as the hon. Members of this House are aware, this is an issue which is agitating many of us. Swiss banks, till now, took the position that they would never divulge the information. So far as their banks' Secrecy Act is concerned, they will not divulge the information. If I remember correctly -- I am subject to correction by

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hon. knowledgeable Members -- only once did they make this departure, when the Nuremberg trial took place in 1946. Before that and even after that, the Swiss banks have never departed from that. But, as a consequence of this meltdown, there is a pressure now from the OECD countries that for the correct exchange of information, there should be a revision of the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements which are entered into between various countries, as we have entered into 76 such Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements with various countries. Those are being brought at par with the disclosure provisions followed by the OECD countries. And I am told that the Swiss Authorities have, ultimately, agreed to enter into negotiations. We have the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with them as well and the relevant Secrecy Clause. We are going in for negotiations, and when it is arrived at, it would be possible for us to get more information in respect of that. So far as Hasan Ali Khan is concerned, it has been taken care of, and the assessment is being properly conducted.

(Continued by 1G)

1g/11.30/ks

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, my supplementary is that in 2004, you had set up a committee specifically to recommend special schemes for unearthing the black money and unaccounted money. What are precisely the recommendations of that committee? What did they do from 2004 to 2009? And what is the response of the Government to those recommendations? Kindly educate us. And, secondly, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. One question please.

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SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Please. It is a part of the same question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said 'second'!

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is an indivisible part of the same question, Sir. Please allow. And, I think the hon. Minister will be glad to answer.

The tax arrears increased by geometric proportions in some years, especially during the last quarter of the last decade; now, the situation has improved to some extent. But, still, a sizeable part of tax arrears are there. I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider that, as also the unaccounted money which should have been in the national exchequer but which is not somehow flowing there.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as recommendations of the committee of 2004 are concerned, we have received the report. But, to be frank, we are not very enamoured to have another type of disclosure scheme. In this country, we have conducted a series disclosure schemes from 1950; one such scheme had been piloted by me as the Revenue Minister in 1975 and it was known as the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. We had got a substantial quantum of money. But, compared to the amount which we receive as a result of all these exercises, and the one-time receipt that we get, there is always a complaint because voluntary disclosures are not complied with unless the rates of tax are reduced. In every such scheme, the normal rate of tax has been reduced. The complaint has been that we are penalising the honest tax payer and encouraging the dishonest tax payer. There is a vested interest in first concealing some income and, thereafter, taking the

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advantage of these types of schemes, come out and have a little relief. Therefore, we are not very enamoured of such schemes.

So far as the question of recovering arrears is concerned, it is not that every arrear is as a result of avoidance of taxation. Many times, more often than not, assesses do not agree with the assessment of the tax authority and, as a citizen of a democratic country, he has the right to object and the law has given him that right, and there is a way of settling these issues. These issues are being settled through these mechanisms.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that it is not easy to quantify the amount of black money that is there in the market. Some time back, the Wanchoo Committee had opined that there was a parallel economy running with more than three lakh crores of rupees; that was the estimate long back. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the hon. Prime Minister had stated some months back that steps would be taken by the Indian Government to get back the money that was parked in Swiss banks. The Swiss authorities had said publically, as per newspaper reports, if the Parliament of any country passed a Resolution in this respect, they would be ready to give the names to that country...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bagrodiaji, no interruptions. Please. (Interruptions)
No interruptions please. Let the question be completed.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is a very serious question concerning the entire country. People are agitated. There is a big debate going on

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outside the Parliament also. And the hon. Prime Minister has rightly taken note of it. I am sure the Finance Minister must be aware of the seriousness of the situation. What are the steps that the present Government is intending to take to get back the money that is parked in Swiss banks and other tax havens by Indian people?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as this issue is concerned, the hon. Member is correct. The hon. Leader of the Opposition in the other House had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister, with a copy to me. We are aware of it and we have initiated the steps. I have already pointed out that even when they were discussing the financial crisis, one of the decisions which the world leaders arrived at was that there should be transparency in the exchange of information.

(Contd. by 1h/tdb)

TDB/1H/11.35

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (CONTD.): And we have already taken it up not only with the Swiss authorities but also with the other authorities, and in some cases, we get the information. But, as per the secrecy clause, in one particular case, where we have got the information, we have taken action, we have made assessment, we have got additional revenue, but unfortunately, unless that clause is being changed, we cannot do much. It is the international commitment. Unilaterally, we cannot simply ignore it. If we ignore it, then, further sources of information will be dried out. Therefore, we are negotiating with them. We have taken various steps for revision of the Avoidance of the Double Taxation Agreement, particularly relating to the secrecy clause, to have

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the information to the appropriate authorities. Now, they are sharing the information with the tax authorities only. In many countries, there are such rules. Their rules are, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Arun Jaitley is nodding, I don't know whether approvingly or disapprovingly, but he knows it very well that some of the countries tell the other concerned country, 'yes, we can give you, but only related to tax matters, not related to any other matter', and we shall have to go with this. But, this matter is engaging the attention of the Government. Yesterday, the hon. Member raised this issue while making his observations on the debate on the General Budget, and I have noted that.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, I will be very precise in my question. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether companies based out of Mauritius are the major source of black money in this country, and what steps are being contemplated by the Government in this direction.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in my other incarnation as the Foreign Minister of this country, I took it up with the Mauritius authorities, and we have made some progress. There is a procedure which is popularly known as 'Mauritius route'. So, I have taken it up, and the same is being pursued. We want to amend the relevant clauses of the particular Agreement which was entered into with Mauritius in the early eighties. The Mauritius Government pointed out that they are building up their country as a financial hub. I have no problem in it because Mauritius is a very friendly country to us. Most of the population of Mauritius is of the

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Indian origin, and all the Indian rituals, customs and systems are being practised there. Therefore, we have very close relations with Mauritius, and we would not like to disturb them. So, I have offered that let us calculate the financial losses which we will have, deemed losses even, and we are prepared to compensate that by providing through other means, including the bilateral assistance which the Government of India is in a position today to do. We provide around three to four billion US dollar worth bilateral assistance to other countries. But, we would like to amend this. So, talks are going on. It is difficult for me to give more details on this issue.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question to the Finance Minister, through you, arises from his written answer and the statement which he made just now. He said that the Government is, for various reasons, not in favour of a new disclosure and amnesty scheme. Whenever such schemes came, I was amongst those who objected to them on ethical grounds. But, in view of what is happening abroad and in countries like Switzerland, I would suggest something. In spite of your Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, as per my information, Sir, it would take years for you to get information, no roving inquiry, specific inquiry is acceptable. Yes, now they have made tax fraud and tax evasion a crime. But, you have not only to get the letter rogatory after conviction but even before. But, it will take years to get it. They are delaying it because their economy depends on that. So, in view of the situation that it will take a long time, but there is a pressure now on people who have black money here and especially black money abroad,

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my suggestion is, charge the same tax rates as you charge the others, no more and no less. But, say, 'bring the money in three, four or six months. After that, if anything is found here or abroad, the entire amount will be confiscated, maybe he will go to jail.'

(Contd. by 1j-klS)

KLS/NB/1J-11.40

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (CONTD): But, Sir, one more request is that in that scheme which was not there last time that not only questions asked, make it a bearer bond or some such scheme, so that nobody knows his identity. Otherwise, Sir, the small money will come in but big guys have lots of ways to keep the money abroad. But, if identity by a bearer bond or something like that is hidden and a reasonable rate of tax is charged, a lot of money will come in because here they put the money in the Arabian Sea. Sir, they cannot put it even in some other bank. During the earlier elections, it was said, 'do not warn him, the money will be taken out.' Okay, taken out, but brought where? It is not easy, Sir. You bring your disclosure scheme though I was against it earlier, -- it is unethical, - but on pragmatic grounds.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, this is a suggestion for action, we will appreciate it. I cannot respond to it instantaneously. ...(Interruptions)... It is a suggestion for action. ...(Interruptions)...

(Ends)

(Question No.144 -Hon. Member absent)

प्रश्न संख्या 145

श्रीमती मोहसिना किदवई : सभापति जी, एयर इंडिया किसी ज़माने में दुनिया की सबसे बेहतरीन एयरलाइंस समझी जाती थी, आज अफसोस की बात है कि वह तबाही के दहाने पर है। जिस एयरलाइंस में 31,000 कर्मचारी हैं, 3,000 करोड़ रुपए सालाना का wage bill है, आज उसकी हालत यह है कि employees को तनख्वाह देने के लिए उनके पास पैसे नहीं हैं और मुझे उम्मीद है कि आज 14 तारीख है, आज तक उन्होंने सैलेरी देने का वायदा किया था, वह मिल गई होगी। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या आपकी मिनिस्ट्री का कोई assessment है कि यह financial crisis, जो एयर इंडिया के सामने एक चैलेंज है, इसकी वजूहात क्या हैं? क्या यह mismanagement की वजह से है या allowing unrestricted access of the foreign airlines or the anomalies which are in the agreement. What are the root-causes?

محترمہ محسنہ قدوائی : سبھا پتی جی، ائر انڈیا کسی زمانے میں دنیا کی سب سے بہترین ائر لائنس سمجھی جاتی تھی، آج افسوس کی بات ہے کہ وہ تباہی کے دہانے پر ہے۔ جس ائر لائنس میں 31,000 کرمچاری ہیں، 3,000 کروڑ روپے سالانہ کا ویج بل ہے، آج اس کی حالت یہ ہے کہ ایپلائیز کو تنخواہ دینے کے لئے ان کے پاس پیسے نہیں ہیں اور مجھے امید ہے کہ آج 14 تاریخ ہے، آج تک انہوں نے سیلری دینے کا وعدہ کیا تھا، وہ مل گئی ہوگی۔ میں مائٹے منتری جی سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا آپ کی منسٹری کا کوئی assessment ہے کہ یہ financial crisis ، جو ائر انڈیا کے سامنے ایک چیلنج ہے، اس کی وجوہات کیا ہیں؟ کیا یہ mismanagement کی وجہ سے ہے یا allowing unrestricted access of the foreign airlines or the anomalies which are in the agreement. What are the root-cause?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Air India's financial position is certainly a matter of concern and there is no denying that. It is also a fact that all airlines in our country are generally facing hard

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financial crunch. This is a matter of concern for the entire global aviation industry also. I am not trying to pinpoint any one specific cause but I can certainly say that from 2007 onwards, when the global fuel prices started going up and they went almost up to 147 dollars, that was the time when the airlines across the world, and more so in India, especially to the tune of Rs.10,000 crores, was the hit on account of the global fuel prices to the Indian Carriers alone. Of course, this is one of the major reasons followed by the economic slowdown which all of us are aware compounded by the fact that incidents like 26/11 also took place in our country. This has led to a severe drop in the air traffic numbers. For the first time, after many, many years, I would say five or six years of robust growth reaching as high as almost 30 per cent, now we are seeing a decline in the numbers in the current year. But to say that this is the only reason, I would not be fair. I agree with the hon. Member that there are systemic issues also which need to be corrected and I am sure the Government has done all within its power to support the comeback of Air India but it is still a long way and I am sure there are many things which the management of Air India has to do. There is a replacement on the top; there are more changes, which the Air India management has suggested. I would also like to add that only about a fortnight ago the hon. Prime Minister also gave us a patient hearing. We explained the whole situation of the entire industry. He was understanding, the Government as a whole is looking at it very holistically. We are formulating new plans for revival. This will be, of

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course, placed before the Government very shortly. About other issues like salary, I am sure that the management has resolved that issue to a large extent and the issue of payment of salaries is not something, which is going to affect the future of the airline or the employees' future associated with the airline.

(Followed by 1k/SSS)

SSS/1K/11.45

श्रीमती मोहसिना किदवई : महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जैसे कि दोनों airlines का मर्जर हुआ 1 अप्रैल, 2007 को, उसके बाद से जो accumulated losses हैं, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि 2007-08 तक ये losses 2226 crores हैं और वे जो estimate कर रहे हैं कि 2008-09 तक ये losses बढ़कर 5000 crores हो जाएंगे, तो मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह बहुत huge amount है। आपने कहा कि जो इसका "Restructuring of Air India Plan" बनाया जा रहा है, उसके कोई terms and conditions हैं या वे अपने आप formulate करेंगे और वह प्लान कब तक तैयार हो जाएगा और कब execute होगा, माननीय मंत्री जी से मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ और specifically पूछना चाहती हूँ कि ये 5000 crores के जो losses हैं, इनको पूरा करने का क्या प्लान है, क्योंकि it is a very huge sum.

محترمہ محسنہ قدوائی : مہودے، میں مائے منتری جی سے پوچھنا چاہتی ہوں کہ جیسے کہ دونوں ائرلائنز کا مرجر ہوم 1 اپریل، 2007 کو، اس کے بعد سے جو accumulated losses ہیں، منتری جی نے اپنے جواب میں کہا ہے کہ 2007-08 تک یہ losses 2226000 کروڑ ہیں اور وہ جو estimate کر رہے ہیں کہ 2008-09 تک یہ losses بڑھکر 5000 کروڑ ہو جائیں گے، تو میں کہنا چاہتی ہوں کہ یہ بہت huge amount ہے۔ آپ نے کہا کہ اس کا "Restructing of Air India Plan" بنایا جا رہا ہے، اس کے کوئی ٹرمس اینڈ کنڈیشنس ہیں یا وہ اپنے آپ فامولیت کریں گے

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اور وہ پلان کب تک تیار ہو جائے گا اور کب execute ہوگا، مائے منتری جی سے میں یہ پوچھنا چاہتی ہوں اور اسپیشلی پوچھنا چاہتی ہوں کہ یہ 5000 کروڑ کے جو losses ہیں، ان کو پورا کرنے کا کیا پلان ہے، کیوں کہ it is a very huge sum.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they will have to resort to a lot of cost cutting, trying to rationalise the capacity. Of course, there is a Calling Attention after this and there will be a much more comprehensive answer. But I would only like to state that, of course, it is accumulative build up. It has not happened over night. It is not something which is arising out of only one factor i.e. the fuel prices. It is also within our country. A lot of more capacity has come in. As I mentioned, there was a period of robust growth of 30 per cent plus and at that time there was a need to induct more and more capacity. I would just like to inform in the House that in 2004 there were only 50 cities connected by air. Now, that number goes to 90. In the ensuing period, a lot of more private airlines also have started operations, some which were there earlier have added capacity. Some more have also started functioning in the last five years. Again, if you go by numbers, India in 2004 had just over 100 planes for the whole country. That included Air India, private airlines, domestic, international all put together. Even today, after all these years of high growth we have just under 400 aircraft. If you compare that number with anywhere else in the world, I am sure we are still a very, very minuscule aviation power, if at all we would like to call ourselves, and that is why in a large part of our

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country people are asking for connectivity. You asked a question about bilateral rights. By the definition of the word 'bilateral' is a two way street. If a foreign airline can operate into India so is an Indian carrier equally entitled to operate to that destination. But the fact is that we have not been able to seize the opportunities which came our way. Many constraints were there, especially, for Air India, I would like to say. I am not talking for the sector. But for Air India, the last planes were bought during the Prime Ministership of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. At one state, we were being told and all in this House also were in unanimity that Air India and erstwhile Indian Airlines needed new planes. When the planes have come, now there is a counter argument as to why so many planes are required. It is catch 22 situation. If you want to run an airline in a competitive environment you shall require planes and newer planes. Otherwise, on time performance, service standards, quality standards, a lot of things are going to be effective. Therefore, I would just like to explain to the hon. Member that this is a cumulative build up. Of course, I cannot explain the entire problem within just a span of my short answer.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, I would just like to ask the hon. Minister for specific figures. The entire merger between the two airlines were done for economies of scale. It now seems from newspaper report that has not been achieved. In fact, it is dis-economies of scale, if I may say so. Do we have specific numbers? Can the Minister let us know? After the merger has there been rationalisation of manpower? If so, to what percentage have offices shut down? Have both the airlines

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jointly seen on the need to have so many outlets, whether it is all over the world or in the country? What are the steps that have been taken in actual percentage terms of rationalising and leveraging each other's asset to try and have a leaner organisation?

(Followed by NBR/1L)

-SSS/NBR-SC/1/11.50.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is right that the merger was conceived with the specific objective to synergise, to reduce costs and streamline operations in a larger context, including manpower. Unfortunately, all the advantages of the merger have not been accrued. In fact, I would say, there is some kind of resistance for unknown reasons. Nobody had lost his job. That was an assurance given by the Government. Nobody was going to be downgraded. In fact, there has been an upward move in the ladder. Anyway, the fact is, there are no specific numbers available. But, I am sure, there have been a lot of synergies which have accrued after the merger. Unfortunately -- I must admit this as one of the reasons which has not worked in favour of the merger -- the delay on account of IT integration, for various reasons, including systemic issues, has not worked in favour of merger. I do not know why the issue has not been addressed by the Air India management in a time-bound manner. We have to go by the rules and the prescribed regulations for public sector undertakings. But, the delay in IT integration has been -- I would say this as an admission -- one of the reasons why the integration of IA and AI has not taken place. The merger was also one of the reasons for Air India's proposed

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entry into Star Alliance. That has also been delayed. We have taken, I would say, a strong decision and we have told the management that this issue must be resolved in a time-bound manner. Otherwise, it will further affect the advantages which were to accrue from the merger, as also AI's entry into the Star Alliance which will, in the long-run, help it in a big way to come out of this current financial crisis.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सर, इस पर कार्लिंग अटेंशन आगे लगा हुआ है इसलिए दूसरा सवाल ले लें तो अच्छा होगा।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : माननीय मंत्री जी, आप पिछले पांच साल से इस विभाग के मंत्री हैं और अभी भी हैं। हम ऐसा मान सकते हैं कि आपको इस विभाग का पर्याप्त अनुभव है। मेरा सवाल है यह है कि आपने जो मर्जर किया था, वह इस चिंता से किया था कि प्रतिस्पर्धा में बड़ी entity से फायदा होगा। अभी जो आपका उत्तर मैंने देखा, उससे मुझे निराशा हुई है। मेरा कहना यह है कि एयर इंडिया की तरफ से सदन के प्रति उत्तरदायित्व तो आप ही का है, इसलिए सवाल तो हम आप ही से करेंगे। मेरा सवाल है कि आप दो तीन कारण बताएं कि यह स्थिति क्यों है? इसके अतिरिक्त हम आपसे यह उत्तर भी स्पष्ट जानना चाहेंगे कि जो प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स आयी हैं, उनमें प्रतिस्पर्धा की बजाय यह गिरती जा रही है, इसके लिए कहीं कोई वेस्टिड इंटरस्ट तो काम नहीं कर रहा है जो एयर इंडिया को competitive नहीं होने देना चाहता?

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : एक बात मैं स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि भारत की संसद को ही यह चिंता होनी चाहिए क्योंकि यह हमारा कैरियर है, राष्ट्रीय कैरियर है, इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि इसके बारे में हम उत्तरदायी हैं और इसके बारे में आगे जो भी कामकाज या सुधार की आवश्यकता होगी, हमें ही उसके बारे में देखभाल करनी होगी। लेकिन साथ-साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब से हमने हमारे देश में उदारीकरण की नीति अपनाकर openness और liberalization करके नयी-नयी कम्पनीज़ को स्पर्धा में आने का मौका दिया, कहीं न कहीं उसका प्रभाव, हमारा जो नैशनल कैरियर है, इसके कामकाज पर हुआ है। इसमें कोई

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दो राय नहीं है। लेकिन यह कहना कि हम स्पर्धा में सही तरह से सामना नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, यह बात भी ठीक नहीं होगी। कई पब्लिक सेक्टर्स हैं जिन्होंने competitive environment में भी अच्छा काम किया है तो एयर इंडिया क्यों नहीं कर सकती, यह सवाल निश्चित रूप से आपके मन में आना स्वाभाविक है। लेकिन उसके बावजूद मेरा आपको यह सुझाव देना जरूरी है कि हम जब तक competition नहीं लाए जब तक हमने ज्यादा एयरलाइन्स को मौका नहीं दिया, तब तक हमें connectivity, बेहतर सेवा, कम किराए - यह सब कुछ देखने का मौका नहीं मिला था। मैं आपको भी धन्यवाद दूंगा कि आपकी सरकार के समय में भी आपने उदारीकरण की नीति को काफी गति दी थी।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : किन्तु तब घाटा इतना नहीं था।

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : घाटा तो अभी-अभी हुआ है। मैं स्वयं कह रहा हूँ। घाटा तो अभी हुआ है। 2007 से ज्यादा हुआ है, उसके कारण मैंने बताए हैं और मैं आपको यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री प्रवीण राष्ट्रपाल : गलती की शुरुआत आपसे हुई।

(FOLLOWED BY USY "1m")

-NBR-USY/GS/1m/11.55

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : देखिए, गलती की बात नहीं है। जो स्थिति है, जो वस्तुस्थिति है, वह तो संसद के सामने रखना मेरा कर्तव्य है। इसीलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि जहां तक कम्पिटिशन का सवाल है, किसी भी क्षेत्र में अब monopoly नहीं हो सकती या सिर्फ सरकार ही पूरे काम का उत्तरदायित्व निभाएगी, यह तो अब ना-मुमकिन है। यह 1994-95 से, जब से प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स की 1993 onwards शुरुआत हुई, तब से लगातार एयर इंडिया का या इंडियन एयर लाइन्स का, जो मार्केट शेयर था, वह घटता गया। यह बात भी सही है कि जितना सैक्टर बढ़ेगा, उसके पूरे उत्तरदायित्व को एक ही एयर लाइन्स नहीं निभा सकती। लेकिन हमारी पूरी कोशिश रहेगी कि इसमें जो भी सुधार हो सकते हैं, उनको समय बाउंड हम करेंगे।

Q. No. 145 (Contd.)

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that one of the main reasons for the losses was the hike in the prices of fuel internationally and domestically. My simple question, through you, to the hon. Minister is this. Is it not a fact that the prime time, especially in the metro cities, is allotted to the private carriers, and not to the national carrier? I would like to listen from the hon. Minister regarding the scheduling and re-scheduling of the carriers from one metro city to another metro cities during the prime time.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, it is not true that there is any discrimination for or against the national carrier. All carriers are given a level playing field. And, to say that prime slots are given to private carriers and not to the national carrier is not correct. (Interruptions) No, that is not true. That may be your impression. In fact, a lot of impression is being created, rightly or wrongly, in various sections of the media through many employees' organizations also that the national carrier is being discriminated. I can enumerate ten steps taken by the Government where we have taken special measures to protect the interests of the national carrier. Even sometimes charges are levelled that we are favouring the national carrier. Anyway, whatever that may be, but so far as your special query is concerned, I don't think there is any truth in that.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has mentioned that the Air India has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity, induction and provision of loans. I would like to know, in a business -- it is also like a commercial business -- can you,

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by merely equity, induction and provision of loans, make profits. You have shown losses to the tune of Rs. 2,226 crores, and again, next year, to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crores. So, can you reduce these losses by merely inducting

Q. No. 145 (Contd.)

equity and loans? I don't think it is possible because there is something wrong somewhere where you keep on incurring losses. Even if you increase the equity and capital, I don't think you will be able to make profits. I want a categorical reply in this regard. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question. We are running out of time.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Please clarify this.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, my good friend, Dr. Subbarami Reddy, has good business knowledge. He will appreciate that any company of the size of Air India, with an equity of only 145 crores, cannot do such a big quantum of business, or, can go for such a large acquisition programme. Equity, as you know, is something that comes to the company. It is not to be serviced; it is not to be paid back. Therefore, equity for such a large company is vital. And, as an owner of an airline, either you raise it from the public through IPOs, or, you as the owner, that is, the Government will have to put in the equity. This is as a private owner of a private airline who will bring in his own equity. Here it is the case of the Government. So, the Government shall have to bring in the equity. Dr. Karan Singh is also here, I would also like to state that the Air India, in its sixty years of existence, has never been paid even a single rupee by the Government. It had only got equity of

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Rs. 145 crores then. That is what is continuing till now. In fact, the Government has been paid back by the Air India many times, by way of dividends, in the last sixty years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

-USY/PK/1N/12.00

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, I lay on the Table

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

- (1) **G.S.R. 227 (E), dated the 31st March, 2009 publishing the Kolkata Port Trust Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2009.**
- (2) **G.S.R. 428 (E), dated the 18th June, 2009 publishing the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2009.**
- (3) **G.S.R. 198 (E), dated the 25th March, 2009 publishing the Kolkata Port Trust Employees (Pension) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009.**

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping under sub-section (3) of Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:

- (1) **G.S.R. 448 (E), dated the 26th June, 2009, publishing the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Fishing Boats) Amendment Rules, 2009.**
- (2) **G.S.R. 449 (E), dated the 26th June, 2009, regarding Registration of Fishing Boats under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.**

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I lay on the Table

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I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, under sub-section (3) of Section 14-A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, together with Explanatory Note:

- (1) G.S.R. 68 (E), dated the 2nd February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2009, together with delay statement.
- (2) G.S.R. 94 (E), dated the 13th February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 101 (E), dated the 19th February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (4th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (4) G.S.R. 126 (E), dated the 25th February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (5th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (5) G.S.R. 150 (E), dated the 4th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (6th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (6) G.S.R. 165 (E), dated the 12th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (7th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (7) G.S.R. 167 (E), dated the 13th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (8th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (8) G.S.R. 168 (E), dated the 13th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (9th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (9) G.S.R. 254 (E), dated the 16th April, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (10th Amendment) Rules, 2009.

II.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) **Review by Government on the working of the above Company.**
- (2) **Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in**

laying the papers mentioned at (II) (1) above.

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Papers under Section 10 of the Railways Act, 1989:

- (a) **Annual Report of the Commission of Railway Safety for the year 2007-2008.**
- (b) **Statement by the Government accepting the above Report.**

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I lay on the Table

I.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Act, 1994:

- (a) Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the years 2004-2005 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the years 2005-2006 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the years 2006-2007 and the Audit Report thereon.

(2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above.

II.(1) A copy (in English and Hindi) under Section 32 of the Allahabad University Act, 2005, of the Annual Accounts of University of Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007 and the Audit Report thereon.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

III.A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:⌘

- (i) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Accounts of the Mizoram University, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period.
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Uttarakhand Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad,

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Dehradun, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.**
 - (c)** Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.
- (iii) (a)** Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), U.P. Education for All Project Board, Lucknow, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.**
 - (c)** Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.
- (iv) (a)** Annual Report and Accounts of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.**
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.**
- (v) (a)** Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority, Punjab, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.**
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.**
- (vi) (a)** Annual Report and Accounts of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (BOAT), Northern Region, Kanpur, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.**
 - (c)** Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.
- (vii) (a)** Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Bhopal,

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for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (c) **Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.**
- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) **Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.**
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: **Sir, I lay on the Table**

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), under Section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:

- (1) **F.No.LAD-NRO/GN/2008-2009/34/154082, dated the 13th February, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2009.**
- (2) **No. LAD-NRO/GN/2009-2010/05/163525, dated the 19th May, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Investor Protection and Education Fund) Regulations, 2009.**
- (3) **No. LAD-NRO/GN/2009-2010/09/165992, dated the 10th June, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2009.**
- (4) **No. LAD/NRO/GN/2009-10/10/166936 dated the 20th June, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Facilitation of issuance of Indian Depository Receipts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009.**

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) under sub-section (5) of Section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 of the Annual Report and Accounts of the National Housing Bank (NHB), New Delhi, for the year

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2007-2008, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts.

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) and Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), for the year 2009-2010.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table,

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

- (1) **G.S.R. 437 (E) dated the 22nd June, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Diethyl Thio Phosphoryl Chloride, commonly known as DETPC, originating in or exported from, the Peoples Republic of China into India.**
- (2) **G.S.R. 438 (E), dated the 22nd June, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Phosphoric Acid of all grades and all concentration (excluding Agriculture or Fertiliser grade), originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of Korea into India.**

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

- (1) **S.O. 496 (E), dated the 16th February, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.**
- (2) **S.O. 549 (E), dated the 25th February, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.**
- (3) **S.O. 564 (E), dated the 27th February, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.**
- (4) **S.O. 731 (E), dated the 13th March, 2009, regarding Revision**

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of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.

- (5) S.O. 823 (E), dated the 24th March, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of Australian Dollar and Swedish Kroner into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (6) S.O. 867 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (7) S.O. 889 (E), dated the 31st March, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (8) S.O. 1059 (E), dated the 28th April, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (9) S.O. 315 (E), dated the 12th May, 2009, regarding India-Singapore Trade Agreement (Safeguard Measures), Rules 2009.
- (10) G.S.R. 1223 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, publishing the Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (11) S.O. 1358 (E), dated the 27th May, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (12) S.O. 1381 (E), dated the 29th May, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (13) S.O. 1385 (E), dated the 30th May, 2009, publishing the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods under the Preferential Trade Agreement between the Governments of MERCOSUR Member States comprising the Argentine

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Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Republica Oriental del Uruguay and the Republic of India) Rules, 2009.

- (14) S.O. 1455 (E), dated the 15th June, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (15) G.S.R. 174 (E), dated the 17th March, 2009, publishing the Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations, 2009.

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. 171(E), dated the 17th March, 2009, publishing the Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (4) of Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) under Section 31 of Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:

- (1) No. LAD-NRO / GN /2009-2010/07/165404, dated the 5th June, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2009.
- (2) No. LAD-NRO/GN/2009-2010/04/163097, dated the 13th May, 2009, regarding regulation 3 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Certification of Associated Persons in the Securities Markets) Regulations, 2007.

SHRI ARUN YADAV: Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Papers:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL) for the year 2009-2010.
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and the NEPA Limited for the year 2009-2010.
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) and

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the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited (BBUNL) for the year 2009-2010.

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) and the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited (HPF) for the year 2009-2010.

(Ends)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Manohar Joshi stating that he is unable to attend the House due to some personal reasons. He has, therefore, requested for grant of Leave of Absence from 13th July to 7th August, 2009, of the current (217th) Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent till the end of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No Hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Permission to remain absent is granted.**

(Ends)

**MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL
WELFARE BOARD FOR SEAFARERS**

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): Sir, I move the following Motion:

That in pursuance of clause (i) of Rule 4 read with Rule 6 of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963 (as amended) framed under sub-section (2) of Section 218 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (Act No.44 of 1958), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one

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Member from among the Members of the House to be a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers in the vacancy caused due to the retirement of Shri K. Chandran Pillai from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 21st April, 2009.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Hon. Members, before we take up the Calling Attention, I want to inform the Members that the Member who initiates a Calling Attention should not take more than seven minutes and the other Members who are called by the Chair should not take more than five minutes each. Members should restrict themselves to strictly seeking clarifications. I also want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that not more than one hour is spent on the Calling Attention. So, we have to finish this Calling Attention within one hour. I am sure the Members will keep in mind the time constraint and restrict their clarifications to the limit that I have mentioned. Now, Shri Prakash Javadekar to call the attention of the Minister.**

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DETERIORATING FINANCIAL
CONDITION OF AIR INDIA AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE
GOVERNMENT

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (MAHARASHTRA): **Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Civil Aviation to the deteriorating financial condition of air India and action taken by the Government in this regard.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, shall I make the Statement or lay it?

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where is the Statement?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, it is being circulated. ..(Interruptions).. Sir I will read it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Start reading.**

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: **Sir, the Government liberalised the civil aviation sector keeping in view the rapid increase in the demand for both domestic and international air services. The demands of economic growth, trade and infrastructure development placed upon this sector an immense requirement for increase in capacity.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **You can highlight it. It is being circulated.**

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: **Sir, I will read it. ..(Interruptions).. I have sought the permission. I am told to read out.**

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: **Sir, as per the procedure, when the attention is called of a Minister, he should read the Statement.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **He is reading the Statement.**

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: **I am reading it.**

(Contd. by 10/PB)

PB/10/12.05

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: ... **Removal of constraints in capacity, both in terms of the number of routes as also number of aircraft was urgently needed. From only 100 aircraft available before the turn of the century, the number has grown to approximately 400 today. During this time, the annual growth projections in capacity were about 30 per cent. Thus, apart from liberalising to allow more airline operators in the market, a fleet expansion plan was conceived for Air India and Indian Airlines.**

The competition that ensued afforded better service to the Indian

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public as also much more economical and affordable prices. In this backdrop, Air India also needed to compete at the enhanced levels of service expected by today's passengers. The ageing fleet of the national carriers needed replacement, and, towards this end, orders for 111 aircraft were placed upon M/s. Boeing & Airbus for its fleet replacement and expansion programmes. Until then the two airlines were beset by image problems, with old aircraft and frequent delays caused by technical defects. The cost structure of operating old aircraft thus impacted upon the profitability of the airline.

Even in the backdrop of this order for new aircraft, and 50 of them having joined service, approximately half the combined fleet is over 15 years old. While the airline began the process of modernisation, its losses have been mounting because of the present economic recession which has lowered seat occupation factors tremendously as well as forced all airlines, worldwide, to drop fares in the highly competitive market. This has lowered yields, causing all airlines to suffer operating losses. Losses in Air India thus reflects a common economic problem of all airlines worldwide. Worldwide economic losses expected in the year 2009-10 are expected to be around \$9 billion. Before the merger, the erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines had incurred a loss of Rs. 541.30 crores and Rs. 230.97 crores respectively during 2006-07. In 2007-08, the combined airline posted a loss of Rs. 2226 crores and during 2008-09, the expected loss is approximately Rs. 5000 crores. The accumulated losses of NACIL as on 31st March, 2009 is likely to be in the range of Rs.7200 crores.

It may also be brought that the equity base of Air India is only

Rs.145 crores. The Government, in the past, has never assisted Air India, unlike Governments in other countries assisted their airlines when in similar difficulty. In the post merger period, a plan for an IPO was mooted but the market conditions then were not conducive to this process. It is in this background that an equity infusion and soft loan by the Government as a measure of softening the adverse financial situation is contemplated. It may also be brought out that over the past year there has been a surge in oil prices that has adversely impacted the cost of operations in the airlines and deteriorated its financial position further. The airline has also suffered from high fixed cost as also high expenditure on insurance, interest on working capital, aircraft loan, and on leasing of aircraft, that have not been matched with corresponding percentage increases in revenue.

The airline has also had to incur huge cost for operating non economic flights in national interest that have not been compensated for by adequate revenue. These include flights to the North-East region, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, transportation of the Army troops, transportation of Haj pilgrims, disaster relief and other unprofitable but necessary operations that have been entirely in the country's interest.

The airline has adopted various measures to improve its financial position. Some of these are enumerated below:

- (i) Rationalization of routes to cut losses on traditionally loss making routes.
- (ii) Rescheduling/cancellation of future aircraft deliveries.
- (iii) Return of leased capacity at the earliest.
- (iv) A complete rationalization of manpower and productivity

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linked incentives including large-scale redeployment of staff to curb infructuous expenditure.

- (v) Reduction of contractual employment.
- (vi) Review of all agreements on all technical and operational matters.
- (vii) Constitution of a turnaround Committee comprising representatives from Senior Management and Unions to look at all areas of cost reduction, including closure of all offline officers and reduction of employees at foreign stations.
- (viii) **Aligning all operational and technical agreements to reflect present market conditions.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: *Now, Shri Prakash Javadekar. Please seek only clarifications from the Statement. ...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: **Sir, this Statement is only confusion. ...(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: *Whatever confusions you have, on that only you seek clarifications. Whatever is contained in the Statement, from that only you seek clarifications.*

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: **Sir, that I will do. ...(Interruptions)...** **Sir, I will do that. ...(Interruptions)...**

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: **Sir, this Statement is only confusion. Where is the question of clarification now?**

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, मुझे लगा था कि मंत्री महोदय के बयान के बाद शायद कुछ नहीं बोलना पड़े, लेकिन यू0पी0ए0 की यह एक विशेषता हो गई है जैसे ममता जी ने कहा, पिछले पांच सालों के बजटों पर व्हाइट पेपर निकालने की नौबत है, क्योंकि जो दिखाया था, वह था नहीं।

-MCM/LP-SKC/12.10/1p

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर (क्रमागत) : वैसे इस स्टेटमेंट में जो वास्तविकता है, उसे छिपाने की कोशिश की है। इसमें इससे ज्यादा कुछ नहीं है। मैं चार बातें गिनाना चाहता हूँ। एयर इंडिया की जो स्थिति है, उसका मुझे मंत्री महोदय से इसका खुलासा चाहिए। पहले तो मर्जर की बात है। जैसे अभी शोभना जी ने एक सवाल में पूछा था कि मर्जर किसलिए किया था, क्या वह सफल रहा, तब मंत्री महोदय ने क्या कहा था? The Civil Aviation Minister facilitated the merger saying that he is the custodian of the airline. Then why did the merger fail? He had also accepted that the results were not according to the expectations. दुनिया में मर्जर होते हैं। वे उदाहरण देते हैं, जेट-सहारा का हुआ, किंगफिशर-डक्कन का हुआ। वे आइडेंटिटी सेपरेट रखते हैं, रूट रखते हैं, मुनाफे के लिए रेशनेलाइजेशन, ब्रैण्ड सेपरेट रखते हैं। उन्होंने KLM and Air France का भी उदाहरण दिया था। वहां protection of brand किया कि नहीं? वहां routes श्योर Government help मिली की नहीं? मर्जर तभी सफल होता है, जब यह सब कुछ किया जाता है। यह क्यों नहीं किया गया? अगर ये दोनों कंपनियां पार्लियामेंट के कानून और निर्णय के तहत बनी थीं, तो मर्जर की बात पार्लियामेंट के सामने क्यों नहीं उठाई गई? यह मुद्दा बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस मर्जर के कारण लॉसेज बढ़े हैं, प्रोफिट नहीं हुआ है।

दूसरी बात fleet acquisition की है। कोई भी दुकानदार कोई खरीद तभी करता है, जब उसके पास मांग है, उसके पास पैसा है, उसके पास फाइनेंशियल क्लोजर हो सकता है। सरकार कहती तो है कि एयर इंडिया को आजादी है, वह निर्णय करे, लेकिन ये 110 एयर क्राफ्ट लेने का निर्णय किसने किया था? आप 45,000 करोड़ का ऑर्डर पुट कर रहे हैं, जबकि बोरोइंग 15,000 करोड़ है और लॉसेज 5000 करोड़ हो गए हैं। ऐसे में जो पचास क्राफ्ट आकर खड़े हैं, क्या वे यूज में हैं? मैं सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि इसका इंटरस्ट चालू है, लेकिन यह जो फ्लीट है, यह काम में नहीं है। पायलट नहीं है, इसलिए फ्लीट काम नहीं कर सकता है। अगर मर्जर करना था, तो मंत्री महोदय यह बताएं कि एयर इंडिया के लिए Boeing और इंडियन एयरलाइन के लिए Airbus दो अलग-अलग विमानों का ऑर्डर क्यों

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दिया गया? एयर लाइन्स के पास एक ही टाइप का विमान होता है, उसका उपयोग होता है, जिससे pilots, fares सभी में बचत होती है, लेकिन आपने जान-बूझकर जो दो अलग-अलग ऑर्डर दिए, उसका आपको खुलासा करना पड़ेगा। आपने रूट की बात कही है। आपने पहले लिखा है कि लॉसेज कम करने के लिए हम रूट्स को रेशनेलाइज कर रहे हैं। आप कौन-से रूट कर रहे हैं? मैं आपको एयर इंडिया और इंडियन एयरलाइन्स का तीन साल का टाइम टेबल देता हूँ। आपने कैसा रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन किया है - अभी हमारे एक सदस्य भाई ने बताया था कि जो प्रोफिटेबल टाइम है, जो actual demand है, वे सारे एयर इंडिया और इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के कैंसिल हो गए। मैं इस पर white paper चाहता हूँ। आप बताइए कि रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन प्रोफिटेबल रूट का हुआ था। मैं आपको Gulf एयरलाइन्स का उदाहरण देता हूँ। गल्फ में आपने Air India एक्सप्रेस शुरू की। यह सबसे ज्यादा प्रोफिट देने वाला रूट था। यह आपने Indian express से शुरू किया ताकि लोगों को फायदा मिले, लेकिन जब डिमांड थी, तब आपने एयर इंडिया का पूरा लॉस कर दिया। सर, बाइलेटरल एक बड़ा घोटाला है। इसका भी मंत्री महोदय को खुलासा करना चाहिए कि रूट्स को जो bilateral rights दिए हैं, वे कैसे दिए हैं। bilateral rights के तहत एक आंकड़ा बताता हूँ। Emirates के 185 फ्लाइट्स हर रोज आठ जगहों पर इंडिया में आते-जाते हैं, लेकिन हमारे केवल 20-25 जा रहे हैं। ये कैसा बाइलेटरल का खुलना है? ..(व्यवधान).. एक मिनट ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : तब ..(व्यवधान)..आपकी सरकार थी..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं शुक्ल जी..(व्यवधान)..

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : आप बीच में क्यों बोल रहे हैं..(व्यवधान).. क्या...(व्यवधान)..

आप मंत्री बन गए हैं?..(व्यवधान)..

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, उस समय माननीय सदस्य कहां थे? वे इधर थे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Shukla. (Interruptions) ठीक है..(व्यवधान)..

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : उपसभापति जी, एक ही फिगर बताना चाहूंगा कि इन्होंने जो रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन किया है, उसके कारण डोमेस्टिक में एयर इंडिया का जो चालीस परसेंट शेयर

था, वह अब चौदह परसेंट बन कर रह गया है। क्या यह तुम्हारा रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन है?
(akg/1q पर जारी)

AKG-HK/1Q/12.15

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (क्रमागत): इसे कैसे करेंगे? इससे ज्यादा (समय की घंटी) अन्तिम बात यह है कि करप्शन कितना खाएगा? ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : सर, वे अच्छा बोल रहे हैं, उन्हें पूरा बोलने दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to follow the time. ..(Interruptions).. I request the hon. Members that they have to stick to the time-limit. ..(Interruptions)..

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, मेरे दो ही सवाल हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have a long list of hon. Members. ... (Interruptions) ...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, सवाल दो ही हैं। करप्शन कितना है? A-Z, हर चीज में करप्शन, 17 हजार के रेवेन्यू में 3 हजार का करप्शन। कैसे चलेगा? हर बार, हर कांट्रैक्ट में तलवार और डोगरा कौन हैं, क्या हैं, कैसे नाम आते हैं, इसका भी खुलासा हो। इसलिए आज एयर इंडिया की जो हालत है, इसके लिए सरकार जिम्मेदार है और मंत्री जिम्मेदार है। अब वे विश्वामित्र की भूमिका में जाना चाहते हैं। (समय की घंटी) विश्वामित्र जी ने कहा कि यह मेरा पाप नहीं है, यह पाप तुम्हारा है। इसका खुलासा होना चाहिए।

(समाप्त)

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (SIKKIM): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before starting my clarifications on the financial condition of Air India, I wish to pose a very basic question to the hon. Minister what is the need for the Government to run airlines. It is not the job of the Government. The Government should act as a regulator and keep the field open for private operators to run the industry on competitive basis.

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The Government has already approved purchase of some aircrafts for the Air India. Aircrafts as of now are running empty. Do you think there is a need for review of this purchase order? What is the position of delivery? How many are remaining to be delivered? Whether there is any change in the stand of the Air India to acquire more aircrafts particularly in view of the fact that no business is on the card? What is the use of having more aircrafts?

Air India has a very good ground handling staff, engineering services and cargo operations. What efforts have been made to utilise these expertise to earn more revenue for the Air India?

Extra passengers on board by Air India on a fully loaded flight has been the headlines on newspapers for the past few days. I understand that some inquiry has been instituted in that particular flight from Mumbai to Mangalore. But later on, it was also reported that it is quite routine in Air India. Kith and kin of bureaucrats in the Civil Aviation Ministry, pilots and cabin crew members are generally obliged to be accommodated in the jump seat of the cockpit and foldable seat for crew.

श्री उपसभापति : आपने अपना सवाल कर लिया न!

श्री ओ.टी. लेपचा : सर, भारत सरकार और मंत्री जी ने सिक्किम के लिए एयरपोर्ट की जो sanction दी है, उसके लिए मैं सिक्किम की जनता की ओर से उन्हें बधाई और धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। साथ-साथ मैं एक जानकारी भी चाहता हूँ कि यह कार्य कब खत्म होगा और यह एयरलाइन कब स्टार्ट होगी?

(समाप्त)

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यही प्रश्न करना चाहूँगा कि जो यह merger किया गया था, जिसका उद्देश्य था कि खर्चों में कमी होगी और सारी चीजें सही होकर सही रूप में चलेंगी, माननीय मंत्री महोदय को तो व्यापार का

बहुत अनुभव है, तो यह loss 2226 करोड़ से बढ़ कर 5 हजार करोड़ क्यों हो गई? क्या ratio चल रहा है, हर एयरक्राफ्ट के ऊपर कितने कर्मचारी काम कर रहे हैं? क्या कारण है कि आज एयर इंडिया के पास जो विमान हैं, उनमें से 15 प्रतिशत विमान कार्ययुक्त नहीं हैं, उन्हें कार्य में नहीं लिया जा रहा है, वे खराब पड़े हुए हैं? यदि ऐसी स्थिति होगी, तो वे किस प्रकार से एयर इंडिया को लाभ में ला पाएंगे? इसी प्रकार लगभग 69 विमान 15 साल से ज्यादा पुराने हैं, जिसके कारण सुरक्षा कारणों से लोग एयर इंडिया पर नहीं चलना चाहते हैं और प्राइवेट एयरलाइंस पर चलना चाहते हैं। प्राइवेट एयरलाइंस मुनाफा कमा लेती हैं, लेकिन हमारी एयर इंडिया नुकसान में चल रही है।

(1आर/एससीएच पर जारी)

KSK/SCH/12.20/1R

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (क्रमागत): इसमें क्या किया जाए? इसके अलावा अभी प्रश्न-प्रहर में भी जो बात कही गई थी कि जो समय-सारिणी बनती है, उसके अनुसार जो सही समय हैं, सही रूट्स हैं, उन पर एअर इंडिया प्लान नहीं करती है और उन पर प्लेन नहीं चलाए जाते हैं। इसके लिए कौन से अधिकारी जिम्मेदार हैं एवं उन अधिकारियों पर क्या कार्यवाहियां की जा रही हैं?

मैं आपका ध्यान एक और चीज़ की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि आज से 15-20 साल पहले कलकत्ता, कानपुर, अहमदाबाद और मुम्बई के लिए बोइंग का एअरक्राफ्ट चलता था और फुल बुकिंग के साथ चलता था। क्या कारण है कि उस रूट को बंद कर दिया गया। अनेकों बार कहने पर भी उसे नहीं चलाया गया। मुझे लगता है कि जो निर्णय लिए जाते हैं, वे राजनीतिक दृष्टि से लिए जा रहे हैं, कॉमर्शियल दृष्टि से नहीं लिए जा रहे हैं, जिनके कारण आज यह एअरलाइन्स लॉस में चल रही है।

इसी के साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि एअरलाइन्स स्टाफ को कितने फ्री टिकेट्स दिए जा रहे हैं? एअरलाइन्स स्टाफ के द्वारा अपने आप को फ्री टिकेट्स के माध्यम से बहुत अधिक ओबलाइज किया जा रहा है, इसलिए मैं उसके बारे में जानकारी चाहूंगा। जब तक यह नहीं किया जाएगा, तब तक आपकी एअरलाइन्स मुनाफे में नहीं आ सकती है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इन सारी चीजों के ऊपर हमें जानकारी दें। आज भी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सिंगापुर

एअरलाइन्स मुनाफे में चल रही है, ब्रिटिश एअरवेज मुनाफे में चल रही है, तो फिर यह घाटे में क्यों चल रही है? मैं यह सारी जानकारियां चाहूंगा।

(समाप्त)

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं कुछ मूल प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगा और Basically, I read the answer of the hon. Minister and I would not like to complicate the matter further.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, clarifications only.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it's a clarification. सर, मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि जब 2007 में मर्जर किया गया, तब पार्लियामेंट को और पूरे देश को यह बताया गया कि दो चीजों से ही इंडियन एअरलाइन्स और एअर इंडिया का भविष्य सुधर जाएगा। इस देश में अगर हमें अपने प्राइवेट सेक्टर के एअरलाइन्स को, अपने नैशनल कैरियर को जिंदा रखना है तो we should go for merger and we should go for fleet acquisition. यह दो बातें कही गईं और सबने कहा कि आप जितना जल्दी इसे करना चाहते हैं, करिए। इसके बाद जो accentor consultant एपॉइंट किया गया, उसने कहा कि आप मर्जर में यह-यह कदम उठाएं जिससे आपको 2009 तक 600 करोड़ का मुनाफा हो जाएगा एवं 2010 तक 1000 करोड़ का मुनाफा हो जाएगा। लगातार उसके विषय बताए गए और साथ-साथ बहुत कुछ कहा जाता रहा। इस देश में हमने यहां तक देखा है कि आज तक इस देश की जितनी भी प्राइवेट एअरलाइन्स हैं, चाहे जेट हो, इंडिगो हो, स्पाइस जेट हो, उनमें वे तमाम कर्मचारी भर्ती हैं, जो इंडियन एअरलाइन्स और एअर इंडिया में काम करते थे और आज इस देश की लगभग सभी एअरलाइन्स को प्रमुख रूप से वही लोग चला रहे हैं। सवाल यह उठता है कि आखिर ये कर्मचारी, जो कल तक उसमें काम करते थे और जो आज दूसरी एअरलाइन्स को इतने बढ़िया से चला रहे हैं, इस देश की अपनी एअरलाइन्स को क्यों नहीं चला पा रहे हैं? यहां तक कि मंत्री महोदय के समय पिछले साल सीएमडी प्रबंधन के तहत पहले जिस व्यक्ति को सीएमडी बनाया गया था, उसे वहां से सैक कर दिया गया और उसी बोर्ड के दूसरे व्यक्ति को इस बार सीएमडी बनाया गया है। जिस आदमी को सैक किया गया था, आज वह जा करके भारत सरकार के दूसरे मंत्रालय में सचिव बन गया है। सरकार इस

बात का जवाब दे कि आखिर यह नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया क्या है कि जिसको एक काम के लिए आप निकम्मा समझते हैं, उसे दूसरी जगह ला करके भारत सरकार के सचिव के पद पर बैठाते हैं? आखिर यह प्रक्रिया क्या है और मध्य में किस प्रकार से आप सीएमडीज़ को बदलते रहते हैं? इसके पहले रघु मैन्नन नाम के एक व्यक्ति को सीएमडी बनाया गया था, उसके निर्णयों के बारे में हम यहां चर्चा नहीं करना चाहेंगे। आखिर में आपने मर्जर किया, आपको याद होगा कि इस देश में 25 साल पहले जब वायुदूत को इंडियन एअरलाइन्स में मर्ज किया गया था, आज तक उसका विवाद इंडियन एअरलाइन्स से समाप्त नहीं हुआ है। अभी जो मर्जर हुआ है, एअर इंडिया और इंडियन एअरलाइन्स का, ये दोनों बिल्कुल भिन्न हैं। दो इतनी बड़ी संस्थाओं को मर्ज करके अगर आप एकता लाना चाहते हैं, यह असंभव है। जिस दिन आपने यह तय किया कि इसका मर्जर करेंगे, उसी दिन आपने यह भी तय कर लिया कि इस एअरलाइन्स को समाप्त किया जाना है।

महोदय, अंत में मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि तीन विषय हैं, एक तो आज कर्मचारियों की संख्या लगभग 32,000 है और किसी भी सूरत में 32,000 कर्मचारियों के साथ यह एअरलाइन्स मूल रूप से चल ही नहीं सकती है। आपके पास ऐसी कौन सी व्यवस्था है? क्या कारण है कि सरकार कर्मचारियों की संख्या कम नहीं कर सकती और इस flab को हटा नहीं सकती? आपके सामने आज जो दो निर्णय हुए, एक तो मर्जर के बाद 32,000 कर्मचारी और दूसरा जो 100 जहाज आप खरीदकर लाए, उसके कारण 40,000 करोड़ में आपका डेट-सर्विसिंग 5000 करोड़ का है। किस प्रकार से आप इस 5000 करोड़ का और अपने कर्मचारियों का निर्णय करेंगे? आखिर यह मर्जर किया तो उसका परिणाम क्या हुआ? मैं पीएमआई के बारे में चर्चा नहीं करना चाहूंगा, इनके सीएमडी ने एक hub-and-spoke operation शुरू किया, क्योंकि जो भी सीएमडी आता है, उसे यह लगता है कि मुझे इस एअरलाइन्स का पूरा ज्ञान है और मैं इसको दुरुस्त कर दूंगा। इस तरह सब उसे अपनी-अपनी तरह चलाते हैं। Indian Airlines and Air India have become a laboratory for IAS officers of this country. इन लोगों ने इसको एकदम लैब बना लिया है कि हमें सब चीजों का ज्ञान है और मंत्री जी को ही समझाया जाए कि किस प्रकार से इस संस्था को चलाना है। इस तरह कई वर्षों से बराबर यह एक लैबोरेटरी की तरह काम कर ही है। इस लैब से

निकलने वाला हर आदमी दुनियां की अन्य सभी एअरलाइन्स को चलाता है, लेकिन अपनी एअरलाइन्स को ही नहीं चला पाता है।

महोदय, इन सब घटनाओं के बारे में यह पूरी चर्चा बहुत कम है। यह विषय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और इस पर एक ज्वाइंट पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी बैठनी चाहिए। इस पर तो यह तय होना चाहिए कि आखिर इतनी बड़ी संस्था को इस तरह से मरने देने के लिए किसको जिम्मेवार ठहराया जाए?

1s/psv पर जारी

-SCH/PSV-GSP/1S/12.25

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी(क्रमागत): आखिर ये परिस्थितियाँ क्यों उभर कर आईं? महोदय, सरकार के साथ हमारा पूरा समर्थन रहेगा, लेकिन अगर हम फिर से इसे चलाने की बात करते हैं, अगर फिर से इसको देने की बात करते हैं और इसके दो वर्षों के बाद फिर आकर आप कहते हैं कि यह विफल हुआ, तो फिर उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेवार होगा? आज तक के निर्णयों के लिए कौन जिम्मेवार है? आने वाले दिनों में अगर इसमें फिर विफलता होती है, तो उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेवार होगा? महोदय, इसीलिए मैं मंत्री जी से यह आग्रह करूँगा कि यह विषय बड़ा संवेदनशील है। You need to address these issues comprehensively. There are many issues involved. अगर इनका आप अध्ययन करेंगे तो आपको पता चलेगा कि हर निर्णय, जो पिछले 4 सालों में ...(समय की घंटी)... Indian Airlines और Air India के सम्बन्ध में लिए गए, इनमें हो सकता है कि नीयत अच्छी हो, लेकिन जो परिणाम उभरकर आए, जिस प्रकार से लगातार back door arrangement-- जब Air India और Indian Airlines के कर्मचारियों को अपने बच्चों को या अपने लोगों को नियुक्ति में कठिनाई होने लगी ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: श्री भारतकुमार राऊत।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: क्योंकि बाकी लोग कम आए, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: तो आपने पहले वायुदूत को Indian Airlines में मर्ज कर दिया और पीछे से लोगों को ले आए। आज आप Air India Express ले आए। आपने Alliances को

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Indian Airlines में मर्ज किया। Back door से लगातार नियुक्तियाँ करते चले गए। इसमें कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी। जिस प्रकार से लगातार नियुक्तियाँ करते गए, आज जो स्थिति है, वह आपके सामने है, महोदय। यह ज़रा इन सब प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे दें। धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the outset, let me tell you that I am the President of most of the Air India Employees Unions, and, more than 20,000 employees are covered under these Unions. So, I have the *locus standi* to speak to you on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are disclosing the interest. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, I would not like to repeat what the previous speakers have spoken about. Only thing about which I would like to say is that to take the airline out of the problem, the first measure you took was to defer the date of wages of the employees. उससे कितना हुआ? आप बोल रहे हैं कि वे 500 करोड़ बचा रहे हैं। जहाँ पर 17 हजार करोड़ का घाटा चल रहा है वहाँ पर employees पर axe लगाकर क्या मिलने वाला है?

I think, the problem is somewhere else and you are trying to find remedy in some other area. More than the wages of the employees, these are the incentives of the employees because the productivity-linked incentives are actually deferred wages. Because the airline does not increase the wages, the productivity-linked incentives are given.

So, why do you trouble the poor employee? The problem is lying somewhere else. As Mr. Rudy has pointed out, our demand is to know as to why has this airline gone in red. Who is responsible? There has to be a parliamentary enquiry to know as to who has brought this airline to this pass, and, to suggest measures so that this type of situation does

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not arise in future. So, Sir, our demand is to have a parliamentary inquiry.
Thank you.

(Ends)

DR. K. MALAISAMY (TAMIL NADU): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of fact that we feel at home with two sectors, namely, railway and civil aviation, because we have a sense of feeling when we happen to talk on these subjects. I am so sorry to say that I was under the impression that something is wrong somewhere but I feel that everything is wrong everywhere. This is the way in which I look at this issue. When we look at details, the Minister may try to understand that the loss and other disturbing features are due to the rise in fuel costs, economic slowdown and the heavy borrowing etc.

These may be his general reasons. On the other hand, when we look upon the issues, we could see that there is slow productivity, poor utilization of the aircrafts, low-operating efficiency, inviting competition and losing our market by releasing four lakhs seats per week to foreign airlines. It is surprising to note that out of 177 aircrafts operated, only 13 are earning profit. So, we are in debt-trap etc. So, what I am trying to understand is....(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't understand. You put the question. (Interruptions)

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, for the aircraft which is flying between Amritsar to London, the crew has to come from Bombay. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malaisamy, clarification please. Please seek only the clarification on the statement.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, to illustrate my clarification, I will take a minute.

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **No, no. Please. (Interruptions)**

DR. K. MALAISAMY: **The flight which is running from one place to other, the air crew has to come from various places.**

(Contd. by ysr-1t)

-GSP/YSR-HMS/12.30/1T

DR. K. MALAISAMY (CONTD.): **Sir, what I am trying to ask is this. What is wrong with the institution? Whether it has something to do with the organisational structure or manpower or operation.**

Sir, you have said that several measures have been taken. I am inclined to ask whether the measures, which you have listed in your statement, are adequate or whether they are going to be effective. I am inclined to ask whether the Indian Airlines and the Air India will come out of the red within a timeframe.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Please conclude.**

DR. K. MALAISAMY: **Ultimately, it lacks leadership; it lacks financial management; it lacks administrative management; and it lacks technical management. Everything is bad. Do something to retrieve it.**

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **I am just skipping those who have already participated in the Question Hour. If there is still some time left, I will give them the opportunity. Kindly help others.**

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (TAMIL NADU): **Sir, there is an alarming increase in the losses that it is incurring. It has increased from Rs. 2,226 crore to Rs.5,000 crore, and now it is expected to reach Rs.7,200 crore.**

The airline has adopted various measures to improve its financial position. The Minister has stated these. One among them is reduction

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of contractual employment. Another is, closure of all offline officers and reduction of employees at foreign stations.

Sir, providing employment is an essential thing which has to be carried on. This thing does not seem to be practically acceptable.

I would suggest this to the hon. Minister. Why does not the Ministry concentrate on attracting more passengers towards the Indian Airlines by way of services, which are comparatively appreciable, which have been extended to the passengers by other private airlines? An initiative by the Minister would help the Indian Airlines to get more revenue.

I would also like to know when the merger of the two airlines was done whether the merger of the IT was also undertaken.

(Ends)

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, एअर इंडिया में निर्मित आर्थिक दुर्दशा के बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि यह वैश्विक घाटे का परिणाम है, लेकिन जिस तरीके से उसका प्रबंधन चल रहा है, उस आधार पर मैं कह सकता हूँ कि एअर इंडिया और इंडियन एअरलाइंस के merger के बाद वहां अधिकारियों व कर्मचारियों के बीच आपस में जिस तरह का सामंजस्य होना चाहिए, वह कदापि नहीं है। उसका दुष्परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि एअर इंडिया की कार्य-क्षमता में कमी आयी है, भ्रष्टाचार पैदा हुआ है और आर्थिक क्षति हुई है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी इसे गहनता से देखें।

महोदय, एअर इंडिया की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए, इस में turnaround करने के लिए मंत्री जी ने एक स्पेशल बोर्ड के गठन की बात भी कही है। उन्होंने कहा है कि इस बोर्ड में अध्यक्ष श्री रतन टाटा और अन्य सदस्य होंगे। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी इस बोर्ड में और कौन-कौन सदस्य होंगे, यह भी बताने का कष्ट करें।

महोदय, एअर इंडिया की कार्य-शैली के बारे में CAG ने भी टिप्पणी की है कि जिस तरह की कार्य-शैली एअर इंडिया की चल रही है, उसके आधार पर निश्चित रूप से उस में

घाटा होगा। उन्होंने इस की कार्य-शैली के बारे में कहा है कि Frequent Flyer Scheme में Security control पर्याप्त नहीं है जिस के कारण उन लोगों को लाभ मिला है जो eligible नहीं हैं। इस स्कीम के तहत टिकटों का दुरुपयोग हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस ओर माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान गया है कि नहीं? अगर उनका ध्यान गया है तो इस बारे में अब तक क्या किया गया है? Frequent Flyer Scheme के अलावा भी CAG ने एअर इंडिया की अन्य खामियों को उजागर किया है, जिस में Catering Services की खामियों की तरफ ज्यादा जोर दिया है। उन्होंने कहा है कि Catering Services में बिजली की आवश्यकताओं को परखे बिना ज्यादा पैसा खर्च किया जाता है व ज्यादा दामों पर चीजें ली जाती हैं। महोदय, इन सारी चीजों की तरफ भी CAG ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।

(1 यू/डीएस पर क्रमशः)

-hms/ds-vkk/12.35/1u

श्री कलराज मिश्र (क्रमागत): इस संबंध में किस प्रकार की कार्रवाई की जा रही है? यह भी बताएँ, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

यह बात भी सामने आई है कि एयर इंडिया की वर्किंग में उड्डयन मंत्रालय का ज्यादा हस्तक्षेप होता है। इसलिए स्वतंत्रतापूर्वक ठीक तरीके से कार्य करने की जो आवश्यकता होनी चाहिए, वह पूर्ण नहीं हो पा रही है। इसके अंतर्गत यह बात भी लायी गई है। अगर मंत्री जी इन सारी चीजों के बारे में स्पष्ट करेंगे, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

(समाप्त)

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (RAJASTHAN): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will straightway request the hon. Minister to clarify some points. It is a very detailed statement. It is very clear. But, still, being a national airline, is it true that lot of social activity has to be taken by Air India like flights to North-East Region, flights to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, flights to Agathi and Lakshadweep and transportation of Army troops to Ladakh and Srinagar? When you take these kinds of responsibilities, are the private airlines also obliged to handle these kinds of activities or they have an advantage? When you transport Army troops, is it not the responsibility of the Defence Ministry to pay for it? Or this may go as subsidy from this Ministry.

Sir, similarly, for many years, I believe, from 1984 or 1985, maybe for 15-20 years, no new aircrafts had been purchased. Now, I compliment him that when we needed new aircrafts, they have been purchased because unless we have them, we will not be able to compete. But, in the process, the depreciation becomes very large in the first few years. This is well taken. But, I would like to know from hon. Minister about 'rescheduling and cancellation of future aircrafts deliveries' which he has

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mentioned in his statement. If he can give some details as to out of 111, how many are coming, how many are rescheduled and how many are not coming, it will really help us.

Then, Sir, most of the airlines in the world are losing. There is no doubt about it. But, that does not mean that we also become inefficient. Losing at what level? Suppose, somebody is losing Rs.5 crores and somebody is losing Rs.5,000 crores, so, if he can give some details about it, it will really help us. Sir, companies paying in time for the oil all over the world are not getting any credit. Those who are not paying in time are getting the credit. What is the status of Air India in this respect? (Time-bell)

Sir, the employees ratio is 230 against one aircraft. Does it include outsourced employees also? What is the world average? It is about 110. If that is so, what is his plan to re-plan this so that we do not have the excess staff? He has mentioned about redeployment of staff. By what time? Sir, the programme that he has given...(Time-bell).... Sir, have I taken five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, it is not five minutes. Maximum is five minutes. Depending upon the time, it is three minutes now.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, you mentioned five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I mentioned maximum. There are others also. It has to end by 1 o'clock. Please conclude.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I am only seeking clarifications. All right, Sir. Give me whatever you like. You are the boss. Sir, he has even a number of schedules. I just want to know the time-bound programme of various measures. These are very vaguely given. Unless the time-bound

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programme is given, it will be very difficult for us to judge. Sir, the last point is, on the one hand, they are saying there is excess capacity, on the other hand, we have three extra passengers in some aircraft. During this, I hope, he can clarify this also. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I would also seek clarifications. Firstly, I have an apprehension which I would like to share with the hon. Minister that call somebody a bad name and make a ground to sell it out. Definitely, the Minister spoke very clearly that we want to retain our national carrier. I think, that should be the spirit. Secondly, in his statement, it is given that in 2006-07, the loss is Rs.772 crores. Then, in 2007-08, the loss trebled. But, till that time, the recession had not come. So, what exactly is the reason? Even next year, it was doubled.

(Contd. by MKS/1w)

MKS-AKA/12.40/1W

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (CONTD.): And, now, we are expecting Rs.7,200 crores by March end, 2009. What is the exact reason? Could you kindly enlighten us?

Secondly, it appears from the reply to the question that we have undertaken merger for strengthening the whole national carrier, but we are not prepared for it or we have not made adequate preparation, in advance, to go in and take the benefit of the merger. So, the IT integration problem arises. Even after two years of the merger--in April, 2007, the merger took place--in 2009 June or July, we could not integrate the IT. What is the reason? You kindly clarify that.

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Thirdly, a soft loan has been infused. Whether, while infusing the soft loan, we will be getting addition return out of using that loan. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Stop the cross talks, please.**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: **The debts are bigger than the burden of the benefit of the loan derived. Whether that operation was done with due diligence; please clarify.**

And the last point is, again, I will insist, please do not brush aside the apprehension. The profitable routes are being sacrificed. There are complaints. I can give you a specific example. On Calcutta-Hyderabad route, all the private airlines are going full, but Indian Airlines are not operating in the morning! Similarly, the Calcutta-Kanpur example is there. ...**(Interruptions)**... The information has been supplied by our Union colleagues there that, at least, on 62 routes, the Air India and Indian Airlines sacrificed.. **(Time Bell)** When we are operating on the loss-making routes for social responsibility, particularly in the matter of...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Please conclude, Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen.**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: **...profitable routes and profitable slots, the Air India requires a discriminatory favourable treatment.... (Time Bell)**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **The next one is Shri Sabir Ali.**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: **....and that is not discrimination because we are sacrificing revenue on the other non-profitable routes. I suggest henceforth....**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **No, no; it is not a clarification. It is an address. ...**(Interruptions)**...**

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SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: **This is the question. ...(Interruptions)....**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **It is not a clarification.**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: **Sir, I am seeking clarifications only.**

Whether the Government will consider monetising the social oriented services on non-profitable routes, monetising that.....(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Shri Sabir Ali; the next one.**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: **....difference in the balance sheet so that the loss.....(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Please take your seat.**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: **....that has been shown will go down.**

(Ends)

SHRI SABIR ALI (BIHAR): **Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak. सर, मुझे सिर्फ यह कहना है कि अभी मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपने क्वेश्चन फार्म में कहा कि हमारे यहां system की कमी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वह कौन सा system है, जिसकी कमी आपके यहां है और यदि system की कमी है तो उस system को uplift करने के लिए, उसको improve करने के लिए आपने किसी को tender दिया है या tender करने वाले हैं और वे लोग कौन हो सकते हैं, जो इस system को सही करेंगे? दूसरी बात यह है कि मुझसे पहले सब लोगों ने अपनी बातों को रखा है, लगभग सब बातें आ गई हैं और सब लोग यह जानते हैं कि हमारा जो national carrier है, वहां पर जितने भी crew members होते हैं या ground staff होता है, उसमें crew members की जो उम्र होती है, मुझे तो लगता है कि किसी-किसी की तो मां और दादी की उम्र होती है। आप बाहर चले जाएं, दूसरे carriers को देखें उनकी जो appearance होती है, उनकी जो services हैं, उनके respect में हमारी national carriers में, चाहे वह एयर इंडिया हो या इंडियन एयरलाइंस हो, even आप एयरपोर्ट पर किसी से पूछें या आप कोई information लेना चाहें तो वह अच्छे तरीके से नहीं मिलती है। मैंने लगभग 20 साल में जितनी बार भी एयर इंडिया या इंडियन एयरलाइंस से सफर किया है, कभी भी किसी स्टाफ को मुस्कुराते हुए नहीं देखा। क्या**

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आप उनको ट्रेनिंग देने के लिए ..(ब्यवधान).. किसी को नहीं देखा, this is the fact. When you talk to them, it appears as if they are giving the obligation to you, the way they will react in the aircraft. If you ask for water, they will take ten minutes to bring the water for you! आप उनसे कोई question पूछ लें, वे उसकी reply नहीं करते हैं, लगता है घरों से झगड़ा करके आए हैं। आप एयर इंडिया से उतर जाएं, आपका जो सामान आना है, दूसरी एयरलाइंस से अगर वह 15 मिनट में आता है तो आपको 45 मिनट wait करना पड़ता है। क्या आप उनको salary नहीं देते हैं और यदि देते हैं तो उन पर कड़ाई क्यों नहीं करते हैं? आपके यहां कई प्रकार की समस्याएं हैं। आप ही के लोग जो बाहर रहते हैं, आप उनसे पूछिए, वे एयर इंडिया से सफर करना नहीं चाहते। आप इसकी वजह को क्यों तलाश नहीं करते हैं? मंत्री जी, मैं जानता हूं कि आपने एक टर्म पूरा किया है और दूसरे टर्म में भी आप आए हैं, लेकिन चार-पांच साल गुजर गए, आज तक आपने इसकी खोज नहीं की कि आपके यहां स्तर क्यों नहीं बढ़ाया जाता, आपके यहां efficiency क्यों नहीं लाई जाती, उसमें क्या difficulties हैं?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Please conclude.**

श्री साबिर अली : सर मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूं।

श्री उपसभापति : आप ज्यादा समय ले चुके हैं।

('1x/nb' पर आगे)

-MKS-TMV-NB/1X/12.45

श्री साबिर अली : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनकी efficiency का स्तर अच्छा करने के लिए और आपके यहां जो दादी हैं, उनको हटाने के लिए आप कोई कदम उठाना चाहते हैं या नहीं? अगर आप इसे करेंगे, तो कैसे करेंगे?

(समाप्त)

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (PUNJAB): Sir, it was reported that the airline industry the world over lost, in all, 10.8 billion dollars last year. The Air India, with just half per cent of the world fleet capacity, was reported to have lost over one billion dollars. I don't understand it. Everybody is talking about the reported figures. We are now in July. Why don't we have the exact figures of the losses? There is a serious apprehension that the balance-sheets are cooked up. It is like the Satyam saga. I think that there should be some kind of a Parliamentary Committee to go into the exact figures as to what are the losses of the Air India so that we can find a solution. I hope the Minister will consider my suggestion and call in outside auditors to verify the figures which are being given out by the Air India. I want to know by which time we will have a clarity about the exact losses of the Air India.

(Ends)

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (MAHARASHTRA): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I would like to know from the Minister, through you, Sir -- when he is a Minister who has been considered, during the last five years, by various surveys to be one of the best Ministers -- whether he can do more for the following items. Some of them are very tough. We know, as Mr. Naresh Gujral has said, the aviation industry in India is

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suffering and losing money more than all the private sector companies abroad. It is bleeding.

One, you are running, as you have said, uneconomic sectors for social reasons. Why are you not demanding more money from the Government and getting fully paid for that? I don't see any reason why it should not get paid. It is not correct. Otherwise, they should be allowed to stop flying.

Second, due to discrimination against the foreign airlines we are suffering on ATF, Aviation Turbine Fuel. The Finance Minister is not here. But something has to be done for the Indian airlines. The Indian aviation sector should not suffer at the cost of foreigners who are getting the benefit.

The third is the most difficult situation. I am happy to learn that an Advisory Board is being constituted. As an owner, I also keep control on my companies. So, in the main Board, statutory Board, 50 per cent -- I hear; I have no official statement -- of the people will be independent directors, whether it is Ratan Tata or whoever it is. They should be independent. To be in order, you keep 50 per cent of your Government people. Today it is 100 per cent Government people. This is not correct, Sir. Once you have that kind of a Board, leave them alone. Otherwise, how do you restructure an airline? How do you rationalise anything? My friend, Mr. Bhaskar Raut, says don't touch them. It is the politicians who have interfered and made these 33,000 people. I was the Chairman of the Indian Airlines from 1986 to 1989. (Interruptions)... Maybe, Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy and I will talk separately. Whatever be the reason, if the management is defective, sack them. If the politicians have done

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something, you can't undo that. But now please let the Board function. That is the way it happens all over the world, even in public sector companies like Renault. Don't interfere. If they want to restructure and rationalise, let them do it and face the music. You are afraid of a strike. When I was the Chairman, they couldn't take to a strike. The country would have come to stop. Now we should not worry about a strike.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Please conclude.**

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: **But I don't want to be unfair to the employees. If a strike has to be taken, you have to take it or you will have to close the airline. Otherwise, it is the taxpayers' money that is going down the drain. Please answer these questions, Mr. Minister.**

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Shri Condpan. Just one clarification.**

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN (ASSAM): **Sir, I have found here that flying of Indian Airlines and Air India in the North-Eastern Region is a loss. I fail to understand it when so many private airlines are operating in the North-Eastern Region. Are they not losing? I want to know from the hon. Minister. If the Air India and the Indian Airlines are incurring losses in the North-Eastern Region, what about the other airlines? What is the justification?**

(Ends)

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Shri D. Raja.** Just one clarification.

SHRI D. RAJA (TAMIL NADU): **Sir,** the Air India, being the national carrier, is the pride of our nation. My point of clarification or question to the Minister is this. I have my own experience with the Air India and I would like to travel with the Air India only. The Air India does not fly in profitable routes as we expect it.

(Contd. by 1Y/VK)

VK-MP/1Y/12.50

SHRI D. RAJA (CONTD): I had to stay in Kolkata because there was no Air India flight from Kolkata to Chennai. The reply talks about non-economic flights. I think the Government should have a political will. The Government should have pride in the Air India. The Government should see to it that our national air carrier becomes viable and profitable. I hope the hon. Minister will consider these suggestions and proposals and will implement them. The Government should have a political will to protect the Air India, the interest of the Air India and the interest of the country. Please do not treat it as any other airline in the country. The Air India is the pride of the nation. It needs to be safeguarded and protected. Thank you.

(Ends)

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (GOA): **Sir,** the hon. Minister has referred to rationalisation of manpower. What do you mean by 'rationalisation'? Does it mean you can dismiss or retrench or transfer anybody? What is the exact meaning of 'rationalisation'? Thank you.

(Ends)

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SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (ANDHRA PRADESH): I would like to know only one thing from the hon. Minister. How does he compare the Air India vis-a-vis the low cost airlines, Indigo and Spice Jet? To my knowledge, Indigo and Spice Jet are doing quite well. They are low cost airlines. How do you compare the Air India with these two airlines? Thank you.

(Ends)

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, it is reported in the newspapers that 15 per cent of the total aircraft are lying idle. It is one of the causes of loss. Is it a fact? Thank you.

(Ends)

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल (पंजाब) : सर, यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है कि एयर इंडिया घाटे में चल रही है। इसका सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि जितने भी प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स हैं, अगर हम उनको कहते हैं कि मेरा Second class का टिकट है, इसको First class में कर दीजिए, तो वे नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन आप इस चीज़ को examine कीजिए कि एयर इंडिया में किसके कहने पर, किसकी रिकमंडेशन पर daily कितने-कितने ऐसे केस जाते हैं? सर, एयर इंडिया को जो रूट्स दिए गए हैं, वे घाटे के रूट्स हैं, इसलिए मैं आपके द्वारा यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गृह मंत्रालय भी अर्द्धसैनिक बलों को सीमा पर पहुंचाने के लिए जो प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स को यूज़ करता है, उसके बजाय इनको वह काम दो, ताकि उनको पहुंचाने का काम ये करें और इससे ये लाभ कमा सकें।

(समाप्त)

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, many hon. Members have sought clarifications. I appreciate the concern of the hon. Members and of the entire House. I thank the hon. Members for expressing the sentiments that Air India is a national carrier and we

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must do everything possible to restore its past glory and to make it an efficient and profitable organisation in future.

Let me start with one or two issues raised by Shri Javadekar. Many other Members also have expressed similar sentiments. He mentioned a couple of issues. But let me first go to fleet acquisition. I do want to reiterate, I said it during Question Hour also, that last time, when planes were bought for the Indian Airlines and the Air India, it was done during the Prime Ministership of Late Rajiv Gandhi. At that time, there was no competition to both the national carriers. It was a time when we had monopoly and whatever we gave to passengers, was accepted. Of course, there were good people running the organisation, at that time. There is no denying the fact that they did great service to our nation. After 1993-94, when the Indian aviation sector was thrown open to competition, we saw a flurry of activity in this sector, and many private airlines started operations.

(Contd. by 1Z)

RG/SC/12.55/1Z

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (contd.): Over a period of time, naturally, as the pie grew bigger, the share of Air India, which was 100 per cent earlier, could not have been maintained, and it started reducing. Eventually, with the advent of competition, newer planes started coming into the Indian air space. Competition brought in better service standards which were, probably, not offered at the same level by the erstwhile Indian Airlines, or, the Air India. Consequentially, there was a slight decline from year to year. In 2004, when the UPA Government came, we took a conscious decision that we must protect the future of Air India. We wanted Air India

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to continue in the public sector. I would just like to inform Shri Javadekar and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy that one or two years prior to 2004, when we took over, a decision had been taken by the NDA Government to privatise, to sell off Air India...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: There is a correction. If you allow me to intervene, I would like to respond...(Interruptions) It is a completely wrong statement. If the Minister allows, I will correct him.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Let me complete. I don't have to offer any clarification for the simple reason that it was a well-documented decision. There was a public tender, and there were companies which had participated in that tender. It is only after the last minute withdrawal of the only lone bidder left in the fray, -- I can mention it; there is no secrecy; Tata Singapore was the joint bidder -- after they withdrew from the fray, that the process of selling off Air India, or, to say, the disinvestment of Air India, was withdrawn. And, then, there was a change in Government. Our Government took a conscious decision saying, "Yes; we want to run Air India as a national carrier. We will not allow disinvestment in this Airline." However, in the long-term interest of Air India, if it has to compete, then, it will have to be given newer aircraft; it will have to have a fleet augmentation programme. In 2005-06, and, as all of you know, including 2007 up to 2008, the Indian aviation sector was showing a robust growth. And, I am not trying to take away some good initiatives taken by you or by your predecessors. So, why are you suddenly getting agitated when I am just trying to tell you what the factual position is? Now, this arises out of the questions that you raised as to whether we are going in for acquisition, in what scale and why it is

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needed. I have to give you the answer. If the Air India, or, the erstwhile Indian Airlines, now, after merger, has to be successful and has to compete, then, how can you operate an Airline with older aircraft which are 15 or 20 years old? Even after the acquisition of 51 aircraft out of 111 so far, the Air India's more than 50 per cent fleet are 15 years and older. Out of that, there are 21 aircraft which require major overhaul. This is just to indicate that after all this so-called talk of acquisition, etc., we have not yet received the full aircraft in the quantum that is required. It is a programme which will go on till 2012. In spite of that, this is the situation, that we still operate with a lot older aircraft than any of the competitors of Air India.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : जो आया है, वह यूज़ नहीं हो रहा है, इसके बारे में बताएं।

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I cannot explain everything in one sentence. I am just trying to shortlist two or three key issues which have been highlighted by a large section of the House. Fleet acquisition was one thing. You asked as to who did it. Well, a company decides what it wants. If you think all the Airlines, across the world, use only one fleet type, I am sorry, that answer is not correct. It is advisable to have one fleet type. But many airlines, which operate on long haul and short haul, operate on multi-fleet type. I can name Lufthansa; I can name British Airways; I can name any number of major airlines in the world which operate more than one fleet type of aircraft. That having been the case, acquisition was something which the Airlines decided based on the projections it had made. The Government's job was to support that acquisition programme. And you know that there is a well laid down process in Government for acquisition. It does not happen overnight just

because a few people in Air India decided it, or, a file came to the Minister and he was in a rush to buy aircraft. All sorts of insinuations are flying here and there.

(Continued by 2A)

2a/1.00/ks

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (Contd.): I am just trying to say that it was through a well laid-out governmental process. It goes through all the checks and balances in the system and that is when this fleet acquisition programme was given the green signal. Even today, out of the 11 billion dollars worth of aircraft, only about four billion dollar worth of planes have started flying in the Indian skies. So, when you say that future acquisition or future fleet augmentation needs to be re-thought of, I don't think that is an issue before the Government. It is purely the decision of the management. If they feel tomorrow that they need to rationalise their acquisition programme, defer or delay deliveries, I don't think, I, in the Ministry, or, the Government as a whole, am going to take any objection to that kind of a suggestion. That is purely for them to decide. But, also, let me tell you that, talking of depreciation, one of the reasons, when earlier losses were not being reported, was that planes were already fully written off. Twenty year old planes! Naturally, all of us who understand -- Mr. Rahul Bajaj as a businessman -- would appreciate that the written-off value would be there after five or ten years. Therefore, all these years, Air India or Indian Airlines did not really have depreciation on its books. The current year's depreciation is close to Rs. 1300 crores. These are also factors which will contribute to losses in the initial years. This has to be understood. Any new factory or new project which starts, in the initial

years, the depreciation is higher on the books. So, that is one of the reasons. I am not saying that is the only reason. This is not a justification for losses, but this is one the things that I wanted to explain to you from the question arising or the clarification being sought about the fleet acquisition programme.

Coming to the merger, let me just be very candid about it. Merger is, again, not a figment of imagination of the Minister or Ministry or of a few people. Merger was a very detailed exercise which was undertaken. Mergers are not new. Mergers have taken place across the world, whether it is an airline or in other kinds of businesses. And, therefore, to say that merger by perception or per se is absolutely a wrong or a disastrous exercise that was undertaken would be unfair. Merger was done with a well laid down process. A world-class consultant was appointed and those presentations were made to the management as well as to the Ministry. To that extent the Government was also very cautious. An Empowered Group of Ministers of the highest order was constituted. The Committee of Secretaries went into it many times over. It was only after a detailed exercise that the consent for merger was given. Let me be very honest; every section of the employees of both the carriers was consulted and a large section of the employees had supported the merger. It is all right to say that now, if suddenly some section of the employees come and keep complaining about something which has gone wrong, they should also do some self-introspection...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: You have not fulfilled the promises you made earlier. (Interruptions)

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please, let him complete. You have said whatever you wanted to say, Mr. Raut. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: If there is something lacking, we can correct it. I am not trying to say that everything here was as it was tailor-made. But the fact is that everything was well-thought of; every section of the employees was spoken to. I have myself undertaken that exercise along with the management. So, let us not say that every thing was done knee-jerk, without any application of mind. Yes, some of the things may not have worked out to the best possible advantage which was thought of. But to say that merger... (Interruptions) I am telling you that the merger has not succeeded, as I have mentioned earlier, because of some issues like IT integration. But I also would like to request Mr. Bharatkumar Raut, who represents a large section of the employees, Mr. Raja and anybody who has an association with the trade unions, that they should try to explain things to the employees. Why is this resistance coming for the merger? Do you mean to say that a stand-alone Indian Airlines or a stand-alone Air India would have been able to compete in the global air space? After all, Jet Airways, King Fisher, all, are now starting to fly international; they are both domestic carriers and international carriers. International carriers coming to India do not service only Mumbai and Delhi any more like in the past; they go to Bangalore, they go to Hyderabad, they go to Chennai. Can you say that tomorrow a stand-alone Air India or a stand-alone Indian Airlines would have done the job? The answer is, no. Therefore, if anything has not worked to the best of our expectations, that does not mean that the intentions or the

thought process are faulty. The execution and implementation may require correction.

(Contd. by 2b/tdb)

TDB/2B/1.05

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (CONTD.): That is why I am saying that it is not correct to say the merger is ill-conceived and the merger has not worked. Yes, I agree, it could have worked better; I agree, it has not worked to our satisfaction, but to say that it is completely out of sync would not be correct. I would like to say one more thing. A lot of Members have said, bilaterals have been entered into, a lot of routes have now been given away to foreign airlines, to private airlines. I would like to state that bilaterals is an on-going process. By the very definition of the word, 'bilaterals' means, it is two-way traffic. It does not mean that a plane comes from Singapore or Dubai or London or Frankfurt and flies into India as many times as they want. They do come, so are we entitled to fly there. When the Government went in for opening up the international routes for private domestic carriers, we took a couple of key important decisions. What were those decisions? The decision was that the Gulf will still be for three more years protected for our national carrier. What stops the national carrier from mounting more and more flights into the Gulf? Nobody stops them. Contrary to the view that you take that everything is decided in the Ministry or by the Minister, I am sorry to say that most of the decisions on routes, to fly or not to fly and the capacity entitlements are purely left to the management. It is for them to decide. Therefore, bilaterals is an on-going process. A lot of Members of the House come from various States, not only from Mumbai, where you and

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me come from. Somebody represents Chennai. Would it not be fair to say, if somebody says that if Air India does not operate out of Chennai into any western country, and if British Airways wants to fly into Chennai, shall the Government of India say, 'no'? If tomorrow, in Bangalore with such a large IT industry, if Lufthansa or British Airways or Emirates or the Singapore Airline wants to fly into Bangalore, and if our national carrier does not fly out of Bangalore into any other city, would it not be fair to allow these airlines to operate into Bangalore? What is the logic? Ultimately, the logic is, more and more connectivity. In this House, minus this debate, so many times, I have heard Members expressing their view as to why their city is being connected internationally, why not I have a flight into Amritsar, why not I have a flight into Jaipur, why not I have a flight into Udaipur. Any number of such questions do arise, and this is the aspirational change in the country. People want more connectivity. I would also like to see my national carrier being able to perform all the obligations it is supposed to perform. But, in the absence of its ability to do so, if that space is taken by domestic Indian carriers or by international carriers, what is the harm? Ultimately, it leads to better connectivity, more choice to the consumer, better fares, better service. Is that not a hallmark, and is that not an achievement in the last few years? Can anybody in this House say that India is not better connected than before? Can anybody in this House say that Indian infrastructure has not improved than what it used to be in the past? Can anybody in this House say that lower fares are not now the order of the day? Is competition not giving you better service? This is the fact of life. But, at the same time, we have only focussed on Air India and said everything. I have many

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times stated it. I get questions and people try to put me in the dock, and ask me everything about Air India. I have sometimes to defend myself by saying that I am also the Minister of Civil Aviation. I am not just the Minister for the Air India, and I am saying this with anguish. I don't like to say that. But, at the same time, if every issue of connectivity or people's aspiration cannot be met only by the national carrier, this role will have to be performed by others also. This is a fundamental decision taken by the Government. Everybody has accepted it since 1993 onwards. This is the process of liberalisation. And that is why my request to the hon. Members is this. Yes, Air India, the erstwhile Indian Airlines do have some systemic problems. We do wish to support it. The Government in its earlier five years and even now support it. When these issues of the problem of Air India came up, I took it to the hon. Prime Minister. He also mentioned and with a great sense of pride I can say here that he said, 'Praful, this is our national carrier. It is our national pride. We will do everything possible to support Air India and bring it back to profitability, and do everything possible to see that it becomes a better organisation.'

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity in informing the Members that there is a change happening. The global economic slowdown has also affected the aviation sector. Today, in spite of our lower fares, many flights are not going to their capacity.

(Contd. by 2c-cls)

KLS/2C-1.10

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (CONTD): Today the airlines, all of them, have started cutting on capacities. Hon. Mahendra Mohanji or some other Member was talking about the British Airways making money, I am sorry.

I was in London. The Chairman of the British Airways met me. They were equally in a dire state, I would say. Most airlines across the world are facing financial difficulties. Even domestic airlines in the private sector in the country are facing financial difficulties. Yes, it is a public carrier, it is a national carrier, therefore, the issues of Air India will rightly be debated on the floor of Parliament. But to say that these are issues only of Air India is not right. Yes, Air India has slightly a larger problem because of certain legacy cost, because of higher manpower cost, because of the systemic issues which plague the airline. But I can assure you in the days ahead the Government will do everything possible to support the management. And I would like to tell you, Mr. Bajaj, and I repeat this, you have been a former Chairman of Indian Airlines, I on behalf of the Government am making this categorical statement that we want to bring in more transparency into the working, we want to give them more autonomy. If you say the Government interferes on daily basis, the answer is 'no'. People may have that perception. Now, I cannot take away that perception because the answers to any issues of Air India are only to be answered by the Minister in Parliament. To say that the Minister or the Government is at arm's length from the Airlines, it cannot happen in a public sector. But, on the other side, we would like to give it more and more autonomy; we would like to have, at least, half of the Board to be, as you rightly said, of independent directors, people of eminence of highest order who have a track record to be brought on the board. We want to have an international advisory board on the lines, which most global airlines do have. We also want to have a professional chief operating officer selected through a global search, working below

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the CMD. We want to do a few things...(Interruptions)... That is also fine. ... (Interruptions)... These are the clarifications; I cannot give you anything more than this. I am trying to be as explanatory as possible. ... (Interruptions)... Sir, I can assure you again that we do not come into the picture as to which route the airlines should operate. These are purely commercial decisions. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tapan Sen, there will be no end to this. ... (Interruptions)... Please sit down. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I do not want to deny what you are saying because I have no idea. But I would also like to state that this is not something, which we do as a part of the Government. This is a company. On the one side, we talk of autonomy and, on the other side, we talk of this. I do not think it is possible for me to do it personally. Yes, I would voice your sentiments to the management of Air India and tell them that if there is something which the hon. Member has pointed out, please look into it. If there is merit in it, it should be looked into in a time bound manner. ... (Interruptions)... I would also like to say very categorically ... (Interruptions)... I am trying to answer what Mr. Javadekar has stated and most Members have followed and taken a cue. He talked about Air India express. Low cost is now the order of the day. Please remember it. Somebody mentioned why Indigo and Spice Jet are doing better. The fact is that the low cost airlines are there because the market is becoming price sensitive; anywhere in the world you see whether it is the UK or the US, these low cost airlines are doing much better than the legacy carrier. That is why the Air India express is something, which the management thought in 2005 that they needed to take that space which

have been ultimately taken over in the international arena also. I can name you Tiger Airways, Silk Air, Air Arabia, Air Asia, Al Jazeera and so many such airlines now fly Dubai, all these are the low cost airlines carriers of all these major international airlines or their subsidiaries. That is why Air India express is also conceived as one of the low cost arm of Air India to take on international competition. As of now the LCC space is moving into the domestic area also with the advent of Indigo and Spice Jet, as also Jet Light and as also Kingfisher Airlines, the Air India express will also have to take on a more meaningful role in the LCC segment within the country.

(Contd by 2D)

SSS/2D/1.15

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (CONTD.): I am just trying to give these clarifications and if there are indications of corruption, Mr. Javdekar, please illustrate them, we will give it the highest priority. If there is any issue which bothers you, please let me know, let the House know, I will be willing to sit with you and I will be willing to go into any level of probe if there is any issue which is highlighted and which is proven that it is correct. I will be the first person to be happy to assist in getting rid of this kind of a problem which hits the airline. With these words, whatever issues the Members have raised would have been satisfied.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, in Calling Attention, it is not a question and answer session and the Minister is not obliged to answer every question.

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SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: **Sir, then we need more opportunity to talk on this. There are many issues raised by the Minister... Sir, he has given an explanation to many issues, which were raised, and they are completely off track. The country must know. When he talked about Air India Express you covered the entire market created by Indian Airlines. There was competition created within the company. There are many issues, which he has raised, and it needs a threadbare discussion. The country cannot be allowed to...**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **You have to have a structured discussion of Short Duration Discussion.**

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: **Sir, there are many issues which deserve an answer.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **I agree that there are many issues. It cannot be solved in one hour Calling Attention. So, let there be a Short Duration Discussion. You give the notice.**

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: **Sir,... (Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **No, no, the Ministry is not obliged to answer every point. You see the rules. (Interruptions) Now, shall we have a lunch break?**

ALL HON. MEMBERS: **Yes.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.**

The House then adjourned for lunch
at seventeen minutes past one of the clock.

-SSS/NBR-AKG/2E/2.15.

The House re-assembled after lunch at eighteen minutes past two of the clock, the VICE-CHAIRMAN
(PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **First, we have a statement from the Minister regarding accident at Delhi Metro site. Shri Saugata Ray will make the statement.**

STATEMENT RE. ACCIDENT AT DELHI METRO SITE ON 12-07-2009

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): **Sir, as reported by the DMRC, a launching girder, along with a portion of Metro viaduct (under construction), collapsed at Zamrudpur near East of Kailash in South Delhi at about 5.00 a.m. on 12-07-2009. A total number of 6 workers, including one Junior Engineer of M/s Gammon India Ltd., who are the contractors for this portion of Central Secretariat-Badarpur Corridor, died in the accident. Out of those dead, three were trapped in the debris. Another 15 workers are injured out of whom two are seriously injured.**

A compensation of Rs. 5 lakh is being paid to the kin of all the deceased in addition to the compensation under the Workman Compensation Act. Those who are grievously injured will be paid a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh and those injured - a compensation of Rs. 50,000.

The traffic on the road has been closed at Kailash Colony T-Point, LSR College-Bluebell School T-Point and Amar Colony police station. Rescue operations are in full swing, involving six cranes of capacity 250 tonnes and one crane of capacity 400 tonnes, gas cutters, over 100

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engineers drawn from all Metro sites apart from police and civil defence personnel.

The restoration of partial traffic was delayed on 12th July, 2009 (night) due to rain. While removing the launching girder with the help of 4 cranes, at around 11.40 a.m., on 13th July, 2009, one of the cranes failed, leading to toppling of one crane and breaking of boom of two cranes, thus further delaying the restoration work. Six workers suffered minor injuries and were taken to AIIMS trauma centre.

(CONTD. BY USY "2F")

-NBR-USY/2f/2.20

SHRI SAUGATA RAY (CONTD.): All of them were discharged, in the evening, from the hospital. Partial traffic has been restored at 06.00 a.m. on date. A help line, No. 23414461, has been started to inform the public about the developments.

Estimated direct loss, due to the accident, is Rs. 6 crores. The accident is likely to cause delay to this portion of the project by about 3 months. However, the overall target of commissioning of the Central Secretariat-Badarpur corridor, that is, September, 2010 would remain unchanged.

A high-level four-member committee has been constituted to investigate into the incident. The members are: Prof. A.K. Nagpal of the Civil Engineering Department, IIT, Delhi; Prof. (Mrs.) P.R. Bose, Professor of Structural Engineering, Delhi College of Engineering; Mr. Steve Lowry, Project Director, General Consultants, DMRC; and Mr. Rajan Kataria, Chief Engineer (Design), DMRC as coordinator.

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The Committee is to submit its report within ten days, that is, by 22.07.2009.

The Committee will go into the causes leading to the accident, including checking design, workmanship, quality of material used, method of construction and precautionary measures to be taken at other work sites.

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, those who want to seek clarifications are requested to please put pointed questions because of paucity of time.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (BIHAR): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, just a few lines as a background. Mr. Minister, I just wish to draw your kind attention to the fact that in the last eleven years, since the DMRC is in operation, construction and execution both, 69 workers have lost their lives and 52 have been injured. These workers, who put in nearly twelve hours a day, from poor States, including my State, Bihar, have got no union rights at all. What we hear is -- this is the most important clarification I would like to seek from you -- that in the mad rush for completion before the Commonwealth Games of 2010 the hurried pace of the work is creating a lot of problems. And, there is a reason as to why we have got ground to suspect this. It is because phase-I consisted of 65 kilometres and it took eight years to complete. While, phase-II consists of 128 kilometres and you have given a target of only four years. Things should be expedited; one cannot have any trouble with that, but not at the cost of safety, at the cost of the whole durability of the structure. We have got highest regard for Mr. Sridharan. He has done

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good wonders in the past. But what we suspect is, in the mad rush for all this, safety norms are being violated, structural safety is being violated. All the safety training required to be given, I am sorry to say this, is being completely ignored. Fatigue is not there only among the personnel. Fatigue is also in the instruments, whether it is a crane or other things. Why I am saying so because day-before-yesterday six people lost their lives. You have considered that. Now, yesterday, what happened, you sent three cranes, in a busy part of Delhi, to lift that without understanding the capacity of those cranes to lift that heavy girder. This only shows that *ad hocism* is prevalent safety norms are being completely ignored. Now, kindly see a situation, which is very important. Fortunately, the accident took place in the morning. If it had been in the peak traffic time, the loss would have been 50 times more. Therefore, these are issues. Today, I heard that some pillar has also fallen in Mumbai. Now, Mr. Minister, I would like to have one more clarification of far-reaching importance. Earlier, the design was being given by the DMRC itself. Now, the design has also been outsourced to the contractors to save money or time or whatever the case may be. Now, they sub-lease the work. I don't wish to give the honour of taking the name of any contractor on the floor of this House. But there are contractors and contractors.

(Contd. by 2g -- PK)

-USY/PK-PSV/2.25/2G

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (CONTD.): Some contractors have very poor record. In Hyderabad, a particular fly over collapsed there as well. The same contractor has been given contracts here as well. Again, the

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collapse which we noticed day-before-yesterday was handled by that contractor. Certainly, the people of the country, the people of Delhi, particularly, would like to be assured that safety norms are not violated. The Government has to ensure that safety norms will not be violated. There is a mad rush for Commonwealth Games. We are all for success of Commonwealth Games, Mr. Minister, but please don't make safety the casualty in that process.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): **Please put your questions.**

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: **Therefore, I repeat my questions one by one. What are the safety norms being followed? Are the workers being given some safety drill? What are the rights being given to workers? They have no union, but, apart from compensation, is there any other shelter that is being provided to them? Who is finalising the design of all these structures? What is the level of safety monitoring being done, in what manner? Are your instruments over-used/fatigued because of time constraints? What is the safety audit being done by the Department? If there is any document, please produce it on the floor of the House. Lastly and it is very important: Is the mad rush for the Commonwealth Games creating problems? Be honest in this House, because if 65 kilometres takes eight years, how come 121 kilometres will take four years? Thank you, Sir.**

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **Now, Shri Rajniti Prasad. Please ask pointed questions.**

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): **सर, हमारा तो इसमें जीरो ऑवर भी था, लेकिन यह जीरो ऑवर में नहीं हुआ, तो इसी में मैं क्लैरिफिकेशंस पूछ लेता हूँ। रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी ने सही कहा कि**

जिस चीज़ को 8 सालों में कम्प्लीट होना चाहिए-- सर, यह एक प्रोसेस है, यह जो ढलाई का मामला होता है, रखने का मामला होता है, उसको आप जल्दी-जल्दी करेंगे-- हमारे अहलुवालिया जी कह रहे थे कि पानी को सक करते हैं, वह एक कम्प्लीट चैनल होता है, उस चैनल में वह पत्थर जमता है। अगर उसको आप पहले ही स्टार्ट कर देंगे, तब तो वह गिरेगा ही। इसमें मेरा एक क्वेश्चन यह है कि हम लोग अभी जो मेट्रो की सवारी कर रहे हैं, वह तो ठीक-ठाक है या क्या उसमें भी कोई झंझट है? क्या उसमें भी लोगों का चढ़ना बंद करेंगे? उसमें हजारों लोग रोज चढ़ते हैं। अगर इस तरह से मेट्रो का परिचालन होगा तब तो फिर हम लोगों को डर लगेगा। हमारे पास तो मेट्रो से चलने का कार्ड भी है। आप हमें बताइए कि जो घटनाएँ घट रही हैं-- जैसे एक तो हमने सुना और देखा भी, कि एक आदमी जो काम कर रहा था उसके शरीर के अन्दर पूरा लोहा ही घुस गया। अब पता नहीं कि वह बचा या मर गया। आपके मेट्रो स्टेशन पर या कारखाना में, जहाँ पर काम हो रहा है, क्या इतना जगलरी हो गया है कि आप सेफ्टी का कोई इंतजाम नहीं कर सकते हैं? इसलिए मेरा कहना यह है कि जहाँ भी जो वर्क चल रहा है, वह स्थायी वर्क होना चाहिए। कहने का मतलब कि वह स्थिर वाला काम होना चाहिए, हड़बड़ी वाला काम नहीं होना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद: सर, मैंने प्रश्न में यही कहा कि क्या आप स्थिर वाला काम करवाएँगे या आप कॉमनवैल्थ गेम्स के लिए लोगों की जान ले लेंगे? इसमें जिन लोगों की जान जाएगी, उनका तो खेल ही समाप्त हो जाएगा। कॉमनवैल्थ के खेल तो बाद में होंगे, लेकिन इसमें जितने लोगों की जान गई, उसमें तो सिर्फ 2-4 लोग ही मरे, वरना अगर वहाँ पर ट्रैफिक जाम रहता या ट्रैफिक रहता, तब तो उसमें और भी कई लोग मरते। इसलिए क्या आप उसके बारे में सेफ्टी का कोई अच्छा इंतजाम कराएँगे?

इसमें मेरा एक सवाल और है। गैमन इंडिया, जिसको इसका कंट्रेक्ट दिया जाता है, क्या वह किसी दूसरे को कंट्रेक्ट दे सकता है? यानी उसको अनुभव नहीं है कि कैसे क्रेन से उठाया जाए, कैसे रखा जाए, कितना भार लगे। इस सम्बन्ध में ये मेरे क्लैरिफिकेशंस हैं। आप इनके जवाब दीजिए। यही बातें मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

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SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I have a point of order. राज्य मंत्री जी के प्रति मेरा बड़ा आदर है, किन्तु इतने महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर साहब कहाँ हैं, सर? हम आपसे यह आग्रह जरूर करेंगे। ज़रा इसको देखा जाए। We respect the Minister of State, Sir, but a critical issue requires presence of the Cabinet Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. You know that there is no point of order.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But we want some .. (Interruptions)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order in that because there is no violation of rules. What can I do? Ravi Shankar Prasadji, you are a senior Member. There is no violation of rule. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But something for propriety, Sir? ..(Interruptions)...

(Followed by 2h/pb)

PB-HMS/2h/2.30

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, now I have got this message. In fact, hon. Mr. Jaipal Reddy had written a letter in advance informing that he is not available today. He is not in town. So, he will not be able to attend. So, he has deputed his MoS. But even otherwise, your point of order does not stand because there is no rule violation. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But, Sir, there is the question of propriety as well. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Yes; I accept that. I accept the question of propriety. ... (Interruptions)...

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SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I am on a point of order. There is a violation. There is a violation because(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Under what rule?(Interruptions)... There is no time.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am just showing you, Sir, the supplementary agenda. When was it circulated? What was the supplementary agenda circulated?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Oh, that is over now. You could have raised it at that time.(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: You have circulated that at 2.15 p.m. At 2.16 p.m., the Minister comes with a *suo motu* statement and you expect that Members will come and speak. That is not fair, Sir.(Interruptions)...

No; no; Sir, there is a violation.(Interruptions)... Don't say it is not a violation.(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Ahluwaliaji, you have a valid point. But you did not raise it at that time. You have a valid point. I concede that you have a valid point.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I mentioned it because you said there is no violation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Okay; now; Shri R.C. Singh.

श्री आर०सी० सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस में Principal Employer कौन है? अगर गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया Principal Employer है तो इन के under काम करने वाले कितने workers हैं? उस बारे में गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया के पास उनका कोई identification है? इस की जानकारी मंत्री जी हम लोगों को दें कि हमारे इतने वर्कर्स हैं? दूसरा सवाल, आजकल compensation की रकम बढ़कर 10 लाख हो गयी है तो इन्होंने 5 लाख किस basis पर calculate किया है? तीसरा सवाल वहां safety

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rules का पालन हो रहा है या नहीं? वहां पर safety devices applied हैं या नहीं? मुझे इन तीन सवालों के बारे में जानकारी दे दें।

(समाप्त)

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (WEST BENGAL): Sir, regarding the incident of 13th July, I want to know -- the incident happened in the morning at 11.40 -- whether any Metro Engineer was present at the site at that time. Why I am asking this is because it has been stated that one of the cranes failed. How can the crane fail? I want to know whether it was lifting more weight than its designed capacity. It is very surprising because two serious types of incidents have happened subsequently on two days. So, my first question is, whether any Metro Engineer was present there and how the crane failed. What was the weight that the crane was lifting? There is some design capacity.

Now, regarding the incident of 12th July, we understand that the pillar had developed a crack earlier, but it got its clearance. It was repaired, attended, got its clearance and then the work started again. But, thereafter, that incident happened. What is the actual reason of the 12th July incident and if the pillar-crack was developed, then why they cleared it to start the work again? Actually, I want the Minister to let us know what is the actual reason and whether the Metro Engineers cleared the project to start the work again. This is relating to the 12th July incident. So, I have these two specific questions.

(Ends)

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (MAHARASHTRA): Sir, I have very high regard for Mr. Sreedharan because he is the person who really accomplished the impossible task of Konkan Railway. It is really one of

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the miracles. I am told and I have read that he had raised doubt about this particular pillar some time back and had even asked the Engineers to demolish it. But some Engineers advised him not to do it and said that repairs would be possible. Then Sreedharan had resigned. But now since he has withdrawn his resignation, where does the buck stop?

(Contd. by 2j/SKC)

2j/2.35/skc-dsv

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Contd.): Who is really guilty of this? The nation should know this. Therefore, an inquiry should be conducted and we should know who is guilty, whether it is a person, a group of persons or the technology. We should know this. Secondly, now that this accident has happened, we must ensure that all pillars and other structures that are built should be re-examined before the work resumes because, as Mr. Prasad said, undue haste has been shown due to the Commonwealth Games. Commonwealth Games would come and go, Sir, but the metro railways would run for the next hundred years. We are playing with the lives of millions of innocent people and we have no business to do that. We may not be able to keep up to the schedules, but that is fine. You must stop, take stock and then resume work.

(Ends)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (JHARKHAND): Sir, I have a small question. Was there any complaint about the design of this bridge? There were not one but several complaints. And when there were these complaints about the design of this bridge, did anyone address that complaint? Secondly, although the names of very reputed organisations were mentioned on the cranes, the way cranes buckled down, it looked like it was a child's play.

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Was there anything wrong in calculating the weight of the girder? Did they want to remove it? Did they falter somewhere while calculating the load of the girder, the angle of the girder or the height of the girder? If it is not assessed yet, kindly refer these points to the inquiry commission.
(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): **Please ask only pointed questions.**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (WEST BENGAL): **Sir, I have a two-point question. How the accident took place will be found out by the four-member investigating committee. Surely all the points would be taken care of. My question is that the whole incident has shown that it is basically a safety lapse and the safety operation has got another aspect, which is preventive safety; and, to ensure preventive safety, not only safety in a particular operation that is taking place but also the operation-worthiness of the instruments that are being in a work place. For that, a regular system of inspection is in place as per our laws of the land. I would like to know whether the DMRC is being regularly subjected to that statutory safety and preventive safety inspections because, as you know, in the DMRC there was no forum of workers; one was formed and its president was thrown out of the job. The question is, if somebody has the right to take somebody's head, he should also have the power and the authority to save others' heads.**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): **Now, Shrimati Prabha Thakur. एक ही pointed question.**

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): मैं एक ही प्रश्न करूंगी। महोदय, यह मामला स्पष्ट रूप से लापरवाही और भ्रष्टाचार का अधिक दिखाई देता है। दो दिन में दो हादसे होते हैं। जब पिलर

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में दरार है--- श्री श्रीधरन जी के नाम से पूरा हिन्दुस्तान परिचित है। वह एक मेट्रो मैन के नाम से जाने जाते हैं। इसलिए मैं कहती हूँ कि उनका इस्तीफा तो वाजिब नहीं था और जिसे उन्होंने वापिस ले भी लिया। इस मामले में चोर की मां को नहीं बल्कि चोर को सजा होनी चाहिए। कौन लोग वाकई में जिम्मेदार हैं? जो वहाँ थे, जिनकी देखरेख में वह पिलर बना और जिन्होंने यह वकालत की कि इस पिलर को दोबारा बनाने की नहीं, इसे रिपेयर करने की जरूरत है, यह उनकी जिम्मेदारी है। क्या सरकार उन जिम्मेदार लोगों के लिए कठोर कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है?

(समाप्त)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **Okay. Now, Mr. Minister.**

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: **Sir,...**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **Enough, enough. (Interruptions)**

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: **I will take just a minute, Sir.**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **All right.**

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (PUNJAB): **Sir, the technology for the construction of Metros was developed in the West and even after decades of experience, in the West, they do not make more than 17 or 18 kilometres per annum. There must be a reason for that. And we are rushing to 30 kilometres and 32 kilometres! So, obviously, safety norms are being thrown to the winds. Will the Minister kindly examine what the other countries are doing and if they are making only 17 or 18 kms per annum, why is it that we are making 30 or 32 kms?**

(Followed by 2k/hk)

HK-AKA/2k/2.40

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड): महोदय, हम Shri E. Sreedharan पर कुछ सवाल नहीं करना चाहते, लेकिन Gammon India पर बात करना चाहते हैं जो, Gammon India, इस पुल का निर्माण कर रही है। बहुत बड़ी कम्पनी है, लेकिन वह कम्पनी काम लेकर

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दूसरी कम्पनी को sublet कर देती है और यह उसका तीसरा एक्सिडेंट है। आप देखिए गंगा पुल बिहार में बना है, अभी उसे बने 30 साल नहीं हुए, लेकिन वह पुल धराशायी होने वाला है। वहां की सरकार और वहां की जनता को इसकी चिंता लगी हुई है। बुद्ध की मूर्ति स्थापित करनी थी, वह समुद्र में गिर गई, डूब गई। इसलिए इस कम्पनी को यहां से हटाना चाहिए और नहीं तो इस कम्पनी को प्रैस करना चाहिए कि काम लेते हो तो तुम करो, इसको sublet नहीं कर सकते।

(समाप्त)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Minister, would you kindly enlighten as to what is the proportion in western countries of metro underground and metro over-ground? Here in Delhi, most of the accidents have taken place in regard to construction over-ground. Should we infer that the proportion is a little mismatch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for the interest that they have shown in the matter. Delhi Metro is the pride of the nation and anything happening here concerns all of us.

Hon. Member, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, spoke about the deaths. His death figure is little wrong. Actual number of people died in the first phase are 55 and 45 have died in the second phase.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: It is higher.

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: I just want to correct you that your figure is not right. Now, this includes traffic accidents. क्योंकि कुछ लोग traffic से भी, बस से भी मर गए। I cannot really comment on the matter of trade union rights because the actual employer is DMRC. DMRC is a corporation owned by the Delhi Government and the Union Government together. But it is an independent corporation and DMRC gives its jobs on contract basis.

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It is also known that big contractors always give sub-contract to other people and they, in turn, sub-contract to other people. This is the rule of all construction activity in the country, not in DMRC only. If the hon. Member, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, wants to open a union there, he is free to do so, and if he wants to apply for the abolition of Contract Labour Act, he can do so. There are laws in the country for contract workers. There are laws in the country for workmen compensation in case of people getting injured. This is one. Secondly, he said that there is a mad rush. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is saying that sub-letting is allowed. It is not allowed. Sub-letting is not allowed. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: He is using the wrong word. I said, 'sub-contracting'. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sub-contracting is not allowed. ..(Interruptions).. Even sub-contracting is not allowed. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Of course, it is allowed. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is misguiding the House. ..(Interruptions)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You made your point. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: I am not misleading. ..(Interruptions)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: If the Minister is misguiding, there is a different rule. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: He must understand the sanctity of the issue. ..(Interruptions).. He must understand the sanctity of the issue. ..(Interruptions)..

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: If the Minister is misleading the House, there are rules for taking it up. ..(Interruptions)..

(Contd. by 2L/KSK)

KSK/NB/2.45/2L

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: You can take note of it...(Interruptions). First, know the rules. I am on my legs...(Interruptions). Please, take your seat...(Interruptions). Please, don't do this. This is wrong.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What are the norms of the bid?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अच्छी तरह जानता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर के खिलाफ कभी प्रिविलेज का मैटर सफल नहीं होगा ... (व्यवधान) आप सभी जानते हैं कि technical matter में कांट्रेक्ट sub-let नहीं किया जा सकता। मंत्री जी इस हाउस को mislead कर रहे हैं (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: First, obey the rules. When I am on my legs, you have to sit down...(Interruptions). At least, obey the rules...(Interruptions). Ahluwaliaji, you are the Deputy Leader...(Interruptions). Please, obey the rules. I am on my legs. You have to take your seat...(Interruptions). Please, take your seat.

If the Minister is giving any wrong information, or deliberately misleading the House, or even otherwise misleading the House, there are rules under which you can take up the matter.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : जयपाल रेड्डी जवाब दें ... (व्यवधान) Let the hon. Minister reply to this. It is a very serious issue...(Interruptions).

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा एक प्वाइंट है ... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, hon. Minister can continue...(Interruptions). Ravi Shankarji, please, allow the Minister to

reply. Let us hear him...(Interruptions). He is a new Minister...(Interruptions).

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I have only one pointed question. The Government of Delhi gave order to DMRC to give contract to somebody. They selected few reputed organisations. Now, one is Gamon India. Now, Gamon India got this order. Gamon India, without the knowledge of DMRC, without the knowledge of the Government, and without the knowledge of the Technical Committee who approved the first contractor, gave the sub-contract to some Kallu Ram. Now, Kallu Ram is building the DMRC. So, should I believe that? And, that is the answer.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Now, you have made your point...(Interruptions).

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is this? Metro is built by Kallu Ram...(Interruptions). वह तो बाहर यह बात चलती है कि सब चलता है। कानून के तहत चलता है या नहीं, यह बताइए। मंत्री जी, कानून के तहत जवाब दीजिए ... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, please, allow him to reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, hon. Minister is not misleading the House. He only refers to what he is...(Interruptions). He is also ready to correct if there is any mistake...(Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Let him complete the reply...(Interruptions). Ahluwaliaji, you allow him to reply...(interruptions). First, allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Sir, I am raising a very serious question. Sir, the Minister's words, 'contract, sub-contract, sub-contract', should be removed from the record and then let him speak. He cannot legalise it.

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Okay, I will look into it. Now, please, allow the Minister to speak.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: If this whole work is done by sub-contractor and petty contractor, how can we accept it?... (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Ahluwaliaji, you made your point. It is there on record.... (Interruptions). अहलुवालिया जी, बैठिए ... (ब्यवधान)

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, I don't want to go into hair-splitting and semantics and interpretation of words at this stage. I know how to use the words... (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, Mr. Rudy, this is not correct... (Interruptions).

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, may I say with all the force at my command that the Government is in no mad rush and safety norms are not being compromised and will not be compromised in our efforts to complete the Metro before the Commonwealth Games. Safety is primary and that will be given the maximum importance. Only thing I want to point out is that the record of Delhi Metro with regard to safety is very good. Last time, in DMRC Phase-II, the injury frequency rate, which is a way of calculating the accident rate, was 0.4, as compared to Singapore's 1.1. Only London underground is little better with 0.32.

(continued by 2m - gsp)

GSP-MP-2.50-2m

SHRI SAUGATA RAY (CONTD.): Sir, as far as safety is concerned, the record of DMRC is very good. We are not only concerned about the safety at the construction stage but we are also concerned about its safety when it will run. So far as running of Metros is concerned, the

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record of DMRC has been very good. It is a proud project of the country, and, I would request the hon. Members to see that the morale of those who are working for DMRC is not anyway damaged. We will take all possible precautions with regard to safety, and, all I want to say is that whatever questions the hon. Members have raised, will be answered when the Inquiry Report comes out on the 22nd July, 2009. Only after that, the report will be placed before the Parliament, and, further action regarding this matter will be taken. Thank you. (Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, further discussion on the Budget (General), 2009-10. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, what we want to know ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is not... (Interruptions)

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, हमने पूछा था कि फर्स्ट फेज में 65 किलोमीटर आठ साल में पूरा हुआ, दूसरे फेज में 121 किलोमीटर चार वर्ष में क्यों हो रहा है? इसका जवाब नहीं दिया उन्होंने ! ...(व्यवधान)... These are important things. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (WEST BENGAL): Sir, the questions are whether any engineer was present there; what was the capacity; whether that was supervised or not; how the crane failed etc. These are the easy things. We did not want a certificate for the Metro. We know the Metro. These are only few questions. It does not depend on the inquiry report to come.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything more? (Interruptions)

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, all I want to point out is our experience of Calcutta Metro. Mr. Prasad knows that as technology advances and as

we gain experience, the speed of work increases. (Interruptions) Sir, I am from Calcutta. Calcutta Metro took 24 years to be built. There is no doubt that with the experience gained in the first phase, we are doing the work faster in the second phase. It is only natural progress of technology.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, further discussion on General Budget, 2009-10. Due to paucity of time, I would like to request every hon. Member, who takes part in this discussion, to be precise. Please do not take more time. I will stick to the time allotted to the respective party. Now, Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari is to continue his speech. Mr. Tiwari, your Party has a balance of twenty-one minutes, and, you have fielded four speakers. (Interruptions) If you want to give time to your colleagues, then, you will have to conclude early, otherwise, we will be helpless.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे चिंता की बात इस बजट में राजकोषीय घाटा है, जो जी.डी.पी. का 6.2 प्रतिशत है। अगर राज्यों का भी मिला दिया जाए, तो यह 10 प्रतिशत से भी ऊपर चला जाता है। इसके साथ ही साथ यह राजस्व घाटा भी चार गुना बढ़ गया है। यह बहुत ही चिंता की बात है और मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी कैसे इन घाटों की भरपाई करेंगे, क्योंकि उसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि योजना व्यय में कमी आ रही है और गैर-योजना व्यय भी बहुत तेज़ी से बढ़ रहा है। मैं इस संबंध में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इतने सबके बावजूद भी जो बड़े मध्यम वर्ग के लोग हैं या जो कॉरपोरेट सेक्टर के लोग हैं, उनको जो रियायतें दी गई हैं, वह 418 लाख करोड़ रुपए की हैं और अगर कुल रियायतों को माना जाए तो वह करीब 7000 करोड़ रुपया पड़ता है। मैं इस संबंध में यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि रियायतों के साथ ही साथ जो कर वसूली है, वह भी बहुत ही चिंताजनक है। अभी महालेखापरीक्षक की एक रिपोर्ट सदन के पटल पर रखी गई है, उसमें यह कहा गया है कि during 2007-08, against Rs. 3,6057 crore certified by the recovery officers, only Rs. 8,612 crore were recovered; मतलब 24 परसेंट पैसा ही रिकवर हो पाया है।

(Contd. by 2n-sc)

-mp/sc-ysr/2.55/2n

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (contd.): There was an improvement in recovery from 14 per cent in 2005-06 to 24 per cent in 2006-07. यह हमारा जो deficit है, उस deficit का करीब 17 परसेंट बैठता है। इस प्रकार एक तरफ तो हम घाटे में हैं और दूसरी तरफ जो करों की वसूली है, वह ठीक तरीके से नहीं हो पा रही। मैं इस संबंध में यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि कारपोरेट सेक्टर को जो 7000 करोड़ रुपए की छूट मिली है, वह पूरे fiscal deficit का 17 परसेंट है। इतना ही नहीं, इसके बाद भी आप देखिए कि तमाम प्रकार के आयकर अधिनियमों में छूट हुई। आयकर अधिनियमों में संशोधन करके एक औद्योगिक परिवार के औद्योगिक समूह को करीब पचास हजार करोड़ रुपए का मुनाफा कमाने का मौका दे दिया गया। इसके बावजूद भी जो corporate sector है, कानूनन ढाई लाख करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा कर रियायतों का फायदा उठाने के बावजूद भी इन्होंने इस बजट के प्रति सेंसेक्स को गिराकर अपनी नाराज़गी जाहिर की। इस प्रकार यह मामला है। हम इनके खिलाफ नहीं हैं। यह सही है कि राष्ट्र की प्रगति में, राष्ट्र के योगदान में इनका भी महत्व है, परन्तु मैं सदन में इतना जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि इनको भी नियंत्रण और मर्यादा में रखने की आवश्यकता है। अगर ये अनियंत्रित हो जाएंगे तो जैसे सांड अगर अनियंत्रित हो जाए तो वह बहुत ही havoc पैदा कर देता है। उसी प्रकार से आर्थिक क्षेत्र में या देश के निर्माण के क्षेत्र में इनका अनियंत्रित होना देश की प्रगति के लिए ठीक नहीं है। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इनमें ट्रांसपेरेंसी नहीं है। इसके साथ ही साथ लाभ कमाने की इनकी जो भावना है, इस भावना के जरिए, मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि ये समावेशी विकास का केन्द्र बन सकते हैं या समावेशी विकास का नेतृत्व कर सकते हैं। पूरे बजट को देखते हुए मेरी समझ में केवल एक ही बात आती है कि सरकार की जो मानसिकता है, वह यही है कि समग्र विकास संभव नहीं है, सबका विकास नहीं हो सकता है इसलिए कुछ लोगों का विकास हो और वह भी, जो जितना ज्यादा सम्पन्न है, जो जितनी ज्यादा आय कमाता है, अगर उसका विकास किया जाए तो उसके विकास के जरिए पूरे देश का विकास हो जाएगा। जो trickle down theory पहले कही जाती थी, यह उस trickle down theory की मानसिकता और उसके दर्शन को दर्शाता है। इसी के साथ ही साथ जिस प्रकार से पूंजी का, दौलत का केन्द्रीयकरण हो रहा है, देश में गैर

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बराबरी बढ़ रही है, उसके संबंध में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो गैर बराबरी और भ्रष्टाचार है, यह समाज को अंदर से तोड़ता है। जैसे explosion बाहर से विस्फोट होता है और implosion आंतरिक विस्फोट है। अगर इस गैर बराबरी को रोकने का उपाय नहीं किया गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह व्यवस्था नियंत्रित नहीं हो सकती। इसके लिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हमें अपने भोग पर अंकुश लगाना होगा। हमें अपनी फिजूलखर्ची पर रोक लगानी होगी, हमारे सरकारी ठाठ-बाट पर रोक लगानी होगी। मैं यहां पर चाणक्य का उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने भाषण में उनका जिक्र किया था। चाणक्य को एक बार एक चीनी यात्री पाटिलीपुत्र में मिलने गया। वे एक साम्राज्य के महामात्य थे जो गंगा किनारे एक झोंपड़ी रहते थे। चीनी यात्री को आश्चर्य हुआ कि इतने बड़े साम्राज्य का महामात्य, महामात्य यानी प्रधान मंत्री, एक झोंपड़ी में रहता है। जब वह यात्री वहां उनसे बात करने गया तो उस समय उनके पास दो टेबल लैम्प थे। जब वह यात्री वहां गया तो जिस टेबल लैम्प को जलाकर वे काम कर रहे थे, उसको उन्होंने बुझा दिया और दूसरा टेबल लैम्प जलाकर वे काम करने लगे। जब यात्री ने पूछा कि आखिर यह क्या है तो उन्होंने कहा कि चूंकि मैं सरकारी काम कर रहा था इसलिए सरकारी लैम्प का इस्तेमाल कर रहा हूँ और अब आपसे निजी वार्ता हो रही है इसलिए यह मेरा व्यक्तिगत लैम्प है। इस प्रकार ये सब बातें हैं। अगर हम आत्म संयम, आत्मनियंत्रण और मर्यादाओं का ध्यान नहीं रखेंगे तो देश की आर्थिक व्यवस्था को सुधारा नहीं जा सकता है। इन्हीं बातों के साथ मैं अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

(2ओ पर आगे)

-YSR/VKK/20/3.00

DR. K. MALAISAMY (TAMIL NADU): Sir, with a sense of sentiment and gratitude, I hasten to thank the Chair for having called me on behalf of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazaghham as one of the speakers to speak on a very important subject. Sir, it is a matter of great pride and

privilege to speak on a subject, which is the most important subject, of the Session, namely, the Union Budget.

Sir, as a student of economics, I had been taught as to what is a 'budget'. 'Budget' is a tool of financial administration. It contains the estimated revenue and expenditure for a particular period. Not only that, Sir, it also envisages the policy, social and economic, of either the national Government or the State Government. So, as it is, it is a very important piece of instrument which reflects the in and out of the activities of the whole Government.

Sir, the UPA Government has come to power after a big mandate and they can afford to be strong, stable and steady. Equally so, the Finance Minister also can afford to be assertive and aggressive. He can even afford to be a little bit tough on matters warranted. Sir, I read the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister. I have seen the other documents also. I have been listening to the previous speakers and I could see that there are several highlights in the Budget. Just as a coin will have two sides, similarly, this Budget has got highlights or hits on the one side and low-lights or pits on the other side. I could see the hailing of the Budget on that side and the failing of the Budget on the other side. So, the Opposition has got their own reservations and reasons for them. Sir, these are my impressions. As far as I am concerned, I would like to be very objective and go by merit. In this situation, I have been guided by....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): **Come to the Budget. Your time will be exhausted. Come to the Budget.**

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DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, Madam Jayalalitha has been very careful in appreciating certain aspects of the Budget. At the same time, criticising the other side of it also. Sir, she has very carefully said that and she thanked the UPA Government for having borrowed some ideas from our election Budget and election manifesto. In AIADMK's election manifesto, we had said that fringe benefit tax should be abolished which they have accepted. They have increased the allocation for police modernisation. They have increased the allocation for defence. They have increased the allocation for border fencing. So, these are the areas of the AIADMK's election manifesto which are found in this Budget. So, in that case, she is very appropriate in appreciating it. Sir, at the same time, she wanted the exemption limit of the income-tax of the salaried class to be increased. That has not been done. But, they have done a marginal or symbolic increase which does not have any effect at all. Sir, ultimately, our Madam has said that they lack the long-term vision. Instead of going on for populist measures, they should have taken long-term measures. These are the impressions given by my political leader which I again endorse as my party's view.

Sir, I have made 3-4 heads under which I will make my observations. Sir, before preparing anything, one needs certain background. Before preparing the Budget, they should have taken into account the macro level situations and the micro level situations, the policies of the Government,.....

(Contd. by MKS/2p)

MKS-GS/3.05/2P

DR. K. MALAISAMY (CONTD.):the expectations of the ruling party and the people, and other considerations. So, taking all these things into

account, a Budget is to be prepared. They should have taken these things into account.

Sir, coming to globalisation, global economic crisis, global melt-down, and global recession, the Chair and the entire House know that it has got a tremendous effect the world over; not on some countries alone, but on India as well. The Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission have all conceded that there is some effect on all these things. Unfortunately, they have not been pretty serious till the growth rate fell down a little and the inflation increased. And there was an unprecedented breakdown of the stock-market. Till then, they have been thinking that the effect was only marginal. But after having seen all this, they are a little bit serious, pretty serious. But they have not done much, with the result that only some minor things have been taken into account. But it has no effect at all. Sir, the result is that the industry has gone down; jobs have been thrown out; several serious situations have taken place and the export also has been affected. It has got an impact on our economy. My simple question on this point is whether the hon. Finance Minister or the Minister of State for Finance, who is sitting here, has taken into account the implication of the whole thing. I mean, whether they have taken it in the right spirit; whether or not they have done it. I have got my own doubts about whether the implications have really been taken into account.

Coming to the next point of internal security, Sir, I need not say much about it because of the fact that with Naxalism, Maoism, terrorism or extremism, or whatever ism it is, prevailing throughout the length and

breadth of the country, the people are becoming restless and ultimately, they are finding it extremely difficult to live in peace. Absolute peace and public order are very essential than any other aspect. Top priority needs to be given to this aspect. But as far as this aspect is concerned, somehow or the other, the Government is trying to say, yes, yes, we are seized of the matter. What is it that you are seized of? The problem still persists, and it continues. What I am trying to ask is, as far as your Budget is concerned, whether you have taken this serious aspect into account for doing something concrete or not. This is my second point, Sir.

Coming to the third point of corruption, Sir, from womb to tomb, and criminalisation of politics, politicisation of administration... ..(Interruptions)... Sir, as you know, in a democracy, there are three sides, namely, the people-elected representatives, the organisation of elected representatives and the political executives. They do it through the bureaucracy and reach the people. This is the situation. What happens is, whatever be the scheme that you are trying to implement, its benefit does not reach the people at all. Under the Rajiv Gandhi scheme, out of one rupee, only 50 paise reach the beneficiary. The result is there is only a 50 per cent benefit. What does it mean? With the erosion of ethics, with the erosion of banishment of values, what happens is corruption to the core. The other day, it was discussed in the House, during the Question Hour, what is the extent of corruption in bureaucracy, and, the next day, what is the extent of corruption in judiciary! Everywhere it is spreading. What I am trying to ask is, since it is a major problem, what you are going to provide in the Budget for

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correcting it. You have not done that. So, my third point is corruption and the evil effect of black money. Sir, it has been assessed about 15 years back. ...(Interruptions)... Rs.30,000 crores are in circulation; 21 per cent of that is mingling with GNP. But, according to the CVC, it is about 40 per cent. What I am trying to ask is: since black money is in circulation to a greater extent, what is going to be the effect of it on our economy; whether the Finance Minister has taken that into account while formulating the Budget.

Coming to the next point of human development and poverty alleviation, I am sorry to say that even after six decades of achieving independence, the poverty has not been abolished. On the other hand, it is spreading everywhere. I mean, the farmers are committing suicide; people are suffering a lot, and even umpteen number of people are badly suffering out of hunger.

(Contd. by TMV/2Q)

-MKS-TMV-ASC/2Q/3.10

DR. K. MALAISAMY (CONTD.): They are not able to get even a meal a day. Whatever be the schemes that you are trying to implement, nothing reaches the public. That is the way I look at it. In such a situation, what are you going to do? In this connection, I would like to mention one thing. If I say that, my friends may try to interfere. People need food. What do we do? When Madam Jayalalitha was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, she had introduced a nice programme "Annadanam". A number of my colleagues understand what is meant by "Annadanam". I mean feeding the poor in temples. Whoever wants to eat food, they can go to the temple and eat food. This is known as "Annadanam". This was

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going on very successfully. Unfortunately, that Annadanam scheme was stopped by our colleagues Government, the DMK, when they came to power. I am not attacking the DMK. Their policy is different and our policy is different. What I am trying to say is that the Government is not able to handle the problem of hunger, poverty, etc. When there is a way to do that, it has not been accepted. (Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: When we are giving one kilogram rice at Re.1, there is no need for Annadanam. We give one kilogram rice at Re.1. (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, please. Don't interrupt. (Interruptions)... Don't interrupt.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Again, our Madam Jayalalitha very much appreciated your scheme of 25 kilograms of rice and wheat per month at Rs.3 per kilogram. While welcoming the move what she has mentioned is that specific allocation has not been made for this purpose. What is the use of mentioning it when no specific, exclusive allocation is made for that purpose? That is the point what our Madam is raising. Let us see what you are going to do on that. The Government has announced it. Let us see whether it will come through in practice.

Since you are showing your hand every minute, I am running through the points like anything. It has been announced in the Budget "a slum-free India" in five years. It sounds well. What I am trying to say is that in the urban areas they are trying to use all the land. They are trying to construct *pucca* houses and avoid slums. It sounds well. But where do you find the place? I want to impress upon the entire House that every year about 15 lakhs of vehicles are coming out. They are on the

road. There is no mobility; there is no parking place; there is no road; there is no fly-over; there is no bridge; and with the result, in another five or six years, you can't find a single inch to move in your vehicle. This is the situation. This is a very gigantic problem. Whatever land is available in the urban areas, you are going to use it. I am not against slum dwellers at all. What is your aim in future? These are the problems that are coming up like anything. You are not taking into account those things. On the other hand, you are just announcing this and that. I will run through the points. Just one or two points.

This is a Budget in which everyone has expected that something will happen with regard to MPLADS. As far as the MPs are concerned, they are arguing for others. They speak for the public. The MPLADS is a very popular scheme and we are trying to create durable assets. When the Central Government Schemes or the State Government Schemes could not fulfil, in small pieces they are fulfilled through the MPLADS. What I am trying to say is that the MPs have been given Rs.2 crores every year to be spent. As far as the Rajya Sabha Members are concerned, it is for the entire State and as far as the Lok Sabha Members are concerned, it is for their constituencies. This amount of Rs.2 crores should be enhanced like anything. So, they have gone to the Ministry and the Ministry has recommended Rs.5 crores. Where is it now held up? It is held up either in the Finance Ministry or in the Cabinet. I don't know. I thought and many of us thought that some announcement will be made in this Budget. But they have not done it. They felt that this kind of an announcement should not be made at all. This is a Scheme in which everyone is interested. But, unfortunately, nothing has been done.

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Another important point is this. Now you are talking about agriculture, irrigation, etc. Only four per cent of the agricultural sector is attempted to be developed. I am in favour of irrigation. What do you want to do? A lot of things can be done by interlinking all rivers. Interlinking of rivers is a major problem. It could be done very easily and it should be done. But, unfortunately, that is not taken into account. As regards interlinking of rivers, I thought there will be something in the Budget. Each State is trying in its own way and a few States do that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Malaisamy, you have left only eight minutes for your colleague.

(Followed by 2R/VK)

VK/LP/3.15/2R

DR. K. MALAISAMY: They say that it is a growth-oriented budget. They have not said anything for growth orientation. They have not done anything about savings. The budget has preferred only the rich class. Transaction tax has been abolished, income tax surcharge has been abolished; whereas, nothing has been done for the *Aam Admi*. What I am saying is, they are talking big about the *Aam Admi*; whereas, they have preferred only the rich people. They have neglected agriculture and the rural people. Good economics is good politics. There are a number of other things, which I want to mention. Since you are feeling uneasy, Sir, I conclude my speech. If permitted, I will speak later. Thank you.

(Ends)

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा नंबर था, मैं दो मिनट के लिए अखिलेश दास जी से बात करने के लिए चला गया था। मैं आपसे रिक्वेस्ट करता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे.कुरियन) : आप कहां गए थे?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : अखिलेश दास जी ने बुला लिया था, उनसे बात करने गया था।

उपसभाध्यक्ष : आप उधर थे?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : जी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष : ठीक है। ज्यादा टाइम मत लेना।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : जितना समय है, उतना ही बोलूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष : ठीक है, बोलिए।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बजट पर हो रही चर्चा में भाग लेने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करता हूं। आज देश को आजाद हुए लगभग साठ वर्ष से अधिक बीतने जा रहे हैं। इन साठ वर्षों के दौरान देश में अमीर आदमी अमीर हुआ है और गरीब आदमी गरीब होता चला गया है। इन साठ वर्षों में ज्यादातर समय कांग्रेस पार्टी और उनकी सहयोगी पार्टियों की सरकार रही है। कांग्रेस पार्टी ने ऐसा कोई मुकम्मल इंतजाम नहीं किया कि देश का गरीब आदमी भी अच्छे ढंग से जीवन-यापन कर पाता। महोदय, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी के बजट भाषण से ही प्रारंभ करूंगा। इन्होंने शुरुआत में ही कहा कि 1947 में जब हमारा देश आजाद हुआ, तो हमारा बजट खर्च 193 करोड़ रुपए दर्शाया गया था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहूंगा कि आज अपने देश का बजटीय खर्च लगभग 10 लाख करोड़ रुपए हो गया है। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, पिछले कई वर्षों से केंद्र की सरकारें अपने बजट का व्यय बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से राज्य सरकारों के साथ नाइंसाफी करती रही हैं। केंद्र सरकार का बजट व्यय बढ़ाने का एक मुख्य कारण है कि केंद्र सरकारें राज्य सरकारों को दिए जाने वाले धन, संवैधानिक संस्थाओं जैसे वित्त आयोग अथवा योजना आयोग के माध्यम से न देकर केंद्र द्वारा प्रायोजित योजनाओं के माध्यम से दे रही हैं। प्रत्येक बजट में इन केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं की संख्या व धनराशियां कम होने की बजाय बढ़ रही हैं। मान्यवर, यह संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के विरुद्ध नहीं है तो क्या है? केंद्र सरकार ऐसे विषय, जो कि राज्य अथवा संयुक्त सूची के बारे में राज्यों को सीधे धन न देकर वाहवाही लूटने के लिए अपनी योजनाओं से, अपने नेताओं के नाम पर रखकर राज्य सरकारों को दी जाने वाली धनराशियों को कम करके, उसे इन योजनाओं के माध्यम से दे रही है। इस बजट में ऐसी नई केंद्र सहायतीय

योजनाएं राज्य सरकारों की स्वायत्तता तथा स्थानीय स्तर, इनके द्वारा बेहतर नियोजन की प्रक्रिया के अनुसार कुठाराघात है, जिसका मैं और मेरी पार्टी निन्दा करती है। केंद्र सरकार की इस नीति का पालन करते हुए वर्तमान बजट में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा केंद्रीय करों व टैक्स की आय से सरकार को मिलने वाले अंश में अंतरिम बजट में दर्शाई गई धनराशि से 1300 करोड़ रुपए कम कर दिए गए हैं। राज्य सरकारों पर छठे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के बोझ से जहां व्यय बढ़े हैं, वहीं भारत सरकार के बजट में इतनी बड़ी धनराशि से राज्य सरकार को मिलने वाली धनराशि कम करना उचित नहीं है तथा उत्तर प्रदेश की जनता के साथ धोखा है। यह बजट एक छलावा है। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने गरीबों की संख्या कम करने का जो लक्ष्य रखा है, उसे वास्तविक रूप से वह उन्हें अमीर बनाकर नहीं, बल्कि उनकी संख्या कागजों पर कम करके कर रहे हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में भारत सरकार द्वारा गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों की संख्या, पिचयानवें लाख परिवारों की संख्या कई वर्ष से स्थिर रखी गई है, जबकि पूर्व में ही, जब गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे की परिकल्पना की गई थी, तब भी संख्या से अधिक गरीब परिवार राज्य में थे। राज्य सरकार के बार-बार अनुरोध के बावजूद केंद्र सरकार द्वारा प्रदेश में गरीबों की वास्तविक संख्या को दर्शाया नहीं जा रहा है। इससे अभी भी प्रदेश में कई लाख गरीब परिवार केंद्र सरकार व प्रदेश सरकार की गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों के लिए चलाई जा रही योजनाओं का लाभ नहीं उठा पा रहे हैं। इस बजट में गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों की संख्या को वास्तविक न करके उसमें कमी करने की बात कही गई है, जोकि केंद्र सरकार के इस कथन से एक सहभागी विकास बजट है। यह बजट की धज्जियां उड़ा रही है। माननीय मंत्री जी, आपकी जानकारी के लिए ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा बनाई गई एन.सी.सक्सेना कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में बताया है कि देश में पचास प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहते हैं।

(AKG/2S पर जारी)

AKG-RG/2S/3.20

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (क्रमागत) : ऐसे में माननीय मंत्री जी द्वारा बजट भाषण में गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे के परिवारों की संख्या के आँकड़ों में कमी करके उन्हें सरकारी योजनाओं से वंचित रखने के साथ-साथ 10 लाख रुपए की वार्षिक आय से अधिक की आय के करदाताओं को सरचार्ज से

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छूट देना इस सरकार की गरीबों के प्रति भेदभाव तथा अमीरों के प्रति हमदर्दी को दर्शाता है। हमारी मांग है कि जहाँ आय कर में सरचार्ज को समाप्त किया जाए, वहीं गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों की संख्या को आँकड़ेबाजी में सीमित न करके वास्तविक रूप से इनकी संख्या बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Brajesh Pathak, as per the rules, you cannot read out a written speech. ... (व्यवधान) ... सुनिए, रूल के अनुसार ऐसे prepared text को पढ़ने की अनुमति नहीं है।

ब्रजेश पाठक : मैं वैसे बोल सकता था, लेकिन कुछ points छूट जाते।

डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता : सर, बाकी सभी लोग कुछ points लेकर आते हैं। He is quoting. Only points are there. It is not a written speech. He is only referring to points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): He can refer to the written text for points. But he cannot read continuously.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : सर, ठीक है। कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।

सर, ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में भी बजट में कुछ विशेष प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। उत्तरी ग्रिड से उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को बिजली मिलती रही है। अब सरकार ने तय किया है कि उत्तरी ग्रिड से जो बिजली मिलेगी, उस बिजली को खुले बाजार में नीलाम किया जाएगा यानी अब कोई भी स्टेट उत्तरी ग्रिड से बिजली ले सकती है। आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से हमारा अनुरोध है कि उत्तरी ग्रिड से उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को जो बिजली मिलती थी, उत्तर प्रदेश की जनता को जो बिजली मिलती थी, उसका हक न मारा जाए। यह उत्तर प्रदेश के निवासियों के साथ अत्याचार और अन्याय होगा।

मान्यवर, बजट में उत्तर प्रदेश में नोएडा के पास जेवर में बन रहे हवाई अड्डे के बारे में भी कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है। पूर्व में सरकार ने तय किया था और उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने प्रस्ताव भी दिया था कि नोएडा में एक हवाई अड्डा बनाया जाए। अभी दिन में Calling Attention Motion पर चर्चा चल रही थी, माननीय उड्डयन मंत्री जी बड़ी बुरी हालत में फँसे हुए थे। देश भर के सांसद और पूरी जनता कह रही थी कि उड्डयन विभाग घाटे में चल रहा

है, एयर इंडिया घाटे में चल रही है। हम देखते हैं कि हवाई अड्डे के ऊपर घंटों, 45 मिनट, एक घंटे तक हवाई जहाज ऊपर चक्कर काटते रहते हैं। इससे पेट्रोल भी जलता है और यात्रियों को भी परेशानी होती है। इन सब देश के नागरिकों को, दिल्ली के नागरिकों को, आसपास के लोगों को परेशानी से छुटकारा दिलाने के लिए नोएडा में हवाई अड्डा प्रस्तावित किया गया था। आपके माध्यम से हमारा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि नोएडा में जो हवाई अड्डा प्रस्तावित है, तत्काल उस पर कार्रवाई करते हुए हवाई अड्डा बनाने के लिए कार्य शुरू कराएँ, जिससे आसपास के आगरा, मथुरा, वृंदावन जैसे धार्मिक महत्व के क्षेत्र हैं, पर्यटन के महत्व के क्षेत्र हैं, जहाँ देश-विदेश से हजारों नागरिक पर्यटन के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश आते हैं, साथ ही जो देश की राजधानी आना चाहते हैं, उन लोगों को जाम से निजात मिल सकेगी। उन लोगों को दिल्ली के ऊपर घंटों चक्कर नहीं लगाना पड़ेगा। इससे पेट्रोल भी बचेगा और एयर इंडिया भी इससे कुछ राहत महसूस कर सकेगी।

सर, बजट में माननीय मंत्री जी ने तमिल नागरिकों के पुनर्वास के लिए 5 सौ करोड़ रुपए का बजटीय प्रावधान किया है। हम धन्यवाद लापित करते हैं कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने तमिलों के लिए इतनी बड़ी धनराशि आवंटित की है। लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा और उनसे अनुरोध भी करना चाहूँगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल, दो ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं, जहाँ पर सूखा ... (व्यवधान) ...

डा. वी. मैत्रेयन : वह तमिलनाडु के तमिलों के लिए नहीं है, श्रीलंका के तमिलों के लिए है।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : जी हाँ, वह श्रीलंका के तमिलों के लिए दिया है। हमारा उनके प्रति समर्थन है। श्रीलंका के हमारे जो तमिल भाई हैं, उनके लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने जो पैसा दिया, उसके लिए हम आपत्ति नहीं करते हैं। हम इसका समर्थन करते हैं कि उनको मदद देना अच्छी बात है। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल, जो अक्सर सूखे की चपेट और दैवी आपदाओं से घिरे रहते हैं, उनके बारे में हमारी नेता बहन कुमारी मायावती जी ने कई बार केन्द्र सरकार को चिट्ठी लिखी, वे प्रधान मंत्री जी से खुद मिलीं कि 80 हजार करोड़ रुपए का विशेष पैकेज दिया जाए, जिससे बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल के लोगों को भी जीने लायक व्यवस्था उपलब्ध करा सकें। हमें तो ऐसा महसूस होता है कि उधर तो उनको वोटों की संख्या दिखाई पड़ रही है, लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में भी आम जनता रहती है, वहाँ भी आपके लोग रहते हैं, चूँकि

आप केन्द्र सरकार में हैं, तो वहाँ बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल के लिए अलग से आपको बजटीय प्रावधान करके विशेष पैकेज देना चाहिए था।

(2टी/एससीएच पर जारी)

SCH-KS/3.25/2T

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (क्रमागत): आपने पिछले दिनों सामरा कमेटी बनाकर और उसे वहां भेजकर अध्ययन भी करवाया था कि वहां के नागरिकों की क्या समस्याएं हैं। लेकिन उस कमेटी का क्या निर्णय आया, आज तक उससे न तो सदन को अवगत कराया गया और न ही लोगों को बताया गया है कि कमेटी ने क्या निर्णय लिया। बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल में आज तक कोई राहत राशि नहीं भेजी गई है।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं कुछ विशेष बिन्दुओं पर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। बजट में जिन प्रावधानों को शामिल किया गया है, कहा तो यह गया है कि यह आम आदमी का बजट है, गरीबों का बजट है, लेकिन आम आदमी और गरीबों की बात तो दूर रही, यह केवल खास आदमियों और अमीरों का बजट बन कर रह गया है। Fringe Benefit Tax का लाभ, जिसे कंपनियां अपने कर्मचारियों को देती थीं, उसे समाप्त करके यह दर्शाया गया है कि यह बजट केवल बड़े लोगों और बड़ी कंपनियों का हिमायती है, पूंजीपतियों और धन्ना सेठों का हिमायती है। Commodity Trade Tax को समाप्त कर दिया गया है। गेहूं और चावल, जो हमारी आम जनता के उपयोग की चीजें हैं, इसमें दलालों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, उन्हें फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए यह किया गया है।

10 लाख रुपये सालाना और उससे अधिक की आय वाले समाज के उच्च वर्ग के लोगों पर इन्कम टैक्स सर-चार्ज समाप्त कर दिया गया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि जिसकी आय 10 लाख रुपये से अधिक होगी, उसको तो राहत देने का काम किया गया है, लेकिन जिसकी आय दो लाख रुपये होगी, उसे हमारे बजट से मात्र एक हजार रुपये का फायदा होगा। जिसकी आय 11 लाख रुपये होगी, उसे 20 हजार रुपये का फायदा होगा, जिसकी आय 20

लाख रुपये होगी, उसे 50 हजार रुपये के लगभग फायदा पहुंचेगा। यह बात स्वयं इस चीज को दर्शाती है कि यह गरीब, आम आदमी का बजट है अथवा अमीरों का बजट है।

राजनीतिक पार्टियों में चंदा लेने की परम्परा रही है, उसमें एक कदम और आगे बढ़ाते हुए, चन्दे को 100% कर मुक्त किया गया है। इससे यह साफ हो जाता है कि राजनीतिक पार्टियां ज्यादा से ज्यादा चंदा बटोर सकें और कौन सी राजनीतिक पार्टियां इससे चंदा बटोरेंगी, यह पूरा देश जानता है।

पेट्रोल-डीज़ल के दाम बढ़ा करके सरकार ने यह साबित कर दिया है कि आम आदमी से उसका कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। मैं आपके सामने पेट्रोल और डीज़ल के कुछ आंकड़े रखना चाहता हूँ। 7 जून 2008 को डीज़ल का दाम 37.25 रुपये प्रति लीटर था और पेट्रोल का दाम 50.82 रुपये प्रति लीटर था। जब चुनाव होने वाला था, तो सरकार ने 29 जनवरी, 2009 को बताया कि डीज़ल 32.41 रुपये और पेट्रोल 43.47 रुपये हो गया है। किन्तु सत्ता पाते ही इन्होंने बजट सत्र का इंतजार भी नहीं किया कि सदन में यह घोषणा करते, यह लगातार पेट्रोल और डीज़ल के दामों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि करते गए। इससे यह साबित होता है कि इस सरकार का गरीबों से, आम आदमी से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। महंगाई के कारण गरीब आदमी की कमर टूट गई है, उनके पेट पर लात पड़ी है।

इस बजट से बड़े ट्रांसपोर्टों को भी फायदा पहुंचाया गया है। पहले ट्रक पर 20% टैक्स हुआ करता था, अब उसे घटाकर 8% कर दिया गया है। रेलवे से ढोए जाने वाले जो खाद्यान्न पदार्थ हैं अथवा अन्य सामग्रियां हैं, उन पर सर्विस टैक्स बढ़ा कर गरीबों की कमर तोड़ने का दोबारा प्रयास किया गया है। इसमें हथकरघा बुनकरों की बात भी की गई है, क्लस्टर कई जगह बनाया जाएगा, लेकिन हजूर, जो हमारे हथकरघा बुनकर सूती धागा बनाएंगे, उस पर सरकार ने 8% की दर से टैक्स लगाने का काम किया है, जिससे गरीब आदमी की हालत और पतली हो गई है और उसकी कमर टूटने लगी है।

बजट से पूर्व तेल की खोज पर टैक्स लाद दिए जाने की व्यवस्था थी कि केन्द्र सरकार ने इस बजट पर तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन पर टैक्स हॉलिडे सुविधा, चुनिन्दा उत्पादकों को लाभ देने की नीयत से दी है। ये चहेते कौन हैं, यह सारा देश जानता है।

सरकार ने हमारी नेता बहन कुमारी मायावती जी की देखादेखी उत्तर प्रदेश की ही तर्ज पर पूरे देश में अम्बेडकर ग्राम योजना की तरह प्रधानमंत्री आदर्श ग्राम योजना की शुरुआत की है ...**(व्यवधान)**।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: क्या आपकी योजना...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: क्या आप चुप रहेंगे? आपको कोई कष्ट है क्या? ...**(व्यवधान)** अच्छा, आप अपनी लगा लो ...**(व्यवधान)**

हमारा आपसे अनुरोध है कि बहन कुमारी मायावती जी ने जो व्यवस्था अम्बेडकर ग्राम योजना के माध्यम से की, उसमें प्रत्येक गांव के लिए लगभग 80 लाख रुपये खर्च करने की व्यवस्था थी, उन 80 लाख रुपयों में उन्होंने सड़क, पानी, बिजली, स्कूल, अस्पताल और ढेर सारी नागरिक सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध कराया, लेकिन केन्द्र सरकार ने एक गांव के लिए मात्र 10 लाख रुपये की व्यवस्था की है। उसमें भी स्पष्ट केवल 1000 गांवों के बारे में ऐसी योजना लागू किए जाने का बजटीय प्रावधान किया गया है। यह गरीबों के साथ धोखा है।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: आपने 50 करोड़ रुपये की मूर्ति ...**(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): **No, no. Please.**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: आपके तो नहीं लग रहे हैं, इसलिए आप चुप बैठिए ...**(व्यवधान)** आप चुप बैठेंगे कि नहीं ...**(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pathak, look here. (Interruptions) Mr. Pathak. (Interruptions)

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: आप चुप बैठेंगे कि नहीं, आपको क्या दिक्कत हो रही है ...**(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **Mr. Pathak, please sit down. (Interruptions)**

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सच्चाई सुनने की हिम्मत नहीं है ...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: आप नोटिस दो और बोलो ..**(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **Mr. Pathak. (Interruptions)**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: पहले नोटिस दो, फिर बोलो ..**(व्यवधान)** गरीबों का खून चूस कर ...**(व्यवधान)** तुम क्या बात करोगे ..**(व्यवधान)** बैठो आप, फालतू मत बोला करो ..**(व्यवधान)**

श्री राम नारायण साहू: आप गलत बोलोगे तो सुनोगे ...**(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pathak, you sit down. (Interruptions)

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, यह बीच में कैसे बोल सकते हैं।

2u/psv पर आगे

TDB-PSV/2U/3.30

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Sahu, sit down. ... (Interruptions)... Mr. Sahu, take your seat. ... (Interruptions)... Mr. Sahu, take your seat. ... (Interruptions)... Mr. Pathak, look here.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर कोई पीछे से मुझे डिस्टर्ब कर रहा है... (व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sahu, sit down. ... (Interruptions)... Mr. Pathak, yes, I know, there were some disturbances. ... (Interruptions)... But, you have no business to look back and talk. You remember it. You have to address the Chair only. You should know that.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर कोई पीछे से मुझे डिस्टर्ब कर रहा है तो हम क्या करेंगे... (व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Interruptions from others, I don't approve of. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर मुझ पर सीधा कोई व्यक्तिगत आक्षेप करेगा, तो ... (व्यवधान) ... उसका विरोध करने का ... (व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: You have no business to interrupt. ... (Interruptions)... सुनिए, सुनिए ... (व्यवधान) ... आप बैठिए... (व्यवधान) ... You have no business to stand up when I am standing. ... (Interruptions)... Sit down, sit down... (Interruptions)... You have no business to stand up when I am standing. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे कानून का अच्छी तरह से ज्ञान है... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष: आप पहले मेरी बात सुनिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: मुझे कानून का अच्छी तरह से ज्ञान है... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष: आप पहले मेरी बात सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: लेकिन अगर पीछे से टोका-टोकी होगी ...(व्यवधान)...तो मैं भी बोलूँगा।
...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० पी०जे० कुरियन): आप पहले मेरी बात सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

पाठक जी, आप एक नये मैम्बर हैं, यह मुझे मालूम है। लेकिन, आपको इतना मालूम होना चाहिए कि आपको चेयर को एड्रेस करना है। अगर कोई आपको डिस्टर्ब करे तो यह आपका काम नहीं है कि पीछे मुड़ कर झगड़ा करें। यह follow करना मेरा काम है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, मैं झगड़ा नहीं कर रहा हूँ ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष: सुनिए, सुनिए। So, if you want to continue your speech, you can continue. But, remember, don't look back. You address only the Chair. Then, with regard to other Members, Sahu Saheb and other Members, please don't try to disturb. Why do you want to try to disturb? When your chance comes, you can speak. Why do you want to trouble...(Interruptions)... Please don't do that. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली नहीं है...(व्यवधान)... गोमती नगर में जाकर आप देखिए ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: No, no; Sahuji. ...(Interruptions)... आप बैठिए, बैठिए
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, अब बर्दाश्त करने वाले नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pathak, don't look back. ...(Interruptions)...
Mr. Pathak, you address the Chair. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: इसे हम कतई बर्दाश्त करने वाले नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान)... आप इनको समझा दीजिए कि यह अपना काम करें ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: You don't look back. ...(Interruptions)...

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श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: जब इनकी बारी आए, तब यह खूब बोले। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pathak, don't look back.

...(Interruptions)... You address the Chair. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: नहीं, इनसे कहिए कि यह मुँह में ...(व्यवधान)... टेप चिपका लें
...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Don't look back. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Pathak, if you look back and speak, I will expunge everything from the record. I will ask you to stop your speech. I am telling you.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, आपसे हमारा सीधा-सा अनुरोध है कि अगर कोई व्यक्तिगत बात करेगा तो हम उस पर जरूर बोलेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: No, no; you address the Chair.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: हम आपके सामने बोलेंगे। लेकिन, इनसे कहिए कि यह पीछे से डिस्टर्ब न करें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष: ठीक है। आप बोलिए।

DR. AKHILESH DAS GUPTA: But, Sir, he is making a personal comment. That is the problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Don't worry. I will take care.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर हमारी नेता के बारे में कोई व्यक्तिगत आक्षेप करेगा, तब हम आगे-पीछे थोड़े ही देखेंगे! ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: No, no; you need not tolerate it. I am here tolerating it. I will tolerate it. You continue your speech. ...(Interruptions)... It is not your job. Your job is only to address the Chair. You understand it. This is my job.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, इस बजट में शहरी गरीबों को आवास देने का बहुत अच्छा निर्णय लिया गया है, slum-free India की बात की गई है, लेकिन ग्रामीण भारत के बारे में, गरीबों के बारे में कोई भी चर्चा नहीं की गई है और न ही इंदिरा आवास योजना, जो केन्द्र सरकार के माध्यम

से राज्य सरकारों को मिलती है, उसमें धनराशि बढ़ाने के बारे में ही विचार किया गया। केवल 25 हजार रुपए इंदिरा आवास योजना के माध्यम से BPL परिवारों को मिलते रहे हैं। हम आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि 25 हजार रुपए में कौन-सा घर बन जाएगा, क्या हो जाएगा? ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले गरीबों के बारे में भी सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए।

सरकार ने अपने बजट में विद्युतीकरण को बढ़ाने के बारे में भी बात की है। उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्दर राजस्व गाँव, जो बड़े गाँव हैं, उनमें तो विद्युतीकरण लगभग पूर्ण होने को है, लेकिन जो मजरे छूट गए हैं या जो छोटे गाँव हैं, जहाँ हमारे शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स के भाई रहते हैं, जहाँ अनुसूचित जाति तथा अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोग रहते हैं, उनके गाँवों के विद्युतीकरण के बारे में इस बजट में कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। FRBM कानून के तहत केन्द्र सरकार का राजकोषीय घाटा 6.8 प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं हो सकता है, लेकिन राज्य सरकारों से कहा गया है कि यह घाटा 4 प्रतिशत से अधिक न हो, जो कि राज्यों के साथ अन्याय प्रतीत होता है।

सर, महाराष्ट्र में चुनाव है। मुम्बई को उसकी दशा सुधारने के लिए 500 करोड़ रुपए दिए गए हैं, लेकिन माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र के उन किसानों के बारे में बजट में कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया, जो बेचारे सूदखोरों के चक्कर में आत्महत्या करने को विवश हैं। उनके बारे में सरकार ने इसमें कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया है। ऐसा महसूस होता है कि सिर्फ चुनावी बजट दे कर मुम्बई को खुश करने का प्रयास किया गया है।

(2डब्ल्यू/एच0एम0एस0 पर क्रमशः)

2W/HMS-KLS/3.35

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (क्रमागत): लेकिन महाराष्ट्र के उन किसानों के बारे में कोई बात नहीं कही गयी है।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हालात बहुत खराब हैं। चुनाव जीत लेना, सरकार बना लेना कोई बड़ी बात नहीं है, लेकिन सरकार में बैठे लोगों की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि वे देश के सभी वर्गों का ख्याल रखें, सभी को साथ लेकर चलें और एक ऐसा प्रदृश्य देश में प्रस्तुत करें, जिससे देश की आम जनता को, सभी वर्गों को महसूस हो कि सरकार उनका ख्याल रखती है। यह सरकार सभी की है। महोदय, कहा गया कि यह आम आदमी का बजट है,

लेकिन इसे पढ़ने के बाद यही महसूस होता है कि केवल यह खास आदमियों का, अमीरों का बजट है।

महोदय, इस सरकार के पहले परमाणु करार के मुद्दे पर बड़ी बहस चली और लोक सभा के अंदर यह बार-बार कहा गया कि हम परमाणु करार इसलिए करने जा रहे हैं ताकि देश में गरीब की कुटिया में, उसकी झोंपड़ी में बिजली जले, लेकिन बड़े दुख की बात है कि इस बजट में परमाणु करार और परमाणु बिजली के बारे में कहीं कोई चर्चा नहीं है। उस गांव की बुढ़िया के बारे में, जिस का नाम पार्लियामेंट में अक्सर लिया जाता रहा है, उसकी भी चर्चा नहीं है कि उस की कुटिया में बिजली कब जलेगी? इस बात की भी चर्चा नहीं है कि इस साल में गरीब के घर में एक बल्ब भी जल पाएगा या नहीं। महोदय, यह कहा गया कि सोलर इनर्जी से काम चलेगा, लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या सोलर इनर्जी बारहों मास चलेगी? महोदय, बरसात होती है, प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती हैं, आंधी-तूफान आते हैं, उनमें सोलर इनर्जी कहां से आएगी? लेकिन इस सरकार के द्वारा गरीबों का मजाक उड़ाने का प्रयास लगातार जारी है क्योंकि सरकार बन गयी है, अब देश की जनता पूरे साल क्या कर सकती है? उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यहां एक सच्ची घटना बयान करना चाहता हूं। एक अमीर घराने की लड़की को स्कूल में "एक गरीब परिवार" पर निबंध लिखने को कहा गया। उस लड़की ने लिखा, एक गरीब परिवार था। उसमें पिता गरीब, मां गरीब, परिवार में चार नौकर, वे भी गरीब। उनकी टूटी प्राडो कार और उनका ड्राइवर भी गरीब। उस परिवार के बच्चे-बच्चियों को स्कूल छोड़ने बेचारा गरीब ड्राइवर टूटी प्राडो कार में जाया करता था। उनके बच्चे "ताज" जैसे होटल में हफ्ते में तीन दिन खाना खा पाते थे। ऐसे गरीब परिवार के बारे में उस अमीर घर की बच्ची ने essay लिखा था। ऐसा महसूस होता है कि सरकार में बैठे लोग भी उसी essay की परिकल्पना को मजबूती से आगे बढ़ाने में लगे हैं। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि कुदरत ने आपको देश के लोगों की सेवा करने का मौका दिया है। देश के लोगों ने आप को अपनी अंतःआत्मा की आवाज पर, हृदय की आवाज पर देश सेवा करने का मौका दिया है। पिछले 60 सालों में से 50 साल आप को ही देश की सेवा करने का मौका मिला है, अब आप वही काम कीजिए जो देश

को आगे बढ़ाने वाले हों। तभी हम देश के उन महान सपूतों का सपना पूरा कर पाएंगे जोकि हंसते-हंसते फांसी के फंदे पर झूल गए थे, तभी हम उनके सपनों को मूर्त रूप दे पाएंगे।

महोदय, मैं एक और अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ। इस बजट में ढेर सारे प्रावधानों की व्यवस्था की गयी है, लेकिन देश के अंदर व्याप्त नक्सलपंथी की समस्या पर केवल बजटीय प्रावधान किया गया है। महोदय, हमारे पूर्व गृह मंत्री जी बैठे हैं। हम गोली से नक्सलपंथ की समस्या को नहीं निपटा सकते। हमें इसके लिए देखना पड़ेगा कि हमारे सामाजिक, आर्थिक व भौगोलिक आधार क्या हैं? आखिर वे भी हमारे देश के लोग हैं। हमें देखना पड़ेगा कि कैसे उन के रास्ते बदल गए? वे कैसे हमारे देश के ही निरीह लोगों की जान लेने लगे? अभी हमारे एक कप्तान व कई लोगों को बारूदी सुरंग से उड़ा दिया गया। आए दिन हमें नक्सली हमले की सूचनाएं मिलती रहती हैं। मैं सरकार से आग्रह करूंगा कि उनके साथ बातचीत कर के मुख्य धारा में लाने का प्रयास करे। वे कोई विदेशी आतंकवादी नहीं हैं, हमारे देश के लोग हैं। उनसे बातचीत कर के उनको पटरी पर ला सकते हैं और इस तरह देश को नक्सली समस्या से छुटकारा दिला सकते हैं।

महोदय, मैं एक और महत्वपूर्ण बात की ओर आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। सरकार बजट लायी है, जैसा भी लायी, ठीक है। अब सरकार चलाना इन का काम है और जनता के सामने सही बातें रखना हमारी duty है, लेकिन देश में जिस तरीके से जाली करेंसी पड़ौसी देशों से आ रही है, इस बारे में गृह मंत्री व वित्त मंत्री, दोनों को गंभीरता से विचार करना पड़ेगा।

(2 एक्स/डीएस पर क्रमशः)

-hms/ds-sss/3.40/2x

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (क्रमागत): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी पिछले दिनों, लगभग एक सप्ताह पूर्व खर्च के लिए मैंने कुछ पैसे पार्लियामेंट के ATM से निकाले थे। उस पैसे को जब मैंने दुकान पर भेजा तो मुझे पता चला यह पांच सौ रुपये का जाली नोट पार्लियामेंट के ATM से निकला है। इस पर "Fake" लिख कर मुझे वापिस किया गया है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): **No, no, you are not supposed to exhibit like this. Don't do that.**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: अगर आप अनुमति दें तो मैं इसको सदन में रखना चाहता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **You are not permitted.**

DR. V. MAITREYAN: **It is a document. He is authenticating it.**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: मैं इसको सदन में रखना चाहता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **For that you should have taken permission.**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: यह मुझे पार्लियामेंट के ATM से मिला है और यह ऐसा नोट है ..(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **Exhibiting is against the rule. Don't do that.**

DR. V. MAITREYAN: **He is authenticating it.**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **You cannot exhibit any pamphlet or anything.**

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: **He is taking your permission.**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **I have not permitted. Then, why do you say like that. I have not permitted to present it on the Table. For tabling, you should have taken the permission. I have not permitted.**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: कोई बात नहीं। आप मेरी पूरी बात सुन लीजिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: **If you want to bring that issue, you can bring it in a different way.**

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: हमारा आपसे कहना है कि हम चाहे कितना भी अच्छा बजट बना लें, लेकिन यदि हम जाली currency को भारत में आने से नहीं रोक पाएंगे तो हमारा बजट कुछ नहीं कर सकता। हमारी पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था चौपट हो जाएगी। ..(व्यवधान)

श्री के.बी. शणप्पा: कहाँ से आया जाली नोट?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: ATM से। Parliament Annexe के ATM से मैंने यह निकाला और जब इसे दुकान पर भेजा तो दुकानदार ने इसके पीछे "Fake" लिख कर मुझे वापिस किया। मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है कि ऐसे गंभीर विषयों पर सरकार को ध्यान देना पड़ेगा कि जाली currency को हिन्दुस्तान में आने से कैसे रोका जाए और भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को चौपट होने से कैसे रोका जाए। मैं ज्यादा वक्त न लेते हुए, आपको धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। जय हिन्द। जय भीम।

(समाप्त)

SHRI N. K. SINGH (BIHAR): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir. Let me get back into fashion. The fashionable thing these days is Kautilya and let me begin by, therefore, quoting one little stuff from Kautilya which the Finance Minister perhaps should have known. Kautilya said, 'That a king with a depleted treasury will eat into the vitals of its citizens and the common people'. Obviously, Kautilya was not a mere economist, but perhaps, an astrologer to have known the configurations of Indian finances of 14th June, 2010. It is not as if that the Finance Minister who is no novice to the world of finance haven't done a credible job in balancing several asymmetries in perhaps seeking relaxation from fiscal rectitude to fostering growth, forgetting inflation, reviving consumption, putting money into infrastructure, rural development with a view to try and get back the country into a higher growth trajectory. In this balancing act, which is quite credible, there are several important factors which I thought he has overlooked. First and foremost is the issue of sustainability. I don't want to go more into this but the raw fact remains that a 6.8 per cent fiscal deficit of the Central Government when added to a four per cent deficit of a State and add it to under-recoveries of 30,000

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crores on current prices of petroleum with a likelihood of prices going up and with a lot of under provisioning on account of things which will happen, the fiscal deficit will turn out to be close to 12-13 per cent of the GDP. This alone entails a Rs. 4,00,000 crores of borrowing. The explanation that Rs. 2,00,000 crore may come out in the open market borrowed operations of the Reserve Bank is, perhaps, a fiction because, we know that an open market operation of this nature is neither possible nor feasible, and that the only ultimate outcome would be a substantial monetisation of the fiscal deficit and, that, Sir, embeds the system with deep inflationary pressures. So, there are inherent serious concerns on the macro fundamentals of the economy.

(Contd. by NBR/2Y)

-SSS/NBR-AKA/2Y/3.45.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (CONTD.): In fact, the hon. Finance Minister goes on, perhaps, recognise this a little later, but not before he has gone to another fiction. That intermediate fiction is a document which he has placed along with the Budget entitled 'Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.' What does that Policy Statement say, Sir? It says that next year and the year after, the fiscal deficit, including the revenue deficit, would undergo a correction of 3 percentage points. There are no expenditure plans. Or, what expenditure plans would be rolled back? There are no additional revenue realisations. The expectation of corporate revenues going up by 15 per cent, with income tax revenues going down by 6 per cent, is something which totally lacks credibility. In fact, the only truthful part of the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement is the concluding part of that statement. What does that conclusion says?

With your permission, Sir, I read it. The last sentence of the Fiscal Policy Statement says and I quote, "Without putting at risk the revival process, the Government will look at exit strategies as soon as there is an improvement in the economic condition." This is a more realistic statement, because here they return to the path of fiscal rectitude. It is an open-ended one. Therefore, this is in sharp contrast to what he has said earlier, namely put definite numbers on what he intends to do next year and what he intends to thereafter.

My second important issue and quarrel with the Budget is this. Does the Budget address the fundamental issue that this is the right strategy for reverse in the decline in the growth rate? Independent international studies have shown that the Indian economy had peaked in 2006-07. If you look at really the third quarter statement of the year 2006-07, the GDP growth has climbed up to 9.6 per cent. The manufacturing sector has climbed up to 12.2 per cent. For every successive quarter, after the third quarter of 2006-07, there comes a decline till you come to the last quarter of 2008-09 when the GDP growths have collapsed and the manufacturing sector is down in the negative. The point I am trying to make is that the decline of the Indian economy, the GDP growth and the manufacturing sector began much before the global crisis had hit us. Therefore, to really put the Indian economic situation contingent on the exogenous variable of a looming global crisis is misleading us. We, therefore, need to ask ourselves a question that, perhaps, the economy has run out of steam. Perhaps, we need endemic solutions. Perhaps, there are institutional bottlenecks. Perhaps, there are infrastructural bottlenecks. And, till, therefore, these begin to get addressed, this kind

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of an artificial fiscal stimulus package will only bring a temporary reprieve, because it will not address the more fundamental endemic causes which led to the decline of the Indian economy one year before the beginning of the global economic crisis.

My third point is about the quality of stimulus. Sir, out of 120,000 crores extra which has been put into the system, Rs. 44,000 crores go to the Pay Commission, Rs. 33,000 crores goes to the interest payments, Rs. 10,000 crores goes to contribution to the International Monetary Fund. In fact, the real increase in areas on which Government claims a lot of credit for is a miniscule about. If you combine, for instance, the NAREGA increase with the Grameen Rozgar Yojna, the increase is 0.7 per cent. The SSA programme, the primary flagship programme on education, there is a decline. In rural development, the increase is only 0.38 per cent. On child welfare the increase is awfully 0.8 per cent. In fact, the most of the increases have gone on into boosting consumption, not gone into capital creating assets and not gone into those investments which will have long-term multiplier effects to the Indian economy. Therefore, first and foremost, the increases are nominal and they have gone into directions which may not leave a permanent impact on the economy.

My fourth point is that a lot of credit has been taken by the hon. Finance Minister for the introduction of GST from 1st April, 2010. I recognise this is an important step. But, perhaps, the Constitutional legal changes which are necessary and the kind of harmonisation of many deficiencies between different States and the consensus building in the political process is really running behind time and we only hope

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and wish that he is able to do so. Let me tell say this that nothing would be more terrible than to hastily introduce an ill-conceived GST, because that is only enhances the distortory tax structure. It is better to plan and introduce more carefully.

(CONTD. BY USY "2Z")

-NBR-USY/2Z/3.50

SHRI N.K. SINGH (CONTD.): My fifth point is this. Nothing has been done to improve the overall climate for private investment. In fact, the one, on Integrated Energy Policy, again, is flawed because we have tinkered with the policy. We have not tried to own our past contractual liability. We have suddenly changed regimes without giving a proper notice. We have detracted from credibility and from investors' confidence. So, Sir, the short point is, India is in a debt-trap. At today's debt numbers of roughly 87 per cent of the GDP, the Government owes every Indian Rs. 45,050/-. In 2011 and 2012, the Government would owe every Indian Rs. 67,375/-. Look at the kind of miniscule tax breaks. Look at the kind of woeful debt, which the Government has created. In fact, one can only end up by saying that all that the Finance Minister wishes to say, in his fiscal policy statement, is, "Oh Lord! Make me prudent. But wait for it, not now." And, in fact, he does not end up by saying, "Blessed we be to the newer generation because thou shall inherit my debt".

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

So, what is really the path forward? I would like to say, for the submission of the Government, ten very quick suggestions. First and foremost, make greater fiscal zoom to allow States half-a-percentage point more and reduce the fiscal deficit of the Central Government by

half percentage point to keep the equilibrium going. Second, stop cherry picking and have a more equal treatment. I have no problems with giving cherry-picking to West Bengal, to Maharashtra and to other parts of the country. But do so equally, in an even-handed way to the other parts of the country, following the cardinal principle of fiscal federalism in which we play a political neutrality in devolution of funds and in being able to start and initiate development projects. Third, come up with a more credible detailed White Paper on returning to the path of fiscal rectitude, with a better outlined path of fiscal consolidation, not by mere rhetoric, but with stiffening of political spine, which comes up with a credible action plan. Fourth, the Finance Minister, on page 40 of his Fiscal Responsibility Programme, has come up with an excellent suggestion to set up an Independent Evaluation Office to go into public outlays. Set up this office as soon as possible since so much faith has been placed in public outlays. Fifth, create an office of public debt to begin to obviate the conflict of interests, which the Reserve Bank has, since the Government has an enormous portfolio in the management of public debt. Sixth, restructure the Reserve Bank of India by creating a separate banking supervisory authority to again obviate the conflict of interests in the Reserve Bank, managing two kinds of areas where there is an inherent conflict. Seventh, based on the President's Joint Address, urge the Ministries to come up with individual papers on what their action programme is and how they intend to take forward the many ideas embedded in the Finance Minister's speech. Eighth, Mahalanobis, I am sure Brindaji will agree, was no reactionary. Writing fifty years ago, he talked about the need that in the constitutional scheme of things, fiscal

federalism, in a new polity, needed to be revisited to give India a comparative advantage of a large labour force to be able to create employment outside agriculture and seek livelihood in labour-intensive manufacturing activity. Ninth, come up with a medium-term programme in the legislative domain, not merely in the area of what people describe as neo-liberal economics, but in other areas, like, in health, in education, in Judiciary to be able to have a kind of growth, which is sustainable, which is truly creative, and which is inclusive. Finally, Sir, let me say that this Government has come back to power with a huge mandate, has come back to power by making huge promises. People remember these promises. Therefore, begin to perform in a credible way because, surely, you will remember that the memory of creditors is far more than the memory of debtors.

Thank you, Sir. (Ends)

(Followed by 3a -- PK)

-USY/PK/3A/3.55

SHRI D. RAJA (TAMIL NADU): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me begin by quoting Thiruvalluvar, one of the greatest poet philosophers that the country has ever produced. " Hon. Member spoke in Tamil ". "A State, a Government is one which is capable of evolving policies, which is capable of creating wealth, which is capable of safeguarding wealth, which is capable of distributing wealth equitably." I doubt the Congress-led UPA Government can live up to this definition of Thiruvalluvar. The Government claims it has got the renewed mandate and the mandate is for inclusive growth and equitable distribution. I question this; I substantiate it with certain observations. Coming to the fiscal stimulus, the Government talks about fiscal deficit which has increased from 2.7 per cent to 6.2 per cent of the GDP in 2008-09 amounting to Rs.1,86,000 crores and that the difference of 3.5 per cent is the total fiscal stimulus. I do not agree with my good friend, Shri N.K. Singh, because we all know that the impact of global economic crisis is not restricted to the larger organised segments of industry; it is serious among those engaged in informal economy. The Government's policies of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation have made the poor people in the informal economy gain little when the economy grew rapidly. According to the National Commission for Enterprises, in the unorganized sector, during the period of growth -- 1993-94 to 2004-05 -- the benefits of growth bypassed the 77 per cent of the population who remained poor or vulnerable with average per capita daily consumption levels of below Rs.20/-. It is clear that, now, during the current slow down, it is exactly these poor and vulnerables who will be affected the most adversely.

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Does the Government have any answer to show how much of Rs.1,86,000 crores went for the poor and how much went for the corporate sector? This is my first issue.

Secondly, Sir, the Budget ignores the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the OBCs and other minorities. When we talk of inclusive growth, unless the Budget addresses the concerns of these weaker sections, we cannot have an inclusive growth. The Special Central Assistance to the Scheduled Castes sub-plan is the single most important scheme for dalits and the lion's share of the Budget of the Ministry of Social Justice is, generally, set aside, which is used exclusively for the economic upliftment of dalits. What is inexplicable is that the SCA Budget fell from Rs.577.71 crores in 2008-09 (Revised Estimates) to Rs.469 crores in 2009-10 Budget. There is a demand for more allocations of Plan funds, according to the population of dalits in the country under the Special Component Plan. These funds would amount to roughly Rs.50,000 crores but the Finance Minister submitted a Budget which reduced the SCP allocations for dalits by 18 per cent. The imbalance between the concern for dalits by the Congress Party seems to be farcical, looking at the allocations in the 2009 Budget. Sir, I can go on quoting the figures. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship supports dalits to pursue M. Phil., Ph. D.

(Contd. by 3B/PB)

PB/3b/4.00

SHRI D. RAJA (CONTD.): The fellowship allocation fell by 10 per cent contrary to the increased demand for the Scheme from Rs. 87.94 crores in 2008-09 (Revised Estimate) to Rs. 79 crores. The same scholarship

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has been increased by Rs. 13 crores on the tribal side. Sir, interestingly, the allocation for Ministry of Minority Affairs has increased by Rs. 1076 crores. I welcome it. It is a positive thing which has been done after so many years. ...(Interruptions)... And, the allocation for Ministry of Tribal Affairs has increased by Rs. 1235 crores. But the allocations of Dalit has been increased only by a mere Rs. 77 crores. Then, what is the meaning of 'inclusive growth'? This Government will have to think over it.

Then, Sir, coming to agriculture, the Government claims that efforts will be made to ensure that the Indian agriculture continues to grow at an annual rate of 4 per cent. But actually the agrarian sector has witnessed a sharp decline in growth rate and there is a fall in the production of foodgrains. Except for rice which has registered a marginal increase of 2.4 per cent, you will find a decline in all other varieties. There is decline in the production of wheat, decline in the production of coarse cereals, decline in the production of pulses and there is an overall decline of 1.4 per cent in foodgrains over the target. Now, how can we protect our agriculture? Sir, agriculture is in deep crisis. The farmers' distress is unprecedented, but the Government has not accepted the recommendations made by Swaminathan Commission even to bring down the interest rate to 4 per cent, simple interest. That is what they are asking. Even the Budget talks about 7 per cent. If they repay, they can have a concession of 1 per cent, and this is also a mockery of our agricultural sector. This shows how the agrarian sector is treated by this Government.

Sir, due to constraint of time, I am rushing the question of disinvestment. Here, I do not agree with the Government the way it

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wants to sell off the public sector undertakings. We had enough discussions in this House. I do not agree with BJP also. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu has said, 'The Government has no business to be in business.' But he tried to over simplify the entire issue by saying, 'why Government should sell Chicken Biryani or Mutton Biryani.' It is not so. Sir, the reserves and surplus of Central Public Sector Enterprises was Rs. 2.59 lakh crores in 2003-04 when the UPA came to power. The same has gone up by another Rs. 2.26 lakh crores and stood at Rs. 4.85 lakh crores in 2007-08. This is the strength of the Indian economy. Why should this Government think of demolishing these public sector undertakings? It is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who called the public sector undertakings as 'modern temples of modern India.' Why should the Government demolish these modern temples which give strength to our economy? Mr. Arun Shourie is sitting here. He was the Disinvestment Minister when the NDA was in power. When there was a debate in the very same House on this subject, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, the present Finance Minister, who was in Opposition then, told the BJP-led NDA Government, 'For God's sake, don't try to befool everybody that only disposal of capital assets is the core of economic reforms.' I think, Mr. Arun Shourie must remember this. 'For God's sake, do not try to befool everybody that only disposal of capital assets is the core of economic reforms.' It was Mr. Pranab Mukherjee when he was in Opposition. Now, when he is the Finance Minister of the Congress-led UPA Government, I would like to remind him his own words.

(Contd. by 3c/SKC)

3c/4.05/skc

SHRI D. RAJA (Contd.): Why do you want to destroy the capital assets that the country has built over the years? That is why, we do not agree with the Budget which speaks of disinvestment, Sir.

Coming to other issues, the Economic Survey which was presented in Parliament, quoting the United Nations Development Programme, ranks India 132 out of 179 countries. India is ranked 132! Many Asian countries including China and Sri Lanka are ranked above India. What is the problem? Currently, India spends close to three per cent of its GDP on education and less than one per cent of its GDP on health. There is an increase of about Rs. 2000 crores in the Budget's Plan expenditure for higher education. I welcome this. We need more investment in higher education. But, primary education, which should be the real strength of our education system, is totally neglected. Allocation for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Mid-day Meal Scheme remain the same. There is no mention about the Right to Education Bill. There is no increase in the allocation of funds for the National Child Labour Project. Then what is the inclusive growth that we are talking about when we do not have the needed approach to fight economic exclusion of the weaker sections in our society? It talks about the NREGA. We had enough discussions in this very House about it. The NREGA must be implemented with a view to building assets in the rural parts of our country. The poor people, the agricultural workers, can be the targeted groups. They can be given land and this scheme can be used for bringing uncultivable or uncultivated land under cultivation. Thus, they can help the economy and the country. There is no mention about the Urban Employment Guarantee Act, which is being demanded by several

sections of the people. Even when the Employment Guarantee Bill was being discussed, we always wanted that it should be a universal, countrywide scheme. Why is there no mention about this?

Coming to the power sector, there is mention about power where the Budget really reduces the basic customs duty on permanent magnets, a critical component for wind operated electricity generators, from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent. My point is, Government should give more priority and pay more attention to the renewable energy. Even in the case of solar energy, Government can take up the issue of building solar energy plants in the country. We have been gifted with a lot of sunlight and heat throughout the year. We can think about this, because I don't think nuclear energy is going to be feasible in the coming years. After seeing the G-8 statement, I really doubt whether India will have access to nuclear fuel in the near future. So, this is one issue that Government will have to consider. Then, about the funding of political parties, I agree with my Left colleague who spoke on this subject. This Parliament will have to consider the observations of the Indrajit Committee on State funding. In fact, the committee was constituted when NDA was in power. And if corporate houses want to join the democratic process by monetary contributions, they can contribute and there can be a separate corpus which becomes part of State funding and there can be a level-playing field for all political parties. Then, Sir, the Budget gives Rs. 500 crores to Sri Lankan Tamils. We have been demanding it and it has been the demand in Tamil Nadu also. At the same time, my point is, what is the mechanism to see to it that that money will be spent on the resettlement and rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils?

HK/3d/4.10

SHRI D. RAJA (CONTD.): I agree with Mr. Venkaiah Naidu who spoke on that subject. The situation in Sri Lanka is horrible and the Tamil people are undergoing unimaginable sufferings and hardships. When our Government contributes to the tune of Rs.500 crores, I think there must be a mechanism to see that money is spent on Sri Lankan Tamils. Then, Sir, I would like to speak on agriculture. The Government talk about indebtedness of farmers and suicides of farmers. But a thing is missing, that is, remunerative price for farmers. Wheat-growing farmers get Rs.1000 per quintal. But what about paddy-growing farmers? They are demanding Rs.1000 per quintal. What about sugarcane growers? They are demanding Rs.2000 per tonne. This Government has no respect for the recommendations given by Agricultural Price Commission. They have accepted a certain amount of Rs.1550 for one tonne sugarcane. How can you overcome the crisis in agriculture?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: This is an important thing. Finally, I must conclude by saying that this Government is increasingly coming under pressure from various big business corporate houses. It is CII which claimed this mandate for fast track reforms. Again it is FICCI which said, "Pull out all stocks and unleash a slew of reforms in the areas of pension, insurance, banking, disinvestments, labour, private participation in Defence, retail, etc." Mr. Venkaiah Naidu also said, 'Go ahead with all reforms. Why are you not showing your guts?' This is the point which the country has to understand. If the poor people will have to be protected and the

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development will have to be inclusive one, I think the Government will have to amend its policy which is a neo-liberal, which is a neo-liberal economy and which is a neo-liberal approach in every aspect of our economic management. With these words, I conclude my observations on the Budget.

(Ends)

DR. C. RANGARAJAN (NOMINATED): Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to speak. All of us know that the Finance Minister had a difficult balancing act to perform. On the one hand, he has to step up the Government expenditure in order to stimulate aggregate demand, on the other hand, he has to keep the fiscal deficit at the reasonable level. On the whole, he has done well. But I am afraid that he has kept the fiscal deficit at an uncomfortably high level. This issue needs to be addressed. This is not fiscal fundamentalism or anything like that. There are adverse consequences of high fiscal deficits and we should not underestimate the consequences. The fiscal deficit for the last year for the Central Government is 6.2 per cent and it is 6.8 per cent for this year. Add to it, the State deficit of 4 per cent. This alone adds to 10.8 per cent, not including the other off-budget liabilities. Therefore, we are caught in a very difficult situation. The level of fiscal deficit is far beyond what is sustainable over a period of time. Maybe in times of emergency and in times of difficulty, we might be able to tolerate the higher level of fiscal deficit. That may be so. But I think we need to have a clear understanding of where we are going. The consequences of the high level of fiscal deficit is this that the outstanding liabilities as a proportion of GDP goes up.

KSK/4.15/3E

DR. C. RANGARAJAN (CONTD): As far as the Central Government is concerned, according to the Budget papers, the outstanding liabilities of the Centre to the GDP will go up from 59.6 per cent to 61.4 per cent in one year. So, this is the extent of the impact of the high fiscal deficit. Let me explain a little bit more. There are three consequences of fiscal deficit which we must note. First, interest payments, as a proportion of the revenue receipts, go up. And, as interest payments pre-empt a larger proportion of the revenue receipts, less is available for productive investment expenditures. Now, this is one consequence of what is really happening. The interest payments, as a proportion of the Central Government's revenue receipts, were 47 per cent in 2003-04. Because of the decline in the fiscal deficit and other measures taken, it came down to 31.6 per cent in 2007-08. In 2008-09, it has gone up to 35.0 per cent, and in 2009-10, it is budgeted to increase to 36.7 per cent. Now, this large pre-emption of the revenue receipts for interest payments means that in order to provide for productive investment expenditures at the same level, more deficits will have to be incurred and, therefore, a vicious cycle is set in motion. The second aspect of the high fiscal deficit is a crowding out effect. At any particular point in time, there is a finite amount of resources available. As the public sector makes more demands on it, less will be available for the private sector. Now, in some situations, the pre-emption of the public sector, out of these resources, may not do any harm. If the private sector demand is weak, or if the private investment is weak, it may not cause a serious problem. But,

once the private investment picks up, as the stated objective of the fiscal stimulus package is, then you get into a situation which will be a serious allocation problem between the public and the private sectors. And, the third consequence of this is the high level of borrowing and the pressure that it puts on the interest rates. The extent of borrowing by the Central Government in 2009-10 will be four times of what it borrowed according to the Budget of 2008-09. Therefore, in a short period of time, there is going to be a very substantial increase in the amount of borrowing that the Government of India will make and to this, we will also have to add the borrowing that the State Governments will make. All of this would put pressure on the interest rates. And, therefore, if you want to avoid the pressure on interest rates and seek to provide some kind of support from the Reserve Bank of India, this will only result in an explosion in money supply stocking inflation. The Reserve Bank of India could provide some support; it is not as if the Reserve Bank of India should not provide any support, but any excessive support from the Reserve Bank of India will add to the high power money and will result in the stocking of inflation. Therefore, in a sense, there are consequences of high level of fiscal deficit of which the Government must be aware. What we really need is a roadmap, so to say, for moving towards a more reasonable level of fiscal deficit. Probably, it will not be possible in this year. But, the Government must set its sight clear as to what it should be doing in the coming period or in the coming years. The main cause of the increase in the fiscal deficit is the increase in the Government expenditures. According to the Budget itself, the Government expenditures of the Central Government during the year 2009-10 will be 37 per cent higher

than the expenditures in 2008-09. This is a substantial increase. In fact, the Revised Estimates for 2008-09 was 20 per cent higher than the Budget Estimates. And, now, we have another 17 per cent increase over the Revised Estimates of last year, and, therefore, there is a considerable expansion in the expenditures of the order of 37 per cent. Now, some of these expenditures may be very difficult to bring down also. And, therefore, the Government must draw up a roadmap as to how quickly and how efficiently they can reach towards the FRBM target. There is a logic behind the FRBM targets.

(continued by 3f - gsp)

GSP-LT/4.20/3F

DR. C. RANGARAJAN (CONTD): The FRBM target is three per cent of the GDP as the fiscal deficit for the Central Government, and, subsequently, other developments have happened to give another three per cent of the GDP to the State Governments. Thus, six per cent of the GDP by the Centre and the States together, is consistent with eleven per cent investment in financial assets by the household sector.

The only modification that we need to make with respect to the FRBM targets is that these targets should not be fixed as some targets to be reached every year. It must be treated as cyclical average so that they may rise during periods of recession or depression, and, fall down during the times of boom. Therefore, the FRBM targets have to be treated as a cyclical average over the cycle rather than as a target to be achieved every year.

Sir, the Budget can be analyzed from three angles, the macro-economic implications of the Budget, the tax reforms and the reforms' direction. As far as the macro-economic implications are concerned, I have already talked a lot. I have mentioned about the implications for the Government expenditure. I have also talked about the implications for the fiscal deficit. There is one area of fiscal expenditure over which the Government must really move strongly and that is the area of subsidies.

Subsidies are inevitable in a developing economy like ours. Nobody denies the role of subsidies in the system but the subsidies must be directed towards the vulnerable groups, must be designed in a manner in which only those who deserve the subsidy receive the

subsidy. Take, for example, the fertilizer subsidy. The fertilizer subsidy goes to every farmer, and, it is not very clear whether this subsidy should go to every farmer, or only to the small and marginal farmers. It is very difficult to design a policy only aimed at it but some suggestions have been made by the Expenditure Commission and also by the Economic Advisory Council. The suggestion is to provide 120 kilograms of fertilizers of a particular mix to all farmers, and, any requirement beyond 120 kilograms must be paid at the market price. Now, this level of 120 kilograms has been estimated and it would provide full support to all the small and marginal farmers. Therefore, every farmer should be provided this quantity at the subsidised and anything beyond that should go on the market price. I think, this is one way of dealing with the problem. Similarly, we have to address the subsidies which are being given with respect to kerosene and LPG and see that only vulnerable sections receive it.

The second dimension of the Budget is on tax reforms. I think, this Budget does not talk a great deal about tax reforms. Apart from the tax code for the indirect and direct taxes, the only other reference is to the GST. As has been pointed out by the earlier speaker, Mr. N.K. Singh, I think, the introduction of GST is important but the introduction of GST without adequate preparation would have serious consequences, and, therefore, it is not possible, probably, to introduce it by April, 2010. That does not matter. You may introduce it by April, 2011. There are constitutional pre-requisites which have to be modified, and, therefore, we may have to wait.

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But, I think, in the case of GST, there is a dual system. One of the most important and complicating the problem is the inter-State transactions and unless we have built up adequate information and database to decide on this, it would be premature to introduce the GST.

Sir, the third is the reforms' direction. I think, the Budget is somewhat weak on this. The Budget does not clearly indicate the directions in which the reforms will be carried out. Let me say this at this particular point that there is no need to be apologetic about the introduction of reforms. The reforms introduced in 1992-93 have had an important impact on the economy. The primary objective of the new economic policy is to improve the productivity and efficiency of the system by injecting a greater element of competition. Some of the sectors reserved for public sector have also to be thrown open to the private sector. In some of these sectors, the public sector has still the dominant role but it has to compete with the private sector. But there is nothing in the new economic policy which takes away the role of the State or the public sector.

(Contd. by ysr-3g)

-GSP/YSR/4.25/3G

DR. C. RANGARAJAN (CONTD.): As has been somewhat cryptically remarked or paradoxically remarked, 'more market does not mean less Government but only different Government.' Therefore, I think as far as reforms are concerned, we have to read between the lines in the Budget in order to glean which reforms will be introduced.

Once again, even with respect to disinvestment, the Budget is not very explicit. But I would like to say, in contradiction to what my

predecessor said, that there is a case for disinvestment. There is nothing wrong with disinvestment as a means of raising resources.

The timing of disinvestment must be chosen correctly. The Government should not lose on that score. But I must say that even at the time when the stock market was booming and when the Government could have reaped a large amount of money by disinvestment, those who were opposed to disinvestment, opposed it at that time also.

Therefore, depending upon the nature of product, depending upon the nature of commodity, which is being produced, the extent of disinvestment can be decided. But I do not think that disinvestment by itself is bad or is incorrect. I, therefore, feel that the Budget has been somewhat silent on reforms.

While concluding, let me say that this Budget is primarily an expenditure Budget. It has focussed on increasing the expenditure of the Government in a substantial manner. This is valid in the situation in which the economy is placed. But we need to look not only at the level of Government expenditure, but also at the composition of the Government expenditure. Unless the composition of the Government expenditure is such as to stimulate the economy, the level by itself is not adequate.

Even though Keynes did not make any distinction as far as consumption expenditure or capital expenditure within the Government expenditure is concerned, he talked of the total impact of the Government expenditure. I think there is a need to make a distinction even within Government expenditure, between investment and consumption. A larger amount of expenditure devoted to investment will

increase the productive capacity of the economy and support the growth process at a later time.

But, as I said before, one of my great concerns is the high level of fiscal deficit. Probably the growth process itself will help, but, I think, the Government needs a road map for bringing down the fiscal deficit.

Let us also understand that Budget-making is an interesting and difficult exercise only because there is a constraint of fiscal deficit. Excessive fiscal deficit can blunt the impact of the stimulus package itself. Thank you very much.

(Ends)

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (KARNATAKA): Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Budget.

Sir, if you recall the Presidential Address made just a few weeks ago had a number of very promising, forward-looking statements including the one that I like the most which is, 'the dreary desert sand of dead habit must be left behind.' Therefore, the expectations from this Government were high as they should be, especially since in terms of reforms, the last five years have been eminently forgettable and so there was a hope that the next five years would be in some ways memorable.

Sir, it was obvious to most of us that fiscally there was very little room for the Finance Minister to do more than what was already done in the Interim Budget. This Budget is clearly a wait-and-watch Budget with some additional fiscal support thrown in to try and reinforce the ambiguous signs of a recovery. So, I call it a sensible Budget, because it has avoided the temptation to create a flourish at a higher fiscal cost and risk.

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But let us be clear, we are in a sticky situation as far as the economy is concerned. The signs of growth at best can be described as tentative. There are some attempts in some quarters to spin the precarious fiscal situation as not serious since 'even the US is operating a trillion dollar fiscal deficit.' But with great respect to the spin masters, the US and Western economies have very different capacities to rebound and are architected very, very differently from us. This argument is as credible as saying that just because a few companies can borrow large amounts of money, all companies can borrow the same.

(Contd. By VKK/3H)

-YSR/VKK/3h/4.30

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (CONTD.): Sir, it is important to understand that our growth over the last few years has been on the back of sustained investment flows, both equity and credit. And, a surging services/export sector resulted in a downstream consumption economy that created a further spiking in growth. Over the last several months and looking forward from the last several months, it is safe to make some specific assumptions. Given the global credit crisis, foreign investment flows have moderated. We know that FII flows have come down from 33 billion net positive to minus 11 billion and will show little signs of reversing, excepting for some short-term phenomenon of funds, playing the arbitrage game between markets, leaving the domestic sources of capital as the prime driver of investments. Even assuming that liquidity in Indian credit and equity markets remain high, the problem is that, with the increasing fiscal deficit and increased borrowing needs of the Government and the Government-linked entities, the odds of the private

sector being crowded out of Rs.5 lakh crore market by the Government's own borrowing of Rs.4,60,000 crores, is very high. Simply put, the capacity of the domestic markets to finance the ambitious investment requirements of our economy are limited and if foreign investment flows don't materialize and in significant numbers, the investment side of the equation of our economy is bound to falter.

Sir, pressing this point further, if investment flows falter, as they have in the last 8 months, then, the economy will be truly vulnerable -- given that the second leg of our economy, that is, the exports and services like IT, BPO, etc. are already weak because of their linkages to the global economy slowdown.

It follows from this, that the derived consumption economy is also showing signs of sputtering, as is obvious from the results of the retail companies and retail sector in general. This sputtering so far has been gradual and not been sharp which could either mean that things are not as bad or things are going to get worse.

Sir, given this background, I can understand the challenges for economic strategy and policy-making for the Finance Minister and the partly self-made predicament that the Government finds itself in.

It has a significant social spending programme which it has to finance and the economy has a significant investment programme that it needs to kick-start and pump-prime. Both these objectives are competing for capital, increasingly limited to domestic banking and capital markets.

Sir, knowing as we all do that the social programmes cannot be cut, the policy measures in the Government actions post-Budget that the Government will have to lay out are bold, decisive and clear

administrative measures for these two objectives. Firstly, accelerate external capital flow and other sources of capital into the investment programmes of the private and public sector in addition to what already exists, including deepening the domestic debt markets. Sir, the second one is, reform the Government's own finances primarily by focusing on efficiency of spending to ensure that the Government spending requirements don't increase from where we are already and cause more financing pressure.

Sir, this Budget should have been more explicit about this. This time around, the larger financial and economic strategies are more important than ever before.

So, to come back to the Budget, this is a high risk year for all of us. We are poised on a razor edge fiscally. There are question marks on the monsoon. The so-called green shoots are proving to be patchy and imaginary and need to be more even and credible. This is the year that will take the green shoots either into a path of full economic revival or not. It is precisely for this that a directional signal for the next five years was critical in the Budget. The Budget doesn't do that, but to be fair, the Finance Minister has promised that the Government and the various Ministries will roll this out over time. I hope this is done as pieces of a coherent picture because the current efforts of 100-day agenda of different Ministries is anything but coherent.

Sir, there has been much talk for the past three years about the so-called inclusive growth architecture to drive our growth. The thing about using phrases like this is that they need description and articulation. Every time I hear someone in the Government say that phrase, I look for

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some idea of what that means. Apart from profligate spending in a notoriously leaky pipeline, there is not one thing that I can see which can be called architectural.

Sir, in my mind, inclusive architecture is not a phrase to be used for speeches. It should provide answers to specific questions as to how does the subsidy get delivered without leakages; what will be the targeted outcome of these subsidies every year over the next 5 years; what is the definition of poverty; who qualifies to be poor, and therefore, the recipient of poverty alleviation programmes; how can we ensure that the Government is more responsive and accountable; how can we ensure that public and Government policy is for the good of all people and not for one lobby or the other.

(Contd. by MKS/3J)

MKS-PSV/4.35/3J

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (CONTD.): How can we ensure that PPPs don't give disproportionate returns to only the private sector and public assets like spectrum, oil/gas blocks, iron ore mines, are not given to private parties on less than market terms? What is the realistic roadmap to fiscal consolidation? What is the broad roadmap of growth? (Time Bell) I will just end, Sir. Can we use better economic forecasting and monitoring techniques and indices so that we are not caught napping again like last year?

Sir, I can suggest various kinds of reforms and public policy measures, but there is no need because the Economic Survey is a good document for the Government to implement. And I will be very satisfied if the Government is implementing the Economic Survey, Sir.

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Let me end, Sir, by raising one very important point in the Budget, which none of my colleagues in Rajya Sabha has mentioned, which is that I take serious exception to the way the Government has handled the issue of 'One Rank, One Pension' demand of the veterans and retirees of the Armed Forces. By not giving the officers the benefits and giving them only to persons below the officer ranks, you are creating divisions in the structure of the Armed Forces and creating haves and have-nots. This is a classic bureaucratic short-sighted approach to handling of institutions, which we will all come to regret many years later if we do not fix it. Sir, I strongly urge, through you, the Government to reconsider this; let us not allow bureaucratic meddling with institutions such as the Armed Forces. These men and their families have served the nation at a time when things were much more difficult and challenging than today, in terms of environment and resources. These officers were responsible in allowing our Armed Forces to develop into an apolitical and professional institution that we can all be proud of -- a fact that should not be underplayed-- given the extent of politicisation of the Armed Forces in the nations and in our neighbourhood. Let those people who have served this nation, get their proud due! Please do not let a few bureaucrats and a few Rs.100 crores come in the way of this. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Shri Rahul Bajaj.** You have got seven minutes.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (MAHARASHTRA): **Thank you very much, Sir. And I will keep to seven minutes!**

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Let me start by saying that the Finance Minister had, as we all know, a very difficult task. He had to balance the need for growth, to further the Government's commitment to 'inclusive growth', the physically prudent as well as to pursue reforms. Perhaps, he could have presented his Budget slightly better so that we would not have had the reaction that we had on July 6, from the stock market and also from some people in the corporate sector on the first day. Sir, we have had some very learned speeches, especially from Dr. N.K. Singh and Dr. Rangarajan. So, mine will be only an aam admi speech, Sir!

We have to see, in the Budget, the positives than the negatives. I will not refer to the positives because my friend Abhishek Manu Singhvi and others have spoken enough about it. In any way, there is no point in praising the Government in power, Sir! It doesn't help at all. I would only mention one thing, and that is with regard to the fringe benefit tax, Sir. You have removed it. We welcomed it. You have transferred it to the employees. That is understandable to some extent. Those perks on which the employees were already paying tax, tax them. But don't tax them now; whether it is a car or something else, which was not taxable in their hand at all, don't tax it now, and specially a small point, but the employees are shouting away. I give you an example. I am not even talking of VRS at the moment, but of the superannuation funds; he gets them at the time of his retirement, Sir. He would be taxed at that time, Sir; that is perfectly understandable. But each year, the employer contributes to the superannuation fund. He does not get in his hand, and he will now be taxed, I am told! To that, we create a major cash flow

problem for him, and I am sure that the Government would like to look at that, Sir.

On the negative side, I will mention two small things and two major things because others have been said. The two minor things relatively are MAT, 10-15 per cent politically, fine, equity. How can you have a zero- tax company? There are reasons why it should be. You have made it a zero- tax company by giving it depreciation etcetera, etcetera. He is not cheating. If the guy would be cheating, he would be in jail. He is not cheating, but politically a zero-tax company, I know which company is hurried in the beginning, which caused all this to come. Fine. But, Sir, there is a small company, a non-listed company, which only holds shares, equity shares. Its only income is dividend income--it has no other income--which is not taxable in its hands. The dividend distribution tax has been paid by the company, for paying the dividend. This company which holds equity has no liability, but if it sells the shares, again the long-term held shares, there is no capital gain tax because he held it for over a year, Sir. Previously, this was exempt. Now, you are taxing it.

(Contd. by TMV/3K)

-MKS-TMV-HMS/3K/4.40

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (CONTD.): That is why there is a book profit and that is why you take MAT. I think it is very unreasonable and it may be looked into. (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't disrupt. (Interruptions)...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: This lady Member from Jharkhand is disrupting me, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I need your protection. (Interruptions)... She always disrupts me. (Interruptions)...

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't disrupt. (Interruptions)... We are short of time. (Interruptions)... When your turn comes, you speak. Please don't disrupt. We are already short of time. (Interruptions)... There is the problem of time.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: The second small point is VRS. I think either I misunderstand it or the Finance Minister has not understood it properly. The VRS is mostly paid to the people who take VRS. They are all not crorepatists; they are not industrialists or owners of companies. They are employees. Now VRS is given in lieu of future income. You can't tax it. You should not tax it in one year. So, section 89 which used to give him relief -- he is taxed on the average of the last three years -- which you have removed, should continue. I would like to inform Ms. Mabel Rebello, through you, Sir, that this is for the middle class and not for the rich.

Now, I come to the two major items. Ms. Mabel Rebello would like to refer to them. But I want to refer to them. Mr. Abhishek Singhvi is not sitting here. He tried to justify the Consumer Price Index and food price which is 30 per cent higher. All that I would like to say is that for the consumers and citizens of the country a negative Whole Price Index is no solution, when the Consumer Price Index is eight per cent or nine per cent. In the case of many edible items it is much higher. So, there is a problem. That has to be looked into. Nobody has explained to us why this dichotomy is there. The Wholesale Price Index for a company like mine is all right. I will get inputs like steel, cement, at a cheaper rate. Fine. It is okay. But again, through you, Sir, I may refer to Ms. Mabel Rebello, that for the citizens... (Interruptions)...

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't react. Just listen.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: I support those citizens who are shouting at high retail prices, Mr. Minister of State for Finance.

Now coming to the two important major points, one is disinvestment. I wish Mr. Sitaram Yechury was here. (Interruptions)... You convey to him. I completely disagree with him. This is required at the rate of Rs.25,000 crores which has been mentioned in the Economic Survey, not because we need the money alone. It may help or may not help the fiscal deficit. That depend on how they use this money for public sector and social work. I have no time to go into that. Otherwise, you would ring the bell. It means deficiency. You retain your 51 per cent. But you list it. It will bring some shareholders. Don't sell it to large corporate houses, that is, strategic sale. For the time being, I am saying, to help everybody, forget about it, but go through the capital market route. That will help the company. If it is making loss or if it is making a small profit, it would do better. So, the taxpayers' money would not keep being pumped into such a company. But two things are very important, transparency and right timing. Dr. Rangarajan has said that. Even Mr. Sitaram Yechury said that. I agree with Mr.Sitaram Yechury on that. You can't sell it today. Choose your timing -- you can't delay it indefinitely -- so that you get the best possible price and do it in a transparent manner. We can't think people favouring anybody. That is why I am saying capital market route is better to start with than the strategic route.

My last point is on deficit financing. It is, in the current circumstances, is a necessary evil. I repeat it. I agree with Mr. Sitaram

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Yechury here. He is not here. It is necessary. That is what John Maynard Keynes said. But it is an evil. By 2011-2012, if you want the deficit to come down to four per cent -- I would like it to come to three per cent -- where is the road map? As the former RBI Governor asked: Where is the road map? If you don't come to that level, then it can have various implications, including inflationary implications, effect on the interest rates, the rating agencies downgrading us, effect on foreign exchange inflow, etc. So, we have to get rid of this fiscal deficit. We have no plan. I believe that it is not proper to reduce expenditure on infrastructure and social sector. You have to make it more efficient. I have always said that. You have to make it more efficient and less corrupt. But you should not reduce it. The Finance Minister should not be allowed by the Houses, by Cabinet and by the Government to reduce that expenditure. It should go up.

(Contd. by 3L/VK)

VK/3L/4.45

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (CONTD): If tax rate increases, it will not increase your revenue and it is also not desirable. The only solution, ultimately, is growth, growth and growth. Growth cannot come without reform, reform and reform, whether it is disinvestment, whether it is fiscal deficit. There are many other things, but I don't have time to go into that. But I would like to emphasis that you must, in the long run and in the medium term, contain fiscal deficit and it must be contained. It is an evil. Today, it is necessary. I support the expenditure, today. Otherwise, you would not have employment, you would not have purchasing power, and you would not have demand for industrial products and other products. But in the

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long run, it is an evil, it is a cancer. Once it gives vent to all inflationary conditions, then to control it, will become a big problem. So, Sir, reform is a must. That is the message I would like to convey through you, Sir, to the hon. Finance Minister who is a very learned person. We are going through a very difficult period. Sir, 2009-10 will continue to be a difficult period for us. Many things can go wrong. If the GDP growth does not increase from the current year's expectation of around six per cent to 9 per cent....(Interruptions)... If it does not increase to 9 per cent, Sir, we are going to have a major issue. So, we need reforms. We need to go back to as near a double-digit growth for GDP as possible, within a year or two. Thank you.

(Ends)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (UTTAR PRADESH): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have had very authoritative interventions by Dr. Rangarajan, by my dear and long-standing friend Shri N.K. Singh. We have had important and constructive suggestions from the representatives of industry and other interests. I would come back to these points to add to some of them and differ from some of them. But I first want to start with paying, really, a compliment and congratulations from the bottom of my heart to the Finance Minister and I hope that the Minister of State will convey that to him for a matter which is not mentioned in the budget but which falls in his purview. Sir, as you know, when the President's Address was being discussed, I had drawn the attention of the House to many things, to dangers from many quarters. As a symptom of that I had drawn the attention of the House to the fact that China had blocked a loan to India from the Asian Development Bank. Though the loan was almost four

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billion dollars, but a very small component of three-four million dollars related to Arunachal Pradesh. They said, "This is our territory. No loan to India can go on that". This is a very serious development. It was in continuation of their policy. But the Finance Minister, the team in the External Affairs Ministry and in the Prime Minister's Office, they took a clear and firm stand in this regard. China persisted with this. For the first time, in the history of the Asian Development Bank, they insisted that there will be a vote in the Board of the Asian Development Bank. India stood firm. It mobilised support from different quarters, including the United States. And the result was, the Board, with one dissent that of China, voted that the loan would be given to India. This is a single achievement. It is the first time that China has suffered a set back. I can say from personal knowledge, having travelled to that region, that it has been noticed all over East Asia and South-East Asia. So, irrespective of any differences that anyone of us may have, I compliment the Finance Minister and his other colleagues in this regard. I hope the same clear and firm stand will be taken in regard to the pressures which are being put, which he knows, in regard to Kashmir, in regard to assumption of dialogue with Pakistan without precondition, in regard to WTO that Arunji had mentioned in his intervention, the first time, in regard to the various treaties like NPT and others.

(Contd. by 3M)

RG/4.50/3M

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (contd.): And, much will depend upon the Finance Minister personally because I know the role that he played in regard to Siachen. That is one point.

The second point is, as Dr. Rangarajan was mentioning, and Shri N.K. Singh was mentioning, we all recognise that the Budget has had to be prepared in difficult circumstances and has had to be a balancing act. All of us recognise that. But, as Shri N.K. Singh also emphasised, much of this difficulty has been created. It is a self-created one that because of the stoppage of reforms, a complete paralysis of reforms for five years, the momentum slowed down. As people, like me, had pointed out, which Shri N.K. Singh has very well documented today, that when the index of industrial production was at its peak, it shows that a year before this crisis, jobs had already started getting lost in the textiles sector. By April, 2008, twenty five lakh jobs had already been lost, according to official statements of the Government. And that was the real reason for the difficulties that came. On top of that, there was the global slowdown; therefore, the exports were slowing down. And revenues suddenly plummeted. We used to have a growth of almost 40 per cent in direct tax collections. That started plummeting. That would have led to the deficit. But the real contribution to the deficit, I should say, as has been mentioned by Dr. Rangarajan just now, has been that current expenditure has really not grown; it has gone out of control. This is a fact, and all these in the name of inclusive growth! I shall come to this point whether there is substance in that, or, whether we are just throwing money and saying that we are doing this for inclusive growth. In spite of these circumstances, I am very happy that, at least, a few steps have been taken towards tax reforms. As Dr. Rangarajan just now mentioned, it is primarily an Expenditure Budget, and, even on tax reforms, there is no great architecture or vision that has become evident. But, at least, a

few irritants, which were continued out of some sort of obstinate determination in regard to fringe benefit tax and others, have been removed. It is good that the Commodity Transactions Tax, which has actually never been made operational, has also been withdrawn. Both had smelt of the Inspector Raj being re-introduced. There is a new Direct Tax Code to come within 45 days, service tax being extended to lawyers, the ten per cent surcharge being reduced and the Goods and Services Tax on schedule. Sir, there is a point in which I would like to second the appeal that Dr. Abhishek Singhvi made, and that is an appeal from all of us to all political parties. Everybody is in office in some State or the other, and he is right that it would not be correct for any one of us to delay things. It is true that the GST should not be half-baked or ill prepared. But a year is a long time for a country to think, for even to come to a consensus on these matters! I am sure, two weeks of concentrated work on this by distinguished people will leave almost no questions unanswered. It may leave out questions where negotiated solutions are not possible. But, at least, a clarity on the options should be there, and we should all co-operate in this regard so that everything that people want would come out, and we would continue to move on tax reforms. So, I second that particular appeal.

Sir, there are many other special measures that I found commendable, and I do not want to take your time on this. This threshold of non-promoter holding is a very good thing. The Assistance, that is being announced for the Infrastructure Finance Corporation, is also a very good thing. But the problem really is not in the specific measures because, after all, this Budget is a continuation of the

Government which has been there for five years. So much work has gone on as regards the other steps that could be taken for an overall architecture for new tax regimes. But we do not find any trace of that at all. And, the Budget has been, as unfortunately, our Budgets and Addresses from the Red Fort and the Address of the President have become, another dhobhi list.

(Continued by 3N)

3n/4.55/ks-nb

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD.): So many shirts, so many shorts, so many kurta-pyjamas! That is all. And it is this architecture, this vision, that is required, specially at a time like this when the country was seeing that it was in difficulties and, therefore, it needed what Dr. Rangarajan just now called, a 'roadmap', not just on taxation, not just on deficit, but on the general economic policy and reforms in this regard. I cannot imagine now what the difficulty and the constraint was because the difficulty and the constraint have been, for the time being, sort of waived by the people. मगर इसमें एक गफलत है, आप तो आलिम हैं, आपको याद है कि difficulty अब इनके अंदर है। गफलत यह है कि - "जब तूफां में हो कश्ती, तब सब कोई सहाय" -- everybody can help you and save you, when your boat is in the storm -- "जब कश्ती में हो तूफां, तो कौन सहाय"। So, the paralysis within the ruling party in this regard to reforms is what the problem is now. That is why...

श्री जेसुदासु सीलम : तूफान उधर है।

श्री अरुण शौरी : सीलम साहब, आपकी बात ठीक है, जब economic policy इस साल में evolve होगी, तब पता लगेगा, it will all be clear क्योंकि constraint तो है नहीं। आप भी कहते हो कि mandate भी है, that will be very good. But on matters like

labour, on matters like execution of infrastructure projects, on energy, on reforms in the coal sector, on open access to power, on distributed generation, all these things have been listed by Government reports themselves. But we find no indication that they are being brought forward in that respect.

Sir, there are only two reforms which are mentioned. Because this has not come up in other speeches, I will take you through the paralysis which characterizes this Budget and the functioning of the Government which I sincerely hope we will get out of. One is in paragraph 35. This is on POL pricing and subsidy. I will just read it out now. Sir, you know what happened last year; because administrative price mechanism had been sort of brought back and Ministries had started fixing prices again, the Chairman of the largest oil company in India, a Government officer, had to say in public that if within thirty days, the Government did not change the prices, he would not have one rupee to import more oil. That was what the situation had come to. And a loss of about Rs.40,000 crores had been inflicted on those governmental companies. What is the solution? "It is important to recognize that almost three-quarters of our oil consumption is made through imports. Domestic prices of petrol and diesel have to be broadly in sync with global prices of these items". So, what is the remedy? "Government will set up an expert group to advise on a viable and sustainable system". Now, this expert group will be the fifth group, the fifth committee, commission and expert group, in the last five years, for the same thing; there was the Lahiri Committee in 2004; then, the entire working group on integrated energy policy, set up by the Planning Commission in 2005; the Rangarajan Committee in 2006; and

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the B.K. Chaturvedi Committee in June, 2008. Just see the Budget of 2005-06 of Chidambaram. He says, "As far as petroleum products are concerned, the Government has received the recommendations of the Lahiri Committee and appropriate decisions have been taken" -- 'have been taken' -- "to which I shall refer to in Part B". You will not find them in Part B. Then, in the next year, in 2006-07, he says, "My Ministry has held extensive discussions with stakeholders on three major subsidies, mainly, food, fertilizer and petroleum.

(Contd. By 30/tdb)

TDB/30/5.00

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD.): "We have also sought the views of the general public." When you can't do something, seek views. "...Working Groups, Committees have gone into the question of fertilizer and petroleum subsidies, the latest being Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee. I would urge Members to help the Government to evolve a consensus on the issue of subsidy." Then, in the Eleventh Plan the same thing was said. Now, why does this not happen? I don't want to cast any aspersion, and I am all, as you know, an advocate of vigorous private sector, vigorous and efficient Government, vigorous Government sector so that you can all have competition and prices come down and efficiency comes up. Why does this not happen on POL? Sir, there is a very good passage by the Commission headed by the Prime Minister, i.e., the Planning Commission. This is the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan put out by the Planning Commission in 2005. They say, 'Why does this not happen?' You find the same paralysis continuing now because you have to have another expert group. He says further, "The

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current pricing mechanism uses the import parity pricing..." You don't have to go into that. "...even for products in which India is the net exporter." I don't want to say who is exporting. "This provides higher margins to the refiners. Economic rationality suggests that the trade parity should be the norm for pricing instead of import parity. Moreover, Customs Duty on crude oil is five per cent, while the average duty on petroleum products is ten per cent. This further increases the refinery margin." Then, the normative transportation is fixed, and he says, "For this reason, so as to help the public sector companies, but private sector refineries are following the same methodology for building up prices for their products." Then, he gives another feature of this pricing and then says, "This ensures even larger benefits for more efficient private refineries." So, you really have not just a paralysis within political parties or outsiders, but you have other interests coming into rational policies being introduced. And, therefore, what do we do? We set up expert groups, as we have done again, and we remain exactly where we have remained for the last ten years on this matter.

Sir, the second reform, the only other reform that is mentioned here is fertiliser subsidy. Sir, you just see again in paragraph 34 as to what it says. There are two lessons in this which you will see, I hope the Minister of State will notice, as to how one part of the Finance Ministry does not seem to know what the other part of the Ministry has done or is doing. It says, in paragraph 34, "In the context of the nation's food security, the declining response of agricultural fertiliser usage in the country is a matter of concern." Why? It is because we subsidise only nitrogenous fertiliser and this leads to imbalanced use of fertilisers in

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phosphates and potashic fertilisers, and that is leading to deteriorating in our soil. "To ensure balanced application of fertilisers, the Government intends to move forward to a nutrient based subsidy regime instead of the current product pricing regime. In due course, it is also intended to move to a system of direct transfer of subsidy to farmer." Now, Sir, if you see this is what we are being told today and this has been hailed as a great advanced scheme that, at last, we are going to a nutrient based subsidy regime. Now, if you see the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan put out four years ago, they say the same sentences that 'productivity is going down, and we are unable to do this because we are giving fertilisers in an imbalanced way. Continuation of the subsidy on urea while de-controlling PNK fertilisers further adds to the inadvertent promotion of imbalance in fertiliser use. One of the proven and well-documented reasons for stagnation in the productivity and production growth rates since the early 1990s is the unbalanced use of fertilisers."

(Contd. by 3p-cls)

SC/KLS/3P-5.05

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD): Then he says, "In the Eleventh Plan approved under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister...." again, they say, "...soil degradation through the use of agrochemicals is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Imbalanced use of chemicals and fertilizers is doing this." The reason they give is that the present system of fertilizer subsidy is irrational and has become counterproductive. All these members, including the present Finance Minister, all of them, are endorsing this. There are long passages and I don't want to take your time to say that this is the problem and it needs to be addressed in an

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urgent manner. Mr. Chidambaram first in his Budget of 2007-08 says, "It is a serious problem. While fertilizers should indeed be subsidised, we must find an alternative method of delivering the subsidy to the farmers...." This is exactly what the present Finance Minister has said, "...We are going to do in due course. The fertilizer industry has agreed to work with the Department of Fertilizers to conduct a study and find a solution. Based on the report, the Government intends to implement a pilot programme in at least one district in each State in 2007-08. In regard to the implementation of the Budget announcement...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Are you discussing the 2008-09 Budget or 2009-10?...(Interruptions)...

श्री अरुण शौरी : इनको क्या रोकें?

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: With highest respect to your knowledge and information, you are comparing three-four years Budgets. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The problem is that you are continuing to make the same promises, which you have not been implementing at all. Again, they are saying that this is the reform...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: You come to 2009-10 Budget. Sir, one question only. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : इनको प्रॉब्लम क्या है?..(व्यवधान)..

श्री अरुण शौरी : यह हमेशा करते हैं। इनकी ड्यूटी लगायी हुई है।..(व्यवधान)..

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: I want to ask only one question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. ...(Interruptions)... I cannot allow you unless he yields. ...(Interruptions)... That will not go on record. ...(Interruptions)...

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SHRI PRAVEEEN RASHTRAPAL: *

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: This irritation of such Members itself shows...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The fact that the same promises are continuing to be made and are not implemented is a reflection of the fact that we are not proceeding as we should be doing. And that is one of the problems as identified by the Government report itself that the economic progress has been brought down to a slowdown, as Mr. N.K. Singh was just saying. This is the reason. So, you see the same thing happening in the 2008-09 implementation of Budget announcements and he said that the modalities are being worked. Now, once again we are told that this will be done in due course. Dr. Swaminathan has recommended these things, everybody has recommended. And for 15 to 20 years and certainly in the last five years there has just been a repetition of all this.

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That is one point. But there is a second point by which I will come to your Budget of 2009-10 and on which you are very keen. ...**(Interruptions)**... अब ज़रा सुनिए। फिर से गौर से सुनिए। वे कहते हैं "to ensure the balance application of fertilizers..",-- Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a very interesting thing, the second aspect of this matter from the Budget of this year -- "...the Government intends to move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime."

(Contd by 3Q/SSS)

SSS-MCM/3Q/5.10

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD.): What does your Economic Survey laid in the same House by the same Finance Minister say this year? It says that it has already been done. It says, in addition, due to the implementation of the nutrient based subsidy pricing, prices of various complex fertilisers were reduced by 18 per cent on an average. कुछ पता भी है, एक तरफ आप कह रहे हो इंटेंड्स, अब बोलिए साहब, आप ही का बजट है इसी साल का। इसी साल की इकॉनोमिक सर्वे है, तीन दिन पहले दी गई।

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: I will reply to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When you speak you can definitely reply. Note down all the points and reply. Tomorrow you reply. **(Interruptions)**

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, but hope never dies. Hope is eternal. सर, नेक्स्ट पैराग्राफ देखिए, The Government has taken various policy initiatives for the fertilizer sector. These cover pricing policy for indigenous urea, new investments in the urea sector, nutrient based pricing and production and availability of fortified and quoted fertilizers. Sir, the point that I was making was, that, on the only two reforms that are mentioned on POL, there is no progress. This is another fifth committee in five

years. On fertilizer subsidy intentions for the future and we get nowhere at all. One part of the Ministry is not knowing what the other part is doing. Now, Sir, this characterises other aspects also and I will take up two examples from the current Budget. One is power. Everybody has said on the shortage of energy and on various matters. Now, Sir, in case there is some impatience you should please look at paragraph 24, I am referring to that. Sir, in power the problem is that, we have set up a target of 78,000 megawatts for the Eleventh Plan. We are now going to be near the middle of the Eleventh Plan. How much have we achieved of 78,000? It is 13,000. Now, the reason for that is, you require almost 10-12 lakh crores in this sector against this because of profligate expenditure on so-called inclusive growth. We will not have half of this amount with the power sector and the result of that is, we will not get even 40,000 additional megawatts this year and the typical point and the point that illustrates it is in paragraph 24. It is called the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme. Sir, the Eleventh Plan said that this is one of the main challenges facing us. This programme is not about generation. This programme is about sub-transmission and distribution, i.e. transmission within States and further distribution. Here, just see what the paragraph says. This is crucial because you have to reduce T&D losses from 35 per cent to 15 per cent as the Expenditure Budget presented now this year says in volume 2, page 182 of this Budget. 'To do this you require massive investments and this is an important programme.' Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said the Accelerated Power, Development and Reform Programme is important for reducing the gap between power, demand and supply. I propose to increase the

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allocation for this scheme to Rs. 2080 crores, a steep increase of 160 per cent. It seems very impressive till you realise that what is actually required is 16,000 to 20,000 crores per year and that is why the things will continue exactly the same way. (Interruptions) Even at the cost of irritating some Members I would remind you that in the previous Budget three years ago, we were told that the details of this scheme had been worked out. A national fund for Transmission and Distribution Reform is now to be contemplated. The details of the scheme will be worked out and announced very soon.

(Contd. by NBR/3R)

-SSS/NBR/GS/3R/5.15.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD.): Then, you see what was said about this promise in the Implementation of the Budget Announcements of the Interim Budget that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee just presented in February, 2009. It says that sanction has been given. A Steering Committee has been set up. A nodal agency has been set up. The nodal agency has set up a process consultant. A process consultant is working on the empanelment of IT consultants. A quadripartite implementation agreement has been drafted. What about that fund which was to come very soon?

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : मानसून ।

श्री अरुण शौरी : सर, यह अकबर इलाहाबादी का couplet है। प्लेटों की आवाज़ आती रहती है। प्लेटों के आने की आवाज़ आती रहती है, कांटे-छुरियों की आवाज़ आती रहती है, मगर खाना नहीं आता। सर, यही हालत है। अच्छा अब आप देखिए, इन्होंने कहा कि फंड होगा, जल्दी बनेगा, अनाउंस जल्दी किया जाएगा। If you see the February document, what did it say about the National Electricity Fund? It says

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that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Power) i.e., from the Planning Commission, has been constituted by the Planning Commission to consider various aspects of establishing a National Electricity Fund. A Committee has been set up. So, what did the Committee do? The Committee has decided to form a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Power, to make recommendations on issues relating to operationalisation of the National Electricity Fund. The matter is currently under examination and it continues -- I had checked it -- till last evening. This is the real problem. This is the reason for keeping tabs on what is promised from time to time. The House should not lose sight of that. I tell you that where the matter concerns about doing something, it does not get done. But, where the matter relates only to sending money to somebody else, that is done. That is shown as achievement. The hon. Prime Minister has said it many times. Shri Chidambaram has said it -- not outlays but outcomes -- innumerable times. Actually, that culture is continuing exactly as it is in regard to employment schemes and in regard to everything else. A single example has mentioned here as an achievement. It is with regard to the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyudikaran Yojna. The target was to provide electricity to 2,35,000 villages. Of which, actually speaking, only 54,000 villages have been electrified, as reported by Shri Pranab Mukherjee's document of February, 2009. And, out of 7.8 crore households, which were to be provided electricity, only 43 lakh households have been given electricity! This is the problem. Once we had told in this House that Ministries have been instructed to prepare Outcome Budgets. I don't know what has happened to that. That was

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there in the Budget Speech. Sherlock Homes used to say, 'there is a dog that did not bark.' We should look at that. For that reason, all of us who have got this Budget papers, the first paper is this. This is the List of Documents of Budget for 2009-10. It had 13 items. But, one item was missing. It is the Implementation of Budget Announcements. In every Budget, Mr. Chidambaram had a foreword to that document saying, 'this document has been introduced to ensure transparency and accountability and whatever promises we made we will report next year what we have done on that.' That is the only thing that is missing.

(CONTD. BY USY "3S")

-NBR-USY/3s/5.20

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD.): How? Is it that accountability and transparency have been completely ensured; or that, that document was not doing that job; or, that document was proving an embarrassment because some of us were reading it? Sir, it is the same thing in regard to this great promise of the Food Security Act also. Everybody wants it. Everybody wants the hunger to be abolished. But the way to do that has been given by some of the great experts, like, Dr. Swaminathan, who are honoured and listened to all over the world. How to increase production? How to focus on farmers with less than two acres of land? How to give balanced nutrients, not just these three fertilizers? We don't do that. But we just go on passing resolutions, go on having higher and higher targets. Goliath had referred to the Indian planning, saying that it indulges in therapeutic targetry. For therapy purposes, we raise the target. So, therapeutic legislations are also there. But the fact to be remembered is that the real problem is not being addressed to. It has

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been addressed to in every Budget. Today, already, 316 million people are covered by the Pood Distribution System. 316 million! And, as you all know, they are given 35 kg of foodgrains to the BPL families, antayodoya families, and so on. And, yet, despite covering 316 million people under the Public Distribution System, we are number 66 in the global hunger index. And, Sir, it will astonish you to learn who is above us. Albania is above us, Turkmenistan is above us, El Salvador, Gabon, Guyana, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Magnolia, Nicaragua, Lesotho, Namibia, Guatemala, Senegal, Uganda, all failed States, Swaziland, Sudan, Nepal, Djibouti, Guinea, Pakistan, Malawi, Rwanda, Cambodia. The best performing State, in India, on hunger is Punjab. And, that would be 34th in this...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How much more time will you take because your party has left with 30 more minutes, and there are five more speakers?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will take some more time and, then, finish it. (Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Minus those six minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Which six minutes? (Interruptions) Those were not six minutes. (Interruptions) There is a record here. (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I have just two more points, and I will finish after those two points.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: It is a very good speech, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But there is time constraint also. You withdraw your other speakers, I won't mind giving him all the time.

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SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the point that I was making was that instead of going on passing more and more laws we should really be attending to the things like the Public Distribution System because, again, the law may be passed, but we will have to do the same thing. That's why I would be enthused, about these allocations and these Acts, only when some concrete steps are visible in the field on improvement of delivery system, of which this Budget also talks.

Sir, because great authoritative people, like, Dr. Rangarajan, Shri N.K. Singh and others have spoken on the issue of deficit, I won't take much of your time on that. But I would like to make two points on that. One, the claim is a surprising claim in the Budget. That is, if you see, it says, "To counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown in the economy, we have brought about this deficit". The difference between the actuals of 2007-08 and 2008-09 constituted the total fiscal stimulus. Shri Pranab Mukherjee says, "This fiscal stimulus, at 3.5 per cent of the GDP, at current market prices for 2008-09, amounts to Rs. 1,86,000 crores". The fact of the matter, as Mr. Venkaiah Naidu was also reading all those figures, which my good friend, Gurumurthy, has worked out, is that of this figure, two-thirds, that is, Rs. 1,30,000 crores have nothing to do with the stimulus at all.

(Contd. by 3t -- PK)

-USY/PK/3T/5.25

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD.): It is fallen tax collections because of the slow down; it is the Sixth Pay Commission dues; it is the fertilizer subsidy; it is the food subsidy and it is the extra interest on borrowers. The same thing is about the stimulus that is being said for tomorrow. We

are now being told that this extra expenditure of Rs.1,20,000 crores is what is for the future. The fact is that of this Rs.1,20,000 crores, Rs.97,000 crores, as Shri Venkaiah Naidu also quoted, is because of the dues on account of the Sixth Pay Commission, extra interest of Rs.33,000 crores, Non-Plans, as you said now, about IMF contributions and so on. It is only Rs.42,000 crores which is an extra expenditure on the Plan. Now, Sir, I mentioned this because this is becoming a habit. In the February Interim Budget, we were told on behalf of the Government that one of the FRBM targets is being pushed ahead because of the global economic slow down. At that time, I had to read Shri P. Chidambaram's previous Budget in which he had said " Much before the global slow down we are pushing back this target because of social expenditure." So, this business of claiming credit for the things that are not getting done, which are not being reflected in the economy, is not a good thing. We may expect it of a lawyer like Shri Chidambaram but not from a seasoned man like Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Sir, when we have Shri Rangarajan saying that we are getting into a vicious cycle in regard to the debt, I don't have to elaborate on that point, Sir. But the main point to remember in this regard, Sir, is that just 140 days ago, just that much time ago, Shri Pranab Mukherjee told us in the House that this deficit is going to be only 5.5 per cent of the GDP and, today, suddenly, it has become 6.8 per cent. No astronomical expenditure took place but it was just that you are giving bad news in those days. The net borrowing has risen four times higher this time than the Budget that was approved for 2008-09. That is the profligate way in which the finances of the country have been managed. As Shri Rangarajan said, you will not only pre-

empt private borrowing, interest rates will just have to rise. We have been told by the Finance Minister that no, no, this will be done in a way in which rates will not rise. But there is no magic. He has held meetings with the Chairmen of the Banks, but if you read the Business Standard of today, you will find that all the Chairmen have said, 'Yes, interest rates will have to rise.' As Shri Rangarajan just now said, when capital investment from the private sector comes up in a country in which household savings are 12 per cent of the GDP, when 11 per cent is taken up by the deficits of the Governments, then, how can there be a situation in which anything is left for the rest of the economy to grow? Sir, one point which should not be missed in regard to this deficit is how it is squeezing out any manoeuvreability for the future. I think we don't quite recognize that. Sir, if you take only debt servicing, it is already 94 per cent of the gross revenue receipts of the Government. About 94 per cent of the gross revenue receipts are eaten up only in paying interest on past debt and on repaying that debt. If you take net revenue receipts of the Centre, then, just that debt servicing is 120 per cent of that net revenue receipts of the Government. If we take unavoidable expenditure only, interest payment, subsidies, pension, salaries, revenue expenditure on Defence, revenue expenditure on Police, repayment of debt, that is 55 per cent more than the gross revenue receipts of the Government. It is twice the net revenue receipts of the Centre. That is the squeeze in which we have got in. And, our only answer to that is, to increase borrowing this time by Rs.3,97,000 crores.

(Contd. by 3U/PB)

PB/3u/5.30

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (CONTD.): How is this going to be sustained? So, the point that NK was making on sustainability is really to be seen in the context that how we are just completely squeezing out not just the private sector and all, but the manoeuvrability and options of the Government of India itself. And, Sir, these figures are only the Revised Estimates. When the final figures come for the year, you will see it will be much greater.

Sir, on specific programmes, on disinvestment and all, I don't really want to take your time. I had a good occasion to speak on this in the President's Address, but, Sir, I would like to touch only one point, i.e., in regard to paragraphs 53 and 54. And, I will request Members to please bear with me because it is a sensitive matter. As I mentioned earlier, like everybody in this House I am for all positive help to every section of society, namely, Schedule Castes, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, anybody irrespective. I had spelt out five secular principles on which such assistance should be given. It should be based on the individual, not a group. Second, in identifying that individual, use secular criteria, as you do in APL/BPL. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बोलिए।

श्री अरुण शौरी : सर, क्या करें! काँटों का भी कुछ हक है, कौन छुड़ाए अपना दामन। ...
(व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बोलिए। (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, there my plea was that when the State organizes(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, when the assistance is given, the criteria on which it is given, discourse congeals around it, politics congeals around it, power congeals around it and it has great consequences. On the question of caste itself, it is a curse and it was being eroded by modernisation and electoral politics; and such schemes of Government and reservations based on caste, etc., have fortified it to a dangerous extent. So, the point is, when you give assistance, please don't give it on a criterion which widens the earth fault lines in our society. Sir, I want to read to you just one passage from a book written in 1940s and you will see that this warning will come true again, unfortunately, within our short life times that remain for us because of this politics which is being pursued, a vote bank politics, either on caste or religion or so on, and that is what is reflected in these paragraphs 53, 54 that I mentioned. Sir, it is one of the great scholars on comparative religions, a man called W. Cantwell Smith who wrote in the 1940s about India and what was happening. Unfortunately, his prophecy regarding the partition of India came true. But in this particular chapter, he is recounting evolution of British Policy and he said that the essence of British policy was to offer a boon which a group could claim only if and only to the extent to which it remained different from the rest of the society; and he says, "The Government's method of encouraging communalism has been to approach all political subjects, and as many other subjects as possible, on a communalist basis; and to encourage, even to insist upon, everyone else's doing likewise. The principal technique is separate electorates: making the enfranchised -- Muslims in that case -- and the enfranchised sections of many other groups, into an increasing number of separate

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constituencies, so that they vote communally, think communally, listen only to communal election speeches, judge the delegates communally, look for constitutional and other reforms only in terms of more relative communal power and express their grievances communally. Even the British Government has admitted on occasions that the system serves to keep India from gaining independence by political means." And, just see, Sir, he quotes the Secretary of State, Edwin Montague who says, "Division by creeds and classes means the creation of political camps organised against each other, and teaches men to think as partisans and not as citizens."

(Contd. by 3w/SKC)

3w/5.35/skc

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (Contd.): We regard any system of communal electorate, therefore, as a very serious hindrance to the development of a self-governing principle". Therefore, we are encouraging it. And, as the same statement says, "The principle works so well that once it has been firmly established, it so entrenches communalism that one could then hardly abandon the principle even if one wished to do so". This is what I had in mind when I pleaded with the Prime Minister to think again on these allocations and instructions which had gone from his own office to the banks to keep ledgers on how many loans had been given by religion.

Sir, I do not wish to end on a combative note. I would, Sir, in seven sentences, give seven suggestions to the Finance Minister in view of what I have said and what very learned people like Shri Rangarajan, Shri

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N.K. Singh and many other friends have said. First, please, implement your resolve to get back to the discipline of the FRBM; do not listen to the economics of lawyers like Mr. Abhishek Singhvi. As Mr. Rangarajan said, to restore confidence in this, it is not necessary only to give specific steps, it is also necessary to lay out a roadmap. And as every Member who has spoken on this matter in regard to the medium term document that is given here has rightly remarked, it is just not a sufficiently detailed thing to invite any confidence in this regard. Second, in particular, please, reign in current expenditure. In this it requires the cooperation of the whole House because if all of us keep pressing sectional demands, then no Finance Minister will be able to discipline the expenditure. Third, for this purpose, please examine closely what is being done in the name of inclusiveness. This is just becoming a mantra; you paste this label and do anything that you like! Fourth, for this purpose, please, take people into confidence. You are not disclosing either the true economic situation or the measures that are required. Then, please expedite implementation of projects. Ensure effective implementation. This will require more than committees. Two days ago, there was a big headline saying that the Prime Minister is now going to chair a thirteen-member committee to expedite infrastructure projects. But the Prime Minister already chairs a committee to expedite infrastructure projects! There is a committee already! It is the same committee; now two new members have been named. We are now being told, and it is a big headline. So, it will require more than this purpose. The second last is: resume reforms; finally, a new architecture in all this. For all these purposes and all the important issues that I have mentioned in the beginning in regard to standing up to

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pressure, I wish the MoS will convey to the Minister of Finance my great hope in him and we wish him strength within Government and luck outside the Government. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, for your information, there are 15 minutes left and six Members to speak. (Interruptions) It is my duty to bring it to your notice.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (PUNJAB): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity to express myself on the Budget proposals as have been presented by the Finance Minister. Sir, it has been the greatest glory of parliamentary democracy that in a debate such as the one we have heard since morning, the freest and fullest expression of opinion is relevant in a discourse that enriches democracy, in a dialogue that, if I may use the words of John Stuart Mill, is a 'conversation of democracy'. I have benefited immensely, Sir, from the very lucid expression of views by Mr. Arun Shourie.

(Contd. by hk at 3x)

HK/3x/5.40

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (CONTD.): I heard Mr. Rangarajan; I heard Mr. N.K. Singh and other distinguished speakers who preceded me. In the time that is available to me, I would seek to express my own point of view and that of my party. Sir, this is a debate ..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members will be sitting up to 7 o'clock.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, this is a debate that will test the assumptions of the Budget; this is a debate that will test the validity and the efficacy of that document that seeks to define India's future, that

seeks to lay the foundation of our economy and of the well being of our people. I have identified, Sir, four yardsticks and touchstones on which this Budget must be tested. Is it a Budget that adequately responds to an extraordinary global situation which we face today like of which has never arisen in this country? The second test is: Is this a Budget that unites the two Indias that co-exist? Is this a Budget that unites India that lives in the optimism of our hearts and the other India that lurks in the scepticism of our minds? Is this a Budget that ensures for all our people larger and greater happiness in greater and larger freedom? Finally, is this a Budget that discloses a political philosophy or an internal reasoning which is integral to the underlying premise of this communist philosophy? These, Sir, are essentially the four parameters or the touchstones on which one must test the validity of the assumptions of this Budget. Sir, on the first, is this Budget an adequate response to an extraordinary global situation, I would venture to say that it is an extraordinary response to an extraordinary situation. I say so sanguine in the belief that the facts which owe no apology to either my party or to the opposition will speak for themselves. Sir, we have had in the last fifty years three global economic crises, but not one of the magnitude of the crisis that we face today. The largest economy of the world, the US economy, has registered a decrease of 38 per cent on an annual basis in the investment. It has registered a decline of 13 per cent in its economic growth. Sir, the global output per head has fallen by 2.5 per cent and global trade has shrunk by 12 per cent. It does not require a lot of argument to say that an economy that is integral to a global economy which is driven to a very large extent by economy such as the US will

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need to respond to this challenge. We are not insulated from the global environment. Therefore, the test of how well or how badly we have done must be, whether as a country we have minimised the negative impact of the global situation. Sir, I have it on high authority to share with this august House that while job losses in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Malaysia were much higher, we, in India, did much better in comparison to these countries in South-East Asia.

(Contd. by 3y/KSK)

KSK/5.45/3Y

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (CONTD): Sixty per cent of our companies still continue to hire, while 13 per cent of our companies have showed a declining rate of employment. Sir, the gross domestic savings, as a percentage of GDP at current prices, stand at 37.9 per cent compared to 2007-2008. And, despite the negative global economic growth, only two countries in the world have registered positive economic growth - China and India. And, in India, Sir, I am delighted to say and proud to say that despite the global economic scenario, we have registered a growth of 6.7 per cent, and that is the reason we are sanguine in the belief that in the next year, we might, with some luck, be able to register a growth of about 7 per cent - no mean achievement by any count. How could we do that? Sir, the three stimulus packages - in December and then, February and then, in the Interim Budget - which accounted for an infusion of Rs. 1,86,000 crore into the Indian economy, which went to fuel consumption, demand and, therefore, re-energised our productive processes, definitely helped in that process. To that extent, Sir, the first test of the Budget must stand to scrutiny, namely, that this has given to us an extraordinary

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opportunity to come out with an ingenious and an extraordinary response. Of course, we have strained the full resources of the Indian nation State. And, that is where I would come to the points that they have made and I have no reason to deny them that view and they have all the reason to expound their economic theory. But, the view, that I would like to share with this House, is that in extraordinary times, you look for extraordinary remedies. It is true that we have strained every single sinew of the Indian nation state. It is true that we are pegging on the margins. There can be no doubt about it. Even the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, said it in so many words. But, Sir, at the end of the day, all arguments, all submissions of fiscal deficit must have only a limited appeal when it comes to securing the future and the present and immediate well-being of the people of India. Sir, we have not expounded or accepted or advanced ever a philosophy that the people are secondary to the State. The State, as a social compact of its constituents, is a product of the will of the people, and it is eventually the State that must bring succour to the people in extraordinary circumstances. I am aware that the kind of expenditure that we have allocated in the Budget will put a strain on our sources. But, this has been consciously done. This has been advisedly done. This has been done in pursuance of a philosophy of governance that tilts in favour of those who are on the margins. The UPA Government believes that the State must today come up and deliver on the challenges that the nation faces, and that is the reason, Sir, that we always recount what the architect of modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, said. He said, "The service of the nation is service of the millions who suffer." Mahatma

Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, reminded us of this talisman and he said, "The State and the Government must endeavour to wipe every tear from every eye." Now, it is in situations like the one that we face today that our own philosophy as a nation is put to test. Can we fail that test at the altar of Keynesian Economic theory that you cannot spend beyond your means. Yes, we all know that. We don't need to cite Keynes or Adam Smith to say that we cannot spend beyond our means. Our Prime Minister said in his various speeches as the Finance Minister that no country and no Government can live beyond its means. We know that. It is a way in the Indian philosophy. But, what do we do in an extraordinary situation? Do we let millions of people suffer? Do we let millions of young men going to depression for want of any indication of their future? We can't do that. That is where the State, as an instrumentality in the service of the people, must exert itself. The endeavours of the State have to be tested, Sir, on the touchstone of whether while securing economic growth, while ensuring fiscal prudence, we do not compromise the lives, the aspirations, the hopes of those living on the margin.

(continued by 3z - gsp)

GSP-5.50-3z

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (CONTD.): Sir, this is the ultimate validation of the exercise of democratic power. There is no justification for anyone to be in Government, there is no justification for even the State to exist if you cannot, in the extraordinary situation, bring succour to the people of this country.

The second test, therefore, Sir, I think, stands validated in view of my submission. I come to the third test. Is there an internal, integral

philosophy of the Budget? Yes, it is there. What is the philosophy? It is the one, which I just elaborated, that when it comes to test the Government as the voice of the people, voice of a billion people of this country, shall not fail; that a duly elected Government is bound irrevocably to the pledges it makes when it goes to seek the mandate of the people. You cannot fault any Government for living up to the pledges that it makes to the people of India. That, Sir, is the third test, and, on this test also, this Budget, irrevocably, advisably asserts the philosophy of governance that tilts in favour of those who need help.

Sir, 'inclusive governance', 'inclusive growth', and, 'growth with equity' are not an empty political rhetoric for the UPA leadership. When our leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi announced schemes like NREGA, Bharat Nirman and RTI, she was espousing a view of governance, a view of the State that will always stand for the have-nots, if it came to the crunch, and, Sir, today, we have figures to demonstrate it.

As somebody said, the proof of the pudding is in its eating and the empiricists who have expounded the empiricist theory of history say, "my view is as good as yours, and, therefore, there is no superiority of your views". Only the facts are sacred and nothing else is sacred. In that view of the matter, Sir, I have some facts to share with this House. Sir, I will only take half a minute. Have you really been able to achieve inclusive agenda of governance? My answer is, 'yes'. Sir, Rs. 71,000 crores of debt-waiver to farmers is a record, unprecedented, in the annals of history of this country. On top of that, for the first time in the history of this country since Independence, the availability of agricultural credit has been increased from Rs. 28,700 crores to Rs. 3,25,000 crores.

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I think, Mr. Raja said, it is a marginal increase over the past. Sir, it is a huge increase in actual terms. Look at the sum total of the figure of Rs. 3,25,000 crores availability of credit to the farmers. It speaks of Rs. 39,100 crores for NREGA enabling over four crore people of this country to take jobs.

Sir, we all know that human dignity is inextricably linked to your economic subsistence levels and it is only jobs that give you that basic security net, the basic net that ensures you not only livelihood, it ensures you a life of dignity that the Constitution mandates upon all of us to secure for all our people. We have discharged the Constitutional mandate, we have lived up to our political pledges, and, therefore, we have delivered on every single pledge that we made to the people of India.

Sir, the National Food Security Act is a path-breaking legislative exercise. I heard some distinguished Member saying that the work on the Act has not started. We have been in the Government for only two months. The work has already started. A legislation of this kind that must stand scrutiny in courts, and, that must stand the test of time, will take a little bit more time but the fact remains that this is a path-breaking initiative of the UPA Government, unprecedented, once again, not only in India but in any part of the world.

(Contd. by ysr-4a)

-GSP/YSR/5.55/4A

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (CONTD.): Sir, allocations for the *Bharat Nirman* have been raised by 45 per cent, if you want to calculate in percentage terms, in 2009-10. There is an increase of 63 per cent in the outlay for

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the *Indira Awaas Yojana*. Corpus for the *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh*, which facilitates credit support to poor women, has been increased from Rs.100 crore to Rs.500 crore. Rs.15,027 crore have been made available for the National Rural Health Mission.

Without the health of a country, no country can exist. The foremost duty of any Government is spending in the social infrastructure sector, that is, education and health. In fact, the Eleventh Plan has been described as the Education Plan. Rs.15,027 crore have been provided for health.

An amount of Rs.4,000 crore has been made available to micro, small, and medium enterprises. Sir, I entirely agree that one of the great deficits of our economy so far has been our poor infrastructure. But, for that reason, the funds are made available to the IIFCL. It will enable it to spend over the years Rs. One lakh crore in the PPP mode.

One of our distinguished colleagues said why are we subsidising private sector investments and initiatives in infrastructure. No. It is in the PPP mode. These are the assets of the nation. These eventually become assets of the nation. And if there is private sector participation, that enables us to leverage more public funding. We can get more money and therefore invest more in infrastructure.

Every single section of our society -- senior citizens, salaried people, pensioners in the Army, and women -- has been given some kind of relief or the other.

Sir, I would like to submit this for your consideration. It is no one's case and the Finance Minister himself said it by way of a caveat that a single Budget Speech cannot be a panacea or answer to all our wants.

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Nor is the Budget the only instrument to solve all our problems. But it is indicative of a philosophy of governance; it is indicative of a resolve; and it is indicative of a will to marshal the resources of the nation in aid of a philosophy of politics that we have shared with the people of India.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The time that you asked is over.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, I need five more minutes. Sir, I know for certain that the collective wisdom of the people of India is much larger than the wisdom of their representatives or of any Government. The ultimate test of any Government's promises or programmes is after five years when people cast their votes. We must have done something right, and we are continuing in that direction, for the people of India have returned us to power consecutively the second time.

Sir, Arnold Toynbee once said, "The History of civilisation is nothing more and nothing less than a series of responses to a series of challenges that people face in common." Have we come up to those challenges? Have we answered those challenges? That, Sir, is the touchstone on which this Budget will have to be judged.

Sir, I have one quote to make from the speech of Shri P. Chidambaram, the then Finance Minister, when he was speaking during the debate on the Budget for 2006-07. He said, "The young people of India are building castles, it may appear that those castles are in the air, but as Henry David Thoreau said: "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." That is what, Sir, this Budget seeks to do.

In summation, allow me to say, Sir, the final validation of the Budget; the Budget echoes the silent cry of those who suffer from want,

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hunger, disease, powerlessness and lack of freedom. It lends itself to the advancement of dignity of the marginalised. It allows everyone to participate in the prosperity of the nation. It protects the vulnerable and helps those in need to escape the trap of need. It envisions an economic system that strengthens the bonds of human solidarity.

(Contd. By VKK/4B)

-YSR/VKK/4b/6.00

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (CONTD.): It recognises that the State must exist for its creators and not *vice versa* and that the economic system is a means and not an end. Finally, Sir, and this is the most important line I would like to draw your attention to, the Budget knows its own limitations. Thank you very much, Sir.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Message from Lok Sabha.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th July, 2009.

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The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

(Ends)

* Pp 457 onwards will be issued as a Supplement.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2009-10 (CONTD.)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, at the outset, I seek indulgence that if I cannot finish in time, give some marginal concession. I am just very quick.

Sir, the Budget speech is quite encouraging to listen. But, when we go through the figures, disappointments start creeping in. This Budget was expected to unleash a stimulus to bring the economy out of recession which has already crept in because of the global meltdown. Massive job cuts had taken place and the Economic Survey estimation of six lakh jobless is a gross under-estimation. The Commerce Ministry has estimated it to be 15 lakhs till March 2009. In reality, it is more than 50 lakhs across the sectors, including the export sector. In such a situation, a stimulus was expected to be unleashed. But, whatever actually has been unleashed is just a pittance. In totality, the increase in the total expenditure in the Budget 2009-10 compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09 is merely 0.5 per cent of the GDP. Out of which, the Plan expenditure is slated to increase by only 0.2 per cent of the GDP as compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09. We have heard so many figures and statistics on different heads and counts. There are other ways of looking into the figures. But, please also consider this aspect.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister as well to the stimulus package which was released before the Budget, assessed to be 3.5 per cent of the Budget. That stimulus package has been scanned by Arun Shourieji just now. But, let me tell you as to what is the impact of that stimulus package. That has failed to arrest the loss

of livelihood of five million people. Then, what for the stimulus package is? And in the new stimulus package, whatever is being released is released from the national exchequer and the *aam admi*, in the name of whom the UPA Government all along has been swearing in, also has a claim or stake on that amount of national exchequer released for stimulus. Unless that stimulus package is made conditional to employment protection, this stimulus package will only be used by entrepreneurs to arrest the decline of their marginal bottom line. That is an unjust arrangement. That is not at all an *aam admi* arrangement. It is only focussed on *khaas admi* and that requires a change. I insist on the Finance Minister to put in place some such conditionalities of employment protection, banning retrenchment, lay-off and closure along with the packages being offered to the export-oriented sector and other sectors.

Reviving agriculture must be central because agriculture and allied activities provide livelihood to 60 per cent of our population and *aam admi* resides there. What is the allocation for agriculture? Again, the Budget speech was lavishly eloquent about the need for such a thing, giving stress on rural economy and agriculture. But, in terms of the figures, again, that is not matching with the words. The deeds are not matching with the words. The Plan outlay on agriculture in this Budget has increased by less than Rs.600 crores as compared to last year's Budget allocation.

(Contd. by MKS/4c)

MKS/6.05/4C

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (CONTD.): The share of combined expenditure on rural economy in the total expenditure has, actually, declined to 16.09 per cent in the current Budget as compared to Revised Estimate of the previous Budget. The share of total expenditure for Agriculture and Allied Activities in the total expenditure has declined to 10.37 per cent, in the current Budget, from 15.6 per cent, in the previous Budget, Revised Estimate. In terms of GDP, it is a decline from 2.59 per cent of the GDP to 1.64 per cent of the GDP. If you go through item-wise, again, your commitment and allocation does not match with each other. Coming to your subsidy bill, what has been allocated? It does not match with your ambitious programme for the Food Security Act. It cannot feed the entire BPL families even, based on the present ridiculous definition which excludes 'the poor', majority of 'the poor'. Your subsidy on the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, again, it cannot give even a miniscule fragment of the six lakh BPL families in the country. Only some of them have got the benefit from whatever has been allocated from the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. And go on to your education. You have an ambitious programme of Right to Work, but the allocation to 'primary education', please note, does not match with the ambitious target espoused by your Right to Education Act. So, words are not matching with deeds. I am not going about the fiscal deficit theory. There are *pandits* and experts there, who have done. I am telling you, Sir, what they are telling and what the reality is. In totality, if you see, my friend Ashwani Kumarji just talked about the philosophy of the Budget, intrinsic *aam admi* philosophy! Actually, it is meant for the *khas admi*.

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When you look into the figure, this Budget estimate, in the Budget speech, *khud* Finance Minister has admitted the growth of 'tax forgone'. Rs.4,18,000 crores! It is 68.95 per cent of the aggregate tax collection. It is growing every year at a rate more than the tax generations. This defines your philosophy! And what does that 'tax-forgone' mean? It is 68.45 per cent of the aggregate tax collection. All tax forgone, it is 323.5 per cent of the total subsidy bill of the Central Government; the subsidy bill which is meant for *aam admi*; if you give one rupee there, you are foregoing, you are giving Rs.323/- to the *khas admi* in a way of tax concession, tax dividend. It is 204.8 per cent of the total Central Plan Outlay. What are you planning to take the economy out of the recession? The real development expenditure, a part, a major 200 per cent of it you are foregoing, you are giving away in the form of tax concessions, 'tax forgone', and with a talk, there is an argument that will generate jobs. A study was made in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Around five lakh jobs were created in the context of these huge tax concessions, and it works out, per job, 40 lakh rupees 'tax forgone'. Is that a practical solution? Is this, really, an *aam admi* orientation? Sir, despite that, this Budget for tax proposals proposes a tax structure on direct tax revenue-neutral, and on indirect tax, a Rs.2,000 crores extra gain, the burden goes on the *aam admi*. The burden goes up, and tax concession, the kinds of exemptions that have been given has nothing to do with the stimulus. I do not understand for exploring the national property under our soil, the gas, natural gas, you are giving a tax holiday on NELP-8 and you are still claiming of transparency. Let me point out what the Prime Minister has commented on this particular issue.

-MKS-TMV-sg/4d/6.10

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (CONTD.): Let me point out what the Prime Minister has commented on this very issue: "I think the whole attempt is to streamline our tax system to get away from an exemption-ridden system to ensure greater transparency". That is what Dr. Manmohan Singh said in the Rajya Sabha on 11th March while participating in the Budget debate. What are you giving to the KG basin exploration? A perpetuating tax holiday! The implication of it is Rs.40,000-50,000 crores in the coming six years. The production will start in 2010 only. What for? You have proposed a National Gas Grid. We welcome that. That will help particularly the eastern regions like Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and North Eastern Regions, which are totally gas starved. The idea of a National Gas Grid will help their development. But whom are you giving the tax exemption? When the GAIL lays the pipeline, there is no tax exemption. When the private companies come into the field, you are giving elaborate tax concessions. Is it the right kind of approach to deal with the national property, allowing somebody to fritter it away divided between the families? Is it the right approach? I urge upon the Finance Minister to review this. (Time-bell) I am just concluding.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Now I will speak on two points. As regards the price situation, there is a paradoxical situation. The WPI shows a recessionary trend. The CPI, food article price index, is going up. Still your Budget proposal is encouraging speculation in commodity market by abolishing Commodity Transaction Tax. Again, you are opening a

floodgate on future trading in essential commodities at a time when the total volume of trade in the commodity market is, at least, ten times more than the actual commodity production. This is the state of speculation. When the country is in recession, when the country in need of dire resources, please don't allow anybody to make money out of money directly by this kind of gambling in order to avoid diversion of resources from employment-generating investment. If you allow somebody to make money directly out of money, where will the money go? That will not go towards employment-generating investment.

My last point is on disinvestment. I am speaking in front of my senior colleague, Mr. Arun Shourie. He may differ. I would like to quote the Finance Minister. In the Budget Speech he says:

"To bring the fiscal deficit under control, we have to institute institutional reform measures during the current year itself."

These measures include subsidies, taxes, expenditure and disinvestment. So, disinvestment is considered by our hon. Finance Minister as an important instrument of bridging the fiscal gap. I am not debating on your philosophy of disinvestment. I am not debating. It is your statement. Our Finance Minister has said so in the Budget. He is considering disinvestment as an instrument of bridging the fiscal gap. Let me quote the same person. When he was a leading personality in the Opposition, while addressing the same august House combating Mr. Arun Shourie on the issue of BALCO disinvestment -- I think it was on 27th February, 2001 .. (Time-bell) ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I am just concluding. Please allow me. He said:

"Therefore, if the objective of the Government were to bridge the resource gap by disposing of the capital assets, in order to meet the consumption expenditure, it would simply not be permissible by any amount of fiscal prudence. ... Disinvestment for what objective? What are you going to do with the proceeds of the disinvestment? Is it only to bridge the budgetary gap? Is it prudent to dispose of the capital assets and use it for meeting the normal consumption expenditure?"

This is what our Finance Minister spoke when he was in the Opposition in the same House. My submission is: How could prudence make such a somersault just within a gap of eight years or so? Why should you dilute the equity of the PSUs which have in their huge common resources about Rs.4.85 lakh crores, which is lying underutilised?

(Contd. by 4E/VK)

VK-MCM/4E/6.15

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (CONTD): It is lying under-utilised, which can be used for social sector expenditure, which can be used for further employment generating investment in and around those blue chip public sector units. Why should you dilute it? Somebody may argue that reserve fund is required for modernisation and function of those PSUs. Why should you go to the IPO route, then? You have such a reserve. You use that for your own expansion. Why are you going for the IPO route? Why should you, at all, go for the IPO route? When these public sector units are having a very healthy debt-equity ratio of 1:4, that is, if

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Re. 1/- is debt, Rs. 4/- is your equity support, you should go to the debt market. That is what the economic prudence says, that is what the basic primary economic sense says. With such a high debt-equity ratio, you should go to the debt market. Don't dilute your equity; don't reset the pace of handing over gradual control of the company to outsiders. Why should you go? Then you talk of people's ownership. Whom are you ridiculing? Would 77 per cent of the people living below Rs. 20/- a day go to the stock market to ensure the theory of people's ownership? The people's ownership of PSUs is ensured by the ownership of the Government and control by Parliament. That is the concept developed since Independence about the public sector. The Parliamentary control and command of the public sector within the control of the Government and a managerial autonomy, is the concept of people's ownership, not selling the shares to private individuals... (time bell rings)when the market is nose diving.

Please desist from dangerous path. Thank you. (Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Mahendra Mohan. You have 16 minutes and there are three speakers from your Party.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे अनुमति दी। सर्वप्रथम मैं बधाई देना चाहूंगा माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को कि उन्होंने पहली बार इस देश के लिए दस लाख करोड़ से ज्यादा का बजट हमारे सामने रखा। निश्चित रूप से यह जो बजट है इसमें खर्च की ही बातें ज्यादा हैं, आमदनी की कम हैं। जब मैंने बजट को देखा तो लगभग चार लाख करोड़ का जो वे ऋण ले रहे हैं उसके द्वारा ही सारे खर्चों को पूरा करने जा रहे हैं। यह बात सही है कि जहां पर डेफिसिट की इकॉनोमी होती है, वहां पर निश्चित रूप से ऋण लेकर ही उस देश को और कार्यों को आगे चलाया जाता है, इण्डस्ट्री के अंदर भी और देश की अपनी जरूरतों के लिए। लेकिन 6.8 का डेफिसिट, जैसा कि अभी कुछ वक्ताओं ने विशेष

रूप से अरुण शौरी जी ने कहा कि वह 6.8 परसेंट न रहकर 12 परसेंट से अधिक का ही डेफिसिएट रह जाएगा। उसे कैसे पूरा किया जाएगा, यह देखना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है। मैं बजट के फैक्ट्स एंड फिगर्स में ज्यादा न जाते हुए कुछ ऐसी चीजों की ओर इंगित करना चाहूंगा, जो अभी तक नहीं कही गई हैं। बैंकों के पास लगभग छः लाख चौतिस हजार करोड़ के डिपोजिट्स हैं और यदि उसमें से चार लाख करोड़ अपनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए भारत सरकार उनसे ले लेगी तो निश्चित रूप से ब्याज की दरों में वृद्धि होगी। यह कहा जाना कि ब्याज की दरें नहीं बढ़ेंगी, असम्भव सा लगता है। निश्चित रूप से कहां से स्रोत आएंगे, जहां से यह पैसा आएगा? डिसइंवेस्टमेंट के द्वारा भी पैसा आ सकता है, लेकिन बहुत कम पैसा आएगा जो इस समय की स्थितियां हैं। लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि जब तक औद्योगिक विकास नहीं होगा, तब तक हमारे देश के अंदर जिस रोजगार की बात वित्त मंत्री जी अपने भाषण में कर रहे हैं कि एक करोड़ बीस लाख लोगों को रोजगार दिए जाएंगे, तो उसके लिए यह आवश्यक है कि उद्योगों का भी विकास हो। उद्योगों की ओर कुछ भी विशेष ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है कि किस प्रकार से नए उद्योग लगाए जाएंगे, कैसे नए उद्योगों को पैसा प्राप्त होगा, और जो हमारे यहां पर फॉरेन इंवेस्टमेंट का पैसा आना रुक गया है तथा लोग इंवेस्टमेंट के लिए नहीं आना चाहते हैं, बल्कि यहां जो पैसा लगा हुआ था वह वापिस जा रहा है। उस ओर कोई भी ध्यान वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो बजट के प्रस्ताव हैं, उसमें नहीं दिया है। उन्हें देखना होगा कि यह कार्य कैसे हों, इस ओर उन्हें विचार करना होगा, ताकि कैसे और अधिक पैसा हमारे यहां इण्डस्ट्री में आए, कैसे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए आए।

(4f/GS पर क्रमशः)

GS-RG/4F/6.20

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (क्रमागत) : निश्चित रूप से हमारे यहां पावर की बहुत बड़ी शार्टेज है। इस पर बहुत चर्चाएं इस सदन में और उस सदन में हुई थी और एक स्थिति ऐसी आ गई थी, जब सरकार जा रही थी, तो फिर, किस प्रकार से सरकार बची। लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी किस प्रकार यह पावर जेनरेशन, न्युक्लियर पावर जेनरेशन की बात थी, उसके लिए इस बजट प्रस्ताव में कोई भी जानकारी नहीं दी गई है कि किस प्रकार उससे आएगा।

किसानों की समस्याओं और सब चीजों के लिए पैसों के अनुदान और पैसों का प्रॉविजन तो बहुत किया गया है। मैं इस बारे में केवल इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि केवल प्रॉविजन कर देने से काम नहीं हो जाता है। कथनी और करनी का अंतर होता है, इसलिए जब तक इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन सही रूप से नहीं होगा, तब तक यह कार्य नहीं हो सकता है। इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन पार्ट देखना चाहिए, क्योंकि हमारे साथियों ने पहले कहा है कि हर साल हम बजट के भाषणों में बहुत से आश्वासन देते हैं, हम ये करेंगे, हम वो करेंगे, लेकिन जब साल के आखिर में एक अकाउंटेबिलिटी की बात आती है, तो उसके बारे में कोई भी जानकारी इस सदन को और हमारे साथियों को नहीं मिलती है कि क्या कार्य किया गया, क्या उपलब्धियां हुईं ? बजट का जो मुख्य बिंदु होता है, वह यही होता है कि जो बजट में आपने अलोकेशन किया कि हम कहां खर्चा करेंगे, किन-किन मदों पर खर्चा करेंगे, उन मदों पर कहां पर आपने खर्च किया और उससे क्या उपलब्धियां हुईं, इसके ऊपर पूरी जानकारी हर बजट सत्र में, मैं समझता हूं कि नये बजट भाषण के साथ आना अत्यावश्यक है। इसके लिए माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी और उनके सहयोगी मंत्री, जो यहां पर बैठे हैं, उनसे अनुरोध करूंगा कि इसकी जानकारी हम सब लोगों को दी जाय, जिससे कि यह देश और अच्छे रूप में चले। हम चाहते हैं कि किसानों की समस्याओं का हल हो। केवल आश्वासन दे देने से किसानों की समस्याओं का हल नहीं होगा।

सर, देश में बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है। लोगों को कार्य प्राप्त नहीं हो रहा है। जिनकी नौकरियां लगी हुई हैं, उनकी नौकरियां छूट रही हैं। यह केवल इसीलिए है, क्योंकि नई इंडस्ट्रीज़ नहीं आ रही हैं, नये काम नहीं हो रहे हैं। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि भविष्य में ऐसा न हो कि बजट के एक दिन पहले पेट्रोल, डीजल के दाम बढ़ा दिए जाए। जब तेल की अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कीमतें कम हो रही हैं, तो फिर उन दामों में कमी क्यों नहीं की जा रही है ? अगर उस वक्त इतनी आवश्यकता थी जिसकी वजह से दाम बढ़ा दिए गए थे, तो अब जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तेल की कीमतों में कमी हो रही है, तो उसमें कमी की जाए, जिससे कि आम आदमी को उससे कुछ फायदा मिले।

थोक मूल्य सूचकांक के बारे में भी बहुत कुछ कहा गया। कहा जा रहा है कि हमारा निगेटिव इन्फ्लेशन हो गया है, लेकिन वास्तविकता में निगेटिव इन्फ्लेशन नहीं है। हर चीज़ का

दाम बढ़ रहा है। आम आदमी को दाल, रोटी, सब्जी खाने में दिक्कतें आ रही हैं। यह जरूरी है कि एक उचित और तार्किक मूल्य सूचकांक बनाया जाए।

हमें टैक्स के प्रपोजल्स में भी माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से बहुत सी उम्मीदें थीं। माननीय महामहिम जी का जो भाषण हुआ था, उसमें जो चर्चाएं हुई थीं, उस की वजह से इस सरकार से बहुत उम्मीद थी कि जो हमारा आम आदमी है, जो हमारा नौकरी-पेशा आदमी है, जिसकी आजीविका केवल वेतन से चलती है, उसे कुछ सुविधाएं मिलेंगी, लेकिन इससे तो मैं यहीं कहूंगा कि उस आम आदमी का मजाक बनाया गया है कि उसको जो टैक्स में रिबेट दी गई है, वह 86 रुपया प्रति माह की दी गई है। उस 86 रुपये से उसको क्या प्राप्त होगा ? कम से कम जो डेढ़ लाख रुपये की सीमा थी, उसको तीन लाख रुपये होने की बात हो रही थी, उसमें जो दस हजार रुपये की वृद्धि दी गई है, वह बहुत कम है। उस पर माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी विचार करें और उसको देखें कि टैक्स में आम आदमी को और राहत कैसे मिले ?

इसके साथ ही साथ यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि हमारा भविष्य कैसा बने ? इसके लिए बच्चों की पढ़ाई-लिखाई में जो व्यय आता है, उस खर्च के लिए वित्त मंत्री जी को यह सुविधा देनी चाहिए कि कम से कम दो बच्चों की पढ़ाई पर जो भी खर्चा ट्यूशन फीस के अतिरिक्त स्कूलों को दिया जाता है, वह पूरा का पूरा खर्चा टैक्स रिबेट के रूप में अलाउ किया जाए, जिससे कि आदमी अपने बच्चों को ठीक से पढ़ा सके। यह भी बहुत जरूरी है। हाउसिंग लोन के ऊपर भी छूट बहुत कम है। आम आदमी को रहने के लिए व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक है। ... (समय की घंटी)... हाउसिंग लोन पर भी थोड़ी-सी छूटें बढ़ाई जाएं, जिससे कम से कम आदमी बाजार से अथवा बैंकों से कर्जा लेकर अपने परिवार के लिए रहने की व्यवस्था कर सके।

इसके साथ ही साथ एक अच्छी चीज़ वित्त मंत्री जी ने कही है जिसको वह लाना चाहते हैं। अगर यह हो जाएगा, तो बहुत ही अच्छी बात होगी। वह जीएसटी को लाने की बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन 2010 का जो उनका टारगेट है उसके लिए, वह कैसे सम्भव होगा? वैट को इम्प्लीमेंट करने में कितनी कठिनाई हुई है, इसको सभी जानते हैं। जीएसटी के लिए अभी से सक्रिय रूप से कार्य नहीं किया जाएगा, तो मुझे ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि वह 1 अप्रैल, 2010 के टारगेट को नहीं पा सकेंगे। अगर वह इसको नहीं प्राप्त कर पाते हैं, तो उसके कारण हमें बहुत

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दिक्कतें होंगी। ... (समय की घंटी)... शेयर बाजार के बारे में बहुत कहा जाता है। सर, मैं दो मिनट का समय लूंगा।

श्री उपसभापति : दो मिनट नहीं।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : केवल 2.5 परसेंट लोग उसमें इन्वाल्व रहते हैं, लेकिन जो 2.5 परसेंट लोग होते हैं, उनके साथ परिवार भी जुड़े होते हैं।

(4जी पर जारी)

4g/6.25/ks-asc

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (क्रमागत): मैं समझता हूँ कि शेयर बाजार के द्वारा हम बाहर के इन्वेस्टर को और अपने यहां के इन्वेस्टर को, एक बहुत बड़ा सिग्नल देते हैं। उसके माध्यम से हम अपने उद्योगों को आगे चलाने के लिए एक बहुत अच्छा माध्यम दे रहे हैं। अगर शेयर बाजार अच्छा चलेगा, तो जिस डिस-इन्वेस्टमेंट की बात हो रही थी, भारत सरकार जिन उद्योगों में डिस-इन्वेस्टमेंट करना चाहती है, उनसे अधिक धन पा सकेगी, इसलिए इस ओर भी ध्यान देना जरूरी है। हमारे लिए यह जानना बहुत जरूरी है कि हम किस प्रकार से अपने औद्योगिक उत्पादन को बढ़ाएं। औद्योगिक उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए सभी चीजों की अनुशंसा होना बहुत जरूरी है। महोदय, आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से मेरा यही अनुरोध है, उनके सारे सहयोगी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, कृपया यह कहें कि देश की औद्योगिक प्रगति को किस प्रकार से बढ़ाया जाए, कैसे आम आदमी तक लाभ पहुंचे। इन थोड़े से विचारों पर विचार करें और आम आदमी के लिए कुछ सुख सुविधाएं दें, जिनका वे वायदा कर रहे हैं। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद, जो आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया।

(समाप्त)

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (ASSAM): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on behalf of my Party on the current year's General Budget. The world economy today is facing great challenges because of the global economic crisis. At this juncture, it is really very difficult for any Finance Minister to present a Budget. If you take the country as a whole, there are certain good points that have been introduced by the

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hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech. A provision of Rs.71,000 crores for the social sector and for rural development is a welcome move. Sir, India's economy depends on agriculture but I feel the agricultural sector has totally been neglected. It is very unfortunate. Then, Sir, this Budget has totally disappointed not the people of Assam alone but all the people of the North-East. Sir, there is no new proposal in this Budget either for the people of Assam or for the people of the North-East. The budgetary allocations for almost all the projects of the North-East have been kept at the level of allocations of the last financial year. There is no difference between last year's allocations and this year's allocations. Sir, the DoNER was formed lay special emphasis and focus on the development of the whole North-Eastern Region. But I am very sorry to say that the budgetary allocation for DoNER is constant at Rs.1455 crores. The same amount of money was allocated in last year's Budget. Similarly, the budgetary allocation for the North-Eastern Council is Rs.544.54 crores. It is also the same as it was in the last financial year. Sir, the value of money has decreased as compared to the last year. The purchasing power of the rupee is decreasing but the budgetary allocations for the North-East have remained the same. Sir, right now, Assam is suffering from floods. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless. Lakhs of hectares of cultivated land have been completely destroyed. The problem of floods in Assam is known to everybody, Sir. But, I am very sorry to say that this year the allocation meant for the Ministry of Water Resources towards flood control in the North-East has been decreased. In the last Budget, the allocation for flood relief in the North-East was Rs. 106.68 crores. This year it has been

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decreased to Rs. 91 crores. Then, Sir, I am sorry to say that the budgetary allocation for the Pagladiya project, the multi-purpose project meant for irrigation, flood control and power generation in several districts of lower Assam, has been reduced this year.

(Contd. at 4h by tdb)

TDB/4H/6.30

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (CONTD.): If we compare this year's allocations with the last year's allocations, then, we will find that the budgetary allocations for the Pagladiya Dam Project have also been reduced. This is very unfortunate, Sir.

Sir, in the last part of the 14th Lok Sabha, in reply to my question, the then Home Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, replied very categorically that he was not at all satisfied with the fencing work on the Indo-Bangladesh border. Sir, in this year's Budget, the allocations for the Indo-Bangladesh border have also decreased. This is an important project from the national point of view; this is important from the point of view of national security. In the last year's Budget, for the border fencing work, there was a provision of Rs.484.23 crores, but in this year's Budget it has been reduced to Rs.475.82 crores.

Sir, in his Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister has announced Rs.1,000 crores for Aila of West Bengal, he has announced Rs.500 crores of Mumbai and he has announced Rs.500 crores for Tamils in Sri Lanka. It is a very welcome move. We are not opposing it. But, he has totally neglected Assam. He has not given a single pie for the flood and erosion victims of Assam. This is another discrimination towards the people of Assam and the people of North-East. So, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister, through his colleague, to kindly announce a rehabilitation package for the flood and erosion victims of Assam, and kindly declare the flood problem of Assam as a national problem.

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Sir, in her Speech, the hon. Railway Minister, Mamata Banerjee announced creation of the North-East Railway Development Fund. It is a very welcome move. But, Sir, there is no reflection at all of it in the hon. Finance Minister's Speech. So, where would the money come from for the North-East Railway Development Fund? There is no mention of it in the Railway Budget and there is no mention of it in the General Budget, Sir.

Sir, the Software Technology Park, STP Policy is having a Sunset Clause and is scheduled to expire by March, 2011. The benefits of the STP Policy are enjoyed by the IT units which are located in the Special Economic Zones only. Although the big players may not face any problem with the changing scenario, the small and medium enterprises all over the country are crying for extension of the STP Policy. You are aware that a minimum of 10 hectares of contiguous land is required for setting up of IT units in the Special Economic Zones, which is very difficult to find in the hilly States of the North East. In the North-East, plain areas are also very limited because it is fully utilised for agriculture or it is forest land. So, it is very difficult to find such land there. So, this Policy will not be beneficial for the North-East. There is no Special Economic Zone in the North-East. So, I would like to request...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Please conclude.**

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : **So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister that in order to put the North-East in equal advantage with the rest of the country, the only option therefore lies in removing the Sunset Clause of the STP Policy for the North-Eastern Region, Sir.**

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Sir, Assam Tea industry is a great player to contribute foreign exchange earnings for our country. Sir, the Tea industry of Assam not only plays a vital role in earning foreign exchange but also gives employment to more than five lakh people in Assam. Sir, more than five lakh people are getting employment in the Tea industry of Assam. But, Sir, the Tea industry of Assam today is facing serious problems in the international market. The Assam Tea is facing serious problems from Kenya, China, etc., in the international market. Sir, it is not all. Sir, the small tea-growers of Assam are playing a revolutionary role in providing employment to the unemployed youth of Assam.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Mr. Baishya, please conclude.**

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: **So, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to declare a special package for the Tea industry of Assam because it is not only contributing to the foreign exchange earnings but also employing more than five lakh people in Assam.**

So, I would like to request that the Government should try to realise the sentiments of our people. Please try to realise the sentiments of the people of the North Eastern Region. Sir, Assam and North East are insurgency-hit areas. So, your blessings are required. Without your blessings, this problem cannot be solved. Kindly try to understand the feelings of the people of Assam, kindly understand the problems of Assam and the entire North Eastern Region. Kindly take special interest in the North East and Assam. Thank you.

(Ends)

(Followed by 4j-akg)

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श्री बिश्वजीत दैमारी (असम) : थैंक्यू डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, आपने मुझे मौका दिया है। इस बजट के ऊपर मेरा कहना सिर्फ यह है कि overall बजट ठीक ही है, लेकिन यह बजट सिर्फ जो लोग आगे बढ़ चुके हैं, उन लोगों के लिए अच्छा है, लेकिन जो लोग अभी भी पिछड़े हुए हैं, backward region में रहते हैं, rural area में रहते हैं, उनके लिए यह बजट किसी प्रकार की सहायता देने वाला नहीं होगा। इसको पढ़ कर हमने यही जाना है। यह हमारे फाइनांस मिनिस्टर के भाषण के जरिए पता चला है।

सर, मैं बोडोलैंड रिजन से हूँ। भारत सरकार ने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में Sixth Schedule के अन्दर जो एक नया बोडोलैंड क्षेत्र गठित किया है, उसे 50 साल के संग्राम के बाद किया गया। वहाँ पर 50 साल तक कोई डेवलपमेंट का काम नहीं हुआ था। इसलिए वहाँ पर संग्राम हुआ। संग्राम के बाद भारत सरकार ने वहाँ पर उन्नति लाने के लिए कुछ commitment रखा था। लेकिन इस बोडोलैंड के बनने के बाद आज देखा कि वहाँ शिक्षा के लिए जितना भी mention किया गया है, जैसे IIT, NIT, Central University बनाने के लिए, लेकिन बोडोलैंड के लिए एक भी mention नहीं किया गया है। मुझे यह डर है कि भारत में उच्च शिक्षा के लिए जितनी भी पॉलिसी ली जाए, वह शायद बोडोलैंड में कभी भी नहीं हो पाएगा। अगर यह बोडोलैंड में नहीं होगा, तो वहाँ के लोगों को उच्च शिक्षा मिलने का मौका कभी नहीं मिलेगा।

सर, इसके सिवाय भी वहाँ बहुत समस्या है। अभी-अभी हमारे मित्र बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद वैश्य जी ने कहा है कि वहाँ की flood का situation बहुत गम्भीर है। Flood के जरिए, erosion के जरिए आज वहाँ के लोगों को बहुत कष्ट उठाना पड़ रहा है। लोगों को अपना मकान छोड़ कर दूसरी जगह रिलीफ कैंप्स में रहना पड़ रहा है। इसी तरह असम में एक बड़ा ऐतिहासिक स्थान है, जिसको हम माजुली के नाम से जानते हैं। माजुली साउथ एशिया का सबसे बड़ा आईलैंड है। यह भारतवर्ष का एक ऐतिहासिक स्थान है, जहाँ पर महापुरुष श्रीमंत शंकरदेव का कला-संस्कृति से भरपूर एक तीर्थस्थान है, आज flood के कारण वहाँ की जमीन का erosion होने से खत्म होने जा रहा है। यह एक विश्व प्रसिद्ध स्थान है और भारत का एक गौरवपूर्ण स्थान है। यह इतिहास के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है, क्योंकि वहाँ 360 साल का सत्र मौजूद है। इस सत्र में सन् 1871 में पहला असमिया न्यूजपेपर, जिसका नाम असम बिलासिनी है, उसको कोलकाता से नाव से ले जाकर वहाँ सम्पादित किया गया था। सन् 1883 में erosion

होने के कारण इसे बन्द करना पड़ा। बाढ़ से वहाँ की जमीन को बहा कर ले जाने के कारण वहाँ के अवनियाती सत्र को shift करना पड़ा। अभी इसकी हालत इतनी खराब है कि पहले वह 1200 स्क्वायर किलोमीटर था, लेकिन अब वह erosion के कारण सिर्फ 800 स्क्वायर किलोमीटर रह गया है। जिस तरह से वहाँ erosion हो रहा है, शायद आने वाले 30-40 साल में वह खत्म हो जाएगा। उसका protection करना बहुत जरूरी है। वहाँ लगभग 2 लाख की आबादी है, लेकिन उसका protection करने के लिए आज तक भारत सरकार कोई परियोजना नहीं ला पाई है। आज मैंने इस बजट में देखा कि बंगाल में जो आइला हुआ है, इसके लिए बजट प्रोविज़न रखा गया है। मुम्बई का protection करने के लिए भी बजट में प्रोविज़न रखा गया है। इसको natural calamity कहा जा रहा है। क्या माजुली में जो घटना हो रही है, वह natural calamity नहीं है? वह किस situation से हो रही है?

(4के/एससीएच पर जारी)

SCH/4K/6.40

श्री बिश्वजीत दैमारी (क्रमागत): इसलिए मैं आपके ज़रिए फाइनांस मिनिस्टर को अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम इस साल माझौली को देखा जाए और उसकी रक्षा करने की कोशिश की जाए। हमारे माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी भी असम से ही आते हैं, इस कारण मैं आशा करता हूँ कि कम से कम स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री जी अथवा अभी यहां पर फाइनांस मिनिस्टर बैठे हैं, आप लोग एक बार वहां विज़िट कीजिए और देखिए कि वहां के लिए किस तरह की परियोजनाएं लाकर हम उसकी रक्षा कर सकते हैं। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि आप लोग इसे देखिए।

वहां पर Insurgency की प्रॉब्लम है, यह बिल्कुल सही बात है। वहां पर Insurgency की प्रॉब्लम इसलिए हो रही है क्योंकि भारत वर्ष में जितनी भी परियोजनाएं लाई जाती हैं, उनमें नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का कहीं भी कोई उल्लेख नहीं होता है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में आज तक कुछ नहीं हो पाया है। आज अगर महात्मा गांधी जी जिंदा होते या जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी जिंदा होते तो मैं जरूर उनसे पूछता कि अगर आप नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की देखभाल नहीं कर सकते थे क्या कारण था कि ब्रिटिशर्स के चले जाने के बाद आपने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट या असम को भारत वर्ष के साथ जोड़ा। यह बहुत दुःख की बात है।

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मैं आशा रखता हूँ कि आज के जो नेता है, कम से कम वे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को अच्छी तरह से देखें और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की प्रॉब्लम्स को समझने की कोशिश करें, वहां के आदमी की चिंता को महसूस करने की कोशिश करें और फिर वहां के लिए कुछ थोड़ा-बहुत काम करने की चेष्टा करें। यही मेरा अनुरोध है। मैं आशा रखता हूँ कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की प्रॉब्लम्स के बारे में मैं जो बोल रहा हूँ, उस पर आप ध्यान देंगे।

इसके साथ बोडोलैंड का भी गठन किया गया है। आज इस बजट में जितनी भी परियोजनाओं की व्यवस्था की गई है, उनमें से कम से कम एक-एक परियोजना अथवा एक स्कीम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए भी दी जाए, जैसे वहां पर एनआईटी की स्थापना हो, आईआईटी की स्थापना हो, एक नैशनल यूनिवर्सिटी की स्थापना हो। मैंने वहां पर नई रेलवे लाइन बनाने की बात भी की थी, उसे भी वहां प्रारम्भ किया जाए। वहां पर डबल लाइन की जरूरत है, यह बात मैंने पहले भी कई बार कही है। पूरे भारत में डबल लाइन हो चुकी है और इलेक्ट्रिक इंजन भी आ चुका है, लेकिन बंगाल पार होने के बाद हमारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में सिंगल लाइन है। वहां पर गाड़ियों को रुक-रुक कर आना पड़ता है। सभी गाड़ियां वहां पर जा रही हैं, लेकिन लाइन एक होने के कारण उनको रुक-रुक कर जाना पड़ता है, जिसके कारण उनको ज्यादा समय लगता है। कम्युनिकेशन में हमें और अधिक तेज गति से आगे बढ़ना चाहिए था, लेकिन आज हमारी गति लगातार कम ही होती जा रही है, क्योंकि वहां पर डबल लाइन नहीं हो पाई है। ये सब हमारी समस्याएं हैं। मैं आशा रखता हूँ कि आप इन समस्याओं की तरफ ध्यान देंगे। कम से कम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लोग भी फील करें कि सारे भारत की उन्नति के लिए, उन्नयन के लिए आज भारत के नेता, प्रधान मंत्री और फाइनांस मिनिस्ट कोई चिंता कर रहे हैं, वे लोग इसका अनुभव कर सकें। इतना कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।
(समाप्त)

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि (राजस्थान): धन्यवाद, उपसभापति महोदय।

श्री उपसभापति: आपके पास पांच मिनट हैं, ज्यादा टाइम नहीं है।

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि: यह बजट कोई विशेष उपलब्धि वाला नहीं है। इस बजट को देख कर लगता है कि यह बजट अमीरों को और अधिक अमीर और गरीबों को और अधिक गरीब करने वाला है। मैं राजस्थान का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहा हूँ। संसद में पेश किए बजट से

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राजस्थान प्रदेश की उम्मीदों पर पानी फिर गया है। राजस्थान को केवल पावरलूम मैगाक्लस्टर देकर टरका दिया गया है। अन्य केन्द्रीय योजनाओं में हिस्सा बंटाने के अलावा केन्द्रीय बजट में राजस्थान को कुछ भी हासिल नहीं हुआ। इस प्रकार बजट में राजस्थान के साथ भेदभाव हुआ है। राजस्थान में पानी का भीषण संकट और वाटर इमरजेंसी जैसे हालात के कारण प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा केन्द्र से पानी पर विशेष दर्जे की मांग की गई थी, जिस पर विचार-विमर्श करना तो दूर, इसका जिक्र तक नहीं किया गया है और न ही कोई अतिरिक्त सहायता दी गई है।

प्रदेश को केन्द्रीय करों के कम संग्रहण के कारण बजट अनुमानों में राजस्थान को अंतरिम बजट की तुलना में 384.67 करोड़ रुपये का फटका लग गया है। फरवरी में पेश अंतरिम बजट के अनुमानों में केन्द्रीय करों के हिस्से में राजस्थान को 9617.67 करोड़ रुपये मिलने का अनुमान था, लेकिन आम बजट पेश होने के बाद यह राशि 9233.42 करोड़ रुपये ही रह गई। इससे राजस्थान की आर्थिक स्थिति पर विपरीत प्रभाव पड़ेगा। इस प्रकार राजस्थान को बजट में कोई खास तवज्जो नहीं दी गई है, जिसकी एक झलक आगे के कुछ बिन्दुओं से साफ देखी जा सकती है। पानी को लेकर राज्य को कोई विशेष दर्जा या कोई खास पैकेज नहीं दिया गया। रिफाइनरी स्थापना और शीघ्र तेल के उपाय भी नहीं किए गए। अंतरिम बजट में प्रणब मुखर्जी ने राजस्थान में आईआईएम की स्थापना इसी चालू वित्त वर्ष में किए जाने की घोषणा की थी, लेकिन उसे अब अगले सत्र में खिसका दिया गया है। जयपुर में मेट्रो रेल चलाने की परियोजना को लेकर भी कुछ नहीं कहा गया है। मंदी से जूझ रहे प्रदेश के हैंडीक्राफ्ट उद्योग के लिए राहतकारी उपाय नहीं किए गए। मरुस्थलीय समस्याओं और मरुस्थल के प्रसार को रोकने के लिए भी कोई योजना नहीं दी गई।

4L-psv पर जारी

-SCH/PSV-NBR/4L/6.45

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि(क्रमागत): सर, बांसवाड़ा में बिजली घर की स्थापना के लिए भी कोई घोषणा नहीं की गई। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा पर सुरक्षा व विकास के लिए कोई खास पैकेज नहीं दिया गया। पर्यटन विकास व हेरिटेज संरक्षण की भी कोई योजना नहीं है। आसमान छूती महँगाई पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए भी कोई ठोस योजना नहीं बनाई गई है। तुष्टिकरण की राजनीति के तहत सरकार ने अल्पसंख्यक छात्रों के लिए छात्रवृत्ति की घोषणा तो की, लेकिन गरीब छात्रों के लिए कोई खास प्रावधान नहीं किया गया। इस बजट में अनुसूचित जाति व सबसे पिछड़ा वर्ग बाल्मीकि सफाई कर्मचारियों के पुनर्वास की एक भी योजना का उल्लेख नहीं है। इस प्रकार सरकार इस बजट को आम आदमी का बजट कह कर प्रचारित कर रही है, जबकि आम आदमी को इससे कोई खास फायदा होने वाला नहीं है। देश की जनता ने जिन उम्मीदों के साथ कांग्रेस को पूर्ण सत्तासीन किया उसे देखते हुए इस सरकार का यह पहला बजट जनता की उम्मीदों पर किसी मायने में खरा नहीं उतरा। अतः मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि यह बजट गरीबों व अनुसूचित जातियों के लिए कम और अमीर लोगों के लिए ज्यादा फायदे वाला है। धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद(बिहार): उपसभापति जी, मैं इस बजट पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं बिहार से हूँ। मैं आपके सामने एक बात कहना चाह रहा हूँ कि जब बंगाल में ओलावृष्टि हुई, तो आपने उसे एक विशेष पैकेज दे दिया, लेकिन जब हमारे यहाँ कोसी में भीषण बाढ़ आई जिससे वहाँ कितने घर बरबाद हो गए, कितने लोगों की जमीन गई, कितने जानवर मारे गए, सारा जल-मग्न हो गया, लेकिन इस बजट में उसके लिए कोई प्रावधान नहीं हुआ। यह पता नहीं कि क्यों नहीं हुआ?

सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि जब हमारे बिहार का बँटवारा हो रहा था तो उस वक्त आप लोगों ने कहा, सरकार ने कहा कि हम पैकेज देंगे, लेकिन वह पैकेज भी हमें नहीं मिला और हमारे लोगों को बिना पैकेज के बिना आर्थिक सहायता के रखा गया। हमारे बिहार में ऐसा कोई उद्योग नहीं है, जिससे कि लोगों को इम्प्लायमेंट मिल सके। हमारे बिहार के लोग जब कोई नौकरी खोजने के लिए बाहर जाते हैं तो उनको भगा दिया जाता है, उनकी कॉपियाँ फाड़ दी

जाती हैं ...(व्यवधान)... यह तो आपको मालूम ही है कि यह कहाँ पर हुआ। सर, हमारे यहाँ रोजगार का कोई साधन नहीं है। हमें पैकेज नहीं मिल रहा है। हमारे यहाँ जो बाढ़ आई, उसके लिए कोसी का कोई काम नहीं हुआ है।

सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। इस बजट में इरिगेशन के बारे में कोई ऐसा कार्यक्रम नहीं किया गया है कि जो सुखाड़ आता है-- हमारे यहाँ जो सुखाड़ की स्थिति है यानी पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में अगर पानी नहीं बरसे, तो लोगों को अनाज पैदा करने में दिक्कत हो जाएगी। इसके पहले एक बजट में यह तय हुआ था कि हर गाँव में पानी जमा करने का एक गड्ढा बनाया जाएगा और उसमें बरसात का पानी इकट्ठा किया जाएगा। इसके पहले जो बजट पेश किया गया था, उसमें यह कहा गया था, लेकिन उस पर भी कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई। आज वहाँ पूरा सुखाड़ है। पानी नहीं बरस रहा है। सावन के इस महीने में अभी भी वहाँ धूल उड़ रही है और बारिश नहीं हो रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें इरिगेशन के सम्बन्ध में कौन सा इतना बड़ा कार्यक्रम किया गया, जिससे कि हर खेत को पानी और हर हाथ को काम मिले?

सर, बेरोजगारी की समस्या आज बहुत चरम सीमा पर है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप लोगों ने 1 करोड़ 20 लाख लोगों के लिए काम की योजना बनाई है।

(4एम/एच0एम0एस0 पर क्रमशः)

4M/HMS-USY/6.50

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (क्रमागत) : लेकिन यह जो आपने कार्यक्रम दिया है, आपने जो बजट पेश किया है, तो कहां से उन लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा, किस तरह से रोजगार मिलेगा, यह एक गंभीर समस्या है। हमारे लोगों को केवल बजट में कहने से रोजगार नहीं मिलेगा बल्कि उसके लिए provision बनाना पड़ेगा। आपके यहां फैक्ट्री नहीं है, आपके यहां कोई संसाधन नहीं हैं, लेकिन आप फैक्ट्री लगाने का कोई कार्यक्रम नहीं बना रहे हैं, तो लोगों को रोजगार कैसे मिलेगा?

सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा कि, "भूखी जनता चुप न रहेगी, धन और धरती बंटकर रहेगी।" अगर आप रोजगार मुहैया नहीं कराएंगे तो यह शासन ज्यादा दिन तक नहीं चलेगा। अभी आपको mandate मिला है, हो सकता है आप कहें कि हम जो कर रहे हैं, वह

सही है, लेकिन यह काम चलने वाला नहीं है। अगर आपके यहां कारखाने ज्यादा नहीं खुलेंगे, लोगों को रोजगार नहीं मिलेंगे तो जनता कैसे खुश रह पाएगी?

महोदय, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा। आज महंगाई बहुत बढ़ गयी है। हर चीज के दाम बढ़ गए हैं। अगर हर चीज के दाम बढ़ेंगे और लोगों को रोजगार नहीं मिलेगा, तो गरीब लोग कहां से खाएंगे-पिएंगे? इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जो महंगाई को रोक न पाए, वह सरकार चलने वाली नहीं है। अभी हमारे साथी श्री वेंकैया नायडु साहब ने कहा था कि हर चीज का, सब्जी का दाम बढ़ गया है, दाल का दाम बढ़ गया है, चीनी का दाम बढ़ गया है। तो आप दाम को बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं? यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है और इस मामले को देखने के लिए आप जरूरी उपाय करिए।

सर, हम एक अंतिम बात कहना चाहेंगे कि आपने संशोधन करके जो पंचायतें हमारे यहां बनायी हैं, उन पंचायतों में जो सरकारी कर्मचारी होते हैं, वे पंचायत के लोगों को आगे नहीं बढ़ने देते। वे उसके मुखिया को, सरपंच को आगे बढ़ने नहीं देते और पंचायतों को उनके कार्यक्रम नहीं करने देते। इसलिए मेरी राय में पंचायतों को direct पैसा जाना चाहिए। वह पैसा किसी माध्यम से नहीं जाना चाहिए। अगर वहां direct पैसा जाएगा तो गरीबों का, गांव के लोगों का काम ज्यादा होगा। आज सरपंच, व मुखिया पर सरकारी दबाव इतना रहता है कि गांव का विकास नहीं हो पाता है।

सर, अंत में बिहार के बारे में एक बात कहना चाहूंगा। वहां मांझी और मुसहर लोगों की हालत आप देखिए। वे 40 वर्ष पहले जैसे रहते थे, आज भी वैसे ही रहते हैं। उनको न तो जॉब कार्ड मिलता है, न उनका मकान बनता है और न उनके शरीर पर कपड़ा है। इसलिए उनके बारे में जरूर विचार करना चाहिए। अगर आप सभी लोगों का विकास करना चाहते हैं तो आपको मांझी और मुसहर जैसे लोगों का भी विकास करना पड़ेगा। मैं व्यक्तिगत तौर पर भी आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि आप उनके बारे में जरूर विचार कीजिए। उनके लिए इंदिरा आवास बनने चाहिए, उनको बीपीएल का दर्जा मिलना चाहिए, रोजगार मिलना चाहिए। सर, हमने जॉब कार्ड के लिए कम-से-कम 100 गांवों का वर्णन किया है। मांझी लोगों के बारे में बताया है। उनको जॉब कार्ड नहीं मिला है, रोजगार नहीं मिला है इस कारण से उनको खाने-पीने का कोई जरिया नहीं है। इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इन सारी बातों के

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लिए हमको पैकेज मिलना चाहिए, हमारे यहां जो कोसी नदी का बांध टूटता है, उसके बारे में बंदोबस्त किया जाना चाहिए और "नरेगा" में जो अनियमितता है, उसे दूर किया जाना चाहिए।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, आप ने बोलने के लिए समय दिया, आपको धन्यवाद देते हुए अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूँ।

(समाप्त)

(4 एन/डीएस पर आगे)

-USY/PK/6.55/4N

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (ANDHRA PRADESH): Sir, I rise to support the proposals of the hon. Finance Minister. I don't want to take much of your time and repeat what has already been said. But I would like to express certain concerns. These concerns, basically, relate to the aspirations of the weakest and the most disadvantaged, depressed sections of the country, namely, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Sir, for the last ten years, the demand from the Members of Parliament belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities is to strengthen the Special Component Plans and the Tribal Sub Plans. Sir, there is a background for setting up these two programmes. Late Shrimati Indiraji, in 70's, introduced the Special Component Plan and the Tribal sub-Plans because the results of the programmes were not reaching the real targetted poor. Sir, the demand is to set apart population equivalent percentage plan funds for the need-based programmes and also to set up an expert body to identify, supervise, execute and monitor the implementation of these programmes. Sir, we have been spending a lot of money but what is the net gain? So, inculcating skills among them and capacity building are the main concerns. That is why the Special Component Plan and the Tribal

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Sub-Plan had been envisaged. But, unfortunately, for the last five, six years, I have been watching that the allocations have been reduced gradually. I am happy that the allocations for the tribals and the minorities have been increased but, at the same time, it is unfortunate that in the allocations in respect of the Scheduled Castes development, there is only an increase of Rs.70 crores. It is very unfortunate. Out of the entire kitty, that is, Rs.10,00,000 crores, how much has been allocated for the empowerment of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities? It is .57 per cent of the entire proportion. I am not saying that you should give 25 per cent of that. But I would like to mention here that there are two parts. If you look at the Statement 21 of the Expenditure Budget, it is mentioned, "100 per cent allocations which are accruing totally to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes." And, there is another list in Statement 21 of the Expenditure Budget Volume-I which states, "there are certain items of expenditure, benefits of which will accrue to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes." Sir, I am not able to understand this; it is very, very confusing, because you cannot expect that 20 per cent of the allotment made for the IIT buildings should go to the SCP account. Even if we accept that, if you add up the entire Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes allocation, it comes to eight per cent. Our demand is that it should be according to the population equivalent plan percentage, that is, 25 per cent. If you are spending Rs.100 for a Plan Expenditure, 25 per cent of that should be spent on the need-based programmes. What are the need-based programmes? Sir, they are health, education, and irrigation of the lands held by the *dalit* community to improve the productivity, etc. For

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instance, I mentioned in the morning about the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan*. Let us look at the statistics. Suppose, under SSA, you have built 100 rooms in a block. If I ask the officers that out of 100 rooms, how many rooms you have built in the SC/ST locations, their answer will be " only two or three". Sir, it is my experience; that is why, I say that there should be a bottom-up approach. Where there is a need, you go first, but, unfortunately, there is a top-down approach and not the bottom-up approach. Even, in housing, there is a problem. Sir, massive rural housing is taken up under *Bharat Nirman*.

(Contd. by 4O/PB)

PB-SKC/4o/7.00-7.05

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (CONTD.): Sir, when you go to the unit cost, it is Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000, or, in some States, it is Rs. 50,000. So, another Rs. 15,000-20,000 have to be added for the house to be complete. So, this is a half-hearted attempt. Sir, I submit that if you allocate more money, there will be more money available for completing the unit. We are requesting for increasing the unit cost. The hon. Minister for Rural Development is here. The sum of the demand is that the items of work under NREGA should also include those works which create an asset for Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes like, for instance, levelling of land. On very few occasions, I find that the money was spent on levelling of land belonging to the Dalit community. Though it is intended, but, in practice, it is not happening. In your social audit, Sir, this may kindly be taken. Secondly, the material component in the house construction should also be added in the list of items under the

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NREGA. So, these two small steps will go a long way in helping these people. Sir, this is about the SEP and TSP.

Another point of vital importance is this. You said, in the entire banking, the credit would be around Rs. 3 lakh crores. Banking and other financial institutions put together have a notional percentage; one per cent of the total lending in this country should have gone for the development of the poorest SC/ST. Sir, if you take the percentage, it is actually less than 0.5 per cent. Sir, it is unfortunate. We are saying, unless you lend, unless you provide money, how can you expect a meaningful development? This is one area on which I would like the hon. Finance Minister to give a clear-cut guideline that banks should lend, at least, five per cent of their total lending to the needy SC/ST beneficiaries for taking up agricultural development, for improving their entrepreneur skills, for starting some business, etc. Gone are the days, Sir, when the requirements of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes were sewing machines, typewriters, etc.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: These were not the programmes. You are still continuing those schemes. We want new entrepreneurial skills to be developed. Sir, we want capacity building so that they can compete in the private sector. We want capacity building, using 15 per cent of the funds available under Defence for making them competitive. We don't want reservation in the Defence sector. But at least spend some money for improving their skill. Spend some money in making them compete with others while getting into the recruitment posts. When we ask for reservation in the atomic energy sector, it is said that it is not applicable

there because high skill and so-called merit is required there. But you can spend some money for improving the so-called merit, for improving their operational efficiency, for improving their skills so that they can compete. So, these are certain requirements and genuine aspirations which should have been reflected rightly in the Budget.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to point out one more thing. Nothing has been mentioned on how to implement the recommendations of the Cabinet Committee on Dalit Affairs. For the last four years, the recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Dalit Affairs are pending. Sir, no mention is made in the Budget as to what are the recommendations, how much money you are spending for operationalising those recommendations. Sir, these concerns are genuine. I am aware of the compulsions of the hon. Finance Minister. But within the constraints, we would once again like to request the hon. Finance Minister to provide some qualitative benefits so that they can compete along with others. In private sector, we are not saying, provide us reservation. You may have some problem. We are taking it separately. But make them enabled to compete. Make them empowered. Build some capacity by training, by imparting proper skills at a higher level like, for instance, out of 15 per cent SEP/TSP, allocate some money for training of the already trained IT students or IT employees to improve their skills. The money should have gone wherever that is possible. But, unfortunately, there is no allocation. Where will the money come from? I suggest that it should be looked into again. The allocation should be in consonance with the Manifesto of the

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Congress Party which promised allocation of population-equivalent percentage of Plan funds for their meaningful development.

Last but not the least, the lands have been given. But there is no money provided for providing irrigation facilities. They are becoming shallower and shallower. The productivity is going down. Whatever lands that were assigned and given possession to the weaker sections should be given agricultural inputs, including provision of irrigation facilities. Thank you.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.**

The House then adjourned at five minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 15th July, 2009.