

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 133

{ Speech of hon. Minister of Energy }

Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I have the opportunity to participate in this debate? This is a private Member's Bill and / I want to congratulate the mover of this Bill for having brought this Bill. A very important subject has been / raised that right to work should be made a fundamental right. Right to work is the birthright of everybody / - however poor or however rich, whether a man or a woman.

We have right to property as a fundamental right in / our country, but it is really sad that right to work which provides right to live should not be made (100) a fundamental right and should only be a Directive Principle. Why has this happened? Why could it not be made / a fundamental right till now?

It is known that once it becomes a fundamental right, it becomes **justiciable**. That means that / a person can go to the High Court or ^{the} Supreme Court and say that it is his fundamental right / and he must get a job. But as the Government was not sure that it would be able to provide / employment to every citizen, it did not do so. Because a fundamental right cannot be made only for a particular (200) age group; it is for all citizens and every unemployed citizen can come to the court and claim his right / for a job to be given to him. That was the real **apprehension, reluctance on the part of the Government,** / but this helps us to raise a larger economic issue of how we can create conditions in our country where / every **work-worthy** person would have a job. It is this subject which is being debated and this is / what should be debated as the **most important subject** in the Parliament and in the country today.

Unfortunately, I find very few (300) people taking interest in this. Today, if we just **introspect** and sit a little **coolly** and consider how much energy / is being wasted on trying to win debating points, trying to be **sensational,** trying to have **mere superficial** debate / in this country, we will find that we are doing that too much. But the real issue is how to provide employment / to every young man of this country because after all what is socialism. When we say that we have **pledged** / ourselves in the **Preamble** that we will establish a democratic, socialist, secular, sovereign Republic, what does it mean? (400)

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What is socialism ? It means all members of our society must have an equal opportunity to live a decent human life. / Such conditions must be created in our society where every single individual should have that right. That is the / simple meaning of the word 'socialism'—a society where a few do not have an opportunity and a right / to exploit and **extort**. Such a society should be created and this is what socialism means. And to **bring it about** / within the framework of a democratic structure, i.e. by the will of the people, is the meaning of the **concept** (500) which our **founding fathers** have **enshrined** in the Constitution when they said that we will have a democratic, socialist society. / Let us ask ourselves this question; Have we succeeded in doing it?

When I am participating in the debate / today, I am not going to speak from the point of view of winning or **scoring** the debating points between / people on this side or that side. I think it is the duty of all of us. These 800 people / in this House and in that House, who have been entrusted by 80 crores of people of this country (600) **with** the task of doing something that will change their destiny and change their life, it is **incumbent** on us / to sit down and to give the topmost priority to consider as to how we can achieve this. / And if this is given priority, Sir, I am sure a way can be found. Instead of wasting our energy on other / matters, let us concentrate on this matter. I am absolutely one with my friends when they say that this / should be given the top priority.

What do the young people of this country expect? Why are they **restive**? Why are they **frustrated**? (700) It is because they are not employed; they do not have productive employment, creative employment. That is why, / they feel frustrated. By and large, if this is the fact, Sir, then let us consider how this can be achieved. /

If you want to provide employment that employment must be productive. What is wealth? Wealth is goods and services. / It is not notes—the currency notes are actually the means of exchange. The wealth is goods. When do you say / that a man is poor? It is when he is not able to have even the necessities of life. (800)

Now, how can you make them available to him? Obviously, first they must be produced and then he must have / the purchasing power to buy them. How can he have the purchasing power unless he has **remunerative** work? (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 134

{ Speech of hon. Home Minister }

In view of the recommendations made by the Backward Classes Commission, the Government of India examined the matter in consultation with the / State Governments concerned. This is exactly what we have decided and what has been incorporated in the present Bill. / As a result, it has been decided that in the case of Rajasthan the area restriction should be removed / altogether, because in Rajasthan this population has been spread over a very large area. It was found that they were / entitled to this measure of protection and, therefore, this area restriction has not been kept up in respect of Rajasthan at all. (100) In the case of the other two States, namely, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the tribes residing in / tehsils where there is concentration of twenty per cent or more of tribal population should be specified as Scheduled Tribes. / This is point number two, so far as the salient recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission were concerned. /

Then, Sir, the third point was regarding the actual omissions or actual additions. There were a number of communities. In respect of / this, there are certain difficulties also which I shall be pointing out very soon. So far as the (200) Backward Classes Commission's recommendations in this respect were concerned, there were certain natural handicaps. When we received their recommendations regarding either / additions or omissions, naturally we had to depend upon the well-considered views of the State Governments. As I stated / to the House, there was a double reference. The first reference was at the preliminary stage and the second reference / was with regard to the tentative proposals that the Government had evolved. Therefore, in this case after the receipt of the / views of the State Governments, the Government of India finally re-cast what they had prepared in the light of these views. (300) Generally, what has been done is when there has been a recommendation which is supported both by the Backward Classes Commission / and the State Government, then we accept that particular community either for addition, if formerly it was not / there, or for omission, if omission has been jointly supported by both these people. If, for example, there is a / difference of opinion between them, then the Government considered the matter. I would point out that the State Governments have / a number of means of knowing the correct position so far as these are concerned. So far as the Backward (400)

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Classes Commission was concerned, there were certain handicaps, as pointed out to you, And, therefore, we have tried to follow / the views of the State Governments to the extent that it is necessary. In a few cases, naturally we had / to come to certain conclusions irrespective of the view either of the Backward Classes Commission or of the State Governments. / But such cases are not many. And then, after considering all these things, we have prepared the list and / you will find, in the Schedule attached to the Bill, the names of the various communities which ought to be recognized (500) so far as either the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes are concerned.

One more important question arises so far as / the number of these communities is concerned. That was a very difficult task. Now, what happened in 2011 / was naturally representations were made to the Government that we ought to **give up** encouraging or **perpetuating** caste system. / And, therefore, when the 2011 census had to be prepared, the question arose as to whether / Government should have the **enumeration** through their officers in respect of the members of the separate castes as well (600) or whether the enumeration should be confined to the groups or categories of Scheduled Castes as a whole and Scheduled / Tribes as a whole. For example, take a particular community, the *Bhil* community. In some of the former census, we / had these communities shown separately. But in the 2011 census, on account of the decision / that the Government took, there was this view that we should not go on perpetuating the various castes and tribes. / The desire was to **amalgamate** all of them under these two recognised heads, namely, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. (700) Therefore, a separate enumeration as 'Bhil' was not generally mentioned. I am mentioning only one community, not the others. What was done / was, when the man stated that he belonged to a particular tribe or a caste, then the **enumerator** found out / whether he was one of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes recognised by the President's Order. Then, his name / was shown in the category of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes without mentioning the special community. Afterwards, this Commission was appointed, / One of the results of the appointment of this Commission was naturally the **accentuation** of the emphasis on castes and tribes. (800)

Every community began to plead because after all certain rights were given. This political right of representation was also / given. And, therefore, every community thought it **advisable** to claim that either they were a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 135

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Now, Sir, I know that this Plan has just started, and it is perhaps too early for us to say / anything about it. But we have before us the experience of the Nine Five Year Plan. Sir, we had been / told that due importance would be attached, not merely in words but by practical steps, to the public sector. / I think in this connection it was the duty of the hon. Minister to have explained to this House as to / the steps that had been taken with a view to bringing about the kind of reorientation in favour of the (100) public sector which was promised in his numerous statements. But I find that that is completely missing from his speech, / except that a pious wish has been expressed with regard to this particular sector of our industry.

Previously, we had / under the purview of this Act about 42 industries. Now, the list has lengthened and a number of industries / will be added. I concede that when we are having a planned economy, when we are thinking in terms of / rapid development of industries, of rapid industrialisation, it is necessary for the Government to come into the picture more and more (200) and assume the necessary control and direction of industries. I am not opposed to it at all. On the contrary, / I would like them to vigorously act in this matter, but that is not enough. We must examine / as to whether the direction, regulation—or whatever you call it—is on the right lines; how it has worked. / We have got such general statements from the Ministers that they do not throw much light for us, laymen, on the matter. / I wish that when such measures are brought before the House, a kind of white paper—or whatever you (300) call it—is circulated among the Members. You do not expect that we, laymen, in this House would easily understand / these things until and unless we have some opportunities of studying the relevant data and the material on the subject. We have been denied those opportunities and I regret that we have been so denied. I know that in this respect / hon. Members who come from big business or the business world would be in a somewhat advantageous position because / they are familiar with the working of this Act in a way which would enable them to speak more effectively. (400)

Now, let us see how this has worked, I know that when this measure was first brought before the House / several years ago, there was much opposition to it, which came not from the public but from certain business interests. / They did not like any kind of Government interference in industry. They believed in a kind of laissez faire / in this matter and they thought that if the Government came into the picture, their interests would suffer. Naturally, they were / openly hostile to these kinds of powers for the Government, but that was not the view of the country. (500) I think that, by and large, public opinion was in favour of Government controlling industries, not the type of / control that we had at the time of the World War but a type of control which sets before itself certain objectives, / and as the objectives became clearer and clearer, as the Government pronounced itself more and more in favour of / industrialisation in the country, public opinion strongly veered round that particular point of view of the Government in this matter, / viz., that Government should have control over our industries. But it is the Government which has not lived up to its promises. (600) I think that in some respects they have let the people down and the expectations of the people have been belied. /

Now take, for instance, the period between 1991 when the measure was first adopted and now. / What do we see? We do not have compact figures for the entire period. We have got only certain figures / with regard to this matter. I would refer only to the Progress Reports on the Seventh Five Year Plan / There, you will see that the Government had not taken any very effective steps for the development of the public sector. (700) It is true that certain steel mills got going under the Seventh Five Year Plan and more will be started / under the Eighth Plan, but if you look at the picture, you will find that the public sector was / considered to be a secondary matter. It was the private sector which got all the attention and assistance of the Government. / I am not at all suggesting that Government was totally unmindful of the public sector. What I am saying is that / when the Government entered into the picture, it did not give to the public sector the attention that it deserved. (800)

I think that the hon. Minister owes us an explanation not only as to why such a thing happened but also / as to what steps he is going to take with a view to changing the pattern of such development. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 136 (Improving Public Administration)

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Now about the Secretaries. Generally, there is one for each Department and he wants Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and so on. / There is a whole army of Secretaries; I do not know how many we have got. It is very difficult / to **keep pace** with the growth of the Secretaries in our administration. When the British left, there were a few; / now there are too many. I am not at all suggesting that the number should not have increased. / Our Prime Minister is quite right in saying that the administrative work has increased many times, 50 to 100 times. (100) I do not know whether it is 50 to 100 times. But much of the work is not worth having because / if you assess the work properly, then you will find some of the useless things need not be there at all. / However, I **concede** that point that we would require perhaps more **ministerial** servants in the various Departments—more Under Secretaries, Assistants, stenographers, clerks and so on. I concede that point. But are we not having too many Secretaries? / I know what work they are doing. Is there any proper check on that? Most of the work that goes in (200) their name is actually done by people about whom we never discuss, whose merit we do not take into account, / who are much **maligned** in the public administration of our country, the men in the **lower rung of the ladder** / of this public administration. These Assistants and others do a lot of work and it is a very good thing. / We are a cultured people, we are a civilised people and we are a people with initiative. Now, / when they feel that they are the functionaries of the Government of a free country, naturally they would like to put (300) their very best, and in fact they are doing so. Unfortunately, their efficiency is not given either due recognition or / due incentive which is required in order to **tone up** the administration and improve the affairs in our public administration. /

We should reject this idea of administration by the Secretaries. We have got a Parliament; we have got a Ministry / which is supposed to be responsible to the Parliament. Howsoever irresponsibly at times it may behave, constitutionally it is / supposed to be responsible to Parliament. And then we have got a big administrative set-up of the Government of India. (400)

There are people of efficiency, people who are not recognised, who **nevertheless** discharge their duties efficiently. We want to improve the / pace of the administration; we want to democratise our administration. That is the **crux** of the problem. You cannot / have initiative and efficiency until you have our administration democratised. There is **bureaucracy**; there is **soullessness** at every point in / our administration. I do not know how many of you have talked to the Secretaries of the various Departments. / I have talked to some of the Secretaries but sometime I feel as if I were talking to the useless persons. (500) One does not see any reaction on their face. I feel that it is a machine that I am / talking to. **It depresses me** and I am sure many other people also feel depressed. So, all these Secretaries of / these Departments have to be democratised and they should be responsive to criticism and to the wishes of the public. / It all depends on how you talk to the public, how you listen to them, what you gather from what / the people say. Not that always they say the right things, but sometimes they say very good things (600) and such things should be properly gathered. This is not done. Therefore, what is of vital importance for us for improving the / public administration in our country is to democratise the administration and **do away with the bureaucratic cold-bloodedness** that exists / in our public administration today. That is of vital importance. I stress it again and again because the crux of / the problem lies there. Initiative has to be developed at the lower level by entrusting more responsibilities to the lower / officials and by giving recognition to their services and also making it easy for them to work. (700) Their conditions of service have to be improved. Their **emoluments** must be made adequate to make their life worth living. All these things / are important for improving our public administration.

As far as the public undertakings are concerned, I am totally opposed to the bureaucrats / or representatives of the big money being placed in positions of authority in public administration. There are people, / —no matter to which politics they belong—who are efficient, who are **devoted** and who can discharge their functions very ably / in all **walks of life**. You can find people from among the common **folk** who could be placed in those positions. (800) Sir, life insurance has been nationalised. What do we find there? It is a public undertaking of great importance / to the country. There, you have got the same people; the old furniture is placed with some sort of rearrangement.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 137

Speech of hon. Minister for Textiles

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Before putting forward a measure of this nature before Parliament, we had given considerable thought to certain aspects of cloth / prices as they exist today, and it is only because we felt that this is the only means now open to us which can, to some extent, act as a deterrent against high prices and, where it fails to do so, / would be able to absorb the margins of profit that go to the trade and industry that we sought / to bring in this measure for the approval of Parliament. Sir, the factual position which has been described in the (100) note might be summarised thus. The existing capacity of the mills is being utilized to the maximum possible extent. In / fact, Sir, in July, the production of textiles has been an all-time record of 500 million metres. / Hon. Members might say, "Well, if that is possible, why do you fear that there is going to be / scarcity of cloth?" In fact, I think, it is the possible scarcity and the high prices that have induced these / people to stretch a point and make the mills produce a little more, though certain factors helping to increase production (200) have been accidental, namely, in July, the working days have been the largest in number.

The other fact is, Sir, / that we are not in a position within any measurable distance of time to increase the capacity of the / mills both in regard to its loomage that is, weaving, and in regard to its spindlage, that is, spinning, because / the loomage in the mills is frozen. We are not adding to the looms except for the recent decision / that we have taken that we should add to the mills by way of automatic looms intended specifically for promotion of (300) export of cloth and, so far as spindlage is concerned, that has been restricted to an increase over a period / of 1-1/2 years to about 2 million spindles, the licence for bulk of which has already been / granted and this decision had been taken on the basis of an estimate of consumption of 18 metres per capita during the Eighth Five Year Plan and towards the end of it. When that decision was taken, Sir, Government were not / unconscious of the fact that that target would not be a correct one and in an expansionist economy, that target (400)

is likely to be exceeded but that target figure was tentatively accepted mainly because it happened to coincide with the / recommendation of a committee which, *inter alia*, dealt with the requirements of the people in regard to cloth, that is, / the Ramamoorthy Committee, and therefore, Sir, if the **guilt** is laid at the doors of Government, I will have to / plead guilty, namely, that we were not in a position to envisage the rapid expansion of consumption. The figures that / I have furnished to hon. Members will indicate that while the consumption figures *per capita* last year, that is (500) for 1995, would be below 16 metres, there has been a rise during the first half. / It is quite likely that unless the price factor, the scarcity factor and other factors operate to diminish the total consumption, / the rate of consumption might increase. Of course, there is undoubtedly a limiting factor because cloth has to come either / by **inhibiting** exports or by an increase in production or by an increase in the handloom sector; and in these / three cases, we have almost reached the maximum point where we can expect additions to the total cloth consumption, (600) So, it is possible that cloth consumption might go up to 17 metres and is not likely to go beyond that / merely because of the fact that cloth will not be there. Probably, if the cloth is available and if we / allow people to consume the cloth freely, well, the consumption *per capita* might exceed 17 metres by the end of / the year. But it is certainly **indicative** of the fact that in the first year of the Plan, we have / only got a margin of one metre *per capita*. We have also got to realise that the amount of money (700) that is being pumped into the country and, to some extent, into the hands of the lower income groups will / have one effect, namely, certain commodities like cloth and sugar and commodities of that sort which have been considered to be / not necessities in the past and have, therefore, elastic features in consumption, would become more or less articles of / necessity and be transferred from the semi-luxury state. In such a case, 20 or 21 metres seems to be / well within our possibility of achievement as a target. There is undoubtedly, Sir, a background behind this restrictive attitude (800) in regard to addition of capacity and that is, to some extent, sentimental and, to some extent, economic and deliberate. We / want to help the decentralized sector in this industry; the handloom sector has to obtain protection against the weaving mills. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 138

Speech of hon. Home Minister

Then, Sir, some attempt has been made to introduce certain elements in the present Constitution (Amendment) Bill, but naturally other / details and further **elucidations** are out of the purview of the present Bill, and therefore a new Bill / will have to be brought forward to the extent that it is necessary for incorporating these provisions. In the meanwhile, / I would assure the House that Government have made arrangements and will take steps for having interim advisory bodies, etc., so far / as all these areas are concerned, and then immediately in the next session or, if that were not possible, (100) in the session after the next, an attempt would be made to place before this House a Bill or Bills for broadly / carrying out the scheme, especially the administrative scheme, that I have explained to this House. There will of course be, / in addition to these bodies, so far as Delhi is concerned, a Delhi Development Authority. All these are necessary because / Delhi is the capital and all attempts have to be made to make Delhi as model a city as possible. /

Now, the next item with which this Bill deals is what is known as the safeguards for linguistic minorities. (200) Now, this would apply to all the States. So far as this is concerned, there are two or three aspects to / this question. One is that we are dealing only with linguistic minorities, not any other minorities at all, and / we are generally following the line that has been laid down by the States Reorganisation Commission. The States Reorganisation Commission rightly / pointed out that even after the reorganisation of States, there would remain a large population speaking languages other than the / territorial language of the particular State. Now, so far as these people are concerned, certain safeguards were considered essential. (300) In the first place, we have to note that all the inhabitants in any part of India, State or Union Territory / are the citizens of India. They have a common citizenship and the rights of common citizenship will naturally be available / in all respects so far as the linguistic minorities in different parts are concerned.

But it is essential that / as far as possible, the interests of the linguistic minorities should be safeguarded to the extent that it is necessary. / The States Reorganisation Commission have pointed out in this respect that after all, these linguistic minorities are the citizens of India. (400)

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a ban on transporting agricultural produce from one part to another part of the country / During the last session, the hon. Minister had announced that this ban will be lifted, but it has not been done / till now. The farmers are unable to take their produce to any part of the country. As a result of / total neglect towards agriculture, the allocation given to this field has decreased from 4 per cent to 3 per cent / in the annual plan outlay. The allocation for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is going down in every (100) annual plan in comparison to the annual plan of 1992-93. Similarly, only 6 per cent / amount has been provided for loans and electricity. There has been no considerable increase in it in the last year. / This step of the Government is totally unjustified towards the farmers and agriculture. The continuous decrease in the ground water / level is also a matter of grave concern. Ever since the Congress Party has come to power, there has been / 10 per cent difference between the estimated capacity and actual utilisation of irrigation potential. If this gap had been filled, (200) it would have increased the food grain production. Not only our country would have become self-reliant in food grains, / but it would have been also able to export them. Several big projects are lying pending and near about 70 per cent / of land is deprived of irrigation. Same is the condition of forest areas also. Wherever there are Congress Governments, / they have grossly violated the interests of the farmers. The network of multinational companies is spreading in our country which will / create problems for the farmers. Their interests are being mortgaged in the hands of foreign powers. Due to this reason, (300) the country is becoming dependent on others and it can jeopardise our political and social freedom.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, / Sir, it is bad luck that our farmers are not organised today. But the day they become organised, they can revolt. / Since the time this Congress Government has been formed, it is not even ready to accept rightful demands. / Unless such activities as sabotage, economic blockade and gherao are adopted, the Government is not able to understand the problem. / So, I would like the Government not to create so much problem for the farmers that they are compelled to revolt. (400)

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my party and myself totally oppose the Dunkel proposals. It is very regretful that these proposals / have caused infighting among the Cabinet members. One of your Ministers says that export of our country will increase with the / acceptance of Dunkel proposals and another Minister says that such acceptance will destroy our country. So, there is / difference of opinion in the Cabinet also. One Minister is opposing while another Minister is supporting the Dunkel Proposals. When there is / so much difference of opinion in the Cabinet itself, what right they have to remain in Government? (500) One of the two Ministers should go; the Minister who is opposing his Government's policy should resign. If the Government is ready / to accept the Dunkel proposals, the Agriculture Minister should resign, and if the Government is not accepting the proposals, / the Commerce Minister should resign, as he was praising the proposals. When the farmers resort to agitation for their demands, / the entire Government will have to resign.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is severely affected by drought at present. / Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra and eastern part of Uttar Pradesh are affected by drought, but our Central Government decides everything in a haphazard manner. (600) The Prime Minister surveys a State for once and gives Rs. 10 crores, Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 50 crores. / Then he goes to another State. Such a haphazard manner cannot solve the problem. There should be a permanent solution. / Even after 65 years of Independence, the Government has not been able to control drought. Maximum rain water is wasted / and there is no storage facility. Sir, Andhra Pradesh is also severely affected by drought and the situation has become / so worse that the farmers are forced to kill their own children. Neither there is fodder nor water for their cattle. (700)

Sir, it is just opposite in Karnataka. It is affected by floods which have caused a lot of damage. / On the one hand, there is devastation due to heavy rains; on the other hand, there is suffering due to drought. / I have read the draft of the agriculture policy. I do not think that the hon. Minister of Agriculture has / paid any attention towards this problem. I would like to submit that this agriculture policy is unfavourable to the farmers. / No facilities are being provided to them and agricultural inputs are being made costlier. Injustice is being done to them. (800)

Eighty per cent. of the population of this country are cultivators and the Government should think about their welfare. / If this is not done, then 80 per cent population will resort to agitation, as I have said earlier also. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 140

Debate on
Ministry of Agriculture

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for having given/ me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sir, this Government / is going to complete its two years term on 19th June, 1993. In the last/ two years, I have been closely watching how this Government is taking keen interest to help this unorganised sector. This is the/ major rural sector comprising about 70 per cent of the population, but in all the three Budgets which they have (100) presented before this House, I am sorry to say, the Government has not shown any keen interest. In the first Budget, / we demanded the Government to agree to constitute a Committee to go into pricing policy of fertilizers. Ultimately, / a portion of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which suited the Government, was accepted and the fertilizer decontrol was done. /

Now, I would like to say how this Government has taken a callous attitude towards the farming community. / In the last Budget, various concessions were given only to the affluent sections of the society and not to the farming community (200) except a reduction of the excise duty on the tractors which are above 1800 cc and the tractors / which are below 1800 cc have not been touched. Of course, the hon. Finance Minister, while replying / to the general discussion on the Budget, had said that the Prime Minister is considering to give certain concessions / as far as the fertilizer prices are concerned. All of a sudden, what made the Government to reconsider the question of / reducing the prices of fertilizers to give some concessions ? It is because all these friends who have got various (300) political ideologies have shown their bit of mind and said that this time they are going to move a cut motion/ to see that the Government agrees to reduce the fertilizer prices. So, now, at this stage, I would like / to make an appeal to all sections of the House, irrespective of the political parties, and to such of those Members / who are really interested in uplifting the farming community to forget the party alliance. At the time of voting, / everyone of the ruling party Members is also equally interested to see that his farming community is given its proper due share. (400)

The Central Government claims to have removed all shackles through the new economic policy, market economy, liberalisation, de-licensing, amendment to the / MRTP Act, etc. But they have done it only for the industrial sector. Some of those people / have been really enjoying the benefit for the last seven Five Year Plans, for the last 47 years after Independence. / But all these structural reforms or the economic reforms or the export policy changes or whatever they may be, / they are only having an eye towards those people, and these changes have been made for those people. (500) I would like to ask this Government what are the types of structural reforms they have thought over for the farming community. / You are amending the MRTP Act. The industrialists can make any amount of investment, the industrialists can make / any amount of profit. So, there is no restriction for these people. Unfortunately, for the people who come from the / rural areas or the people who are actually the tillers of the soil, they have got all restrictions. / They cannot hold land more than ten acres or whatever it may be. Land Reforms Act has been implemented (600) and in some States there may be a little bit of lapses. I do not want to enter into that controversy at this stage. There is no ceiling on income so far as these oppressed sections are concerned. / There is no ceiling on income as well as no ceiling on urban land or the urban property. But you have enforced/ ceiling on agricultural property because they are not the organised people.

About lending also, I would like to make a mention. / Farmers have to go from pillar to post. Various types of financial institutions have been created for financing the farmers. (700) But to what extent are we going to give the financial assistance? We have included the agricultural sector as a / priority sector. Only 15 per cent of the bank deposit is going towards the farming community. The agricultural sector contributes / about 32 per cent of the GDP whereas the loan or the bank advance is only / 15 per cent for this so-called priority sector. So far as industrial sector is concerned, it comprises only 18 per cent / of the population and their contribution in terms of GDP is hardly 26 per cent. (800) They get about 40 per cent of the bank loan. Again, even to get this 15 per cent loan, / the farmer has to go to land development bank, central cooperative bank, rural cooperative bank, commercial bank and so on.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text, written in a cursive style on lined paper.

A rarely available passage for the aspirants of Indian Foreign Service (B)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 141

(Unity of the country)

Sir, when I take part in the discussion, first of all I wish to point out that the Sarkaria Commission / was not given a free hand to examine the developments which had taken place in the last 40 years in India. / The main important point is the terms of reference. By the terms of reference, certain parameters had been fixed. / Within those parameters, the Sarkaria Commission has submitted its report. There are more than 200 recommendations. Due to lack of / time, it is not possible to deal largely with all these recommendations. But, at the same time, the Commission (100) has tried to find out the past history of India. The Commission has said that too much centralisation was objected to / from the Mauryan period to the Mughal period. The Commission has stated the fact. Similarly, under the British rule also, / centralisation was actually objected to by the people by the States.

The founding fathers of our Constitution were painfully conscious / that the feeling of Indian nationhood was still in the making and required to be carefully nurtured. They, therefore, built / a constitutional structure with a powerful Central Government envisaging the emergence of an indivisible and integrated India. The concept of (200) a strong Centre which is necessary to meet India's immediate needs was virtually, in the later period, converted into the / concept of a unitary State with priority for the Centre in all cases. This was the basis of the process / of excessive centralism, with all powers in the hands of the Centre. India is developing on the path of capitalism, / especially monopoly capitalism. When monopoly capitalism develops in a country, it is then natural that the general argument will be / for centralisation of the powers in the hands of the Central Government because they want to protect the interests of the (300) monopoly capitalists and also help the capitalists. So, that is the natural argument. This argument has been there / for the last so many years. But over-centralisation has taken place and we know that it has taken place. / What is the result now? Many are talking about the unity of the country, about the integrity of the country. / But what has happened in the States? Communal forces have grown, divisive forces have grown, and the integrity of the country / has been jeopardised. When the powers were vested in the hands of the Centre, why has the Centre failed? (400)

[Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text, covering the left side of the page.]

The Khalistan movement is there and there are other movements also, **secessionist** movements. Now, some people are demanding a Jharkhand State, / and then there is a demand for an Uttarakhand State. These are all developing. There was a similar demand / in Darjeeling. But, fortunately, that has been solved now. But other **fissiparous tendencies** are growing and the Centre has not been / able to control them. The Centre has not been able to prevent them. But they think that only for the / Centre, and not for the States, that the unity of the people has to be maintained. (500) The question of Centre-State relations in India is not a question concerned only with the implementation of federal principles or with preventing / the violation of those principles or suggesting a few Constitutional amendments, but it is concerned with the question of maintaining Indian unity, maintaining and **consolidating** the sense of Indianness or Indian oneness among all the **constituents** of the Indian Union / with the Centre as the expression of that unity. But for maintaining that unity, which has enabled us to compel / the British to **quit**, the **constituent units** have not received any reward in the integration of the units (600) because the constituent units consisted of big territories, each with its own language and heritage, and in these huge linguistic national units, / their linguistic identity and sense of unity grew side by side with the identity of the Union. So, a deep / thought has to be **bestowed** on how to maintain the unity with the support of the people, with the support / of the States. But that is not the concern of the Central Government. The Sarkaria Commission has been able to / make certain recommendations within certain parameters. Even within those parameters, two recommendations are there. One is that it is neither **advisable** (700) nor necessary to make any drastic change in the basic character of the Constitution. The second is that the electoral system can be continued like this. / In the second recommendation, the Commission says that it certainly calls for improvement and reform in a number of aspects. / The actual working of the Constitution leaves much to be desired. It has said about the changes proposed in the / financial aspects of the Indian Union and the States. The arrangements are **far from** being satisfactory. It has said about / the role of the Governors, reservation of State Bills for consideration of the President, use of extraordinary powers, etc., etc. (800) The Commission has said about the Inter-Governmental Council with a comprehensive size. It has said about a National Economic Development / Council having a **nexus** with the Planning Commission, limitation of the Centrally-sponsored schemes, State finance and planning, etc. etc.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page, written in a cursive style on a set of horizontal lines.

Can anybody find such a beautiful passage in any other magazine? Please bring to me.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 142 (about newspapers)

There is, however, one recommendation of the Press Commission which seems to have been omitted when making the provisions of / this Bill. The Commission had said that on the Council; representation must be given to the **periodical press** also, i.e., / the **weeklies** and others. I find that omission here. I feel that in our newspaper world, these periodicals, / these monthlies, **fortnightlies** and weeklies do play an important part, especially in **moulding public opinion** and in the **dissemination** of knowledge, / Therefore, I think that the recommendation of the Press Commission that some representation ought to be given to the periodical (100) press also, must be considered in this connection. It seems to have been **omitted** here. That is what I have / to say at this stage regarding the **composition** of the Council.

Next, I come to clause 14 of this Bill / which is a very **vital** clause. I was happy to listen to the hon. Minister when he stated that / it is the accepted **canon** of **journalistic** conduct not to disclose the source of information. If you go through the / history of **journalism** in India, you will find that our top men in the newspaper world had refused to **divulge** (200) the source of information and they had to suffer for it and because of such suffering, the **prestige** and **self-respect** / of the profession have been very much **heightened**. No **journalist worth his salt** would disclose the source of his information, / not because he is so anxious to keep his own self-respect but because he knows that it is vital / for the profession as a whole. If you want an independent Press, if you want your newspapers to play their part / in the field of public opinion, if you ask them to disclose the source of their information, (300) then the very **spring** of independent journalism would be touched and that is not a desirable thing. The hon. Minister has himself / explained that point and therefore I need not labour that point any more. I however find that clause 14 **expressly** / lays down that the Council has the power of **requiring discovery** and production of documents. If you call upon a / **correspondent** or the owner of a paper or a **publisher**, in many cases it would be impossible to **withhold** the / source of information. You cannot withhold the source of information and, at the same time, discover and produce the documents. (400)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text, written in a cursive style on lined paper.

We have given notice of an amendment. Even if you want to continue the existing provision, you could provide for / an exception saying that the journalists must not be required to disclose the source of information. It is not a / question of just the newspaper people and the public being **apprehensive** over these things. Here is a provision which has / been expressly put there. Of course, you can say that eminent journalists will be there on the Council and that / we can expect the leaders of the newspaper world who can be expected to be elected to this Council (500) to pay proper heed to the professional standards but it will be better if you were to put an express provision / in the Bill itself. Now, the newspapers reflect political opinion of the country and there are bound to be sharp / differences and, however much we may try, it may not be always possible to keep within the limits. By this provision, / you are giving them a handle to force an **unwitting** journalist or somebody holding a different view to disclose / the source of information that is not called for.

Coming to the other general powers of the Press Council, (600) it is true, as mentioned by the hon. Minister himself, that the powers granted to this body are far more and / go far beyond the powers granted to the British Press Council in the particular statute. I quite follow that. / The **penal provisions** therein have not been called to use. As the Minister himself made it clear, it is just a sanction, / The body to be created will enable the profession and the industry to regulate themselves. It is some sort of / a voluntary thing which is there. A sanction will have its own way but then there is this power (700) to summon witnesses and, as I have already mentioned, requiring them to produce documents and other things. When you give / all these powers, at least some of us feel that in the present set-up in our country, these powers / are a little excessive. They are not called for in the present conditions existing in our newspaper world. Some of / these powers have not been **found** necessary to be given to the British Press Council **even** and, yet, we are / **investing** our Press Council with such powers. It will be a rather hasty experiment to make, in **entrusting** our Press Council with these things. (800)

The question of **censure** is there. After all, we want our journalists and our newspapermen to / voluntarily enforce a conduct and try to improve their standards of journalism which will always be in their own interest.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the printed text, written in a cursive style on a lined background.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 143 (authors vs. publisher)

Sir, I was referring to the clause which relates to the translation of works. As I said, the main purpose / which **motivated** the Joint Committee to make this provision was that opportunities should be given to people to take advantage / of the works written in various languages. It is only through translations that culture can be disseminated in the country. / Ours is not a **uni-lingual** country; it is a **multi-lingual** country. And if we put restriction in the way of / translating works, we put restriction in the way of the advancement of knowledge itself. It is therefore necessary (100) to make the process of translating works from one language to another an easy one. It was with that purpose / that this provision was made. I must say that I do see the force of the arguments which have been / advanced against this provision. It does create some hardship for the authors, because they are **deprived, to some extent, / of their rights** after a period of ten years. I am, however, willing to accept the amendment which has been proposed / by my friend, Mr. Sinha, with slight alterations. There is some advantage in it. The amendment which has been moved (200) by my friend is on the lines of the **Universal Copyright Convention** to which India is a **signatory**. Some Members / have suggested that the right of translation should be co-extensive with the copyright for original work, that is, for a / period of fifty years. If we accept that suggestion, it would mean that it would not be possible for us / to translate the works of foreign authors for a period of fifty years, because they will enjoy the same **privileges** / as our own authors enjoy in this country. Now, we know that Indian languages and Indian literature have (300) to go a long way to enrich themselves. We have to produce not only original works in our own languages, but we / have to translate many works from foreign languages. If we make this right of translation co-extensive with copyright, it may mean / that we shall not be able to translate the works of foreign authors, and I am quite sure / that the House would not like to put that barrier in the path of intellectual advancement. Therefore the best alternative, / under the circumstances, is to accept the amendment which has been very ably and very thoughtfully moved by my hon. friend. (400)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, written on a separate set of lines to the left of the main text. The notes appear to be a shorthand transcription of the spoken words, using various symbols and abbreviations.

I have every sympathy with the authors who, in this country, live under very difficult circumstances, but we have also / to consider the interests of posterity, the future generations. We must consider the interests of our society in general. / If we think of the authors only and make this right co-extensive with the term of the copyright, what would be / the result? Probably, the authors may gain but it will be **detrimental** to the general interests of the society. I am therefore / satisfied with the amendment which has been moved by my friend. It meets the interests of the authors; (500) it also meets the interests of the general public. We have to **reconcile** the **conflicting** interests.

Now, Prof. Rao / raised an interesting point with regard to the **reassignment** of the copyright of a publication. It is quite true that / in this country authors, under very difficult circumstances sometimes, part with their works for practically nothing. They are being **exploited** / by the publishers. There is no denying that fact, and it was with this in view that in the original Bill, / the Government put forward a proposal that after a period of seven years, the author could get back the copyright. (600) This question was very thoroughly examined in the Joint Committee, and there were representatives in it of the various interests, / including the authors themselves.

The Committee felt that if this provision for the re-assignment of the copyright to the author / was accepted, it would work against the interests of the authors themselves. The argument was that the publisher in the / earlier stages makes an investment. He spends some money on advertisement. When a book is published, in order to capture / the market, the publisher has to spend some money for two or three years, and just when it becomes popular (700) and brings him a good return, the author will come to him and say, "Look here, will you please return / this book to me?" If the publisher is so uncertain about the future of the book, if the publisher is / always uncertain about his publication and if he knows that after a period of seven years he is not going / to get any return on the investment he has made, do you think that any publisher would ever take any / interest in pushing that book in the market ? After all, business is business and publishing is a business (800) and we should not ignore this hard reality. As I said, I have my full sympathies with the authors but, at the / same time, we must remember that without the help of the publishers, the interests of authors will not be promoted. (840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page, written on a set of horizontal lines.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 144

Speech of
hon. Transport Minister

Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and generally welcomed the measure / before the House. This amending measure of the Motor Vehicles Act, as hon. Members may perhaps recollect, has had a very / chequered career and, in fact, this amending process started 10 years back. It went to the Select Committee stage and / a certain finality was given to it at that time. Then, it could not be pushed through. Later, events made / it necessary for further changes to be made in the amending measure and I should think that this amending Bill (100) has come at a very opportune moment before the House when the whole emphasis in the context of our planning / is on the development of more and more transport capacity. I should like hon. Members to view this question in / that aspect, and if they do so, they will find that this Bill provides for, and enables, various steps / to be taken so that transport capacity can be fully developed.

There was some mention about nationalisation and I thought the / opposition to it, if any, was very mild and had become thoroughly modified in the course of these few months. (200) It has come to stay and that has been very well realised by hon. Members who were not perhaps so happy / as others regarding this question of nationalisation. So, let us consider what is the task that is to be done / by the various transport systems in the country—rail, road and so on.

There is a huge task to / be performed by all these. They have to go hand in hand and perform this huge task. It is well known / that the rail transport capacity that will be generated in the course of the next few years (300) will not be able to move all the traffic. We have said so on several occasions. The allotment of resources / for the purpose of railway planning and development falls very much short of the requirements. Even as per the original targets, the Railways / have to expand their capacity by about 42 or 43 million tonnes and the additional traffic that will / be generated was calculated as 60 and odd million tonnes. So, even as per the original targets, there was a / gap of 17 to 18 million tonnes. Now, certain targets have undergone an upward revision for instance, for cement production. (400)

It is roughly calculated that the cost of the Railway Plan will have to go up by another Rs. 100 crores / to move these additional 50 million tonnes. So, when there is so much to move and when there / is so much traffic offering, there is no question of conflict between rail and road transport. Rail and road transport / have to join hands and lift the traffic that will be generated. Viewed from this angle, it will be found / that there is no conflict.

One Hon. Member referred to this matter and said that the Railways should not adopt (500) a dog in the manger policy. I have no difficulty in agreeing with him. The Railways do not propose to / follow a dog in the manger policy. Perhaps, the hon. Member does not know that we have taken various steps / towards relaxation of restrictions on inter-regional transport which he was mentioning. He spoke from experience and said that he / was a member of one Regional Transport Authority. Even as far back as 1994, this subject / was considered and State Governments were advised to relax the restrictions that they were having both on **private carriers** and **public carriers.** (600) They were asked to give the utmost freedom to private carriers. Perhaps, the position is not very well / realised that in our country the majority of the trucks are only public carriers. In other **advanced industrialised** countries, the / majority are private carriers. It has been **brought out in the report of the Study Group**, which went into this question, / that perhaps 70 to 80 per cent of the total number of trucks are in private hands. / Here also, in our country the various industrial establishments, new and old, can really go in for owning and operating more and more private carriers. (700) They can own a large **fleet** and can have workshop facilities also and they need not / complain against the Railways for not carrying things. So, the indication is that private industries and new plants and new / units that are going to be set up can very well go in for owning a large fleet of private / carriers which can carry goods over small distances. Of course, over very long distances, it may not be possible / to operate private carriers, though even there it will be possible to operate over long distances to some extent. (800)

So, there is no question of any conflict, as I said, between rail transport and road transport. Coming to road transport, / let us see whether the nationalisation policy of the State Governments comes in the way of expansion of private road transport. (840 words)

Handwritten notes in Urdu script, appearing to be a transcription of the typed text on the right. The notes are written on lined paper and include some numbers and symbols, possibly indicating word counts or specific points.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 145

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering the left side of the page. The notes are dense and appear to be a transcription of the spoken text on the right.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to support this Bill not because this is really a measure which will improve the conditions / under which these institutions have come into existence in our country but because I feel even a small thing like this / which will **regulate** the running of these homes might do some temporary good. If we examine the reasons why / these homes have come into existence, we will find that it is really a **reflection** on the social backwardness, because / women are not educated, because women do not have the right to own property. Naturally, they are deserted, neglected, (100) and are **driven** to the necessity of going into these homes run by the men in our society. These people run / these homes under the **guise** of public charity, but these homes have really become centres of **immoral traffic** in our / cities. These institutions are not only not run by the State as they should be, but they are run by / religious and semi-religious bodies, by the so-called public-spirited men in our country, and as has been pointed out / just now, it is stated in the report of the Committee appointed by the **Ministry of Welfare** that they are (200) even being financed by State funds ^{and} grants made by the Ministry of Welfare are used by such institutions for / **unethical** purposes. I do not know how we will be able to control them by passing a Bill like this, / which will give them some kind of supervision by the State.

Sir, I was personally connected with an institution in / Uttar Pradesh and it was an institution which was run under the name of *Mahila Ashram*, and the entire Committee / in control of that *Mahila Ashram* **consisted** of some of the lawyers and doctors of the capital of Uttar Pradesh. (300) The means by which they secured the finance to run this institution will prove on what basis this institution is running. / For every month that an inmate spends in that home, the **prospective** husband will have to pay / at the rate of so many rupees per month. The only idea of this institution is to get the inmates married, and / once they are married, they do not keep a record of the marriage. They do not keep any record of / what happens to the inmates after marriage. Everybody knows that they are taken to other provinces by the operating gangs. (400)

Sir, one of the institutions quoted in that report is worth mentioning here. The Committee went to Gaya in Bihar / and they found that these women were practically locked up as if they were prisoners in that house, and then / they were asked as to how many of them would like to stay there. Twelve out of the sixteen ran / out of the house. This is typical not of a few but of the majority of the houses run / under the name of women's homes or under the grand name of Mahila Ashrams. Only the other day, (500) in The Times of India, we read about a children's home run in Delhi with the financial aid of the Ministry of Welfare. / Just to give a grant to an institution because it bears the name of women and children, even when it / is supervised by a visiting committee or visiting men, does not really mean that we are solving the problem. / Money can be wasted. In fact, in our country, lakhs and lakhs of rupees are wasted by giving indiscriminate / grants to institutions which are either run by semi-religious or semi-social welfare bodies, and I think the Government, (600) if not private Members, should bring forward a Bill which would be for the abolition or total suppression of these homes. / The only way to suppress the mishandling of this problem is to suppress the homes. Another thing I want / to point out is that these homes flourish in a large way in those areas where social customs have militated / against women. We don't find these homes flourishing with such popularity or in such large numbers in other parts of India, / say, in Maharashtra or Madhya Pradesh or in the South, where women have a good deal of freedom and educational opportunities, (700) where social customs don't militate against the status of women. Therefore, we should pay increasing attention not only to / giving grants or to bringing out Bills like this but also to giving adequate, perhaps better, opportunities for women to have education. / It is not the woman, who can stand on her own legs, goes there or who is being / exploited by these people. It is the weaker women, the women who are ignorant and who don't know what is right / or wrong, that are being given false promises and taken to these homes and then handled like goods by the exploiter. (800)

Therefore, I support this motion because there is nothing else to do, and I hope that the rule making / powers will be exercised in such a way that the control of the Government on these institutions might be tightened.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text, written in a cursive style on a set of horizontal lines.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 146

Now, Sir, when the Tenth Five Year Plan was under discussion, I happened to be a member of the Committee of / Parliament which was dealing with resources, and I happened to belong to that **school** which thought that the target of the / Seventh Five Year Plan was much too big for our resources, internal as well as external, and the alternative / that I, **along with** others who agreed with me, suggested was that we should fix a series of priorities and / cut down those which were non-essential and that, in the alternative, we should extend the period of the Plan (100) to six years or seven years. Parliament, after debating the whole issue, **unanimously** agreed in both the Houses that the / targets of the Tenth Five Year Plan, as laid down by the Planning Commission, should be **carried out**. When Parliament / came to that decision, it had before it the minute of dissent written by Prof. Rao as well as by / one of the Members of the Planning Commission. Both these gentlemen had also warned that the target of the Plan / was much too big for the resources of this country. However, Parliament took that decision, and after that decision, (200) we had a general election in the country. The Tenth Five Year Plan was before the country, and the country, / by an **overwhelming** majority, approved the Plan and **returned** this Party in greater numbers in the Lok Sabha / this time than was the case last time. Therefore, it is too late in the day to ask the Finance / Minister or the Government of India to **scale down** the targets of the Tenth Five Year Plan. We, as a people / and also as a Parliament, are now **committed** to the execution of this Plan, wherein a target of (300) Rs. 48,000 crores was fixed. It is now, I believe, increased to Rs. 52,000 crores / or Rs. 54,000 crores. Now, when we have agreed on that basic point, / then we must find the resources to **implement** that Plan. For **some time**, we had also debated the question of / deficit financing which, of course, is a **euphemism** in modern parlance for the printing of notes. When we need money, / we issue Treasury Bills, and notes are issued by the Reserve Bank. This sort of thing cannot continue for ever. (400)

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We must be prepared to make whatever sacrifices are needed to implement the Tenth Plan. Therefore, I submit, starting with / these two assumptions, namely, that the Plan target has got to be implemented and, secondly, the deficit financing has got / to be avoided both in the interests of the economy as well as of progress, we are left with only / one option, viz., to impose taxes. I know that our present Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, is a man / of conviction and, what is more important, has the courage of his conviction. That is why, I think, in living memory, (500) he is the one Finance Minister who has come out with this bold and courageous plan of imposing taxation / to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crores in one single year. To impose taxes of the dimension of / Rs. 1,000 crores in one single year requires tremendous courage and I must congratulate him for the step that he / has taken because it was the least that any Finance Minister could do, faced as he was with the circumstances / which I have just narrated.

With the imposition of these taxes, the uncovered deficit dwindles down from Rs. 500 crores. (600) That itself is a great help. I believe, the Government should take immediate steps. When we are / taking very drastic measures to tax every sector of society, from the rich to the poor, it becomes a duty, / in fact a trust, that the money that we raise is spent as carefully and as economically as possible. /

In the general elections, I too had, along with other hon. Members of our Party and other Parties also, / to go into the country, to the villages and towns and everywhere. The people did not mind these taxes (700) but the grievance is that some of the money or a lot of money is being wasted. There was the grievance / with regard to corruption on the lower levels of the officialdom and, what is more, that there was considerable wastage. / Every official, even a small official, seems to be having a jeep or a Maruti and is running about burning / petrol and spending on T.A., D.A., etc., and the work is being rushed through in the months of / February and March in order that the grant may not lapse as if the tax-payer's money were meant to (800) be sacrificed ruthlessly and mercilessly, whatever happens. Therefore, it becomes necessary for the Government, both at the Centre and / in the States, at all levels, to see that all the money raised and spent in these Plans is fully utilised.

(840 words)

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A passage worth writing

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 147

Debate on
President's Address

One of the serious problems which has been dealt with is the food situation in the country. The President's Address / very rightly remarked that though it is not ALARMING, still it is serious. It is of GRAVE concern. The economy / in the country is also not very safe. All these are STARK REALITIES which the country and the leaders of / society, as we are in this AUGUST House, will have to face. This august House and also the several Houses / in the States have given their approval to the Tenth Five Year Plan. It has been approved and it is already working, (100) though its first year of progress may be very slow for several reasons beyond the control of the / Government of India. However, the food situation in the country indicates, as the STATISTICS given by the Ministry of Agriculture / show, that there is a STEADY increase in the production and, as such, they have SOUNDED A NOTE of CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM / though it may not have been appreciated by several critics as well as several people in the country, / because of the rising trend of prices. The rising trend of prices during the last two or three months clearly goes to show (200) that the food situation is not satisfactory. I do not venture to say that it is DETERIORATING, but / as somebody has remarked, the food situation appears to be a little grave because of lack of purchasing power / of the consumer.

In regard to food production, there are three factors. One is the producer, the other is the / non-producer; and the third is the Government. The producer in this country is mainly the agriculturist. And it is time / to think seriously whether the Union Parliament should have to think positively whether in this country agriculture is to be given (300) the pride of PLACE AHEAD OF INDUSTRY because it is the main industry of the nation. There is / a clear DISTINCTION between agriculture and industry. And as it has been said by an eminent economist, there cannot be / better industry unless there is an improved agriculture. An improved agriculture needs several factors to be considered before we ASSAIL / the producer in the country. Fortunately, very many speakers who PRECEDED me have SPONSORED the CAUSE of the producer, / though the producer was not so much in the picture. The producers in this country can be divided into three categories. (400)

Sir, from my little experience of the rural areas, I can say that growing of food is not A PAYING PROPOSITION / to the agriculturists unless and until the prices of foodgrains are guaranteed. Ours is a MARGINAL PRODUCTION, and we / have to see whether this marginal production is to be STEPPED UP to the point of self-sufficiency, in which case / we have to see whether the producer needs any protection, whether guarantees can be given as regards the prices / of foodgrains, whether PARITY of prices can be maintained for foodgrains VIS-A-VIS industrial products in our country. (500) If these factors are not taken into consideration, then Sir, poverty will not be LIQUIDATED, and unless and until we take / the food problem as the vital problem of the nation, I think we will be day by day disappointed in / our attempts to relieve the food situation. The food situation is becoming grave because our fast EXPANDING money economy has / put more money in the pockets of the people. I have no quarrel with it because the country needs to / give relief to ^{the} persons who are not well placed in life. But this money economy has played HAVOC among the (600) RANK AND FILE of the various producers in agriculture because after all in India even now more than / 75 per cent of the people depend on agriculture, and if there is a great DISPARITY in income between the industrial / labour and agricultural labour, the agricultural labour has no INCENTIVE, the small holder has no incentive to produce more. Besides, / growing foodgrains, as I said, is not a paying proposition, and so, the balance is TILTED in favour of CASH CROPS. / Various State Governments have also abolished the Grow More Food Acts. Especially in Maharashtra, there is an Act called (700) the Grow More Food Act of 1995. It lays down certain restrictions on the grower / to ASSIGN more land for food production. That restriction having been removed now, the farmer is an individualist in his crop planning, / and he does not care what crop the country needs but he cares more for whether the crop is / a paying proposition. It is a natural human tendency that unless and until the business is REMUNERATIVE, nobody follows it seriously. / Though this tendency is found not only in India but everywhere, yet the agriculturist faces this question all the more. (800) Sir, our REVERED Prime Minister made a nation-wide appeal that India should follow co-operative farming. Sir, co-operative farming still / remains A DEAD LETTER though there have been several eminent persons who have ADVOCATED the importance of co-operative farming.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text, written in a cursive style on lined paper.

Imagine the pleasure of writing
this passage!

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 148

Debate on
Ministry of Food

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 25 lines of the page. The notes are dense and appear to be a transcription of the printed text.

Sir, in order to understand the Government's food policy, we have to go back to some years. Soon after the / country attained Independence and the Congress Government ASSUMED power, they realised that the food problem has to be given very serious / consideration and for this purpose they appointed senior most Ministers to be IN CHARGE of this PORTFOLIO. The first / Minister was our first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He was followed by Shri Jairamdas Daulatram and then by Mr. Munshi. / All these big Ministers could not be very successful as far as food production was concerned. EVENTUALLY, Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai (100) was put in charge of this portfolio and his IMAGINATION, ability and PUSH proved that this problem was not INSOLUBLE, / but that if this question could be tackled with imagination and FORESIGHT, it could be solved. But it was / the misfortune of the country that Shri Kidwai is not with us and we have fallen into the same position. / Now, Sir, we rely more and more on statistics than on the realities of the situation. When the First Five Year Plan / was BROUGHT INTO BEING, the main emphasis was laid on food production, and quite rightly too, and we had the (200) river valley projects, dams, hydro-electric schemes, community projects and so on with a view to increasing food / production in the country. Now, if we see the statistics of the various State Governments and also of the Centre / about the ACREAGE brought under cultivation and if we go deep into this matter, we will find that according to the / calculations given by the various State Governments and the Centre, the acreage brought under cultivation is many times / more than the total cultiyable area in India. In spite of that, what have we been seeing? We have been seeing that (300) as far as this food problem is concerned, we are far away from meeting all our requirements. Not only that, / but some of the Government SPOKESMEN responsible for this matter have been saying that the First Five Year Plan / had been successful in increasing food production in the country to a very great extent. They were even planning / as to how best the extra food could be exported so that we would be able to get our hard pressed / foreign exchange more easily. But, in fact, the position has been just the reverse after the Congress Government assumed power. (400)

Then came the First Five Year Plan and we were assured that more food had been produced. And, as I said, / if we ANALYSE the statistics of the various States and the Centre, we will find that more ACREAGE has / been brought under cultivation than what is actually available in India. The Second Five Year Plan, of course, lays emphasis / on industrialisation. Originally, it was estimated that under the Second Plan, there would be 25 per cent. increase / in food production, but the Prime Minister insisted that 25 per cent. increase was not sufficient (500) and that it should be something like 40 per cent. Last year, at the Food Ministers Conference at Mussoorie, they wanted more / funds in order to ensure 40 per cent. increase but the Prime Minister PUT HIS FOOT DOWN saying that / not a single rupee would be given but that the 40 per cent. increase would have to be achieved. / Sir, it is not as if, by a MAGIC WAND, these things were to be achieved easily.

Sir, if we examine the / various measures taken for this food production, we see that for the Grow More Food CAMPAIGNS and other things, (600) lakhs and lakhs —I should say, crores and crores—of rupees have been given to the various States. Various amounts have / been advanced to them for the purpose of bringing more acreage under cultivation but all this money has not been / properly utilised, and if we go into this question more deeply, we will see that large sums of money were / advanced for developing MECHANISED FARMING but that money was spent for other purposes. Similarly, for wells some money was advanced / but it was not spent for that purpose. Therefore, it is quite natural that the situation in regard to food production (700) should be what it is.

Now, what is the present position? We have been told by the Food Ministry / that the production has actually increased, and in the statement which the Food Minister made here very cleverly, only the / average production has been shown. But if we go into the figures of actual production, we will see that actually / the food production has been on the DECLINE. Sir, in the month of March, a WHITE PAPER was issued by / the Food Ministry in which the figures of actual production were given, and here I would like to quote a (800) few figures which they had given. If we again see the statistics of the Food Ministry, we will see that / availability of foodgrains PER CAPITA does not show any rise, while demand per capita is increasing because the population is growing.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 149

Debate on
Budget proposals

Sir, we are all aware of the need for fulfilling our COMMITMENTS as far as the Seventh Five Year Plan / is concerned. I am sure everyone is also willing to sacrifice for the CAUSE of the country, a cause which / must OVERRIDE all individual, communal, provincial or even petty political considerations. Money has to be found and found primarily within / our own borders, for, in the long run, a nation has to stand on its own strength. The Finance Minister / has, therefore, rightly said that everyone, rich and poor, has to SHOULDER the great burden if we are to achieve (100) our aims and objectives. But while everyone is and must be willing to put his shoulder to the wheel, / he can only do as much as is COMMENSURATE WITH his strength. Has that strength been APPRAISED ARIGHT and what will / be the consequences if the burden is more than any sector can bear?

The cost of living has gone up considerably. / We are told that prices have gone up because the purchasing power of the people has increased. Has the / purchasing power of the people increased *pari passu* with the rise in prices? I doubt it very much. (200) I am not an economist but I did learn that DEFICIT FINANCING will always cause inflation, and if that is so, the / more we GO IN FOR deficit financing, the higher will SOAR the prices of commodities. Women are said to be / poor FINANCIERS. As a woman, I admit that with the large majority of my sex, I know nothing in regard / to the theory of high finance. But as a woman, I also have to meet household expenditure and I am not / at all sure that women do not know how best TO MAKE TWO ENDS MEET but I fear that the (300) present proposals are going to make it very very hard and, in fact, may make life impossible for those / who are poor, and the large majority in this country are poor. I am glad to read in the papers / that KEROSENE oil has been left out by the Finance Minister but he is taxing heavily such other things as / the poor man needs like cloth, sugar, tea, foodgrains, etc. They are not commodities whose prices can be sent up / without touching the poor man's purse. Talking of tea, I wonder if something could be done to stop its ADULTERATION. (400)

Now, food cannot continue to be DOLED out to the poor for ever with promises of SUBSIDY, whether by / Rs. 200 crores which the hon. Finance Minister is going to PUT ASIDE for supplementing the food needs of the / nation or by fair price shops. Production in every sphere is the only answer but an under-nourished person can / never produce. Why has the lowest income rate for taxation been lowered to the extent of making life still harder / for the poor man? I think everybody who has anything to do with expenditure today realises that Rs. 1,000 per month (500) for a family is nothing at all. Take a man who has got to feed himself, / his wife and three or four children and perhaps his father and mother who are DEPENDENT on him. How can / he possibly pay taxation on this small income?

The price of the post card has been raised. Why? The rise / in railway FARES too is going to hit him. The poor, Sir, should be made less poor. That should be / the objective of every Government but I fear greatly that the present Budget proposals are going almost the other way (600) in many directions on the ASSUMPTION of the FULFILMENT of a plan which might itself indeed break on the rock / of finance.

Sir, I have said I do not believe in DESTRUCTIVE criticism or, at any rate, I said I / would offer some CONSTRUCTIVE criticism. Now, there is no one who sympathises with the Finance Minister in his efforts to / raise money but will be willing to listen to other ways and means which will not hit the poor man / quite so hard.

Instead of raising the post card rate, why cannot the price of the stamped ENVELOPE be raised (700) from one rupee to two rupees? I would not mind even if the cost of the reply post / card was raised to one rupee but I object strongly to the cost of the single post card, whether local or internal, / being increased. I do not know what the yield from such a measure, that is, raising the cost of / the envelope from one rupee to two rupees, will be but I imagine it will not be / less than the tax on the post card.

I believe I am right in saying that our CIVIL AVIATION rates (800) are less than those in the world. The AEROPLANE UP TO DATE is the rich man's means of conveyance. / Why cannot air fares be raised rather than railway fares? Sir, I may be pardoned for saying so in this House.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the printed text, written in a cursive style on a ruled page.

A select passage, especially for aspirants of I.F.S. (B) Service

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 150

Debate on
Ministry of External Affairs

Sir, I am mostly in agreement with almost all the principles that the hon. Prime Minister has ENUNCIATED this morning. / and yet, I beg to submit that from the point of view of LOGIC, I do ARRIVE AT the same / conclusion as the Prime Minister has done. I may say, at the outset, that the continued association of my country / with the Commonwealth is not justified. The hon. Prime Minister said that it is very easy to destroy a thing, / but it is very difficult to build. I agree that the work of an artist who creates something is difficult (100) and it takes a long time to build a thing, but it is much easier to destroy it. This world / of ours is not being created now. It is not something new which is being just BROUGHT OUT. It is / in existence with all its faults and good points and like an artist who is not creating a new thing / but who is taking the buildings as they exist and then HARMONISING them by trying to join them together, and / in that task it sometimes becomes necessary to alter certain things here and there and sometimes even to destroy a (200) small portion. Similarly, in the small world of ours, when in the interest of a greater HARMONY, to build a / world with possibly a World Government, with freedom for all and with chances of development to every nation to the / fullest extent, it is possible that some of the old associations may have to be SEVERED. The British Commonwealth started / as a British Empire. It had a purpose in this world. Whether it was a COLONIAL purpose or some other / purpose, it came into existence with a certain set purpose. And then, as the world went on changing, the British Empire (300) also went on changing. Then it was the British Commonwealth and, lastly, that word 'British' was dropped.

The hon. / Prime Minister said that the United States of America has a closer relationship with the Commonwealth than even India. / I support the hon. Prime Minister's statement and that is just the reason and just the argument in my favour. / If the United States, without being in the Commonwealth, can have as great an association with it, or even greater association / with it than we have, then, Sir, our country, India, remaining outside the Commonwealth, can also continue the same association. (400)

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister was VEHEMENTLY against the S.E.A.T.O. and Baghdad Pact and all those things that he thought / were against the spirit of the United Nations. He said that the nations can have regional associations. Sir, you will / realise that the Commonwealth is not a region. Australia, India, Canada and the United Kingdom are so far apart geographically / from one another that nobody in his imagination can consider them to be a COMPACT area where there may be / some sort of an understanding or co-operation. We are aiming at peace and for the attainment of that peace, (500) we have a world organisation, the United Nations. Do you think that the formation of pacts or groups or associations helps / in the development, better organisation and control of the United Nations? On the other hand, these petty associations, pacts and / treaties RETARD the influence of the United Nations. I submit that these associations defeat the whole purpose of the United Nations. / Therefore, if every nation tries a little to break down the small and narrow associations in the larger interests / of developing that greater association of United Nations, it is a step in the right direction. (600)

Sir, I come to a few MUNDANE matters. We have our trade relations largely with the United Kingdom. If you see the structure of / our import and export trade, you will find that a large part of export goes to the United Kingdom and / a large part of our imports comes from the United Kingdom. We are giving some sort of a preferential duty, / That preferential duty creates problems for us. Commercially, we find that the cost of production in the United Kingdom has / gone up much higher than in any other country. If it is a question of import of machinery, we find (700) that other nations are able to offer us better terms. If it is a matter of our export trade, / we find that other nations are able to offer us better prices. This link with the Commonwealth acts CONTRARY TO our / interests. Our Sterling balances were linked up with the Sterling. Sir, you know that in 1988 / the Sterling was worth about five dollars. Then, the Sterling was DEVALUED to 2 dollars and 80 cents. The value / of the pound came down by nearly 40 per cent. We had to devalue our currency because we had linked (800) it up with the Sterling currency. If it had not been linked up with the sterling, it would have had / to be APPRECIATED by 40 per cent. Thus PERFORCE, we had to rearrange our entire FISCAL policy in this way.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page, written in a cursive style on lined paper.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 151

{ standardisation of weights and measures }

Mr. Deputy Chairman, as the hon. Minister has said, there is practically unanimity of opinion in India that there must be / standardisation in the matter of our weights and measures. All modern CONCEPTS and practices with regard to weights and measures / have been on the basis of the DECIMAL system and the earlier we catch up with the / rest of the world in this matter, the better for us in this country also.

The main question to consider is / how quickly and how effectively we can implement the provisions of this Bill. Of course, there are NUMEROUS difficulties in the way. (100) The first step is to get out of the present CHAOTIC system. The common people will have to understand / the benefits of new system and what exactly it is. For that, so much propaganda is necessary and we have / to see how far the hon Minister and Parliament will be able to REQUISITION help in the different Departments of / Government, in educational institutions and other institutions. For example, the conversion tables are there and it is absolutely necessary that / in our text books in all our schools, this new system is introduced. This will GO A LONG WAY (200) in educating the people in this direction. Then again, in the matter of propaganda and other steps, the Education Ministry and / the Information and Broadcasting Ministry can do a lot by means of their posters, their Films Division and so on, / because our people will take a pretty long time to get a correct concept of these new things. This is / a new concept.

So, the effectiveness of this will largely depend on how the Ministries are able to get the / co-operation of the interested bodies. The propaganda side should act quickly to enable people to grasp the practice and the (300) principles of this Bill. The other difficulty is that weights and measures and the various other instruments have got to / be manufactured. There will be all sorts of difficulties. There are a number of small FOUNDRIES in our country and / if we can mobilise these to the manufacture of such instruments, it will be helpful. The Ordnance Factories are also / there and they should be MOBILISED along with the other Departments of Government. Government have got the technical personnel, / the manufacturing facilities and so on, but the question is one of mobilising all these efforts to get the best results. (400)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the left side of the page.

We do realise the enormous difficulties in the way; we also realise that a lot of technical personnel is required / but if we are in a position to mobilise all these various things, we can achieve the target. The whole / thing depends upon how Government is able to secure the services of these various bodies, requisition the services of the / technical personnel including those available in the Defence installations. If it is done, I think we will be able to / catch up with the rest of the modern world. History shows that in other countries also, in most of the (500) other countries, this system was introduced in times of TURMOIL, but all the people were GALVANISED to this modern concept / and if we have that WILL, I think it will be possible to have this thing implemented within the shortest / possible time.

As my friend pointed out, being a layman, I am not in a position to say anything about / the definition, especially in regard to light, electricity and other things. These are all technical things but I think, / on the whole, the Bill reflects the UNANIMOUS demands of the people of the country.

People have been demanding (600) that they must have relief from the chaotic systems prevailing now. In the name of a MAUND, 100 and ODD separate / measures are there IN VOGUE in different parts of the country. They cannot get anything fair on the basis of the / present differing weights and measures. Since 1949 when Parliament has been applying its mind to / this problem, there has been so much CONSENSUS of opinion in favour of this thing that it is UP TO / us now to quickly implement this scheme. Personally, I agree with the suggestion that the period must not be ten years (700) but only five years.

The remarks made here regarding the need for implementing the provisions of the Bill are also / the desire of the Government but I might tell you briefly, Sir, that apart from the difficulties which Mr. / Nair envisaged, there are others which are also equally important. To give an example, I am told that to manufacture / a primary standard of measurement, we will require a machinery which will take about two years to set up. / This is the legal sanction by which you are going to PROSECUTE the DEFAULTERS. Parliament is empowering Government to prosecute (800) ALL AND SUNDRY for the use of non-standard weights and measures, and the Parliament has to be satisfied that the standards / are the most accurate scientifically. On a rough estimate, there are 6 million sets of weights and measures in India.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the printed text, written in a cursive style on a lined background.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering the left side of the page. The notes are dense and appear to be a transcription of the spoken text.

There are often DISQUIETING features which CROP UP in our economy, which usually SCARE not only the people of this country, / but also the Government. OF LATE, prices have been rising and this has led to all kinds of scares. / Sir, we must keep in control all prices; there can be no denying this fact. But you will remember that / when the Plan was introduced, the Plan itself and the Finance Minister, at that time envisaged that during the / Eighth Plan period, there would be an INFLATION OF THE ORDER of 25 to 40 per cent and that this (100) rise in prices was INEVITABLE. STATISTICIANS have said that in the political conditions existing in our country and the economy / that we have adopted for ourselves, planned development without rise in prices is not possible. But during the course of / these five years, the rise in prices will not be EVEN; there will be points when the prices will go / up very much. But what we should aim at is that, on an average, prices are kept STEADY. Therefore, / what is needed is that both investment and inflation should be PHASED.

Having said that, I would like to warn the (200) Finance Minister that the most important prices that must be kept under check are those of food and clothing. / My hon. friend has also stated this and he has said further that rent and fuel prices also should be kept / under proper control. What I say is that, if the Finance Minister succeeds in keeping down the prices of food / and clothing, our economy will not be injured even if there is a slight rise in other sectors. In this connection, / I very much welcome the agreements that have been entered into by us with various countries for the import (300) of food, and it is very important that we must build up our food reserves and the mistakes of the / past should not be repeated in this direction. I am very happy to note from the statement of the Finance / Minister that the PROSPECTS of our food crop are bright. But that should not lead us to any COMPLACENCY. / We should not build up our food stocks by imports only. This is a time when prospects of our own crop / are good and we should EMBARK upon a programme of internal PROCUREMENT so that we may AUGMENT our food reserves. (400)

Another important point that I would like to emphasise here is in regard to cloth supply. There was a good / deal of TALL TALK about meeting our requirements of cloth through the agency of handloom industry. I would have / very much liked that the Government had given its full attention to see that this programme was implemented. / But what I find is that production by the handloom industry has not made any IMPRESS on the economy. / I am very sorry to note that the organisational side of this important sector has not been developed (500) as it was hoped in the beginning and my fears are that failure of production in this sector is large / and it will be a DISASTROUS thing if it so happens.

Now, I would like to enquire of the Finance Minister / as to what he is going to do in regard to meeting our cloth shortage. Sir, the per capita requirement of / cloth is rising, but the supply is not keeping pace with the rising demand. What is the remedy that the / Government proposes? Are they still STICKING on to getting supply from the handloom industry or have they decided (600) to encourage cloth production by the mills? I would like to have a clarification from the Government on this point, / because I have said that if we succeed in keeping down the cloth and food prices, we will be in / a happier position to put through our Plan.

Now, Sir, with regard to our STERLING balances, you will remember that / several times I have pleaded during the course of the Seventh Plan Period that we are not making enough and / proper use of our foreign resources. On this particular point, I would like to congratulate our Finance Minister because he (700) has been successful in making a proper use of our foreign resources. These resources were available to us but we / were not making any use of them. Now, the Finance Minister has adopted a bold policy to make full use / of the foreign resources. He has imported steel in huge quantities. I know, Sir, that there is a STEEP fall / in our foreign resources which have been brought down considerably and this STEEP fall in our foreign resources has SCARED / some people. In this connection, Sir, I would like to request our Finance Minister to so PHASE the utilisation of (800) our foreign resources that there is no steep fall which generates a kind of scare in the country. Is it / not possible to phase out the utilisation of foreign resources in such a manner that there is no steep fall?

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text, written in a cursive style on a grid background.

Most expected passage
for Grade 'D' Exam.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 153

Debate on
Ministry of Agriculture

Madam Chairman, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

During the last 65 years, / the country has made tremendous progress in the field of agriculture and irrigation. The first Prime Minister of our country, / late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, had given top priority to agriculture and it was his endeavour to make the country SELF-RELIANT / in the matter of foodgrains. It was for this reason that several dams and several projects were set up / in the country.

Due to the efforts of the Congress Government, today our country is self-reliant in the matter of (100) foodgrains. You are aware that the farmer is the BACKBONE of the country. But he is neglected by both the / State and the Central Governments regarding REMUNERATIVE PRICES. It is true that the farmer has no association or trade / union spirit, and the agricultural sector is an unorganised sector. The position of the farmer is very miserable, and it is / true that the farmer is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt. The Government has withdrawn the subsidy / on fertilizers and PESTICIDES and the Government has also removed the control on their prices.

The prices of fertilizers and pesticides (200) have gone up abnormally; and the cost of labour and cultivation has also gone up abnormally. The price of / groundnut has fallen down to Rs. 700 from Rs. 1200, the price of SUNFLOWER has fallen down to / Rs. 800 from Rs. 1000 and the price of cotton has also fallen down to Rs. 800 / from Rs. 1500. The farmers are finding it very difficult to DISPOSE OF their stocks even at the prevailing price / and the crop produced is lying for WANT of purchase at the remunerative price.

Therefore, the farmers are very much agitated, and they held dharnas and hartals. (300) - Farmers have borrowed loan from banks and money lenders who are putting / a lot of pressure on the farmers for the repayment of loans. I learnt reliably that they are going to commit SUICIDE / in order to get over the difficulty when they are unable to bear the situation.

I understand that the / Agricultural Prices Commission fixes the prices, support prices for agricultural commodities. I think that the APC Members have / no knowledge of agriculture and agricultural commodities. The APC has fixed the support price of groundnut at (400)

Rs. 750 per QUINTAL and of sunflower at Rs. 800 per quintal. The cost of production of groundnut / is double than the cost of sunflower seeds, whereas the APC has fixed the support price of sunflower / at Rs. 800 per quintal, much more than the groundnut seeds, which shows their ignorance. It clearly shows that / they do not have any idea about the cost of production of each crop. Government is collecting thousands of / crores of rupees on the agricultural commodities towards Central sales tax and State sales tax whereas the contribution of the Government (500) towards the farmer is NEGLIGIBLE compared to the services that are being rendered by the Government towards the industrial sector, / public undertakings, welfare schemes, etc. Unless the Government takes proper measures to safeguard the interests of farmers, there is every possibility / that production of agricultural commodities will STEEPLY fall down which will have an IMPACT on the consumers' price and / Government's economy in the near future.

There is every need for the INTERVENTION of the Government. The Government should purchase / sunflower, groundnut and cotton through NAFED and NCDC. The remunerative price of Rs. 1200 for groundnut, Rs. 1000 for sunflower (600) and Rs. 1500 for cotton should be announced. In this regard, I, along with some other Members of Parliament, / met hon. Agriculture Minister and also the Prime Minister and explained the situation. I hope and trust the Government will / do justice to the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that you have given me opportunity to express my views / on the Budget, particularly relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. When the hon. Minister of Finance presented the Budget, / he stated that farmers are the backbone of this country and that India is PREDOMINANTLY an agricultural country and the farmers (700) have strengthened the economy, but grants for the development of agriculture are so meagre that one feels ANGUISHED. Madam, / 80 per cent of the population lives in villages and even today their primary occupation is agriculture. Through you, / I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the steps taken by the Government which are DETRIMENTAL TO / the interests of farmers and agricultural workers. In 1992-93 Budget, the Government allocated / Rs. 2,000 crores for agriculture and this year the Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 2400 crores for this purpose. (800)

Although it appears that the allocation has been increased but, in fact, percentage-wise the allocation is / less as compared to last year. Madam, the Minister of Agriculture is himself a farmer and is aware of it.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text, written in a cursive style on a lined background.

Can any teacher locate such a vital passage in any other magazine?

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 154

Debate on Centre-State relations

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this debate on the Report of the Sarkaria Commission is taking place at a time / when the relations between the Centre and the States have reached the lowest depth of tension and strain. We are witnessing / today the SPECTACLE of the Prime Minister openly threatening the duly elected State Governments with dismissal. The Central Ministers / on their visits to the States are making PROVOCATIVE statements against the Chief Ministers and the State Governments. Above all, / the agents of the Central Government, the Governors, are LOSING all their PRETENSIONS of objectivity and decency and behaving in the (100) most ATROCIOUS manner. Therefore, this discussion is very important. I do not know whether it will open the eyes of / the ruling party or not, but still, it will serve the purpose of telling the nation what is happening / in regard to Centre-State relations.

Sir, there has been a sea change in the Centre-State relations since / 2007. Prior to 2007 the ruling party at the Centre and in the States / was the same. There was tension even at that time between the leadership at the Centre and in the States, (200) but it was merely a party affair and the tension used to be RESOLVED at the party level. But / since 1967, when non-Congress Governments were formed in the States, either through COALITION or SINGLY, / the Centre-State relations have undergone a major change and the working of the different Constitutional provisions since then has resulted / in the EROSION of the States' autonomy. Since then, the trend has been towards centralisation—more concentration of power / in the hands of the Centre and denial of legitimate resources and powers to the States.

Then, where the non-Congress (300) parties formed Governments in the States, these Governments as well as the political parties in Opposition have been demanding / a complete review and restructuring of the Centre-State relations and they demanded that the Centre-State relations be restructured / in such a manner as to ensure cooperative federalism to which we are committed. Mrs. Gandhi appointed this Commission in 1983 / and, even after the appointment of the Commission, the Centre had not stopped NEEDLING the non-Congress Governments. We are aware / how legitimately-elected Governments in Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh were dismissed in

Handwritten notes in Hindi/Urdu script, including dates like 2007, 2004, and 2004 (400).

The Sarkaria Commission laboured for several years and submitted its report in October, 1987. I must say / at the beginning that we are not fully satisfied with the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, because this Commission / appeared to be OBSESSED WITH a pro-Centre attitude and also a RELUCTANCE to recommend major Constitutional changes. Within the provisions / of the Constitution, within the existing structure, they tried to do some TINKERING and suggested some COSMETIC CHANGES. / But whatever suggestions have been made, some of them are good and can be implemented straightway. On an analysis, I could find (500) that out of the major recommendations which the Commission has made, 130 can be accepted straightway by the States. / I do not mean that the Centre would accept them, but from the States' side we can say that / these are acceptable. In regard to other recommendations, we have some suggestions; we have some modifications to suggest. The State Governments / have been asked to give their opinion. Some of them have already given and some are yet to give. / But I do not know to what extent the Centre is giving any importance to this Commission or its report. (600)

Even after one year, the Government is acting completely against the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. At least / in the case of one recommendation, it is very BLATANT, that is, with regard to the appointment of Governors. / The Sarkaria Commission has clearly recommended that active politicians belonging to the ruling party should not be appointed as Governors in / the States ruled by the other parties. Even while the Sarkaria Commission has laid down definite guidelines as to how the / Governors should function, how they should be disciplined and how they should ADHERE TO certain norms, the Central Government (700) is reluctant to advise the Governors to act accordingly. The CLASSIC example is the behaviour of the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. / We have mentioned it in this House. Newspapers have EDITORIALY commented on the behaviour of the Governor. In spite of that, / even today the Centre is not moving in that matter, and they are ignoring to notice the unconstitutional / behaviour of the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. A similar situation is developing in Kerala also. Another lady is AT LARGE there, / and she is also doing the same illegal, unconstitutional acts there. Therefore this is one SORE POINT which the Centre should notice. (800)

Mr. Vice-Chairman, within the time available to me, I will deal one by one with the recommendations and the / stand my party and my party Government have taken in the matter. I will first take the legislative relations.

(840 words)

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