

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 23

Madam, Deputy Chairman, when the House rose for lunch, I was discussing the response of the public to the loan / programme of the Government and was trying to point out that it was rather a serious tendency in the sense / that the response of the public had been proved to be poorer during the Tenth Plan period than during the Ninth Plan period. I was trying to point out that looking to the fact that the national income was rising / and the people were becoming more conscious of a developing economy and the need to mobilise the resources more and (100) more, a contrary trend ought to have appeared and that in view of that this trend was disturbing. This trend / is to be CONTRASTED with the trend of the public regarding the call from the corporate sector for the investment / of their moneys. Here, we find that the shares of some of the new companies or of the old companies / that are issuing new shares are over-subscribed at times to the extent of fifteen times the capital that has / been asked for by the companies. So, here are two pictures: one, the picture of the Government asking the public (200) to subscribe to the public loans and the other, the picture of the response of the public to the corporate / sector demanding investments from the public. While, on the one hand, there is an enthusiastic response to the demand from the / corporate sector, on the other, there is a very poor response as far as the loan programme of the / Government is concerned. This is a matter of some concern, and I feel that the Government should pay more attention / than just EXHORTING the people to save more and to hand over their savings to the Government as the hon.(300) Finance Minister has done more than once. If it would have been merely a question of rediverting the money that is / coming from the corporate sector to the public EXCHEQUER in the form of loans, perhaps the matter would not / have been so serious. Then, it would have been just a question of re-allocation of the functions between the public/sector and the private sector. But I feel that there is a large amount of money which is just changing / to some LUCRATIVE channel and that explains why the response to the demand from the corporate sector is fifteen times. (400)

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This shows that fourteen times that particular capital is not required by that company and if there had been some/adequate step or measure whereby originally that money could have gone to the public exchequer, to that extent there would/not have been any disappointment to the people who wanted shares but who did not get them, and disappointment to/ the public exchequer by not getting the response which it ought to have got. That, to my mind, leads to / the question of the pattern of the rate of interest. In a developing economy, and especially in view of the (500) fact that a large number of companies are being floated today which have got an element of growth in them, / thereby attracting so much capital towards them, the Government of India will have to take into consideration the question of / the rate pattern of interest on their loans and to see whether something could not be done whereby the public / will be attracted to a large extent towards their loan programme than HITHERTO. It has appeared in the press that/ the question of supply and want is being reconsidered and that offers are sought to be made more attractive. If (600) in the same STRAIN the entire question of the loan programme is also considered, it may be possible that these/loans also might be made more attractive and thereby more capital which is today just changing the channels of profitable / employment might be diverted to the public EXCHEQUER in the form of public loans.

Then, there is the question of/the State Governments performing their part which has been ASSIGNED to them during the Eleventh Plan period. In this connection, / I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House to a very important recommendation which has been made (700) by the Eleventh Finance Commission, namely, the appointment of a high-power commission, to go into the entire question of / the allocation of financial resources between the Central Government and the State Governments. They have argued the whole case in/ nearly one and a half pages in order to show why it has now become necessary that a high-power / commission should be appointed to go into this important question. According to the Third Finance Commission, the allocation of resources/between the Centre and the States was made at a time when planned economic development was not VISUALISED. When (800) the Constitution was framed, the development of the public sector, the new responsibilities which the States were going to assume/ and a Plan ERA, were not properly visualised, and it was under these conditions that these allocations were being made. (840 words)

Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to support the Bill which has been moved by the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. This Bill incorporates certain SENTIMENTS which the country holds so dear as far as the / office of President is concerned and also incorporates the faith of the people in themselves that when they will elect a President, the person who would be occupying the high post would be a person who would have not only the love and affection of the people but would be, as the hon. Minister pointed out, a DEDICATED politician whose, (100) whole life is dedicated to the service of the nation before he became the President, during his occupation of the / office of President and even after he retired from that office. It is this confidence of the people in themselves and the high love and affection which they hold for this office which have resulted in this particular Bill being considered by the House at the present moment.

The hon. Minister has pointed out that the President, who has just retired, has fulfilled all the requirements which are the basis of this particular measure and the measure which was passed (200) in 2001. I wish that he had mentioned the last Governor-General also to whom both the measures apply. Whether we may agree or may not agree with the last Governor-General on some of the / political views that he holds, there can be no two opinions that the last Governor-General was also an ILLUSTRIOUS / son and is an illustrious son of this country and deserves all the consideration, all the love and all respect / of the country which are being incorporated in the present measure and were incorporated in the 2001 Act. (300) While, therefore, fully supporting the measure which is now before the House, I would like certain clarifications regarding the rules that are going to be made for giving effect to the provisions which have been incorporated in the / present Bill.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, we are told that a person holding the high office of / President has even after retirement many public calls on him and it is, therefore, considered desirable to provide him with / secretarial staff. It is further stated that the Bill provides for a staff which may be engaged for the President. (400)

Staff might be appointed for him and office space might be provided for him. It is because of this that/certain MISGIVINGS have arisen in the minds of some of the Members, and they want it to be made perfectly/clear that the staff will be appointed not only for the ex-President but will be appointed by the ex-President, and / it will be his wishes and his desires that will be taken into account when a particular person is being / appointed. Also regarding the office which is engaged for him his wishes should be taken into account so that he (500) knows what would be a convenient place for him and he may try to get that place.

Another reason for / insisting on what I consider to be an important detail is that, if the Government appoints the staff for the/ex-President, then automatically they become Government servants because they have been appointed by the Government. It may be that in/ the rules a clarification might be attempted whereby they may be exempted from some of the Service Conduct Rules which/ are applicable to normal Government servants. But even there, it will be much better that this should not be left (600) in any doubt and that these persons that are appointed to assist the ex-President in his secretarial task are appointed/ by the ex-President himself. They would be the staff of the ex-President and would not be appointed by the Government/ for the ex-President and would not be Government servants. This point ought to be made quite clear so that the / ex-President has got all the right of determining the service conditions of the people appointed by him, of course subject / to the overall limit which has been provided, and to my mind rightly provided in the Bill. Within that overall(700)limit perhaps it will be much better to leave the rest of the matter to the President himself so that/ we may also express our further confidence in the President to the effect that he would utilise it with DISCRETION / and with all sense of responsibility and fairplay and taking into account the interests of the public and of the / public EXCHEQUER too.

Another point which also needs some clarification is regarding the payment to be made for the secretarial/ assistance and for the secretarial staff. Normally, Government rules require that whenever any such demand is made on the public (800) exchequer or on the Consolidated Fund of India, a certain formality has to be gone through and that formality of / accounting has to be in a prescribed form (828 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 25

Mr. Vice-Chairman, first of all, I must place on record my grateful thanks to the University Grants Commission for / the work that they have done for the advancement of higher education. They have done good work and in full / co-operation with the Education Ministry. This, I think, must encourage State Governments to establish university grants commissions or committees in / their RESPECTIVE States. What the country needs most is the CO-ORDINATED efforts of the AUTONOMOUS university grants commissions working in / HARMONY with the State Governments and university authorities. Coordinated efforts are needed TO BRING ABOUT certain UNIFORMITY in the standards (100) of university education. Without that, our educational advancement is bound to suffer from various TENSIONS and difficulties. I do agree / with my friend that the Annual Report under discussion is rather a dull report. At least, it is not as / bright as the two previous Reports were. In the previous two reports, the University Grants Commission invited the attention of / the nation to certain ACADEMIC problems, to certain educational needs. Unfortunately, in this Report the University Grants Commission CONFINES its / remarks mostly to what has been achieved in the field of university education under the guidance and with the assistance (200) of the University Grants Commission.

However, Sir, it is not possible for me to agree with Mr. Santhanam that the / University Grants Commission should not extend help to universities for the PRESERVATION of MANUSCRIPTS. Manuscripts are of great importance, so / far as university libraries are concerned. It is the duty of universities to preserve those manuscripts, and it is the / duty of the University Grants Commission to extend to universities the necessary financial assistance for maintaining and Preserving the manuscripts / in good order.

Also, it is not possible for me, Sir, to agree with my friend that today universities are (300) enjoying too much of autonomy. I agree with the University Grants Commission which two years ago remarked that freedom is / vital for education and democracy, and I personally feel, Sir, that on one plea or the other university autonomy and / academic freedom are being restricted rather than being extended as they must be. I do not think, Sir, that a / social purpose or a social value can be IMPARTED in the teaching by a teacher through the imposition of restrictions / on his freedom of thinking. I feel that teachers need academic freedom for discharging their duties in an efficient way. (400)

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If we take into consideration the AFFILIATED colleges, we will notice that the teachers are subjected to such HUMILIATING conditions / that it is not possible for them to discharge their duties to their students, to impart to their students any / sense of responsibility or any moral values in their lives. I therefore, Sir, feel that it is necessary to be / more careful about the preservation of academic freedom to teachers.

Sir, we are grateful to the Education Ministry and to / the University Grants Commission for upgrading the salaries of teachers in the Central universities. Yet, a great DISPARITY prevails in (500) the salaries of teachers of Central Universities, and State Universities and affiliated colleges, and this disparity is causing a lot / of heart-burning and a lot of difficulties. As one connected with education, I may say that there is not / such a MARKED difference in the quality of teachers serving in the Central Universities, and in the State Universities and / in affiliated colleges as to justify the great disparity in the salaries of teachers of these institutions. I feel, Sir, / that we must keep in our mind the remarks of the University Grants Commission made in their earlier Annual Report (600) with regard to teachers' salaries. We are not only to provide adequate salaries to teachers of affiliated colleges but also / to teachers of secondary schools. We must remember, Sir, that a great majority of students study in affiliated colleges and / the quality of education is largely determined by the quality of work that is done in affiliated colleges.

For / improvement in the quality of teaching, improvement in living conditions is also very necessary. The University Grants Commission has invited / our attention in its Report to the APPALLING conditions in which teachers have to live. But unfortunately, the University Grants (700) Commission has to admit that it does not seem likely that we shall be able to make anything more than / the marginal contribution towards this practical need. I feel that the University Grants Commission should pay more attention to the / solution of this problem than has so far been paid by it and the Education Ministry, and that the Government / should not grudge funds to the University Grants Commission for making adequate arrangements for improving living conditions of teachers who/ are expected to train the citizens of the country. Sir, in the University Grants Commission Report, it is maintained that (800) Rs. 12,000 should be granted to every affiliated college for the welfare of the teaching staff and that efforts / should be made to provide them with quarters, and that too, in the VICINITY of the college where they teach. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 26

Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, consisting of approximately 25 lines of dense, stylized characters.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would now like to make a few observations on the Ministry of Education. Education is basic / to any national REGENERATION. It is true that it does not bring any return as our other projects do as / for instance, the steel projects or the irrigation projects do. But this is the investment that is designed to help / building up of the human material. It is agreed that education has expanded after independence and during the plan periods. / But it is a matter for CONCERN that the content of education has not been equal to our expectations. Even (100) today, we are engaged in experimenting with all types of education, from the basic stage up to the university level. / It is not clear, I presume, that the basic pattern of education of which so much was said and written, / is accepted as a success even today. Where do we stand with regard to the basic pattern? It seems to be the position that all arguments are in favour of that type of education, but all proof is against the success of such a type of education. Where does the Government stand with regard to this type of education? We (200) SWORE by the basic type of education because it was discovered by the Father of the Nation. But if it/ has been a failure, why should not the Government say that that is the position? Then again, take secondary education/ and also COLLEGIATE education. Three years ago, it was said that all universities should have THREE-YEAR degree courses and / some universities which were RELUCTANT to accept this reform were more or less, compelled to do so and they accepted / it. Now, certain universities find that this scheme is not working satisfactorily and they feel that they should have a (300) two-year course in the college before students could enter the degree course. I mention this to show that this/ ETERNAL TINKERING with education should stop and it should not go on like this. This uncertainty is not only with regard to the main objective of education, the main structure of education from the primary to the collegiate level, but/ also with regard to the courses of studies, and also with regard to the language or medium of instruction. Mr. Chairman, up to the secondary stage it has been accepted that the medium of instruction should be the regional language. (400)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, consisting of approximately 25 lines of text.

The National Integration Council, however, stated that if universities are to exchange professors, if they have to develop freely, then / there should be the common medium of instruction, namely, English and Hindi. Now, at the latest National Integration Council meeting / we are told that the medium of instruction in the colleges should also be the regional language ultimately and if / that comes to pass, I ask, how will national integration be achieved? It is PERMISSIBLE to ENVISAGE a stage, if / the scheme of the National Integration Council is implemented, where different universities will have different media of instruction and the (500) men that will be drawn from these universities will have to MAN the JUDICIARY of the land and the / all-India services. But they will not be able to serve in a State other than the one in which they / were educated. How can integration be achieved? We are working AT CROSS PURPOSES.

It is time that a high power / body was appointed to HAMMER out a national scheme of education having integration as the basic aim and to implement / it systematically. The present method of MEDDLING at every stage of education, the present climate in which we are not (600) clear about the medium of instruction at different stages is causing CONCERN to the parents, to the pupils and weakening the country in the process. This is a major problem at this stage of the development of the country.

Then, / Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would pass on to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. According to this Ministry, we are / to build a system of National Highways, provincial or State Highways, an integrated system of communications from the village upwards / but the Central Government is concerned with the construction of NATIONAL HIGHWAYS. It is good to have a fine system (700) of National Highways. It also serves as a physical link for integrating the nation. It is good but this planning of / construction of National Highways without regard to the development of railways and the development of industries in the regions in / which the Highways are proposed to be constructed will be something beyond our means at the present moment. Assuming that / we have a network of National Highways, are they to be put to immediate use? Are they good investments? Unless / you have industries, small, big or medium, coming along the highways, unless they assure you a fair return for the (800) investment, it is not desirable to have a system of Highways for the sake of mere transport of passengers. In / other words, we should have a scheme of priorities for the National Highways so that they can be looked after. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 27 (new)

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill brought up by the Government for our / consideration.

Sir, the sad PLIGHT of millions of TOILING people who sweat on various plantations in the country to earn / valuable foreign exchange for us is really too much to be expressed in words. These workers live and work in / most inhuman and PITABLE conditions. These plantations include tea, coffee, CINCHONA, rubber, etc. and as we know, tea alone is / one of the major foreign exchange earners of our country. But, Sir, it is indeed most REGRETTABLE that NOTWITHSTANDING a (100) lapse of '62 years since our Independence, these workers who earn crores and crores of rupees by way of / foreign exchange have to live in most miserable conditions. They live in houses that are most INSECURE and COLLAPSE frequently / and when these workers die as a result of these collapses, their guardians or their DEPENDANTS do not get even / due compensation for the loss that they have to bear. UNHYGIENIC living in distant and FAR-FLUNG areas COMPOUNDED with / lack of medical and educational facilities make their life UTTERLY miserable. These plantation workers have to live in ABJECT poverty (200) like slaves of their employers. And, as we know, most of these plantations are still foreign-owned establishments, last VESTIGES of / the COLONIAL rule, the BRITISH RULE, and, as I said, it is a matter of deep regret for all of / us that despite enacting an Act, the Plantations Labour Act, 2001 we have not yet been / able to EFFECT any improvement in their conditions, I think the employers alone are not responsible for their miserable condition. / We are also as much responsible as they are because although we could enforce the enactment and we could improve (300) their conditions much earlier, we have failed in doing so.

Sir, on the 9th May, 2003 / this House, the Rajya Sabha, decided that a Joint Committee should be appointed to look into the desired amendment and / put up a draft, as early as possible for our consideration. On the 26th May, 2003 / the Lok Sabha also adopted our Resolution, our motion, with the result that a 45-Member committee, in which / 15 representatives were from the Rajya Sabha and 30 from the Lok Sabha, was appointed to look into the matter. (400)

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Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 25 lines of text. The notes appear to be a transcription of the printed text on the right, with some additional markings and corrections.

This Committee was to submit its report on the 1st day of the 11th Session of the Rajya Sabha, / that was in 2003. But this Committee had to be granted three extensions and the report / was ultimately available on the 3rd March, 2005. At that time, as we all know, the / so-called JP's movement of total revolution was at its peak. Within two or three months the national emergency / had to be declared and during the emergency, priorities had changed and we could not just effect this desired improvement (500) at that time and we could not BRING ABOUT this legislation. And then the Janta rule and the Lok Dal rule. For 30 months they were in power but they too—although they try to pose to be the CHAMPIONS / of the DOWNTRODDEN and the workers—failed to DELIVER THE GOODS, and that is why today we are going to / consider the report of that Committee that was presented to the Government in 2005. Therefore, we / are also equally responsible for not AMELIORATING their conditions and their plight. The Committee had to consider 120 MEMORANDA (600) giving views and suggestions from various unions and associations, and 59 witnesses appeared before the Committee and that Committee / itself came to the conclusion that in various areas even the BAREST minimum facilities, such as arrangement for supply of / WHOLESOME drinking water, latrines, urinals, provision of qualified doctors, had not been provided though these amenities are a MUST under / the Act. The Act has been there but we could not enforce it; we could not implement it, only because the / employers did not want it; they did not want to give to the workers due justice. Inadequacy of punishments (700) that are AWARDED under the Act, is one of the main IMPEDIMENTS standing in the way of implementation of various / welfare measures. Courts generally take a LENIENT view of the offences under the Act and they LET OFF the employers, / who are offenders, with lighter punishment which generally amounts to a fine of Rs. 100. So, the Committee suggested / amendment to section 36 of the Act. An employer is required to provide these workers living accommodation, but generally / in spite of the fact that the Government gives loans and SUBSIDIES to the employers for construction of houses, progress (800) in regard to these constructions is very poor. As I said earlier, very unhygienic and INSECURE houses are there where / these people have to live. Even compensation to the workers in the event of house collapse is not given. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 28

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, consisting of approximately 20 lines of text.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I was speaking about the need for developing a strong U.N. delegation. I wish that the hon. Prime Minister would give his attention to this aspect of the matter, particularly in view of the fact that in the next DECADE or two, politics all over the world would take on a COMPLEX character and it is necessary that men are trained from now on for taking part in international affairs. In the U.K. and the United States, such delegations are built with men who have wide knowledge of international affairs and there should be other (100) qualification for a man to be included in such a delegation. In this connection, I should also like to mention / that it is time for Government to develop sound CONVENTIONS regarding the conduct of foreign affairs. In the United States, they have accepted the principle of BIPARTISAN consultation on important affairs of policy. For example, when President Kennedy stood for / election, President Eisenhower, even during the period of the conduct of the CAMPAIGN of President Kennedy, kept him informed about / major developments in foreign affairs. We have seen our Government sending troops out of this country to the Congo and (200) at that time I had raised the point that before troops left our country for any ASSIGNMENTS of an unusual / character like the Congo assignment, Members of the Opposition should be informally consulted. There will be no question of any / leakage of information whatever, if leaders in the Opposition are consulted on important aspects of foreign policy. The Consultative Committee / of the External Affairs Ministry does go some way to meet the needs of exchanging information about foreign affairs, but the informal consultation of the kind that I mention, where the Leader of the Opposition and leaders of other Parties (300) are called and told by the Prime Minister about unusual developments, would strengthen the convention that the foreign policy of / the country has the support not only of the Congress Party but also of the entire country.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, consisting of approximately 5 lines of text.

I was speaking / about our external publicity and it is a subject on which I think I can speak with some confidence as / I have been an old-time newspaperman in this country. The material which is sent out to foreign countries / is extremely SCRAPPY, and useless. There is included in these messages some statement of what this Minister was saying somewhere. (400)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 15 lines of text.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 10 lines of text.

We are trying to give publicity to ministerial activities and it is INEVITABLE that some such publicity should be given, because Ministers are in charge of the Government, but one abroad does not get a real idea of what is / happening in the country. I would like to suggest for the consideration of the External Affairs Ministry that they should / send a fortnightly assessment of what is happening in India written DISPASSIONATELY, not to please a Minister or to HIGHLIGHT / something that he has done, but to give an OBJECTIVE assessment of what is going on in the country. In (500) the old days, when the British Government was in existence, such fortnightly reports used to be sent by various State / Governments and I think a beginning can be made in that direction in this matter.

The other point I would / like to suggest is that publicity is a complicated and technical matter. The Foreign Service as it is constituted today / does not have sufficient training in publicity. The Estimates Committee which went into the demands of the External Affairs Ministry / mentioned about the methods of training which have been adopted, but since our Foreign Service men are not trained in (600) publicity work and one sees, for example, that a lot of confusion has arisen in the United States over Ambassador / Nehru's statement, I think the External Affairs Ministry might well set up a Committee of Members of Parliament who are / conversant with external publicity and some newspapermen to advise the External Affairs Ministry from time to time. I do not / think that the Committee will ask for information which is confidential or secret, but they can assist the newspapermen. There / are a handful of competent men who would be willing to serve on the Committee in an ADVISORY capacity. They (700) would be able to tell the External Affairs Ministry what should be done in order that our news publicity abroad / is better. I might mention also that the Estimates Committee had recommended the creation of a cultural CELL.

Sir, to / my mind, we have also to be clear in our mind regarding the objective of rural industrialisation. Do we mean / to have only DIVERSIFICATION of rural economy and are we going to have rural industrialisation only in order to give / some help to those who find themselves unemployed during a certain period of the year? Are we aiming at utilising (800) local resources and meeting local needs through diversification of rural economy or have we a more fundamental objective in mind / when we are trying to industrialise the rural areas? Without this, I am afraid, rural industrialisation will not be possible (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 29

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the text on the right, written on lined paper. The shorthand uses various symbols, including letters, numbers, and dots, to represent the original text.

If you SCAN the history of the railways in this country, you will see that it was the Presidency towns—Bombay, Madras and Calcutta—that determined the PATTERN of our railways as well as of our industrial and economic growth. The British, when they landed in this country, established trading centres called forts. In Chennai it was Fort St. George; in Kolkata it was Fort St. Williams and in Mumbai it was merely a Fort and there was one in Surat also. It is these trading establishments which determined the pattern of government, the pattern of administration and every (100) other pattern under the British regime. They constructed the railways, they established the industries, they located their armies with reference to these three Presidency towns. This idea of the Presidency towns determining the pattern of our social structure, industrial advancement / and the system of our railways still persists. That is the mental LAG that is HAMPERING the VISION of the / Planning Commission, the Railway Board and the Railway Ministry.

Sir, once I happened to travel from London to Rome by / train. Another time I had to travel from Moscow to Leningrad by train. Nowhere did I find on the continent (200) of Europe lines of varying breadth. It is all a uniform GAUGE. So is it in Russia — it may be / 6 ft. there. In America, in every industrially advanced country, you find that the gauge is uniform. This very country / which ruled us, namely, the United Kingdom, had inside its border a uniform gauge, but they INFLICTED three systems of / gauge on India. They thought that that would PERPETUATE what is called their domination, or in the negative sense that / it would IMPEDE the industrial and economic growth of India. Secondly, it would make India always the customer and purchaser (300) of lines and locomotives and ROLLING STOCK from the United Kingdom. In the old days, I am told, it is / the Government which built the broad-gauge line and it is the private companies that took to this METRE gauge / and the narrow gauge. Though they may not have had the DISTINCTION of private and public sector in view then, / it now appears that what the so-called public sector then did has been good and what the private sector then did has been to our disadvantage. I would appeal to these agencies, to introduce a uniform gauge throughout India. (400)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 30 lines of text on the left side of the page.

In this connection, it will be interesting to note the talk of the hon. Railway Minister about the schools, primary/schools, higher secondary schools and high schools for the Indian Railways. If you examine the previous speech of the Railway Minister and also the working report of the Railway Board, you will find that the same figure is repeated every year. I have examined the figures and I find that this year only 16 schools have been added, out of which 13 are primary schools, one is a higher secondary school and two are middle or high schools. Instead of (500) saying that they have been able only to provide 13 primary schools or one or two more high schools or higher secondary schools, the same figures are repeated in the speech. Although the Railway Board has ALL ALONG been saying that education is the responsibility of the State and therefore the Railway Board does not own this responsibility, I would like to remind the Railway Minister about the agreement reached between the National Federation of Railwaymen and the Railway Board in the year 2013 according to which the Railway Board undertook to provide primary schools for (600) the education of the children of railway employees.

Sir, as I told you earlier, I had to say many things on the floor of this House but I will CONCLUDE with only one or two more observations. I will first deal with the labour relations on the Indian Railways. I slightly differ from my hon. friend when he quoted me as saying that the permanent NEGOTIATING machinery has completely failed. It is a fact that this machinery is not functioning satisfactorily. At certain places, it has failed. There is no doubt about it. But I would say in this House (700) most frankly that at the Board's level this machinery has been working successfully. But this is not the position so far as the zonal railways are concerned. I do not say that in all the zonal railways it is so, but in certain zonal railways and in most of the divisions of these railways it has failed. I was expecting that the Railway Minister would examine the working of this machinery in all the railways. What is the greatest defect in this machinery? This machinery suffers to the extent that at the board level if there is difference of opinion (800) between the Railway Board and the railway labour, no ARBITRATION machinery is provided to settle the disputes. The provision in this machinery is that as and when an occasion arises, an AD HOC TRIBUNAL would be set up by Government. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 30

Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, covering approximately 25 lines of text. The script is dense and cursive, typical of shorthand used for rapid dictation.

May I, Madam, draw the attention of the hon. Minister to an important Committee set up by the Government of India in 1998, under the chairmanship of Mr. Neogi who was asked to enquire into the various problems of railway-road co-ordination? Their PRELIMINARY report appeared sometime ago, and it was even circulated to all the State Governments for their opinion. But to my regret, I have to say that the work of this Committee has been very much HINDERED as a result of the INDIFFERENCE and, may I say, CALLOUS negligence on the part (100) of the State Governments as well as on the part of the Ministry concerned in taking up this question and in PURSUING it so that we may be able to have a clear and COMPREHENSIVE picture of the transport situation in the country.

Now, railway transport like any other MODE of transport is suffering under a major HANDICAP, the handicap being that we do not know, nor does the Railway Ministry know, what the exact QUANTUM of transport requirement in the country is and what the rising demand is which the Railways are expected to CATER to in future. Certain (200) TARGETS which have been worked out in the Tenth Plan have been given to us. In the Ninth plan, we were given certain targets. But unfortunately, Madam, may I point out that all those targets were either gross UNDER-ESTIMATES or EXAGGERATIONS? Throughout, we have seen that we have not been able to have a well-coordinated and progressive development of the transport system, and in particular the railway system in the country. So, anything we suggest today will have that kind of air of unreality. Without knowing fully or adequately what exactly the transport needs in the country are, (300) we are not in a position to discuss or DILATE UPON the problems of the Railways or the transport itself.

Madam, last year when I was speaking on the Budget, I pointed out that there had been planning of some sort but within this planning there had not been sufficient planning in the functioning of the administration. There has not been planning in carrying out the various phases of the programme ENUNCIATED in the plan or in the Budget. Frequently, we come across the statement by the hon. Minister that the Railways have not been able to fulfil certain things. (400)

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I went through the pages of the Budget papers and also the speech of the Minister. I came across this / significant expression. Wherever there are failures or shortfalls in performance, we are told that these are mainly due to UNPREDICTABLE / factors or factors beyond control. I do not think that some of the factors which my hon. friend would like/ us to believe that they are unpredictable or uncontrollable cannot be ANTICIPATED.

For instance, I may draw the attention of / the hon. Minister to one important fact, that is, we have been supplying since some time past empty HAULAGE for (500) a long distance to COLLIERIES, to steel factories and so on. We are told that this empty haulage is unavoidable, / that we have to find empty wagons to steel factories and collieries to carry raw material or perhaps coal and / the like. So, for a long distance we find wagons going empty, but if there had been a research CELL, / an organisation in the Ministry to find out ways and means of utilising these wagons fruitfully by avoiding BOTTLENECKS in/ between, we could have solved the transport difficulty to a certain extent. I do not want to be told by (600) the Minister that this is a physical impossibility. Even in the ADVANCED countries of the world every movement of wagon, / coach and engine is planned before it is put into operation. It is unfortunate and TRAGIC that in this country/ after a decade of planning we have not been able to think in terms of planning while executing the works./ Now, in regard to some of the general problems of the railways, I would say, first of all, that the / rise in demand is so great that we have to be prepared to provide not only adequate but also effective (700) transport facilities to our people. I need not tell the House that the railway transport system in general is greatly / DEPENDENT or inter-dependent on the general economy of the country. But during the last one DECADE, there has been one/ significant factor that has to be appreciated, that is, the demand for transport is increasing at a FASTER rate than / the rise in the national income or the rise in production in any sector or in any industry. This is / a factor that has not been adequately appreciated; even if it has been adequately appreciated, no attempt or sincere (800) effort has yet been made to carry out the fulfilment of the needs of all the sectors of our economy. (820 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 31

Madam Deputy Chairman, the main question for consideration of this House is whether the increase in the passenger FARES and / in the freights that has been proposed by the Railway Minister should have the support of this House or not. I have been listening with some interest to the speeches so far made and they are all UNANIMOUS on one / point, namely, that there should be no increase particularly so far as the second class passengers are concerned. What we / have to decide at present is that those friends who have emphasised their opposition to this levy have also said (100) that in view of our developing economy, in view of our developing industrialisation, in view of the fact that there / is a greater demand for passenger traffic as well as goods traffic, we have to develop our railway system. We / have to see that we increase our lines. We have also to see that we double our lines. We have / also to see that the production of the LOCOMOTIVES, wagons and coaches is increased with greater RAPIDITY. Otherwise, we will / not be able to meet the demand of the developing economy.

It is also agreed that according to the recommendations (200) of the Pay Commission, we all feel that our workers, our labourers, are entitled to D.A. which will / be to the tune of Rs 12 crores. There are no two opinions about it. It is also demanded that / so far as AMENITIES to the workers are concerned regarding their PRIVILEGES and concessions, or the repairs to the stock / are concerned, there is very urgent need that we should see that our workers do not strain themselves. An engine / driver should not be asked to do work for more than 12 hours. Similarly, others in the Railways should also (300) have further concessions so far as LEISURE, rest and leave are concerned.

It is also agreed and it has been / EMPHATICALLY STRESSED ON ALL HANDS that the second class passengers are not getting amenities which they should get. The greater / portion of the income comes from the second class passengers and the position is that they are not getting their / dues by way of rest and comfort which are necessary for them. I appreciate that effort is being made that / so far as sleeping accommodation and provision of fans to the second class passengers are concerned, something is being done. (400)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 32

Mr. Vice-Chairman, knowing the hon. mover of this Resolution to be a good PARLIAMENTARIAN, I had expected that he / would place before the House all sides of this problem. I had expected that he would be no less interested / in the efficiency and discipline of the Administration, no less interested in the public welfare, than in the interest of / the civil services. But I am sorry to observe that he has taken only one view of the matter, namely, / the interests of the civil services alone. He has not at all DWELT UPON the FRIGHTFUL CONSEQUENCES which a strike (100) of the sort we had the misfortune to have, would have had on the country and the people in general. He has spoken, no doubt, in measured tones unlike the hon. Member who sat to his right in the morning / and who raised a shout, wanting to make up by sound what his arguments lacked in force. I wish to / submit to this House that it would be incorrect and it would be IMPRUDENT for this House to accept this / Resolution. It would be incorrect because by accepting this Resolution, we would be laying down something bad in principle and (200) we would also be accepting a policy which would be SUICIDAL and which would cut at the roots of discipline / in the services.

To the merits of / REINSTATEMENT or otherwise of these persons, I will come later on. I doubt / the very PROPRIETY of Parliament going into this matter. Now, let us see what has happened. Whether right or wrong, / Departments have taken up the question of these strikers, those who took part in this strike, those who indulged in / disobeying the ORDINANCE; several cases of SABOTAGE and INTIMIDATION, including criminal ones, have been gone into, and the authorities have (300) taken some decision. In some cases, the Government have taken the decision and in some cases the Departments have taken / the decision. Now, would it be right for Parliament to intervene, to interfere with these decisions? Suppose we do that, / suppose Parliament interfered with the decisions taken by the Government or by the Heads of Departments, tomorrow, with what face / and with what authority can the Head of a Department extract service from his subordinates? This is the question which / the hon. the mover must see and also the other hon. Members who have spoken in support of the Resolution. (400)

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But this does not touch even the FRINGE of the problem and when we see the second class passengers HUDDLED together like cattle, not even having sufficient air to BREATHE in, we feel that there is something seriously wrong with / our Railway Administration. We have also to see that the shortage that we had about the supply of wagons to / the coal-mines and to our steel industry is not there. Madam, it is a strange chain of events that / the Minister who was in charge of steel and who gave statements in a way IMPLYING that the Railways are (500) not doing their part well, is now SADDLED with that responsibility and I am sure he must feel double responsibility / because he knows how the industry has suffered or was likely to suffer. As the Minister of Steel, he charged / the Railway Ministry of not doing things which should have been done.

So, now these are the problems that we / have to meet and the question arises how to meet them. I quite understand that there could be some economy / EFFECTED in administration. I could also understand that by tightening the administration and seeing that there is not much of (600) ticketless travel we could improve the position. I could also understand that by taking effective measures regarding the new responsibility / which Parliament has placed on the shoulders of the Railway Department, namely, the liability of a common CARRIER for goods / for which they have provided Rs. 2 crores, and by having all these things in mind, there could be some / reduction in expenditure. But I do not think that reduction would be of a value sufficient to meet the increasing / demands of the Railways. That is the problem. It is true that it will be hard to increase any FARE. (700) It would be hard to increase any freight. We do realise and we do appreciate it and as representatives of / the people, we do feel every day that our people are being taxed more and more.

As regards freight, Madam, / my own view is that so far as food articles are concerned, this proposal should be modified, just as there / has been a modification in the case of giving encouragement for exports and in certain other respects. Similarly, I feel / that so far as food articles are concerned, the proposal should be modified and on the other things, these freights (800) may continue as proposed. In this way, the danger that has been pointed out by hon. Members and to a / certain extent correctly, that if the prices of food articles go up, that would create difficulty, would be avoided. (840)

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Unemployment is MOUNTING UP and we have not been able to GENERATE enough employment opportunities to provide even for those/ people who are entering the labour market today, perhaps, to the extent envisaged during the Tenth Plan. The point that / I want to make is that it is not quite justifiable to take only one aspect of the Tenth plan / period, namely, the EXIGENCIES of capital MOBILISATION out of the CONTEXT of the general economic situation in the country. When/ we are, therefore, making this huge tax effort, we will have to apply our mind with equal seriousness, if not (500) more, to see that the income generation in the community is as great as is ENVISAGED so that the savings / and investments could be effected without disturbing unnecessarily the consumption PATTERN in the community.

Whenever there is any tax on / corporations, this cry is raised and this cry is always BELIED by what the industrialists themselves have claimed to be / the sensitive BAROMETER to find out the climate for capital formation. I mean the stock exchanges. This time the stock/ exchanges have reacted quite favourably to the Budget proposals as a whole, which clearly shows that whatever else may be (600) the merit of the present Budget proposals, it is certainly not anti-capital. Last year also, the stock markets BOOMED / up after the taxation proposals were announced. This time, though they were a little HESITANT at first, ultimately I think / they have realised that there is nothing wrong with the taxation proposals and they are now MERRILY mounting up. This / is quite natural, because there are so many benefits and advantages in our economy today that it is not difficult / for the corporate sector to absorb a small rise of five per cent in the corporation tax which has been (700) proposed by the hon. Finance Minister.

The economy of the nation today is more or less a closed economy because / due to the lack of external finances, imports have been VIRTUALLY PROHIBITED. There is a lot of planning in the / country which makes risk-bearing rather unlikely and because of the regulation of the economy, internal competition is also not/ very great. The risk-bearing capacity, which is claimed by the industrialists, really forgetting large profits and large YIELDS on/ their investment, is almost non-EXISTENT in our economy today. Our markets are expanding very fast and the money generated (800) is much more than the production of commodities, with the result that there are shortages is almost every commodity. It/ should not be difficult for the industrialists to ABSORB the small rise of five per cent in the corporate tax. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 33 (new)

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Plantations Labour Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on/ the 8th March, 2003. Then, it was referred to a Joint Committee of both the Houses and this Joint Committee submitted its report in 2005. Now, we are discussing this Bill today / after six years of the submission of the report by the Joint Committee. Hence, the Bill would not be able to / deal with the present-day expectations of the workers of the plantations. The original Act in regard to the (100) plantation labour, namely, the Act of 2001 itself provided various welfare measures for the plantation labour. / But unfortunately the planters NON-CHALANTLY violated all these provisions for welfare measures.

The main question, therefore, is the question/ of implementation of the provisions of the Act. Mere amendments will not improve the position. There is no provision in the / present Bill also as to how these measures, these provisions, can be implemented and what the Government is thinking in/ terms of implementing these provisions. In most cases, even the Government officials who are deputed for the purpose of inspecting (200) the gardens, they themselves side with the planters. If Government officers themselves side with the planters, where is the remedy?/ Hence, we should DEVISE ways and means and adopt measures so that the provisions which are made in the Act/ and the Bill, the present Bill, are implemented properly.

Sir, the provisions in the present Bill fall far short of/ the expectations of the working population in the plantations. In the present Bill, it has been suggested that the ACREAGE /of the plantations in regard to which this Act will be applied will be reduced to 5 HECTARES. But this (300) is also not sufficient, because under this also, the owners, the planters will take shelter and many of the plantations / will still remain uncovered. This should be further reduced to 2.5 hectares. So far as compensation for house/ collapse is concerned, it has been said here that if the occupant of a house is directly responsible for the / collapse, he will not be entitled to COMPENSATION. Under this provision, Sir, the employers will take shelter and deprive many / workers of getting compensation. Sir, it is known to everybody that the plantation industry is the biggest foreign exchange earning industry. (400 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, covering approximately 10 lines of text. It includes some numbers like 03, 105, and 01, and various symbols and characters used in shorthand.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 25 lines of text. The notes appear to be a transcription of the printed text on the right side of the page.

The productivity of this industry in India can increase only if the labour are CONTENTED. Contented labour alone can/improve the efficiency and productivity of the plantation industry. So, the need of the hour is not to bring such / PIECEMEAL legislation. What is needed today is a comprehensive Bill which should deal with all aspects of the working conditions/of the plantation labour. The need of the day is to introduce such a Bill where workers will have full/participation in managing the gardens, and this plantation industry should be nationalised immediately.

Sir, Assam is one of the most important (500) tea producing States in the country. There, formerly the tea gardens were owned by the Britishers. Now the Indians/have purchased those gardens. After these gardens have gone to the hands of the Indian planters, the situation has not/improved; rather it has DETERIORATED, the efficiency of the gardens has deteriorated. Even the local people and educated tea labour/youths are being deprived of getting employment in the gardens. Therefore, steps should immediately be taken to nationalise this industry. Here, Sir, I would like to inform the House that in 1998-99, the ruling (600) Janata Party in the Assam Assembly had adopted a resolution UNANIMOUSLY for nationalisation of tea industry in Assam. If the Government is not willing to nationalise the entire plantation industry. I would request that the Government should take early steps/at least to nationalise the tea industry in Assam. It is a very vital matter for the economic self-sufficiency/of Assam State and it is very important from the point of view of increasing efficiency and productivity of the gardens also.

I would like the Government not only to pass this Amendment Bill which I have risen to support (700) but also to ensure its implementation, as best as it can; otherwise, getting it passed and keeping a copy of/ it in the library or elsewhere, will not improve the conditions of the plantation workers. I want proper implementation, proper/enforcement of the law and I want that desired amenities and facilities should be provided to these workers and it/ should be ensured that employers do provide these amenities. When this question of Joint Committee was taken up in this House, our late friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, was there and he also voiced his feelings and said that these plantations (800) should be ACQUIRED by the Government. These are generally foreign-owned establishments, and they are the centres — at least in/Assam — of anti-Indian activities. These plantations deserve to be taken over by the Government as early as possible. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO.34 (NEW)

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on this Bill in the interest of the rapid economic growth in the country. If the nation grows from strength to strength economically leading to ERADICATION of the degrading and disheartening poverty of the people of India, the workers of this nation would also benefit and they would also go above the poverty line.

Sir, I would like to mention here that the plantation crops, as understood by the term so far, namely, coffee, rubber, tea and CARDAMOM have been giving this nation substantial amount of the much-COVETED foreign exchange annually. (100) It must be noted that coffee exports alone have given our country during the last five years over Rs.1000 crores in foreign exchange by way of export earnings and export duties. I must also bring to the attention of this House that the FAMED tea industry in India today has become a sick industry affecting lakhs of workers and the tea planters.

Sir, we ought to know that in the agricultural sector the plantation labour is the best organised one and is getting nearly the same treatment, facilities and amenities like the industrial labour.

Sir, coming from (200) a plantation district of Karnataka, I sincerely agree that the welfare measures provided in the Act must be faithfully implemented and strictly enforced. But I cannot SUBSCRIBE to the view taken by some that the planters generally are exploiters and are INIMICAL to the interests of their own workers and that they must be dealt with severely. Sir, most of the planters of today are educated and they know that CONTENTED labour is CONDUCTIVE to productivity and peace in the ESTATES and therefore would like to provide all the welfare measures and amenities to the workers.

Sir, I would like (300) to point out some of the very DRACONIAN, DISCRIMINATORY and INVIDIOUS urban-directed amendments made in the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2013. Sir, the Plantations Labour Act is sought to be applied now even to HOLDINGS of 5 HECTARES and above, employing 15 persons and more. Originally, in the Bill brought before the Joint Committee, it was sought to be applied to holdings of 6.5 hectares and above. It would be realistic to make an amendment to the present Bill to raise the size of holdings from five hectares to 6.5 hectares. (400)

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Sir, we must bear in mind the economic VIABILITY of small plantations of 5 hectares and the financial capacity of the small planters to fulfil the obligations CAST on them to provide housing and CRECHE facilities. Those small planters/in some cases are unable to provide themselves with houses and medical care as good as those intended for their workers/in the Bill. I am sure that good many small holdings will go into LIQUIDATION unable to bear the burden/when the prices fall as in the case of tea today. I would EMPHATICALLY say that Clause 13 is not (500) only Draconian but discriminatory. And it is most harsh and killing to the farming community of India whose hands FEED and CLOTHE the people — poor and rich.

Sir, I strongly feel that the punishment with both compulsory fine and imprisonment is too severe for violation of a welfare legislation covered by the Act. For economic reasons and financial incapacity, the/debt-RIDDEN employer, particularly a small HOLDER, may be unable to discharge the obligations such as providing type-design houses, creches, medical facilities, etc. In such cases, there is no point in sending the landholder to jail and collecting (600) a fine from him for every day of DEFAULT.

The relevant provisions in the Bill are made more STRINGENT than the/Factories Act under which in the case of a further offence the court is given the discretion to punish the/DEFAULTING employer. But in the proposed amendment the word used is 'shall' instead of 'may' which makes it MANDATORY on the court to impose imprisonment as well as fine. These provisions are too harsh and discriminatory, particularly in view of the fact that the Bill seeks to bring in farms of five hectares which are in the nature of peasant (700) holdings under the scope of the Act.

Sir, I would like to ask the Government of the people, for the/people and by the people, in the name of the FARMERS of India why it wants to treat a farmer/as a criminal and to be imprisoned for such an offence while it does not do so for a factory/owner of a city? By making this comparison, I do not mean that a provision should be made in the/relevant Factories Act to make the sentence of imprisonment compulsory for similar offences. Let me make it clear that I (800) am not speaking against the interests of the workers in the plantations. I am only speaking against the STRINGENT and/invidious measures which have been provided in the Bill affecting the rural employers and the invidious laws enacted for them. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 35

12-13
Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Budget proposals for the year 2012-13 which are all COMPREHENSIVE and which EMBRACE most of the development plans that we have ENVISAGED for the establishment of a / socialistic society in this country. In spite of the taxation and the introduction of fresh duties, we find that the / Finance Minister has succeeded in disturbing only a MICROSCOPIC section of the people of this country to EXTRACT sufficient funds / for our schemes. The Finance Minister has also succeeded in finding funds for almost all the development plans of this (100) country which will add to our good.

While we discuss the general aspects of the Budget, we will have to / consider the activities of most of the sections that are now covered in the Budget. Even though the provisions are / there, I think, Sir, the expenditure on some of the activities envisaged in this Budget should be SUBJECTED to a / THOROUGH SCRUTINY.

In this respect, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of this House the special FEATURE of / the educational system of this country. Some of the members have mentioned something about the educational system of this country, (200) have remarked that the allocation of funds is not adequate and that the provision should be revised according to the / needs of this country. As the hon. Member was speaking in Hindi, I did not thoroughly understand what he meant / but still, Sir, the educational system has created a sort of confusion in our country over the last fifteen years, / and every NOW AND THEN, we had been changing the schemes and plans for educating our children, and various States / have adopted different schemes which have actually created a feeling of DISINTEGRATION among the people of this country. In some (300) of the States, they have SWITCHED on to the regional language as the medium of instruction, and in some States, / they think that English should be retained as the medium of instruction. But the people believe that the medium of / instruction should be Hindi, that is, the national language of our country. But, Sir, the time is not yet ripe / for us to switch on to Hindi. So, as and when we find it FEASIBLE we may switch on to / our national language, but till that time we will keep English as the medium of instruction in all educational institutions. (400)

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Sir, the other day the University Grants Commission submitted a report wherein they have mentioned that English should be the / medium of instruction at least in the colleges. Sir, it is my opinion that English should be retained in this / country for years to come, till we find that we could translate all the essential books, books on science and / technology, etc. into Hindi, which should be able to help us in educating our boys, especially in the technical institutions / through Hindi as the medium. Here, Sir, some of the Members have pointed out with regard to the introduction of (500) different types of education in the same State or in various parts of this country. We find that a majority / of the children of our country are educated in the basic system, which brings out, as far as I know, / second class citizens in this country, who are to be governed by the boys who are sent to the public / schools. Most of the children of the 'HAVES' are sent to the public schools, and they are IMPARTED expert training, / and when they come out, they are definitely superior to those boys who undergo this basic system of education. If (600) this basic education is considered to be the best for the development of our country in the socialistic way, we / will have, somehow or other, to find some better means of imparting education whereby they will be able to compete / with the students who are now undergoing training in the public schools. Unless we do it, we will be creating, / as I previously mentioned, a second class of citizens in this country. I hope the authorities who are concerned with / the planning of education in this country will review their schemes according to the suggestions that I have put forth (700) now.

In the same way, Sir, our country is mainly depending on our agriculture and industries for the development of / our economy. But the agriculturists are an ignorant section of our people who do not find, in spite of the / development in that sector of our economy of high production, a better income as the industrial section is having in / this country. The industrial section is fast improving, and their standard of living has gone high. At the same time, / in spite of the better production in the agricultural section, the AGRARIAN population has not come at PAR with (800) the industrial section of this country.

In the same way, industrial labourers are organised. Most of them are given so / many benefits and advantages according to the legislation that is passed for the betterment of industrial labourers of this country. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 36

Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, covering approximately 25 lines of text.

Madam, Deputy Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to make a few observations during the discussion on the Finance Bill. At / this stage, therefore, it is better to use this opportunity to make a survey of the economic situation and find / out what the present condition of the people is, whether they are satisfied, and if they are not satisfied what / the reasons are. I feel this responsibility is greater today when the American aid is likely to be reduced and, / therefore, we have got to stand more on our own legs. When the Plan was SET FORTH, there were three (100) sources from which we hoped to get finance for the Plan, namely, our own resources from the revenues, loans within / the country through savings and thirdly foreign help. The LATTER we need not discuss here.

If we study the ACCOMPLISHMENTS / of the Plan and the resources that it has been possible to raise, we cannot deny that our expectations have / not been fulfilled and we have therefore to find out the reasons which have led to that situation. Here, INCIDENTALLY / I would like to touch, in a sentence or two, the entire theme of the speech of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. (200) It is very easy to say, this should be done or this could have been done from the opposition point / of view, but I would like to ask him a question and he can reply to it later in some / other speech whether in Russia it would be possible for anybody not in the debate in the Parliament, but even / outside, to utter a single sentence against the Government policy. In our democratic set-up, we have allowed the people / to criticise Government policies. Even as Congress people, we are free to criticise the policies of the Government but the (300) point is whether the doubts raised in the minds of the public by the people in the Opposition who show / their loyalty to a different set-up would be CONDUCTIVE to create the enthusiasm that is necessary and the inspiration / that is necessary to give their very best to fulfil the targets of the Plan. This planned economy is really / not a thing that will go successfully hand in hand with a democratic set-up unless some other things are / there, and they are the INCULCATION of a national spirit, giving of proper national education to develop a national outlook. (400)

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Unless these things are done as they are in other countries like England, unless that type of spirit is created / in the country by all the people of all types of views not being allowed to create differences and doubts in / the minds of the people, we cannot, in a democratic set-up, have the success which we want and we / cannot fulfil our promises to the people.

Without going further into that aspect which really came to my mind as / a result of the long speech of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, I would like to make a few suggestions so that (500) a proper attitude towards giving of one's best to the Plan and to raise the national economy can be developed. / I would like to make three or four points. Firstly, we have to see that we take steps to check / corruption at any level, whether it is among the people in the public sector or among the officials. Then, we / have also to see that we give a proper type of education, ROUSE a proper spirit of service. We must also / check the trends for INFLATION and also lay stress on AUSTERITY so that the people will feel that there (600) is something AT STAKE.

I would not like to take much time of the House. The main problem in our / country is the growing population and in spite of all the efforts that are made to raise the standard of / living and raise production etc., the results are not as easily PERCEPTIBLE as they should have been. That is a / separate problem by itself but in spite of that it is possible for the Government to show better results if / the Government were to undertake immediately and see that some of the promises that are made, the Acts that are (700) passed and the Plans that are drawn up are properly implemented. I have been seeing this LACUNA in the present / position. Now, the Government have started a new Ministry called the Coordination Ministry. It was very necessary because the plans / of the different Ministries sometimes were likely to go contrary to each other's aims. I do not want to go / into details. For instance, take the question of the promotion of export. A commodity may be exported but the price / of that commodity in the country to the consumer may go on rising. Who is to see to that? Take (800) tea for example; it had to be exported and nobody was there to see whether there was enough tea for / consumption in the country and what was the price at which it was available to the consumer in the past. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 37

Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to PARTICIPATE in this discussion not with a view to VENTILATE particular GRIEVANCES or to / secure concessions and relief in the taxation measures. I am one of those who believe that there is no justification / for additional taxation unless the conditions laid down by the Taxation Enquiry Commission are COMPLIED WITH. It was a commission / presided over by no less a person than Dr. John Mathai, one of our ILLUSTRIOUS Finance Ministers and it laid / down that there was no justification for any additional taxation unless we complied with two or three conditions.

One condition (100) was that whatever tax was realised was being properly spent, that there was no wastage or SUPERFLUOUS expenditure being INCURRED. The Commission had pointed out that out of every rupee that was being raised by the Government, 60 paise / were being spent on administration and about 20 paise were being spent on social services including education etc., and the / balance for other things. Another was that whatever tax was being imposed should be realised before we brought out measures / for fresh taxation. They also had suggested that there was sufficient room for economy in all the Ministries and Departments (200) and effective steps should be taken FORTHWITH to ENFORCE the maximum possible economy in Government expenditure.

Now, we have before / us this Audit Report for 2011-12, which was presented to the Lok Sabha on / the 6th June and which came to my hands last night, and I have not been able to study it. / I find that during the last five years, we have imposed additional taxation, and at the same time our revenue / expenditure has gone up by about Rs.42 crores. So, on the one hand, we say that we are (300) raising this money, these taxes, for the implementation of the Plan, and for that reason every Chief Minister and Ministers / go about saying that we want money for the implementation of the Plan. But what are the facts? We find / that the money that has been raised is being used for administrative purposes. So, it is not correct to say / that. On the other hand, it is not proper because you must know that no Plan, however well-balanced and / well thought out it may be, can be implemented in a democratic set-up unless you can enthus the people. (400)

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We have been depending either on foreign aid or on indirect taxation or deficit financing, and more than once I / have pointed out that these measures will not help to ENTHUSE the people, and unless the people are enthused we / will not have any successful results so far as planning is concerned. Now, it is necessary, it is time, that / we should take stock of the situation, for we have had fifty four years of freedom and 52 years of democratic / rule and of planned economy. What are the results? I am not one of those who minimise our achievements. We (500) have had some achievements which are remarkable, of which we can be proud. We have had three general elections and / we can be proud of all this. But it is equally true that the expectations of the people remain mostly / unfulfilled. They remain unrealised. What are the expectations of the people? They wanted an adequate supply of drinking water, they / wanted a little more WHOLESOME food in their STOMACHS, a little more cloth on their bodies, a stronger roof over / their heads, freedom from the CLUTCHES of the corrupt officials and the GRABBING INTERMEDIARIES and speedier justice. But what have (600) we done? Have we been able to satisfy those expectations? I can say, 'No'. Even in the Eleventh Five Year / Plan we find that all the villages have not been provided with adequate supply of drinking water. And as for / food, only the other day the Finance Minister himself admitted in the other House that there was ADULTERATION of foodstuffs / ALL ROUND. Not only that, a former Health Minister admitted in this House that it was difficult to get any / article of food unadulterated. Then what is the use of talking about pure food articles and of other health facilities (700) when the people are getting articles which are as good as poison? They are injurious to health.

The other day / the Finance Minister is reported to have said that the taxation proposals did not AFFECT the common man because he / needed only COARSE cloth and ordinary food. During the last five years we have raised Rs. 424 crores / more. Including the taxation measures this year, the increase in revenue will be about 75 per cent. / Since 2006 we have raised additional taxation to the tune of 75 per cent and (800) during the five years PRECEDING this year the revenue expenditure has gone up by 85 per cent. I would / like to know how much of this amount has gone towards developmental expenditure and towards social services. (837 words)

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So far as matters relating to TRUSTEES to whom the property has been entrusted, or in case of DISABILITY as / minors or INSANE persons and similar cases are concerned, of course, we will have to take all necessary PRECAUTIONS / and, if necessary, we can extend the time so that these persons who are suffering under any disability should not in / the long run suffer on account of the provisions of the Limitation Act. That is one of the fundamental things / which I hope the Select Committee will bear in mind. Apart from these two considerations, the other consideration that I (500) will place before the Select Committee is relating to property, whether it is on the basis of contract or otherwise. / I am glad that they are trying to very much simplify things by including definite categories into a simple form. / Similarly, by including petitions in applications they are trying to cover up a bigger scope and all these details I / need not go into at this stage but I would request that they get the time reduced rather than extend / it. For instance, in money matters, instead of 3 years, I would be happy if it is a case of (600) one year. In matters of land, of course those days when there were big zamindars, big talukdars or jagirdars were / different. Now, the whole trend has changed. If at all, a litigation is confined to commercial matters where everybody is / alert. The circumstances do demand and if there is anything wrong, if somebody wants to claim something from the other / party, it is no use sleeping over it. So, the period of limitation should be considered in all these matters / from this angle that so far as possible, let the litigation be introduced or let the suit be filed as (700) early as possible and accordingly the disposal could also be done. So, I would request the Select Committee to take / the changed circumstances of the country into consideration and come to the conclusion to simplify matters and let us reduce / it so that the limitation as far as possible may be reduced. We know that PROTRACTED disputes go on as / I have just pointed out which give rise to different INTERPRETATIONS as is EVIDENT from the Law Commission report and / the different High Courts have taken different views on certain matters. That creates confusion, that creates difficulties. Unless either in (800) the old decisions there is a clear decision of the Privy Council or at present there is a clear decision / of the Supreme Court, difficulties would arise. So, I would suggest that all these cases should be taken into consideration.
(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 39

In presenting this Report, my first duty would be to thank the Dhebar Commission for preparing this valuable document. The / Commission have gone deep into the various aspects of this problem and have produced an important and valuable document. / The Commission had to tour a lot and they had to put in very hard work. I should like to convey my thanks and congratulations to the Chairman of the Commission, Shri Dhebar, and also to his other colleagues for / this useful CONTRIBUTION.

As the House is aware, the problem of the Scheduled Tribes has been CONSTANTLY engaging the attention (100) of the Government since the Constitution was framed and adopted. Still the Government were not satisfied with the actual progress / made. It was in that context that the Government appointed two Committees before the Dhebar Commission was appointed. The first / was the Elwin Committee which specially dealt with the problem of the tribal BLOCKS. The Second Committee was appointed on / the suggestion of the Estimates Committee to study the problem of the backward communities specially. On top of that, / in PURSUANCE of Article 339 of the Constitution, the Government appointed the Dhebar Commission and now (200) it is for the House to give its opinion on the recommendations made by the Commission. Our desire is that / as soon as the Parliament — this House as well as the other House — has discussed this Report and expressed its / views, we will go ahead with the recommendations made and we will certainly like that they are implemented as early / as possible.

I do not want to enter into GENERALITIES but it must be said that our country is vast / and our problems are also immense. Generally, we are a very poor country and it is true that during the (300) British days we did not actually realise what poverty meant. People suffered without much protest, but now, when the country / is trying to go ahead with economic development, it is but natural that every section of our community should like / to progress SIMULTANEOUSLY. I think, if we are frank, we should admit that there are certain weaker sections of our community in the country who have not made as much advance and progress as others have done. It has therefore / become very important that we should lay special emphasis on the development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.(400)

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It is necessary therefore that we should carefully consider the various recommendations made and see what we can do to / achieve a certain target within a prescribed period. The Scheduled Tribes have been living in ISOLATED places, far-off places, / not connected with roads. They do not have any AMENITIES of life, neither medical aid nor even proper educational facilities. / We have to bring them out of that situation and we must try to INTEGRATE those people with other / sections of our countrymen. It is far from my mind to suggest that we should impose anything on them, whether (500) our customs or our culture, though the culture is more or less common throughout the country, but every community has / its own CONVENTIONS and customs. Therefore, when I say that there should be complete INTEGRATION, I do not mean to / suggest that there should be imposition of anything on the tribal communities as such. Still, it is essential that integration / will only be possible if their standards are raised, if they are more or less brought to the same level / where we or the other people are who are not so isolated. So, we have to bring these people to (600) that level and we can do that, not by implementing certain schemes only but by BRINGING ABOUT a RADICAL change / in our outlook and approach.

There may be different communities and different religions in our country but India had its / own UNIQUE tradition in the past which we have to carry on and maintain even now. In fact our PHILOSOPHIC / base has been unity in DIVERSITY and in it is our good fortune that when we are free, when we / have become independent various communities and religions exist in our country and it should be our effort to bring about (700) complete unity and SOLIDARITY amongst ourselves even if our religions are different or we differ in our customs, rites etc. / So, I think that it is a challenge to all of us and I have no doubt that we will / be able to meet this challenge. I do not want to take more time of the House. As I said / in the beginning, I do not want to enter into generalities.

So far as the recommendations of the Commission are / concerned, they can broadly be divided into two categories. There are recommendations which are to be dealt with or which (800) directly concern the Home Ministry and some other Ministries of the Government of India. There are other recommendations which mainly / concern the State Governments. In fact, it is the State Governments which have really to execute and implement the programmes. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO.40

It was suggested by the Commission that there should be a SEPARATE department for the Scheduled Tribes. This matter was / considered in the Conference but it was generally felt that if the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are separated, / to be dealt with by different Departments, there will be a good deal of duplication of work, because two sets / of officers will have to TRAVERSE the same area and more or less consider the same problems. It was, therefore, / the UNANIMOUS opinion of the Conference of State Ministers that one Department should deal with the problems of the Scheduled (100) Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and it was also agreed that there should be a separate Directorate for the same. / If there is a separate Directorate, then it can concentrate on problems concerning the Scheduled Tribes. It was also suggested / that this Directorate which will have to be set up in all the States, and especially in States where the / population of the Scheduled Tribes exceeds one million, should also look after the work relating to the DE-NOTIFIED and the / NOMADIC tribes in addition to, as I said, the work relating to the Scheduled Tribes.

The Conference was in favour (200) of having Tribes Advisory Councils to advise on the protection and development of the Scheduled Tribes in all the States / and Union Territories, whether they have Scheduled Areas or not. The House, I am sure, is aware that there are / Scheduled Areas and non-Scheduled Areas. Even in non-Scheduled Areas a large number of Scheduled Tribes live but for the special programmes we have decided to concentrate on the Scheduled Areas first. I shall come to that point later / on but I am merely mentioning that the Scheduled Tribes live both in Scheduled Areas and in non-Scheduled Areas. (300) It was decided that wherever at present there is a combined reservation in the services for the Scheduled Castes and / the Scheduled Tribes, separate percentages of reservation should be fixed by the State Governments and it was agreed that the / State Governments would instruct all local authorities like municipalities, panchayat samities, zila parishads, etc., to follow the policies laid down / by them in regard to the representation of all Scheduled Tribes in the services. It was decided to have a / small committee of officials from the Tribal Welfare Department and the different Departments at the State level to ensure co-ordination. (400)

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The Conference also agreed that there should be a section under the Chief Secretary for EVALUATION of the tribal welfare / programme. If all these and other decisions taken at the Conference are implemented with speed, as it is hoped they will be, there will be considerable improvement of the conditions which exist at present. I also want to mention, Madam, / that we were told in the Conference that this work was going to be ENTRUSTED to the zila parishads and / panchayats and some of the schemes which have to be implemented in the rural areas will be executed by the (500) panchayats and the zila parishads. Well, I welcome this suggestion but I only wanted to CAUTION the district authorities and / the State Governments not to leave everything to the zila parishads and panchayats and have no supervision and watch over / their work. My fear is that because this will be a new work for them, they may not be able / to BESTOW enough attention to the problems or the schemes concerning the Scheduled Tribes. They will have many other things / to do. So, it would be necessary that the district authorities should keep CONSTANT watch and they should function as (600) the friend and guide of the panchayats and the zila parishads.

Madam, there are two major schemes in respect of / the Scheduled Tribes in the Central sector of the programme, which are controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs and / on which the entire expenditure is BORNE by the Government of India. These are the scheme of Tribal Development Blocks / and the scheme relating to promotion of co-operation among the Scheduled Tribes, particularly in the form of forest labourers' cooperative / societies and labour contract societies. The Ministry of Home Affairs appointed a special working group on cooperation about a year (700) ago and its report is expected shortly. That group will make detailed recommendations regarding the organisation and structure of the / society and other matters pertaining to the cooperative movement in areas PREDOMINANTLY INHABITED by the Scheduled Tribes. We hope that / on the basis of the working group recommendations, it will be possible to ENERGISE and expand the cooperative movement in Tribal / areas and that the cooperatives will become the effective instruments for promoting the economic development of those areas. The other / programme which is the major one and in which a great deal of interest is being EVINCED by the tribals (800) themselves is the programme of Tribal Development Blocks. The Commission have recommended that all tribal areas whether they are Scheduled / Areas or not, with a concentration of tribal population exceeding 50 per cent should be brought under the Tribal Blocks. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 41 (New)

Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, consisting of approximately 25 lines of text.

Sir, this Bill was introduced in the House by the then Labour Minister, Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy. I was also present at that time in the House. After a period of nine long years this Bill has now come from the cold-storage. It shows how powerful the plantation LOBBY in the country is. Even though after so much of time this Bill has now been brought, I support this Bill.

In the name of a more comprehensive measure, I do not agree that this Bill should be postponed or that it should be again referred to a Joint Committee. (100) Some such proposal was there. I do not agree to that. Though it is not adequate and some improvement from the point of view of workers is needed, I do not agree that we should postpone passing it. / For example, it has been suggested that the acreage limit should be brought down to five hectares to cover more plantations. / In the south, especially in Kerala, Karnataka and other southern States, many plantations are not covered by this Bill. / I would request the Minister to carefully examine this thing. In North India and some other places, tea plantation is on (200) a large scale. But in the case of rubber, CARDAMOM and coffee, it is five hectares. This is on the high side. I request the hon. Minister to reduce the acreage limit to 2-1/2 hectares for coffee and rubber and cardamom.

Our friend was talking about socialism, socialist society, democratic socialism, and so many other things. / I earnestly request him to consider my suggestion and that is, whether the Government is prepared to nationalise the tea industry. Sir, some eight years ago, in the Kerala Assembly, all the parties, including Congress Party, unanimously recommended to the Central Government (300) for the takeover of the tea industry. In Kerala, tea plantation is owned by British monopolies. Even in the Assam Assembly, all the parties unanimously passed a Resolution suggesting takeover of this industry. Are you prepared to take over this industry, especially this tea industry? I pose this question to the Central Government. Sir, this tea industry is owned by foreign monopolies and they are exploiting the workers. The situation in the tea industry is DETERIORATING. Are you prepared to nationalise it when you talk of socialism? Unless this is nationalised, you cannot meet the demands of the workers. (400)

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Sir, how unfortunate for this country, PREDOMINANTLY agricultural, that the meaning of plantations in this Bill has been STRETCHED to include COCONUT gardens, apple, pineapple, cashewnut and banana plantation farms. I am glad that wisdom has DAWNED on the Government/not to accept these recommendations of the Committee. If I were an ANARCHIST or a member who wished ill of this Government, I would have pleaded with the Government to STRETCH the meaning of plantations to cover all agricultural lands/in the country and attract the provisions of this Bill. Then, we could have seen the beginning of CONVULSIONS and (500) revolutions in this country as the DEBT-RIDDEN farmers being unable to fulfil the provisions of this Bill would have started filling up jails for violations of its provisions.

Sir, I would take this opportunity to appeal to the Prime Minister/to treat agriculture as an industry and treat agriculturists like the urban citizens and treat the farm-holdings/in the same way as they treat the factories and industries. The Government should start finding out the INVIDIOUS and DISCRIMINATORY laws passed in the country since independence adversely affecting the farming community and review those laws if they want to (600) ensure integrated development of the country. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you know the undivided Congress, the Indian National Congress, fought for plantation labour and also for the rights and privileges of the PEASANTRY. It was SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL and MAHATMA GANDHI in the Chauri-Chaura Movement who brought the peasantry to the FOREFRONT, to the leadership of the Indian National Congress.

As SUCCESSORS of those great leaders in that organisation, it is high time the Congress did their best for the/plantation labour as well as the UNORGANISED peasantry in that area. Even in Mexico, in Algeria, in Russia or in (700) Cuba or in other countries, it was the labour, the plantation labour, who took the revolution to its final goal. Here in this country, we do not want to see another BLOOD bath, we do not want to see that/they take up arms against Government or against employers. As people's representatives and as Government of the people, we must/do our best to solve their problems, whatever their grievances are, whatever their difficulties are, instead of allowing anybody to take advantage of their poverty and their difficulties. I know what goes on with plantation labour. I can give (800) instances of different plantations. I come from West Bengal where tea plantation is a very big factor and I know/how plantation labour are still being exploited. Housing facility near the plantations is a MUST for them under the Act. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 42

Sir, the Resolution itself is very badly drafted but it draws attention to one of the most pressing problems of / this country. Full employment is an objective of every kind of economy in this world, whether capitalist, socialist, communist or / mixed economy. Therefore, it is also one of our objectives. But then, we are not able to find out whether / we are proceeding on the road of greater employment or greater unemployment. I am afraid that thinking on this matter / is today so confused and CONTRADICTORY that unless we can have a RATIONAL COMPREHENSION of the whole problem, we are (100) not likely to make any HEADWAY. Therefore, I want to define how we should approach this problem.

First of all, / this is not a single problem but two different and DISTINCT problems. We should not confuse total unemployment with PARTIAL / employment or UNDER-EMPLOYMENT. These are two different things that have to be dealt with in entirely different fashions but / unfortunately, when we speak of 15 or 19 million unemployed, nobody know how many of these are really totally unemployed / and how many are suffering from seasonal or partial unemployment. Total unemployment is an URBAN PHENOMENON. It is only in (200) cities and towns you have people who have to work whatsoever. In the rural areas, it is always a case / of partial unemployment or seasonal unemployment. Therefore the first thing to be done in order to solve this is, we / must find out, we must DEVISE a machinery to ASCERTAIN how many are totally unemployed and how many are under-employed.

So, I do suggest that every municipality in this country should maintain a register of the unemployed. Of / course, we have now the Labour Exchanges. Unfortunately, they are not to be found everywhere and all unemployed do not (300) register themselves there. Therefore, I suggested that in every municipality, there should be an unemployment register and propaganda should be / done among the unemployed that they should first register themselves in the municipal register. Similarly, I would suggest that in / every village panchayat, there should be a register where people will register themselves for under-employment because during the HARVEST / season, there is actually shortage of labour in the villages rather than the reverse. Therefore, there would have to / be different kinds of registers to show in what seasons you want to give employment and to devise suitable employment. (400)

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Then secondly, we have to realise that so far as total unemployment is concerned, the only way is to develop / industries and social services. The word 'employment' is also used very loosely. In the Ambar Charkha, if a man gets / 40 or 60 rupees it is called employment. That will not do. We must define employment as giving him work / which will give him living wages. Any work which does not give living wages should not be called employment. If / we have to give living wages, the only way of doing it for the totally unemployed is to develop our (500) industries and expand our social services.

So far as social services are concerned, there is ENORMOUS scope for expansion. Why / should you not in this country have one teacher for every 20 children? Why should we have one teacher for / 40 children? Immediately, we can increase the strength of teachers by lakhs. But the real difficulty is we have to pay them and therefore we are now caught in a DILEMMA. Without increase of wealth we cannot increase the social / services. Without increasing the social services, we cannot give sufficient and adequate employment for the totally unemployed in the towns. (600) Therefore, the development of industries is essential. Without the development of industries and social services, the problem of total unemployment / cannot be solved. Therefore, it is no use blaming the Planning Commission or anybody. Of course, some kind of temporary / employment can be devised by such ways as asking the man to go and dig the high level and make / it low level and give them some temporary wages but that will be only waste of SCARCE resources and we / shall not be solving the problem of unemployment. Therefore, a faster development of industry and out of the surplus proceeds (700) of industry, a quicker development of the social services is the only possible solution for total unemployment.

For partial employment / or under-employment in the villages, it has to be solved in a differnt way. INTENSIFICATION of agriculture is bound / to increase employment. For instance, wherever there is single crop, if we can introduce double crop, the total amount of / labour required will be doubled. Therefore, CONVERSION of single crop lands into double crop lands and providing irrigation and other / facillities for them is one of the certain methods of solving this under-employment. Again many TRADITIONAL services, such as (800) the annual repair of irrigation tanks, canals, etc., have LAPSED. We must RESUME them. I am sure, they will give / at least an average of 20 under-employed workers in the villages, further LESSENING the unemployment problem in the country. (840 words) / employment to

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 43 (new)

Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I must express my thanks to the hon. Members on both sides of the House who have participated in the discussion on the Tenth Five-Year Plan document. Honourable Members will very kindly appreciate that within the short time at my disposal, it will not be possible for me to clarify all the points which they have raised during the course of the discussion. I am going to confine my remarks to certain/important aspects of the discussion, though I have taken note of almost all the points which hon. Members made during (100) the course of the discussion. At the outset, I must also say that one of the hon. Members was pleased/to ask, what is the purpose of having this kind of a discussion one and a half years or, almost/two years after the Plan has started? I do not know whether hon. Members do recollect that my PREDECESSOR, Mr. Tiwari, had circulated a note to all the members of this House, particularly, about the Tenth Plan framework and he/expected that the hon. Members will be able to send their remarks to the Minister and also to the Planning Commission (200) so that before the draft document of the Tenth Plan is prepared and finalised, their views could be taken into account. How many members sent this kind of information is a matter which I will have to enquire into, but that/exercise was gone into and now the Plan was finalised in February, 2001 and thereafter, we have taken the earliest possible opportunity to see that the Plan is discussed in both the Houses.

Sir, I am/aware of the fact that the international situation and also the internal situation in which this Tenth Five-Year Plan (300) has been finalised will definitely have some kind of an impact on the Plan document as it was prepared and/how we will be SUCCESSING in trying to avoid the adverse effects it might have on the achievement of the/physical targets that we have set for ourselves at the end of the Tenth Five-Year Plan.

Sir, there are/three points which were mentioned by all the hon. Members. The first was that the Plan was/prepared with 1999-00 as the base year, and thereafter, there has been a price rise of a considerable order. (400)

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Sir, the first thing which I would like to clarify is about the inflationary trend which has set in. One of/the hon. Members, Shri Sankar Ghose — a very experienced member of this House who had also been in the Planning Commission/and knows the INTRICACIES of how the things are being worked out — has been pleased to state here that/the rate of inflation is very high and, added to that, the balance of payments position is going to be/very bad. Compared with the percentage that we have worked out for the Tenth Plan as a whole for imports, (500) for the first year the import bill has risen very high. Then how is this ASSUMPTION going to be correct? That is the point — and a very valid point — which he raised during the course of the discussion. Sir, he/also mentioned about the hon. Finance Minister making his speech at Kanpur wherein he seems to have made a reference/that a little inflationary trend is a kind of a STIMULANT to the economy.

Sir, the inflationary trends we cannot view/in isolation. Hon. Shri Sankar Ghose will definitely agree with us that there are two factors which will have to be (600) taken into account. The first factor is the international situation which is now obtaining. Secondly, whether we like it/or not, we have to import the oil products. If they are to be imported, can we take a serious/view of the situation? That is a thing which I am sure most of the hon. Members there will be/able to appreciate. The second aspect is : Why is it that we have such a high import bill in/ 2000- 01 When the Plan itself commenced and when we were talking in terms of 9 per cent.,(700) immediately in the very first year it jumped. I am sure that most of the hon. Members are aware/of the fact that it is on account of the kind of LEGACY that this Government got. I would not like/to DILATE on that issue. But the fact of the matter is that the agricultural production had gone down./Even in the industrial sector there was a decline of 1.4 per cent. The coal production had considerably gone/ down in terms of production and the electricity generation was at the lowest. If we had to make a beginning, (800) which in fact is within the control of the Government of India, with these INFRASTRUCTURAL facilities which will have to be provided both in the agricultural sector and the industrial sector, CONCERTED efforts will have to be made. (840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 44

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Minister of Railways has given us some impressive figures regarding route mileage, the number of passenger / trains that run every day, the number of goods trains that run every day, the number of millions of passengers / who travel by train. He has tried to compare them. In view of the vastness of the country, the large / number of passenger trains being run, the large number of goods trains being run and the big route mileage, he / has tried to show that the number of accidents that have OCCURRED is not quite ALARMING. I do not know (100) what his idea was when he tried to compare the number of accidents against this background. Committees have been appointed / when serious accidents took place to find out why such and such accident took place.

The Shah Nawaz Committee, which / was appointed in 2006 gave a very VOLUMINOUS report. Therein, they had stated the causes of / accidents that occurred during the period before, and they had also suggested some preventive measures. The Government have again appointed / another Committee headed by Dr. Kunzru. It is more than eight months or so. I do not know why an (200) INTERIM report has not been submitted by this Committee. It would have been better, at least for discussion on such / an important subject like this, if that Committee had submitted an interim report. We could have offered more CONSTRUCTIVE suggestions. / Unfortunately, the Committees that are appointed take their own time to submit their reports. MAYBE, the Government is partly / responsible, for they may not be co-operating with the Committee in giving all the material that is necessary for the Committee / to come to some sort of conclusions and give their findings on such an important question.

Time and again, we (300) have discussed this question of accidents, and I was really pained to see how the Minister tried to minimise the / seriousness of the railway accidents. He also quoted in the other House the figures, the number of accidents that are / taking place in other countries, particularly America and England. The conditions that are obtaining in these countries and that are / obtaining in India are totally different. There, many of the accidents take place not because of FOLLIES, not because of / the limitations under which those railways work, but mostly because of the ENVIRONMENT that there has been in those countries. (400)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, corresponding to the typed text on the right. The notes are written on lined paper and include various symbols, numbers, and abbreviations used for shorthand transcription.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, consisting of approximately 25 lines of dense, cursive characters.

So, he did not mention the figures here but took REFUGE under the GUISE that our railways work much better than the railways work in other countries and that the rate of accidents, India is much lower than the / rate of accidents in America or England. Sir, by having this discussion, the Railway Board and the Railway Ministry should be able to learn some lessons, and if they are prepared to implement the SALIENT suggestions that will be made / by the Members, then many of these discussions will not take place and many of the accidents that take place (500) these days will not occur. It has now become almost an everyday affair. After the statement was made by the / hon. Minister in this House and the other House, another accident had occurred to a De-luxe train. It is / therefore INCUMBENT and IMPERATIVE on the part of the Railway Ministry to see whether they could avoid these accidents. Many / of the accidents that have occurred have occurred not because they are accidents but because of the wrong things done / by the Railway Ministry. When a train leaves the station, care is not taken to see whether it has a (600) defective engine, defective LOCOMOTIVE, whether proper check was made of it, whether the bogies that are attached to the train / are properly checked up, whether the screws and bolts that are there are properly placed in their proper places, and / so on. These are all things which, if properly inspected, will show whether the train is fit for travel / or / not, and if these things are properly ADHERED to, many of the accidents will not occur.

A Member in the / other House has reported a statement from "The Statesman" of [Kolkata] that the LOCOSHED people asked the driver of a (700) particular train to somehow manage, even though he complained that he could not take the train. He tried to manage. / When the train arrived very late, he was said to have been MAN HANDLED by the crowd for the late arrival / of the train, and he is reported to have stated to the corresspondent that in spite of the protest that / he made, he was asked to take that locomotive which was very defective. Last year, similar accidents occurred, for instance, / the Ranchi accident. It is also reported that the engine driver protested when he was asked to take the train (800) because the engine was defective. But in spite of his protests, he was forced to take that engine and an / accident occurred. I am glad that an Enquiry Commission has been appointed to go into the cause of the accident. (840 words)