

{Speech of hon. Minister of State for Defence}

TRANSCRIPTION No. 331

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while intervening in this debate, I would like to thank the hon. Members who have contributed to this debate. Each and everyone has given words of praise for our Armed Forces. They have supported us. / Not only they supported us but they have urged that Government should provide more funds for the Defence Forces.

As regards the / Parliamentary Committee which has been mentioned by some Members, there was a recommendation, but it has not been accepted / nor has it been rejected. We have started certain schemes and started implementation of these recommendations. Once these recommendations are (100) implemented and once we have the feedback, then we would like to consider whether a Parliamentary Committee is at all necessary. / But we can say, at this stage, that the Government has neither rejected nor accepted the formulation of the / Parliamentary Committee.

A mention has been made that Army should not be deployed time and again for civilian aids. / It is always the policy of the Government, so also of the Defence Ministry, that we never encourage it unless / it is absolutely necessary. The Army has played a very good role in helping the civilian administration when they are (200) called for at the time of natural calamities and for combating terrorist activities in various parts of the country. / They have maintained good relations with civilian population. Of late, unfortunately, there are some criticisms when Army has been deployed in / Manipur and Tripura. And I can tell that Army has never involved itself in any other activities than those which they have been assigned for, that is, countering the insurgency. We have seen that insurgency in Nagaland has been stopped. / We have seen that after the Army was inducted in Tripura, peace has not only come, but the killings have been stopped. (300) This is a good sign. Army has been assigned with the particular job and they are doing it. / Not only that, when Army goes to different remote areas, they take certain steps to develop better contact with the people. / In Tripura, I myself have seen that the Army has taken medical team along with their combat team, and they have given medical aid to the people of that area. In addition to this, they have organised various activities / there through distribution of food-stuffs among the children and they have also given nourishing food to the children. (400)

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It will be wrong to say that some political parties are trying to say something against the Army. I would like to put on record that there is no truth in it. In Mizoram in North-Eastern region, Army has always proved that whatever assignment has been given to them, they have performed it with sincerity and we always believe that Army must have a good relation with the public and we will continue to do so. About the mention of the Defence preparedness as I said, my senior colleague will deal with it. (500)

I would like to say that we have an organisation under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, the Border Roads Organisation. It was formed in 1960. This Organisation has a perspective plan for 15 years. They go in the remotest area where it is very difficult to maintain the communications. They are doing very good work and they will continue to do good work. This is basically necessary to give easy access to our Armed Forces in the border areas adjoining Pakistan and China, as well as in remote areas where there is security hazard. The Border Roads Organisation has done very well (600) and I shall have to put on record my thanks to the Border Roads Organisation.

The Armed Forces are there to protect the borders of our country. But, at the same time, we must prepare our civilian population also. Our Government has basically taken steps to prepare a citizens' force, that is, the Territorial Army. We are happy that this Territorial Army, when they have been called for any national service, has done a good job. We have seen that the Territorial Army has also played a very important role when there was a strike in the Indian Railways. (700)

We are not concerned how and when the strike has to be defused. We are called for to give service when the public suffers. We take this responsibility. We have no reasons to interfere whether the strike is legitimate or not. We, as Defence Ministry, do not interfere in that.

As regards NCC, this is yet another area where we have taken special care to build up our future generation. Now we have got Naval training and Air Force training in the NCC and our experience is that the youths of our country who have participated (800) in the NCC are coming in the Army and are also getting prepared for it. In difficult times, their services can also be utilised to the best advantage of the nation, whether in war or peace. (840 words)

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A luscious subject matter  
for speed writing

TRANSCRIPTION No. 332

Speech of hon.  
Minister for  
Commerce & Industry

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Sir, with regard to khadi and village industries, I would like to make one or two general observations before I proceed / to take up the various clauses of the Bill. The supreme importance of khadi and village industries and their contribution to the development of the national economy are well known. It was no less a person than Mahatma Gandhi who / focussed the attention of the nation on the (key) role that these industries, khadi and village industries and cottage industries / have to play in the building up of the nation on balanced lines for nearly three decades. He gave the (100) utmost importance to the development of these industries. After the achievement of independence, both the Central Government and the State Governments / have lost no opportunity and spared no efforts to give a great fillip to the development of these industries. / I would like, at the very outset to state that the main responsibility for the development of these industries falls / squarely on the shoulders of the State Governments. It is the State Governments that have got to bear the brunt of this responsibility and it is the apparatus of the State Governments, namely, the various Departments of Industries that they have (200) built up and which are functioning, that has got to discharge the supreme responsibility of developing these industries. / But in view of its great importance, Sir, the Central Government has come into the picture.

It is not necessary for me, at this stage, to narrate the developments that have taken place, the discussions that have taken place, / in regard to the role that the Central Government has to play in the development of these industries during the last few years. / When we were discussing the First Five Year Plan, when we were formulating it and after we formulated the (300) Plan, there were discussions at a very high level to bring into being certain Central authorities in order to deal with these / cottage industries. I am sure the hon. Members are aware of the First Five Year Plan and its contents and I need not quote from that Plan. It is enough to say that as a result of the / efforts made in the beginning of the First Five Year Plan and the discussions held at various levels, several / all India Boards were brought into existence, of which the Khadi and Village Industries Board is very important and deserves consideration. (400)

So, many Boards have been brought into existence, for example, the Handloom Board, the Small Scale Industries Board, the Coir Board, and the Tea Board, the Rubber Board, and so on. During the discussions on the Second Five Year Plan, when it was in the stage of formulation, it was decided that these industries should play a very vital role in / the development of our national economy, and for well known reasons. Decentralisation of industries is a thing about which / we have heard so much on several occasions, and its importance is well realised. We want to increase production to the (500) maximum possible extent in respect of certain selected consumer industries, without, at the same time, impairing or prejudicially affecting the / maximum amount of production of some other goods. That is necessary for our expanding economy. It is in this context / that a decision has been taken that we have to give the maximum assistance and support for the development of / these industries, and these all India bodies have been brought into existence only for the purpose of, / if I may say so, supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and not supplanting the efforts of the State Governments.

(600) This is a point which has got to be very carefully borne in mind. Whenever an all-India body is being brought / into existence, it is not as if there is any desire on the part of the Central Government to take away / the authority of the State Governments or to over-centralise any thing, but there is really every desire to / supplement the efforts of the State Governments. In respect of these industries, the sole desire is to assist the State Governments / by giving them financial support and by guiding them in matters of policy. (700)

Well, Sir, a little while ago, I was giving the genesis of the Khadi and Village Industries Board. It was conceived mainly as an advisory body, / that is to say, to advise the Central Government and the State Governments in the matter of planning these cottage / industries and preparing schemes for the development of cottage industries of various types and giving some sort of support and / strength by those who have got a considerable experience in the building up of these industries over a long period / of time, in two or three decades. Though it was mainly conceived as an advisory body, yet certain executive functions (800) were made to come within the purview of the working of this Board. I need not refer at the present moment / to the several executive functions that were given to this Board. It is now an advisory body. (840 words)

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beautiful Speech  
for  
lovers of speed writing

TRANSCRIPTION No. 333

{ Speech of hon.  
Home Minister }

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Sir, as you are aware, under the Constitution certain rights have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes/ as laid down in Article 330 of the Constitution. Now, the principal point in respect of which/ this right was reserved or recognised was that there ought to be reservation of seats, so far as the/ Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were concerned, in the Parliament and in the State Legislatures. Then, Sir, it was left/ to the President to prepare the lists and to promulgate them so far as these Tribes were concerned, and therefore, (100) under Article 341 (1), these orders were issued by the President under the authority which had/ vested in him. In all, as many as four orders were issued in 1950 and according to these/ orders, effect has been given and seats were reserved at the last general elections, and naturally at the subsequent/ by-elections as well. Sir, at the time when these lists were under preparation and subsequently also, a number of/ complaints were made to the Government of India, and according to some, the lists were incomplete and, according to others, (200) there were certain communities, certain tribes or castes, which ought not to have been included and, therefore, when under Article. / 340 of the Constitution the Government appointed the Backward Classes Commission in 1953,/ they requested the Backward Classes Commission also to consider the question as to whether there ought to be any additions to,/ or reductions from, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders, as pointed out by me just now. Now,/ the whole question was considered by the Backward Classes Commission and in Volume II of their Report, they have dealt with (300) this question on the information that they then had. Thereafter, Sir, twice the views of the Backward Classes Commission were/ sent to the State Governments. In the first place, we requested them to offer to us their views or reactions. / They were received and, thereafter the Government considered all those matters as also the suggestions and again sent back their/ tentative views to the State Governments. The State Governments considered this matter and, thereafter, their views in a final shape/ came, and after the receipt of all this material and after considering all the circumstances, the Government took certain decisions. (400)

Then, Sir, there are certain matters which I should like to explain to this hon. House so far as the main principles on which the present amending Bill has been brought forward. The Backward Classes Commission, Sir, made certain recommendations. / In respect of these, there were three important suggestions that the Backward Classes Commission made. One was, as you are aware, / Sir, in respect of the (untouchables) amongst the Sikh Community. Now, it was at one time contended that the Sikhs were not Hindus at all. That was rather a wide claim. Then, they also contended that they had no caste system as such amongst the Sikhs. (500) Therefore, there could be no question of any caste being recognised as a / Scheduled Caste because, as you are aware, Sir, the members should belong to the Hindu community, and it was / one of the fundamental or vital points on which a community within that particular tribe or within that particular group of people could be recognised as a Scheduled Caste. In respect of Scheduled Tribes, Sir, the question of their belonging / to a particular religion need not be taken into account, and there are Scheduled Tribes who have been recognised in these Orders, (600) who belong either to the Hindu community or to the Christian community, or they follow certain customs and / manners which may not come within the established doctrines of either Hinduism or Christianity. Therefore, Sir, so far as the / Scheduled Tribes were concerned, the question of their being members of the Hindu community was not taken into account at all. / But so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, we have to understand here the historical fact that these / were members of the Hindu religion, but on account of certain notions prevailing in ancient India, certain people, our own people, (700) were unfortunately recognised as untouchables as they are called, and therefore certain very bad practices based on the alleged / doctrine of untouchability grew up and that, to a very large extent, as you are aware, Sir, polluted the very good / atmosphere that ought to have been associated with the Hindu religion. So, for centuries together, this disability remained amongst these people. But, thanks to Gandhiji and to a number of other great leaders of ours, this question was taken up / and since then, especially during the last 30 years, Sir, considerable headway has been made so far as the annihilation of this practice of untouchability is concerned. (800) When the Constituent Assembly was considering this question, certain points were placed / before that Assembly. One of them was that there ought to be a reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes. (840 words)

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What an intellectual speech!  
What a pleasure for the dictator  
and the speed writer both!

TRANSCRIPTION No. 334

Speech of hon.  
Finance Minister,  
Government of India

On the 25th May, the Prime Minister moved the Resolution in this House asking the House to record its/general approval of the principles, objectives and programmes of development contained in the Second Five Year Plan as prepared by/the Planning Commission. This was discussed for another day and then the consideration of this Resolution was adjourned. At that stage, the scope of the discussion was confined to broad aspects of the Plan—approach, organisation, resources, etc. Arrangements were made/then so that there could be close and intimate discussion of the Plan by groups of Members of Parliament (100) of both Houses. Four Committees were appointed. They have completed their work. I take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation of the work of these Committees. The Members took very keen interest in the principles as well as the/details and made numerous valuable and useful suggestions.

I shall endeavour at this stage, to deal with the ground/that has been covered and/initiate the further stage of discussion. It is gratifying that the direction of advance and the/main goals that have been accepted in the Plan are also accepted in this House on the basis of agreement. (200) This agreement is also true of the people of the country as a whole. Sir, I regard it as/a very precious asset of the Plan. It will be a source of great strength for all those who in/different capacities in the country are going to work out this Plan, implement its various programmes. This has its particular significance in a democracy. If there is no broad agreement regarding objectives, our energies would be frittered away. Since there is/that agreement regarding objectives, we have, I believe, made a big step towards the successful implementation of the Plan. (300)

Questions and doubts arose in the course of the discussion and I shall try to elucidate the points which were/raised. There was consensus of opinion that the Plan was not too big in size considering the present needs of/the nation. However, the capacity of the country to raise resources to an adequate extent was questioned and concern was expressed regarding the gap in respect of our foreign exchange resources vis-a-vis our requirements of the Plan. /In the same context, there was a lengthy discussion about the trained personnel for the successful execution of the Plan. (400)

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There was a certain amount of discussion regarding priorities, and a special point was made that while we are according a higher priority to industry in the Second Five Year Plan, the provision is not adequate, especially in respect of heavy industries. Further, it was stated that the provision for transport is out of step with the requirements of traffic which will be generated in the course of the implementation of the Plan. I found there was a very great intensity of feeling in the House regarding unequal development in different areas and a feeling was expressed that adequate measures were not being taken to redress this imbalance. (500) The position, according to some Members, was the same in respect of the question of rural areas vis-a-vis urban areas.

Before I take up these questions, I would, if you would permit me, Sir, like to say something about the First Five Year Plan and incidentally about our approach to the entire problem of economic development. This question of First Five Year Plan figured fairly prominently in the discussion in the House. Members offered their own assessment of the achievements of the Plan and of the failures. (600) No claim is made that those achievements were very spectacular. In fact, as one hon. Member pointed out, the Report itself does not make any exaggerated claims. In fact, no magic formula is available for quickening the economic development in a country, particularly in an under-developed country. The difficulties, as pointed out, are more in the case of a country which is just trying to emerge from the stage of under-development, and particularly so when this experiment of quickening the tempo of development is being carried out in the context of a democracy. (700) For the same reason, we should be prepared to pay the price that has to be paid for this. That price may be somewhat heavy in the beginning and that price is in terms of hard work for all of us, in terms of concerted effort. It is in terms of discipline, of self-restraint, of sacrifice. Let us be clear about that, because after all, what is the prospect before us? We are trying to acquire a new status. We are trying to lift ourselves to a new plane of existence in terms of economic life. We want to qualify for being placed in the category of a (800) developed country, to give up our status as an under-developed country, and for that certainly the greatest effort has to be applied to this big task and this effort is not necessarily confined to the economic sphere of India. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION No. 335 { Speech of hon. Defence Minister }

Sir, I should like to thank the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and I would like to begin by saying that I am sorry that I could not be present on Friday when some hon. Members spoke. / But I have gone through their speeches and I have taken all the points that they have made.

Sir, the debate was very constructive and I would like to thank the hon. Members for their very valuable suggestions from both/sides of the House. And it was clear that their intention was to strengthen the defence of the country and to see (100) that the Defence expenditure is put to the best use. These were the two underlying considerations which were weighing/ with the hon. Members who spoke.

Many hon. Members have referred to our brave soldiers and have referred to them/ in glowing terms. I would like to associate myself with these sentiments. And I would also like to thank/ all those who were involved in seeing that the Army, the Navy and the Air Force function effectively because behind every/ soldier there are production units, there are scientists, there are administrators, there is the whole army of people supporting the (200) Defence Forces and all of them must today be thanked and their role must be acknowledged. I do not want/ to go into the different areas about which people spoke.

Sir, there were some points—some discordant notes I would/ call them—not one but there were some. I can only say that if there is some misunderstanding, some misinformation/ some misconception, some failure on the part of the Government to put across its point, then we would acknowledge,/ we would accept it and we would learn from mistakes and if there is misinformation on the part of the hon. Members, (300) we can hope to rectify it. All of us are aware that there are interested parties in our country/ and there are interested countries abroad, who would like to see the progress of India slowed down, who are not easy/ at the thought of India rising to its full stature and its full power and who, therefore, lose no opportunity/ of trying to demoralise us as a people, who refer to our Army and say that the quality of our/ soldiers is not good, their performance is not good, and that our scientists and technologists are doing second-rate work. (400)

They allege that there is excess Defence expenditure which a poor country cannot afford. These are arguments which we have heard/ for years and years. Now, all of us, sitting across that side of the House or this side, / are equally concerned about it.

Suppose we are developing a weapon system and there is somebody who wants to sell a / weapon system. Then, there is certainly, over a period of time, an attempt to create the impression that the weapon system/ we are developing is obsolete before we develop it and so on and so forth. (500) That is the general point that I was making. I think that is a point well taken. I would say that that can be/ attributed to misinformation. But I would not labour the point and I think he should understand what he said about / Sri Lanka is not in consonance with the spirit in which the other remarks have been made from both sides / of the House. The important thing on which all of us are agreed is that India cannot afford to let/ it go down.

We have a long history, and that history has its ups and downs. We have known victory and defeat. (600) We have known colonialism. As a nation-State with 40 years history, we have seen many wars. / Against this background and the current geo-political realities to which many hon. Members referred, nobody can deny the need to/ build strong defence in India. That is one point on which I think we are all agreed and I think / all of us know by instinct and by analysis that if we leave a window of vulnerability open in this country, / it is the surest way of inviting aggression. That has been our experience and it is the one thing we must avoid at all costs. (700)

The other point on which the House is agreed is that this is too/ large a country and too important a country to be subservient to any other country whether in the matter of/ defence or in the matter of independence of judgement or expression of views. Therefore, we have chosen non-alignment/ in this country since days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and it has stood the test of time and it has / the support of all sections of this House and this country. But the price that has to be paid for (800) non-alignment is that we have to pay for our own Defence, that we are under nobody's umbrella. Whenever we / view the question of Defence expenditure in Parliament, we have to keep these basic facts in mind and decide judiciously.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION No. 336

Speech of hon.  
Housing Minister,  
Government of India

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am glad that you have given me a little opportunity to reply to some of the points that have been raised in regard to the Improvement Trust by the speakers who have spoken this morning and this afternoon.

In the first place, I would like to record my gratitude to them for the very reasonable way in which they have spoken and the reasonable demands they have made and the assurances that they have asked for. Now, I would like to assure the Members of this House that the Improvement Trust is no longer a profit making body. (100) It is true that when it was set up before the last World War, it was set up on the premise that the Improvement Trust should acquire land, then put it out to auction and after having got the largest amount of money for it, with that money it had to clear the slums. I am absolutely in agreement with the opinion of this House that it was not a right set-up, but I may say that ever since we got our independence, all this has stopped. 2,000 acres of land that belonged to the Improvement Trust (200) were made over straightaway to the refugees without any money at all, and because I was dissatisfied with the working of the Improvement Trust, I appointed the Improvement Trust Enquiry Committee, known as the Birla Committee, which put up a Report, and one of the Members has asked me as to what action we have taken on this particular report. Now all the recommendations that could be taken action on at once by the executive authority, were taken action on. But the main recommendation was for the appointment of one building authority for Delhi, which would eradicate the confusion that (300) has existed over the last several years in the matter of so many authorities building, so many authorities planning without any really good plan as a result. The overall result has not been good and it accounts for the sprawling nature of the buildings that have come up, of the colonies that have come up without any attention to drainage or sewerage. Simply because the Government realised the difficulties of the refugees, the difficulties that they were facing in the matter of accommodation and many other things, very little interference really has been indulged in on the part of the Government. (400)

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The Delhi Development Authority for the setting up of which a Bill has been passed by both Houses and/which Authority is the first step towards the acceptance of the main recommendation of the Birla Committee Report, that is, /to have only one authority in charge of buildings in Delhi. On this Committee, this House is represented /the Lok Sabha is represented and, as I have said, the Delhi State Government is also represented by elected members, so that /nothing new is being done without reference to this Committee, and this applies just as well to the Improvement Trust. (500) As my hon. colleague said while moving this Bill for consideration, the powers that are asked for, for the / Delhi Improvement Trust are very very small. They have got those powers as far as land is concerned; they only /want these powers as far as buildings are concerned because whatever we may say, the fact remains that in spite of /warnings/un-authorised constructions are going up all the time even after the Delhi Development Authority came into being in November last. I have given strict orders that no one is to be evicted and nobody is evicted by (600) the Improvement Trust and nobody has been evicted without being provided with alternative accommodation. I would like some of the / Members, if they would, to come round with me and see what has been done. Only day before yesterday morning, / I spent the entire morning from half past nine to half past one visiting the slum areas, and visiting the / places to which they have been moved. If you come and see the people, living in good quarters, much happier than / they were before, you will know that they would not like to go back to where they were. (700) I entirely agree that this is a human problem and it has to be tackled in a human way and that / we must not just turn out a person and let him wander about in the streets. We have got to see to it that he is accommodated, whether temporarily or alternatively until he comes back to the place from where /he was asked to go after the place has been rebuilt or until he is given accommodation elsewhere where /it is possible for him to earn his livelihood. Now, many refugee colonies have come up without any reference to what (800) the needs of the people who dwell in those colonies are. If there is a colony where there are no cobblers, where there are no tailors, carpenters and scavengers, then those belonging to those trades can actually be moved there.

(840 words)

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well-worded and  
authoritative language

TRANSCRIPTION No. 337

Speech of hon.  
Finance Minister,  
Government of India

Sir, before I come to the main provisions of the Bill, I would like to explain briefly the need for bringing in this measure. As it is known, the State Financial Corporations Act was passed in 1950 in order to enable the States to establish State Financial Corporations with the object of providing long-term credit to small and medium scale industries. Three years before that Act was passed, the Industrial Finance Corporation Act was passed in 1940 in order to make medium and long term credit more readily available to industrial concerns, particularly in (100) circumstances where the normal banking facilities were not available to them. The Industrial Finance Corporation, during the first three years of its life, had made some progress in (achieving) these objectives and had acquired a certain amount of experience. Full use of the experience acquired by the Industrial Finance Corporation during the three years of its life, was made in (drafting) the State Financial Corporations Act, 1950. The jurisdictions of these two Corporations were not overlapping, because the Industrial Finance Corporation afforded the necessary credit facilities to industrial concerns of a comparatively large size. It could not, possibly, provide (200) the same facilities to smaller concerns located (throughout) India to meet the regional demands and, therefore, there was a demand from various States for the establishment of such institutions which may cater to the needs of the various States. So, under Section 26 of the State Financial Corporations Act, such corporations cannot grant accommodation to a single industrial concern for an amount exceeding 10 per cent of the paid-up capital which may not exceed a maximum limit of Rs. 10 lakhs whereas the Industrial Finance Corporation does not deal with applications for loans less than (300) Rs. 10 lakhs unless the loan application is from a State where the State Financial Corporation does not exist. So, the House will appreciate that the State Finance Corporations have a very important role to play in the growth of small and medium scale industries. The Second Five Year Plan lays considerable emphasis on basic and heavy industries but the growth of small and medium scale industries also finds an important place in the Plan and in the country's economy. It is therefore necessary that the State Financial Corporations should be able to meet the requirements of the small-scale industries. (400)

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With this view, last year, the House will remember, the State Financial Corporations Act, 1950, was amended in order to make newly formed industrial concerns eligible for loans from the State Financial Corporations. Before the amendment was passed, the State Financial Corporation could only make loans to existing concerns, and industrial concerns which were, so to say, in the offing could get no financial help from the State Financial Corporation. It was thought, in view of the impact of industrialisation and greater emphasis laid on the development of small and medium scale industries, that the whole working (500) of the State Financial Corporations which were important corporate institutions catering to the needs of such industries, should be reviewed. It was felt that the activities of these Corporations were not expanding or were not adequately meeting the requirements of the small and medium scale industries due to certain structural defects or due to certain anomalies that were creeping in. Therefore, the Reserve Bank took the initiative of calling a conference of the representatives of the State Financial Corporations and two such conferences were held in August 1950 and November 1960. (600) These conferences recommended certain amendments to the Act. These were very carefully considered and a draft Bill was circulated to the various States. A number of States took very keen interest in the working of these Corporations and made very useful suggestions and the present Bill incorporates some of the important recommendations of those conferences as well as the useful recommendations made by the various States. With this background, I would like to take the House to the important provisions of the Bill and I would briefly explain them.

Clause 2 of the Bill defines the 'industrial concern' as given in the principal Act. (700) The principal Act limits the scope of the activities of the Corporation to only such concerns as are engaged, or are to be engaged, in the manufacture, preservation or processing of goods, or in mining, or in the generation or distribution of electricity or any other form of power. In the absence of any clear definition of the phrase 'processing of goods', the Corporations were finding it somewhat difficult to decide whether a particular concern fulfilled the necessary conditions to make them eligible for assistance by the Corporation. (800) An explanation under clause 2, sub-clause (ii), is now being added, defining the expression 'processing of goods.' This explanation will remove the difficulties of the State/Financial Corporations. Then, clause 24 of the Bill enables certain States to get the benefits of such Corporations.

(840 words)

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Government of India  
style of language which makes  
an enjoyable shorthand writing

TRANSCRIPTION No. 338

Speech of the hon.  
Home Minister,  
Government of India

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the speech, written on lined paper. The shorthand is dense and covers most of the left side of the page.

Sir, this is, for the time being, the last of the Bills with which Parliament has to deal/ so far as the reorganisation of States is concerned. The House has already passed the States Reorganisation Bill and also the/ West Bengal-Bihar (Transfer of Territories) Bill. Certain amendments were made and certain provisions were included in these two Bills/ in so far as they bore on Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitution. As the House is aware, those provisions/ which are consequential or incidental could be included in those two Acts but there were some provisions which had to be (100) provided for in the Constitution itself. Such provisions have been included in this Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Bill. Now, advantage/ is also taken to incorporate certain other changes or amendments in the Constitution because it was considered that they too/ would have a very great bearing on the administration not only in the reconstituted States but in other States as well. / And, therefore, we are now dealing with the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Bill as it has been passed by the/ Lok Sabha. Certain changes were effected therein after this matter had been considered by the Joint Select Committee and now (200) I shall very briefly point out to this House the broad features of the Bill as it has emerged from/ the Lok Sabha. So far as representation in the House of the People, in the Council of States or the/ Rajya Sabha and also in the State Assemblies is concerned, due provision has been made. So far as the Rajya Sabha/ is concerned, the figure was fixed at 220, as will be found from the Bill. /

So far as the Lok Sabha is concerned, therein we have got direct representation under adult franchise and five hundred have been (300) fixed as the maximum number so far as representation from all these States are concerned. And, then, ordinarily it was/ considered that twenty five ought to be the number for representation in the Lok Sabha of elected members from/ what are known as the Union Territories. It was considered that the number 25 may not be necessary even if certain/ further political changes also were to take place. And, therefore, it was considered that twenty would be a fairly adequate/ number so far as the present Union Territories as also other areas that are likely to come to India are concerned. (400)

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In this connection, I should like to point out to this House that under the Constitution, as it was promulgated we had a classification or category of States known as Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D also/ so far as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were concerned. And naturally on account of this particular gradation, the rights/ as also the functions of the various States and the Legislatures therein have differed to a considerable extent. Now, it/ was considered that the time had come when this classification ought to disappear. (500) In 1947-48, as the House is aware, we had the integration of States and all these States either singly or in groups were brought under the category of Part B States. Part C States were such where it was considered that/ there ought to be a more direct relation in the sense that they ought to be under the superintendence and/ control of the President on account of a variety of reasons. The case of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was one/ by itself. After the administration extending over seven or eight years, it is now considered that this classification ought to go (600) and, therefore, the States Reorganisation Commission also recommended the dissolution of this distinction. Therefore, from now onwards we shall have/ States of one category and there would be fourteen States. These States are composed of the former Part A/ and Part B States and also portions of Part C States so far as they have been merged in the/ other States. Therefore, under the present category, we shall have only the States and the Union Territories. So far as the/ Union Territories are concerned, there will be three further categories of territories according to the way in which they have been treated. (700) We shall have, for example, Delhi as a Union Territory by itself and certain special provisions have been/ made, as I shall be elaborating soon, so far as the administration of Delhi is concerned. Then, we have got/ (Himachal Pradesh). Then, we have Manipur and Tripura. So these four are Union Territories by themselves. In addition to them,/ we shall have two further classes of territories. Therefore, so far as these three categories of territories are concerned, certain provisions/ have been made in the present Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Bill. (800) But I would point out to this House that some further legislation in this respect will have to be brought before the House, because it is necessary that a lasting arrangement will have to be made in the near future, so far as these two categories of States are concerned.

(840 words)

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A select passage for very fluent writing

TRANSCRIPTION No. 339

Speech of hon. Finance Minister, Government of India

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Then, Sir, I come to the question of deficit financing. That is a question which worries us all. There have been/ indications that there is an upward trend in prices. We are concerned about it and we are quite/ aware of the dangers inherent in deficit financing, if it is not kept under proper control. We have to see that/ we safeguard ourselves against all those consequences, of which we are fully aware. In the interests of the poorer sections/ of the people, we have to be vigilant about all these things. Sir, no rigid figure can be given in (100) advance with regard to what exactly is going to be the extent of deficit financing. Even the figure which is/ there in the Plan flows from certain assumptions, for example, there will be a certain amount of increase in the/ production, and the purchasing power which is going to flow into the hands of the people as a result of/ all these development programmes will be stopped up, and so on and so forth. Sir, if those conditions are fulfilled, / I am quite sure that deficit financing, even at that level will be quite feasible. But if those conditions (200) are not fulfilled, then deficit financing alone is not going to help matters, and in that case, it will certainly / hurt.

After all, Sir, to switch over from the status of an under-developed country to that of a developed/ country is a different process, and, therefore, we have to attend to all these things. The essential thing is to/ increase the production, especially the agricultural production, because without that other things cannot succeed, and all our industrial programmes etc. / will cease to become real. If the very agricultural base is weak, other things cannot be fulfilled. Therefore, we are (300) presently giving a great deal of thought to the question of agricultural production. And it will take me some time/ to explain why the targets were originally low and how we are trying to raise them, and why this thing/ is happening overnight. In fact, it is not happening overnight, because so many things had to be given further consideration. /

Then, another thing which I would like to refer to at this stage is about regional disparities. There is a/ good deal of feeling about it, and I share that feeling myself that there is a great deal of inequality. (400)

I am quite sure that the actual results in terms of agricultural production are going to be somewhat higher than what we have thought of so far. Therefore, all these things will have to be done by the Government fiscal and monetary measures and also any apparatus that has to be set up for the purpose of controlling and curbing the inflationary tendencies. While that will have to be done, there is a duty on the people also. Development at this rate means necessarily that more money is going to be put in the hands of the people, but all (500) that money should not be spent. If that money is completely spent, there cannot be any saving, and / if there is no saving, there cannot be further investment, and if there is no further investment, there cannot be further development, / and without further development, there won't be any additional income to be distributed. Therefore, restraints have to be there. / These will have to be either voluntary or democracy will have to impose restraints on itself in a different way. / We will have to carry the message to the people not that they should tighten their belt, but let them have (600) some restraint for the time being so far as increased consumption is concerned. Then, there is the question of the / anti-social elements. Here again, it is possible to educate public opinion to deal with them in a social way. / apart from what the Government can do about Government may not be able to do very much, but people / can do that. It is on these lines that we have to face these problems of the economic development of the country. /

Suggestions were made about resources, ways in which we can increase our resources. (700) All these things are before us, the various ways to increase, enhance, our resources in a manner that other harmful consequences do not follow / as a result of the pattern that we want to develop, that people do not suffer. That is, it should be / a just pattern, an equitable pattern. There are various suggestions, but I do not want to go into them. Maybe in the form in which they were presented, we may not be able to follow them, but there may be / other ways of getting the same results, and they are going to be tried. (800)

Then, there is this special important aspect of foreign exchange resources. Here too, the stress laid by hon. Members on this aspect is very helpful. / There is no doubt that in various ways non-essential imports will have to be cut down to a great extent. (840 words)

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A dynamic speech  
for dictation  
for supreme stenographers

TRANSCRIPTION No. 340 { Speech of hon.  
Home Minister,  
Government of India }

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the speech, written on a set of horizontal lines. The script is dense and covers most of the left side of the page.

As you are aware, Sir, under the Constitution from the last date on which the Resolution was passed by either/ House of Parliament, the Proclamation for the administration taken over by the President would continue to remain in force until/ the 24th October, 1950. Now, this Resolution has been brought forward for purposes of continuing the/ administration by the President in Travancore-Cochin for a further period. In effect, according to law, the/ further period would be six months but, Sir, in view of the reorganisation of States and the emergence of the (100) Kerala State from the 1st November 1950, it is a matter for consideration as to whether a/ new Resolution or a new Proclamation will be necessary and the tentative advice that we have received is to the/ effect that when a new State comes into existence from the 1st November 1950, there will have to be/ a new Proclamation issued by the President. If a new Proclamation is to be issued, then naturally, the/ effect of the present Resolution would be to make the President's Rule valid for a further period of one week only. (200) Whatever it is, Sir, under the Constitution it is necessary that every time, after six months, when the Proclamation is/ to be further extended, an opportunity should be given to the hon. Members of the two Houses so that they/ can know how the administration is being carried on and how it has been carried on during the last six/ months. This would enable them to consider the question as to whether it would be advisable or necessary to extend/ the period of the Proclamation by a further period of six months. It is for this reason, Sir, that a (300) provision has been made in the Constitution in consonance with which this Resolution has been placed before the House./ In order to enable the hon. Members to understand how the President's Rule has been carried on, a pamphlet has been/ published which gives the information relating to the last six months. Now, Sir, when the President took over the administration,/ naturally there were certain problems of a peculiar nature. I am not dealing here with the political problems but only/ with the administrative problems as they exist there. There was the problem of procuring foodgrains from the surplus States. (400)

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After the Adviser took over charge, naturally he had to devise certain measures for purposes of bringing the administration to/ a very high level of efficiency. That is the reason why the Adviser issued a statement immediately after he arrived/ in Trivandrum on the 20th March, 1950. I would read the very short, but important, statement that/ he made because that would indicate to this House the lines on which under the guidance of the President, the/ Adviser has carried on the administration during the last six months. This is what it says :

"The President's Rule, which (500) is necessarily of a temporary character, will give the people a short respite from politics and will provide an administration impartial/ absolutely above party, above caste and above creed and I hope efficient. It will be my special endeavour to/ implement the schemes included in the Second Five Year Plan and to create employment for some, at least, of our/ educated unemployed."

He has made a further appeal for cooperation so far as the public is concerned, and for harder/ work so far as the officers are concerned, and thus, Sir, he has taken under scrutiny all the acts (600) that have been done by the various Departments under his overall supervision and has pointed out how, to a large extent, the administration has become fairly efficient and how he has given his attention to various problems.

Now, the first and/ naturally the most important problem that has to be taken into account is to what extent the First Five Year Plan/ has been implemented and to what extent the Second Five Year Plan has to be placed on a sound footing. Naturally, therefore, these are the two circumstances which we have to take into account because ultimately, all the acts (700) or omissions, if any, will be judged by this particular target, namely, to what extent the President's Rule has succeeded/ in implementing the Plan. After all, you will find, Sir, as the Adviser has rightly pointed out, that the President's/ Rule has had to come into existence under exceptional circumstances. Now, even if there are certain exceptional circumstances, it is absolutely essential that the continuity of the progress of the nation has to be maintained and, therefore, it is not merely/ an administration in the routine sense of the expression but we have to carry on the various welfare schemes (800) as they have been envisaged in the First Five Year Plan to the extent that they remain unfinished. I would/ invite the attention of the hon. Members to what has been done so far as the Second Plan is concerned.

(840 words)

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305

TRANSCRIPTION No. 341

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It has been proposed to set up this Industrial Development Corporation as distinct from the Industrial Credit Corporation. / I am not concerned at present with the latter. / Sir, the object of this Corporation is stated to be to quicken the / pace of industrial development in the country. There is no denying the fact that it is necessary for the Government / to take the initiative in the matter of industrial development of our country and help in the growth of industries. / If money were required for this purpose, nobody would be more happy to provide that money than our Party because (100) we stand for the industrial development of the country. But what is being done in the name of development of / industry is this. The Government is making over certain things to the big men in the business and is entirely / leaving matters to them and is relying on them for the development of the industries. In this scheme too, / you will find the same attitude being taken by the Government. I am not opposed to the idea of any consultation / with competent persons but, at the same time, I would like to stress that it is all the more necessary (200) to consult, for instance, the representatives of the workers and the representatives of the consumers, Members of Parliament and other / men in the public field in order to get their advice in the matter. Instead of doing so, Government consults / only the big monopolists who naturally offer their advice with a certain bias into which we need not go. /

It has appeared in the Press that after developing certain industries under the aegis of the Industrial Development Corporation, such industries / may be made over to private capitalists again. That is to say, Government will start these industries at a time (300) when the risk is great. Government will put in its money and take all the risk and, after development, these / industries may even be made over to private industrialists and private enterprise. I think that this is entirely wrong. / It is necessary for the Government to develop industries and widen the public sector. There is no doubt about it, / but it would not be right in this situation today to develop these industries in order to make them over to / private individuals. If they are developed by Government, they should be kept in the public sector as far as possible (400) /

We have our misgivings because we feel that these gentlemen of the big money would be interested in getting some/ of the industries started by the Government at the cost of the public exchequer when the risk will be entirely/ for the Government to take. Then, when these industries are on their legs, the industrialists will demand that they be/ made over to them as private concerns. This kind of logic is being introduced into this matter and, therefore, I say that this is not a right thing to set about this business in this manner. (500) This will not quicken in any way the industrial development of our country. On the contrary, it may lead to greater dependence on/ these people who are withholding the industrial progress of the country. I have in mind the monopolist section who is/ interested more in profit, more in quick money, than in the development of the country. They are not interested in/ taking risk for the development of our industries, but are interested in seeking that the risk is shouldered by the Government/ and that the gains go to them. When Government ask for funds, they should explain to us what exactly is there in their mind. (600) The reports that had appeared in the Press are shrouded in mystery. We can understand/ that when these gentlemen talk with these big men, there is a certain amount of mystery about it. When we, / the Parliament, are called upon to make provision for funds, I think it is the duty of the Government/ to tell us what exactly they propose to do with the Industrial Development Corporation which they are going to set up. / What will be its functions? How will it be administered? What will happen to the industries that will be started and how would the selection be made? (700) They will also have to tell us as to who will make the/ selection and which interests would be taken into consideration when the selection is made. How will the rights and wages/ of the workers be guaranteed in those industries which may be started under the aegis of the Corporation? These are/ all very legitimate and pertinent questions for us to ask and I think that the Government should throw some light/ on them.

There is another item of making provision for delegations that are going abroad. I have in mind the delegation that was sent to the GATT (800) // We sent a delegation to that Conference, Sir, and about Rs. 62,000 is/ wanted for meeting the cost of that delegation. We have something to say on this item without discussing further. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION No. 342

Now, I come to the question of Railway accidents. The Railway Ministry has been, for some time now, wanting to wash/ out what they call external inspection. You will remember that on the floor of the House I had asked/ more than once questions about the Government Inspectorate, but all sorts of funny arguments were advanced. In the original Committee's report, a very strong recommendation was made that the position of these Government Inspectors should be strengthened in the interest of / safety of travel. It is unfortunate that we do not have the facts and figures given by them. (100) It is very unfair not to let us know what the recommendation is and to withhold from the House the arguments/ which they have given, the facts and figures which they have given and the material on which those recommendations are based. / That has been withheld. But now the Reviewing Committee wants not to strengthen the Government Inspectors to wash them/ out as independent units and to bring them back under the control of the Railway Administration, that they should be/ a branch of the Railway Board. There is a very long history behind this. It was only in 1941 (200) that they were taken away from the control of the Railway Administration and put under a separate/ Ministry, the Ministry of Communications. I have gone into the arguments which have been advanced by the Reviewing Committee, / and, Mr. Deputy Chairman, I can tear them to pieces.

They say that in the present state of affairs, it is impossible/ for any external inspection to carry out a really sound examination and inspection, but they forget that they are/ mixing supervision with inspection. The argument that they have advanced is that under a system of external inspection a real (300) and sound supervision from stage to stage cannot be done. They say that they must have this sort of set-up. / By all means, let them have it, but external inspection serves a different purpose.

I may submit for your information/ that in 1945 the views of the General Managers of all the Government Railways were taken/ in the matter, and all the General Managers were of the view that the Inspectorate must not be maintained. / Another Committee which they appointed, on which some foreign experts also served, went to the extent of advising the Railway Administration. (400)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Gurmukhi script, corresponding to the typed text on the right. The notes are dense and cover the entire left side of the page.

These Inspectors have to criticise the Railway Board, even the highest officers in the Railway Administration, and now if they are/ transferred back, we can imagine the situation. When even the report of a Committee, which was appointed with the/ knowledge of Parliament and on which so many persons served, is being shelved and suppressed, do you think/ that any independent inspection notes will ever see the light of the day? They say that in case of major accidents, / we can have judicial inquiries. Inspection is one thing and an inquiry into a major accident is another. (500) The Inspectorate that exists now is absolutely necessary, and it must be absolutely independent so that it can criticise the Railway Board/ or even the highest of the officers, the Chief Engineer or the General Manager of the Railway concerned. / As for judicial inquiries, if they are necessary, by all means have them. I have been an advocate of it. / I have been associated all my life with the judiciary. I have risen from a magistrate; I started my career as/ a magistrate and I would always advocate judicial inquiry when it is necessary but certainly judicial inquiry cannot replace inquiry of a technical nature. (600) And if you have a judicial inquiry, you will always want some technical experts to be/ the assessors or to be associated with that inquiry so that they guide and give an independent view. Do you/ want the officers of the Railway Ministry to be assessors or do you want independent assessors? These Government/ inspectors would be absolutely independent assessors in those judicial inquiries. This is just one part of it. There are at least/ half a dozen important matters which should be referred to. (700)

I will now refer to another matter on which fortunately the original Committee and the Reviewing Committee are in agreement. I am not concerned with this or that Committee. / I am concerned only with the safety of travelling and I very much welcome that there is agreement on some/ points which I consider to be very important and that is about the adequate and full supplies of stores essential / for safety and good performance. If you read the recommendations of both these Committees, you will find that this serious/ lag has been responsible for a lot of inefficiency, for some of the accidents and for keeping our personne idle for a long time. (800)

Even the Shroff Committee made a point of it but the Government machinery is such that/ no progress has been made in this matter with the result that the efficiency of the Railway Administration has suffered. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION No. 343

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, corresponding to the typed text on the right. The notes are written in a cursive style on lined paper.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I would like to say that the question has been very ably thrashed out by the speakers/ who have preceded me, and Prof Humayun Kabir who was, I suppose, one of the joint authors who were responsible/ for the initial framing of this Bill has explained the whole position in a very lucid manner. Now, Mr. Deputy Chairman/ I would like to say that I wish it had been possible for us to integrate this institution with a University, because I do not believe in isolated institutions having the status of a University or having more or less (100) the status of a University. A University is a place where knowledge is integrated. A University is a place/ where you have teachers of various departments of knowledge, students reading various subjects, all congregated at one place and pursuing/ knowledge for knowledge's sake. Now a technological institute, howsoever important from a national point of view, cannot be a University/ in that sense. It should therefore form part of larger institution which has a liberalising influence, a humanising influence./ We have followed in this matter the American model, but I think generally in Britain and in other western countries the (200) tendency, the idea, to have institutions of the rank having a University status is discouraged. As far as I know, Sir, the Imperial Council of Science and Technology which is a very big institution in the United Kingdom is a part of the London University. It is not a separate institution at Kharagpur which is going to be a bigger institution/ than the Imperial Council of Science at all events for the first few years.

I wanted an All India Institute/ of Medical Sciences. I wanted the Institute to be affiliated to some University, and I relied for that position upon (200) the view which was expressed by the Godenough Committee on Medical Education which was appointed by the British Government/ some years ago. That Committee was not in favour of the Royal College of physicians acting as a University and holding/ examinations. It wanted medical education to be under the control of a University. Therefore, I would have preferred, Mr. Deputy Chairman,/ this institution to be made part of some national University. But there is one difficulty and I have not been/ able to get an answer to that difficulty. The institution could have only been affiliated to the Calcutta University. (400)

Then, Sir, I would like to say that Prof. Humayun Kabir is right in the view that the distinction between/ fundamental research and applied research is fast disappearing in the modern world. One thing about this is that you cannot / have research to order. There is a lot of wastage in the processes by which you arrive at a discovery/ and in order that we might be able to promote research, we must be prepared for this wastage. No institution/ can be effective from a research point of view until and unless, the teachers of that institution are given ample leisure to advance knowledge. (500) It has been stressed that this institution will provide for post-graduate teaching, for under-graduate teaching and for research. But it is also going to be teachers' training college which will supply us with our/ teaching material in the country. Well, Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is therefore, important that the teaching staff in this institution/ should be carefully selected. I confess that I have no prejudice against foreign personnel. Where we cannot get a suitable/ Indian for a particular job, we ought not hesitate to employ foreign personnel. (600) I happen to have visited some years back Princeton University in U.S.A. and I found that the Dean of the Faculty of Science there was/ a Britisher. He had not, as far as I know, changed his nationality. He was the Head of the Department/ of Science of that institution. Mr. Deputy Chairman, if we start entertaining national prejudice against foreign personnel in our institutions,/ we shall not be doing service to the expansion of knowledge in this country. It does not mean that we should/ prefer a foreigner where we can get an Indian, and it certainly does not mean that we should get for our Academic Council men from abroad. (700) I certainly think that the constitution of the proposed Academic Council is unsatisfactory. / I have seen something of how Academic Councils work in the Universities of my own State. I know that there is/ a tendency on the part of our teachers, for whom I have got great respect, to look upon themselves/ as a corporation. I should like some fresh blood to be introduced in our Academic Councils. I think/ it should be possible for us to have an Academic Council which would include teachers from such places as Roorkee, Banaras or Aligarh. (800)

Personally, I should like to have one or two men having wide education associated with our Academic Council. / I also think that there is a tendency to give to the constitution of the University a somewhat bureaucratic character. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 344

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few remarks on this Budget not from an economist's point of view but from the point of view of a layman and one who has studied it from a purely commonsense point of view. The first thing that strikes one when one has a look at the Budget is that it is a deficit Budget. It is deficit on both accounts, the Revenue as well as the Capital accounts. The question arises: Why / could not this deficit be avoided? That is the first question which presents itself to everybody. But it seems that (100) it could not be avoided. The deficit on the Revenue account is mainly on account of two reasons. The first reason is that the Defence expenditure which takes practically one-half of the revenue cannot be curtailed because of the present international situation and the other is that the expenditure on the nation-building activities cannot also be curtailed. Therefore, the Finance Minister is justified in presenting a deficit Budget. He has tried to cover up the deficit on the Revenue account to a certain extent, although the whole of the deficit on the Capital account has been left uncovered. (200) A layman would ask why when an overall deficit of Rs. 318 crores was being left uncovered, a deficit of about Rs. 30 crores could not be left uncovered, because if that deficit was also left uncovered, fresh taxation would not have fallen on the middle classes. But I would say that if the Finance Minister has not left that deficit uncovered, he has not acted against the accepted principles of public finance. It is an accepted principle of public finance that it is always prudent to cover a Revenue deficit by current taxation, and that is why (300) fresh taxation has been resorted to for the purpose of covering the Revenue deficit. But again, the question arises that the whole of this deficit has not been covered, even though fresh taxation has been resorted to. There is still a deficit of about Rs. 8 crores which has been left uncovered. (400) I for one am not able to find a direct answer for not covering that deficit also. The only reason that strikes me is that probably we have come to the saturation point and that it is not possible for the Finance Minister to tap fresh sources. (400)

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This Budget provides some incentives for better production and for the industrialists to come forward and do their best, and /to put it negatively whether the proposals here are such that they do not put a definite disincentive /in the way of the industrialists and the next point from which this Budget should be judged is whether it provides for /a better and a more equitable distribution of wealth.

From the point of view of the first standard I have mentioned, /the Budget provides for two concessions as incentives to the industrialists. (500) One is in the way of a 25 per cent development rebate on the initial cost of a new plant and machinery, and the other is that / business losses can be carried forward indefinitely and not for six years only as at present. These are concessions /but I feel that they are not very attractive or big concessions. With regard to the second point whether the Budget /contains any proposals which will definitely retard production, which may definitely prove to be disincentives, I must say that this /Budget does not contain any such proposals. Therefore, all that can be said of this Budget is that it is a neutral Budget. (600).

With regard to the other standard whether this Budget provides for a better and a more equitable /distribution of wealth, my reading is that a beginning has been made in that direction, but no jolt has been /given towards socialism. One of the proposals is the lowering of the export duty. This is in the nature of /a revenue concession. For the other proposal regarding income tax changes, the trend is only towards rationalisation. What has been /taken from the unmarried man is tried to be given to the married man. Some slabs have been reduced, and some super-tax limits have been lowered. (700) This only means that an effort has been made to rationalise things. With regard to /taxation, I cannot say that the rich have been taxed heavily and others have been exempted from it. /On the other hand, taxation has been made to spread on as large a section of the community as possible. /Probably, the Finance Minister has acted on the well-known (maxim) of (plucking feathers) from the goose without injuring it. /It would have been much better if the middle classes had been left out of fresh taxation, because sugar and (800) cloth are the two consumer goods, the taxation on which will fall mainly on the middle classes. But here too, /there is justification for the Finance Minister, because it is not possible to find out ways and means of taxation. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 345 (A well-worded passage)

Mr. Chairman, I readily concede the Finance Minister's claim that as he was till recently the Minister for Commerce and Industry, / he knows much more about the subject of the Bill before us than any of us. As for the / distinguished friend who sits behind him and who knew more of this subject than he himself did, he has virtually / expressed his opinion in the few interruptions that he made when my hon. friend was speaking. I am not / going to cross swords with the Finance Minister but I want information on two or three points. He pointed out (100) the reasons for the increase in the price of cloth. One was the increase in the price of cotton / and the other the increasing demand for cloth. I understand that a part of the increase is also due to the / increase in the price of coal. I want to know to what extent this factor is responsible for the increase / that has taken place in the price of cloth. It may not be sufficient to account for the actual rise / but we should know to what extent coal is responsible for the upward trend in the price of cloth. (200)

Sir, the Finance Minister seems to think that the only permanent remedy for the existing state of things is additional production / of cloth but as this production cannot be brought about quickly, it was necessary to devise some method which would be / of immediate effect and would help partly in controlling inflation and partly in mopping up a part of the / profits that would otherwise go to the cloth dealers. To what extent the excise duty will be passed on to / the consumer I do not think anybody can say with certainty. I made some enquiry about the price of cloth (300) when the discussion on the present Bill was going on in the Lok Sabha, and I understood that it had not / affected the bazar in any way. It is quite possible, however, that in a week or two, we may / get more disquieting information. We may find that the price of cloth is beginning to go up further which would be / a proof of the fact that the price was being passed on to the consumer. At the same time, / it is possible that the cloth dealer may not be able to pass on the entire duty to the consumer. (400).

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

The expenditure that Government will incur in connection with the Second Five Year Plan will be on a larger scale / than the expenditure incurred by it in connection with the First Five Year Plan. The money in the hands of the / public will, therefore, go on progressively increasing. There is no possibility, therefore, of the demand for cloth going down. / Indeed, I think the Finance Minister himself said that it was quite possible that in a short time the consumption / might go up to about 20 metres (per) head.

The Finance Minister said that he could not suggest any quick remedy. (500) He would try to find out whether there was any additional spindlage in the country. If there was, he / would see that it was brought into use immediately. I did not hear him say that if there was any / additional loomage in the country, he would see to it that that was made use of. But I trust / that what he meant was that if there was any additional spindlage or additional loomage, it would be made the / fullest use of. He also said that as regards new spindles and new looms, it would take from 12 to 18 months to get them. (600) I remember, Sir, that when Shri T.T. Krishnamachari dealt with this matter as Minister / for Commerce and Industry, he made the announcement that the mills would be allowed to increase their production of cloth, / so far as I remember, by 200 million metres only, and that this cloth that he referred to, on / pain of some punishment, could not be used inside the country but would have to be used entirely for export. / If any millowner sold his cloth in the country itself, he would be subject to certain penalties. (700)

The Prime Minister, when he referred to the present situation, said yesterday that while the Government wanted to moderate the shock involved in / the employment of more efficient techniques to people who cannot use them at present, it was not prepared to put / a permanent ban on the employment of higher techniques in the future, and that it was not the policy / of the Government to restrict the production of cloth when consumption was going up. It is, therefore, Sir, not merely a / question of getting more spindles and more looms but of a change in the policy of the Government. (800)

The announcement that was made by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari did create the impression that the Government, in the pursuit of their / aim to decentralise the production of cloth, had placed a restriction on the production of more cloth for internal consumption.

840 words

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page, covering approximately 15 lines of the document.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 346 *{What a beautiful writing this passage makes !}*

Mr. Deputy Chairman, the present speech of the Deputy Minister for Education, Dr. Shrimali, encourages me to speak first about education. / I think, Sir, this is the most important subject that we can be called upon to consider at the present time. / We have had the First Five Year Plan and we shall soon have the Second Five Year Plan. / But I think that it is an efficient system of education alone that can form the foundation of our national greatness. If our educational system weakens and our schools and colleges become inefficient, even a hundred five-year plans (100) will never be able to provide the country with that human material that it needs for carrying out its schemes, / and for taking the country to the stage of development, which the more advanced countries expect to reach in / a few years. This being the importance of education, I make no apology for dwelling on it for a few / minutes.

Sir, I should first like to say that it is a matter of concern to us that, although the / University Grants Commission Act was passed about two months ago, it has not yet been brought into force. (200) This is due, I suppose, to the fact that the Education Ministry has not yet been able either to appoint anybody as / the Chairman of the Commission or to select its Members. I know, Sir, that as the new Act has not / come into force, the Commission as it was, before the Act was passed, can continue its work. But the Education Ministry / ought to realise and understand the psychological effect of the passing of the new Act. The Commission appointed a / number of committees which have not yet completed their work. In theory, it is quite correct to say that these (300) committees can continue to work as they were doing before. But the members of the committees who are members of / the Commission feel some awkwardness in engaging themselves in new activities, because they may cease, in a short time, to / be members of the Commission. I hope, therefore, Sir, that in view of the good work that the Commission was / doing, and the powerful influence that it can exercise over the growth and development of university education, Government will take / early steps to appoint a Chairman and to select the personnel of the Commission, who should be very eminent Educationists. (400)

While speaking on university education, I should like to draw attention to another matter, which is of the profoundest importance / to the country. According to the Constitution, English is to be the language of administration for fifteen years. What the / linguistic policy of the Government of India will be in future will depend, I suppose in part, on the recommendations / of the Language Commission. But whatever the recommendations of this Commission may be, it is clear that at the present time, / it is necessary in the interest of advanced education, and in the interest of the scientific and technical development (500) of the country, that those young persons, who go to our colleges and universities, should have a good knowledge of / one of the most important foreign languages so that they may be in touch with the latest researches and the latest / developments of thought. While students may be free in our country to study either English or French or German / or any other language, considering the past history of the country, English provides us with the best means of acquiring / the knowledge that I have already referred to. Now, many universities, with a very laudable aim, have made the mother tongue of the students the medium of education. (600) Educationally, Sir, there is nothing wrong about it. But we have to consider / what the practical effect of such a policy will be. If the main languages of India were well-developed, / and if a man who knew them could acquire the latest knowledge in any branch of study and could come / into contact with persons interested in his branch of knowledge, some of the difficulties that are attendant on the present / policy would disappear.

But there is one other question, Sir, that we have to consider, (700) English, today is not merely a means of acquiring modern knowledge for ourselves, but is also a means of maintaining the unity of the country. / It can be no matter of pride to us that we should have to use a foreign language in order / to communicate our ideas to others and to enable the intelligentsia to understand the thoughts that are pervading the minds / of the educated people in the country. But we have to take facts as they are. I hope a time / will come when at least one of our own languages—and I suppose, Hindi—will be in an advantageous position (800) than any other language, and will be in a position to give to our young men and women and to / the country, what the English language is able to give at the present time. But this is not a fact.

840 words

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page, covering approximately 20 lines of the document.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 347

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I support the Bill presented by Shri Thomas. I belong to the rural area and, therefore, / without going very deep into the Constitutional intricacies, I would like to cite an example which would make it very / clear as to what will happen to the country if we do not pass this Bill. If there are / only 5 earning members in a family of 10 persons and the other 5 members are unemployed, it becomes impossible for / the family to develop and it becomes weak from within and, finally, it disintegrates. Similarly, in the case of a country (100) if crores of people are unemployed, it not only affects the overall production of the country and reduces the / purchasing capacity of the people, but also weakens the country. The most unfortunate thing is that it results in crisis / of confidence and the people are disillusioned. And in the end, out of these evils, anarchy is born. If I say / that a similar situation prevails in the country today, it will not be an exaggeration. In 1951, / the number of unemployed people was about 51 or 52 lakhs. This figure increased (200) to 280 lakhs in 1986-87 and at present it is 4 crores. And these / figures are only of those who have registered themselves with the Employment Exchanges. Apart from them, there are crores of / educated and illiterate people who are unemployed. Even if they are employed, it is on a part-time basis. / And if they are engaged on full time job, they are under-employed as a result of which considerable amount of / labour potential is being wasted and, consequently, our country is being weakened from within. We may have a shining exterior (300) but the country is decaying from within. This is because only a handful of people have reaped the benefits of / the Five Year Plans and the rest of the crores of people have been deprived of it. The fruits of / Independence have not reached the Harijans and other weaker sections of the society.

Even after 40 years of Independence, / there is an extraordinary gap between the rich and the poor in this country. We have, on the one hand, / a handful of people enjoying unlimited pleasures and, on the other, there are crores of people leading a life of poverty and deprivation. (400)

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

The benefits of development have not reached them and, as a result of which, even after 40 years of Independence, / 42 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. The Government may define poverty line / as it wishes, but the real meaning is one who is not able to afford two square meals a day when / one is hungry, and this can be felt and understood if one has a close look at the people living / below the poverty line. It means not being able to afford medicines or medical aid. Living below poverty line means (500) to be born under the open sky and to die like a worm. This is the definition of those living / below the poverty line. Even after 40 years of Independence, India is a country which is divided into two separate classes. / On the one hand, there are a handful of people who are immersed in the life of earthly luxuries / and, on the other, vast multitudes of people are leading a life of helplessness and deprivation. The Government may claim / that many programmes have been implemented for their welfare and there are also programmes for providing self-employment to the educated youth. (600) If all these programmes are evaluated the conclusion is that the funds allotted for them are not utilised properly. / You expect that a certain number of people would get employment opportunities by the aforesaid programmes but the results / achieved are not to the desired extent. The funds are pocketed by those who are responsible for their implementation and / the real beneficiaries are thus deprived of those funds. The schemes are not benefiting the poor people. But the irony / is that if some individual organisation, group or a certain section of society or community raises its voice in protest, (700) you make allegations without giving a thought that these people are creating uproar everywhere. These people do not want the / Government to function properly and they are playing with the unity and integrity of the country. We differ in our / opinion on this point. We think protesting against evil is a threat to the unity and integrity of the country / and, on the contrary, we think that it protects the unity and the integrity. A country does not disintegrate / when it struggles against evil but it disintegrates when it nourishes it. Hence if evil is protected and nourished, it will (800) certainly increase poverty and helplessness of the people and they will never be able to overcome their impoverishment and they will be / disillusioned. And when people are in despair no power in this world can save the country from disintegration.

840 words

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

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 348

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. / This Ministry has to perform mainly three types of roles. I will refer to those roles and express my views / regarding the performance of this Ministry in that respect.

Public distribution system has to be looked after by this Ministry. / With that system and with the other powers, which the Ministry has, it should also succeed in holding the / price line of the essential commodities. This is the second role which this Ministry has to perform. The third role, (100) according to me, which is also the most important, is the role to protect the consumers and protect their rights / as consumers of this country.

As far as the public distribution system is concerned, no doubt, at present, there are / about 3,40,000 fair price shops in this country. If we fix up the target as one / fair price shop for 2,000 people, then also they fall short of this target. And at least four lakh / fair price shops will have to be established in this country, if we want to achieve the target of one (200) fair price shop for every 2,000 people.

I would request and urge upon the Government to take prompt steps / to increase the number of fair price shops as early as possible. Through these shops only, the public distribution system can work. / We can reach every nook and corner of the country with all the essential commodities which are required for / a common man.

Another problem with respect to these fair price shops which I would like to put before the Government / is that, at present, the fair price shops have not become a viable proposition. As far as cities like (300) Bombay are concerned, where we call them ration shops, nobody is now coming forward to take charge of any ration shop / or to open a fair price shop. Therefore, re-thinking will have to be done in order to make these / shops more viable. Some more margin will have to be allowed. Some more facilities will have to be given. / as far as Bombay is concerned. Shop premises which are not available in Bombay have to be provided. In this respect, re-thinking will have to be done and more and more fair price shops will have to be encouraged and established. (100)

In view of the time which is at my disposal, I will not go into the details of this, / but I may urge upon the Government that production of bumper rabi crop may not generate a sense of complacency and / we should still concentrate on these fair price shops as far as the whole country is concerned. The most important / subject which prompted me to speak on this is the rights of the consumers which are not properly protected / at present by this Department. We passed the Consumers Protection Act, 1986 and it came into force (500) from 24th December, 1986. I would like to know whether every State has established / the Consumers Forums which were contemplated under Section 7 of that Act and what is the state of the National Forum / which was supposed to be established under Section 5 of the Act. I am told that the Forums which are / formed are so unhealthy with the result that I do not think hardly any meetings are held by these Forums / and no purpose is being served by establishing these Forums. Therefore, I will urge upon the Government to look into the matter (600) and to implement the provisions of this Consumers Protection Act, 1986 more carefully and / with more vigour.

As I was saying, the most important subject which I want to touch today is about the / distribution of contaminated butter in cities like Bombay and Delhi and it has been a very serious matter which the Government / should take a very serious note of. I am told and I am sure that the Supreme Court has now / decided that there is no danger about the consumption of these articles. I would point out, in the first place, (700) that nothing has been decided by the Supreme Court as far as the consumption of Irish butter is concerned. / They have expressed certain views and ultimately the whole writ petition has been dismissed or decided on the ground that the / judicial proceedings of the nature initiated is not a proper remedy for determining such matters and therefore, really speaking, / the Supreme Court has not decided these matters, though they have expressed certain views. Secondly, the three experts who were / appointed by the Supreme Court for this matter had no knowledge about the technical subject which was before them. (800)

We are not taking a note of the opinion of these experts and, therefore, I would urge upon the Government to / take a very serious note of this and to stop distributing this contaminated butter either in Bombay or in Delhi.

840 words

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, corresponding to the typed text on the left. The notes are written in a cursive style on a lined background.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 349

{ a luscious speech  
for dictation and test }

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

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before I continue further, I would like to offer you my wholehearted congratulations on your re-election / to this high office.

Sir, the spectre of inflation has been raised. It is said that the monster of inflation / is raising its hideous head, and that there must be an effort all round to bring down prices. I would like / to examine whether there is any justification for raising such a scare and whether there is any inflationary pressure / at all on our economy. A false alarm has been raised by our critics to hamper our development expenditure and (100) the development of our economy. While we must maintain a watchful approach, a cautious approach, with a view to developing / our economy and implementing our Plans, an alarmist approach will only mean that we hamper the growth of our economy / and our development expenditure.

I admit that there has been, of late, a rise in prices. Now, we have / to examine whether this rise in prices is due to inflationary pressures. We all know that this is the peak season / when there is the greatest demand for money in our economy. This demand for money is due to two factors (200) at the present moment. It is due partly to the rise in our economic activity and partly due to reasonable factors. / The figures of money supply which have stood at Rs. 2,150 crores at the end of / March may taper off to Rs. 2,000 crores after the busy season is over. We have to see / whether this supply of money is at all inflationary. What I feel is that in times to come, when the / products reach the market, the supply of goods will match the money supply position. (300) But we can also examine, apart from the money supply position, the rise in the price itself. The current statistics reveal that there has been a / rise in the prices of food articles, industrial raw material and semi-manufactured articles, but there has been a steady price for the manufactured articles. Now, I am sure, the House will agree with me that we must maintain a / certain parity in our economy between the agricultural products and the manufactured articles. We should see that our agriculturists don't / suffer from our economic policies. We must examine whether the parity that is in existence today is a correct one. (400)

The point that I am making is that there has been a rise in the price of the agricultural / products and this rise has been brought about by a conscious planning effort. But there is no question of alarm / for this rise of the price of the agricultural products, because as compared with pre-war levels of price index / between the agricultural products and the manufactured articles, the price which the agriculturist gets for his produce is still / 3 per cent against him. Now, if we want to reduce the prices, we must reduce the prices of both the agricultural and the manufactured goods. (500) There is no point in becoming alarmists only when the prices of the agricultural products / are rising, because I am certain that there is still room for a rise of 3 points in this index, / that is to say, there is still room for a slight rise in the agricultural prices before a pre-war / parity could be achieved. Therefore, I maintain that there is no room for alarm or scare for the prices that / have risen of the agricultural products. This has been as a result of a conscious effort and there is no inflationary pressure in this rise of prices. (600)

Now, I also maintain that we should keep a watchful eye / and we should not be complacent because it is not my intention to advocate inflation. I merely want that a proper / parity should be maintained and in the name of inflation we should not curtail our development expenditure in the Plan. / But for keeping this economy steady, we have to see that the supply of goods and services keep on increasing / with the demand that is made on them with the rise in our economy, and we should not hesitate if (700) there is a necessity to whittle down even our foreign resources and import large quantities of food in order to / keep the prices down, when our production of rice has not been better than last year and our rabi crop / will not be as good as last year. We have provided for an import of two million tonnes of foodgrains / in order to keep the prices at proper level. I was referring to the Reserve Bank bulletin for the month of / March 1950.

Therefore, I would beg of the Finance Minister and the Government not to take a (800) timid view of the situation, but to take a bolder step to implement the Plan and, in order to maintain / the economy and the prices at the proper level, they should not hesitate to make large imports, if found necessary. 840 words

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

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 350

Sir, I was saying that the Indian Airlines Corporation is running at a great loss and the scheme that has been prepared does not promise any improvements in the earning capacity of the Airlines Corporation. When we are embarking on our expansion scheme, the result may be that if due care is not taken in the beginning and if standardisation is not introduced, the losses may mount up. Thus, more of the tax-payer's money may be wasted in the Airlines Corporation. Therefore, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to be very careful and scrutinise all the expenditure incurred (100) with respect to the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Aviation Department and see that there is no waste.

Sir, the / hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, wanted great care to be taken so that there was no wastage in / the Government's expenditure. I would, in this connection, like to know from the Minister in charge of this Bill what steps are being taken by the Government to see that there is no wastage in the Aviation Department. The / Air India International is, of course, running at some profit. But it is purchasing three more Boeings and if the (200) present level of travel is not maintained, there is every likelihood that the Air India International may change its profit / into loss. Therefore, the hon. Minister has to be very careful about it.

Then, Sir, I come to items / No. 19 and 20, which relate to the Ministry of Education and Archeology. Here, Sir, I would like to draw / your attention to the Directive Principle laid down in our Constitution where it has been stated that within a / certain limited period, adult education and complete literacy will be attained. I am surprised to find, Sir, that for this purpose (300) the amount sanctioned is very meagre. The finances of the States are limited. Their sources of income are limited, / and what they get from taxes is mostly spent on maintaining law and order and on other items like judiciary / and civil administration, etc. And, therefore, unless the Central Government comes to the rescue of the States in the matter of / education, I do not think there will be any substantial progress in this respect. I am sure that the / hon. Minister will say that 'education' is a State subject and it is not, therefore, the responsibility of the Centre. (400)

Then, Sir, I come to the item pertaining to the External Affairs Ministry. In this connection, I would like to submit / that I am very glad that the hon. Prime Minister has made his stand very clear about Kashmir, and / I wholeheartedly welcome it. I am very glad to find that at long last, after two years, he has stated / the stand of India clearly. And, therefore, I wholeheartedly support the expenditure pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs. / I would like to know in this connection only one thing, although it does not really come under this Ministry. (500) It comes under the Ministry of Finance. I would like to know the steps taken by the Finance Minister about the / settlement of the loan due to India from Pakistan. Some two years back, the hon. Finance Minister had taken a / credit entry to nearly Rs. 18 crores as two instalments of the loan payment by Pakistan. I should call it / the pre-partition debt. But that money was not received by India, and that amount is still due from Pakistan. / I would like to know from the Finance Minister why this amount of Rs. 18 crores was shown as the loan paid by Pakistan. (600) We have done our part of the bargain because in 1950, when Pakistan / wanted its share of the cash balances of the Reserve Bank, India immediately paid Rs. 55 crores to Pakistan / towards its share of the cash balance. But Pakistan has not kept its part of the bargain. Therefore, / I would like to know the steps taken by the Finance Minister to recover the debts due from Pakistan. There are / so many other outstanding amounts due from Pakistan for which the Finance Minister does not seem to have taken any proper steps. (700)

There is a continuous trade going on between India and Pakistan. There is plenty of transfer of funds between / India and Pakistan. The hon. Finance Minister can take certain steps so that the exchange authorities which are transferring the / amounts from one country to the other country can also bring pressure and help us in recovering the amounts. / Probably, the hon. Minister being a lawyer may be thinking along judicial lines, but I never thought along those lines. / I did not suggest that we should ask for a decree from the High Court because that is quite impracticable. (800)

But there is a practical method of doing it, and that is through trade between the two countries. Then, I come to / the subject of grants-in-aid to the States. Sir, more of these grants are made to the State Governments.

840 words

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Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 25 lines of text on the left side of the page.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 351

I shall speak only for another seven or eight minutes. I had intended to speak both about the recruitment to / the higher services and the policy of the Government with regard to the purchase of the products of the / cottage and small scale industries; but I wish to drop the latter subject and confine my attention only to the recruitment / to the higher ranks of the Defence and Civil Services. Sir, It is a matter of profound concern to us / that the material that we are obtaining for our Defence and Civil Services is not of a very satisfactory character. (100) Having a little more knowledge of the efficiency of the students who try to enter the N. D. A., / the National Defence Academy. I think, I can say with some confidence that we have no reason to be proud of / the material that we are obtaining for our National Defence Academy. Indeed, persons competent to speak on this subject / have said to me from time to time that they are afraid that the standard has deteriorated in the last few years. / Sir, this is another matter which ought to receive the earnest attention of the Government.

What I have said (200) about the Defence Services is, I think, also true of the Civil Services. I know that our country is poor / and that if our young people want high salaries and allowances that men in their positions are getting in / other countries, we cannot gratify their desire. We have to think not merely of the poverty of the country / but of the resources that are needed at the present time to develop it as quickly as possible. But we ought / to bear in mind that in other countries, for example in England, care has been taken to create conditions (300) which will attract the best material to the country. In England, the scales of salaries and allowances have been revised twice during the last six or seven years. I think, they were revised in 1980 and they have / again been revised this year. Anyone who knows the scales in force at the present time is aware of the / great difference between our scales of salaries and pensions and the British scales of salaries and pensions. To mention only / one matter, a Captain gets a pension of £1000 and, in addition, a gratuity of £ 2000. (400)

England is a much poorer country today than it was but it is finding itself compelled to revise <sup>the</sup> scales of / salaries and allowances because it cannot afford to allow its Army or even its administrative services to decline in efficiency. / I understand that some time ago, when the scales of salaries and allowances for the Defence Services were revised, / the conditions of service in the higher civil services were also revised, but I don't know how far this revision went / and to which services this applied, but the moral of all this is clear. There is need for an enquiry into this matter. (500) We should find out what it is that is holding young men of high calibre back from / joining our highest services. Do they want a higher salary? Do they want better allowances? Do they want better education / for their children, or is it anything else ? Is it the comparatively young age at which officers of the Defence / Services retire that deters them from joining the Defence Services? Or is our system of education such as to prevent / the country from having young men of the stamp that we require at the present time? (600)

In our National Defence Academy, there are 800 or 900 cadets. I have tried to find out how many of these cadets / were sons of officers. I do not know whether the information that I have obtained is correct or not, / but I understand that they can be counted on the fingers of one hand. I am not at all sorry if / there are sons of I.C.Os and other ranks in the National Defence Academy, or sons of people belonging / to humble stations in life who have been able to pass the tests laid down for admission to the Academy. (700) Indeed, it is a matter of pleasure to me to see that young men from all walks of life can / now find it possible to join the Academy, but I cannot lightly brush aside the fact that the officers of / the Army supply only a few youngmen to our Defence Services. I do not know whether Government have made any / enquiry into this matter but I understand that either the Government, or the Chief of the Army Staff, has had this matter / investigated. If so, I think it will be of great advantage, if a copy of the report that may have been (800) submitted to the Government or to the Chief of the Army Staff is placed in the Library of the House, or is, / at least, supplied to all those Members who are interested in the efficiency and proper development of the Defence Services. 840 words

Handwritten shorthand notes in a cursive style, corresponding to the typed text on the left. The notes are written on lined paper and cover the right half of the page.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 352

Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for providing me time to express my views. There is no doubt / that this year the country (confronted) the most terrible drought of the century. Out of the 35 (meteorological) / divisions in the country, 21 divisions have been affected by drought. Some areas were affected by other natural (calamities) also. (Thanks) to this Department and its officers and staff who met this situation successfully, our Prime Minister said / that nobody in the country will be allowed to die of starvation. There is no doubt about it that this (commitment) (100) has been translated into action. It is a different thing if we make criticism. But the good job done / by this Department cannot be (belied).

Our Prime Minister said that we will not allow inflation to cross two digits. / The whole credit goes to this Department which (adhered to) the assurance given by the Prime Minister. This year, the rate / of inflation has increased by 8.9 per cent. It may be (recalled) that drought had (occurred) in some areas / in 1979 also. At that time, the rate of inflation had gone up (200) by 21.8 per cent. If you go through the work done by our Government, you will find that difference. / The truth cannot be belied. I agree with you that there are hardships before us but it is also true / that this Department has made efforts to remove these hardships. At the time this problem confronted the country, we had / 23 million tonnes of foodgrains in our stock. But now the stock has (declined) Due to (concerted) efforts / of our Government, the farmers and the scientists, the rabi crop, especially wheat, has been very good. Now, it is necessary (300) for us to make maximum (procurement). We should ask the State Governments and cooperative institutions to procure more and more wheat. / The Government should also reconsider its decision about (fixation) of the price of wheat at Rs. 175 / per (quintal). Because whenever there is a hardship, the price rises. I do not want to repeat the points made / by my colleagues. I request the Government to pay attention towards the price factor also. At present, the biggest problem / before us is that the allocations of foodgrains made to the States are (held up) at the State level. (400)

Handwritten notes in Hindi/Urdu script, including numbers like 35, 21, 35, 21, 8.9, 21.8, 23, 175, 400, and various symbols and lines.

I do not want to criticise anybody. But it is a fact that even after allotment made by the Centre, / the States did not lift their quota. You may take the instance of wheat, rice, sugar, anything you like. / In spite of that, the State Governments indulge in propaganda in their States which is baseless. I definitely remember that the Government / of West Bengal did not lift several commodities allocated to them by the Centre. If you want, I can furnish the figures; our hon. Minister will give the figures. When something is sent at the State level and some (500) problem arises, we have to become practical about it and the question of State-Centre relations has also to be / kept in view. Hence simply sending directives to the States will not serve any purpose; the Government must evolve some / monitoring system. The Department of Civil Supplies should make such arrangements in which foodgrains supplied from the Central pool / to the States could be effectively controlled. Today, I feel distressed to disclose that palm oil is being sold in / the market openly and it is not available to villagers. The same is the position with regard to janata cloth. (600)

What I mean to say is that foodgrains and other commodities allocated to States are not being made available / to the people. The Government should ensure that various commodities allocated by it reach the commonman. I know that directives are / issued to States by the Central Government from time to time. Letters are also sent by the Prime Minister and the / Minister of Food and Civil Supplies. But the States do not pay any heed to these directives. Our former / Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, had formulated a 14-Point programme with a view to strengthening the public distribution system. (700) But I am sorry to say that several State Governments do not pay heed to this programme. There are / clear instructions from the Central Government that a fair price shop should be opened for every 2,000 units. / In spite of that, there are several tribal, difficult and remote areas where this policy is not being followed. Due to this, / the poor people do not get the benefits of our policies. Our Prime Minister and the Government said that / foodgrains will be provided to tribals and poor people at cheap rates. The areas having more than 50 per cent (800) tribal population get ration at cheap rates. But the areas having less than 50 per cent tribal population do not / get any such facility. I demand that all weaker and backward sections must get these facilities on a uniform basis.

840 words

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, corresponding to the typed text on the left. The notes are written in a cursive style on a grid of horizontal lines.