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Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the Hon. Members who have participated in the discussion and expressed their views on the Interim Budget, which I presented in the House yesterday. We have had a fruitful discussion on this subject. This is a routine exercise. The House is aware that I have come with the Interim Budget and I am pleading with the House to pass the Vote on Account for four months under very exceptional circumstances. I would like to place on record that what I have presented to the House is not my own creation. This X (100) Government cannot be held responsible for what has transpired in the year which is going by. There was another Government in power. Most of us, on this side of the House who are sitting on the Treasury Benches, were in the opposition then and most of the hon. Members who are sitting on the other side of the House, were either in the Government or were supporting the Government from outside. It is that Government's work that we are discussing are the same, I placed before the House yesterday. Now, Sir, I have said very clearly that the Revised Budget X (200) Estimates and the Budget Estimates for the next financial year do not reflect the thinking and the priorities of my Government. I have said in my Budget Speech that it is our firm resolve to review the Five Year Plan and to revise the Budget Estimates so that they reflect our thinking and priorities when I come before the august House with my regular Budget. That will be the time for you to judge us, that will be the time for you to judge our intentions and that will be the time for you to judge our actions. As I X (300) said, this is not my creation, but in a Parliamentary system we are often faced with a situation where the existing Government has to carry on with the legacy, which has been left behind by the previous Government. My next point is, we have talked about in our National Agenda for Governance that we believe in having a consensus. A point has been made in this House by one of the Hon. Members that we should have the same kind of consensus in regard to economic policies that we have developed over a period of time in our foreign affairs X (400) and defence policies. I see no reason why this House cannot evolve such consensus. I am pleading strongly that we must evolve that consensus so that the economic policy which has become a major tool for the progress of this country, is not subject to the vagaries of the situation. We must have a consensus and I think, we are very close to it. Sir, we were criticised by many people that we did not follow the path followed by East European countries. We were criticised in



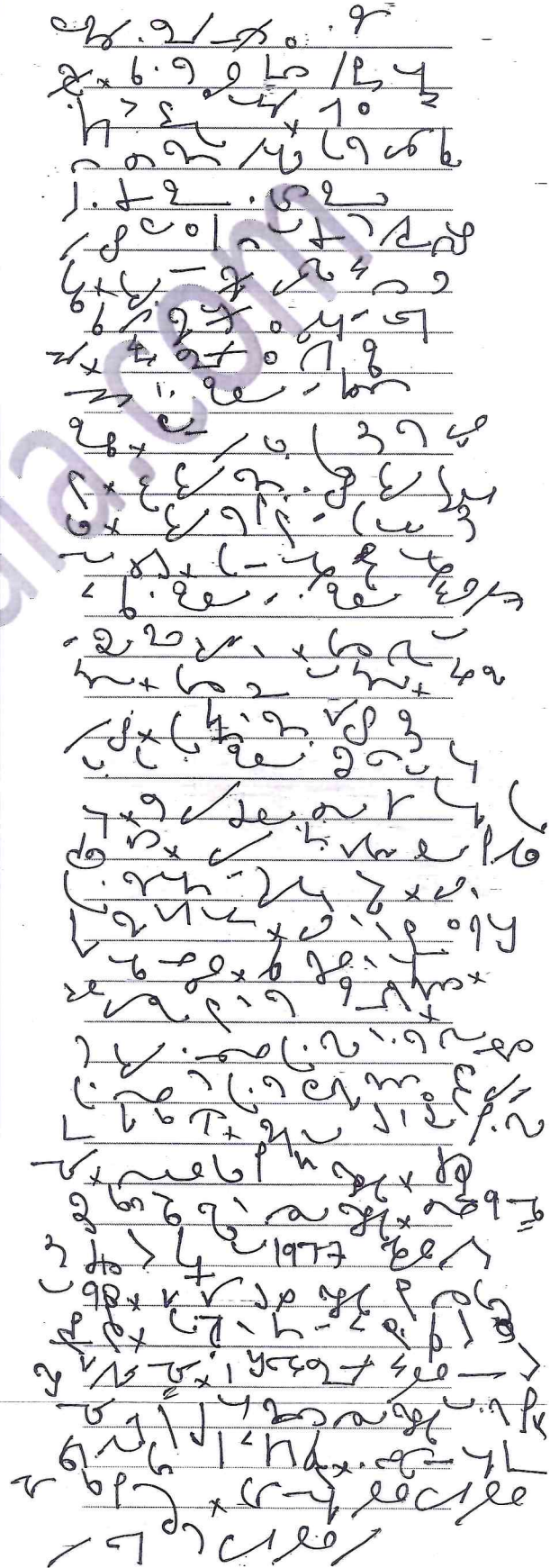
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this Hose, we were criticised in this country that we did not follow X (500) the path followed by those countries. There was a thinking at that point of time, that it was the best model of development. That model of development has collapsed. Then, we were told that the countries of South Asia were the best models of development and India should follow those models of development. Now, they too have collapsed today. They are going round the world with begging bowl. Therefore, I would like to emphasise before this House that the only model of economic development that India can follow is the Indian model of development. There is no model in the X (600) world which Indian can follow successfully except the model which we must device ourselves on the basis of the concepts, which have been handed down to us by the great leaders of the past. If we do that, then consensus building will not be difficult. The hon. Members have talked about foreign investment. I hope the hon. Members are aware that foreign investment at the best of time has played only a marginal role in our economy. I have absolutely no hesitation in stating on behalf of the Government that my Government welcomes the foreign investment. But this kind of X (700) investment in India is welcome in certain areas, which we call priority areas, including infrastructure. We are not interested in areas where we do not need it and they are interested to come to our country for their own profit. Unfortunately, I do not have the time to go into the details. The demand for level playing field by the Indian industry has arisen not from our Party, but it was raised by the Indian industry itself. I am not saying that we believe in the level playing field also. But I have said and I would like to say X (800) on the floor of this House that this Government should not accord to the foreign investors any privilege or any concession which is not available to the Indian Industry. This point has been discussed in the Cabinet and the same view is expressed in the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament. Sir, some hon. Members have made a number of points during the discussion of the Budget in the House. I do not have time to go into all of them. I plead to the hon. Members to bear with me. I have not taken all the points, X (900) which have been made and I will be able to clear the position of my Government on those points when I will present the Budget of my Government in the next Session. In that Budget, our Government's thinking for the development of the country may be seen in every field, especially for the poor people who live below the poverty line and farmers of the country. Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech and request the hon. Members of this House to pass this Interim Budget. At last, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak X (1000)



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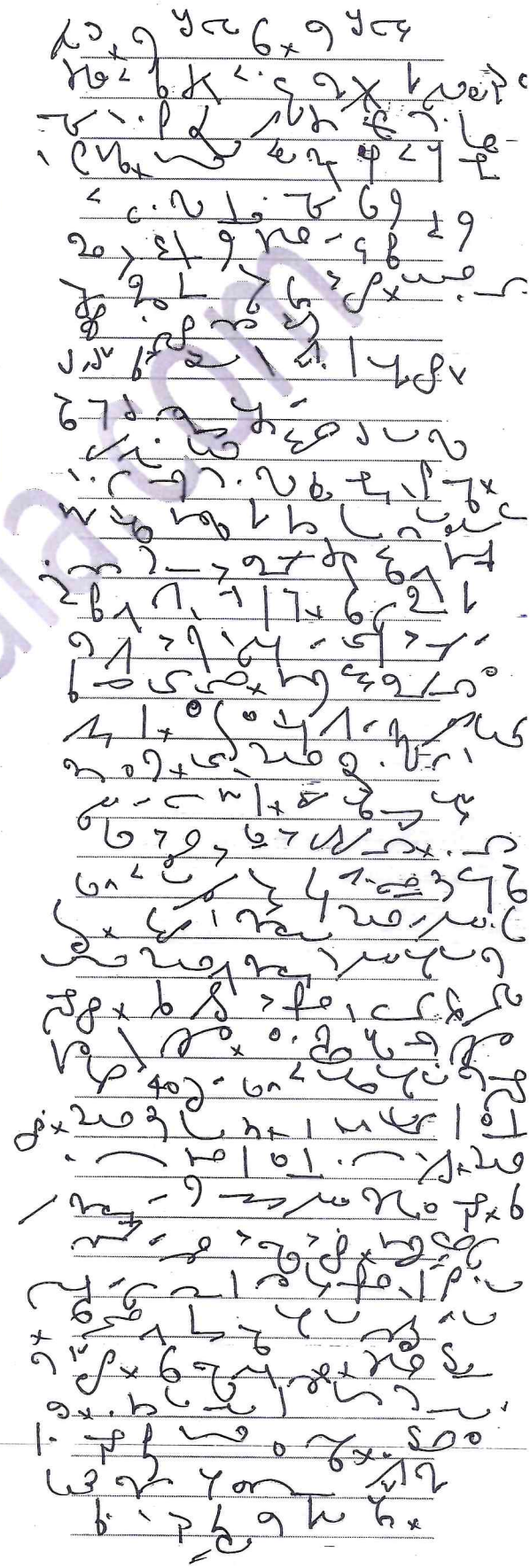
Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Sarkaria Commission Report is a highly fruitful report. It is a very serious document which has taken into account the totality of the political life in the country. And it has made some very important recommendation though very wisely it has not touched the basic structure, the fundamental structure of our Constitution nor has it made any basic or radical institutional changes. If we go through the Report, we will find that the main thread which is running through the entire Report is unity and integrity of the country. That is why, the Sarkaria Commission has X (100) laid stress again and again on a strong Centre and at the same time strong States. In fact, our founding fathers were very wise people. When they were framing the Constitution, they were foreseeing the events. They were very tall people and they knew what was going to happen. They could envisage and so they envisaged that it is a strong Centre and a strong State that was required and there is no contradiction between the two. They must live in harmony. They must work in harmony. That is the spirit of our Constitution. If at the time of framing X (200) of our Constitution, there was need for a strong Centre, there is more need for it today. Sir, we are discussing something which will affect the future generations also. We are attempting to review the Centre State Relations after a very long time and so we have to be objective. We have to depart from the party angle. We have all to speak as true Indian in this august House which is the Upper House of Indian Parliament. I would say that we must have people of very high calibre. So, if an ex Minister, if a person of a very X (300) long experience, if a Minister or if a very senior Member of Parliament is available, we should take advantage of his maturity. There should be no ban on appointing such a person as the Governor. Many things have been said about President's Rule. It has also been said that there has been abuse of this provision of imposing President's Rule. As many as nine Governments were dismissed by the Janata Government in Nineteen Seventy Seven; and this was repeated in Nineteen eighty. But the whole point is the President's rule has to be imposed if there is no stable government X (400) possible, for cooling of time and that has to be decided by the President on the report of the Governor. But I do not agree with the Sarkaria Commission that the reasons given by the Governor should be put down in the Proclamation imposing President's Rule in a particular state. This will be wrong. If you do that, it will become justifiable. The courts will come into the picture and they will pass stay orders. They will go into the reasons, whether the reasons are correct or whether the reasons are





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justified or not. Therefore, I do not agree with X (500) this. Sir, I do not agree with the observations that it is desirable that a politician from the ruling party at the Union is not appointed as Governor of a State which is being run by some other party or a combination of other parties. In my opinion, that is not practicable. As I said that I do expect that when a person becomes a Governor then he forgets to which political party he belongs and when he sits on that high pedestal he must take objective view of the situation. In any case, the Commission suggests a constitutional amendment X (600) I would say, do not bind the choice of the Centre by writing it into the Constitution. All these good points must be taken into consideration and we should have a convention that we will not appoint any person of a low calibre or a person who is not expected to deliver goods. About the all India services, I am surprised at the demand being made in certain quarters. A memorandum was given to the Sarkaria Commission by some people that this should be abolished or that States should be allowed to opt out of it. This will strike at X (700) the very root of the principle of unity and integrity of the country and it is against national integration. I am, therefore, glad that the Sarkaria Commission has rejected it. As far as All India Radio and Doordarshan are concerned, functional freedom is there. In regard to Ordinances, there has been a lot of hue and cry about it. I would, in this connection, invite the attention of the House to the findings of the Wadwa Commission. The Commission found that in Bihar both the Janata and the Congress Governments were guilty of this. For years, they went on promulgating X (800) Ordinances and renewing them. In my opinion, Ordinances should be repromulgated or renewed only in very exceptional circumstances. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to quickly place the relevant Bills before the Legislatures. As a journalist, I have been covering Legislatures for the last forty years and found that, in the past, only in very exceptional circumstances, Ordinances were being issued. But now unfortunately, it has become a matter of course, it has become a matter of routine. Ordinances are promulgated and they are again and again renewed, their life is extended. It is a mockery and misuse X (900) of the provisions of the Constitution. I am sure, the Hon. Minister will look into this and will make it impossible for the State Governments to do such a thing. Recourse should be taken to this only in emergencies and in very tight situations. This provision should not be misused. So long as the Planning Commission is concerned, the demand for giving it autonomy or giving it an exalted status, in my opinion, is meaningless. The Planning Commission has functioned very well until sometime ago, right from the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Sir, at the end, I thank you. X (1000)



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I am happy that one and a half year after the first Agriculture Summit, we are meeting again to review the status of implementation of policies necessary for the development of our agriculture sector. We cannot deny the fact that there is a crisis in agriculture in many regions of the country. In many parts of the country, agriculture is being carried out in adverse conditions. The problems may be attributable to a wide range of causes, but the end result is that there are larger areas where farmers seem to be in acute distress. It is also a fact X (100) that in many other parts, agriculture is seeing a major transformation for the better and the farmers in these parts are reaping the benefits of technology, irrigation, etc. Our Government has succeeded in arising the decline in public investment in the agricultural sector. We have also increased the availability of credit at reasonable rates to farmers. Short term crop loans are now available at normal rate of interest for which we are providing subsidised refinance from Governmental institutions. However, we need more thinking on the credit front. While the financial system should do more for the credit needs of farmers, X (200) we need to raise some questions. It is necessary that we find answers to these questions in the near future. Last year, I had sought suggestions on measures to improve the institutional framework for providing long term capital for investment in agriculture. I am afraid that we have not made much progress in this regent. I request you to apply your collective minds to this again. To overcome the situation of agricultural distress, a package has been put in place for some districts in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnatalia and Kerala. An Expert Group has also been set up to look X (300) into the problems of agricultural indebtedness in its totality and suggest measures for providing relief to farmers across the country. We are setting up the National Rainfed Area Authority to promote imowledge based interventions covering all aspects of agriculture in rainted areas. I hope this body would be able to enhance the efficiency of existing government programmes. and bridge the Inowledge deficit in rainfed agriculture. While we have attempted to bring about a qualitative improvement in agricultural research and extension system, I must admit that we need to do much more to improve the reach and effectiveness of rural extension X (400) services. These service were an important part of the foundation of Green Revolution. We need greater application of technology improve farming of many crops, particularly in dryland areas. A renewed thrust has to be given to research in dryland farming, with a focus on farming systems as a whole. What is needed is a sustained effort spread over a few years so that small farmers can be pulled out of their marginal existence while advanced farmers are propelled to the global platform. This is the real challenge for agriculture in the next decade. We are committed to ensuring that X (500) our

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farmers have access to adequate and affordable credit. Many steps have been taken in this direction. We have initiated programmes and projects to provide adequate and affordable infrastructure in rural areas. We are investing in irrigation and rural drinking water to meet the water needs of our farmers and rural households. We are improving the functioning of agricultural markets so that the farmers can earn additional income. We are committed to increasing the productivity of our farms through the infusion of knowledge, modern science and technology. Our flagship programme, Bharat Nirman, is aimed at addressing the rural infrastructure deficit X (600) Bharat Nirman, along with the Blackward Regions Grant Fund, will improve rural infrastructure and provide greater irrigation. I am confident that we will be able to ensure a perceptible increase public and private investment in these two critical areas which will certainly have a positive impact on the conditions under which agriculture is practised Irrigation does require greater investment. We are making all out efforts to achieve a quantum leap in investments in imigation. States too are trying their best. I do believe that the time has come for us to adopt a fundamentally new perspective on rural development X (700) and agriculture. This perspective must recognise the need for ending the rural urban divide in each of the deficits I have mentioned. While a large number of people will continue to migrate from rural areas to urban areas, and while urbanisation will contime, our rural economy must retain its people and ensure a remunerative livelihood from them. A balanced development of urban and rural economies is vital for sustainable development and social and political stability. Another important challenge before us is to increase the real income of farmers. As leaders of industry, you should be more aware of this need X (800) than most. You know very well that there is a strongco-relation between agrarian prosperity and demand for manufactured goods and modern services across the country. One aspect of such development will be improved returns to investment for farmers. Thus we cannot grudge the farming community. We need to recognize that they need better returns for their efforts. This may hurt the middle class to a small extent, but it benefits the farmer. We need a balanced approach where we provide for the food security of the poorest sections without compromising the returns to farmers. While the Government will do X (900) whatever is necessary to keep prices under check, and ensure moderate rates of inflation, we cannot sacrifice the interests of the farming commanity. Our strategy for agricultural development must be based on improving the real incomes and the quality of life of the farming community. So far our approach to rural development and agriculture has been incremental, we have only tried to do more and do things better. We have not sought a paradigm shift in agrarian policy and

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agrarian development. I sincerely hope that in future, we can strike out afresh in agriculture, seeking new pathways for rural prosperity. X (1000)

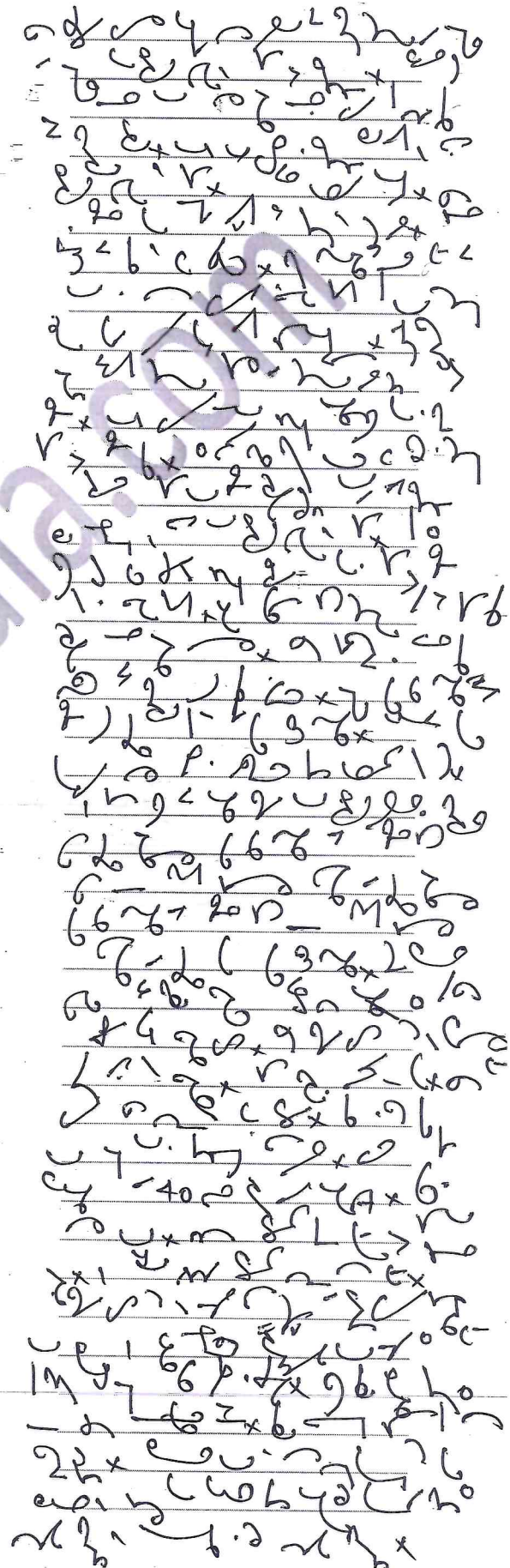
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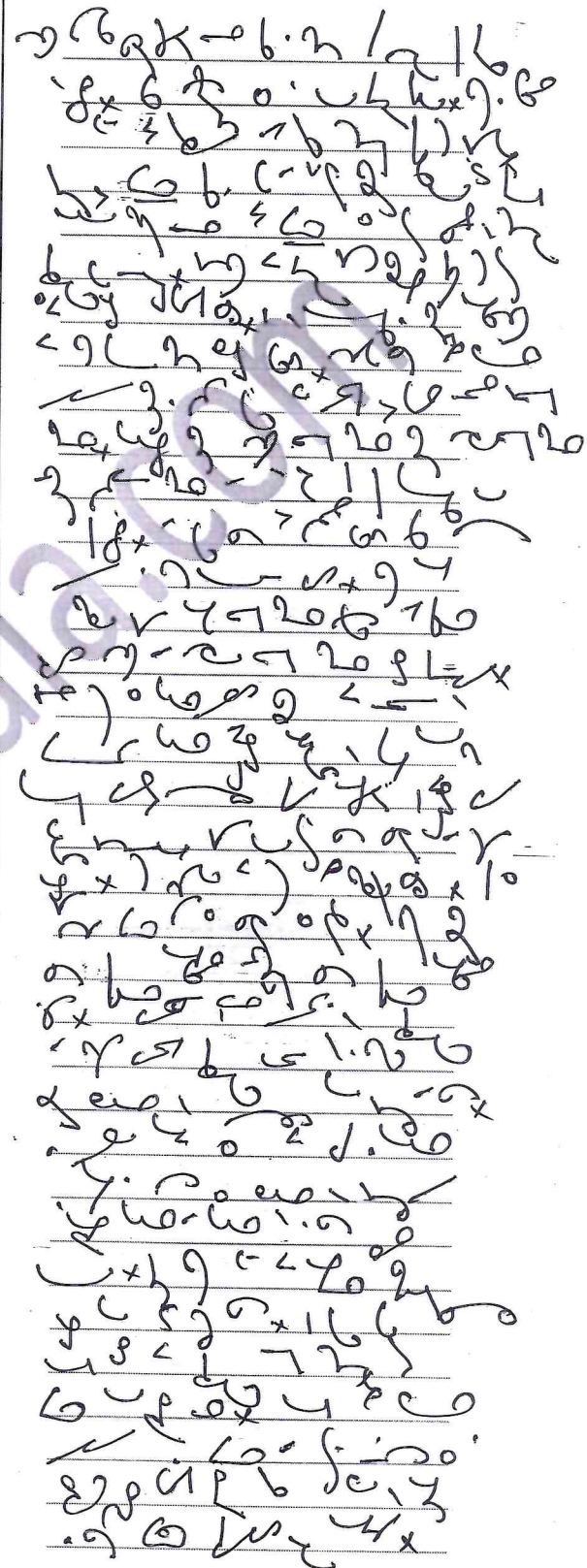
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must find out the main reason why there were so many writ petitions and petitions for special leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. That was so because in most of these cases we had made the decision of that tribunal final. Now, under the Constitution, the Supreme Court has not the right to grant special leave of appeal. That is naturally untouched. Similarly, the High Courts have got the right of the power of issue writs. Of course, I cannot say that it is all without justification. Probably, many of those courts thought that X (100) in a matter where the aggrieved party had no remedy whatsoever, they should rather have the right to look into that matter. And it was from that point of view that we had so many appeals and so many writs issued by the High Court. Now, we are going to provide in this measure for a direct appeal to the High Court itself. As lawyer Members probably know, when there is a remedy by way of appeal, no High Court ordinarily issues any writ, and the Supreme Court is not expected to grant any special leave of appeal. It has, X (200) therefore, been found desirable to provide straightway for an appeal to the High Court by an aggrieved party. I think, this will also remove much of the delay which is ordinarily caused by these matters. Sir, apart from that, the clause itself mentions that the tribunal shall decide the election. petition within six months and that the High Court shall dispose it of within three months. I know that even if we impose such a restriction, it may not necessarily be so. But I am sure that unless there are any special reasons etc., the tribunals will dispose of these X (300) matters within six months, and the High Courts also will give priority to matters like these and dispose of these matters within six months, and the High Courts also will give priority to matters like these and dispose them within three months. So, the hon. Members will find that the present provision that has been made in this Bill is much more satisfactory than the previous one. Sir, there are one or two other matters which were rained by previous speakers. I will briefly refer to them. Some thought, we might make voting compulsory. It is a very difficult thing X (400) to do in a democracy like ours. We have adult franchise and 40 crores of people are involved. This is an impossible thing. You may compulsorily take voter to the polling booth, but I do not know how you compulsorily make him yote. Of course, there are one or two countries like Australia and Belgium where, I am told this thing is being done, but with these exceptions, all over the world, no country has thought it proper to do this on such a large scale. Therefore, it is not as if this power is given to some executive X (500) officer of the Government. It is not correct to look at it from that point of view. As hon. Members know, a man may be convicted or even sentenced to two years for offences which may not involve what is vaguely termed as 'moral turpitude'. To introduce the words 'moral turpitude' in a





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measure like this will not be desirable, because it is a term which may have different types of circumstances. This moral turpitude" is a thing which cannot be defined. Therefore, the other House thought that the best way and the best remedy out of this was to X (600) leave the power to the Election Commission itself, the and I believe there has been no complaint till now in any proper case that the Election Commission has ever hesitated to remove disqualification if it could be done. I am sure that hereafter also, there is no such danger, so far as that independent authority is concerned. But to introduce the turpitude in this measure, that very vague term, has not been found. Moral Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, there was a little confusion with regard to the various categories of corrupt practices. For instance, there were major X (700) corrupt practices; there were minor corrupt practices; and there were illegal practices and all of them had different effects under different circumstances. And even some of the lawyers found this matter rather a very intricate one. Therefore, in the present Bill, only corrupt practices have been mentioned, and the distinction between major and minor corrupt practices has been taken away. Of course, so far as offences are concerned, there is that category of electoral offences, and that has been done, not with a view to changing any particular effect with respect to the matters which are undesirable, but that has X (800) been done away with a view to making the whole thing far more simple and easily understandable understandable. So, you will find that so far as the present Bill is concerned, it has made the election law as simple s possible. Probably, there has been some difference of opinion in the other House, and there might be some difference of opinion in this House as well, with regard to the clause relating to disqualification, and particularly with regard to the disqualification incurred by a person who has been sentenced to imprisonment for two years and more. The reason for that is X (900) that generally the offences for which a man is sentenced to two years are cognizable offences and offences of a more serious nature. It was, therefore, thought that in such a case, he should not be allowed to stand for five years more. But even then, as matters now stand, that disqualification can be removed by the Election Commission in suitable cases. Now, as the hon. Members are aware, the Election ree and fair Commission is a special constitutional authority set up by us in order to ensure the free elections which we want to have in the country. X (998)





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Madam, I support this Bill. But, at the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the Government on certain important issues. This enactment is now repealing the earlier enactment which was a very successful enactment made during the period of Smt. Indira Gandhi when she implemented the Twenty Point Programme. The Standards of Weights and Measures Act was brought by her. It gave a lot of strength to the common man and consumers. Throughout India people were very happy that they are going to get clear weighed measures and they are going to get the materials in X (100) a proper method. That was also imposed as part of the successful Emergency Rule. But at the same time, the enforcement was subsequently made by way of another enactment during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's period. Now, we are taking both the enactments together in the new Bill. But, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that we have missed the main part, that is, this enactment is for the consumers, for the people. But, there is no participation for the consumers or for the people in any of the positions throughout the enactment. Even now, we are thinking X (200) only in the name of enforcing things as if we are having all powers to enforce certain things and we have got very big machinery to enforce. But, it can never happen. The country is a very big country. There are more than hundred crores of consumers. We cannot find out how the consumer is going to benefit, in which way this enactment is violated by a particular group of people or corporate bodies or multi-nationals. We are not having examples to say that multi-national companies were prosecuted and their share has fallen due to enforcement of a particular provision X (300) of this Act. We cannot cite even a single instance that a very popular company, which has a wide consumer base in India, is not following the rules of weights and measures and, therefore, it was prosecuted or its Director was prosecuted. We have to bring awareness among the people about their rights. We can very easily say that print and electronic media fight every time to increase their ratings. Even if there is a small violation here and there, they are making at a live telecast, but not consumer issues. It is only the Government's agencies which are bringing X (400) awareness among the people. They are telecasting advertisements. They are educating consumer how to measure a particular product and see whether it is properly measured or properly packed. They also educate that if there is any violation, the consumer can go to the Consumer Court and claim damages. Similarly, if you think the other way, then the consumer, who is affected by that, who is not getting a proper measure or weight of a particular product after spending some money, and if he is not satisfied, he should have a right to prosecute that retailer or the company which has X (500) that brand name or the person has packed it or weighed it or who has certified it. Here, we are not

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giving that right to the consumer. The consumer participation is totally absent in this Bill. We have to draw inspiration only from the Consumer Protection Act. When we are making legislation, we can very well bring that provision in this and give power to the consumer. When you are giving power under Clause 15 of the Bill, I hope, the hon. Minister can understand the common man. Therefore, the common man has to be heard. I hope the hon. X (600) Minister might have noted this. At least, he has to bring some amendment giving power to consumer to prosecute when there is violation of law. Madam, financial commitment of Rs. 25 crores has also been mentioned in this Bill. I would say that money committed should not be used for salaries of employees alone. When we are enforcing this kind of legislation, we have to recruit many people. But, at the same time, we must spend a considerable amount of money for bringing awareness among the consumers. We have to educate the consumer that he has got such and such X (700) right. I find a small word included under Clause 15 of the Bill. But, it is not giving a clear meaning that rights are given to the consumer. When we are making enactment, I feel, we have to think about the international standards. The international standards are made for the people and by the people. They are looking after it. The regulatory authority is only guiling and helping them to see that enforcement is properly made. We think that this can be enforced only by an officer. That will never happen. They will go only for statistics purpose as to X (800) how many cases have been registered every week. Similarly, I would like to request the Government to think about punishing companies not just by way of fine, Now, under the proposed Bill, compounding system of penalty has also been provided. It is very easy for them. They will pay Rs. 25,000 or even any amount for that matter through its representative. It is very easy for any corporate body. If it is so, how the Director is going to be liable? He takes the plea that he is not knowing it. It is given by a retailer or its X (900) agent. Sir, finally, I would like to conclude with the observation that when we are making a law, it should be a comprehensive one. We are already having the Bureau of Indian Standards. They are giving the certification. The private agencies are also coming up. They are also putting the standards. Now, the fashion of the world, more or less, is giving everything to the professional bodies rather than keeping everything with the Government. Rather than keeping the powers with the Government, if we give it to the actual stakeholders, it would be good enforceable enactment. X (996)

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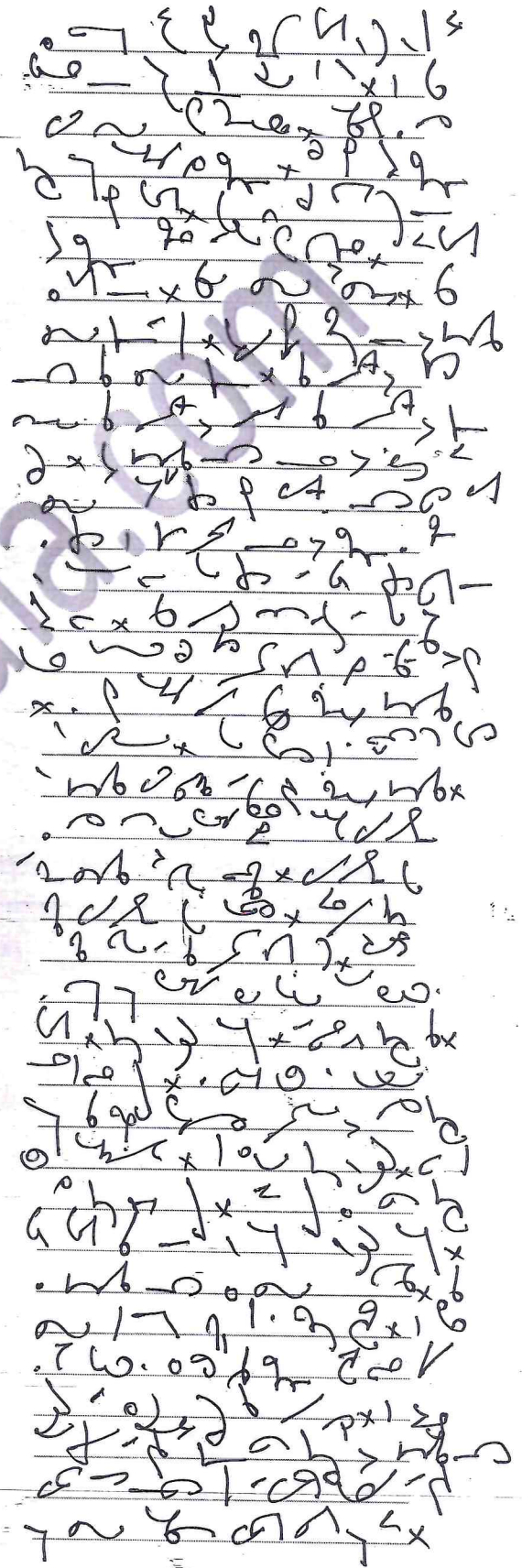
Madam, in India, the Constitution provides that the citizens have Fundamental Rights and all the Fundamental Rights are nothing, but human rights. The basic law provides that these Fundamental Rights can be enforced by moving the courts for their protection. For instance, the Prevention of Untouchability Act is one of the most important laws which protects the Fundamental Rights of the citizens in our country. Madam, I would like to thank the hon. Members for having shown so much of interest in the amendments suggested to this law by the Government and for having given very good suggestions. I would X (100) like to limit my comments to the general principles relating to the human rights, then to the amendments suggested by the Government, then to the amendments suggested by the hon. Members and then conclude my reply on this Bill. We all know that in the Parliament as well as in the State Legislatures, questions are asked from the Government as to how the Fundamental Rights were violated and as to how the Government failed to protect the Fundamental Rights of the citizens. That is one of the most powerful instruments available to the representatives of the people to protect the X (200) Fundamental Rights. We have a strong judiciary in our country. At the apex is the Supreme Court, the penultimate level are the High Courts, and at District and Taluk levels, there are lower courts. Through these courts, the Fundamental Rights given to the citizens are protected and fortunately, for , we have a very very strong media in our country. Every violation of a Fundamental Right is highlighted in the media, in the newspapers and now, on televisions. Those facts are brought to the notice of the Government and the people in the country. Media is a very powerful X (300) instrument for creating public opinion. Though media does not have the power to punish anybody directly, yet the public opinion is so strong that the Fundamental Rights of the citizens are protected. Over and above this, the National Human Rights Commission, was brought into existence. It was provided in the law itself that the State Governments may have the State Human Rights Commissions. This is over and above what was already available to the people in the country. Madam, one of the amendments which has been suggested =is not allowing the Magistrate to refer the matter to the Human Rights X (400) Commission. I am not in a position to accept this amendment. The scheme of the law that we have with us is this, any person who feels that his human right is violated can go to the Court and get the remedy. If he thinks that going to the Human Rights Commission is easier and more helpful, he can go to the Human Rights Commission. He can make an application and can get the relief. There are one or two points which are made here and one of the points was the National Human Rights Commission should be given some X (500) authority. Madam, what is said in this respect

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is correct, that they do not have the direct authority to see to it that the findings given by them become binding on all. But, then, we have many other organisations. In this respect, the most powerful body in the country is the Supreme Court. What is said by the Supreme Court has to be followed. Even if you do not like the order given by the Supreme Court, it has to be carried through. The authority is given to the Supreme Court, the High Courts, and other lower courts. That authority X (600) is already given. This is not something of the same kind. This is something bigger and different. If we study the charter given to the Human Rights Commission, it is something bigger. It is related to the policy making, it is related to the research, it is related to the bigger issues. If the Human Rights Commission comes to the conclusion that something in which punishment has to be awarded, the Commission will not award the punishment, but it will refer the case to the Supreme Court, the High Court, to any other court for punishment and then the X (700) punishment will be given by that court. This is the arrangement, Madam, over and above all these things, in my opinion, what is really helping is the ethos of the people. The people in the country are themselves protecting the human rights of one another. For every man committing a crime or violation of human rights; we have hundreds and thousands of people, protecting the human rights. The most important thing in our country is that not only we respect and protect the human rights of our neighbours but also we respect and protect some rights of the living creatures. X (800) We respect even trees. We respect even animals. That is our attitude towards life and it is really helping us. I would like to say that the media today, in our country, is not having any sanctioning authority, power to punish anybody. And yes, how powerful it is? Because it creates public opinion. The United Nations is an international body which is presiding over the matters relating to the most powerful nations in the world. It has no power to punish. Yet, it has the power to create the public opinion, and that public opinion is more powerful than the X (900) authority which is given to anybody to punish anybody. The Human Rights Commission is something like this. It is something which can be treated at a very, very high level. But as far as the actual functioning is concerned, it is the Supreme Court, and other courts, which are punishing and is seeing that the orders passed are implemented. But, to the extent it is necessary and possible to give more powers to the Human Rights Commission, we will again examine it, and wherever necessary and possible to do something in this matter, we will be happy to do that. X (1000)

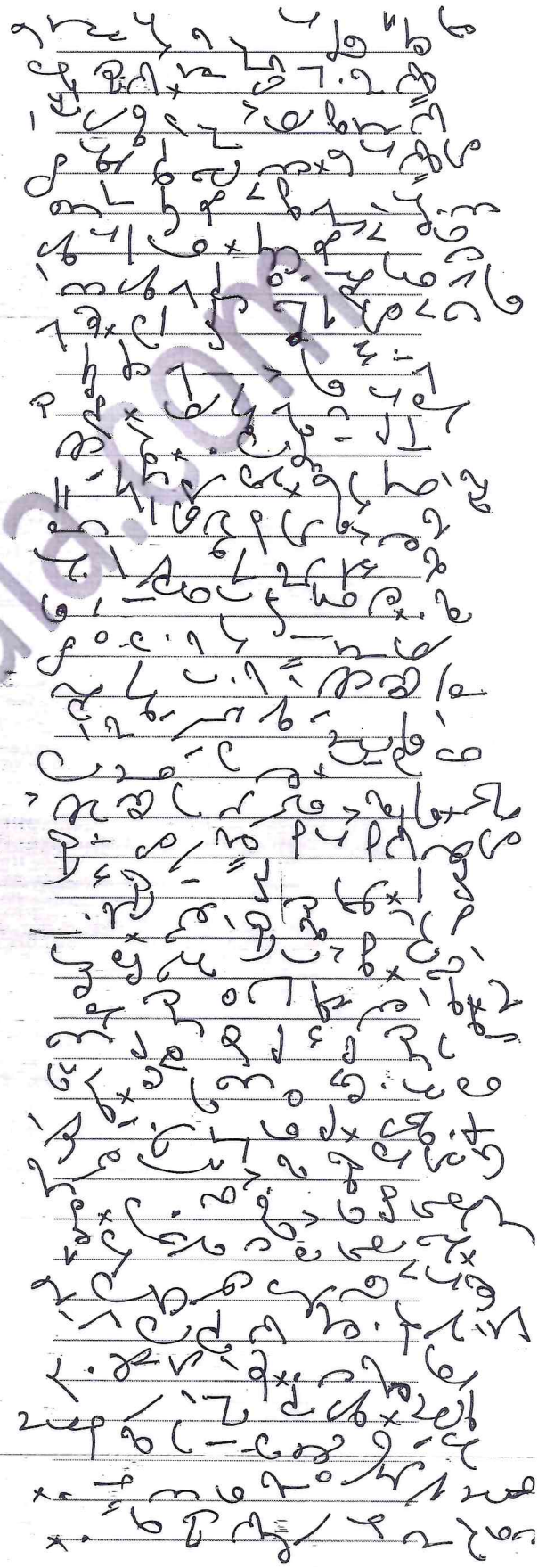


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Grade (D) Date 09/11/2019

Sir, I am very glad that I have the opportunity to take part in the discussions on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Labour. I am glad, we have got a very good Labour Minister, but I do not know whether he is able to take all the necessary steps to improve the labour situation in this country at this crucial moment. Sir, in the Labour Minister's Conference, some time back, it was suggested that steps should be taken to enforce the minimum wages in the different industries. It was also suggested that non-implementation of minimum X (100) wages should be declared as a cognizable offence and the offenders should be arrested. However, it had been agreed at the Conference that more deterrent punishment should be given to the offenders and that the Act should be amended suitably. Necessary changes should have been made in the Central legislation by this time. The Industrial Dispute Act had become outdated and it should be completely overhauled. Sir, if the administration of Provident Fund Scheme at various levels has to be fully advantageous to the employees, there should naturally be regional offices which could directly deal with the members of the X (200) fund who go in for advances, loans, etc. The present situation has offered an opportunity for the Government to make necessary meaningful changes in a number of legislative measures which seek to protect and regulate the rights and working conditions of industrial workers and other employees. In fact, several clauses of the legislative measures have little relevance to the present day conditions. Regarding the Apprenticeship Act, once our Prime Minister said in the State Labour Minister's Conference that the Apprenticeship Act had not been implemented vigorously. It had not been given a trial. Utilisation of apprenticeship opportunities or filling such X (300) vacancies has not been uniform in all the States. Creation of skilled manpower has lagged behind the limits of possibilities. So, the more important point is that, what is to be done with the trained manpower if it cannot find jobs? What is even more important is that there is a new sense of urgency and a will to get things done. With regard to this, the basic problem relates neither to the number of apprentices nor to the value of their stipends. Furthermore, the gross contribution to the fund has been increasing year after year but the average refund X (400) amount is not increasing accordingly. Sir, the Industrial Policy Resolution clearly mentions that in the process of rapid industrial development, labour assumes a vital role to help establish a socialistic pattern of society. The main problems facing the working class are of getting adequate wages, essential commodities at prices they can afford, some sort of shelter and cloth. The Government's minimum needs programme has hardly reached the working class. The vast majority of labourers are unable to make both ends meet. The

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Grade (D) Date 09/11/2019

Government has mentioned endlessly on the question of evolving a national policy or on integrated wages, incomes and X (500) price policy. Sir, it has claimed that the Emergency has brought discipline among labourers and the production has been increased. Yes, it is a fact, but the labourers are forced to work and they are forced not to take part in the trade union activities. The trade union rights have been completely taken away from the labour. But, Sir, I want to impress upon the Minister that motivations for work should not be imposed from outside, but it should come from within. A contented labour force is an asset to the development of industries. You have taken away the permitted X (600) bonus. Some time back, this Parliament passed an Act to fix the minimum bonus at 8.33 per cent. But, the same Act was adversely amended by the same Parliament some time ago. The Bonus was accepted by this Government as deferred wage, but the same Government has reversed the conception of bonus and this Government says that bonus is not a deferred wage, but it is connected with production and productivity. But what about the owners of industries? Do you know, how much have they reduced in the dearness allowance of the workers now-a-days? Not only that, a number of X (700) companies have been held guilty for failure to deposit the provident fund money and also for mishandling the amount due to employees. The total number employees covered by the scheme was sixty lakhs, which was subsequently increased to seventy lakhs. The gross contribution to the fund was expected to be increased but the refund has not increased accordingly. Further, the arrear in default in payment by the employers on an average over a period of five years is increasing alarmingly. Such a situation calls for stringent regulation and control over the operation and administration of funds. X (796)

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Grade (D) Date 11/11/2019

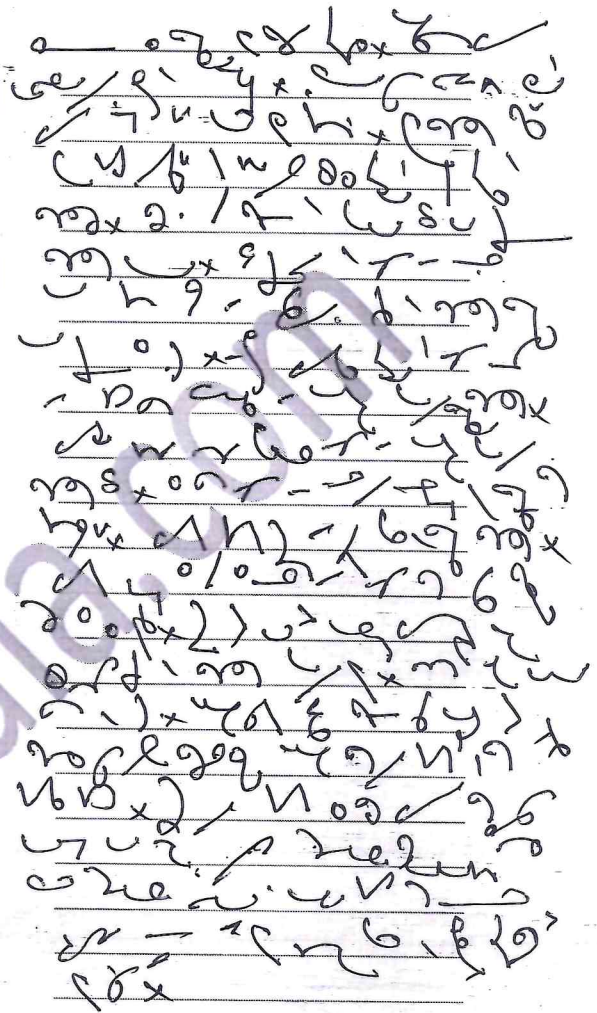
Madam, I now come to the activities of oil exploration. Our aim ultimately is a complete stoppage of import of crude oil. With a view to do it, we are now intensively carrying on oil exploration both off-shore and on-shore in the country. As the House knows, the activities of off-shore explorations are increasing and there are very good prospects of getting oil. Next year, we hope that production from the off-shore will be something between one million and two million tonnes of oil. By the middle of the next year or by the third quarter of the next year, X (100) our production of crude oil from the on-shore areas is also likely to increase by about one to two million tones. So, just now when we are importing about two thirds of our consumption, we hope that by the end of the next year, this proportion will be substantially reduced. It is quite possible that we may then produce about 40 per cent of our crude oil by the end of this year and import about 50 per cent. If discovery of oil and production programme goes on like this, within three years, we hope the situation will very much X (200) improve. By the end of next year, we hope we shall be able to produce as much oil as we would require Madam, such a situation in the exploration is due to the fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has of late made rapid advances towards new technology, both on-shore and off-shore. I am glad to inform the House that we are now knowing much more the difficulties of oil exploration than what we knew about a few years ago. We do not hesitate to exchange knowledge with those who have it, although there are sometimes difficulties in X (300) bargaining with such parties who know more about it than us Now, with regard to increasing the number of refineries, it is very difficult just now to commit the Government to anything like that. There are two refineries in Assam, a third one is coming up. With these, we hope to process as much crude oil as will be possible for us to do. We are already committed to transport two million tones of crude oil to Bihar. Madam, I would like to say a few words about the Assam oil situation. Oil exploration in Assam is increasing and I X (400) want to assure hon. Members that both the refineries are being expanded. At present, we are actively engaged in planning for the expansion of these refineries. The Petro-chemical industry is being planned and we hope in the next two or three years, there will be sufficient expansion. Madam, there is one more point which was raised by my hon. friend. I want to inform the House that the public sector units are increasing the quantity and quality of our medicines. These are badly required. The House may be aware that very recently there was acute scarcity of blood pressure medicines. X (500) These tablets were neither available in our country, nor are we getting if from the Western countries. We managed to get the bulk product and now you will be glad to know that the public

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sector is producing blood pressure tablets. In this manner, we are increasing our sphere of activity. The hon. Member will agree that how soon we acted on the information supplied by him. Further, fertilizer prices have already been reduced by about Rs. 80 depending on different types of fertilizers. There is a large programme of having plants under public sector fertilizer industry. With the discovery X (600) of oil and gas in Bombay High and elsewhere, the position of fertilizer production in public sector has eased. So far, we have been depending on fuel oil, coal and also some quantities of naphtha for producing fertilizer. We did not want to import furnace oil and naphtha for our fertilizer plans. As more oil and gas are expected to be produced from Bombay High, we hope, it will be easier and cheaper for us to produce fertilizer. We hope to get as much gas and oil from these prospective areas as is possible, so that by the end of X (700) the next year, we may be able to have eight million tones of fertilizer for our people. Madam, I have nothing more to say. I only hope that this programme, which is initiated by the Prime Minister, will receive very serious consideration not only from our party but from Opposition parties also. So far as our Party is concerned, we are very seriously engaged in modifying our own organization, bringing about improvements in our own organization, creating a new pattern or cooperation between the Government and the people to move faster to satisfy the aspirations of the people as well. X (800)





Grade (D) Date 11/11/2019

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for offering their views. Everybody expressed his sympathy for the farmers. There can be nothing more important than this for us. Some of our friends say that 70 per cent people depend on agriculture. I believe that hundred per cent people depend on it. If the stomach is empty, nothing runs smooth. Some of our hon. friends are saying that production has declined and foodgrains are not available. It is not that there was no agriculture policy earlier and there is none now. It is also not that we are X (100) running the government without any policy. Had it been so, we would not have commended the farmers. We would not have praised them that they have shouldered the responsibility of the whole country. Earlier, the population of the country was 34 crores whereas it has exceeded 125 crores now. Earlier, we required 50 million tonnes and now our requirement is 300 million tonnes. It is needless to say that we still require more foodgrains. We are moving ahead and expecting an increase in agricultural production. On the other hand, nobody sees that production has increased. People will complain that they are X (200) not getting sufficient food. It is because every year there is an increase of two crores people in the country. How can it be checked? We shall have to think over it. There is no expansion in the land area. It remains static. We shall have to consider all these points. Everybody asks me about the agriculture policy and what I was going to do. A system is being followed right from the beginning that production increases in the same ratio. There should be cooperation from both sides. Nothing can be done single handedly. Our scientists are busy in research. X (300) Had there been no coordination and encouragement from the Government, perhaps, we would not have achieved that much progress. My efforts are also aimed at it. During the course of the debate, there was a reference to Bhanu Pratap Committee. It was alleged that the recommendations of the Committee were not implemented properly. They were discussed in the Cabinet but were not implemented because of certain considerations. It is the demand of everyone, including the hon. Members, that the farmers should be paid remunerative prices for their produce. At the same time, inability to pay remunerative prices is also expressed. X (400) I feel sorry at the burning of wheat during the protest staged on sixth. This pained me much because we are equally concerned about the welfare of the farmers. You people persistently raise the demand for payment of higher prices to farmers for their produce. Agriculture is my only vocation which I did myself and did not pursue another profession. One hon. Member enquired from me about the total land in my possession and whether I have distributed it or not. I would like to submit that I was the first person to have invited people for distributing land with X (500)

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Grade (D) Date 11/11/2019

ownership rights. You people can yourself witness how I have converted the barren land into the fertile land. The area which was once a desert now abounds in greenery and stands as a beautiful oasis. I love both nature and farmers. I love plants like my own off-springs. That is why, I do not want to hurt the farmers' sentiments, not am I, against payment of remunerative prices to farmers for their produce. However, besides this we also have to think of the interests of the nation while taking care of our farmers. Farmers have voluntarily done a lot for X (600) the country, Farmers have not got involved in any sort of corrupt practice, that is, black marketing, hoarding and profiteering. But if the demand is made for excessive increase in prices of agricultural products, it is not correct. Decision to import wheat is also opposed. It is another matter whether the imported wheat has arrived or not. The Ministry has stated that the wheat has not yet arrived. Can the purchasing of a medicine for a patient, suddenly fallen ill, be postponed for the next day if the medicine is available at higher price in the night? You have alleged X (700) that as per our promise we could not roll back prices within hundred days. How can it be achieved that way? We will have to see things in the right perspective. and also to keep a proper check and balance between various things. If the farmers' interests are to be watched, then we will have to watch the interests of the common man too. We will have to consider the condition of the farmers and the poor both. Therefore, I announce the payment of bonus. of Rs. 50 per quintal on wheat over and above the procurement price. X (798)

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Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this opportunity which has been provided by this honourable House to discuss this statement which I made the other day before the hon Members. I welcome this opportunity for two reasons. First, it gives me an opportunity of removing some misgivings which are entertained by the hon. Members. At the same time, it will also give me an opportunity to clarify some of the details of this statement which I have made before this House. Before doing that, I would like to make a few observations, and these are that some of the hon. Members X (100) have expressed views that, so far as the matter of food is concerned, it has to be treated as a national problem. I do agree with those hon. Members who have suggested that so far as this problem is concerned, let us have a national outlook and let us not bring politics into it, and let us try to see how we can overcome the difficulties with which we are faced, how we can make food available to our people at a reasonable price and how we can help in the increased production of foodgrains and cereals and other commodities X (200) so that we may not have to face this kind of difficulty in the future.. Sir, the second thing which I would like to point out is that, I think the time has come when we should be clear in our mind that this is not because of pre-conceived ideas that we had placed a certain policy before this House and before the country last year. We thought that the policy of take-over would help us in having an effective control over the surplus so that there may be no scope for speculators on the one hand and there may X (300) be no distortion of prices on the other hand, and it may be possible for us to provide the foodgrains which are the essential commodities for the existence of our people at a reasonable price to our people and particularly the vulnerable sections. That was the main objective or idea underlying this policy. So far as procurement is concerned, that was a procedure in order to implement that particular policy. When some people say that we have reversed our policy or that we have surrendered our policy regarding foodgrains, I do not agree to such a view. So far as X (400) my friend, Mr. Mishra, is concerned and so far as my friend, Mr. Madhu Limaye, is concerned, they did not expect much good out of the policy which we have enunciated this time but they have not told us what is the better policy which can serve the objective which we have placed before ourselves. Sir, I would like to point out one thing. There is no question of surrender and there is no question of reversal in our policy. I can reiterate and emphasise that so far as this Government and our party are concerned, we accept the socialist X (500) path as the proper path for the purpose of development and progress of this country. We are very clear about this. We shall pursue this path. Maybe that we may have to change the emphasis from time to time, maybe, we may have to

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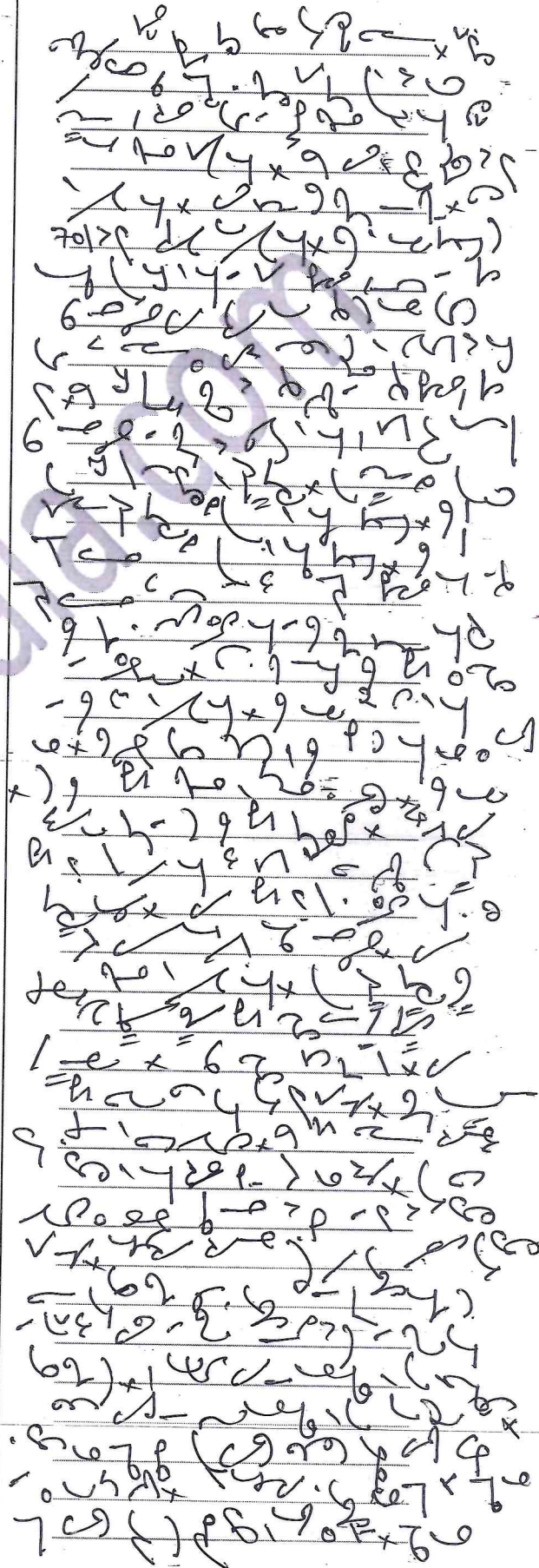
change the direction from time to time. But, we hope that the goal that we have set before ourselves will be achieved in the long run. Now, the question before us is this. Why did the policy which we had placed before the House and was accepted by it was not a success? I can give X (600) you a number of reasons for this. One of the main reasons why the policy had failed is this. The very hon. Members who are now criticising us had created such a psychology in the country and on the basis of which, it was not possible for us to obtain foodgrains from the cultivators. Sir, it is not possible for the farmers to earn their livelihood from farming alone as they do not have the facilities to grow crops throughout the year in every area. They remain idle for several months in a year. How can they meet their family X (700) expenses when they have no work? In order to generate employment as well as purchasing power, the Government should create jobs of some kind or the other. In this connection, I would like to stress on dairy development. If the rural people get facilities like loan to buy good variety of cows and buffaloes and also some help under the Centrally sponsored scheme, they will be able to produce milk and milk products. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to pay adequate attention to promote dairy in different parts of the country. I hope, the Government will pay attention. X (800)

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Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture. I compliment our hon. Minister, who is keeping in view the dreams of our four! Farther of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who always felt and said that the progress of India lies in the progress of rural India. Sir, we have to fulfil the aspirations of the people of rural India. We have to make their dream come true. More than 70 per cent of the people dwell in rural India. Therefore, a new democracy was introduced after the Independence of India and all our X (100) stalwarts who came and adorned this august House, whether they were in opposition or in position, they also felt that agriculture is one of the most important aspects of livelihood of the Indian people. Sir, I do not deny the contribution of the Opposition leaders and Opposition stalwarts who adorned this House and contributed to the welfare of India, but, I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay my compliments to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. If Mahatma Gandhi is the Father of the Nation, I will call Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the Father of Indian's Democracy. X (200) He had capable colleagues with him and with the capable colleagues and stalwarts in the Opposition, he built a modern, self-reliant India and he dreamed to make India beautiful and self-respecting. Like a true Gandhian, he started his movement and he thought of rural India. He knew what the land of India needs. There used to be famine earlier, but he said what India needs is water. So, he started programmes to harness the rivers. He knew that we need power and so he started power stations. That is how we started building up our India with the help of X (300) our great leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We started building up a self-reliant India, the fruits of which we are now reaping in this august House. We are discussing the progress of rural India. After Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri started movement called 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. This movement also picked up. We started growing more food for the people of our country. Shrimati Indira Gandhi completed the task of Green Revolution. Sir, about agriculture, I would like to say that the farmers of India always stood by the needs of the country. If the Green Revolution X (400) is successful, it is because of the sweat and blood of the farmers of our country. In the same way, I would like to say that so far as our fishermen are concerned, if the farmers grow food for us from the soil, the fishermen go deep into the sea and fight with the waves and strong currents of the sea and bring food for us from the sea. But unfortunately we give incentives to them to produce more and we do not give many incentives to them for earning more. A farmer needs good seeds, favourable weather, fertilizers, pesticides, X (500) water, electricity, and his own hard labour etc. In the same way, a fisherman needs good boat, good nets, good weather, favourable sea, suitable places to anchor his boat. All these things





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cost money, labour and a lot of risk to life. But the price fixed for their labour and yield is much less than the labour and money involved. We should not forget that a farmer or a fisherman has to raise his family, educate his children, take care of their health and he has to see to it that he gets his children married with respect and dignity. X (600) He can manage all these things from the yield of his fields or the catch of fish from the sea. Today, with the essential commodities of life becoming very expensive, it will be fair on the part of the Government to give a reasonable and fair price to the yields of the farmers and the fishermen. Our farmers toil in the villages. They cannot provide full, proper, nutritious diet to their children. I am sure, our hon. Minister, being a farmer himself, will do the needful. I know that he has many programmes and he will definitely take care of X (700) the smallest of the farmers. Further, about Civil Supplies and Public Distribution System, I feel that everything looks very rosy on paper, but at the grass-root level the enthusiasm fades away. What we need is a social and moral commitment from the members of the Government, politicians or bureaucrats, and the shopkeepers who have got licence to distribute the various essential commodities of life. They all must have a commitment that any food-stuff that reaches the poorest of the poor, any food-stuff that reaches the villages, will be pure, of good quality and wholesome. Sir, I thank you at last. X (800)

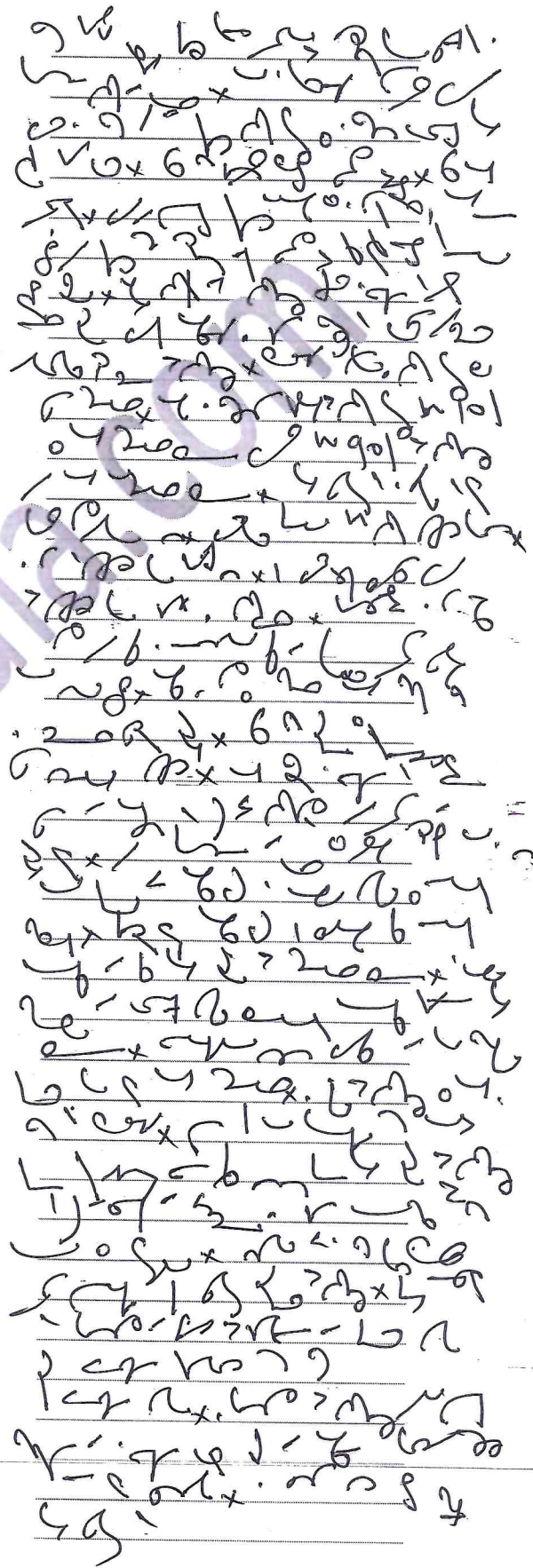
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Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Labour being headed by a dynamic leader and young Minister. In a vast country like ours, where we have a very large population, labour force is a very important ingredient for the development of our nation. This particular human resource has not been utilized to the extent possible. This is indeed regrettable. We should look upon population not only as a liability but in the given circumstances, our population or the manpower should be utilized to the best possible extent by giving suitable training. I think, X (100) the Labour Department and the labourers deserve a great deal of respect because whatever we do in this country, the whole process of national re construction revolves around the work of the labourers. In our country, fortunately, the labour force is not well organised. Only a very small percentage of the labour force, about 10 per cent, is in the organised sector whereas about 90 per cent of the labourers are in the unorganised sector. For the welfare of a large number of people, various laws are being made. We have been talking about labour legislation for a long time. A X (200) lot of legislations have already been made. But we have to consider seriously whether all the legislations have helped the labour class. I am sorry to say that a lot of these laws are just accumulating dust and they have not been really useful in many circumstances. Unless the law is practiced in the proper spirit, the workers will not be benefited. This, particular aspect has to be taken into account while making the legislation. Now, there has to be a great deal of political will and enthusiasm to see that the labour laws are really implemented and benefit the X (300) people. Our dynamic and young Minister has recently said in a meeting in Pune that in this session, a new legislation is going to be presented. It may not be completed in this session but certainly it is going to be introduced and it is for the benefit of the organised sector. A new comprehensive and integrated legislation is going to be introduced by our Government for the sake sector, guaranteeing minimum wages and for providing pension for people in the unorganised. The condition of the labourers is indeed very bad in our country. Look at any factory or X (400) any of the big public undertakings, How much care does the employer take for the benefit of the labourers on whose integrity and hard work, the whole enterprise of that particular industry is flourishing? You will find that a very few industrialists really look into the different welfare aspects of the labourers. Take the example of families and children of the labourers, their employers make proper arrangement for their health care and education, leave aside cultural upliftment or their cultural life? The families of the labourers are not looked properly and a great deal needs to be X (500) done and in this regard voluntary organisations can play some role. A small amount has been provided for the welfare of

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children and women in the unorganised sector. I would urge upon the hon. Minister that the allocations to the voluntary organisations for the betterment of women and children in the organised as well as unorganised sectors should be increased. Sir, as regards the lockouts, wherever there is a lockout of the industry, the labourers have a great deal of suffering. They do not know what to do. They are just left to their lot. But the employer does not X (600) suffer as such. Just look at the employers of different big industries. Their standard of living does not change after locking the industry but the people in the factories are left on the street. I suggest that whenever the question of lock-out in a particular industry comes up, the question should be considered whether the labourers will be able to run a particular industry and a lot of consideration should be given to this particular aspect and, if possible, that particular industry should be kept alive. Sir, migration is a very important problem of labourers and it has got multi-dimensions, X (700) that is, labourers within the country and those who are going outside the country. Lot of labourers are exported outside the country and they are facing lot of problems because of the agencies. I would like to mention here one thing that we have entrusted this work to many of the private agencies. But there is need to consider whether we can have a manpower corporation and assign this work to the corporation. Also, there are problems of inter-State migration of the labourers. There is an Act but it is causing difficulties to the labourers who migrate to other States. X (800)

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Grade (D) Date 01/12/2019

The value of education lies not just in getting a degree or training for a job. The real value is in giving back to society, and in helping those less privileged and less fortunate than us. It is with this sentiment that Guru Nanak College has extended a special facility in partnership with an NGO that runs a school for special children, that is children with special needs. I am told that certificate courses are offered to such students to help them find employment and to promote mainstreaming. I wish such efforts all success. Your College also strives to inculcate X (100) service to society and make students socially responsible. Following the December 2015 floods in Chennai, I have learnt that a team from Guru Nanak College was one of the first to reach people in distress and provide food, water, medicines and other essentials. The University of Madras has both benefited from and contributed to a tradition of scholarship that is central to Tamil Nadu's identity. Even ordinary families in the state emphasise the value of education. This has had a direct impact on social development indices and on the economy. Tamil Nadu has a proud culture of research and innovation, X (200) whether in the pure sciences or in medicine and of engineering and manufacturing. It has a well regarded IT sector and a growing digital economy. These are complemented by excellence in the humanities. It is no surprise that the Tamil language is among the most ancient in the world. Centuries before many others, it was exploring the literature and philosophy of learning. The ability to pursue education as an end in itself as well as to help fill gaps in day to day lives of our fellow citizens is commendable. In this context the people of Tamil Nadu, and institutions such as the X (300) University of Madras, are a model for promote excellence in higher education by building capacities of 20 Institutions of Eminence. I am told that the University of Madras has prepared an ambitious and detailed plan, in this regard, and I wish you all the best. Please also build networks of your impressive and globally dispersed alumni and involve them in actionable proposals to upgrade the our country. Inevitably, it is to institutions such as these that we turn for direction and leadership at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is an exciting chapter for India. We are looking to become a developed society and to urgently eliminating poverty as well as ensuring healthcare, education, housing and energy access for all our people. Simultaneously, our country is seeking to meet the opportunities as well as the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution of robotics, genomics and Artificial Intelligence. Universities such as this one is expected to be our X (400) navigators on this journey. Institutions in Tamil Nadu have shown commendable agility in nurturing an ecosystem that helps engineers and other qualified

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Grade (D) Date 01/12/2019

young people to become entrepreneurs and job creators. This is the route to the future and this is the pathway for the youth of our country. This convocation and this anniversary are a moment of renewal for both the University of Madras and for those graduating today. For the University, the 160 anniversary is a point at which to reflect as to where you wish to be in 40 years - when you commemorate your bi-centenary. This University needs X (500) to aspire to the next level, to benchmark itself against the best in the world and to continue to remain competitive for top students as well as top faculty. The government of India has announced a programme to University, its systems and X (600) its scholarship. This attribute has helped it stay contemporary and relevant to emerging needs of students and of society. The range of courses and subjects offered here symbolises this and spans the traditional liberal arts to 21<sup>st</sup> century disciplines. History and economics are taught here, and so are anthropology and religious studies. And today this University has room for among others, bioinformatics, nano-science etc. And to the students who are graduating today, I can only say that you are entering a world teeming with opportunities. You have been fortunate to have experienced education in a university of such standing. Not X (700) everybody has this privilege. As you leave this campus, carry your learning with humility. In some manner or in any manner you choose, give back to society and to those who are less well-off. Let that be the true test of your education. I am happy to be with the cream of our cinema industry for the 65 National Film Awards ceremony. I must begin by congratulating each of the 125 award winners, as well as the countless artists who have worked on the films that are being recognised today. This is a special moment for all of you and X (800) India.

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Grade 'D' on 21.10.2021

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, when this Government was elected for the first term, we promised to make Delhi a global city. It is a matter of privilege for me to announce that we have succeeded to a great extent in this direction. Delhi is known for its development in the last decade. Delhi is known as the 'Green Capital' of the world. It has developed a world class metro. Delhi has emerged as an educational and cultural hub. It is famous for health tourism, beautiful roads and flyovers and public transport. From this year it will also be known as a city (100) of sports and sports infrastructure. A study by a reputed organization, reveals that amongst thirty-seven cities across India, Delhi has emerged as the best Indian city in terms of quality of life and living standards. As a result of our efforts, Delhi tops the list based on education and economic environment, ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru in the country. Sir, Delhi Government took timely action through market intervention for controlling the retail prices of essential commodities. As a result, the retail prices of food items increased in Delhi at the national level. In Delhi, the rate of inflation on the (200) consumer price index for industrial workers was the lowest as compared to other metropolitan cities and at the national level. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the local bodies in States are getting grants from the Centre as per the recommendations of Finance Commission. This financial grant is not being made available to the Local Bodies in Delhi by the Finance Commission. We have set up Fourth Delhi Finance Commission for recommending devolution of funds for the period of next 5 years. Sir, with a comprehensive approach to city development planning, we have initiated a number of reformative measures both in project and (300) programme formulation as well as their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Taking into account the funds for completion of ongoing projects, I propose to enhance the plan outlay for the current year. Sir, in order to give effect to the Revised Estimates, Supplementary Demands for Grants will be required. I, therefore, seek the approval of this House for the Supplementary Demands for Grants. Sir, to improve the quality of Public Transport, we have decided to introduce Low Floor buses and air-conditioned buses. More buses are also being added. We are confident that with this, Public Transport will improve to meet the (400) requirement of the city's growing population. Taking into account the increasing number of vehicles on city roads, Government is paying due attention to pedestrian safety and convenience. A massive programme for construction of foot over bridges has been started. Sir, Hon'ble Members of this august House are aware of the problem of raw water faced by Delhi to meet the growing water supply requirement of the city. Government of Haryana has been asked to complete the project at the earliest. Sir, to improve the sanitation and environment in the

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Grade 'D' on 21.10.2021

city, we have decided to provide sewage system in all rural (500) villages of Delhi. Sir, we are committed to improve the quality of education in Government and Government aided schools for which a number of steps have been taken. The first is to set up new schools in localities which do not have adequate number of schools. For the next academic session, five new schools have already been started, four schools have been upgraded and more schools are proposed to be upgraded. Government has started Pre-Primary classes in all Sarvodaya Vidyalayas. Sir, Government is providing subsidy on school uniforms to students of Delhi Government and girl students of Government aided schools. (600) In case of aided schools, the benefit of uniform subsidy and textbook subsidy is being given only to the girl students. Sir, I propose to extend this facility to the boy students as well. Sir, Government has re-formulated the industrial policy to promote industry in Delhi. The existing units will also be encouraged to convert into high-tech and non-pollutant and skilled industries. Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure for me to announce that Government has made arrangements for assured power supply during the year. Delhi will be a surplus power state. Sir, our Government initiated the process of (700) regularization of unauthorized colonies following the guidelines issued by Ministry of Urban Development. We are making best efforts to provide all civic services in these unauthorized colonies. Roads, pipe water supply and street lights have been provided in these colonies. Sir, Government is committed to provide social security to senior citizens and other vulnerable groups of the society. Hon'ble Members have desired that the number of old age pensioners be increased. Therefore, we have decided to provide old age pension to one-lakh more senior citizens in the next year. We are also providing pension to more than forty-two thousand widows. (800 Words)

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Grade 'C' on 21.10.2021

Madam Speaker, I now come to tax proposals. Taxation is an important factor of social and economic engineering. Tax collections help the Government to provide education, healthcare, housing and other basic facilities to the people to improve their quality of life. It also addresses the problems of poverty, unemployment and development. To achieve these objectives, it has been our endeavour in the last nine months to provide a stable taxation policy and a good tax administration. A very important aspect of our tax administration is the fight against the black money. A number of measures have already been taken in 100 this direction. I propose to do much more. Madam, you will agree, we need to revive growth and investment to ensure that more jobs are created for our youth and the benefits of development reach millions of our poor citizens. We need an enabling tax policy for this. I have already introduced the Bill to amend the Constitution of India for Goods and Services Tax in the last Session of this august House. It is expected to play an important role to transform our economy. It will add a force to our economy by developing a common Indian market and 200 reducing the effect on the cost of goods and services. We are moving in various fronts to implement GST from the next year. The basic rate of Corporate Tax in India is higher than the rates in the other Asian economies, making our domestic industry uncompetitive. Moreover, the effective collection of Corporate Tax is about twenty three per cent. We lose out on both counts, that is, we are having a high Corporate Tax but we do not get that tax, due to excessive exemptions. This has led to litigation and loss of revenue. I, therefore, propose to reduce the 300 rate of Corporate Tax from the present thirty to twenty five per cent over the next 4 years. This will lead to a higher level of investment, higher growth rate and more jobs. This process of reduction has to be accompanied by removal of various kinds of tax exemptions and incentives for corporate taxpayers, which account for a large number of tax disputes. Madam, I wanted to start the reduction of corporate tax rate and elimination of tax exemptions right now. Then, I thought it would be appropriate to give advance notice that these changes will start from the next financial 400 year. Our policy is to avoid sudden surprises and instability in tax policy. Exemptions to individual taxpayers will, however, continue since they facilitate savings which get transferred to investment and economic growth. Madam, Speaker, while finalising my tax proposals, I have adopted certain broad themes, which include measures to curb black money, creation of Jobs in growth and investment sectors and promotion of domestic manufacturing industry and 'Make in India'. Our aim is to provide minimum Government and maximum governance to improve the ease of doing business. Our efforts are to provide benefits to middle class taxpayers and improving the 500 quality of life and



Grade 'C' on 21.10.2021

public health through 'Swachh Bharat' initiatives. The first and foremost pillar of my tax proposals is to effectively deal with the problem of black money which eats away our economy and society. The problems of poverty and inequity cannot be eliminated unless black money is dealt with effectively and forcefully. In the last few months several measures have been initiated in this direction. A major breakthrough was achieved when the Government authorities agreed to provide information in respect of cases investigated by the Income-tax Department. They also agreed to provide such information in a time bound 600 manner; and agreed to exchange Information between the two countries at the earliest. I would like to inform the House that investigation into cases of foreign assets has been given the highest priority, resulting in detection of large amounts of unreported income. As regards domestic black money, a new and more comprehensive Bill will be introduced in the current session of the Parliament. It will enable confiscation of 'benami' property and provide for prosecution. This Bill will discourage holding black money in the form of benami property, especially in real estate. A few other measures are also proposed in the 700 Budget for curbing black money within the country. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to highlight the key features of the proposed new law on black money. Firstly, Concealment of income and assets and tax evasion of foreign assets will be prosecutable and a penalty at the rate of three hundred per cent shall be levied. Non filing of return of foreign assets will also be liable for prosecution with punishment. If any foreign exchange or any property situated outside India is held, against the Act, then action may be taken. Madam Speaker, the second feature of my 800 taxation proposals is job creation. I propose to undertake a series of steps in this direction to attract capital, both foreign and domestic. To generate greater employment opportunities, it is proposed to extend the benefit of deduction for employment of regular workmen. The condition of minimum hundred workmen is being reduced to fifty. My next proposal is regarding minimum government and maximum governance with focus on ease of doing business and simplification of Tax Procedures, without compromising on tax revenues. The rich and wealthy must pay more tax than the less privileged. I have, therefore, decided to abolish the wealth 900 tax and replace it with an additional surcharge of two per cent on the super-rich with a taxable income of over 1 crore. This will enable the Income Tax Department to focus on ensuring more tax. Madam Speaker, cleanliness of households and clean environment are very important social causes. The next aspect relates to 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. I have proposed hundred per cent deduction on this contribution. A similar tax treatment is also proposed for the 'Clean Ganga Fund'.



Grade 'C' on 21.10.2021

I also propose to increase the Clean Energy Cess to finance clean environment projects. With these words, I thank you. 1000 words.

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Grade 'C' on 20/06/2022

Mr. Speaker, Sir, education and health are the twin pillars on which rests the social sector reforms. The total allocation for the education sector will be increased by 20 per cent in next year. Of this, education will be provided, the Mid-day Meal Scheme will be provided and secondary education will be provided. The focus will shift from access and infrastructure at the primary level to improving quality of learning, and ensuring access to upper primary classes. A model school programme, with the aim of establishing high quality model schools, will be started. In order to make such schools more accessible to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students, Government plans to establish Navodaya Vidyalayas in the districts that have a large concentration of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Girls' schools were set up to address the issue of equity in the education of girls belonging to S.C., S.T. and minority communities. So far schools have been started and I propose to allocate funds to set up an additional schools in educationally backward blocks, I also propose to provide a fund to set up new or upgrade existing hostels attached to the girls schools. Last year, I had announced the National Scholarship Scheme to enable students to continue their education beyond class VIII and up to class XII. The scheme will be implemented in the beginning of the next year. The Mid-day Meal Scheme has been extended to upper primary classes in educationally backward blocks. The scheme will now be extended to upper primary classes in Government and Government aided schools in all blocks in the country. This will benefit an additional children, taking the number of children covered under the scheme. Knowledge is power. It is knowledge that will drive success in the 21st century. India has the opportunity to become a knowledge society. Following the Prime Minister's announcement, Government will establish one Central University in each of the uncovered States. We propose to make a beginning in next year by establishing 16 Central Universities. More institutes of higher education, as promised by the Prime Minister, will be established during the Eleventh Plan Period. I also propose to make a grant to the Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune which is one of the oldest institutions of modern learning in India. We must encourage our children to take to careers in science and research and development. Ministry of Science and Technology will introduce a scheme for continuing science education and opportunities for research careers. I propose to provide funds for this contribution to build a knowledge society. The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, submitted from time to time, are under active consideration. Some of them have been incorporated in the Eleventh Plan. Government has accepted an important recommendation to interconnect all knowledge

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Grade 'C' on 20/06/2022

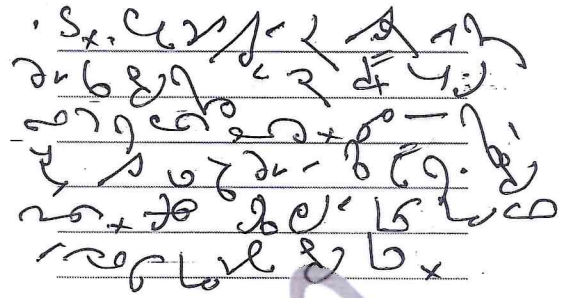
institutions through a network. This will encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. I propose to provide fund to the Ministry of Information and Technology for establishing the National Knowledge Network. The National Rural Health Mission is the key instrument of intervention by the Central Government. The goal is to establish a fully functional, community owned, decentralised health delivery system. Village Health and Sanitation Committees are functional. Several district hospitals have been taken up for upgradation. I propose to increase the allocation for N.R.H.M. The National Aids Control Programme will be provided. Studies have shown that the rate of A.I.D.S. has come down from 0.9 per cent to 0.36 per cent which is a matter of some satisfaction. The drive to eradicate polio continues with a revised strategy and a focus on the high risk districts in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I propose to provide fund for this purpose. Two major interventions are planned to be started in next year. The first is the National Health Mission that will provide a health cover for every worker in the unorganized sector. I am happy that most of the States have agreed to join the Mission and it will be launched in Delhi and in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan. A National Programme with a plan outlay will be started. Among other measures, we will establish, during the Eleventh Plan period, two National Institutes, eight regional centres and a department for medical care in one medical college level hospital in each State. I am also happy to announce that the remuneration of anganwadi workers will be increased from Rs.1,000 per month to Rs.1,500 per month. Likewise, the remuneration of anganwadi helpers will be increased from Rs.500 per month to Rs.750 per month. Over 18 lakh anganwadi workers and helpers will benefit from the increase. As Honourable Members are aware, there are eight flagship programmes of the Government. I have dealt with two in the education sector and two in the health sector. Let me now refer to the allocations that I propose to make for the other programmes. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will be rolled out to all rural districts in India. The goal of the Drinking Water Mission is to supply safe drinking water to uncovered habitations as well as to address issues of quality. The Mission does not yet have a separate component for school children in water-deficient habitations. Our children should have good, clean drinking water. Hence, I propose to allocate funds to the Mission in order to install a system to each school in water-deficient habitations. The cost of each system, depending on the technology and design is estimated. The Total Sanitation Campaign is all about changing habits and mindsets and it is a continuous process. Honourable Members will recall that I had announced a desalination plant to be installed. A proposal has now been received from the Government to establish

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Grade 'C' on 20/06/2022

a plant. The North Eastern Region and especially, Arunachal Pradesh and the border areas face special problems that cannot be tackled in the usual course or through normal schemes. Hence, Government proposes to identify the urgent needs of these areas and address them through a special mechanism. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, socially and educationally backward classes and minorities will continue to receive special attention. 1010 Words

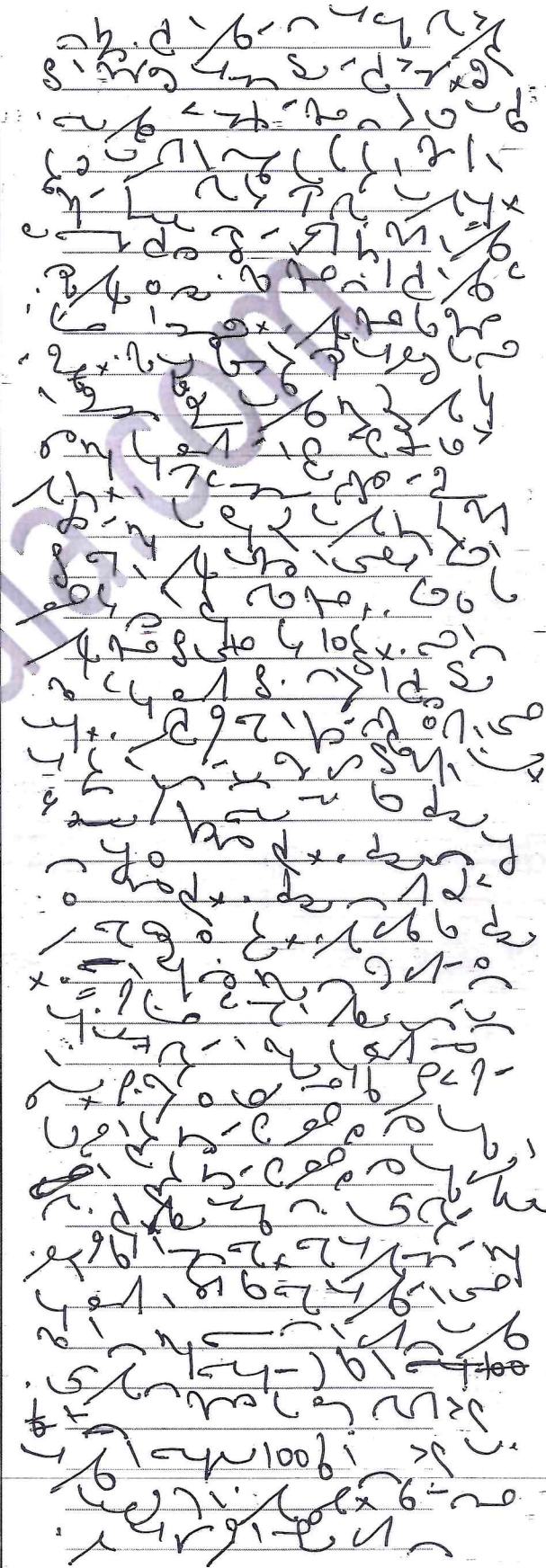


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Grade 'D' on 20/06/2022

Mr. Deputy Chairman, the development of rural areas and improvement in the quality of life of the rural people has been of primary concern in the economic planning and development of the country. There is a growing realisation that economic development and progress made by the nation in diverse fields would, in reality, be meaningless if they fail to translate it to better and dignified life for the majority living in rural India. In order to correct the developmental imbalances and to accord due priority to rural areas, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of programmes aimed at development of rural areas with a focus on weaker sections. The Rural Development Programmes have been streamlined and strengthened. A number of initiatives have been taken by this Ministry in the recent years for creation of social and economic infrastructure in rural areas to bridge the urban-rural divide as well as to provide food security and to fulfill other basic needs of the rural poor. To match with economic liberalisation and structural adjustment, and to provide for safety, especially for rural poor, top priority has been accorded to rural development in terms of increasing the allocation of resources for the implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes. The allocation fund for the Rural Development Programmes has been increased for the 10th Plan. The creation of employment opportunities with food security has been an important objective of developmental planning in India. The relatively higher growth of population and labour force has led to increase in the volume of unemployment and under-employment from the one Plan period to another. With the working age population growing quite faster, the number of unemployed Indians is almost doubled. The declining employment rate shows that our growth process is failing. The real wages have been declining. The Government of India aims to bring employment through wage and self-employment into a larger focus with goal of reducing unemployment and under-employment to a negligible level and of providing food security against hunger. Such an approach is necessary because it is realised that larger and efficient use of available human and other resources is the most effective way of alleviating poverty, reducing inequalities, improving nutritional level and achieving a reasonable high pace of economic growth. To make a tend on the prevailing poverty, unemployment and slow growth in the rural economy and to provide food security to facilitate faster growth in the rural areas, and to increase opportunities of employment, to provide greater importance of wage employment in rural areas, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed by the Parliament for securing livelihood of the people in the rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household. This Act makes a shift in the whole strategy of existing Wage Employment.





Grade 'D' on 20/06/2022

Programmes because this Act is not just a scheme, it provides a legal guarantee; it provides a social security for the weaker sections and opportunity to combine growth with equity in the process of employment generation assets which build up and strengthen the livelihood, raise pace of the poor. Within 5 years, the Act will be extended to the whole country. Sir, the National Food for Work Programme was launched in the year 2004 in the most backward districts of the country, identify by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Government of India and State Governments. The need for the new programme was felt because the existing resources were not sufficient to meet the requirement of additional wage employment for most backward districts. Moreover, it was felt that additional resources should be used into some focus areas like drought and water conservation which is the main problem in some States, and a major cause of backwardness on certain regions. Some areas are flood-prone and measures for flood control require special attention in these areas in a planned manner. The States were finding it difficult to provide State share of funds and, therefore, a Centrally-sponsored Scheme was proposed so that the investment in backward areas does not suffer because of lack of resources available with these States. The objective of the Programme is to provide additional resources, opportunity from resources available so that generation of supplementary wage employment and provide food security through creation of need-based economic, social and community assets in these districts is further intensified. Sir, now I come to the Programme which aims at building a nation with progressive and prosperous rural India. It will be a time-bound Plan in the areas of irrigation, road, rural housing, and water supply. Government has set targets to be achieved under these goals. 771 Words

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Grade 'D' on 26/04/2023

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important issue. Whenever we discuss the problem of unemployment, we are reminded of the gloom on the faces of crores of youths in the country. While looking for an employment, sometimes they deviate from the mainstream of the nation and become the puppets in the hands of those involved in anti-national activities and today, the biggest problem our nation is facing is to bring back those misled youths to the mainstream of the nation in order to use their constructive capabilities in 100 nation building. We should certainly accept the important fact that employment and the ever increasing population are two related things. Since independence, there have been a number of announcements, but no effective control has been made on the ever increasing population of the country. You are aware that in our country, population growth rate is about two per cent per year. The growth in the population is bound to reduce the employment opportunities and when today, our country is facing the biggest problem, we often compare our country with China. Today, China has controlled its population and has formulated policies 200 in tune with its plans and circumstance as a result of which it has not only been able to provide employment to a great extent, but also has controlled the population explosion effectively. Because of this situation, we see that in the next fifty years, India's population will be four times of the present population, while China's population will be half of what it is today. I believe that if a country has to lead on the path of development, it should, first of all, control its population. The present Government is doing a lot in taking the country on 300 the path of economic growth. It is evident from the high level of foreign exchange reserves of more than one hundred billion dollars we have. I want to say that there are a lot of employment opportunities in this country. The Honourable Prime Minister and his Government have provided employment opportunities to people through various schemes. Even last time, when the Honourable Prime Minister gave an assurance of providing employment to one crore people, he fulfilled his promise by providing employment opportunities to lakhs of people in various sectors during the last three years respectively. And these opportunities were generated 400 not merely in the service sector only, but in the organized and unorganized sectors as well. I think that no Government can generate employment opportunities for one crore unemployed youth every year. The Government can provide employment avenues and these were provided in the various sectors be it rural development sector or any other sector. For developing country like India where more than seventy five per cent population is residing in rural areas, no strategy has been formulated for the development of villages. For the first time, this Government, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has



Grade 'D' on 26/04/2023

decided to link those 500 villages with pucca roads. There were schemes for providing agro-rural based employment opportunities, but raw material could not be transported to urban areas and no one could generate employment opportunities in the villages. At present, some initiatives have been taken. The unemployed rural youths and the workers are getting employment in the villages itself by linking villages with metalled roads. Secondly, it is the first ever effort to bring these villages in the mainstream of development. Drinking water schemes are being launched in the villages, there is an ongoing effort to launch primary health and elementary education schemes in the 600 villages. Free education has been provided to children up to the age of 14 years. Efforts in this regard have been made by the Government through various schemes. The Government jobs have been snatched away, rather destroyed, by this Government. Sir, a policy which is against the people, against the working class and against the farmers is being pursued by this Government. That is why, unless this Government is replaced by secular and democratic Government, which is people friendly and which is in favour of working class and farmers, the policy which is being pursued by this Government cannot be 700 reversed. Now, the time has come for the Government not to give false promises at the time of election. After being elected and remaining in the Government, they forget about the promises made by them in their manifesto. Sir, unemployed youths are committing suicide every year. Not only farmers, but the workers also are committing suicide because they are unemployed. Sir, today in the Employment Exchanges of our country, about four crore educated unemployed youths have registered their names. Instead of creating new jobs, employment opportunities are being destroyed by this Government. With these words, I thank the Honourable Members. 800 Words

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Grade 'C' on 26/04/2023

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am sure the Honourable Members are aware that we are facing a very difficult situation in view of the failure of monsoon. The food situation has been with us for quite a long time and so far as the agricultural programme is concerned, I do agree that in spite of our best efforts, it has not been possible for us to achieve the various targets that we fixed for ourselves. To that extent, I am prepared to confess failure that in spite of our desires and in spite of our efforts the production did not 100 keep pace with the increase in population, but this year, the position has been made a little more difficult because of the monsoon failure. I have looked into the records of the behavior of the monsoon and I find that within this century, there has not been as much widespread failure of the monsoon as we have had during this year. Therefore, it may not be correct to say that it is mainly the failure on the agricultural front which has caused the present situation. This natural calamity occurs not only in India, but elsewhere also. I was recently in 200 Australia and I was told that they were also facing a drought situation which had not happened during the last sixty years and they were destroying thousands of cattle for want of fodder, for want of even drinking water. In the same way, this year Africa has been affected, South America has been affected. Unfortunately, even in the most developed countries, we have not reached the stage where we are able to get over the tricks of the weather. Still, agriculture largely depends upon the monsoon and monsoon condition. When the rain starts, the water comes into rivers and streams 300 from the hills towards plains in such a manner that our farmers and our crops are damaged due to it and despite all these years of independence, we are not able to make any such plan that can make arrangements of irrigation by stagnating the flow of flood water or save the people from the havoc caused by flood. It is impossible to estimate the heavy destruction caused to the crops. Therefore, in a country like ours, when such a natural calamity occurs and if the production is affected in a big way, it is nothing surprising. It is this 400 situation which we are called upon to meet. As far as estimates are concerned, there are varying estimates, but my estimate is, even during the wheat season, we may be facing a shortfall of about 8 million tons of food grains. The rice crop also is not quite promising because in the beginning of the winter, rains have not been quite good and fortunately during this week, I should say, we have had heavy rains in Southern States and in the bordering areas also. Sir, agriculture is an important subject because 75 per cent of the population of this country 500 lives in rural area and is dependent on agriculture. It may be agreed that the success of an agricultural programme, however, depends ultimately on what happens at the farm level, on whether or not adequate arrangements exist to provide the individual farmers with the

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Grade 'C' on 26/04/2023

knowledge, the resources and above all the incentives needed for additional production. However, in the case of commercial crops, the time has come to consider whether the existing machinery should not be further strengthened to ensure that these commodities receive special attention needed to secure quicker results. Sir, fortunately, our country has been blessed with a 600 tremendous amount of natural wealth. Underground water is also available in abundance and can be best utilized to encourage irrigation through tube wells. Electricity is the basic necessity to meet irrigation requirements. But, these are not enough. There is a need for support price for agricultural products. You will agree that there is need to formulate a policy that will encourage agricultural production and provide remunerative prices to farmers. The farmers in our country not only after independence, but before that too were the victims of the middlemen who just extracted all benefits out of them. There was a time 700 when our country used to import food grains, but our farmers took up the challenge and brought about a Green Revolution so much so that today we are in a comfortable position, but due to faulty policies, our farmers don't get remunerative prices. As already pointed out, there is also a need for continuing vigilance in regard to prices. The current trend of wholesale and Consumer Price Index reflects the growing pressure which is, to some extent, inevitable in a developing economy, on supplies of food grains and other essential commodities. Not only is the consumer demand increasing, but with 800 the rising standard of living, there is a shift in the pattern of consumption from coarse grains to rice and wheat and from coarse and medium cloth to fine and superfine cloth. The overall picture is one of promise or rising growth rates in the basic fields of industry, though these rates at present is somewhat below the expectations in the plan. It will be necessary in the months and years to come to strengthen the forces which contribute to higher levels of growth not only in industry, but also, and more fundamentally, in agriculture. 900 But, in all these cases, the Government had been forced to take this step because of agitation of the relevant industry. In a brief statement on prohibition, the Minister said that the future extension of the ban on drinking should be left entirely to the States and no pressure should be applied by the Centre. He regretted that the police, rather than the community, was the main agency for enforcing prohibition. A large part of the debate was taken up on the work done by various other working groups set up by the Government. 1000 Words

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Grade 'D' on 10/03/2023(Reexam)

Mr. Speaker Sir, my question was related to decrease in per hectare production of cotton. The hon. Minister has in his reply admitted that the area under cultivation of cotton has gone down during the last few years. If we work out the percentage of yield in relation to the area we find that area under cotton cultivation and the yield per hectare was compared to per hectare yield of cotton. The hon. Minister has admitted it in the figures yet he did not admit it in his statement. My first question is as to what are the reasons for X(100) the low yield of cotton in our country as compared to the world average yield of cotton because per hectare average yield of cotton in the world is high as compared to India. I would also like to know the steps being taken proposed to be taken by the government to push up average yield of cotton to the level of world average yield. This is true that the yield of cotton in India is the lowest as compared to other countries of the world. The reason being that in India cultivation is like a gamble to which our hon. X(200) Minister of Agriculture usually refers to and say that the real minister of agriculture is the monsoon when rains are timely and favourable, cotton production is good but when monsoon plays traunt. It does affect cotton cutivation. Excessive rains resulting in more diseases to the cotton crop. Since the cultivation in our country is dependent on rain the yield is low. However, it is the endeavour of the government to see that per hectare yield of cotton goes up. Mr. Speaker Sir the hon. Minister has linked the fall in production of cotton in the country to the monsoon. Monsoon is a world-wide phenomenon and India cannot be an exception. The hon. Minister has not given any reason as to why the government could not increase the per hectare yield of cotton. Sir before I ask my second question I would like to say that cotton growers get very low price for their produce and that is the reason that they are shifting to other crops. The cotton growers of Rajasthan have demanded that government should take steps to fix the support price and procure their produce. In view of the statement made by the finance secretary that a cess could be imposed on all cotton fabrics in the textile industries in order to provide subsidy to the cotton growers. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this proposal is under the consideration of the government. Sir the commission for Agriculture costs and prices submits its report to determine the minimum support price of cotton. On receiving the report of the commission the department examines the cost of production and the reasonably arrived at income of the farmer and on that basis the price of cotton if fixed by the government. While doing so the government remains conscious of the fact that farmers should get remunerative price in every eventuality so that the cotton production does not fally and the cotton grower is discouraged. The government is always ready to consider the demands and the problems of the



Grade 'D' on 10/03/2023(Reexam)

farmers seriously be they belong to Rajasthan or other cotton producing states. Mr. Speaker Sir I would like to tell the hon. Minister that average per quintal cost of production of cotton comes to Rs. 1200 what should the poor farmer do in such a situation when he is not getting even the cost of production. Therefore will the government increase the price cotton. Sir, if the price of cotton is not raised the farmer will be ruined. I would like to know what steps the government is taking to increase the support price of cotton. I do not know whether he has the full information with him about all these things. That is why he has given a general reply to a straight question. Sir I have with me the copy of the reply given by the hon. Minister of Agriculture in Parliament last year. He had told that certified seed is not available to the farmers in adequate quantity. It is also one of the reasons for low yield. He had told that certified seed is not available to the farmers in adequate quantity. It is also one of the reasons for low yield. In reply to this question the hon. Minister has told the Rajysabha that the quantity of certified seed available was sufficient to cover only 30% of the area under cotton cultivation. The shortage of certified seed is coupled with the problem of pest control. Is there any scheme with the government regarding pest control. We want specific answer to this question. Secondly the government announced minimum support price but not procurement agency comes forward to procure cotton from the farmers at the announced support price.

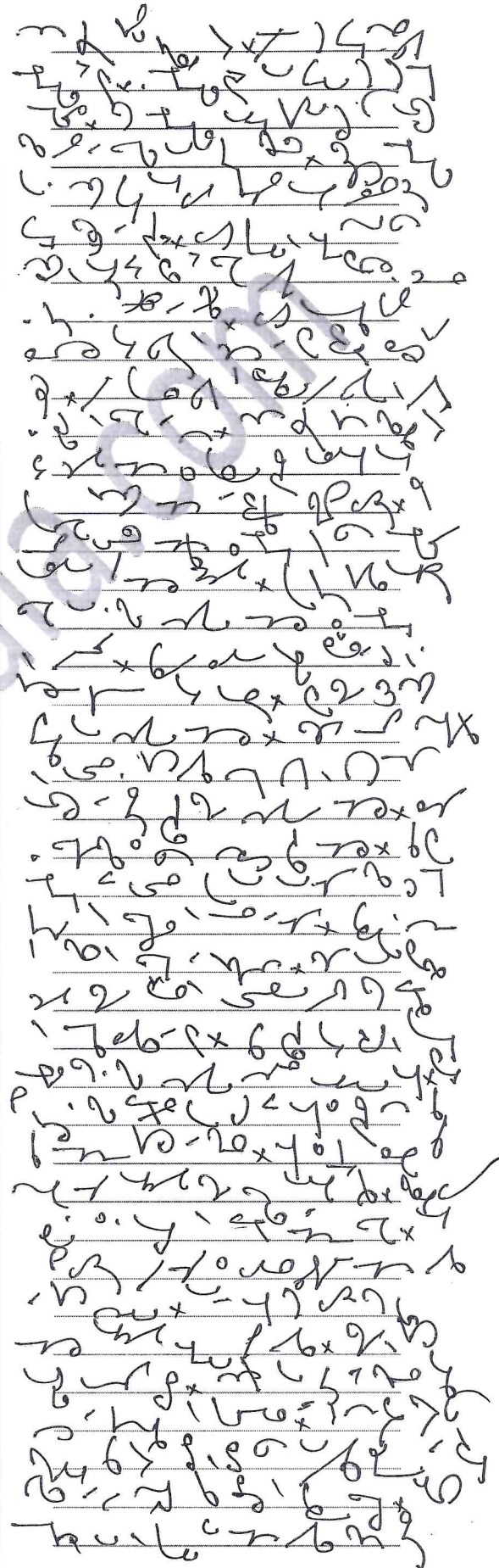
Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, appearing to be a transcription of the text on the left. The notes are written on lined paper and include various symbols and abbreviations characteristic of shorthand.

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Grade 'C' on 04/01/2024

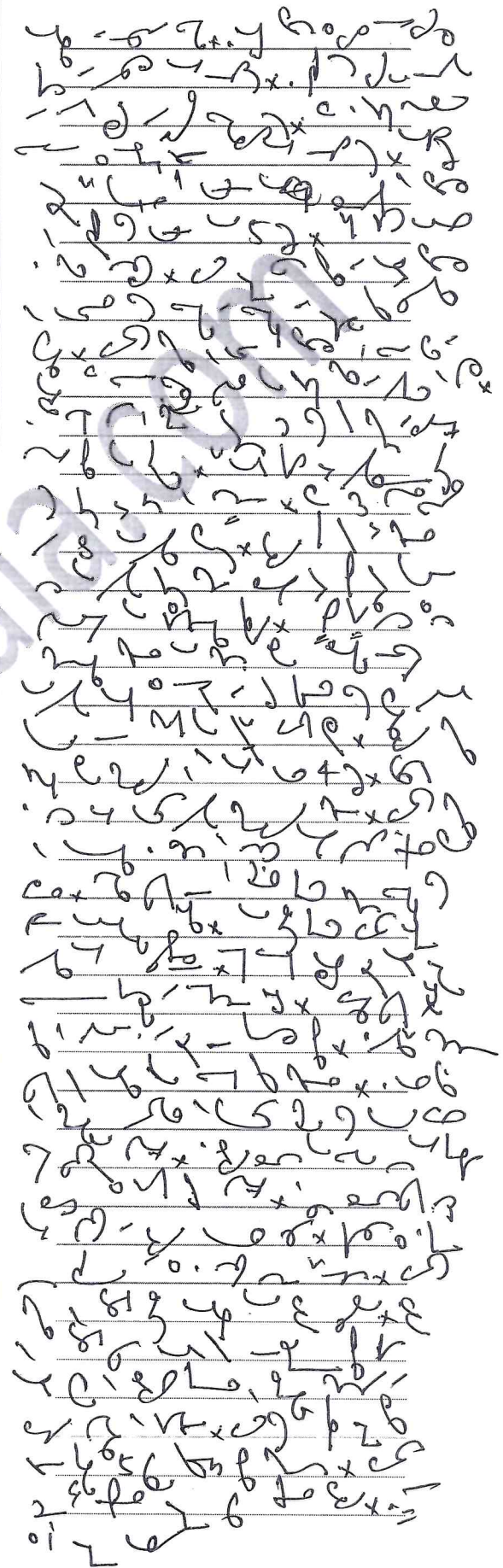
Madam, Deputy Speaker, I rise to present the Budget. Our Government was elected amidst huge expectations of the people. The expectations of the people in electing us was good governance. Their expectations included burning issues like inflation, price price rise and, corruption in day-to-day transctions. There was also expectation for a major change in the way the country's natural resources were allocated, processed and deployed. We shall continue to undertake many more measures to ensure that the fruits of growth reach the farmers, the workers, the poor, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. We shall introduce various schemes for the welfare of women and other vulnerable sections of our society. Our focus will be on energising our youth to reap the benefits of growth and employment. Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am presenting this Budget when the world economy is facing considerable uncertainty, in the aftermath of major economic and political developments during the last ne year. As per current indications, economic policy is expected to be more expansionary in ceratin large economies of the world. After poor performance in the last year, growth in a number of emerging economies is expected to recover. These are certain positive signs and point to an optimistic outlook for the next year. However, there are, three major challenges for emerging economies. Firstly, the current monetary policy, to increase the policy rates, may leaed to lower capital inflows and higher outflows from the emerging economies. Secondly, the crude oil prices, has some implication on these economies. It is however expected that increase, if any, in oil prices would get tempered by producers of gas and oil. This would have an impact on prices of cruded and petroleum. Thirdly, in several parts of the world, there are signs of increasing retreat from globalisation of goods, services and people. These developments have the potential to affect exports from a number of emeing markets, including India. Over the last two years, a number of global reports, have shown that India has considerably improved its economic policies and practices. India has become the sixth largest manufacturing country in the world, from the previous ninth position. Presently, we are seen as an engine of global economic growth. In the last one year, our country has witnessed historic economic reforms and policy making. In fact, India was one of the very few economies in the world, undertaking such reforms. There were two policy initiatives, namely, the constitution Amendment Bill for GST and the progress for its implementation; and demonitization of bank notes. My overall approach, while preparing this Budget, has been to spend more in rural areas, infrastructure and poverty alleviation and yet maintain the best standards of fiscal prudence. I have also kept in mind the need to continue with economic reforms, promote higher





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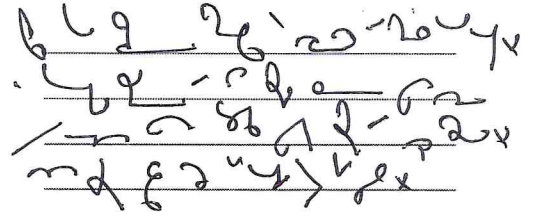
investments and accelerate growth. The Indian farmer has once again shown his commitment and resilience in the current year. The total area sown under kharif and rabi seasons are higher than the previous year. With a better monsoon, agriculture is expected to grow in the current year. In last year's Budget speech, I focused on 'income security' of farmers to double their income in five years. I had also announced a number of measures. We have to take more steps and enable the farmers to increase their production and productivity; and to deal with post-harvest challenges. We also propose to integrate farmers who grow fruits and vegetables with agro processing units for better prices and reduction of losses. A model law on contract farming would therefore be prepared and circulated among the States for adoption. I now turn to the Rural Sector, which was so dear to the heart of Mahatma Gandhi. Over three lakh crores are spent in rural areas every year. If we add up all the programmes meant for rural poor from the Central Budget, State Budgets, Bank linkage for self-help groups, etc. Swachh Bharat Mission has made tremendous progress in promoting safe sanitation coverage in rural India has gone up and open Defecation Free villages are now being given priority for piped water supply. We propose to provide safe drinking water to all in the next four years. This will be a mission under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme. We also proposed to introduced a system of measuring annual learning outcomes in our schools. Emphasis will be given on science education to promote creativity through local innovative ideas. In higher education, we will undertake reforms in the University Grants Commission. Good quality institutions would be enabled to have greater administrative and academic independence. Colleges will be identified based on ranking and would be given autonomous status. A revised framework will be put in place for credit-based programmes. The next phase of Strengthening the Skills, which will focus on improving the quality and market relevance of vocational training through industry cluster approach will also be launched. A special scheme for creating employment in the textile sector has already been launched. A similar scheme will be implemented for the leather and footwear industries as well. Tourism is a big employment generator and has a major impact on the economy. We also propose to facilitate higher investment in affordable housing. Affordable housing will now be given infrastructure status, which will enable availability of specialist doctors to strengthen the primary and secondary levels of health care. We have therefore decided to take steps to create additional five thousand post graduate seats per annum. We will work with the State Governments to take these tasks forward. The Government is committed to take necessary





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Steps for structural transformation of Medical Education and Practice in India. An effective infrastructure and land transport sector will make our economy more facilities, will be drawn up and implemented very soon. Madam Deputy Speaker, with these words, I commend the Budget of the House.

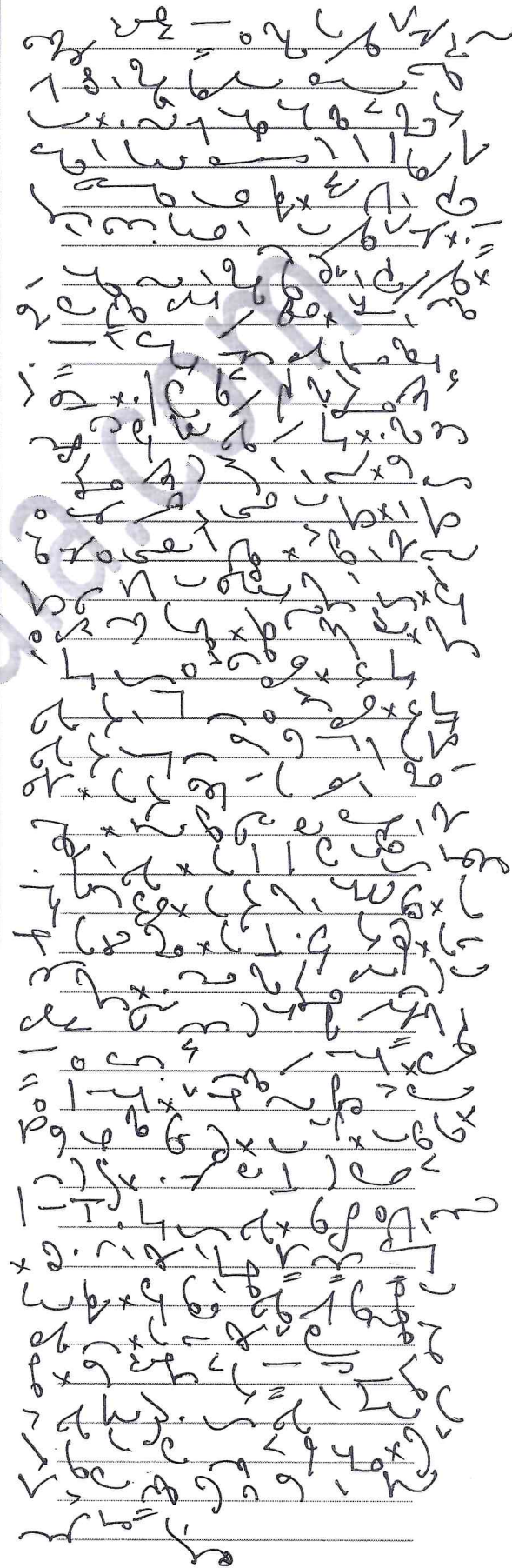


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Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that Government is providing money for rural areas of our country, but that money should be spent to strengthen the fishery industry, sugar industry agro based industry. The money should be invested only towards that direction, for the cultivation of banana, sugarcane or be it fishery dairy farming, agriculture-based industries etc. That would lead to generation of more and more avenues of employment in rural areas of our country. The Government should invest money to strengthen these areas to develop our rural areas. Sir, the honourable Labour Minister wanted our suggestions. I do not like to embarrass the Government by quoting the Economic Survey figures presented by the same Government. The data available states that out of the total number job seekers registered with the employment exchanges more than seventy per cent youths are educated. The number of women job seekers registered was of the order of two crore. Sir unemployment is closely related to the increase in population. The population of this country is increasing by leaps and bounds. All the steps to control growing population will help in solving the problem of unemployment. Poverty is one of the major factors. Besides, lack of proper planning, corruption and illiteracy are also contributing to this problem. Problem of educated unemployed is all the more serious. When the educated youth fail to get employment as per their capability, they turn hostile. They feel frustrated and they resort to strikes and protests. To how many places will you send Central Forces to control the agitation of youth? They do it either in the name of extremist activity or otherwise. They fall prey to anti-social elements. They exploit them to serve their ends. They become a challenge for the society. They create law and order problem. The maximum number of job seekers awaiting employment was in West Bengal, while the minimum was in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. But this Government is claiming that the employment opportunities are going up. Where is it going up? I accept many statements of the honourable Member. At least he understood what the present situation is. Did the Government address those issues? No, not at all. No efforts have been made so far. The country has not become so industrialized that it can accommodate the educated unemployed youth. This situation has led to migration. There is a lot of pressure on big cities Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, etc. Every day thousands of youth reach these cities in search of employment. They create pressure on the civic amenities of these cities. Sir, I would like to submit that, if the Government cannot give jobs to the youth, it should not punish the unemployed youth by asking them to pay the fees for every employment opportunity that he undertakes. Therefore, I appeal to the honourable Labour Minister, through you, Sir, to abolish immediately, all kinds of forms





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for employment by the unemployed youth. The Government should abolish immediately, all kinds of fees for tests and interviews, which are to be sent along with the application forms for employment by the unemployed youth. The Government should abolish it. Do not think of providing job in terms of annual or month salary. It is time we must create and give emphasis to self employment programmes. Bank support to the self-employment programme has been drastically cut down by this Government. Where will the unemployed you go? During our period, subsidy support for the public sector banks for self-employment project was a total strength to the unemployed youth. But, it has been drastically cut down. Today, the unemployed young men cannot say that they go to the bank, get the project and come back. Today, on the one hand the honourable Prime Minister is telling that he will provide one crore jobs and justify it by giving only sixty to seventy lakh jobs. On the other hand, the honourable Minister is making a different statement in the House. Is this the way to run the Government? The present Government is not very keen on checking the unemployment problem. It must initiate some schemes to contain the problem. Soft bank loans should be provided to the youth to start their own business. In addition, training programmes for short term skills should be imparted to the unemployed youth. There are lots of institutes which offer training to youths for various programmes. With liberalisation more and more companies are coming to India. They offer job opportunities to skilled workers. It is good for our country and the unemployed youths. Sir, I have no hesitation in accepting that the situation is improving but with low pace. The most important thing is that government machinery should be more sincere in implementing different schemes and programmes for improving employment opportunities. Education should be made job-oriented.