

Sir Kailash Chandra's

SHORTHAND TRANSCRIPTIONS

Volume : 8



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श्रीलक्ष्मीसहस्रनामस्तोत्रम्

Goddess Lakshmi is the divine consort or Shakti of Bhagwan Vishnu. She is Nature (प्रकृति), the commander of the Nature, which imbibes everything and all things which exist in the universe – the oceans, the Earth, the air, the jungles, the greenery, the atmosphere, the space, the cosmos, countless species of life.

Whenever Bhagwan Vishnu incarnates, Bhagwati Lakshmi always incarnates with Him – with Rama She is Sita, and with Krishna She is Radha.

Mahalakshmi is not different from Mahakali or Mahasarasvati, and is chiefly known as 'Siree' (श्री) in Puranas.

Goddess Lakshmi is the bestower of wealth and pleasures. When She is pleased, She fulfils all the desires of Her devotees just by a glance of compassion (करुणा की शक्ति).

The best method of worshipping Her is reciting 'Shree Lakshmi Sahasranam Stotra' (i.e. one thousand divine names of Bhagwati Lakshmi), melodiously, solemnly.

.....सत्यं क्वचि

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 155

Debate on
[Ministry of Labour]

[Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering the left side of the page.]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Labour. On this occasion, / I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the fact that labour constitutes the power of / a nation. But for the last few years a cruel mockery of labour force has been made in India. / A nation that provides labour opportunities and where labour is worshipped becomes prosperous and developed. But I would like to draw the / attention of the hon. Minister to the happenings of the last few years so that the repetition thereof is avoided. (100) The figures of the last five years stand a testimony in our records to the fact that the opportunities of employment/ have been lessened in India. The policies that tended to lessen the opportunities of work have been enforced in this country. / Two crore and thirty five lakh educated unemployed youths had registered their names in 1985 / in different Employment Exchanges in India. The figures of mid '89 collected after a gap of four and a half / years reveal the number of such youths as approximately three crores and fifty lakhs. This means an increase (200) of one crore and fifteen lakhs in a period of four and a half years. Yet, many rural educated youths / do not have access to these Exchanges. The then Government stated that the number of educated unemployed thus would touch / five crores if the rural folk were also taken into account. The then Government had also conceded that if rural / uneducated youths were also added to this number, their number would be 10 crore youths that is 20 crore hands / idling for want of jobs and employment. This is the direct result of the policies adopted for the last seven (300) years in our country. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this problem. / During the last five years, there has been a large scale advent of foreign companies in India and restriction of manual / employment opportunities in the name of computerisation has resulted in rampant unemployment. More than 30 crore people are living below the / poverty line in India today. One third of them get work for six months only, two-thirds of them for / seven months in a year and only 4% of such people work for nine months in a year. (400)

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A new ray of hope has been spread amongst the youth with the assuming of office of Ministry of Labour / by the hon. Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. I would, therefore, like to draw his kind attention to the problems / and sufferings of the people of my constituency. Many big industries have been closed down in Bihar. More than 5,000 / unemployed people have been waiting for years so as to get some work. The gravity of the situation can be / judged from the fact that dozens of youths have committed suicide during the last five years there. I had an opportunity (500) of visiting that place recently. The mothers and sisters in the families of such persons are compelled to indulge in // flesh trade in order to pacify their hunger for food. All this is happening there only due to the wrong policies / adopted in the past. Eighteen big industries and approximately 15,000 small and medium scale industries are lying closed / in Bihar. More than 25,000 other industries are on the verge of closure and the labour force thereof has either been / rendered unemployed or is on the verge of being rendered jobless. So far as the rural labour force, particularly (600) in Bihar, is concerned, the National Rural Employment Programme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana were implemented, but there is a widespread talk / about these programmes in the villages of Bihar that earlier the landlords exploited the people in the villages but another / class of landlords is rising in the shape of bureaucracy that consists of Overseers, Block Development officers and Engineers who are / collectively looting the poor labourers now. If there is an earthwork scheme of Rs. one lakh for which the labourers / are to be paid an amount of Rs. 172 per labourer, you will be surprised to know (700) that they are actually paid Rs. 70 only and the balance amount of Rs. 102 is pocketed by the bureaucrats. / It is an open secret. The hon. Minister will come to know everything about their plight if he visits / the villages where the labourers do the earthwork on the roadsides, not in the capacity of a Minister but as / an ordinary citizen. He will also find for himself, as to how the rural labourers are being subjected to rampant / exploitation and how does the bureaucracy plunder them of their rightful earnings so as to fill their own coffers. (800)

Politicians are also responsible, to some extent, because it is under their patronage that this act of looting the poor / is being done. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that the Ministry should look into all these malpractices.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 156

Debate on
Ministry of Labour

Mr. Chairman, Sir, labour is normally divided into two large categories. One is called organised and the other is called unorganised. / But I do think that there are two other categories but one is not sure whether they would fall / under either of these two. One of them is bonded labour and the other is child labour. My hon. friend / mentioned very categorically the problem of child labour and that the law that children below 14 years should not work, / has become irrelevant, especially in match industry which flourishes in my State, in Sivakasi, and in beedi industry, because the (100) children have become wage earners who contribute to the overall income of the family and parents do feel that banning them / from employment is not fair. But what is unfortunate is that even though the law does exist on record, / but when it comes to children and their employment and their future, the State seems to hesitate, to vacillate. / I have found that many a time inspections have taken place and inspectors have come back and given reports that there are / no children below 14 working, when it is obvious that more than 80 per cent of those who are working (200) in certain industries happen to be below 14 years because it is understood between the parents and the employer and the / (Inspector that it is in everybody's interest that such a report be given. It has almost become irrelevant / from the point of view of the child. I wonder whether you could take up these two arenas with utmost seriousness, / the first being child labour and the second being bonded labour. I have noticed from your report, the figure that / you have presented, that only 3,000 bonded labour have been rehabilitated. Have we really done substantial amount of work (300) in respect of bonded labour? A lot of publicity has taken place. The Doordarshan has been used very effectively, but / when it really comes down to grass-root results, one is shaken to see the figures being almost insignificant. / I think substantial concentration is required in these two arenas.

I know there is a lot of contempt in the minds / of many in this House for the organised labour. There may not be so much from this side, but from the other side I can see many Members of this House look upon organised labourers as high-wage / island members. In other words, many of them think that all our organised labourers are in high-wage islands. (400)

[Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, covering the left side of the page and overlapping the printed text.]

I think it is very unfair criticism. It is true that there is a section of organised labour who get / reasonable wages now. But, if you want to look at it from the point of view of living wages, / I would say that it has not been achieved in many cases. The organised labour falls into various classes. I think, / the Labour Minister should catch on to what really the organised labour is. You have organised labour in large-scale industries / and medium-scale industries; you have organised labour in service sector and governmental sector and you have organised labour (500) in small-scale industries also. Unfortunately, they are one of the most exploited among the organised labour. Many of the / small-scale industries, organised labour get even lesser than the minimum wage announced in that State and there, the Inspector / who is involved under the Factories Act is openly in collusion with many of these so-called small industries. / In fact, there is a new trend today. The trend is, why do you put up a major industry of large / investment in one area and why not split up the industry into five or six departments? They may be even (600) at the same place, but call it as five different establishments. One produces the first stage of the product; / the second, the second stage of the product; the third, the third stage of the product; the fourth, the finished product/ and make investment below Rs. 50 lakhs. Ultimately, the industry may be worth Rs. two crores or may be a little / less than that. But then it is a small scale industry and it gets the protection for it. / They are able to exploit. So, it is high time that we brought the law to lift the (veil) on this, (700) because encouragement must go to the genuine small scale industry. In the name of small scale industry, exploitation of labour/is the maximum in the organised sector. I think, it is also relevant to bring to the notice of the Government/ that in the unorganised arena, it is not sufficient just to have a National Commission on Rural Labour. / The demand for a Central law has been voiced unanimously by all sides, all parties and all groups. It is high time / that a Central law was brought out and immediate steps taken to consult all concerned who deal with the subject. (800)

It is impossible to organise the unorganised labour. If the Minister is under any illusion, I would like to make / it clear that not even one per cent of their membership can ever be assigned to the rural agricultural labour. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 157

Debate on Ministry of Welfare

[Handwritten shorthand notes on the left margin]

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Mr. Speaker, Sir, while considering the various aspects of the Welfare Ministry, it is essential to find out the / ways and means to implement all those welfare programmes that could lead us towards the establishment of a welfare society. / For the past many years, representatives of people, especially those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have been repeatedly / demanding the setting up of a separate Ministry under a Minister to look after welfare matters. The previous Government had / set up the Welfare Ministry in September, 1985 and thus fulfilled a long standing demand. (100) Earlier, this Department was attached either to the Home Ministry or to the Education Ministry in the name of Department of Social Welfare. / Hence, it was not possible to pay due attention to it. Therefore, the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, / pondered over this matter seriously and took a historic decision on it and thus the Ministry of Welfare was created / and this Ministry started working independently. Several Departments attached to the Home Ministry, including the Department of Harijan Welfare and / other Departments looking after the welfare of minorities, disabled people and other weaker sections of the society, were detached from the (200) Home Ministry and put under the Ministry of Welfare. Apart from this, steps were also taken for the fulfilment / of several commitments made by the Government as also of those tasks which the Government was supposed to do under the / Directive Principles incorporated in our Constitution and which were left unattended to even after 48 years of Independence. / Although our Constitution calls upon the Government to take steps so as to make the weaker sections and the disabled / self-reliant so that they do not become a burden on the society, it is regrettable that we have not been (300) able to formulate any national policy in this regard. A national policy for children was announced but appropriate steps / were not taken in the right direction for the implementation of that policy. The work was taken up but much / remains to be done in this direction because our country has not been able to progress as much as / it should have. For this purpose, it is necessary to have adequate resources. Today, the situation is that due to non-availability / of resources, we are not able to allocate as much money as we would have liked for our programmes. (400)

A rarely avail.

The previous Government had constituted a committee and the committee was entrusted with the job of suggesting a national policy / for the handicapped, keeping in mind the factors such as the facilities that could be provided to them, ways and means / to provide them with equipment and assistance, and also ways and means to provide them with education and training / in the cities so that instead of being a burden on the society and depending on their parents, they can / make themselves useful and make a place in the society. The committee was to give its recommendations on these issues. (500)

I would like the present Government to take steps to implement the recommendations made by this committee and also keep in mind / those recommendations while formulating the Bill relating to the handicapped because so far we have not been able to / formulate the requisite national policy for the handicapped. Many experts have expressed their views after much discussion and deliberations. / The Government should take steps to implement those recommendations. I believe that this House will unanimously agree that there should / definitely be a national policy regarding the handicapped so that they need not depend on others. There are many countries (600) in the world where many special laws have been made for the welfare of the handicapped and they are provided / with many additional facilities. We too can formulate a national policy for the handicapped on the lines of those formulated / by other Governments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said in the beginning, the rate of infant mortality in our country is / very high due to many reasons including poverty, mal-nutrition and under-nourishment. Similarly, many children are deprived of proper education, / as they fall victims of bad habits. We have observed that in many families, the parents are illiterate (700) or they are so busy in their work that they are not able to pay proper attention to their children. / Some of these parents work as labourers while some others are engaged in similar menial jobs. The previous Government had / formulated, passed and implemented the Juvenile Justice Act, I would like the Government to make adequate arrangements to see that the / Act is fully implemented in all the States and that none of its provisions is violated. The children are the / future of our country and as such cannot be neglected. Tomorrow, they are going to shoulder the responsibility of the nation. (800)

Along with the industrial development and progress in many fields, we are witnessing the onset of many services in our country. / Ours is a welfare state. It is our responsibility to see that vices of our children are removed.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 158

Debate on (Railway Budget)

Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Railway Budget. At the outset, I congratulate the hon. Minister for presenting a / socio-economic, development-oriented Budget for the first time by giving concessional and free journey facility by rail to war / and police widows, disabled and industrial workers awarded for productivity and technological innovation. This will certainly boost the morale of / workers for increasing productivity.

I am not happy at the second class fare increase. Due to financial constraints, the hon. Minister / has been forced to increase the second class rail fare. The second class rail fare should not have been increased, (100) and the passengers should have been spared of this increase in second class fare.

The hon. Minister has announced / several measures to modernise and improve the working of the Railways. The Railways are the life-line of the nation. Therefore, the Railways in India really need upgradation and modernisation. We are lagging behind in modern rail facilities when compared to the / advanced countries. I am glad that the hon. Minister has laid emphasis on the modernisation of the Railways. Adequate funds / should be provided to implement modernisation programmes. The Indian Railways have made distinct improvements during the first three years (200) of the Seventh Plan. The hon. Minister deserves congratulations for this but many more works are yet to be undertaken / and, I hope, with the efficiency and dedication of the Ministry as well as with the dynamic Minister, the Indian Railways / will make further improvements in the remaining years of the Seventh Plan.

Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for exempting / goods rate hike in respect of certain commodities like fertilizers, foodgrains, fodder, livestock, pulses, edible oils, salt, etc. / These are the essential commodities of common use. So, this exemption will provide a great relief to the common man. (300) Large parts of the country faced an unprecedented drought during 1987. The Railways ensured massive movement / of diesel, foodgrains and edible oils to the drought-affected areas. The track restoration work in the North-Eastern / parts of the country after the flood was also commendable. Despite all these hurdles, the freight performance of the Railways / has surpassed the annual target. The credit goes to the employers and workers of the Railways for these performances, / I thank the hon. Railway Minister for performing such a challenging task in an extremely efficient and commendable way. (400)

[Handwritten notes in shorthand script on the left margin]

[Handwritten notes in shorthand script in the middle margin]

Sir, 64 new trains have been introduced during 1987-88. The frequency of some / existing trains has also been increased. There was a demand to provide track service between capitals of southern States and the / National capital, Delhi. I am happy to say that superfast express services have been provided between Delhi and capitals of the four / southern States—Bangalore, Hyderabad, Madras and Thiruvananthapuram—during 1987-88. The Minister has / given a list of some new trains proposed to be introduced from 1st May, 1988. (500)

Now, I would like to say a word about computerisation of passenger reservation. The Government have taken steps in this respect. / But it is limited to Delhi and a few metropolitan cities. I am glad to learn that computerised passenger reservation / facility is going to be introduced at some other cities like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Lucknow and Hyderabad. I urge upon the Government / to extend such a facility to Mysore also.

I would like to say a few words about / my State of Karnataka. Karnataka, is very deficient on broad gauge compared to other States in the South. (600) Therefore, I would like to press for a more rapid conversion of the trunk routes in that State into broad gauge. / There is reluctance on the part of the trade and industry to expand their industrial establishment and trade. / The broad gauge would provide them uninterrupted rail transit for their raw materials and finished goods. The conversion of Bangalore-Mysore Railway / line into broad gauge was sanctioned during 1979. The estimated cost of the project was / Rs. 26 crores. Now, it has further gone up. The amount spent on this project is about six crores of rupees only. (700) The Budget provision made for this project in 1985-86 and 1986-87 / was very inadequate. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to provide sufficient funds for this / conversion project so that it can be completed by the end of the Seventh Plan. I would like to say / here that the people of Karnataka feel neglected as adequate funds are not allocated to the various projects.

The people / of Karnataka have been demanding for a separate South-Western Railway Zone. Recently, there was an agitation over this issue. (800) This is a genuine demand of the people of Karnataka, which they have been pressing for long. The Government / of India should take immediate steps to set up a separate South-Western Railway Zone with Bangalore as its headquarters. (840 words)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, organized into columns and rows. The notes include dates such as 1987-88, 1988, 1985-86, 1986-87, and 1979, along with various symbols and abbreviations used for shorthand transcription.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 159

Speech of hon. Agriculture Minister

Sir, at the outset, I may mention that Government is not in a position to accept this Resolution. I cannot / also subscribe to the assumption which is contained in this Resolution. The assumption is that there is shortage of agricultural labour / in the country. Sir, we have had enquiries conducted with regard to this matter. There has been the agricultural / labour enquiry conducted by the Ministry of Labour in the year 1990-91 and there have been / the enquiries conducted under the auspices of the Planning Commission also, and I do not want to fire the / House (100) with the figures contained in the Labour Enquiry Committee Report and also in the chapter on agricultural workers which / is contained in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Suffice it to say that the conclusion arrived at by the Planning / Commission is that about 30 per cent of rural families are agricultural labourers, and according to the Planning Commission, this / vast number presents a very serious problem. It is also the conclusion of the Planning Commission that the present agricultural production / in the country could be maintained with about 75 per cent of the number of workers now engaged in it. (200) Sir, it is true, as has been stated by my friend, that there may be certain pockets / in different parts of the country where there may be shortage of agricultural labour. But taking an overall view of / the position in the country, the problem really is that it is not one of shortage of agricultural labour but / one of unemployment and under-employment, and that is why, Sir, so many steps have been suggested by the Planning / Commission, such as expansion of work opportunities within the rural economy, especially through intensive development of village and small-scale industries (300) and also adoption of a measure of redistribution of land and provision of educational facilities and concessions, to raise / their social status and enable agricultural labour to develop greater confidence, initiative and ability to avail themselves of all economic / opportunities. There are also suggestions of the Planning Commission which require us to improve the living conditions of the agricultural / labourers.

Sir, with regard to the point that there are certain areas in which there is excess of agricultural labour / and certain areas where there is real shortage, I have to say that there are plans which have been adopted. (400)

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Then, Sir, a point has been raised by the mover that in certain peak seasons there is real difficulty in / finding agricultural labour I may state that there is some difficulty experienced during harvest time and the weeding season, when / there will be the outbreak of monsoon, when replanting of seedlings will have to be done, but the situation is / not such as to warrant the appointment of a committee to go into this question at all. I would say, / Sir, had it not been for those circumstances existing in certain peak periods, when agricultural labour is in a position (500) really to dictate terms, it is horrible to conceive of their lot in the slack seasons, so that we have / to put up with that situation. Even in those seasons, as we find, there may not be lack of personnel, / but the labour may be in a position to dictate terms. They may demand and get increased wages at that / particular period whereas they may have to be satisfied with very low wages in other parts of the year. So, / Sir, I feel that it is not possible for the Government to accept this Resolution. Taking India as a whole, (600) as I have stated, to meet this question of under-employment we have provided in the Seventh Five Year Plan / 40 crores of rupees for assisting in the settlement of landless agricultural workers and 50 crores of rupees are proposed / to be spent by States for the resettlement of landless agricultural workers. The main lines of development in this regard / are encouragement of cottage and small-scale industries, large increases in agricultural production including animal husbandry and horticulture. I may also / state for the information of the House that the Ministry of Labour are conducting, with the help of the (700) National Sample Survey, another agricultural labour enquiry to investigate into the scope of employment and living standards of agricultural / labourers, and this enquiry is expected to bring forth information on all aspects of the subject. The points raised by / the mover form the subject-matter of the enquiry that would be conducted.

Sir, with regard to the questions raised / by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, they are larger questions, and they are dealt with in the Seventh Five Year Plan itself. / The Government is taking necessary steps in the direction of consolidation of holdings and the latest position of the Planning Commission (800) itself is that it would render aid in the matter (of consolidation of holdings so that there may not be / fragmentation. The greatest importance that has been attached to developments in cooperation is quite known to the hon. Members.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 160

[Statement made by the hon. Finance Minister]

I crave the indulgence of the House for making this statement on the opening day of the Parliament as I wish / to take hon. Members into confidence, at the earliest opportunity, about the extremely difficult foreign exchange position in which / we find ourselves at present. Our foreign exchange reserves have declined more or less steadily during the current fiscal year. / Some decline during the months of April-September, when export receipts are usually low, is a normal feature of our / balance of payments. The decline in reserves during April-September, 1984, however, was almost twice (100) as large as in the same period of 1983. The decline in reserves has continued during the past / 4 or 5 months when we should normally be gaining reserves in order to meet the requirements of the / coming lean season for exports. On February 12, 1985, the foreign assets of the Reserve Bank / stood at about Rs. 700 crores. As hon. Members are aware, the Reserve Bank is required to hold a / minimum Rs. 800 crores of reserve in the form of gold and foreign securities. The Reserve Bank has been able, (200) in fact, to abide by this requirement for some time only on the basis of a transfer to the / Bank of gold which the Government had acquired over the years.

The recent decline in reserves is the result of / a variety of factors. In view of shortages of foodgrains in the country and the pressure on prices, we have had / to provide for larger imports of food and fertilizers against free foreign exchange. Payments on account of defence imports / have also been increasing; and we have had to provide for larger repayment obligations in respect of the growing volume (300) of our indebtedness abroad. While exports have been rising, the increase this year had not been as large as in / 1983-84; and it has not been reflected fully in the receipt of foreign exchange. / A part of the increase in exports has been to countries with whom settlements in trade and payments are made / in rupees. There is reason to believe that export earnings have been lower because of higher interest rates elsewhere, / A part of the decline in reserves may, therefore, be short-term in character and may be expected to reverse itself. (400)

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First and foremost, we have to reduce inflationary pressures in the economy. The strictest fiscal and monetary discipline has to / be observed in the interest both of stability of prices and of improvement in the payments position. The Budget of the / Central Government for the year 1985-86 will be announced ten days from now, / and I do not wish to say anything about this at this stage. But it is clear that the financial / operations of the Central and State Governments as well as those of public and private sector enterprises will necessarily have (500) to be guided by the over-riding consideration of avoiding inflation. I have taken this up with the State Governments / and I have no doubt that in the present grave situation, I can count on their whole-hearted co-operation. /

On the monetary side, several measures have been taken during the past year to bring about an orderly increase in interest rates / and to slow down the pace of monetary expansion. The Reserve Bank has just announced further measures to this end. / The Bank rate has been increased from 5 per cent to 6 per cent. Coupled with this, the terms (600) governing the rates at which scheduled banks are eligible to borrow from the Reserve Bank have been made stiffer. / Banks will be able to borrow at the Bank rate only when their net liquidity ratio comes to 30 per cent / or more as against 28 per cent at present. The borrowing rate of the individual scheduled bank will increase / by 1/2 per cent for every 1 per cent decline in its liquidity ratio below 30 per cent.

The Reserve Bank / has also taken steps to make appropriate changes in other interest rates in the economy. Thus, banks have been (700) asked to raise the interest rates on their term deposits as well as savings bank deposits. The ceiling limit to / the lending rates of banks has been raised from 10 per cent to 15 per cent. The Reserve Bank lending / rate to co-operative banks would also now be higher by 1 per cent. Appropriate changes in other interest rates, including / those paid and charged by Government and other financial institutions, are also being made. These measures should limit the expansion / of bank credit and bring about an appreciable reduction in inflationary pressures in general by encouraging a greater flow of (800) savings and a greater sense of economy in the use of scarce capital resources. The Reserve Bank will watch carefully / the expansion of credit and money supply in the economy in the light of the genuine requirements of growing production.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 161

Speech of hon. Labour Minister

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Mr. Deputy Chairman, after all, all labour legislations in all countries have to be gradually evolved and what is good / in one country cannot be wholesale copied in another country because it is to have reference to the economic conditions / and also to the employment or unemployment factor in that country. Countries gradually develop industries and other social conditions but / short of a revolution, it is not possible to put into practice all the things of which we approve in principle. / We have come to a very much higher stage as far as the interests of the workers are concerned (100) during the last fifteen years and although we would like to see that even in the agricultural field minimum wages / are guaranteed, such States, which tried to bring in minimum wages legislation as long ago as about six years back, / found it impossible to put it into practice, as has been already referred to by another hon. Member, due to the / reasons of expense of implementation and the existing conditions. Supposing, I would ask the Members on the other side, / we were to make rules about minimum wages with regard to domestic servants, what would happen? All that would happen (200) is that people would stop engaging servants because they are unable to pay them and the result would be that / there would be more unemployment. I need not develop this point further because it is for this reason that it / has been found difficult to apply the minimum wages in the case of agricultural labourers. Sir, I know for a / fact that in some places where the employees thought that minimum wages would be enforced in regard to agricultural labour, / they stopped cultivating certain portions of the land and the result was that the land remained fallow. So, we have (300) to take the overall position, the balanced picture, into consideration and though always aiming, as the Government is certainly aiming, / at bettering the conditions of the unemployed and bringing about the socialist pattern in as rapid a manner as possible, / we have to see that the very objectives for which we stand are not defeated.

Sir, I would like to say / another word with regard to the remarks made about bringing in an Ordinance with reference to the recent strike. / Sir, only when people are saddled with some responsibilities they have to realise that they have to take certain steps. (400)

I am sure, Sir, even the people on the Opposition side who are today in power in Kerala would be able to / say what success they got with their experimenting because without making the State banking, without borrowing, we have / to see that our purse is long enough to meet the charges on it. For that very reason, I would ask / what they would have done if, at the eleventh hour, there is a sudden demand on the Exchequer, / a demand such that it would not be able to bear without unfairness to the other services. I would also ask, (500) Sir, a question, which I have not been able to ask, of the many people who should perhaps be held / responsible for replying to the question, and that is that in deciding on a certain minimum wage, we have to / see that in giving more to one sector of industry, we do not do injustice to the other sector. / I know, Sir, that in deciding on minimum wages, we have to take so many factors into consideration. Now, in the / coal industry, first they were given a wage of Rs. 69 and the unions there were not fully satisfied (600) and they had demanded a wage of Rs. 132. Having gone deep into the pros and cons / of the matter, they were ultimately, on appeal, given only Rs. 80 although it was felt that / for a minimum standard of living, particularly in that hazardous industry, Rs. 132 for a worker / with a wife and two children were just enough to give a standard of what we may call a cultural life. / But, Sir, one would ask what do the people in other places get. I am leaving aside the coal industry (700) because mining on the whole is a very hazardous industry. Let us take the other concerns like the Railways, for instance, / or the Postal Department which was in the news till the other day, and now the Station Masters / have given notice of their demands and their strike. Now, let us take the postal employees. Should we not ask / these people to consider how far, in order to hold the balance even, we will be able to give the / same to the other employees under Government in different places? So, we can have a solution, and we have to (800) have some sort of a solution which will not be an overall solution, that people in moffusil places would be / paid less or that people employed in large cities where a higher standard of living prevails will be given more.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 162

Debate on Finance Bill

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has told us why he has thought fit to bring these Finance Bills in the middle / of the year. The Plan contemplated a tax of about Rs. 400 crores and now that the Finance Minister/does not want to take recourse to deficit financing naturally the tax has got to be increased and it / now comes to about Rs. 1,300 crores. Therefore, money must come from wherever it can be had / and some sort of tax has to be imposed.

Now, the proposals have to be examined from that point of view. (100) Some people have acclaimed the proposals as very necessary and well-considered, while others have found ground for criticising them. / Whatever may be the taxation measures, if they are applied properly and with sympathy, even measures which are not liked / can be made to be appreciated and less objected to. I have no doubt, as the Finance Minister himself said, / that he will see that the measures are sympathetically administered and if that is done, most of the objections that / might be and have been put forward to the proposals would be removed. As you may remember, when the (200) Five Year Plan was discussed in this House and in the other House, some of the Members felt that perhaps / a very optimistic view might have been taken of the resources that may be available for carrying out the Five Year / Plan. Even now, people feel that the Plan has got to be implemented and a lot depends on the implementation / of the Plan but the question is: have we taken note correctly of the resources that are available and have / we not over-estimated and taken rather an optimistic view? But implementation of the Plan will not be very much (300) affected if instead of five years, a few more months are taken to implement it. What I mean to say / is if the resources are not sufficient to carry out the Plan in five years, there is no harm in / increasing the period by a few months so that there may not be a very heavy strain on our resources / and so that things may not go wrong on account of the heavy strain that may be put thereon.

Another / thing that can be looked into very conveniently is whether or not a certain amount of savings can be effected. (400)

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So far as the proposals in the two Bills are concerned, I have one or two suggestions to make. One / is as regards the capital gains tax. Most of the exemptions that were in the previous Act have been removed / but I feel that so far as capital gains in respect of compulsory acquisition by Government is concerned, that should / still continue to be exempted. When a person sells his capital asset and makes a gain which is called unearned profit, / he may be taxed and perhaps he will have no justification in raising any objection. But when a property (500) is acquired which he does not want to sell but which is acquired under compulsion at the instance of the / Government for the use of the Government, in the case of such a compulsory acquisition there is no real justification / for making the man pay capital gains tax also, especially when he never wanted to part with his property, / and in fact, he objected thereto but had to part with it because the authorities wanted him to do that. / That is one small suggestion so far as capital gains tax is concerned and I think in a case where compulsory (600) acquisition takes place, it is for the Government to consider whether or not they will think of giving relief to / the unfortunate person who may have to part with his property in spite of himself.

Another suggestion that I have / to make is that so far as compulsory deposit is concerned, the people who are conservative and who have put in / careful and prudent management and have built up resources, generally use them for the purpose of increasing the volume of / business and stabilising the position of the company but here the position is just as if you are going to (700) penalise those companies which have prudently managed, which have been managed in a conservative manner and which have not frittered away / their resources. Some consideration should be shown to such companies that have built up resources and have utilised them / in expanding their business so that they may not be called upon to put in these compulsory deposits. Otherwise, wasteful / expenditure will be encouraged and the management which have not been taking proper care for conserving their resources will get a premium. /

Then, my friend said that equity shares had increased in value to the extent of 150 times (800) depending on the number of years. Here, the dividend that is going to be taxed is on the basis / of the paid-up capital which does not take into account the reserves built up over a number of years. (840 words)

[Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, corresponding to the typed text on the left. The notes are dense and cover the right half of the page.]

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 163

Sir, the House will remember that over the past few years that we have been here, we have been demanding / a change in the structure of our taxation, and it is only this year we have heard the Finance Minister / announce that the time has come when the tax structure of our country must be changed. What exactly is the / change in the tax structure that is going to be made still remains to be seen. Only the other day, on the 3rd November, in Calcutta, Mr. Pant, Chairman of the Finance Commission, was stating that the financial stability of (100) the State and the Central Governments as well as the successful implementation of the Eighth Five Year Plan depended, / to a large extent, on a radical change of outlook of the people towards taxation. In that speech, he also made / it clear that he would expect the common people to pay more taxes. Now, if the change of structure of the / taxation system is to be sought in order to continue to exact the limited savings of the common man, / deprive him of the necessities of life, then I would not be in favour of any such change. If, however, (200) the tax structure were to be changed for a policy that would make the rich pay for the Eighth Five / Year Plan, I would be in favour of it. I make it clear that it has never been the contention / of the people that they would not bear the responsibility of building up the country. In fact, our workers in / the factories are sweating day in and day out so that our industrial production goes up. If today we claim / higher industrial output, it is precisely because our men in the wheels of industry have so behaved themselves and have (300) so worked for the well being of the country that despite the machinations and intrigues of the capitalist class, despite / their greed for more and more profits, it has been possible to bring about a sizeable increase in the industrial output. / The credit entirely belongs to the working people of our country. Similarly, if, in the agrarian sector of our economy, / the production of food has gone up simultaneously raising thereby the total national income, that is also because of / the fact that the peasants—however poor, however destitute and however suffering—have, responded to the call of the Government. (400)

[Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering the left side of the page.]

It is only because of their devotion to duty for the cause of the country that we are today / in a position to claim before the whole world that our agricultural production has gone up. I say this because / we must remember that it is the people who are paying with their blood, paying with their sweat, for the rebuilding / of our country's economy, for the rejuvenation of our nation. Our capitalist friends, who regard themselves as the captains of industry / and have produced more ship wrecks than happy sailings, would please note this particular fact that it is these men, (500) working people, whether in the agricultural sector or the industrial sector, who are responsible for the rise in production / and therefore it is they who have brought about an increase in the national income from which they have been / denied their legitimate share.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, now we are discussing the question of taxes. The Finance Minister is / in a very chastened mood these days. I think that he is in a very happy posture of mind today / when he makes such speeches. He forgets that merely by taking money from the rich, you don't distribute to the poor. (600) We have seen in the United States, in Germany, in England where heavy taxation measures obtain, at the same time, / relatively speaking, the poverty of the people continues. Sometimes, it so happens that the ruling class, the capitalist class, / for their common general interest which is certainly something broader than the interests of, shall we say, the Indian Chamber / of Commerce and Industry when they promote certain broad interests of the class as a whole, where various factors operate, / not merely the fluctuations in the stock market, they are obliged to take certain measures which sometimes even evidently and (700) manifestly hit against what appears to be their immediate interest but that should not delude us into thinking that the / capitalist class in our country or, for that matter, that this Government has adopted a policy of making the rich / pay for the poor. That is not at all so and the Rs. 1600 crores or so, out of which / only Rs. 1000 crores would come from the direct taxes, should not make us think that there has been a / radical change in this direction that we all desire. We welcome the halting step that the Minister takes. (800) We welcome the steps, however belated, and we welcome even the pick-pocketing of the capitalists. It requires only a pick-pocket / to get Rs. 1000 crores from the capitalist class. Even when they do such things, we always welcome them.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 164

Madam, I would like to say a few words. It was not my intention to speak on this Bill at all, / but having listened to the speech of the hon. Minister towards the end of his reply, I am rather provoked, / shall I say frankly, to say a word or two about the policy of the Government in the matter. / It is pointless for the Government and the Minister here to tell us that there has not been any shift / in the policy with regard to foreign participation and the role of foreign enterprise in the oil industry of our country, (100) Now, we do not have the time nor the opportunity just at the time to recall the various utterances / and statements given solemnly on the floor of this House and in the other House by the then hon. Minister, / Mr. Malaviya, and others of the Government also enunciating certain basic approaches to questions of policy. What was it? / In the first place, it was decided after a lot of groping in the dark in the earlier stages that / as far as the oil industry was concerned, it should be from now on developed entirely in the public sector, (200) and a beginning was made by exploration and the setting up of refineries with the co-operation of friendly countries like Rumania. / That is how we began. You will remember, Madam Vice-Chairman, as other Members in this House will remember, that / when the Burmah-Shell and the Standard Vacuum Oil Company demanded full expansion of their installed capacity, the demand was / first sought to be entertained by certain elements in the Government, but ultimately the Government did not sanction even the / expansion of the installed capacity by those concerns. The argument at that time, and a right argument at that, was (300) that we should be given the opportunity and we should take the opportunity now of developing our own public sector / and making the public sector much more pronounced than it would be in a matter of two or three years / by stopping the expansion in the private sector as well. Therefore, we had a double policy at that time. / I am not a spokesman of the Government, but I do know the policy of the Government because these are public policies. / What was that policy? It was, on the one hand, to create a public sector in the oil industry. (400)

[Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, covering the left side of the page.]

You will remember, Madam, and the House will remember that when we negotiated for certain oil to be imported from the / Soviet Union, these foreign concerns, American and British, had the temerity to say that they would not be refining / crude oil if it was imported from socialist countries and not from their own sources. After a lot of hesitation / in the matter, the Government ultimately, and rightly so, compelled these people to accept the crude oil imported from other / sources than their own. This was the position. Now, these are not forgotten stories and I may recall in this connection (500) that the journal called 'Commerce' wrote a series of editorial articles in which the hon. Minister of Oil / at that time was criticised precisely for pursuing an exclusive policy of public sector development in the matter of oil, and / these criticisms were repeated also in certain other foreign journals including the journals that emanate from the United States of America. / It is also well known that at that time Mr. B.K. Nehru was approached by certain elements in the / U.S.A., and following that a New York paper wrote a certain article saying that Mr. B.K. Nehru's visit (600) to India would be helpful in getting the oil policy of Mr. Malaviya reversed in the direction in which / the Americans would like. The article appeared and I quoted this article on the floor of the House. / If you would read also other economic journals, you would find that a great debate continued for months and months / with regard to what should be the oil policy of the Government, and in that debate up to the time I / am referring to, the Government clearly asserted that oil should be developed exclusively in the public sector in all its stages, (700) especially in refining and exploration. We took certain steps. That is how such developments have taken place. The mentality / of foreign equity participation was not there. Had it been so, we would not have had the fine refining centres / in our country. We would not have been developing our industry in the way we have done in the course of the / past few years. Now, that vigorous policy was pursued although we would have liked it to be much more / vigorous than actually it was. Then what happened? Systematic pressures were brought to bear upon the Government in order to (800) compromise this policy to make the Government resile from the position that it had taken. In that connection, / you will remember, Sir, that the Sahni Committee made a Report with regard to the operations of the foreign oil concerns.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 165

The reasons why a development bank of this kind is necessary are not very difficult to understand. The size of the / allocation for industrialisation in the first two five year plans was not, on the whole, so great as to / strain the resources of the existing financial institutions including banks. But, latterly, the gaps in the present institutional framework for the / provision of industrial credit, especially for medium and long term periods, have come to light. This, I think, was inevitable. / With a projected outlay of Rs. 3100 crores for industrialisation in the Third Five Year Plan, (100) and with rising costs it would have been surprising, if the needs of industry could have been promptly or fully satisfied / within our existing resources. As it is, the establishment of a high powered agency, which may be able to undertake / residual responsibility or ultimately for promoting or accelerating industrial growth, has become urgently necessary.

I am not unmindful, Sir, / while I am saying this, of the effort which banks and other industrial finance corporations have been making to adapt themselves / to the changes which are being brought about as a result of rapid industrialisation. Bank advances this year, at the (200) peak of the busy season, reached a record level and nearly sixty per cent of the advances are now granted / for industrial purposes. In the case of the State Bank of India, which is our leading commercial bank, the figure, / I believe, is even higher. Three-fourths of the State Bank's advances, I understand, are sanctioned to industrial units. / Although there has been this notable change in the outlook of the banking system, and although we have been facilitating this change / by providing liquidity or refinance to the banks, they will find it increasingly difficult to provide the additional resources. (300)

There are many other competing demands on the resources of the banking system; and banks have also some statutory obligations / in the matter of maintaining a specified percentage of their resources in cash or approved investments. In any case, / the ability of the commercial banking system to assist industry is dependent, in the long run, on an increase in deposits. / While banks can and should try to help the industry, it will be unrealistic to think that in the existing / phase of development, they can continue to carry the burden of financing industrial enterprises without any external aid or assistance. (400)

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We have a number of specialised agencies like the Industrial Finance Corporation and the State Finance Corporations but they operate / within certain limitations. Their capital or other resources are no longer adequate in relation to the total volume of the demand for long and medium-term credit. The conditions in which, or the security against which, they can grant loans / or other assistance are also rigid. Industrial units, which need substantial capital of the order of more than one or two / crores of rupees, or entrepreneurs planning for additions to capital or investment over a period of years, do not (500) in many cases, have the assurance that the existing agencies will be able to provide for these needs. / In the existing conditions in which there is an acute shortage of capital in relation to demand, new enterprises which / do not have the backing of the better known managing agency houses or the assistance of foreign collaborators are particularly / likely to be affected. These enterprises, although they may be deserving, often tend to be overlooked or passed over in favour of / other parties.

We are envisaging the Industrial Development Bank as an institution designed to overcome these limitations (600) and to accelerate the process of industrial growth. This new institution will be a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India. / It will be managed by a board consisting of the Directors of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank. / The Bill provides that the Governor of the Reserve Bank will be the Chairman of the Industrial Development Bank and that / a Deputy Governor in the Reserve Bank to be specially appointed for this purpose will be the Vice-Chairman. / In view of its close association with the central bank of the country, the Industrial Development Bank will be able to (700) draw on the knowledge and experience of that bank, and to obtain, in its day-to-day operation, such guidance / and assistance as may be necessary.

The Industrial Development Bank, as I have indicated already, will have the residual responsibility / of ensuring that no deserving industrial enterprise, which gets an allocation or is accorded a priority in our Five Year Plans, / will be allowed to suffer for want of financial resources or assistance. For discharging this very onerous responsibility in / an adequate manner, the Industrial Development Bank will have substantial funds of its own in the form of capital subscribed (800) by the Reserve Bank of India. We are expecting the new institution to issue capital to the extent of / Rs. 100 crores. Like all other institutions, the Industrial Development Bank will be able to borrow money from the Reserve Bank.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 166

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I should like to deal only with some important Departments. I shall take first the Defence Department. The allocation to the / Defence Department which in the Budget of the last year was Rs. 800 crores has been reduced to / about Rs. 700 crores. Is it because the Defence requirements have diminished in number? I have come to know / that recruitment to the Forces has been stopped. At what number has it been stopped? In the present emergency, / soon after the incursion of the Chinese, it was hoped that our Defence Forces would be raised to the number of (100) two millions. Has at least one million been reached so far? The war with China can never be considered to be / a war of limited liability. Modern wars are wars of unlimited liability and we cannot say that recruitment of / half a million troops would be just enough to meet the requirements of national Defence. For, let us remember that / there are not two fronts, the Ladakh front and the NEFA front, that we have to deal with but there / is the Pakistan front also that we have to contend with and the Pakistan front consists of two fronts, one (200) on the west and one on the east. I should like the Defence Ministry to consider whether the recruitment so far / attained is enough to meet our Defence requirements on all these four fronts.

Then, in regard to weapons, / I find no provision is made for the manufacture of machine guns which are so necessary in modern warfare, especially to / stop the incursion of large masses of troops such as we experienced at the time of the Chinese incursion on / the NEFA border. We have been promised that in course of time the naval defence would be supplied with that (300) modern weapon of defence, namely, the submarine. To this end, officers have been sent to the United Kingdom to learn / how to handle submarines. I hope and trust that very soon we shall acquire at least two submarines. I would suggest / that the useless aircraft carrier, which serves no defence purpose at all at present upon which Rs. 30 crores / were spent and the maintenance of which comes to about six crores of rupees a year, might be sold to / some power that requires an aircraft carrier and the amount thus realised might be spent on the purchase of submarines. (400)

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I now come to another important Department, the Department of External Affairs which also swallows / a large part of the Budget. We have as many as 129 Missions. We have had these Missions for the / past fifteen years and I think it is time that the External Affairs Ministry began to consider the question / whether all these 129 Missions are required. Why do we want Missions in Latin American countries which have / no political, diplomatic or international connections with India? For trade purposes, certainly we should have some representatives (500) but then consular officials would be enough for this purpose and we need not maintain these costly Embassies and Missions in the / countries of Latin America. Looking at the Report of the Ministry of External Affairs, I find a reference made to / relations with foreign powers. Relations with Afghanistan and Burma, our immediate neighbours, our near neighbours, are reported to be friendly. / About Pakistan nothing is said about relations. The obvious inference is that the relations are not friendly. But what about the / countries of South East Asia? These are countries with which we should have friendly relations but there is no reference (600) at all in the Report to the relations—whether friendly or hostile—with the South East Asian countries. / For the defence of India and for the defence of the whole South Asia, especially South East Asia, friendly relations with the / South East Asian countries are absolutely necessary. In order to establish these friendly relations with foreign countries, visits of / important persons from the President downwards have been arranged, but what are our Missions doing in several countries in order to / maintain and promote friendly relations with India? Are they allowed to take initiative? Are they allowed to be active (700) in the promotion of friendly relations or are they to be content merely with carrying out the orders from the / Ministry of External Affairs? What information, diplomatic, economic, military, do these Missions abroad convey to India? For instance, in regard to the / Chinese invasion of India, was the Military Attache able to send useful reports upon the military situation, / upon the military intentions of China? It is no doubt difficult in totalitarian countries, in communist countries, for foreign Missions / to get enough information, but from the experience of Missions maintained by the United Kingdom, by the United States of America, (800) these countries are able to get valuable military and other useful information from their representatives abroad. Or is it the fact / that our Military Attaches, Commercial Attaches, send reports to our Ministries, but the External Affairs lay these reports aside?

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 167

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The next item of expenditure which has attracted my notice is the expenditure on pensions. As much as 100 crores / of rupees have been allotted for payment of pensions and other relief. May I once more point out to the / Finance Ministry the hardship which people who have commuted their pension are suffering from? Some of the people who have / commuted their pension have had the misfortune to live up to seventy to eighty years and have paid their commuted / portion twice and still this Government exacts these payments from these commuted pensioners. I think the time has come (100) when the Finance Ministry should look sympathetically at the lot of the commuted pensioners and restore the original pension at least / five to six years after they have paid up the full commuted amount.

Then, I come to that white elephant / in our Government, namely, the Planning Commission, which costs us Rs. 10 crores. On a former occasion / when I made the remark that our Planning Commission is the costliest in the world, the Minister of State for Finance / said that the French Planning Commission was as large, if not larger, and it was as costly as our Planning Commission. (200) I challenged him to produce the figures. He said he had not the figures. I made some personal / enquiries of the French Embassy in Delhi and they tell me that there is no special staff for the French / Planning Commission, that the staff that try to implement the suggestions of the French Planning Commission are distributed over several / ordinary Ministries, so that no special cost is incurred on the staff of the Planning Commission. Why should we not have / a Planning Commission composed of representative experts, honorary experts, like the Planning Commissions of other countries, experts from industry, (300) from labour, from the professions, from the private sector as well as the public sector, who give competent and useful advice / on planning to the Government? As at present constituted, the Planning Commission is composed of people who are pledged to / one social philosophy, namely, the socialist philosophy, because the Planning Commission and the Government plan not for prosperity / but for socialism. If the Planning commission is to plan for prosperity, if the Government are to work for economic prosperity, / the Planning commission should be composed of representative experts from interests which are engaged in the promotion of economic growth. (400)

Very often, we find in the reports of Ministries the phrase that the Planning Commission has allotted so much money / to this Department or to that Ministry. Who or what is the Planning Commission to allot sums of money? / It is the Government Departments that should allot, it is the Ministry, the Cabinet that should allot sums of money to / this or that Department. That shows that the Planning Commission has become another Department of Government. If it has become / another Department of Government, then why should it not be brought into the general system of Government, in the administration, (500) made a regular Department of Government so that it may be made responsible to this House? Now, it is a / body with power but without responsibility. It is time, therefore, that the Government made up its mind to make an / honest women out of the Planning Commission.

Then, another Ministry which attracts criticism is the Ministry of Housing, which is also / charged with the solution of the housing problem in this country. In order to solve the immense housing problem / of this country, indicated by the calculations of the Planning Commission itself, in order to place the housing position of India (600) on a satisfactory footing, as many as fifty million rural houses have to be reconstructed. How can Rs. 46 crores / go towards the reconstruction of even a small proportion of this large number? I made a suggestion / to the consultative Committee of the Ministry of Housing that the Government should consider the question of drafting and introducing into / Parliament a housing law imposing housing obligations upon all employers, governmental or private, from the Centre down to the villages. / I was told of certain practical difficulties which stood in the way. One difficulty pointed out by the Ministry was (700) that investment on industrial development would be considerably reduced if so much money was spent on housing. But has the Government / considered that housing itself is an investment, an economic investment? Satisfactory housing would promote the health and strength of the / workers and the competitive capacity of the workers would be increased if decent housing conditions were provided. Another objection / raised to the drafting and introduction of a housing law by the Ministry was that it should increase the / cost of production and, therefore, in a competitive market, in a competitive world market, we would not be able to sell our steel goods. (800) This was exactly the excuse raised during the British days that if the wages of the workers / were increased, we could not compete in the world market. Therefore, the wages of workers had to suffer all along.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 168

Sir, the three wings of Defence—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—require to be well equipped and modernised. / Ours is a country with a great population. I know our difficulties also. In the present world situation, / it will not be possible for us to remain second rate in regard to possession of modern armaments. Defence is / a very complicated problem nowadays in this world. We have not got that technical know-how; we have not got those technicians / who can manufacture modern weapons in our country. Even then, the Defence Ministry is efficient. It has tried to manufacture, (100) as far as possible, new machinery and modern weapons.

Then, the problem of development is equally or, if I may say so, / more important. It all depends upon how we progress. To shape the future of our country requires huge funds / of money. We are a poor country. And I am told that taxation in our country is the highest / compared to other countries of the world. The question therefore arises as to how we shall meet the situation. / New wealth has to be created, new sources of wealth have to be explored, and in these matters we cannot depend upon (200) friendly countries for coming to our aid in times of necessity. The country must have that self-reliance, / and, in course of time, it should be our aim to reach that stage when this country can produce all its requirements, / can have its own defence, can have its own development and can stand on its own legs.

If I were / to dilate on this, it will take a very long time, and everybody in this House knows the difficulties / and the complications of the situation. But even then, I might suggest that this question of development requires to be (300) very carefully handled. Now, wealth comes from two sources, one is agriculture and the other is industry. And agriculture is the / main base for development purposes. But what do we find about the position of agriculture in our country? / I think our Prime Minister suggested that in all the States the Chief Minister should take over the portfolio of Agriculture, / looking to its importance in the situation. But I do not find any Chief Minister caring to accept the suggestion / and take over the portfolio of Agriculture in his hands. That shows how serious we are in meeting the situation. (400)

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Agriculture, Sir, depends upon millions of small agriculturists in our country, and in spite of our planning, those who are / connected with the rural areas, those who are intimately connected with agriculture, know that agriculturists do not feel enthused. / Despite planning for so many years, the same old rut continues. Unless we enthuse them, unless we make them feel / that they are the builders of this country, that they are the moulders of the future of this country, agriculture will / not prosper. There are so many reasons. But the main reason is that the agriculturist must feel that he has (500) some important place in our country, that he is doing a great service by ensuring higher production. For that purpose, / it is very necessary that the per acre production must increase. More land is not available for cultivation.

Population is rising / by leaps and bounds. There is the question of unemployment. And also, we find that the pressure on land / is very much. If we want agriculture to prosper, that pressure on land, the number of human beings dependent on agriculture, / has to be reduced, and where shall we divert them? If they go to urban areas for employment, they do not get it. (600) The figure of unemployment is rising everyday. Therefore, it is very necessary to see that some industries / are diverted to rural areas. We should create agro-industrial climate in the country. We have been talking of / creating this climate all these years. But in that part of the country from which I come, I have not seen / any industries on a necessary scale being established in the rural areas. Unless we do this, the youngsters from / the rural areas are bound to come to the cities. There will be the question of unemployment, the question of housing, (700) the question of sanitation. All these problems will arise. It is very necessary that we find useful employment for them / in the rural areas, in the villages in which they live, and they must have a decent standard of living. / With the progress of primary education, with these new modes of transport, people from the villages now come frequently / to the cities and see what facilities, what amenities, are available in the cities and how backward their villages are / comparatively in respect of these amenities, and they feel dissatisfied with the life they lead and, therefore, they are inclined (800) to go in for better prospects, for a better life. They want to go to the cities. That is also / a very serious situation for the Government to consider. The problem of rural employment must be solved on a war footing.

(840 words)

I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for the very good Budget that he has presented to us. / As far as I have known, this is the only Budget that was presented without any additional taxes being imposed on us, / particularly at a time when there is emergency and when there is a big influx of refugees coming over / from Pakistan. He must be congratulated for having managed to present a Budget like this without any additional taxation. / Though it is true that there are no additional taxes imposed, quite a number of Members have criticised the Budget (100) and the proposals that have been presented to us. It is natural because this is the only time when Members can / criticise the policies and the actions of the Government. Anything can be taken up and discussed and the whole administration / of the Government can be criticised at the time of the Budget discussion. But although Mr. Krishnamachari is so clever / as to have managed to present such a Budget, he feels irritated over any criticism that is made against him / or the Government. That is not necessary. It is natural and it is the duty of the Members to place (200) before the House and before the Government all their grievances and also give the necessary suggestions to the Government / to improve the administration and to remove the defects, if any. So, it is really not necessary that any Member of / the Government should feel irritated. They are in a privileged position; they are in a position to rectify any mistake / that may be there. So, they must take this criticism in a sporting way and consider it an opportunity for / them to know the mind of the public and welcome such a criticism. Now, for any country the basic necessities are (300) food, clothing and shelter. The main criticism during this discussion was that some of the taxes that were imposed last time / were not withdrawn. Generally, such a thing is not done. It is true that even ordinary people, the poorer / sections of the community, have to pay heavily by way of indirect taxes and it is quite a hardship on them. / But the Finance Minister's defence was that even if these indirect taxes were withdrawn, not much benefit would go / to the public because the business people would appropriate them in the form of profits and in many other ways. (400)

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We are willing to pay any number of taxes because, after all, people will have to pay to the Government / to carry on the administration and to face any problem that the country has to face. But the rise in / prices is something that is really making the people nervous. It is almost killing the people. The taxes do not matter. / It is only once a year that the taxes have to be paid but the high prices for the / various articles have to be paid every hour almost in the day and that is what people really mind. (500) Something has to be done about it. Some sort of reply was given but it was not convincing. We are not / clear in our mind as to what exactly the Government intends to do to bring down the prices. / This is the most important thing and this is the only thing that a greater section of the people is interested in. / They would really be happy if something is done about it.

The next thing I said was clothing. / Even though so many textile mills are coming into existence and huge profits are being made by the millowners, the price (600) of cloth is still high. More than all this is the problem of shelter. We have seen during this cold weather / how many people in Delhi died for want of shelter. They had to stay on the pavement. It is / a disgraceful thing, it is a shameful thing that we have not been able to provide some sort of / a minimum shelter at least for everybody in our country. The Corporations of the big cities must be compelled by the / Union Government to build at least some sort of kutcha dwellings where these people can go and sleep at night. (700) Some cheap structures can be put up. We find from the papers that the Government are thinking of providing loans / for building houses or for purchase of land for construction of buildings, and all that. But where is land available? / They ask fabulous prices for land, particularly in Delhi, Bombay and other big cities. Some solution has to be thought of / to eliminate this kind of hardship.

The next thing is education. I am very glad to say that the / present Education Minister has taken up his work very seriously, in all earnestness, and is trying to bring about (800) a lot of changes for the better.

In many States, they have introduced compulsory primary education and elementary education and / they have also made it free for girls; without having to pay any fees, they can study up to high school.

(840 words)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 170

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you and this august House for giving me an opportunity to give expression / to my feelings on certain topics which are intimately connected with the development of this country. Sir, I am a / person who has spent more than four decades in the various aspects of education, science and technology. I have the / privilege of having been associated, I may say, quite intimately with the various scientific organisations in the country. Apart from this, / since science, education and technology form the foundation upon which depend the development and prosperity of this country, (100) I should like at the moment to confine my observations only to these topics.

We have been very much interested / to learn from the papers the various types of schemes that are being put up for the development of the subjects / by the Ministry of Education. In fact, there have been so many types of projects, and so many types and patterns / of education, and so much money is being spent that it gives us hope that, sooner than later, / the standard of achievement in our country with regard to these subjects will be raised. As a matter of fact, (200) very often the indication of the progress that has been made or is being made in these subjects, is estimated / by the amount of money that is allotted for the development of these subjects. While I shall always appreciate the amount / of money that is set apart for these developments, I should at the same time feel that the net result / of these expenses must be more tangible. As a matter of fact, personally I would like that even greater amounts / of money should be made available for these developments, as is the case in a number of advanced countries of the world. (300) But in spite of all this, we find that, in general, there is a sort of dissatisfaction prevailing / in our country that the standard of education achieved in our country is not sufficiently high. When all these things / are being said and done and when still the results do not fully satisfy the public, surely there is something / amiss somewhere. In spite of all the money that comes from the national fund and from foreign countries for being spent, / we find that the standard achieved in our country in science, education and technology is far below the desired standard. (400)

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Let us begin with the universities themselves. We are observing that the universities are growing up in our country like mushrooms. After all, what is the basic difference between a university and a college? I need not say that / whereas the essential purpose of a college is to impart education in the known branches of subjects, the object of a / university is both creation and imparting of knowledge. Let us examine the condition of the staff that has been / given to so many of these universities. I am very unhappy to give a picture of the present conditions. (500) There are many universities which have been in existence for a number of years and still, a large number of posts, / especially senior posts, are still unfilled. If we go on creating universities like this and if we do not succeed / in getting the proper type of teaching staff, how can we expect that the universities would be able to discharge / their responsibilities? The present position in many of the universities is that a fresh young man who just passes his / Master's examination, say, in June, just at the beginning of July is being put in charge of teaching (600) not only the under-graduate classes but even the M.A. and M.Sc. classes. Everyone knows the system of examination that is / unfortunately prevailing in our country. How do the young men pass the examinations? Most of them just try to cram / the subjects. Without undergoing any serious effort to study properly and master their subjects, thanks to the system of examination, / they often succeed in getting very high percentage of marks and then they are appointed to the staff. Naturally, / we cannot expect that this type of teachers will be able to give a good account of themselves in teaching the university classes. (700) Then, if we take into consideration the libraries and research journals, we find that they are very / ill-equipped. Now if the condition of the universities be like that, how can we expect that our country will / advance sufficiently in higher studies and research?

There are various organisations set up to impart education in higher fields. / There has been much emphasis put on research work and I should say, Sir, very rightly because unless and until / the country could be sufficiently advanced in the matter of research, we shall not be able to give a good account of ourselves (800) in the intellectual field in the international world. The point is that with our limited resources, will it / not be worthwhile that with the money available we should be able to get an adequate and reasonable return. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 171

Speech of hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The debate, generally, Madam, has strayed beyond the scope of the report of the Committee. In fact, it has almost / been a general **resume** of the work of this House for the past twelve years, of the opportunities we have had / or of the opportunities we could have had and that sort of thing. Although many Members have touched on / many points, still amendments have been tabled only on a few of the Rules. But I do not mean to say / that their references to the several points are not quite **relevant**; certainly they are relevant, and they are (100) very useful suggestions. In fact, this debate has been very **valuable** in throwing much light on the Report of this Committee. /

There is no time at my disposal. So, I will very briefly cover some of the points which need reply. / Of course, many points do need reply but I will take some points which are very relevant and reply **very briefly**. / Before going to that, I would mention that there was a very **factual error committed** by one of the / hon. Members when he said that although we were revising our Rules at this late stage, still we had an (200) advantage over the other House which had not yet done this work. It is not correct. The other House had / adopted the Rules under Article 118 on the 22nd December, 1986 and / later on also the other House had **modified** those Rules. **One or two modifications** were adopted next year. So, that is not / **factually correct**.

Now, much of the **criticism** or **suggestion** or discussion has centred round the subject of questions. About questions, / three parts have been made: **Admissibility** of questions or **rejection** of questions, answering questions and then the various clauses (300) that determine the nature of questions. These are the three aspects on which several Members have made remarks.

Now, / with regard to **admissibility**, several Members have **cast** some reflection on the **Secretariat**. Well, the Secretariat can only go by the Rules, / by the conditions, **prescribed** here. Unless we say that these conditions or qualifications for a question **should not be there**, / I do not think we can blame the Secretariat. You will remember, Madam Deputy Chairman, that I was one / of those, who were putting many questions and I also had the **misfortune** to have many of my questions rejected. (400)

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It is true, as many of the hon. Members have said, that questions which have been rejected on one ground / have been admitted again on the same ground. It has happened like that. But that depends upon the particular person / handling the question and his interpretation put upon that. However much we may put down these Rules, however much a / foolproof framework we can devise for the guidance of those who have got to function and deal with these / questions, still there is the subjective element which we cannot avoid, and it is a matter of interpretation. (500) Therefore, we should not blame the Secretariat because nobody can say that they do it with any mala fide intention. All that / we can say is, they can exercise their judgment either wrongly or correctly or indifferently. So, it is open to / every Member, when he feels that his question ought not to have been rejected, to go to the Secretariat, / sit with the concerned section and then discuss with them. That was what I was doing; that is what many of / the Members have been doing. Then after a discussion, either the person understands that his interpretation was wrong or he (600) convinces us that his interpretation was right and that the question, as the Rule is framed, cannot be admitted. / It must be realised that the admissibility or rejection of questions is in the name of the Chairman. Although one section / of the Secretariat handles the questions, still it is done in the name of the Chairman. So, it is not / correct propriety to bring the Secretariat into question here. The remedy is open to us to go to them and / discuss with them. But the disappointment is there; I have also had that disappointment. It is true that when (700) in one House on one ground a question is rejected, in another House on the same ground that question is accepted. / It has happened like that. But there can be no remedy except going there and having a personal discussion. /

With regard to the second point, that is answering questions, I think some remarks have been made attributing a sort of / motive to the Ministers. Madam Deputy Chairman, I would humbly like to submit that we should not question the bona fides / of the Government. If we begin to question the bona fides of the Government, there can be no end to it (800) and we cannot carry on. A Minister may be acting mala fide, we must take it that / he is acting bona fide. He is not infallible and the Secretariat which furnishes him with answers is also not infallible. (840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the first paragraph, starting with 'It is true, as many of the hon. Members have said...' and ending with '...having a personal discussion. /'

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the second paragraph, starting with 'With regard to the second point, that is answering questions...' and ending with '...with answers is also not infallible. (840 words)'

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 172

The job of the Indian Medical Council should be to point out the lacuna and to get the improvements effected / and for that purpose the Mudaliar Committee has suggested the appointment of a quinquennial commission to go into the question / of medical education as a whole. The Mudaliar Committee has also commented upon the manner in which the Inspectors of / Medical Council are appointed. They have suggested that the inspecting body should consist of educationists representing the Union Ministry of Health / representative of the University concerned and three experts nominated by the Medical Council. They have said that the persons (100) so chosen should be of at least ten years standing. They want that senior persons should go for inspection and / they want that the term of the Inspectors should be between three to five years so that there is uniformity / in inspection, in the manner in which the institutions are to be upgraded, how they are to be improved upon, etc. /

The last one deals with medical ethics. As far as that part is concerned, I would like to say that / it is the medical profession itself which can maintain ethical standards which are going down or which (200) have gone down. In such matters, the Indian Medical Association should be taken into confidence by the Ministry as well as the / Medical Council because the maintenance of medical ethics is necessary if we want the noble profession to be / called noble and not to be commercialised. The relationship between doctor and doctor, the relationship between doctor and consultant and / the relationship between consultant and consultant has been a matter which has been there from ages as a convention. Unfortunately, / in our country healthy conventions have not taken deep roots and we hear off and on complaints which are justified and legitimate. (300) One of the worst complaints is that the registered medical practitioners are issuing certificates which are not warranted by the / reasons for which they are issued; I mean they are either false or are given on false pretences. / The other place where medical ethics should be enforced is in the matter of medical examination of persons who are proposers / for insurance policies. Sometimes, there are other reasons why a certain doctor gets all the cases, while another doctor who / is strict and who conducts the examination according to the procedure laid down is not able to get those proposers. (400)

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It is for the authorities to **patronise** and encourage those doctors who are ethical, who practise medicine in an ethical way / and unless and until greater patronage is extended to them or their services are recognised, it will not be possible / for medical ethics to be observed by all persons properly. I can give an example. There was a general / strike of postal workers and about 400 to 500 persons fell sick according to medical certificates / on one day. That speaks ill of the profession and it is for the profession to see that such doctors (500) do not lower the prestige of the profession as a whole. This is a good measure. Medical ethics has been / brought within the purview of the Medical Council in this Bill and I hope, by having an all-India standard, / things will be better.

On the whole, this Bill is one of the best Bills because it has come / after the Medical Council has been in existence for some time and the lacunae or the difficulties which they have observed / have been removed. But I would request the Minister and through you, Madam, the Medical Council itself that instead of (600) sending all the reports to the State Ministries concerned, they should also correspond with the Universities directly because there are / certain medical colleges which are under the Universities and the Universities are autonomous bodies. Those medical colleges are not under / the State. I would plead with the Union Ministry of Health as well as the State Ministries to deal with the / problem of lowering of standards of education. Whatever lowering of standards has taken place has been because the States / have been eager to multiply the number of medical colleges but the required number of teachers is not forthcoming. (700) The experience is not there. If you insist on five years' experience for a professor, it is possible one university may / appoint him but another university may not. I know of a case where a person with hardly one year's experience / or no experience at all has been appointed professor; if the same person were to apply to another university, / he would not be appointed. Therefore, there should be a uniformity of standard maintained in the matter of appointments. Otherwise, / the universities which are strict, institutions which follow the regulations laid down by the Medical Council of India will find that (800) the talents from their institutions fly away to the other institutions where they are not so rigid. In one place, / if a lecturer cannot become a Reader, in another university he becomes a Professor because of the paucity of teachers.

(840 words)

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What a beautiful
Where else can
select a

My advice—Please
all the words type
All these words can
sage relating to agr.

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 173 (landlords vs. landless)

What a beautiful topic !
Where else can you get such a
select passage?

My advice—Please know the meanings of
all the words typed in bold shape.
All these words can form part of the pas-
sage relating to agricultural land reforms.

Madam, I rise to support the Bill although with some reservations. This Bill which seeks to amend our Constitution introduces, / as the previous speaker said, no new principle at all. It only facilitates the implementation of a principle already adopted / by us, by Parliament and by the country. It is an enabling Bill to protect the enactments which have been / passed by the various State legislatures in the country. As everybody knows, certain enactments were struck down by the courts, / by the Supreme Court in some cases, and by the High Courts in some other cases on the ground that (100) some of the provisions of those enactments were violative of certain Articles of the Constitution.

The validity of the / Land Reforms Act has been challenged. Now, what is to be done ? I think there are only two alternatives before us. / Either we have to give up, once and for all, the whole principle of land reforms or we have / to amend the Constitution in such a way that the principle of land reforms is protected. There is no other way. / Some hon. Members are vociferous about the sanctity of the Constitution. But who wants the sanctity of the Constitution to be violated ? (200) It is being argued that this Bill violates the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution. The right to / acquire and hold property guaranteed by one of the Articles of the Constitution is interpreted as the right of the / landlord to exploit the peasants and amass unearned income. Of course, they do not speak for the landlord. They speak / for the entire agrarian population. They speak for the small, down-trodden peasant proprietors. But does this Bill hurt the / peasant proprietors ? The bulk of the peasant proprietors in our country hold only very small parcels of land. (300) According to the census of agricultural holdings, 82 per cent of the agriculturists hold below 5 acres of land. The Bill / does not speak to dispossess them, these millions of small peasant proprietors. Only a small number of persons owning large estates / owning large proprietary rights, only a few big landlords will be affected. In the name of ryotwari settlements, these / landlords have amassed extensive plots of land, extensive holdings. They do not cultivate the land themselves. Some of them cultivate / their land with the help of hired labour and others farm them out to tenants, sub-tenants, or share croppers. (400)

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Madam, it is only just that those who till the land must get the ownership of the land they till / and those who own land in excess of the ceiling should be deprived of the excess and the excess distributed / to those who are willing to cultivate and who have no land. What is wrong in this? It is true / that the security and the so-called Fundamental Rights of a few big landlords are taken away by the Bill. / But what about the security and Fundamental Rights of millions of small peasants, down-trodden peasants, who cultivate the land (500) and produce our food? Does the Constitution want that the bulk of the peasant masses and agricultural workers in the / countryside should have no right to enjoy the property created by their own labour? That is certainly not the / spirit of our Constitution. Our Constitution provides that the ownership and control of the resources of the community are so / distributed as to subserve the common good. This Directive Principle is also a fundamental principle, more fundamental than the right / of the landlord to exploit the peasant. Those who raise the banner of Fundamental Rights, I am afraid, want the (600) exploitation of the rural poor to continue. They want the landlord to dominate the rural scene for ever. They want / to turn the clock back.

Madam, this private property in land is not an age-old institution as some people / imagine. Just like the zamindari, jagirdari, talukdari, etc., the ryotwari settlements also were created and sanctified by the British imperialists, / not for the good of the country but for their own benefit. It was under the British that the feudal / upper stratum of the rural society became ryotwari landlords. The middle peasants, the small peasants, the poor peasants, all suffered (700) in this process. Under the crushing colonial oppression, many millions lost their land, lost their private property to the landlords, / to the money lenders and traders who invested their ill-gotten money in land and became ryotwari land-owners. Thus, land / became concentrated in the hands of a few landlords, and traders and money lenders who turned into landlords. At the same time, / millions of peasants, not only small peasants but even middle peasants, were turned into landless agricultural workers.

It is / a notorious fact that the families that stalked the land in the last quarter of the 19th century and (800) at the beginning of the present century, the IMPOVERISHMENT of the bulk of our peasants, the increase in the number of / landless agricultural workers, all these were the results of this process. This right of landlords is sought to be preserved. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 174

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Next, I come to the question of the Vigilance Commission. Something has been said about the Vigilance Commission also here. / It is a good thing that the Government should be thinking of eradicating corruption in public life. They have appointed / the Vigilance Commissioners and this is a welcome sign. In the States also, similar Commissions have been appointed. But / i have my doubts regarding the usefulness of these Commissions. In the first place, I have objection to the appointment / of the Chairman of the Commission. In our State, one of the retired High Court Judges has been appointed. He was (100) Vice-Chancellor and he was made to resign and he was appointed the Vigilance Commissioner in that State. Particularly, / I am opposed to the appointment of any retired High Court Judge because I am of the opinion that High Court / Judges should not be appointed after their retirement. This is another way of corrupting the man. Our High Court Judges / are very good. There may be some exceptions, but so far they have kept up the reputation of the judiciary. / But, nowadays since the Government is appointing them to such lucrative posts, for instance, as Vice-Chancellors and as Chairmen (200) of Commissions and so on, there is a tendency to secure some favour or the other from the executive / and this is not a very healthy sign. Therefore, I would not mind if a High Court Judge who is in / regular service is appointed as the Chairman of the Commission; but in any case retired High Court Judges or retired / Supreme Court Judges should not be appointed to these Commissions or, for that matter, to any of the government posts / because that is another way of corrupting them.

Then, there are certain people who are appointed or who are associated with the (300) work of this Commission and mostly they are from the Police Department. We all know what is the / reputation of the Police Department in this country. The Police have in our country failed to create any confidence among the public. / Whenever any trouble arises—for example, when trouble arose in Jamshedpur and Rourkela—the Police machinery failed and / ultimately the Army had to be called in. The people have got some faith in the Army but they have / no faith in the police because the police are not ready to give any help to them on many occasions. (400)

The work of investigation under the Vigilance Commission is entrusted to such a machinery and I have grave doubts, whether / in that case the Commission will be able to come to grips with the problem or be able to find / out the real cases of corruption through this machinery. If I am not wrong, I have read in the papers / that there are complaints against the very officers or against the very persons who are now entrusted with the work / of this Vigilance Commission. Therefore, my submission is that the agency for the investigation should be independent. I think that (500) at least some special cadre should be created, apart from the police, and the investigation or at least the final / authority in the matter or the actual responsibility should not be with the police officers. What I have been told / is that these very police dignitaries are entrusted with this investigation work and when these police people investigate these cases, / I doubt whether any real case can be brought to the notice of the Vigilance Commission.

Next, I come to / certain items which are referred to here as items of court decrees. Last time, when I spoke on the Appropriation Bill, (600) I had requested the Government not to act like a private party. The Government appoints the arbitrator and then / being aggrieved against the decision of the arbitrator, they go in appeal to the High Court or to some other / higher authority. That is not a fair thing for the Government to do. Once the arbitrator gives his decision, / the Government, like a good litigant, should accept that verdict and accept that judgment and should not waste public money in / going in appeal on that. I find that in two cases the arbitrator's decision has not been accepted and there (700) are two cases which are pending in the High Court against their decision. In the first place, the Government should / not create such things when a particular person is compelled to go to a court of law and seek arbitration. / But then, this is the rule of law and everybody has the right to go to court and the Government / also has got the right to go to court against any person. So, there is nothing wrong if the proceedings / go to the court. But once there is a decision, the Government should not go and avail of all the steps (800) that are available to a private person, because there is a slight difference between a private person and the Government. / The Government has to pay from the public exchequer and cannot do so slightly as and when they like.

(840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 175 (Provident Fund Scheme)

The 'Employees' Provident Fund Scheme was introduced by an ordinance in 1952. Later, an enactment came / and in the early stages the Scheme was made applicable only to six selected industries which were supposed to have / the capacity to pay. Now, of course, more than 60 industries are covered by the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme. / But the Act gives the appropriate Government certain powers to exempt certain factories from the operation of the Employees Provident Fund / Scheme. Thus, the employees in a particular industry are governed by more than one provident fund scheme. As is obvious, (100) frequent changes in the place of employment take place and a worker who is today employed in an exempted factory / may, in due course, join a factory where the Employees Provident Fund Scheme under the Act is applicable. Then, / he faces a lot of difficulties in the transfer of his funds from the exempted scheme to the statutory scheme. / It is, therefore, time that the Government did away with exemptions altogether.

Then, Mr. Vice-Chairman, the need for a comprehensive / social security scheme is well accepted in the country. The Government of India some ten years back appointed a working group (200) headed by Mr. V.K.R. Menon, Director of the Regional Office of the I.L.O. in New Delhi. / That working group went round the country and produced a comprehensive scheme for social security and the recommendation was / that the employees state insurance and the Employees Provident Fund Schemes should be merged into one social security scheme which / would also be able to give workers unemployment benefits and old age pension. It is more than ten years since / this Report was submitted and though the Government appears to have accepted the recommendation in principle, nothing has been done (300) in that matter. That is probably due to the fact that a number of provident fund schemes are exempted from / the operation of the statutory scheme. How will the Government merge these exempted schemes into the social security scheme ? / So, if the Government are serious about merging the employees' state insurance and the Employees' Provident Fund Schemes, it is time / that they did away with Exemptions. It appears that the Government of India have granted exemptions where under the law / they had no power to do so. That is a wrong trend and I must voice my protest against this. (400)

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Then, Mr. Vice-Chairman, the management of the employees' provident fund by the trustees needs a great deal of improvement. / Now, under this Scheme some thirty lakh workers contribute. Some of them contribute 6 per cent of their meagre wages; / others contribute 8 per cent. The trustees are so callous that they do not see to it that all the / deductions from the workers meagre wages are deposited with the proper authorities in time. The result is that lakhs and lakhs / of rupees deducted from the workers' wages as their contribution to the provident fund schemes are not deposited with (500) the provident fund authorities or appropriate authorities. The employers are allowed to, convert the workers' savings into their working capital. / It is the business of the administration, it is the business of the trustees to see that every rupee deducted / from the workers is deposited with the appropriate authorities within the time limit laid down under the rules. What we / find is that there are penal provisions, but those penal provisions are not enforced and employers are allowed to convert / workers' savings into their capital. That is highly undesirable. It is also harmful to the workers because unless the money (600) is deposited with the provident fund authorities, workers' accounts do not show the contributions deducted from them. The result is / that in some cases where the Regional Directors of the Provident Fund Scheme are honest and straight-forward, they issue to / the workers their account slips without showing the amount due from the employers. The worker, who has contributed hundreds of rupees, / finds that the account slips issued by the provident fund authorities show only a meagre deposit in his name / and he gets confused, agitated and discontented and his heart is not in the work, because money deducted from his (700) wages for his old age is allowed to remain with the employers and the provident fund accounts do not give / him credit for that sum. Where the Regional Directors and Regional Accounting Officers are not so honest, they do not / issue account slips to workers for years together and the worker is kept in the dark about the size of / his amount in his provident fund merely because the employer has not contributed the workers' share and his own share / is with the provident fund authorities. All this goes on, but the provident fund authority or the Government does not (800) prosecute or does not send to jail the defaulting employers. The Provident Fund Scheme was introduced to give the worker / a sense of security, a sense of feeling that something is being collected for his old age and his children. (840 words)

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TRANSCRIPTION NO. 176

Speech of hon. Minister of Industry

When we analysed why the coir industry in the country was not further developing, we found that unless we produced / better goods for export, there could be no further improvement. This is an industry in which 92 per cent / of the products are exported and the domestic consumption, by nature of things, is of a limited quantity. So, / when market surveys of foreign countries were made, we were convinced that mechanisation as a part of this industry should be / introduced so that in a gradual manner we could produce better goods acceptable to the sophisticated markets of the world. (100) We had a tripartite meeting of all the interests in Kerala, particularly the Government of Kerala, the representatives of labour / and industry engaged in coir and the Central Government, and it was felt that gradual mechanisation, particularly of the weaving / sector and the finishing sector, would gradually assist the further development and progress of this industry.

Particularly in Kerala, / this is the basic industry giving employment to more than nearly a million people. We, therefore, decided that the Coir Board / that the Government of India has set up, should endeavour to assist the people to establish such factories and also (200) establish factories itself, if entrepreneurs were not easily forthcoming. Therefore, Madam, the Act, as it is today, is being amended / to provide for delegating powers to the Coir Board to enable them to set up a mechanised factory in the / public sector to demonstrate the utility of new types of fabrics to the rest of the industry. A question would / naturally be asked in the House why our entrepreneurs are not being allowed to do so. The Act does not / prevent it; on the contrary, the Coir Board is being empowered to promote even the establishment of mechanised finishing and (300) weaving factories in the private sector if private entrepreneurs come forward. But looking to the nature of the industry and / the entrepreneur class engaged in this industry, we have found that in the last few years not many entrepreneurs have / been coming forward and we would like to establish one of the most modern, model factories which can produce the / latest type of goods. The amendment, as proposed in this Bill, has been placed before the House. We are convinced / from our technical surveys that we will not be able to stand in competition with the rest of the world. (400)

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