

RAJYA SABHA

*SUPPLEMENT

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, March 4, 2010/Phalguna 13, 1931(Saka)

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-*Contd.*

DR. K. MALAISAMY : The President's Address has been well prepared by the bureaucrats and the concerned people. I am willing to appreciate the plus points and, at the same time, I want to criticise the minus points. There are certain highlights in terms of housing, road connectivity and facilities given to the ordinary people. According to me, there are umpteen number of omissions, particularly in terms of safety and security of the people and high rise price etc. These are all some of the major areas which the President's Address has not strongly highlighted at all. Health, happiness, peace and security are the basic things which are needed for any society, in any form of Government. Is the President's Address able to substantiate whether there is enough peace and security, is enough happiness, and is enough health? The Government has given a lot of schemes. There is no doubt about it. Whether the schemes have reached to the beneficiary is not at all seen here. Over a period of six decades, the

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Government has not at all achieved its objectives. It is a one-sided growth or lopsided growth. The rich is becoming richer and the poor is becoming poorer.

So, objective, structure, manpower and operation are the 4 elements which are needed for effective administration. Definitely, there is growth. But, the growth has not reached to the targeted group for whom we are very much concerned. We are talking about subsidy, welfare schemes, free doles, etc. Many-a-time, ruling Government, whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, is more concerned about the short-lived gains. The policy of the Government to give more and more subsidies is not actually reaching the needy at all. Take the case of the great and laudable scheme – NREGA. All the malpractices are found in the implementation of this scheme. Actually, the ground reality is, it has not reached the person for whom it is meant.

As regards subsidy and free doles, my impression is that one must be made to work and should be duly paid. The subsidy is the greatest menace of the country. A very important point that the President's Address has slightly omitted, is regarding the internal security. Terrorism or naxalism or the threat to internal security is not today's affairs, it has been there for years. But how long will it take to see that it is controlled?

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: President's Address, while outlining the efforts and achievements of the Government also mentions about the critical challenges to our nation-building efforts. Address has one very illuminating aspect, that is, emphasis on education. Unversalisation of primary education will play a very important role in addressing the problem of child labour and abuse of child rights.

The biggest relief is the strength and resilience of our economy and the economic policies which could minimize the impact of global economic crisis. We need to attach top priority to our agriculture to maintain its growth momentum. I would like to thank the Government for taking initiatives for cleaning the Ganga. But, at

the same time, I would also request the Government to include in the plan other rivers also.

Another area is the youth development. Both the central and the state Governments need to harness the energies of this large group by providing them with adequate infrastructure of world standards. Another area which I would like to highlight is to integrate computer technology, Information and Communication Technology in Teaching-Learning process in our schools. It should be made an integral part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Government is conscious of its responsibilities. We need to strengthen its hands.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY : Presidents' opening remarks regarding the killings in Pune and West Bengal describe the challenge that this country faces. India managed to weather the storm of slowdown. The special importance of the NREGA was felt during last year, but the food security remains a challenge, unless we take enormous step for the Second Green Revolution. Then, there is the urban challenge. The problem of transportation and communication is enormous but even the greater problem is that of slums.

The other thing that the hon'ble President referred to is the need for rapid development of the North-East States. Over the years, we have not been able to provide development in the North-East States. The challenges from China, the challenges from Bangladesh, the challenges from Nepal are not inconsiderable.

Investment in education and making universal education is going to be the key that will open India's future prosperity. We must invest in research and development. We have to invest in new technologies so that technology security will allow us to deal with the rest of the world as equals rather than as recipients.

Water security is going to be a major challenge to this country and I don't think we have done enough in order to deal with water security. The Ganga Project remains on the paper. I am glad that the hon'ble President has raised the issue of the Ganga Project.

The plight of the common litigant is pathetic in this country. I hope that the legal reforms that are being proposed will come to fruition. The Rural Health Scheme is going to hold the key to the future generations' prosperity in this country. We must enable young people to achieve entrepreneurship potential because we are going to be one of the major economies in the world, and we must now start behaving as a major power.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : The hon'ble President, referred to the terrorist attack in Pune at the beginning of her Speech. There was tension all over the country and particularly all over the State of Maharashtra after that attack. I do not understand why the Government did not become wise after the attack of 26/11 in the city of Mumbai. This is also surprising that the statements made by the hon'ble Home Minister and the hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra are different. I want to know from the Government what steps the Government of Maharashtra had taken to stop such an attack. At such a time of crisis the Central Government and the State Government must speak in one voice. Unfortunately, this is not happening.

I just now read a statement of Mr. Saeed that they must come together and attack India. If this is happening, that means that those terrorists, who are attacking India, are also supported by Pakistan Government. Therefore, it becomes indeed necessary that we also take a bold stand. There is no use of any discussion in future. We have a discussed a lot with the representatives of Pakistan. This situation has to be handled strongly, carefully and with total dedication of saving the lives of our people.

Shri Sharad Pawar has mentioned that it is the responsibility of the entire Cabinet and not only his responsibility. When the portfolios are divided, everybody has to accept his responsibility. But, he is not prepared to do that. There is no sufficient supply of electricity. Regarding health services, I would just mention that the people are dying for want of medicines and proper treatment. Our Chief Minister of Maharashtra has introduced a scheme called the Jeevandayi Yojana. This scheme sees how the people below the

poverty line will get a free treatment in municipal and government hospitals. This can be done in Maharashtra, I do not understand why this cannot be done by the Government of India.

I would also like to say about a few problems of Maharashtra which are not being resolved for a number of months and years. In Mumbai, there is a shortage of water supply. The Chief Minister and the Municipal Corporation have written to the Government of India that a scheme similar to the scheme in Chennai to solve the problem of shortage of drinking water should be put in place by sanctioning a special grant. But, this scheme is not being put in place. Therefore, my request to the Government is to look into it immediately.

There are different regions in Maharashtra, and for every region, a Board is created. But, Konkan region which is most backward region is totally neglected. A demand has been made by the State Government to the Central Government that Konkan region has to be provided with a Konkan Board I think the Government will look into it. With regard to Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue, the Prime Minister should call both the Chief Ministers to discuss this issue. I am sure that if this is done the problem will be resolved. People are not interested in big thing namely, Chandrayan etc. People are interested in food, water, medicine, awas, and such things in the interest of the nation. I hope the Government will look into it, and therefore, it is very difficult for me to support the Address given by the President which has no base.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: I will utilize this short and brief opportunity for making only one issue, which is the burning issue in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The statement made by the Home Minister on 9th December 2009, clearly encroaches upon the Presidential powers. This is against the spirit of the proviso of Article 3 of the Constitution. There were demands also for the formation of smaller States from Maharashtra and also from Tamil Nadu. But in respect of Andhra Pradesh, without Cabinet approval, he made a statement for separation of State and gave a direction to Andhra Pradesh legislature to pass a Resolution. This clearly, is his pre-

determination. The allocation of portfolios and departments is the prerogative of the Prime Minister. But, to maintain the federal polity and for Constitutional purity and political correctness, I request the Prime Minister to allocate the Centre-State division to a Minister who does not have a pre-determined mind about the smaller States. This act will create confidence, faith and trust among the three regions, that is, Andhra, Rayala Seema and Telengana.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Supporting the motion of thanks, I would support the Government for effectively tackling the global recession keeping the growth rate to further grow. Government should be cautious of 'W type' depression and the withdrawal of stimulus that our exports in coming years may not upset.

'Security' has become a serious challenge today. It is being threatened from by the Maoists. While handling them firmly we should look at their genuine problems but terrorists should be handled firmly. What is most bothering is that some human rights activists do not bother about the human rights of the victims as if attackers alone do have the human rights. There should be family norms. Incentive and disincentive should be provided for small and bigger families. No programme for the poor can be a success without good governance. Nothing can reach the poor without good governance. The rich should not get any benefit of it. The nation can prosper and progress only when productive people are supported, performance rewarded and dishonest punished.

We must encourage investment, creation of demand, as our growth is domestic demand led growth. We have unspeakable poverty and providing productive employment alone can solve it. If not, it alone can derail the entire economy. Prosperity can help to get votes. Major parties should get together for electoral reforms. Simultaneous elections can solve the black money problem and bring better governance.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: The North-East region needs massive increase in investment and improvement in productivity.

The natural resources of the North-Eastern Region need to be harvested for the development of my region. There is also a need to improve law and order situation in the country. In Delhi, the girls belonging to the North-East, are not safe. The statistics prove the fact that they are being raped, molested and kidnapped frequently. No action is being taken against the miscreants.

In case of price rise and food inflation, many excuses have been made for the same. The State Governments are being blamed for increase in food prices. The multinational companies should be evacuated from the retail sector. The massive Power plant, being set up by the Government in the North-East, can cause havocs leading to natural calamities. I urge upon the Government to stop the power plant to save life and property of the region.

Discussion not concluded.

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