

Government of India
style of language

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 353

Statement made
by the hon.
Finance Minister

Handwritten initials or mark in the top right corner.

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

The Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1947, is a temporary Act due to expire on the 31st/ December, 1957. It was being extended every five years in the expectation of better times, / instead of being placed on a permanent footing straightway. India is still short of foreign exchange and I see no reason why / this Act should not be extended without specifying a time limit. This object is sought to be achieved / by deleting the duration clause from Section 1 of the principal Act.

While this is the main purpose of the Bill, (100) I have taken this opportunity to improve the working of the Act by bringing about certain other amendments. / One such amendment relates to the enforcement of foreign exchange offences. As in the Sea Customs Act, my idea / in the present Bill is to create an adjudicating machinery to deal with some of the major offences arising out of the / Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. The machinery of adjudication is detailed in clauses 16 and 17 of the Bill, which provide / for a Director of Enforcement for initial adjudication and an appellate board to hear cases of appeals against the orders (200) of the Director. The main reason for creating such a machinery is that we have not been particularly successful with / the prosecution of offenders in the courts of law for various reasons. The chief hurdle in establishing a prima facie case / in a court of law against the suspect is the want of missing links of documentary evidence and the / difficulty in obtaining them from countries outside India. Invariably, the documents obtained from various sources furnish incomplete data and further / documents are required for establishing a prima facie case in a court. Normally (300) transactions contrary to the Regulations are undertaken by persons in India with the direct or indirect collaboration of persons, firms or corporations resident outside India. It has been found difficult to secure cooperation or assistance in procuring incriminating documents against the suspects from their foreign collaborators and / even when obtained they are generally coloured and not factual. Banks in foreign countries are under no obligation to furnish / Government or the Reserve Bank of India with statements of accounts maintained by the suspects. There is no provision in / the Act empowering the Reserve Bank to direct any party contravening the Regulations to repatriate the foreign exchange outside India. (400)

In the absence of any other provision except prosecution, the enforcement authorities have been unable to take any action whatsoever in about 65 per cent of their inquiries into the breaches of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act. This is reflected in the figures of prosecution so far undertaken. Between 1949 and 1956, when the investigation and enforcement work was with the Reserve Bank of India, about 200 cases had been investigated other than gold smuggling cases. Sixty six cases were put in court, out of which 60 ended in conviction and the remaining six in acquittal (500) in the absence of any provision for adjudication, no action could be taken by the Reserve Bank in respect of 140 cases. As the Reserve Bank was unwilling to handle these cases/ on behalf of the Central Government which the Bank had done for about 7 years, an Enforcement Unit was created/ in the Department of Economic Affairs on the 1st of May, 1956, under a Director. Since then, 832 cases have been taken in hand, out of which prosecution has been launched in about 33 cases (600) and investigation completed in 170 cases. In the vast majority of these cases/ difficulties are being experienced as legal evidence is not sufficient for successful prosecution. Our experience, therefore, suggests that these difficulties/ are likely to be minimised to a considerable extent if the proposal in the amended Bill to proceed against parties/ before an adjudicating officer is accepted. There is already an Enforcement Unit functioning under Government with a Director as its head. The Bill seeks to vest him with the authority to adjudge some of the major offences and impose penalties (700) not exceeding three times the value of foreign exchange involved in the violation, or Rs. 5,000, whichever is more. If, however, after holding an inquiry, the Director thinks that having regard to the gravity of the offence, a sentence/ of imprisonment is called for, he may launch a prosecution instead of dealing with the offence himself. An appeal would/ lie from his decision to an Appellate Board consisting of a Chairman and another member to be appointed by the/ Central Government. This Board will have both appellate and revisional powers. (800)

In clause 17 of the Bill, it has been proposed that if any person fails to pay the penalty imposed by the Director or the Appellate Board, he can be/ prosecuted in court. This has been suggested to make adjudication effective, particularly in respect of repatriation of foreign exchange. (840 words)

Handwritten notes in Urdu script, including numbers like 1949, 1956, 832, 33, and 840, and various symbols and abbreviations.

Vertical text on the left margin, including words like "the", "quest", "of the", "the", "it is", "is de", "cand", "Supp", "the W", "alpha", "the al", "an id", "they", "can", "are un", "Rom", "Theor", "year is", "perso", "teach", "who th", "or tre", "By wr", "transc", "killer. F", "on a cr", "youth", "a diffe", "regula", "in Eng", "and", "he was".

Expected passage
for
Grade D and Grade C Exams.

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

(Speech of hon. Minister of State for Finance)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 354

Sir, a memorandum explaining the various provisions of the Finance Bill as originally presented has already been circulated/ to the hon. Members (along with the Budget papers. The few changes since made in the Bill by the Lok Sabha/ at the instance of the Government are of a minor character. These changes, which are the result of a careful examination of the various suggestions made by the hon. Members of both the Houses and representations received from outside, are intended mainly/ to remove hardship in certain special types of cases. The reasons for making them have already been explained in the Lok Sabha. (100) I do not, therefore, intend to weary the House with an elaborate explanation of the several clauses of/ the Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha, but shall confine myself to explaining the structure of the Bill/ in general terms.

Dealing first with direct taxes, the provisions of the Bill are in two parts. One part deals with modifications in rates of taxes. In this category are three provisions. One relates to personal taxes in which small increases/ have been made for incomes over Rs. 70,000. Another change is a modification in the scheme of corporation taxes. (200) As explained in the Budget speech, this scheme is an intergrated whole and the provision for a tax on the occasion of issue of bonus shares follows from the fact that the dividends are based not on 'capital employed' but/ on the 'paid-up capital' If, therefore, the base is widened by the issue of bonus shares and, consequently, the super-tax payable is reduced on that account, it is only reasonable that a small tax should be charged on/ the occasion of the issue of the bonus shares themselves. The tax is not on the shareholder, but on the company. (300) The third provision relates to taxes on registered firms. The justification for this tax is to levy a small/ charge for the benefits that accrue to partners on account of their corporate functioning. In order that small people/ may not be adversely affected, we have already changed the original provisions of the Bill to the extent of having a/ free (slab) of the first Rs. 40,000 of the income, which will be free from that tax./

Now, equally important from the point of view of the revenue resources of the Government are the other provisions of the Bill. (400)

The most important of these provisions is the amendment of Section 34 of the Income-tax Act by which/ powers are being taken in certain circumstances and with certain safeguards, to reopen past cases of tax evasion since the/ end of the Second World War. In the Budget speech, the Finance Minister has traced the developments leading to this provision/ and I have already explained about the judgment of the Supreme Court which has necessitated certain changes in the Income-tax Act/ and, therefore, all I need say at this stage is that while every possible care would be taken (500) to ensure that there is no undue harassment to the honest tax-payer, we are determined to collect the legitimate/ dues of the Government. As I have often said before, it is our intention not to collect a rupee more/ and equally not to collect a rupee less. In this category of provisions should also be included the powers proposed/ for search and seizure of documents and for obtaining information from Banks. The tax on registered firms will also assist/ in checking a form of legal tax avoidance by which Hindu Undivided Families create partitions, whole or partial, on paper and then function as registered firms. (600) In our Budget Estimates, credit has been taken of the recoveries due on account/ of these cases of tax evasion.

In excises only three major proposals have been made. These are an additional duty/ of six paise per square metre on all categories of cotton fabrics except coarse dhoties and sarees, a new duty/ of six paise per lb. on vegetable non-essential oils, a duty of 25 paise per gallon on diesel and/ vaporising oil, and of 15 paise per gallon on industrial fuel oils. The duties on diesel and fuel oils are (700) really not on fresh imports. They are mainly in substitution of import duties of about an equal order, the revenue from/ which is being lost by total replacement of imports by indigenous production at the new refineries in Bombay./

The House would be aware that since these proposals were first announced on the 20th February 1956, we/ have reduced the duty on cotton and seed oil to one-half, namely, from six paise to three paise per lb./ by way of a substantial incentive to the better and greater utilisation of cotton seed, a considerable proportion of the (800) oil content of which is now being wasted in the country.

In regard to the duty on diesel oil some anxiety/ has been expressed about its effect on the agriculturists. We are not satisfied that there is any need for relief.

(840 words)

Handwritten Urdu transcription of the typed text, covering the entire right side of the page.

through
quest
of the
the k
it is
is de
cand
Supp
the W
alpha
the a
an id

they
— can
are un
"Rom

Theor
year i
perse
teache
who t
or tre

By wa
transc
killer
on a c
youth
a diff
regula

in En
and
he wa

Most important dictation
for
Grade D and Grade C Exams.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 355

Speech of hon.
Finance Minister,
Government of India

Sir, it is some time, nearly three months, since I had the opportunity of speaking in this House at length/ on the provisions of this Bill, as it was originally presented to the Lok Sabha. Hon. Members may recall the/ general discussion on the floor of this House and the appraisal which was given to the Bill. During the period/ that the Bill has been before the Parliament, it has been subjected to a wide variety of comments by individuals/ and institutions representing various shades of opinion. These have all been taken into consideration and after due deliberations, certain amendments (100) were proposed by the Government. These have been considered and incorporated in the Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha.

Hon. Members are undoubtedly aware of the various provisions of the Bill as originally introduced. The provisions were explained briefly/ in the Explanatory Memorandum issued by my Ministry and circulated to hon. Members. A further note explaining the various taxation/ proposals in greater detail was also subsequently circulated. I will not, therefore, weary the House by going into these provisions/ again and shall, therefore, dwell chiefly on the salient features of the amendments that were incorporated in the Bill during (200) its passage in the Lok Sabha.

Sir, so far as personal taxation is concerned, the main emphasis of the critics/ has been against the lowering of the exemption limit on personal income-tax and the reduction of the income-tax/ burden on the higher slabs of income. On these points I have been at pains to explain the objectives of/ our taxation policy.

I had mentioned in my Budget speech that the main reason for reduction in the existing rates/ at the higher levels of income was that in practice very high rates of direct taxation at the top brackets (300) of income tend to erode the tax base and encourage tax evasion. It is no doubt true that the maximum/ rate of income-tax and super-tax applicable to the top brackets of income is proposed to be reduced from/ about 92 per cent to a little less than 77 per cent for earned incomes and 84/ per cent for unearned incomes. But this reduction in marginal rates is not to be viewed in isolation. Under the/ tax pattern, income-tax does not stand by itself; it is supplemented by the wealth-tax and the expenditure-tax. (400)

Handwritten shorthand transcription in Devanagari script, covering the left side of the page. The text is dense and appears to be a verbatim transcription of the speech on the right.

I have also pointed out on the floor of the Lok Sabha only recently, and I would like, if I may, to repeat here that I have stated there that the integrated tax-structure that has been proposed in the Budget this year makes it necessary that the tax system should be broad based. The existing exemption limit of Rs. 4,200 is an unduly large multiple of the average level of income in this country. This should be reduced to such a reasonable level as would widen the sphere of taxation, and release the tax base from its present inelasticity (500). It is only reasonable that persons within the lower income brackets should also make their contributions, however small, to the State revenues. With development, more and more persons will come within the income groups which are now brought within the purview of income-tax. Furthermore, with the income-tax net cast wider, it will facilitate checking of tax evasion in the immediately higher brackets, which is a very important consideration so far as the lowering of the limits is concerned.

Another amendment which I sponsored in the Lok Sabha for providing some relief and encouragement (600) to the middle class investor, relates to the increase in the normal surcharge exemption limit by the amount of dividends received on equity shares, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,500. Sir, this has been brought in largely because of a complaint that has been made that the tax on companies would unduly affect, which I do not think it would. Nevertheless, the opinion is that it would unduly affect the position of the small investor in equity shares. Relief is sought to be given to him this way that the cumulative effect would mean much greater (700) relief than as if we made a refund of half per cent to him of the companies tax collected.

By another of my amendments to the Bill, the additional surcharge of fifteen per cent on unearned income has been separated from the other two surcharges in order to put it beyond doubt that the proceeds from the former, viz. the surcharge on unearned income, will form part of the divisible pool in which the States are to participate. This was the original intention and it was felt that the divisible pool would not be affected. But certain queries were raised (800) by the Chief Ministers of various States, and the Law Ministry felt that the position was somewhat nebulous, and so we thought we would make the position clear. There is another important amendment which I would like to mention.

(840 words)

Handwritten notes in Urdu script, appearing to be a transcription of the printed text on the right. The notes are written in a cursive style and cover the entire right-hand side of the page.

Epecially selected
for
Grade D and Grade C Exams.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 356

Speech of hon.
Finance Minister,
Government of India

Sir, even though the Bill comes to this House for the first time, I had touched upon this subject in my Budget speech in May last, and its principles figured prominently in the course of the general discussion on the Budget. The two booklets explaining generally the new taxation proposals have also been circulated to the hon. Members of this House. The House will, therefore, agree with me that it is unnecessary to cover the same ground in detail again in my introductory speech, especially as the various provisions will come up for detailed consideration later on. I will confine myself only to the changes that have been made in the original provisions of the Bill in the course of its passage in the other House.

At the outset, I should say that the broad principles of a tax on wealth have received warm support not only in the other House but also from a large section of the public, though there was criticism over some particular provisions also. I had re-examined the original provisions in the light of the criticisms and also representations received from various quarters, and such re-examination has only strengthened the justification for the tax. (200)

Sir, a tax on wealth is new to this country, but it is not new to the world. It constitutes a very vital element in the taxation systems of most progressive countries, particularly in the European and American continents. Its importance should not, in my opinion, be judged purely from its revenue content. I do not, for a moment, say that revenue considerations should be absolutely ruled out, as they are very important, but the real importance of the tax from my point of view lies in the fact that it facilitates the reorientation of the tax structure into an integrated pattern. (300) It is not only a welcome supplement to income-tax, but also a corrective to it, by which certain objectives of tax policy which cannot be achieved through income-tax alone can be achieved through the combined operation of all the new taxes.

Sir, in this connection, I may mention that there has been much controversy about the question of levying wealth-tax on companies. The Lok Sabha went very carefully into this matter and came to the conclusion that having regard to the corporate structure in India, it is possible to exclude companies as such from the levy. (400)

As the House is aware, every individual, Hindu Undivided Family and joint-stock company will be liable to pay/ wealth-tax. So far as individuals are concerned, the exemption limit is Rs. 2 lakhs, and for companies the limit is/ Rs. 5 lakhs. No changes have been made by the other House in regard to the limits for these two/ classes. For Hindu Undivided Families, the exemption limit has been raised from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs. / At the same time, the next slab range has been reduced from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 9 lakhs. (500)

Taking companies first, all companies, whether public or private and whether Indian or foreign, are liable to pay wealth-tax. Ordinarily, a resident company will pay the tax on its total wealth whether such wealth is held in India or outside. / A non-resident company, however, will pay the tax only on its Indian wealth. Under clause 45, certain companies are/ totally excluded from wealth-tax. The Bill, as it originally stood, excluded banking companies, insurance companies, and certain financial institutions/ sponsored by the Central Government. To this list has now been added shipping companies and institutions for the promotion of (600) art, culture, commerce, etc., which are not established for the purpose of making profit and which are registered as companies/ for the sake of convenience of administration. Another important change is that a wealth-tax holiday will be granted to/ industrial companies for five successive assessment years immediately following the date of incorporation. This concession has been provided not only/ as an incentive for promotion of new industrial enterprises, but also with a view to avoiding any financial difficulty to/ such companies in the initial stages of their organisation. The wealth-tax holiday will also be extended to new industrial (700) units of existing companies which are created by way of substantial expansion of the existing undertakings. As a corollary to/ the wealth-tax holiday for new industrial companies, share holders in such companies will also be similarly dealt with on/ the value of their shares for a like period of successive assessment years in which the companies themselves will be/ enjoying the wealth-tax holiday.

I may point out to you that because of the attitude of the mill owners/ of sugar factories of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, there is an increasing demand among the peasants of these States (800) that these sugar factories should be taken over by the Government and run as public enterprises. As pointed out by our friend, / even under the existing law it is possible for the Government to do so, if the Government so desires. (840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the printed text, written in a cursive style on a lined page.

A Catch
for candidates of
Grade C and Grade D Exams.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 357

{ Speech of hon.
Home Minister }

Sir, yesterday I was making a point that so far as the present Bill is concerned, it tries to make/ the nomination a simpler procedure than what was obtaining under the old Act. The only difference is this. / As I said in the beginning, after the last general elections it was found that in certain areas, there were a number/ of applications which were rejected on the ground that the nominations that were filed were not found in order. / Therefore, there was a feeling at one time that we might provide for some procedure by which that matter could be taken (100) to some independent authority. That was the proposal made by the Select Committee which was appointed in respect of the/ former Bill which was introduced in 1953 and ultimately withdrawn. However, when this matter was/ again considered by the Select Committee on the present Bill, they thought that, if at all the judicial authority was/ going to be interposed at this stage, then the object of having simultaneous elections was likely to be defeated. / It might easily happen. Suppose, in respect of a certain matter of disqualification the matter was allowed to be referred to some authority. (200) It would naturally be subject to the proceedings that might be taken under the powers vested in the/ High Court under the Constitution or be subject to appeal to the Supreme Court. Therefore, the election programme with respect to/ a general election would be set aside. Ultimately, it was thought that the best way to deal with the/ problem would be to try to obviate and eliminate as many chances of improper acceptance of applications as possible. / Hon. Members will find that the question of nomination for candidates is now made very simple and there is practically no (300) chance of any nomination paper being rejected, because it has been laid down in the Act itself that the returning officer/ shall correct if there is a mistake with respect to the number or some such technical mistake. / As I said yesterday, we have removed the restriction as to the number to which one voter may subscribe. But the only/ thing that is now, required is that there should be somebody to propose the name of certain other persons. / There was also a proposal by some hon. Members of this House that we might do away with that proposal also. (400)

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

Then, the next question is with respect to his being disqualified, on the ground that he was interested in Government/ contracts or he was a convicted person and so many other things. In that connection, it was found that this was not a matter which could be summarily disposed of and, ultimately, it has to be left, in spite of all that is said and done, to the election objection which may take place. But I am sure that a man/ who wants to stand as a candidate to the Legislative Assembly of a State or to the House of the People will naturally think twice before he applies. (500) So, that is the scheme so far as nominations are concerned under this Act.

The next item refers to expenditure and hon. Members are aware that after the general election, practically/ every party and every candidate complained that the form of return of election expenses was so complicated that it was/ difficult for them to comply with it. In the first place, there were some overlapping items or categories. Naturally, when/ a man stood for election, it was found very difficult for him to find out whether the expenditure was on account of the clerks, messengers, this thing or that thing. (600)

It was, therefore, found necessary that the complicated form of/ returns should not be there. What is now required is that the man should only keep an account of/ what he is spending and there should be some ceiling on the expenditure to be incurred, because if there is no liability to keep an account, naturally the question of fixing a ceiling would be meaningless. It is from that point of view that some provision has been made in this Bill to the effect that he should keep an account, and ultimately he should file a copy of the record. (700) As the hon. Members might be aware, in one of the cases, / it was thought that there was no fixed date from which the candidate should keep an account, and/ one tribunal went to the length of saying that the man should keep an account from the time when he/ offered himself as a prospective candidate. Now, that difficulty has been obviated by saying that that account shall be kept/ only from the date on which the constituency is asked to return candidates till the date of their election. (800)

Then, Sir, another important item was with respect to the programme of election. One thing that I would like / to point out is that formerly the programme was rather considered to be too long, and now it has been cut down.

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

The best material
for
Grade C and Grade D Exams.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 358

Speech of hon.
Home Minister,
Government of India

Handwritten shorthand notes in a vertical column on the left side of the page, corresponding to the typed text on the right.

Sir, this is a very simple measure. On 23rd March, 1950, as the House is aware, / there was a Proclamation by the President and accordingly, the President took over the administration of that State, and / as the House is also aware, the legislature was dissolved. According to the Constitution, the power of legislation naturally vests in / Parliament, unless Parliament delegates that power to the President. Article 357 of the Constitution enables Parliament / to confer the powers of legislation on the President and, therefore, this Bill has been brought forward for the purpose of (100) giving to the President the power of making laws for that State. It has been found necessary that this / power should be conferred on the President, because there has been considerable congestion of work before both the Houses of Parliament, / while so far as the work of legislation before the Kerala Legislature was concerned, there was very heavy / work there. In fact, as many as 23 Bills were pending before the Kerala Legislature when it was / dissolved.

I may point out to the House that there were as many as 16 official Bills and seven non-official Bills. (200) Out of these 16 official Bills, in respect of five, the Select Committee has submitted its Report in / the Legislature; in respect of nine Bills, the matter was pending with the Select Committee and the remaining two Bills / had been taken up for consideration, but before they became law, the Legislature was dissolved. So far as the non-official / Bills were concerned, three Bills were pending with the Select Committee and four Bills had been introduced before the / dissolution of the Kerala Legislature. Out of these Bills, there are certain which have to be immediately legislated, (300) because they are of considerable importance. We have received advice that, so far as two Bills are concerned, they are of / a very urgent nature and they are the Kerala Irrigation Bill and the Kerala State Aid to Industrial / (Amendment) Bill. Both of these have to be attended to immediately. There are also four land reform Bills and the / Government of India will have to consider to what extent the provisions of these Bills have to be taken up. / Certain rights are to be conferred on certain classes of persons and the sooner these questions are considered, the better. (400)

As I already stated, there has been congestion or over-congestion of work before both the Houses of Parliament/ and when this Bill was drafted, two important considerations were taken into account. So far as President-made laws in/ States were concerned, what the President had to do was to consult an advisory committee. So far as this committee/ was concerned, originally, the idea was that the Members ought to be ten from the other House and five from / this House, but it was found that hon. Members from Kerala were much more than this number. (500) It was also felt advisable that on this advisory committee, there ought to be Members from other parts of India / as well as those Members who would take interest in matters relating to legislation in Kerala. Therefore, the Government accepted / an hon. Member's view in the other House and the strength has been increased from 10 to 14 so far as the / other House is concerned, and from 5 to 7 so far as this House is concerned. The total/ number of Members from Kerala in both the Houses is 12 plus 6. (600) It is possible, therefore, to appoint some other Members also, and this power has been given to the Speaker in the other House and to the Chairman/ in this House. Therefore, you will find that we shall have an advisory committee of 21 hon. Members/ of both Houses of Parliament, who will be ordinarily consulted, except when the matter is of a very urgent nature/ calling upon the President to make a law absolutely immediately. So, barring such instances, which may not be many, ordinarily/ you will find that the President will consult the advisory committee, before he undertakes the work of making laws for the State. (700) This is one safeguard according to which the wishes of the hon. Members on this committee/ will be taken into account. Secondly, there is another safeguard that has been introduced. After the President has made the laws,/ copies of such enactments will have to be placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament, and thereafter, it would be open to the Parliament, to consider them and suggest any amendments. If, for example, one House suggests/ certain amendments and then those amendments are accepted by the other House, then naturally it is incumbent on the President (800) to issue another Ordinance, accepting the modifications or the amendments suggested jointly by both Houses of Parliament together. / Thus, you will find that though the President is to be armed with legislative powers, these safeguards have been purposely introduced. (840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the printed text on the right side of the page.

Do you know the importance
of the speech of the
Central Minister?

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 359

Speech of hon.
Health Minister,
Government of India

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the speech, consisting of approximately 25 lines of cursive script.

Sir, I have very great pleasure in bringing forward this Bill before the House. The creation of an all-India institute/ of this nature was first mooted by what is known as the Bhore Committee in their Report. That Committee toured all over India, went into the question of the health services in India, the means that provided those health services, / ways of combating the lack of those services and also how best we could maintain high standards of medical education / and thereby promote the scientific knowledge of modern medicine in our own land with all the experience and all the (100) clinical material available to us in our own country, in the background of our own country, including the villages, rather / than send a few of our students abroad to go in for further post-graduate study.

Now, this Institute is / going to lay primary emphasis on post-graduate studies. As I have just said, it is said that today, up till / now we have had to depend on scholarships, whether Governmental or from abroad such as the Rockefeller Foundation is / good enough to give us, to send a few chosen representatives of the medical profession to outside countries to get (200) their post-graduate studies in the various limbs of the medical profession. I have always felt that it would be / even much better for us if we could give the same knowledge as these young men and women acquire / by going abroad in our own country. Further, if we have an Institute of this nature, we shall thereby / be able to control the standard of education; we shall be even able to make changes in the curriculum of our / medical education and thereby give not only to this country but also, through our country, to the world, something (300) different — something that we from our rare experiences will be able to find as we go along this exploratory path / of progress. As I have often said, it has been one of my cherished dreams that an institute of this / nature should come into being and that through it we may be able to serve our own people better, especially / the people who live in our villages. Our educational institutions have up till now been always located in the cities. / This is also being located in Delhi—you may say a city—but we are going to have village hospitals (400)

When I refer to medical education, I refer to modern medical education. At the very outset, I would like to say that perhaps there might be a little confusion in the minds of some Members of this House, as there certainly was in the minds of the Members of the Lok Sabha, that because this Institute is called the / All India Institute of Medical Sciences, it should also include sciences other than modern medicine. I have to say that if / I had not been given a very large sum of money, a million and a quarter pounds, by the (500) New Zealand Government under the Colombo Plan, to start an Institute of modern medicine, I should probably never have been able / to get our Government to give me that amount of money to start with. This is not a new scheme. / It has been before both Houses because money for it has been budgeted over the last four years. There have been / some delays in starting it but there was no question ever of this Institute being anything except one for developing sciences which are allied to modern medicine.

Now, modern medicine includes ever so many sciences which, with the dynamic (600) progress which this science makes, are increasing in number every day. I go further and say that what modern medicine / constitutes today, is the sum total of all the knowledge gleaned through all the long years lived on this earth, / as far as we can know, and just as I have no doubt that in the old days the Arab world called their science Unani, that is to say, they took it from Greece and probably ancient Greece and ancient / India had contacts too. I have no doubt either that modern medicine in the initial stages took a great deal (700) from Ayurveda or that science of life as propounded by our ancients. But there is no doubt also that Ayurveda / remained static. We should do all in our power now to revive Ayurveda and through Ayurveda give what it has / to give to enrich the broad stream of modern medicine, which we have accepted as the basic means of giving / relief to our people in this country. We cannot in this one vital science go backward or remain static or / say that we will not progress with the rest of the world. (800)

Even when we were discussing the Red Cross Bill one Member said that it was too modern, it was too Western. But surely in the world in which / we live, we must take everything that is good from every part of the world. We cannot live to ourselves.

840 words

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page.

A well-worded speech!

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 360

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the speech, written on lined paper.

Sir, almost all the newspapers in the country have spoken rather strongly against the reckless imposition of sales tax. But we find that the Government have not paid any heed to the criticism made against the sales tax. On the contrary, the Government have been issuing circular after circular calling upon the State Governments to raise additional money by taxation, especially by imposing the sales tax. Now, as you know, even in the meeting of the National Development Council, which was held sometime back, the State Chief Ministers pointed out that they were not in a position to raise more than (100) Rs. 300 crores by way of taxation, while the Central Government demanded that they should raise Rs. 225 crores by way of additional taxation in their respective States, leaving aside the Central taxes. Almost all the Ministers objected to this proposal, and they said that their capacity, as far as taxation was concerned, in their States, had reached the saturation point, and that it would not be possible for them at all to go beyond the limit of Rs. 300 crores. We thought that these opinions of the State (200) Chief Ministers would be seriously taken into account by the Government, but they have not done so. And we are extremely disappointed to find in the Second Five Year Plan, to which I shall come later, that out of the amount of Rs. 400 crores representing the uncovered gap, they want to raise Rs. 300 crores by way of taxation, and I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that there will be a greater pressure on the States to impose taxes on various things.

Chief

Now, as you know, the States are not in a position (300) to impose any income tax. That is beyond their jurisdiction. They can only impose certain other types of taxes, for example, the sales tax and so on. In fact, sales tax is the real thing, as far as the States are concerned. Therefore, if the Central Government makes more and more demands on the States to find additional finances by way of taxation, it inevitably means, in the circumstances, that the States will be going in more and more for imposing the sales tax. Now, the Central Government is likely to come into the picture for imposing sales tax. (400)

Sir, you might feel that since one Party is in power, probably they will not be at cross purposes. But that is not going to be so, because the State Governments are confronted with their own problems. They are nearer, as far as the people are concerned. We live in this secluded chamber, away from the people, away from the masses, and well-guarded and well-protected by all the powers of the Government. But it is difficult for the States to avoid mass demonstrations in and around the Assembly House. (500) Such things happen, and the State Ministers, since they live nearer the people, are more bothered about the demands and the developments in their respective areas than the Central Government. And naturally, they will hesitate to impose such taxes as cause discontent among the people, and such taxes which made it difficult for the M.L.As. to go about in the villages or in the towns. We have seen how during the last two or three years, the State Governments have not been very enthusiastic about imposing sales tax, despite pressure from the Central Government. Not that they are at all opposed to it. (600) They do impose taxes, but they find it difficult to do it because of very strong, healthy and vehement opposition on the part of the public in their respective States. I understand that when Government takes this power, they will take advantage of it, in order to initiate sales tax on such commodities as enter inter-State trade and thus obviate the difficulty which might very legitimately stand in the way of the State Governments. I would like to know something about it. I hope the hon. Minister has got my point. We would like to know from him whether they will impose any sales tax, (700) after they have got these powers, even when the Governments and the people of the States oppose the imposition of such taxes. This is something we would like to know from the Government.

The Central Government has the prime responsibility for executing the Plan. From this Report of the Planning Commission, we know that, apart from the expenditure which will be met by the States, the responsibility rests chiefly with the Central Government. All the financial powers are concentrated in the hands of the Central Government, and it is therefore, the duty of the Central Government to find money, (800) not in this manner by encroaching on the powers of the States, by curtailing their powers, by imposing taxes like the sales tax, but from other sources such as income tax, corporate tax, and so on. They can impose these taxes. (840 words)

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

A substantial passage

Regarding provision of credit to small farmers

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 361

Sir, I move this Bill with a feeling of hope and expectation, for I am confident that for the successful/ development of agriculture, ancillary and supplementary conditions envisaged in this Bill are indispensable. Just as in the case of industry, / finance and marketing are two essential conditions, so also in the case of agriculture, finance and proper marketing are equally / essential conditions. You can put up the latest factory and provide the best personnel, but if there is no arrangement / for finance and for marketing, that factory will not work. Sometimes, I am amazed how the agriculturist, sandwiched as he (100) has been between the usurious and fleeing money-lender and the greedy and profit-minded trader, has been able to / survive above to live. A lot of thinking has been given to the question of providing finance for agriculture. / Some thought has also been given to the problem of marketing of agricultural produce. But I do not know of any / report or of any literature in the long history of the cooperative movement which has dealt with this problem in / a comprehensive and integrated manner as the Rural Credit Survey has done. One of the main defects from which the (200) cooperative movement in India has suffered is that it has mainly concentrated itself on the credit side of the problem. / It has been confined to the better class of farmers. The medium and the small farmer has been left / out of the ambit of the cooperative movement. The Government too has not taken the interest that was necessary for the / development of this movement. The result has been that the cooperative movement today contributes an infinitesimally small part only of / the short-term, medium-term and long-term credit needed by the agriculturist. I am thankful to the Rural Credit Survey (300) which has surveyed the problem in a very comprehensive manner and given us, as I said, an integrated scheme. / The scheme envisaged by the Rural Credit Survey falls into two parts— the financial or rather the credit side of / co-operation and the economic side of co-operation. So far as the credit side is concerned, the formulation of the scheme / and its implementation has been entrusted to the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank Act laid the responsibility of / developing rural credit upon that institution and it was appropriate that that responsibility should be placed upon the Reserve Bank. (400)

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

Before I come to the particular subject with which this Bill deals, I would like to give a background of/ what the Reserve Bank proposes to do because it is only in that background that a very proper appreciation of/ the provisions of this Bill can be done. At the base, it is proposed or rather it has been decided/ to set up what are known as large-sized cooperative societies. These large-sized cooperative societies will cover from five/ to ten villages according to the conditions of the different regions. (500) For these five or ten villages, as I said, a large-sized cooperative society will be set up which will deal with multifarious activities concerning the farmer. Ordinarily, the/ share capital of a large-sized cooperative society will be Rs. 20,000. The Government will contribute 50 per cent/ of this capital, but if the farmers of the region failed to contribute the remaining 50 per cent, the Government/ will make up the shortfall. The idea is not that the Government should remain permanently a partner in the/ share capital but as soon as the farmers are in a position to provide adequate finance, the capital invested by the Government will be retired (600) because I am fully conscious of the fact that the cooperative movement in order to be/ successful in the true sense must be owned and run by the farmer himself. This society will also provide/ commodities which the farmer needs for his productive and consumption purposes, such as seed, fertilisers, agricultural implements, kerosene, cloth, etc. It will maintain a storehouse. Hitherto, the cooperative societies used to advance capital to the farmer either on the security/ of land or on production of one or more sureties. The result was that only substantial farmers or those who had credit in the financial world could avail of that credit. (700) The medium farmer and the small farmer, who in many cases/ had only a precarious right in land could not benefit out of it. Sir, it is a/ well known fact that the medium and small farmers constitute about 75 per cent of the total farmers in India, / and any scheme which is not calculated to benefit the 75 per cent of the mass of farmers, / I submit, is a highly defective and incomplete scheme. It is proposed that in future credit will be advanced not on (800) the security of land or on the production of sureties but on the security of the prospective crop, so that/ even the smallest agriculturist owning an acre or half an acre can get some money to finance his productive operations. (840 words)

Handwritten notes in Urdu script, likely a transcription of the printed text, covering the right side of the page.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 362

Another equally important thing is about the division of the personnel of the services. In this matter, the States Reorganisation Commission/ recommended that there should be uniform pay scales in all States. For that purpose they said, when the State/ of Madhya Pradesh or Karnataka was created, or formed, there should be uniform pay scales for all these services, / be they belonging to the old Mysore cadre or to the Bombay cadre or Hyderabad cadre. From the Bill, I don't find/ any such attempt being made. It is true that to raise the scales of pay in Mysore means additional expenditure (100) to be incurred from the State funds. But can we defer or postpone it or avoid it? I think we cannot. / It is absolutely necessary to strengthen our administration and one way of strengthening the administration is to have a/ uniform scale of pay for all the services from whichever area they might come. Otherwise, what will happen is/ there will be one scale for the persons who might come from Bombay, another for those coming from Madras, another for those/ coming from Hyderabad, while those from Mysore will have their own scale of pay. This is bound to create (200) a lot of confusion and in this context I am sorry some political leaders in Mysore made the mistake of/ making a statement that they did not want the services from other areas and if they came, they must come/ at their own risk. I don't know whether that statement was made after consideration. I hope it is not. Had they merely looked into clause 100(a) of the draft Bill, that statement would never have come to be made./ You know under clause 100(a) of the draft Bill, the entire cadre of all the previous (300) States and the present Bombay and Madhya Pradesh States stand dissolved and a new cadre is being formed by the/ Central Government. That being so, I don't know how you can say that you are merely allowing somebody else to come./ This has created a lot of bitterness and a number of people have complained about it. The services in/ other areas are quite shy of coming to the new State and it will not be in our interest to/ keep back any service if it is an efficient one. It might be necessary to put in more specific provisions. (400)

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

beautiful subject matter which makes a pleasurable writing

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 363

Mr, Chairman, the other day when the House adjourned I was trying to prove that even qualitatively the progress of/ the co-operative movement had not been satisfactory. Only primary credit societies have increased in number and size as compared to the/ other types of societies which actually contribute to the development of agriculture. Even the loan advanced by these primary/ credit societies is not being utilised for the purpose of development of agriculture, but, instead, it is being utilised/ in many cases for paying off the old debts and for their day-to-day expenditure, because many of the peasants (100) are so poor and so indebted that the credit given by these credit societies, which is meant for the development/ of agriculture, is being utilised for other purposes.

Madam, when we take into consideration the total amount of credits given/ by these credit societies and try to analyse the different strata of people who get the greatest advantage of all/ these credits, it will be realised that the upper strata of society are getting the greater share of the credits/ advanced by these societies. Now, when we take into consideration the classification of all these societies which gives an insight (200) into the development or the improvement of all these societies, it will be realised that only 15 per cent of/ the total number of societies are classified under 'A' and 'B' class. That means that only 15 per cent/ of the societies are sound and are able to stand on their own legs without the help of the Government or/ whatever it might be. This has been stated by the Estimates Committee as well. So, the remaining 85 per cent / of the societies are not functioning satisfactorily at all. Forty thousand societies were revitalised in the Second Plan, (300) and last year over 15,000 societies were said to have been revitalised. So, it means that nearly 40,000 societies/ in the past five years were not able to function properly and were about to be liquidated and so the/ Government and the cooperative movement had to go and help them and revitalise them. But even after spending a lot/ for the revitalisation of the societies we do not know whether all these societies, which were dormant, are active again./ When we take into consideration 15,000 societies, it will prove that the cooperative societies have not improved their position. (400)

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

Now, Madam, this Bill intends to set up a Corporation in place of the existing Board. We are told that/ this Corporation will continue to perform the same function as the old Board. We are told that the Board has/ been working very well and has been responsible for the development of the cooperative movement all these years. / If that is so, I cannot understand the necessity for setting up a Corporation different from the Board. If the functioning of/ the Board has been satisfactory, what is the necessity for forming a Corporation? What are the other advantages that we are having in forming a Corporation? (500) We could gather from the Annual Report on the Corporation issued by the Ministry of/ Community Development and the speech of the Deputy Minister that the Board has been only an advancing agency for the/ respective States. Of course, they have set up three or four committees to go into the question of the various/ aspects of the cooperative movement. I think this job can be done by the Ministry itself.

Now, coming to the/ composition of this Corporation and of the Executive Committee as it is envisaged in the Bill, it is evident that it is practically riddled with Government officials. (600) There is only a sprinkling of non-official representation. I can understand the/ constitution of the Board as it is done by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. We know the views,/ with regard to democratic decentralisation, of the Minister of Food and Agriculture. But I cannot understand how the Minister of Community/ Development who lays great stress on, and gives importance to, democratic decentralisation can copy the same old method that was/ there with regard to the composition of the old Board and incorporate it in the new legislation, practically going back (700) on his own recommendations that the cooperative movement must be representative of, or carried on by, non-official bodies. / It is relevant at this time to point out that the Prime Minister himself has pointed out that the cooperative movement/ must be actually carried on by non-official bodies and that official interference must be the least. But when we/ take into consideration the composition of the Corporation and the Executive Committee, non-official representation is practically negligible. / So, all these factors have to be taken into consideration. Again, before the Bill was brought forward before the House, the Government (800) should have taken advantage to liberalise certain regulations, taking into account the past experience and impediments in the growth of / the cooperative movement. The Government have tried to make this legislation more conducive to the development of the cooperative movement.

(840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page.

(Re. Appointment of additional Judges in the High Courts)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 364

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I would like to welcome the Bill which has been introduced by our eminent leader, Shri Pant, / who has suggested that it should go to a Joint Select Committee. I would particularly like to welcome the proposals / regarding the removal of the ban on practice by High Court Judges after retirement. The present position is that there is / an absolute ban on their practice and the result is that courts are finding it increasingly difficult to get / a suitable class of lawyers to accept seats on the Benches of the Courts. It is necessary, it is vital (100) for the preservation of democracy in this country, for the preservation of human freedom and for the protection of the / average citizen in this country that our High Courts should continue to have the confidence, the respect and the esteem / of the people. But if, as a result of existing provisions, the quality of our Courts goes down, the quality / of our democracy will suffer.

It is a tribute to the patriotism of our Bars that so far there has / been no deterioration in the quality of our recruitment to the Bench. Members of the Bar who are enjoying good (200) practice have considered it, in most cases, a patriotic duty to accept a judgeship when that has been offered to / them. But after all a man has to think of his future and the position is that a member of the / Bar, when he is offered a judgeship does not know what he will have to do with himself after / he attains the age of sixty two. It is demoralising to see retired High Court Judges seeking re-employment after their / retirement. The foundation of judicial independence in England, or in any other democratic country for that matter, is the life tenure of Judges. (300) It is not suggested that we can have a life tenure in this country. It may be / that there was a case for a higher age limit when the Constitution was being framed. But we know that / as people age quickly in our country, it will not be possible to have a life tenure.

The foundation of / the independence of the judiciary is that once a Judge is appointed in Britain, he does not get any increment / in his salary even when he is promoted to a court of appeal. He does not get any financial preferment. (400)

[Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the left side of the page.]

Now, I should like to say a few words about the provisions regarding additional or temporary Judges. The present provisions/ regarding ad hoc Judges are very unsatisfactory. Our Courts are in huge arrears. In the court with which I was/ associated for more than seven years we had, I believe, over 25,000 cases in arrear. Now, these arrears/ are largely a legacy of the past, and I can tell you that, with all the speed that Judges may/ possess, it is not possible for them with the existing number of Judges to cope with the amount of work in our Courts. (500) Criminal work has increased; writ work has increased. Other classes of work have also increased. It is necessary/ to have additional Judges for the disposal of arrears. These arrears, I hope, represent a temporary situation, / but I cannot be sure of this. I do not think they represent a permanent phenomenon. Once these arrears have been cleared / off, it will be possible for us to fix or to determine the permanent strength of our Courts with some/ degree of assurance. I am, therefore, glad that advantage is being taken now that the Constitution is being amended to provide for the appointment of additional Judges. (600)

There were some legal doubts about what an ad hoc Judge could or/ could not do and it was, therefore, necessary that provisions for additional Judges should be included in the amending Bill. / I hope that in appointing additional Judges, care will be taken to appoint members of the Bar who are not / likely to revert to the profession after their term as additional Judge is over. That is to say, appoint a / man whom you are going to appoint as a permanent man in the initial instance, if you like, as an (700) additional Judge and then confirm him as a permanent Judge, when the permanent vacancy occurs. Another suitable class of persons/ to be appointed as additional Judges are our district Judges. If you want a district Judge to become ultimately a / permanent Judge of the High Court, you may appoint him in the initial instance as an additional Judge or as / a temporary Judge. You can also invite retired High Court Judges for definite periods to act as additional Judges. Particularly, / this should be the case when a Judge goes on temporary leave or on leave for a few months, (800) for in that case, it may not be desirable to appoint a member of the Bar to act in his vacancy. / Because after the Judge comes back to the Bar, he gets possible advantage which his colleagues do not possess.

(840 words)

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

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 365

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak even at this late hour. I am supporting the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. This Ministry has the responsibility to provide food to the people all over the country and I am happy to say that it is discharging this responsibility efficiently.

The public distribution system has a great role to play in controlling the prices of essential commodities. This is one of the important items in the Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme. It is the duty of the Government to provide food (100) at fair prices to the poor people and the policy of the Government is to open fair price shops in all nooks and corners of the country. I find that the number of fair price shops has steadily gone up over a period of time. For example, in 1979 we had three lakh fair price shops which have increased to four lakhs in 1987. Seventy eight per cent of these shops are in the rural areas which shows the Government's concern about the people in the rural areas. But, in this context, (200) I want to draw the attention of the Government to the complaints that many things are not available in the fair price shops in the rural areas. Therefore, the Government must monitor the distribution of the foodgrains which it supplies.

Another point I want to make in this connection is that the Government should increase the number of items distributed through the fair price shops. For example, pulses are very essential for nutritious diet. Therefore, pulses should also be distributed through fair price shops.

The Central Government has a scheme to provide financial assistance to the Civil Supplies Corporation in (300) North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, etc., for the construction of godowns. There was a demand from Kerala for similar aid. But it has not been considered. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to consider favourably the request from the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation for assistance to construct godowns in the State.

It is one of the most important duties of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies to control the prices of essential commodities. I must say in this context that there has been very heavy price rise in respect of fruits and vegetables throughout the country. (400)

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

The Government must make adequate arrangements to sell fruits and vegetables through consumers shops and other outlets. This problem is/ very acute in cities. Taking advantage of cold storage facilities, the big wholesalers store these items and retail them (bit by bit) into the market and make huge profit. There is a monitoring cell in the Civil Supplies Department, / but more effective steps will have to be taken to control the prices.

Now, I come to some of the problems / of my State, Kerala. The distribution of rice and palm oil is not being done properly in the State. (500) This is causing a lot of problems to the public. This only shows that the State Government is not managing the / distribution properly. It is not enough that they get supplies; fair distribution has also to be ensured. That is the / duty of the State Government which is not being discharged by that Government. However, I take this opportunity to demand / that Kerala should be given two lakh tonnes of rice and 10,000 tonnes of palm oil per month and adequate / quantity of kerosene and sugar should also be supplied. I would also request the Government to see whether the foodgrains (600) and other items supplied by the Centre are being distributed properly. There is a tendency in the present Left Front Government / in Kerala to mishmanage the distribution and put the blame on the Centre. So, the Central Government should be / very vigilant about it.

Similarly, under the present practice, fifty per cent of the ration is subsidised by the Centre. / I have a suggestion to make in this regard. This subsidised ration should be supplied to them at a time. / Otherwise, they are not in a position to buy it and the shop keeper will take all the benefits of the subsidy. (700)

The public distribution system in Kerala has been widely acclaimed. But the State Government is not doing anything to strengthen it. / This is evident from the fact that the State Government has made only a very small token provision in the / Budget for the public distribution system. This is a politically motivated step because if the public distribution system fails, / they can always put the blame on the Centre. I would, therefore, request the Centre to meet fully the requirements of / Kerala for foodgrains and other essential commodities like kerosene and edible oil and strengthen the public distribution system in that State. (800)

I would also request the hon. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to take steps to monitor the distribution effectively. / I once again support the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, and with these words I conclude.

(840 words)

[Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page.]

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 366

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill to the extent it goes, and to press my definite view/ that the scope of the Bill requires to be widened. Being a new Member, naturally I have a sense of hesitancy in speaking on a subject like this. All the same, I should like here to express my sense of gratification for having been allowed this opportunity to make my first speech here on a measure which seeks to extend the freedom of the Press and, by so extending the freedom of the Press, gives added opportunities and facilities (100) to the people of our country to better shoulder the responsibilities of democracy. I do not propose to dwell at length/ on the legal and judicial aspects of this question. I am not a lawyer, not even a bad lawyer. / After all, the speeches that have been made in the other House and also after the speech by the distinguished mover/ of the Bill here, it becomes unnecessary for me to dwell at length on the legal aspects. But I have/ been a journalist and a newspaper-man all along. And with the practical experience of a journalist, I hasten to (200) support this Bill.

What has been my experience as a journalist? Of course I get the proceedings of Parliament, published/ reports of the proceedings of Parliament. I get the Estimates Committee Reports and the Public Accounts Committee Reports, although after/ a considerable lapse of time. I scan the pages and I find so much well deserved exposure of the doings/ of officials, especially all sorts of shady transactions, how public money has been embezzled and that sort of thing. As/ a democrat, as a journalist, I feel that this is ^{the} material which I must pass on to the readers, to (300) the common people of the country, so that they can understand really how the affairs are being managed in this/ country, so that I can help to sharpen their sense of vigilance, and so that they can be better custodians/ of their own rights. But then, I cannot do it, because as a news paper-man I do not enjoy the immunity/ which Members of Parliament enjoy. All this time, the news paper-men have been smarting under this restraint. They cannot discharge/ their responsibilities to the public. They cannot educate public opinion on the affairs of this country. This has been so. (400)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the speech, written in a dense, cursive style on lined paper.

We are no longer concerned with the police State. Our concepts regarding the State are changing. We are no longer concerned merely with the maintenance of law and order for a few officials or Ministers. We are thinking of a social welfare State. We are talking of advancing towards socialism. All these mean that we are increasingly obliged to lay our hands on vested interests on special privileges.

We are enlarging the responsibilities and rights of the common people. When we lay our hands on special privileges and when we touch vested interests, it is quite natural that they have recourse to all sorts of devious ways, just to perpetuate their special interests and cheat the public to gain their private ends, to the detriment of the general interests of the society. Recently, we have had many instances in Parliament itself. When the Companies Bill came up for consideration, when we had the affairs of the insurance magnates when efforts were being made to have better control, in the public interest, of these corporations, institutions, etc., when we were thinking of enlarging the public sector, naturally we found vested interests resorting to all sorts of shady transactions and devious methods. Now, when in Parliament, Members make such well deserved exposures, it is necessary that all this information must be passed on to the people of the country, to our electors through the medium of newspapers. If we conceal this information from the public, we will not be playing fair by the electorate.

The hon. mover of the Bill referred to the outstanding judgment in the Wason versus Walter case. I think it was in 1880 and ever since that outstanding Chief Justice's judgment the newspapers in the United Kingdom enjoy that right not only in respect of publication of the proceedings of Parliament, but even in respect of borough councils, county councils, etc. And, I think in 1952 they got this protection in so far as publication of reports of even the Parliaments of commonwealth countries are concerned. From the pamphlet published here, I have come to understand that even in the United States of America not only in regard to the publication of proceedings of the Congress but also in regard to the State Legislatures, this protection extends to newspaper-men. The judgment of Cockburn was in 1860.

It is almost 88 years now and all this time the Press in other countries has been enjoying this privilege. Now, if you pass this Bill at this stage, as hon. Members have remarked elsewhere, it does not come a day too soon.

840 words

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 367

Now, coming to the question of planning, its broad objectives and principles, we are a backward under-developed country. / Seventy two per cent of our population live on agriculture, whereas factory establishments absorb 2.6 per cent of the population. / From the point of view of national income from agriculture, we get about half the national output, whereas factory establishments / account for about 6 per cent or so. That picture has to be changed. We find when we come to / industry that certain steps have been taken. They are good compared to the First Five Year Plan. The First Five (100) Year Plan practically neglected industries and so on. The allocations were negligible the performance was worse still. In the Second / Five Year Plan, Rs. 890 crores are allocated for industry, including small scale and cottage industries, and / there we find that Rs. 690 crores go to large-scale industry and mining, including scientific research / and all that. This is a welcome change, although it does not go far enough. I have no hesitation / in saying that this is an important change and everybody would welcome it. But we cannot be satisfied with this kind (200) of thing. We should see whether it is enough for our requirements, whether it is enough for our prosperity. We find that it is not so. Out of this Rs. 690 crores which should go to industry / and mining, three steel plants will take Rs. 350 crores. Very little is left for the rest, / as you will see. Steel plants are important and naturally money must be spent on them and we would like / to spend more, if necessary, for the steel plants. The point is not that. The point is that because of this big allocation, (300) others do not get anything. Whereas you need an expansion in the industrial sector on the part of the / State, that is not ensured in this Plan. We regret to say that the recommendations of the Plan-frame / in regard to this matter, where they suggested that 1000 crores of rupees should be invested under industry, / have not been accepted. It had been modified in a reactionary direction in these proposals. This is something which / we do not like. We should like the Government to restore the old position, if they would not increase the (allotment) (400)

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

The Prime Minister rightly stressed the importance of the heavy industry in our country. He rightly pointed out that the machine making industry should be developed. In fact, this is something which created enthusiasm in the country. After all, we should climb out of our backwardness and stand on our feet in the field of our industrial economy. But, unfortunately, the Planning Commission has thought it fit to make a drastic cut in this respect. The Plan-framerecommended/ Rs. 150 crores for heavy fabrications, heavy forgings. It has been reduced. (500) And then, I find that for electrical plants Rs. 20 crores have been given and for machine tools very small sums have been given. The total/ comes to about Rs. 35 or Rs. 30 crores or so in the public sector, including the money that/ is distributed by the National Development Corporation. This is very small, compared to our requirements. Heavy machine making industry is/ very important for feeding the industries. You cannot, for instance, have irrigation canals until and unless you have the rivers/ feeding them. If you do not have the heavy machine making industry, you will not have the base for servicing the consumer goods industries. (600) It is important for the general industrial development of the country. I do not know why/ the cut has been made in so drastic a manner in this respect. Is it not possible for us to/ undertake this thing? I have read many documents published on the subject. I have studied carefully the statements made by/ many expert politicians, industrialists and I am convinced that it is within our reach to embark on a bigger scale/ of industrialisation, especially in the heavy industry sector and machine making sector. This has not been done. (700) It would appear from the Report that even after the end of the Second Five Year Plan, we would not have what is called a capital base for the industrialisation of the country. This does not speak well of our planning; this does/ not speak well of our planners who have undertaken the development, who have set the objective of rapid industrialisation/ before the country. How is your progress going to be rapid if at every step you get stopped, if you reduce/ the very basis of your industrialisation, including heavy machine making industry? Sir, this is the point which we would like to stress. (800)

I do not know whether it would be possible for the Government to change it now. I think/ it should be. Why can't we change our policy in this regard? We are moving in a different world today. (840 words)

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

840 words

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 368

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the hon. Minister has explained in detail the implications of this Bill. I may point out that/ I am in fullest agreement with the principle that if there is any tax evasion or there are certain facilities/ in considering the assessment of any particular person, it may be transferred from one income tax officer to another income/ tax officer. It is but natural that in this complicated business of assessment, if particular trades and particular manufacturing concerns/ are properly assessed by one particular income tax officer, there will be great facility. In so far as this power (100) was possessed by the Commissioners of Income-Tax and the Central Board of Direct Taxes to transfer pending cases from one/ income tax officer to another, there need be no objection against it.

But let us carefully examine the implications of/ this change. There is a case pending before an income tax officer about an assessment for a particular year./ The whole file is transferred to another income tax officer. Nobody can have any objection to that particular assessment being passed/ by the new income tax officer. There can be no objection about subsequent years. In the subsequent years' assessment, (200) the file may be transferred from the new income tax officer. But the objection I have is that an income tax/ officer may fan up the assessment of previous years. There also, if there has been evasion, if there has been dishonesty/ there are other methods. The Commissioner could have appealed to higher authorities, I mean the Appellate Tribunals the Appellate/ Assistant Commissioners, etc. If there is a case of fraud, the Commissioner and the Central Board of Direct Taxes possess special/ powers of opening up that case. The income tax officer can open the case. Here, what will happen is that (300) if the Income Tax Commissioner is dissatisfied with any assessment of any previous year, or he has a grudge against/ a tax payer, he simply transfers that case. The new income tax officer can open up any previous year's assessment/ and then he will pass a judgment. Supposing the Income Tax Commissioner is dissatisfied even with that judgment, he again/ transfers the case to a third income tax officer. The third income tax officer again opens up all the previous/ years' assessments, considers them and passes an assessment order. Thus, he goes on transferring from one to the other officer. (400)

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

Sir, the hon. Mover of this Bill has admirably and in very clear terms explained its aims and objects. It seeks to get over the effect of a judgment of the Supreme Court of India. This Bill provides for transfer/ of all cases of an assessee pending before any officer and all subsequent cases that may arise in the future/ by a single order. Mr. Kishen Chand has thrown light on the undesirable character of this amendment. I have/ an objection of a different sort.

The judgment of the Supreme Court was based on two grounds. The majority judgment did not (500) deal with the present Section under which omnibus transfers were purported to be made. The four Judges took the/ view that the Section did not contemplate omnibus transfer and since the transfer in that case was of an omnibus nature,/ it was beyond the purview of the powers of income tax officers, and it was, therefore, bad. One judge/ agreed to this view, but he went further. He held that Section 5(7A) itself offended the Constitution and/ was, therefore, bad. The four Judges who delivered the main judgment did not pronounce a verdict on this aspect of the issue. (600) But, all the same, there are observations in the main judgment which lend support to the view taken/ by the single Judge. In the absence of any difference, the judgment of the single Judge to the effect that/ Section 5(7A) itself was void inasmuch as it offended the Constitution, is still the valid law, for the Constitution/ says that the judgments pronounced by the Supreme Court shall be the law of the land. This amendment, while getting/ over the effect of the judgment of the four Judges, does not get over the situation created by the judgment of the single Judge. (700) And that judgment, in the absence of any difference, is the accepted law of the land. / I, therefore, feel that the purpose of this amending Bill may be defeated. The object can only be achieved/ if there is a large-scale and thorough amendment of various other Sections of the Income-Tax Act.

This amendment,/ in my opinion, is shocking to one's sense of justice and fairplay. We know that all laws provide for transfers from/ one body to another body. In the criminal jurisdiction a criminal case can be transferred from one magistrate or one judge to another. (800)

So is the case in civil suits. But in civil or criminal matters, it is individual cases/ that can be transferred. That was the law in income-tax matters that only a single case would be transferred.

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the printed text, written in a cursive style on a lined page.

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right page, covering approximately 25 lines of the page.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 369

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I welcome the Bill that has been brought before the House to remove one of the greatest difficulties experienced by law graduates. It is really a sad commentary that though the Advocates Act was passed only in the year / 1961, Government have had to bring in as many as three amendments within such a / short period and my fear is that Government will have to bring in more amendments if they want this Act to work well. / I will presently point out the difficulties which will be experienced in the working of this Act. (100) We are now discussing the third amendment. At the time when the second amendment was being discussed in this House. / my feeling was that the Government would have to bring some amendments very soon and my fears, like those of / other hon. Members, have come true.

I am afraid the Government will have to bring another amendment very soon. / My submission is that the Government ought to have brought a more comprehensive amendment to the old Advocates Act. / I have no objection with regard to the change in the date. Of course, that was most necessary but with regard to the (200) rule making power of the Government, certainly I feel that it is a retrograde step. As a member of the / Bar Council, I know that our Bar Councils are not working well. I do not know the conditions of other / Bar Councils but as far as my State is concerned, the Bar Council is not at all working well. / When the Advocates Act was enforced and the new Bar Council was created in Madhya Pradesh and when we first / met, the Advocate-General rightly said that it was a great day for the advocates that the advocates were their (300) own masters, that they were makers of their own destiny, that henceforth neither the High Court nor the Government / would interfere in the affairs of advocates, but the experience is that our Bar Council is ridden by factions regionalism groupings / and all that.

As far as the difficulties in the present Act are concerned, I would point out that there is / provision for training. Now, the Government is taking power for making rules. They should make it clear what training / they are going to give. As far as we are concerned, it is difficult to give training to the law graduates. (400)

There is provision for a Disciplinary Committee. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, the Bar Council has formed a/ Committee of five advocates. I am also one of them but the difficulty is that the five advocates belong to/ distant places and they cannot meet. The provision is that all the five must come together and decide the thing,/ otherwise even if one is absent, the whole proceedings will be nullified. Under the circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee has not met/ so far and I am sure it will not meet any time in the future also. (500) There are so many complaints against the advocates. According to the Advocates Act, neither the High Court nor the Government can go into/ those complaints. It is for the Bar Council or the Disciplinary Committee. But the Bar Council finds this difficulty./ The Members cannot assemble, and they are busy lawyers too. They will not find time to go into the complaints./ Those complaints are lying and they are being filed in the High Court's office. There is another difficulty that there are/ some complaints which are old, namely, those that came before the Act came into being. (600) Neither the High Court can entertain those complaints, nor the present Bar Councils can, because according to the definition in the Act, an advocate means/ an advocate enrolled according to the Advocates Act. So, this Council cannot take into consideration any complaints filed previous to the Act./ So, this is another difficulty. My submission is that the amendment which the Government is bringing now is/ only a half-hearted measure. I would request the Government to go through the whole matter, taking the views of/ the Bar Councils and also taking the views of leading lawyers and then formulate new amendments or at least bring (700) a comprehensive law, so that the Advocates Act will work well; otherwise it will be useless because although/ we were told that we were the masters, now we find ourselves helpless. Of course, the fault may lie with the/ advocates also or the Bar Councils but the Government must come forward and help the advocates and remove the/ anomalies which are pointed out. There are other anomalies also but this is not the time nor the occasion./ So, I am not dealing with them now. As far as these amendments are concerned, I welcome them. (800) They were long overdue and when the second amendment was being discussed, there was a suggestion that further time ought to have been/ given but the Government was so ridden by red-tapism that it always acted on the advice of the officers. (840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 370

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the backbone of this country's economy. Staggering agriculture shatters country's economy and a strong/ agricultural sector strengthens the country and its economy. In this respect, not only the present one but even the earlier/ Ministry of Agriculture has made a remarkable contribution towards strengthening the agricultural sector. I recall the days, / in 1952-53, when maize which was the foodstuff of pigs in America, was being exported to India/ and supplied to the people who stood in long queues to get it. I have seen this with my own eyes. (100) Today, we see both the Food and Agriculture Ministers being taken to task even if a little sub-standard wheat / is sold through fair price shops. Along with the farmers, the officials of the Agriculture Ministry deserve appreciation for/ the progress made in the field of agriculture. I also congratulate them for the good rabi crop. As regards the/ provision of facilities made for the development of agriculture, it leaves no scope for criticism. All these things are ample/ proof of support of the Opposition. By not moving a Cut-Motion, the Opposition has also expressed their agreement in this respect. (200) But suggestions should definitely be given because howsoever wisely we have planned our resources, it is never fool-proof. Whatever arrangements you have made are most praiseworthy. Still, there is need to think in terms of future also./ For instance, there has been a marked increase in the country's agricultural yield so much so that today India is an/ exporter of foodgrains. But we must think of ways to increase our per acre yield. The question before us is/ whether we can increase our per acre yield in proportion to the increase in population.

I would like to mention (300) that the hon. Agriculture Minister has performed the role of an able administrator and a Chief Minister. Today, the country's/ public looks to him with high hopes. May I know from the hon. Minister if we are in a position / to increase our per acre foodgrain production? Can we reach the level of Japan where agricultural production has gone/ as high as 90% to 95%? Can we plan a manifold increase in the production of wheat? / Considering the rate at which our population is increasing, the present yield will be insufficient to feed the masses of this country. (400)

Handwritten notes in Urdu script, including the year 1952-53, are written on the left side of the page.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards what is necessary for agriculture in this country. / It has been a great misfortune of our country that there has been a drawback in the way land reforms / have been enforced in this country.

In our country, the size of land holdings has become very small. Every year / we see changes in the agricultural implements. Without changing the size of our agricultural implements in relation to the diminishing / size of land holdings, we will not be able to make full utilisation of our agricultural implements. (500) This aspect should be kept in mind otherwise modernisation of agriculture will not be possible. I request the entire House to ask the / Government to formulate a long-term plan which envisages viable land holdings where we can use sophisticated agricultural implements. / It is true that we have invented new agricultural implements. But there are some drawbacks in their applicability. We have started / manufacturing tractors, cultivators, feeders, etc. How can a farmer with only one or two acres of land put these to use? /

Moreover, the cost of agricultural inputs has gone so high that the farmer has to bear the burden (600) of debt on that account or he is completely deprived of these inputs. Bedecked with money power, the middlemen offer / to purchase the produce of the farmers and later on they sell it to earn profit on it. In this way, / small farmers are exploited by the middlemen. What I want is that the Government should formulate a scheme wherein / modern agricultural implements are used by a cluster of 5 to 10 villages so that small farmers can make use / of them at a lesser cost.

The second most important input for agriculture is fertilizer and seeds. (700) The hon. Minister has done commendable work in this regard. Crores of rupees are being given to the farmers in the form of / subsidy on fertilizers. But I have got first-hand experience at the village level that its full benefits do not / reach the farmers. In villages, we are told that benefits are being enjoyed by middlemen instead of the farmers. This system / should be changed and there should be a reduction in the prices of fertilizers in order to give the real / benefit to the farmers. Our country also imports fertilizers. According to my information, there is scope to increase the production of fertilizer in the country. (800) The technology of the sixties which we have been adopting today needs to be updated and the money to be spent on the import of fertilizers should be spent on the modernisation of production technology. (840 words)

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page.

Handwritten shorthand notes on the left side of the page, corresponding to the typed text on the right.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 371

Sir, I support the Demands for Grants presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and I would like to submit one thing/ in this regard. Our country is considered to be an agricultural country where about 70 per cent of the/ total population is dependent on it and it is also the main occupation of the people in rural areas. / It is true that the country has made considerable development in this field after independence but still it is essential to bring about further modifications in this field because with the constant increase in the population, our dependence on agriculture (100) is also increasing and it has become a matter of great concern. We have to find out a way/ to reduce this dependence.

About two years back, some States of our country like Gujarat, some parts of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan were hit by one of the most severe droughts after Independence. But the Government under the worthy leadership of/ Shri Rajiv Gandhi readily met the challenge and did not let other parts of the country face any problem due to/ drought. The Ministry deserves to be congratulated for facing the challenge with all its might. Two types of methods (200) are adopted for cultivation in our country. One is the intensive cultivation and the other is the extensive cultivation. / The population is increasing at a tremendous speed whereas the holdings are shrinking. So, it has become essential to emphasise/ the need for intensive cultivation. What is needed is to raise the yield of per bigha of land. Agriculture depends/ on various other factors. A farmer cannot reap a good harvest unless power supply and irrigation facilities are available to him. / So far as irrigation is concerned, a few dams and canals have been constructed and pumping sets have been (300) installed to fulfil the purpose of irrigation. But about the big canals the general complaint is that the farmers do not/ get the water for irrigation in time. Though in Kanpur district canals have been constructed and pump sets have been/ installed but the water supply does not reach the fields at the tail end and the farmers suffer/ as a result thereof. I would like the Central Government to hold consultations with the State Governments and make certain/ arrangements so that water reaches the tail end of the fields where the facilities of canals, pump sets, etc. are already there. (400)

There is a common complaint that the farmers do not get remunerative price for their produce. The agricultural prices are/ fixed every year by the Agricultural Prices Commission, but the Government should evaluate the criteria of fixing agricultural prices./ These criteria should be further modified in order to enable the farmers to sell their produce at a remunerative price./ Even today, the main grievance of the farmers is that they do not get a price for their produce which is/ proportionate to the costs and the hard work they do. So the Government should pay attention to this also. (500)

The knowledge of the techniques of agriculture is increasing in our country very rapidly. The Agricultural Universities set up by the Government/ are conducting research in the field of agriculture and are making use of that research in the fields./ But it appears that this knowledge is used in some limited areas only. Therefore, a comprehensive programme should be chalked out/ so that the benefits of this knowledge could be made available to all. I, therefore, urge the Government to formulate/ schemes in such a way that our farmers could get the benefits of our scientific progress to increase agricultural production. (600)

The Government is aware that the farmers have to face the natural calamities of flood and drought every year./ Relief is provided by the Government at the time of flood but lakhs of acres of agricultural land is rendered unfit/ for cultivation due to floods. There is no doubt that agricultural yield increases following the flood, but the farmers/ have to face heavy losses prior to it. Therefore, arrangements should be made to check the recurring feature of floods/ in the flood-prone areas. The calamities like flood and drought can only be prevented by formulating programmes of permanent nature. (700)

In our country, agriculture mostly depends on weather conditions. If the weather conditions remain favourable the crops are good/ but in the event of excess or deficient rainfall, or if the crop is hit by hail-storm, huge damage/ is caused, and in that case, we curse the nature and say that everything has been destroyed due to bad weather. / Therefore, the Government must think in terms of finding preventive measures to protect agriculture from the havoc of natural calamities. / The Government has introduced Crop Insurance Scheme for the farmers but its benefits do not reach the farmers. (800) Arrangements should be made to ensure that farmers get its full benefits. The crops should be insured in every part of the country. / To ensure that its benefits reach every farmer all over the country, each one should be covered under this scheme.

Handwritten shorthand transcription of the typed text on the right side of the page, covering approximately 80% of the page's width.

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 372

Sir, today in our country the biggest problem which requires solution at the top level and in the most urgent manner is the problem of population explosion. We are all aware that we are adding one Australia to India every year/ so far as increase in our population is concerned. In spite of our tremendous agricultural output I do not think/ by 2000 AD, we will be able to match the growth in our agricultural production with the exploding growth of population. And so far as the availability of houses, schools and other amenities which are required for/ our population is concerned, we will be lagging far far behind. Even today, most of our economy and most (100) of our Budget allotment caters for building up infrastructural facilities only. This has resulted in stagnation of development of our country./ I would suggest to the hon. Minister some of the points which may go a long way to make our country/ or our society more aware of the necessity of controlling the population and making the family planning programme of the/ Government a success.

My first suggestion is that society's involvement should be more intensified. Today, most of the family welfare/ and family planning programmes are being made, executed and monitored by the Government. My suggestion is that more and more (200) non-Government social organisations should be involved. The biggest hurdle in our country today is religion. Somehow, we are still/ suffering a phobia of having a son and in the search for a son, people produce a string of girls./ Not that the girls are not welcome. But this is the philosophy of some of the religions. There are some/ religions where use of family planning devices is being condemned. There are some religions where abortions are supposed to be/ anti-religious.

So far as our villages are concerned, the family planning movement definitely desires to be intensified. (300) Today, the rural areas are more urban-oriented. We are having more family planning movements in the urban areas where the rich,/ the upper middle and the middle class live. We all know that in this class of society, people have taken/ family planning seriously and successfully, so far as the family planning movement is concerned. But in villages, we still require/ the necessity of having this movement intensified. The basic reason is that so far as poor people are concerned—the poor people living in the urban areas—they think that having a large number of children is an economic boom. (400)

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, covering approximately 25 lines on the left side of the page. The notes appear to be a transcription of the typed text, written in a highly stylized shorthand form.

If a labourer has five small children aged 10 or 12 years, they can start working as domestic help in the houses of rich, upper middle and middle class people. By doing so, they bring some money. And the house where they go and work, there they get free food, the second-hand clothes and so on. So, economically for a poor family that much number of children is not a burden because they neither get education, nor they have any standard to look for. So, there should be some movement started by the Family Welfare Department itself in collaboration with (500) other Ministries under which the children of poor should be looked after and they should be given employment. The hon. / Prime Minister has stated that one person from each family will be given employment under the scheme which has been incorporated as per this year's declaration. This programme must be intensified with a view to giving them more respectful and / proper employment.

So far as education is concerned, I think, the Education Ministry is not doing their bit as much as they can do. It has been found that even in some States of our country where the literacy percentage is very high, (60) like Kerala, the population has been much better controlled. The result of family planning movement has been much better / in those States in our country where education has been intensified at the primary and middle levels, particularly the education / of women. So far as our rural areas are concerned, the stress on education is not as much as it / should be so far as women are concerned. It is because women can play a much more pre-dominant part in / controlling the population rather than men.

In the end, I will suggest that as the environment is becoming better for (700) making the family planning programme a success, we should also give the family planning programme the seriousness it deserves in / our Budget. But I am sorry to say that in the entire Budget document there is not even a single / line about family planning programme. When we are spending so much of money to look after the poor, the unemployed, / their housing problem, their education, their medical care, their all sorts of requirements, can't we spend some money to ensure / that the population of the poor people, who have become a liability of the Government, should be contained (800)

Can't we give them some sources of entertainment? There is hardly any place for their entertainment; there is hardly any / playground for their children; there is hardly any club for their entertainment. All the places of entertainment are patronised by rich people. (840 words)

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

(Speech of hon. Minister of State for Agriculture on 12-4-89)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 373

(1000 Words)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to the hon. Members for expressing their views regarding the Demands/ for Grants for the year 1989-90 for the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a matter of gratification that most of the hon. Members have appreciated and have expressed their satisfaction regarding the working, the achievements/ and future planning of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In the Budget for 1988-89, the Plan outlay for 1988-89 had been fixed at Rs. 700 crores, whereas for (100) this year it has been raised to Rs. 800 crores which is definitely more than the amount of the/ previous year. In this connection, the hon. Members have made a mention of a number of schemes. They have demanded/ special programmes to be introduced in their respective areas. Provisions have been made in this Budget. This Budget provides/ for assistance for land reforms for the distribution of fertilizers assistance to farmers or for increasing oilseeds production.

I want to draw the attention of this esteemed House to certain points which have not been discussed so far. Last year (200) the hon. Prime Minister introduced a special foodgrains programme in the year 1988-89 for increasing/ agricultural productivity and total agricultural production after making a mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan. There are 14 main/ foodgrains producing States in the country, out of which 169 districts have been selected for it. Just now the hon. Member from Kerala was saying that no such programme has been introduced in his State. I want to inform him that this programme has been introduced only in the main districts of the major foodgrains producing States (300) because it was a special foodgrains programme as is clear from its name and the esteemed House will agree with/ me that this year we have achieved a record production. The foodgrains production is more than 17 crore tonnes/ this year. This is a landmark in the history of this country. But we should not be satisfied with this/ achievement; we are going to formulate schemes for further increase in the foodgrains production during the coming three years. Therefore, for the year 1990-91 the target for increasing the production of wheat and rice has been (400) fixed at 5 million tonnes. Our Department has already started taking steps in this regard and I can say that/ we will be able to achieve the target fixed.

I would like to make a brief mention of the major/ aspects of this year's Budget. Several hon. Members have expressed their views in the matter. Firstly, the percentage of bank/ loans in the agriculture sector is being increased from 17 percent to 18 percent. An additional amount of Rs. 4000 crores/ will be given as loans. The rate of interest has been reduced from 14 per cent to 12 per cent. (500)

Handwritten notes in Urdu script on the left margin, including dates like 1989-90, 1988-89, and 1990-91.

A special programme for the production and development of seeds was announced in September, 1988 by the / Hon. Prime Minister. It is expected that new varieties of seeds of vegetables, fruits and flowers will be developed / under this programme and that the import duty on machinery and other inputs required for the production and processing of fruits and vegetables has been fixed at 40 per cent ad valorem. Similarly, the rate of duty on poultry feed has been reduced from 140 per cent to 70 per cent. You are aware that subsidies were (600) hitherto being given on fertilisers. I think that the steps which have been taken by the hon. Prime Minister for / increasing the production will have their positive effect and the farmers will be more successful in their efforts to increase / agricultural production.

The House is aware that due to the drought conditions, our foodgrains production fell down considerably last year / but this reduction was much less than what was apprehended. This reduction was only by 3 per cent as compared to that / in 1986-87. The drought situation was tackled by formulating a special programme (700) which helped in lessening the severity of drought. This shows that our agriculture has become resilient and a stage has been / reached where we are able to tackle this kind of crisis effectively. The contribution of the farmers in controlling / the drought situation has been praiseworthy. Sir, as I have already stated, the success achieved on the agriculture front in / 1988-89 makes all of us feel proud of it. As regards the various special / programmes formulated for the progress of agriculture, the hon. Prime Minister has laid special emphasis in this connection on having (800) effective control over monsoons by collecting full information in this matter and disseminate the same from time to time to the / persons concerned, to provide irrigation facilities to those regions where such special programmes are under implementation on the basis of the / productivity of land, and while undertaking such programmes the particular needs of the region should be taken into account. / It is with this view that 17 agro-climatic regions have been set up and they have been further sub-divided / into smaller parts. The agro-climatic regions collect information about capacity of land in respect of its productivity, (900) irrigation facilities, amount of rainfall etc. Action is taken after giving a serious thought to all these aspects. A senior Vice-Chancellor / of an Agricultural University has been made the Incharge of each of such zones, who advises the farmers as to what / to do in the given circumstances and suggests to the Government as to what sort of assistance should it / give to them after taking into account the requirements and the deficiencies of the respective areas.

I am sure / the Agriculture Department will fulfil its obligations towards the nation and its farmers under the direction of the hon. Prime Minister.

(1000 words)

Handwritten notes in shorthand script, including the year 1988 and other illegible characters.

(continued speech of hon. Minister of State for Agriculture)

TRANSCRIPTION NO. 374

(1000 Words)

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

Next, I would like to take the issue of fixation of support price for the agricultural products by the Government. / Several hon. Members have raised it inside as well as outside the House and it has been a topic of frequent discussion. / Different support prices for wheat and oilseeds etc. have been suggested by the Parties and the individuals but / they have not taken those practical aspects into consideration on the basis of which such prices are determined. That is why the / nomenclature of the Agricultural Prices Commission has now been changed to Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission under the instructions (100) of the hon. Prime Minister, and it determines the support price after taking into account the agricultural produce and the / cost of such production. For the last 3 or 4 years, under the instructions of the hon. Prime Minister, support prices / are announced far in advance of the sowing of the crops so that the farmers are able to choose their / crops taking in view the support prices fixed by the Government. Another very important measure, which has been taken by / our hon. Prime Minister. is that 3 out of the 6 Members of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission (200) are the representatives of farmers so that the views of the farmers are taken into account and the recommendations are made / on that basis. The Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission determines the cost of various foodgrains after taking into consideration the / cost of agricultural inputs, the fluctuation in prices of the agricultural inputs, the extent of parity between the production cost / and prices of other essentials required for personal use, the market rates, the supply and demand position, the parity in the / rates of one kind of crop with another, the effect which the new prices would have on the cost (300) of the industrial products, on the rates in the general market, on the cost of living in general and / on the prices in the international market. Apart from all this, the parity between the support price and the price which the / farmer pays for buying things of his daily needs is also taken into account. After considering all these aspects, / the Commission sends its proposals to the Central Government. The Central Government declares the support price after consulting the State Governments / in this matter and after looking into the fact that the farmers are able to get reasonable margin of (400) profit after incurring all the necessary expenditure. Efforts are made to declare such prices which may provide reasonable margin of / profit to the farmers. Thus, this Commission looks into all these aspects.

In this connection, one thing is repeatedly / said that the production costs of the farmers are increasing rapidly but the support price which is determined by the Government is not / increasing equally. Hence the question arises as to what is meant by production expenses. The Commission takes into account / all sorts of expenses incurred by the farmers, for example, the expenses of maintaining hired labour, the cost of buying cattle, etc. (500)

The cost of purchasing or hiring pump-sets, tractors, machines such as crushers, etc. and the labour charges incurred on/ operating them is also taken into consideration by the Commission. Further, the cost of the seeds, whether grown in his/ own fields or bought from outside, cost of pesticides and natural or chemical fertilisers, whether prepared by himself or bought/ from the market, and agricultural implements are also taken into account. In addition, the cost of providing irrigation facilities, the expenses involved in the payment of land revenue, repayment of loans, payment of interest on working capital and on capital assets, (600) excluding land, are also taken into consideration. Sir, the incidental value of land is also determined and taken into account. The cost of labour is also included in such valuation. Thus, there is not a single expense incurred by the/ farmers for raising various crops which is not taken into account while determining the support price. Therefore, I think that this/ change is baseless or is levelled out of ignorance that farmers are not being paid remunerative prices. In fact, all these things are considered before determining the support price. (700)

Sir, I would like to make one more point. It has been demanded many times that all the agricultural products should be purchased at support price. Rice and wheat are purchased/ by FCI or other bodies but the purchase of other items is made by NAFED on behalf of the/ Central Government. Apart from this, as the hon. Member from Kerala was saying just now that the prices of coconut/ produced in his State or in Karnataka, prices of potatoes produced in Uttar Pradesh or prices of onions produced in/ Maharashtra are falling is a fact. It is under consideration of the Government to fix the support price for coconut. (800)

Sir, continuous efforts are being made to acquaint the farmers with new farming techniques. Extensive publicity is being given to/ the Lab-to-Land Programme. Recently, from 25th March to 10th April, a National Agriculture Fair was held at/ New Delhi. Nearly 1.5 lakh farmers from all over the country attended this Fair. Such events evoke/ awareness among the farmers. We hope more such Fairs will be organised for the benefit of farmers. Recently, the/ hon. Prime Minister dedicated a Super computer to the nation for making long-term weather forecasts. Accordingly, farmers can space the (900) sowing of crops and also take preventive measures to save their standing crops against natural calamities. This programme has been/ successfully implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Department has been very prompt in giving assistance to areas affected by/ flood or drought. Teams visit States in response to reports or memoranda received. The Government considers their recommendations and tries/ to send assistance within one month. Last year, the hon. Prime Minister personally toured the drought-affected areas and directed/ relief operations. The Ministry of Agriculture has made remarkable progress under the able leadership of the hon. Agriculture Minister.

(1000 words)

Handwritten notes in Urdu script, likely a transcription of the printed text, covering the right side of the page.