

PM'S REPLY TO MOTION OF THANKS IN THE RAJYA SABHA

Reproduced below is the reply of the PM Shri P V Narasimha Rao to the motion of thanks in the Rajya Sabha on March 01, 1996 :

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, I realise that whenever I appear here, some abnormal conditions prevail. I do not know why some hon. Members suddenly get excited.

ले मन्त्र प्रकाश मातवीय : रोज-रोज ज्ञानो-तो फिर क्यों होगा ?

श्री मिश्रदास बल्ल : रेबनॉर्मल कंडीशन्स की बात तो आपने दुस्तल फरमाई ।

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have not said or done anything to excite them to the extent they are self-excitabile.

Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion. I cannot say that they have given any great suggestions, but in any case, whatever suggestions they have given, we would certainly keep them in view. That is all I can say about suggestions.

This year's Budget as well as the Presidential Address have dwelt upon the five-year term that is about to end. Very elaborately they have given facts and figures. They have given some details of the programmes launched during the last five years and they have very clearly brought out the situation as it has changed during these five years; where we had started in 1991 and where we have reached in 1996 and what is in store, what is the prospect for the future, to some extent has been delineated. I would like to say that I have not found any of these facts and figures and the conclusions drawn from those facts and figures having been controverted by any hon. Member in the House during the discussions.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैंने किया, शुरू करते ही किया प्रधान मंत्री जी ! हर प्तिार को कंहीडिट किया।

.....[व्यवधान].....

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SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: As far as I have gone through the notes, there is only one figure which has been controverted, in the sense that there are two figures available. One is the figure of poverty, the percentage of people, who are below the poverty-line.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (CONTD.): One figure has been calculated on the basis which has been adopted, not of now but in the Sixth and the Seventh Five Year Plans, and continued since then. That is one figure. The other figure was suggested by an expert committee but that has not been accepted by the Government so far. They went into the methodology of coming to these figures. So, it was a specific point which they examined and they came up with some other methodology. The figures arrived at by these two methods have been different. But that is not the point. The point is not whether the percentage of the people living below the poverty line is 34 per cent or 29 per cent. It is not that. What is important is what has happened during the last five years and to that extent there has been no controversy. There is no controversy in respect of the fact that there has been a fall in the percentage figure by about 8 or 9 per cent during the last five years.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no. ..(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing anybody. Nothing would go on record. Mr. Gupta, please sit down. Let the Prime Minister/^{say} what he has to say. ..(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, what is really important is the fall in that figure. ..(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, I think I should speak to you in some other language which you understand, but I do not know that language.

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Madam, you can speak to, him in Bengali.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, the difficulty is that there are some Members who have made ^{it} an inflexible rule not to agree with anything that the Government says howsoever true it is. The truer it is the more vociferous is their contradiction. This is how... (Interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The fault is with the Government, not with us.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The Government is always at the receiving end. So, what can the poor Government do? We can only listen to what all of you are saying and try to answer those questions which, of course, would never satisfy you. We are doing the impossible by trying to satisfy the unsatisfiable. This is what happens in parliamentary democracy. No Member of the Opposition would say, "Yes, we agree with the Government." Of course, that is not possible, but still there is the whole nation looking at us, that is the platform, that is the audience, that is the people whom we are addressing, not only the Members in the Opposition. So that is the consolation. That is really a rewarding feature of the parliamentary democracy, particularly, when we have started televising the proceedings of the Parliament. They can see us directly as people gesticulating, people not allowing

the House to go on, people making ^{all the} maximum noise that is possible and people on this side sitting quietly and calmly. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I must compliment you for the joke.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Let the people decide who are making jokes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Yes, people would decide.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Those who are watching us would decide who is serious and who is non-serious, who is opposing for the sake of opposition, who is trying to meet the objections of the opposition, who is succeeding and who is not succeeding and who is getting out of his own temper because he is not succeeding. So, there are lots of ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (CONTINUED): We have a very good saying in Sanskrit:

तेषु कोपे न दुर्येत ।

When you have nothing else to say, you complete it by anger, by showing passion, by making a big noise and so on. (Interruptions): Madam, I did not want to say....(Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please have some self-discipline.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Some hon. Members of the Opposition have drawn me out to say these things. Otherwise, I have not said these things at any time. You will bear witness to me.

Madam, the position, as we found ourselves in 1991, has been brought out in both the documents, the President's Address and the Finance Minister's speech. Now, there was really no commonsense method of meeting that situation. I am saying 'commonsense method' because most of us are not financial experts and we would not be able to understand the jargons of finance. But what we could understand is what is necessary for the people. That we could easily understand because that is what we have been doing for the last 50 years. If the country has no money, if the Government has no money, if the Government is not able to pay for the imports of kerosene oil, diesel oil, for the next 10 days, that is something

which I can very easily understand. What it is called in the language of finance, I do not know. But I know very well that it means disaster for the country; it means complete bankruptcy for the Government; and it means that the record of the last 40 years when India has never been in arrears, has never fallen in arrears, that record, is going to be completely demolished and no one is going to look at us, our credit is going to be 'nil'. This is what I can understand. This is what I could understand. It was not only a measure to meet that situation. We could also look into a little more in future. And we thought that we had been spreading our money too wide, too thin, and we had absolutely nothing to fall back upon when such a disaster overtook the country. We had spent more than Rs. One lakh crores on the public sector by then. The figure given, Rs. One lakh crores, was a conservative figure. The public sector is a pride of the country. There is no doubt about that. But just because you have a pride, you do not suffer forever a sector which is not getting anything back, but actually sucking everything away and adding to the poverty, adding to the helplessness of the country. So, we have to mend the public sector and at the same time, we have to substitute what the public sector was supposed to bring us. If the public

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sector is always in the red--most of the public sector; I am not saying 'the entire public sector'--why that has happened is a different matter. It may be man-made; it may be government-made; it may be made by circumstances, global circumstances. All those things are possible. This has happened in many other countries. It is not only here. I have compared notes with many heads of states, heads of governments, of countries where the public sector was supposed to be working very well, from whom we have taken some lessons in the past. They came up with the same problems, they came up with the same experiences, as I came up. Therefore, whether we say that openly or not, we have to see that there is a remedy for it and that remedy is substitution and nothing else. And that substitution has to come from some other source where money is available. That 'other source', we thought, is the private sector. The private sector is available. The private sector is willing. The private sector will be effective provided we do some reforms, we bring in some reforms. One leading to the other, these were logical steps. We had a very long debate in this House and in the other House. No one suggested anything as an alternative policy, as an alternative strategy. So, we started with that substitution, but with a human face.

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SHRI P.V.NARASIMHA RAO(contd.): This human face is absolutely important 'from our point of view. It was said that we were following someone, someone was our mentor and he was trying to make our policies for us. All kinds of things were said in those days and one felt that apart from anybody else, the Members of Parliament were running down the country more than anybody else. There was no need for them/ Any party can come, any party can rule the country. But no party should start with the assumption that another party is just mortgaging the country to some other country. This kind of hitting below the belt, this kind of most uncharitable thing...

(Interruptions)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is a fact. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V.NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, I would not like to answer the hon. Member who is not able to see reason, see facts, see the reality, including the State from where he comes. This is absolutely impossible for anyone. So, we had to find solutions within the country, and we found solutions within the country, and this is what I claim always because the kind of reforms that we brought, were totally different, in many respects different from the reforms brought by other countries, because our reforms were in line with our genius and our circumstances. We have succeeded. Similar reforms brought in other countries did not succeed because they were trying to copy someone in toto. We did not

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copy the Communist system. When the Communist system was being recommended by several people here, Panditji did not agree. We went in for the mixed economy.

Panditji wanted it and the Congress Government at that time wanted it. Even now it wants that we should have both. (Interruptions) We are following Panditji.

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, would you please keep quiet? (Interruptions) I am

just saying one thing. (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, may I submit?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. (Interruptions)

No, I will not allow. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please sit down. (Interruptions) It is not going on record.

(Interruptions) Mr. Narayanasamy, if you keep quiet, you will help me a lot because the Prime Minister of the country is answering the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Let us keep the dignity of this House. (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is his perception, may not be yours. (Interruptions) I am not allowing anything.

Mr. Jibon Roy. Don't shout here. (Interruptions) I
can shout louder than you / Please sit down. (Interruptions)
I have got a louder voice than you / Don't compel me
to raise my voice. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The soul of Panditji... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not talking about the soul,
Mr. Jaipal Reddy. I request every Member of Parliament
to realise that it is the Motion of Thanks on the
President's Address. It is not an ordinary debate
that you are having. You should keep the dignity
of the House. The Prime Minister of the country is
speaking. You have raised your objections during
the two days debate. If you still have any objection
and if you still are not satisfied, you can speak
tomorrow but not today. (Interruptions) No, I am
not allowing. No, keep quiet. (Interruptions)

SHRI GUPUDAS DAS GUPTA: That is true for the Prime Minister
also. (Interruptions)

SHRI JIBON ROY: We are not getting any answer. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing. Just keep
quiet. शिफ्टल कामेसी से बंद... [व्यवधान]

SHRI JIBON ROY: He is provoking... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.R. MALKANI : This is the hypocrisy. ... (interruption)

उपसभापति : बैठिये मलकानी जी । आप अपनी इज्जत का ब्यात रखिये । [व्यवधान] आप भी एक राज्य के बहुत गण्यमान्य सदस्य हैं । आप अपना ब्यात रखिये ।

SHRI P.V. 'NARASIMHA' RAO : Madam, I am doing nothing more than explaining my policy, the Government's policy. If anyone is hurt by it, I cannot help it. If anyone does not agree, I cannot help it. If anyone cannot tolerate it, again I cannot help it. So, this is the substitution which we brought in. We had a public sector. We had a private sector. Both sectors were flourishing. Both sectors were present here. ... (interruptions) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Again interrupting!

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Madam, I was chairing a Cabinet Sub-Committee who were to go into all the details of public sector undertakings. I know the public sector like the palm of my hand. So, no one can contradict me on that. I have written that report when Rajivji was the Prime Minister. So, I am saying something, from full knowledge, not from hearsay, not from just reading books and reports. I know what it is. I have been a champion of the public sector, I continue to be a champion of the public sector. I continue to be a champion of the public sector, and I can also say that it is with me that the public sector is attached in the sense that I have given the public sector the kind of support that was needed

millions of our workers to be thrown out of employment. In some other countries they could not care less. I cannot do that in a country with 950 million people. It is not possible for me. I have to think of them first. My reforms are meant for the masses first. My programmes are meant for the masses first and, therefore, my task will be smaller if the number of ^{living} people/below the poverty line becomes smaller. If it is bigger, it will be bigger; I do not mind. If it is ten per cent more or five per cent less, I do not mind because I am really catering to the needs of those people who are below the poverty line and trying to bring them above the poverty line. Now there may be technical differences, there may be methodological differences, but it cannot be that what I am doing can be proved to be wrong in principle. This is not so. I am sticking to that. Let us not go into the jungle of figures. Let us stick to the principle, what is the method I am following, what is the direction I am following; if that is wrong, you can certainly tell us. But that is not wrong. That has been proved right by both the President and the Finance Minister of India who have brought out figures, facts, everything to show that that direction is right.

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SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO (CONTD.): We have not completed the task by no means. ~~We~~ have not completed the task and if that task has to be completed, the direction has to be the same. If you change the direction, whatever has been completed will come to a standstill. It will come back to square one. That is what really we want to say. The President wanted to say the same thing. The Finance Minister wanted to say the same thing. And I am repeating, I am reiterating, those two speeches because they are the epitome of what has to be said at the end of this five-year term.

Then, Madam, we have got a two-track strategy for the weaker sections. There was a time when people from the poorest of the sections were socially, educationally, economically and in all respects absolutely downtrodden. They did not even know that their condition could be bettered, their condition could be improved. They did not know how to improve their condition. They thought that this was their prarabda. They thought that God made them like that and, therefore, they had to be like that until they die. They thought that in some other janma, some other birth, perhaps, they would be better off. These were the beliefs, wrong beliefs, created in the society, with the result that those who were downtrodden never even knew that they were downtrodden. They thought that this was what they deserved. They thought that in some old janma they had done something wrong and, therefore, they had to pay for it in this janma. Is it not true? Today the entire thinking has changed and it has changed

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somewhere violently and somewhere non-violently. ~~But~~ ⁱⁿ it has changed everywhere, / every village in India today. There is a turmoil because this change is coming. There are people who want to stop this change in the name of Ram and Krishna. That is a different matter. But no Ram has ever wanted this kind of a servitude to become the mentality of the people for all the time. Anyone can say anything. Neither Ram wanted it, nor Krishna wanted it. In fact, in their own way they were revolutionaries in those times. So, let us understand that when this change is coming you cannot stop it by just raising your hands. You have to channelise it. We have tried to channelise it. We have tried to channelise it in two ways. We have made a Backward Classes Commission. Why? The Backward Classes Commission is not going to give them any money. The Backward Classes Commission is in charge of their social and educational status to give them the consciousness that they need not continue in the same condition all their life. There is no prarabda here. Their condition can be improved and has to be improved. They have these rights, this 27% reservation and so on. But they are poor. There is no doubt that they cannot be made rich by the Commission itself. So, there has to be some other thing. On the social and educational side, there is one commission and on the economic side, there is a financial corporation. These two are complementary. They supplement each other and they make a whole in order to see that the condition of those poor persons is on the whole improved. It takes time. But,

at least, if you are on the right track--it may take time--

it will come. If you are not on the right track, if you are not giving any money to them and if you are not allowing for any mechanism which can give money to them, economic help to them directly, as Backward Classes, as Scheduled Castes, as Scheduled Tribes, as Safai Mazdoors, it will not come. These are the sections. It is a sectional analysis that has been made and for each section a double programme, a double-barrelled programme, has been given.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (CONTD): One, on the social and economic side, on the side of a status in society and the other, in order to fulfil that, give him some kind of economic help. It may be small or it may be big, we do not know. What is small today can become big tomorrow. The point is a principle has been adopted that it is not just saying, जा-जा जाय बहुत ^{दुख} में जो दुख है। क्या किया जाय, बड़ापुत्री है। इसके गली दो।

This kind of a thing is not going to work. You have to have this double barrel policy where you give them the status first, consciousness of the status first, then follow it up by economic help. Then he comes up slowly, maybe, gradually. Some of them may not come up. That is a different matter. But give them the opportunity to come up and compete with others. More than 100 centres have been opened in this country only to coach the students belonging to these people to come ^{up} in the competitive examination. Can you value this? Can you say how much it costs? It costs something which no one can imagine because you are transforming the life of a citizen, You are transforming the life of his family. You are transforming the entire society in which he lives. If this boy becomes an IAS, if this boy becomes an IFS, the whole thing gets changed.

Therefore, these are the ways, practical ways, in which people are helped to come up above the poverty line and also come up in the estimate of the people, in the status that they are holding and in the society, their scale comes up as a result of all this, not as a result of speeches only. Of course, speeches are important to make them understand, but those speeches have to be followed up by actual concrete action. Now for the sake of the handicapped, for how many decades have we been making speeches on the handicapped? Small institutions with 50, 30 or 40, this is the kind of thing that we are having. For spastic children we have institutions in this country. But we have been only scratching the surface. Today, there are millions of them in this country. We do not seem to be touching them at any point, deep enough to make a dent in the situation. We have now created a new institution for these children also. Now this is a methodology that has been adopted. If there is anything wrong, you can certainly tell us. This separated, de-segregated, specialised kind of attention is being given to every section of the society which needs special attention. This is what we have done. This is nothing very great. The point is, this is the logic. If this logic is defective, of

course, I am prepared to hear if anyone wants to say why it is defective.

Then, Madam, having selected all these people and having started all these institutions we are pumping in money. Now this is the most unfortunate part of it. Every person says that the money is not reaching him. Who is to reach them? Is the Prime Minister to carry the money? Is the Member of Parliament to carry the money? We have accepted rupees one crore to be made over every year to every Member of Parliament. If these Members tell me that it is not reaching, I just cannot understand what else can be done. If you are spending your money in a discriminate fashion after going through what the needs of that village are and how the Government schemes cannot give them anything, you have to do something, you have to intervene there, that means that you are doing some micro-planning yourself. If you are doing the micro-planning, if the hon. Members are doing the micro-planning, we are really leading a movement of micro-planning at that level. Why is it that we complain here that the money is not reaching?

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SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (CONT'D): You tell me what is to be done? I have received umpteen complaints that money was not reaching. How do you know that money is not reaching? Have you reached there to find out whether the money has reached? Nobody reaches there. You sit here and say that money is not reaching. Can you not understand that even in the reaching of money, in these 4½ years, we have been struggling? The situation has enormously improved. I can say this. I can prove this. Case by case, I can prove it. Take any village. Let us go to any village. Let us ask the Patwari of the village. Let us ask the people of the village whether they have been getting money or not. Let us ask them whether they have been getting old age pension or not. Let us ask them whether they are getting the benefits of our programmes or not. Why do you say that it is not reaching them? If it is not reaching them, then there is something wrong with the system. We have tried to correct it. We have tried to make it as foolproof as possible. But human nature being what it is, and in this, thousands of people being involved, there may still be leakages. Let us all unite to see that the leakages are plugged. By complaining that there are leakages, leakages will not go away. Why can't we understand this? I would like hon. Members for once to think with me, to lead me and to give me ideas on how these leakages could be plugged. I am not saying that what has been done

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in the last five years has been foolproof No.
We are trying to make it foolproof and we will always
be trying. This is human effort.

It has to be approximating to the perfect all the
time. Can you help us? If you can help us, you
are welcome. Please tell me. Any Member can tell
me, " I had told the Prime Minister such and such
a brilliant idea and he has not accepted it." I
am prepared to sit. I am prepared to hear what I
had been told and what I had not accepted. I have
been most open-minded in accepting any suggestion
coming from anywhere provided it was good. It is
examined; if found to be good, I am prepared to
take it. What is the great ideology in this? Why
should the Communist Party differ from the Congress
party or from the BJP or any other party in this
particular thing, about the money reaching the benefi-
ciary excepting that the levels have changed, unfor-
tunately? That is the second unfortunate part.
The money goes from here. I am not saying that it
is my money. I am not saying that it is the Finance
Minister's money. It is the money that belongs to
the people. There are certain arrangements in this
country. The Constitution tells us what those arrange-
ments are. We are more or less cutting from some
other programmes which fall straight into the Central
sector. Having cut money from those programmes,
we are diverting it to the State programmes because

we know that the States cannot afford them. We are trying to help them. Can there not be even this acknowledgment that this money has come from the Centre? What is wrong? Why should it be that every bit of money that comes from the Centre...(Interruptions)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: The money has not come from the Centre...(Interruptions)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am telling you some instances.

I talked to the Chief Minister of a particular State at the airport in the presence of the Press people. I got his own Chief Secretary to say that the money that was sent from the Centre for the sake of helping the drought victims was diverted...(Interruptions)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: The money sent is not the Centre's money...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am prepared to show you.

It is not proper to mention names and States...(Interruptions)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: *

SHRI JIBON ROY: *

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. These things are not going on record. It is a serious discussion. Please sit down...(Interruptions)...Do not argue. I am not allowing it. It is not going on record...

(Interruptions)...

* Not recorded

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THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (contd.): Don't downgrade the discussion which is about the people of this country. If the Prime Minister is making a statement, I am sure that he has got the record to prove it. So, please, you don't make such allegations. Sit down...(Interruptions) I am not allowing...(Interruptions) I will request the leaders of their political parties to ask them to be restrained...(Interruptions) I am not allowing...(Interruptions) Nothing will go on record without my permission. Enough is enough.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, I have said this so many times. I have said this at this spot. It has not been contradicted. So, if the hon. Member does not want to let me prove it, that is a different matter...(Interruptions) What do I prove? It is not necessarily your State, my dear...(Interruptions)

Coming back to the theme, I would like to submit that these are the methodologies that have been followed. Now, in the case of industrialisation which again is a part of the substitution that I referred to earlier, we have not really given away the interests of the country. Eighty-five per cent of ^{the} investment which has come from outside or from the NRIs or from our own people is in the infrastructure sector, power, petroleum, roads, etc., which are absolutely necessary. Today, in spite of all this, because somehow political storms have raged during the last two years, the power position which I wanted to bring in, which the Government wanted to bring in, has not quite materialised. It is not as an election stunt or

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anything but because the country needs it. Six thousand :
mega watts of power projects have not been cleared, could
not be cleared for various reasons and
each one of those reasons is a genuine reason. It is not
a reason which is just advanced by this Ministry or that
Ministry because they are wicked people. It is not like
that. When you change from one system to another, the
change is not always easy. And in a democracy, it is even
more difficult because whatever is done is under the search-
light of the public eye. I would like to say, help
me God, I will see that all the 6,000 MW power projects
are cleared before the elections. Two of my Ministries
are not seeing eye to eye. Three of my Ministries are
taking three other different paths. So, it is for me now
to sit and see that coordination is established.
There has to be a give-and-take. There has to be some
kind of flexibility in all these changes. Those changes
have to be brought about now.

In the other sectors, we have done extremely well,
we are doing well and I have no doubt that we will do well
in the future also. We have not really sold out anything.
They are joint ventures, for heaven's sake; joint ventures
which easily get all the latest technology that is available.

... (Interruptions)

HRI NILOTPAL BASU: Bailadila... (Interruptions)

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SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is where you see the block
 the mind. What is called Randhraanvephanam? You want
 to see where a hole is, a crack is. You want to go through
 that. It will not be possible because as in many
 things which you have tried to...(Interruptions) I am
 not accepting anything...(Interruptions)
 What I am saying is, you tried with telecommunications.
 You tried with so many things.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is very much there. In telecommuni-
 cations, it is very much there.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:
 So, Madam, the point is that when we are changing
 from one system to another, all such complications are
 bound to arise...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I wish you can speak more on telecommunica-
 tions...(Interruptions) We would like to hear you more
 on telecommunications.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am not the Minister for Telecommunications. I only know what you went to the Supreme Court for has been thrown out of the window...(Interruptions)...

THE HON. MEMBERS: No, no...(interruptions)...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Mr. Prime Minister, it is not fair to say so. The Supreme Court has not examined...(interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: In all fairness, Mr. Prime Minister, we must get an opportunity to seek clarifications...(interruptions)...

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Mr. Prime Minister, it is not fair...(interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: In all fairness, we must get an opportunity...(interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...(interruptions)...Mr. Gupta, please sit down...(interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, you must allow us to seek clarifications from the hon. Prime Minister because...(interruptions)...We would like to seek clarifications...(interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not telecommunications. You cannot talk about it now...(interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Prime Minister should answer our questions. We have our questions...(interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...(interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: In all fairness, we must get an opportunity to seek clarifications. The Supreme Court has not examined the allegations, but I stand by our allegations. We are

prepared to prove our allegations through any kind of enquiry. Let it be a JPC or let it be a judicial enquiry...(interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...(interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Prime Minister, I have got a copy of the Supreme Court judgement and the Supreme Court has not examined...(interruptions)...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Mr. Jaipal Reddy, you were the petitioner in the case...(interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You were the petitioner before the Supreme Court...(interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Yes, I am the petitioner. If necessary, I will again petition the Supreme Court. Let me reiterate, I stand by every allegation.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I will repeat what he has said. To the extent they wanted to get the policy changed...(interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Never...(interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, you continue.

Mr. Gupta, we will discuss the telecommunications issue when it comes up before the House.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The point that arises out of this is that we are changing a system which has been there for a long time--a system which we have tried and which we ^{have} found inadequate. I may also tell the hon. Members that according to the original programme of the Telecommunications Department, if I remember right in the year of ^{the} 1998, the plan was that anyone who wanted a telephone would get it within

two years. That is 1998 plus two. That is, you would not get, anyone would not get, a telephone before 1999 or 2000. Today what has happened is, anyone can get a telephone on demand. This is the difference between what was and what is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no...(interruptions)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I am sorry, Mr. Prime Minister. You have no contact with reality. People are waiting for years--two years, three years. This is what reality is.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am talking of the targets. I am not talking of the position as it is. In fact, it is much worse...
...(interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Gupta, please keep quiet. This cannot go on like this. This is not a proper way...(interruptions)...
I am not able to understand this...(interruptions)...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am telling you what the target is. I am giving you two targets--one is the target as it was before and the other is the revised target, as it has come after this. This is all I am saying. I am not saying that you are getting it tomorrow. What I am saying is the target, as revised...(interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We accept this.

Very good.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: You understand it? Thank you. Thank you, you understood it. Perhaps that is the effect of the Supreme Court.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, no. Not at all, Not at all. (Interruptions)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, have you read the Judgment of the Supreme Court? (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: That is the effect of Hawala. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please listen.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: So, as I was submitting, over 85% of industrialisation is in joint ventures and in essential infrastructure projects. This augurs well for the future of the country. On the one side, we have been able to save so much money that we are able to pump in so much of money to the countryside for the sake of the poorer people. This would never have happened, this would have never been possible unless this substitution had taken place.

Now, the Rural Development Ministry had an outlay ^{of} between Rs.10,000 crores and Rs.11,000 crores in the Seventh Plan. How could it jump from Rs.11,000 crores to Rs.30,000 crores? The actual figure now is Rs.33,000 crores. This money doesn't come just from thin air. There has to be some planning. There has to be some diversion. There has to be some substitution. And, this is one example where this substitution is brought out absolutely graphically. How is it that education gets a 90% rise? How is it that health gets another 50% rise? All these rises are as a result of this attempt at substitution. We are doing it and we will continue to do it. I do not see any other

alternative. These are the real policy issues which have been undertaken.

Now, about defence, I understand that one or two points have been raised. I think they are important.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: They are minor!

SHRI P.V.NARASIMHA RAO: They are not minor if only one Member has said it. Perhaps the Opposition Members have called it minor, because only one Member raised it.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: He said it sarcastically. He didn't mean it...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: This is what has been exercising the minds of the people here, this Brown Amendment and what really led to the Brown Amendment. There has been a lot of concern which has been expressed. I would like to take the House into confidence and say, whatever happens to Pakistan getting anything from anywhere, at least India will not be found wanting in meeting that situation.

In the Consultative Committee of the Defence Ministry, I had all these things clarified by experts, by those who are working in the field. I do not mind getting the same presentation made to the entire Members of Parliament. But, I would not like to say anything more than that. I would like to reassure the Members that whatever clandestine programme Pakistan has been having -- it is not new; 25 years ago, maybe even earlier than that, we knew that they were starting this programme; they said they don't have it and then

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they said they have it; now, they speak with different voices and so on; but, with whatever voices they may speak with, what I am saying is this, that -- we will not be found wanting in being able to meet the challenge of Pakistan. It is unfortunate that this is still happening. Why is this happening? I would like Hon. Members to ponder for a little while. What have we been saying? We have been saying right from the beginning that this N.P.T, this Non-Proliferation Treaty, is defective, it will never work.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (CONTD.) : It will never work. I said this to the Security Council in December, 1991. I said, "you will never be able to work this out successfully." We have been setting our face against the NPT. We said the NPT is defective. And what have they done? They have gone ahead and made it more or less permanent. It means that there will be five or six powers, according to them, who will have all the technology, all the material, everything they will have, nobody else should have. Now, this is not possible. I would say that this particular thing that has happened, China giving something, Pakistan getting something, this is proof positive, if really proof is needed, of the utter failure of the NPT and the continuing of the NPT. This is what has happened. This should be one of the arguments, armed with which we go ahead, telling the people, telling the world that this is not the way to disarmament. Complete disarmament does not come this way and that is what we are trying to do now in the CD in Geneva. We have given amendments to the resolutions, very strong amendments, principled amendments, and we are not going to relent on them. This is what I am telling you because this has proved ^{our point,} this has come in handy. What they will do with those rings and all is a different matter, but what has become very evident and what has really embarrassed the nuclear-weapon powers no end is this particular

thing having been brought-about. So, we will have to be absolutely firm on this policy and I would like to reiterate that Government is firm on this point.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : You also tell us about other connected things with the NPT.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about the CTBT?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am only talking of CTBT. That is what is going on. They were saying that the CTBT has nothing to do with NPT or disarmament. We said, "No, sorry, since 1954, it has been India's policy that all these are inter-connected and they are needed in order to get to the ultimate goal of complete disarmament, nuclear disarmament, worldwide." This is what we stand for. So, we don't dissect it into bits and pieces. We look at it as a whole. In fact, I am glad to say that several countries appreciate our stand. Contrary to earlier expectations, several countries are appreciating our stand. We would like to take this forward and our policy will ultimately get accepted and vindicated. I have no doubt about that.

Gujralji has raised the point about the National Security Council. Yes, I agree that we do need a National Security Council, but not the kind of council which was ^{first} set up in 1990. We find that that is much too unwieldy and in a matter like national security that kind of thing will not work. This is my

honest opinion. So, we have not decided to continue with that or have anything of that size. We have studied the National Security Councils of other countries also, and I am not fully satisfied, I must tell the House that whatever proposals have come, I am not fully satisfied ^{with them} because I find from some experience, from my own thinking that it needs further refinement. It is true that we are going to have a National Security Council. On that, there is no going back.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Mr. Prime Minister, kindly give me a second. I don't want to interrupt you, but I am grateful to you that you have taken notice of what I said. Last year, in this very debate, the Prime Minister was kind enough to promise that he was going to do it. The argument which the Prime Minister is giving today that the previous National Security Council was not satisfactory, was also given by him last year. Twelve months have passed and in twelve months again this issue has been raised in this House and in the Standing Committee. May I ask you, will you be able to set up something before you quit?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : We do not quit. (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI : We have no such intentions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have to repeat about the 1990 Council, what I said last year, because it has not

changed, my opinion has not changed, the situation has not changed. I agree that within this ^{one} year...

(Interruptions)... Within this ^{one} year we could have brought it to a conclusion, completely, to clinch

on something. And again I say, because I was not

fully satisfied with what was being brought, I would

like to go into it once again. It is true that one

year has passed but in a matter like this, I appeal

to the House not to count days and months. We have

to bring out something which is absolutely the right

one for our country. If the hon. Members want...

(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : In such matters even hours matter,

Mr. Prime Minister, घंटों की बात होनी चाहिए । आप कह रहे हैं कि हम दिन

नहीं गिने और महीने नहीं गिने । यह इतना आवश्यक मसला है कि इस में घंटे गिने जाने

चाहिए । आप कह रहे हैं कि दिन और महीने न गिने हम ।

श्री पी.वी.नरसिंह राव : नेशनल सिन्डिकेट के लिए कुछ घंटे क्या होते हैं ?

.....[व्यवधान].....नेशनल सिन्डिकेट काउंसिल के लिए घंटे क्या होते हैं ? ये सिन्डिकेट

काउंसिल है मेडम, ये कोई इधियात नहीं है ।

श्रीमती सुशमा स्वराज : यह नेशनल सिन्डिकेट का मसला है ।

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Well, I can promise one thing.

I can make a commitment that it will not take long.

I am not quitting.

Therefore, the linkage with the quitting may not be proper. Maybe, within a short time we will come out with it. (Interruptions) I am telling you in all sincerity, it is not because of negligence or carelessness. There are some difficulties which, perhaps, I might discuss with the hon. Members also. But

I am at it. (Interruptions) I think, Madam, whatever needs to be said, I have said. For those who would not agree, nothing more can be said."

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