

55th year of Publication

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READING & DICTATION
EXERCISES FOR
SPEED DEVELOPMENT

Exercise 1

Budget & Taxation Ex. 1 - 12

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the Hon'ble Members who have made their observations on the Budget²⁰ while taking the opportunity of making a few observations on it. Nobody can claim that this is a budget where⁴⁰ there is no deficiency, that this is an embodiment of perfection, and it has been possible for us to do whatever⁶⁰ is needed for the betterment of the economic situation in the country. At the same time, it has been very⁸⁰ correctly pointed out that in a situation like ours the Finance Minister had little option or rather very little¹⁰⁰ space for accommodation to provide a budget on the one hand keeping his eyes on the need of growth and¹²⁰ on the other to see that the peculiar economic situation which has been created as a result of constant demand¹⁴⁰ does not deteriorate further. In view of that it has been admitted by almost all the speakers including the distinguished¹⁶⁰ leaders of the Opposition, that an increase of the order of 31 per cent in the Plan outlay would¹⁸⁰ go a long way and would create an investment climate which would ultimately be beneficial for the country. Now, while²⁰⁰ making these observations, he expressed his doubt whether the unbridged gap on the revenue side would create further instability factor²²⁰ on the price front. Keeping in view the situation as it is today and the economic disciplines and various measures²⁴⁰ which we have resorted to, perhaps, we can modestly claim, unless certain external factors come into the picture, it would²⁶⁰ be possible for us to maintain the price stability as it is today, and at the same time, as it²⁸⁰ has been expressed by the Finance Minister in his speech, by reducing the taxes both on direct and indirect side,³⁰⁰ the total revenues of the country would not be reduced.

It is no use suggesting that the Budget is for³²⁰ the money bag and that the Budget is full of concessions for monopoly houses. The Budget is an instrument through³⁴⁰ which the Government tries to control and regulate the economy of the country for the current year and in this³⁶⁰ year's Budget also, that exercise has been made nothing more, nothing less. Therefore, to categorise it either as a Budget³⁸⁰ of money bag or a budget for monopoly houses is, perhaps, incorrect. In fact, it reduces the taxes for various categories.⁴⁰⁰

DEFICIENCY: shortage; DETERIORATE: to worsen;
EMBODIMENT: to give concrete form.

Exercise 2

One point has been raised by my Hon'ble friend that the percentage of reduction of taxes in the lower income²⁰ group are not adequate while the percentages of reduction of taxes in the upper income group are more. In this⁴⁰ connection, I would like to point out one aspect which should be kept in mind. If we come to a⁶⁰ conclusion that taxation is the only instrument of doing away economic disparity perhaps, it would not be correct. There⁸⁰ are certain other factors which must be taken into account in this respect. In a developing economy like ours, no¹⁰⁰ doubt, taxation is a very important instrument of doing away economic disparity but at the same time, there are¹²⁰ certain other factors which also contribute for making the desired goal, such as investment policy, industrial licensing policy and there¹⁴⁰ is no denying the fact that for the last few years, the Government is trying to concentrate on those fronts.¹⁶⁰ Therefore, when certain tax rates have been reduced, it would not be correct to come to a conclusion that we¹⁸⁰ have given up our idea of doing away economic disparities which prevail in the society.

I would like to submit²⁰⁰ that the basic objective of our taxation system is progression in the rate of taxes. Even in the present tax²²⁰ structure as it has been pointed out by my Hon'ble friend while making his justification for reduction but on the²⁴⁰ wealth tax side, this does not find any justification. Some people may be wondering why we cannot have a higher percentage of taxes.²⁶⁰ Sir, from the experience that we have gained during all these years, it has been established that a higher rate²⁸⁰ tax, at a certain stage, becomes counter-productive; there is no denying the fact that the rate of tax³⁰⁰ for income of over 90%. That does create distortion not only in one form but in many directions. That³²⁰ does not mean that if somebody has acquired income or wealth upto a certain level, he does not acquire wealth³⁴⁰ any more. But what happens is that he does acquire wealth, but that wealth or income is not brought into³⁶⁰ the books, as a result of which all such vulgar expenditure is going on. There is no denial of the³⁸⁰ fact that the operation of black money which went on and which is still going on in the country is⁴⁰⁰ the product to some extent, of a system like this. Therefore, to ensure that we do not have increase in⁴²⁰ black money the rates of direct taxes should go down.⁴⁴⁰

DISPARITY: inequality; PROGRESSION: to rise gradually;
VULGAR: coarse, uneducated person's style.

Exercise 3

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very realistic Budget³⁰ presented in Parliament. I am sure the people of Gujarat are going to join me in congratulating the Government for⁴⁰ saving them from a high dose of taxation as was proposed by the previous Government in the State. Sir, I⁶⁰ take this opportunity of mentioning a few things more which I would not probably have been able to do, as⁸⁰ these are the State subjects. Before the State Government gave up power, the Central Government has, of course, not imposed¹⁰⁰ the President's rule but we are under the Governor these days, hence the State's Budget was presented. Sir, I do not¹²⁰ know whether it has been an oversight by the administration today or whether they have carried on what the previous¹⁴⁰ Government had mentioned. I would like to be very specific here in mentioning about the sales tax that they have¹⁶⁰ imposed on all fish and marine products in Gujarat. I do not understand the logic behind it. As far as¹⁸⁰ Gujarat is concerned, we have bigger coastline than any other State in India. Our maritime resources have not been²⁰⁰ exploited fully. Our fishery industry has still not reached the stage which could be compared with even the backward States²²⁰ of this country who are also maritime States. There are other States like Kerala where the fishery industry has developed²⁴⁰ long ago and it has come to the take-off stage where from the inshore fishing they have now gone²⁶⁰ to offshore fishing. Even in those States where 50 per cent of marine products are exported they do not²⁸⁰ have sales-tax on fishing and marine products.

The Gujarat Government expects a revenue of about Rs.40 lakhs to³⁰⁰ Rs.50 lakhs by way of Sales-tax. I am sure that they are going to ask you also that³²⁰ these taxes should be imposed on the traders and on the fishermen and not on industries. We know that³⁴⁰ whenever such a tax is imposed, it goes down to the fishermen. The fishermen in Gujarat are poor. We recently³⁶⁰ had an example of the export duty levied on all wool that was exported. There too, Gujarat was affected.³⁸⁰ The argument given at that time was that this export duty was expected, there too Gujarat was affected as such.⁴⁰⁰

IMPOSED: enforced; MARINE: related to sea.

Exercise 4

The consumer of the marine product is not going to pay more, the trader is not going to reduce his²⁰ profit margin. It is finally going to come down to the small fishermen. I plead that this growing industry in⁴⁰ Gujarat should be released from taxation. On the contrary, they should have given more encouragement and incentives to this vital⁶⁰ industry. Gujarat does not get fish only from the sea. It is probably the only State where inland fisheries have⁸⁰ developed. The districts where inland fisheries are operating are the backward districts. The fish from these regions goes to Haryana,¹⁰⁰ Rajasthan, M.P. and even Assam. We have to compete with fishermen from other maritime States of India and there¹²⁰ is a very small profit margin left. Do you mean to say that the trader is now going to reduce¹⁴⁰ his profit margin and allow the poor fishermen, who are mostly advasies, to carry on their profession? I do not¹⁶⁰ know why this has been brought in. I only wish the Government would take this more seriously and at the¹⁸⁰ first stroke and abolish the sales-tax on fish and marine products from the State.

You can consider it later,²⁰⁰ I wish public opinion there is ascertained, the fishermen contacted and then this tax imposed. Why must Gujarat take the²²⁰ lead in imposing a tax which has not been imposed anywhere in the country, while this industry is still undeveloped²⁴⁰ there? There are a few other points which I would like to mention. One is about development of tourism in²⁶⁰ Gujarat. Unfortunately, tourism and fisheries are two subjects which have always been neglected by Government of Gujarat. For almost²⁸⁰ a year, we do not even have a Director of Tourism. Not only that, if you look into the Budget³⁰⁰ you will find that they have included tourism with Publicity and Information, and have given it a very small Budget.³²⁰ Gujarat has the potential of becoming a major tourist attraction centre in the country. If our State Government could take³⁴⁰ more interest in developing our beach resorts I am sure, the tourist elsewhere in the country will be flowing more³⁶⁰ towards Gujarat. Though I know that this is not the right place to mention about tourism, the State Government³⁸⁰ may not consider this at all. I would only like this to be brought on record that tourism should be⁴⁰⁰ given equal importance in the activities of the State of Gujarat and our tourist potentialities should be fully exploited. ⁴²⁰ Sir, I am sure, if the Central Government takes full care of tourism, this State shall progress like any other State.⁴⁴⁰

Exercise 5

Sir, I would like to come to a more important point. Budget after budget and more particularly this budget has ²⁰ been having a hit at the States. Before I go into what has been stated about the Budget proposals and ⁴⁰ how they are affecting the States, I would like to take from the document itself. In the year 1997-98, ⁶⁰ among the taxes which the Government of India collected, Rs.192 crores out of Rs.514 ⁸⁰ crores went to the States. In the current budget just Rs.28 crores out of Rs.615 crores ¹⁰⁰ will go to the States. When it comes to the income tax, Rs. 10 crores are charged, net and the Union ¹²⁰ Government, will have no share. On the other hand, according to the Budget at a glance, there will be minus ¹⁴⁰ Rs. 94 crores of the share of the States which means they will have to shell down. This is one ¹⁶⁰ instance as to how there has been continuous shrinking of the share of the States in terms of the Union ¹⁸⁰ finances. Then, Sir, in the total expenditure outlay of Rs. 73,000 crores, transfer to the State will account for ²⁰⁰ about Rs. 26,000 crores for 1998-99 and amounts to 33 per cent. In the ²²⁰ previous year, out of Rs. 66,100 crores, Rs.24,000 crores was the share of the States ²⁴⁰ and it works out to 37 per cent. Even from that point of view there has been a shrinking of ²⁶⁰ the share. When it comes to the question of the gross revenue and the States share, it has come down ²⁸⁰ to 40 per cent, a fact which has been made clear in the recent National Development Council meeting also.

I ³⁰⁰ have given three instances but I do not want to go into the details which I have done last year. ³²⁰ I could have done that also but these documents themselves show how the resource crunch has affected the Budget proposals ³⁴⁰ of the Finance Minister. I will read three statements of a particular Chief Minister. He says that in ³⁶⁰ the Central budget proposals for the year 1999-2000, an additional revenue of Rs. 100 crores from Income Tax could ³⁸⁰ go only to the Centre. This is one statement made by one Chief Minister of a State of India. ⁴⁰⁰

SHRINKING: make smaller; CRUNCH: decisive event, tightness

Exercise 6

Then the Chief Minister also referred to a new levy on the transfer of wealth through inheritance which he said ²⁰ was nothing but Estate Duty in another form. The old Estate Duty was shareable with the Centre but the new ⁴⁰ wealth tax is not. The Chief Minister contended like this. The third statement is, this trend, if continued, will seriously ⁶⁰ affect the economic viability of all the States. Mr. Deputy Chairman if I reveal as to who is this Chief ⁸⁰ Minister, he is not the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, he is not the Chief Minister of Karnataka, he is ¹⁰⁰ not the Chief Minister of West Bengal but he is the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the Chief Minister who was ¹²⁰ occupying one of the highest positions in this very Government. This is what he has to say. I have deliberately ¹⁴⁰ chosen to quote what has been stated by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Therefore, I would ask the Finance Minister ¹⁶⁰ to seriously consider this. Similarly, other Chief Ministers also have stated that there is a need for a share in ¹⁸⁰ the public borrowings. After all, the resource mobilisation and the plan effort and the development effort have to be ²⁰⁰ a cooperative effort between the Union and the States and if that is to happen there has to be a share ²²⁰ for States in the public borrowings. Secondly, we have tried to solve the problem of resource crunch of the Union ²⁴⁰ by permitting the public sector undertakings of the Central Government to float bonds. But the public sector undertakings of the ²⁶⁰ State Government are denied this facility. Therefore, they have essentially to depend on the resources of the States which are ²⁸⁰ meagre as such or they will not have to undertake any responsibility. Therefore, if the logic permits, if the public ³⁰⁰ sector undertakings of the Central Government can have this facility, what difficulty will be there for the State public sector ³²⁰ undertakings also to have this facility.

Thirdly, a point which exercised the minds of this House a little while ago ³⁴⁰ in the Question Hour, namely, the need for restoring the primacy to household savings as a source of resource mobilisation ³⁶⁰ for the States and that can be done only if small savings are given back the primacy, the Indira Vikas ³⁸⁰ Patra and such other things. The provident fund accounting procedure which has been introduced has reduced the share of the ⁴⁰⁰ States. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister whether he will consider this. Finally, day in and day out ⁴²⁰ we hear that the States have been falling to mobilise resources for their own developmental work in their States

now ⁴⁴⁰

LFVV: tariff VIABILITY: practicability;

RESTORE: to give back; PRIMACY: pre-eminence.

Exercise 7

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill to provide for Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth and for matters ⁵⁰ connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration. The President promulgated Voluntary ⁴⁰ Disclosure of Income and Wealth Ordinance for providing an opportunity to persons who had evaded tax in the past to ⁶⁰ declare their undisclosed income and wealth, pay tax thereon, on the basis provided in the Ordinance and return to the ⁸⁰ path of civic responsibility in future. After the scheme of voluntary disclosure had been in operation for some time, it ¹⁰⁰ was felt that persons having undisclosed income or wealth in the form of gold and articles or ornaments made of ¹²⁰ gold would be reticent to disclose their concealed income or wealth for fear of penal action under the provisions of ¹⁴⁰ the Gold (Control) Act and the Customs Act. With a view to resolving this and certain other difficulties which may ¹⁶⁰ have inhibited persons from making Voluntary Disclosures, the President promulgated the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth (Amendment) Ordinance to ¹⁸⁰ make certain modifications in the scheme contained in the Ordinance. This Bill seeks to replace the Voluntary Disclosure of Income ²⁰⁰ and Wealth Ordinance. Before outlining the main features of the Scheme of Voluntary Disclosure, I propose to briefly indicate the ²²⁰ background in which the Government decided to introduce this Scheme. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the drive against economic ²⁴⁰ offenders had been stepped up in recent months. The Income-tax Department had taken vigorous action against tax evaders by ²⁶⁰ increasing the tempo of searches and intensifying survey operations through special survey squads. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act recently passed ²⁸⁰ by Parliament made the punishment for tax offences more stringent. The declaration of emergency concluded with increased pressure on tax ³⁰⁰ evaders. The Government took note of the all round awareness of the risk of tax evasion created by these factors and ³²⁰ decided to introduce the Scheme of Voluntary Disclosure with a view to providing one last chance to erring tax payers ³⁴⁰ to come to the path of honesty and civic responsibility. The Scheme provided for three types of declarations, namely, Voluntary ³⁶⁰ declaration of concealed income, declaration of income in cases of search and seizure; and Voluntary Declaration of concealed wealth. The ³⁸⁰ Voluntarily Disclosed income in the first category is treated as a separate block and charged to tax at special rates. ⁴⁰⁰

PROMULGATED: to make public; tempo: speed; STRINGENT: strictness; SEIZURE: to take possession by law.

Exercise 8

The declaration will be immune from any assessment or reassessment in respect of the voluntarily disclosed income. He will also ²⁰ not be liable to any penalty or prosecution in relation to such income. Besides, the declarant has been exempted from ⁴⁰ Wealth-tax up to and including the Assessment Year 1991-92 in respect of assets represented by ⁶⁰ the income disclosed under the said Scheme. The Scheme has a restricted operation in the case of persons whose books of ⁸⁰ account, other documents, money, bullion, jewellery etc. have been seized as a result of search by the Income-tax Department. ¹⁰⁰ Such persons are not entitled to the benefit of the special rates of income-tax in respect of the income ¹²⁰ for the year in which the search is made or any earlier year. They could, however, make a disclosure in ¹⁴⁰ respect of the Income for these years and pay tax thereon at the normal rates of income-tax applicable to ¹⁶⁰ the total income or the relevant years. The income so declared will not be taken into account for the purposes ¹⁸⁰ of levying any penalty or charging interest under the Income-tax Act or for the purposes of prosecution under that ²⁰⁰ Act. The assets represented by the concealed income in such cases will be chargeable to Wealth-tax in the relevant ²²⁰ years. But the value of these assets will not be taken into account for purposes of imposition of penalty on ²⁴⁰ prosecution under the Wealth Tax Act.

The Scheme also provides in the declaration of undisclosed wealth. The declarant is required ²⁶⁰ to pay Wealth tax in respect of the net wealth or as the case may be, the value of assets ²⁸⁰ disclosed in the declaration at the normal rates applicable to his net wealth for the relevant assessment year. In addition ³⁰⁰ the declarant will be equipped to invest two and half per cent of the disclosed wealth in notified Government securities. ³²⁰ The net wealth, or as the case may be, the value of assets so declared, will not be taken into ³⁴⁰ account for the purposes of any penalty or prosecution under the Wealth-tax Act. Immunity from confiscation, penalty and prosecution ³⁶⁰ under the Gold Control Act and the Customs Act has been provided in the case of persons who declare their ³⁸⁰ concealed income or wealth held in the form of gold or articles and ornaments made of gold. Where the concealed ⁴⁰⁰ income or wealth is held in the form of primary gold, the gold will have to be either sold to ⁴²⁰ a licensed dealer or converted into ornaments. The licensed dealer will be required to make necessary entries in the account books. ⁴⁴⁰

PROSECUTION: to institute legal proceedings; EXEMPTED: to make free; IMPOSITION: enforced; CONFISCATION: to take possession by authority.

Exercise 9

Madam Speaker, I rise to present the interim Budget for the year 2019-20. Madam Speaker, the people²⁰ of India gave a strong mandate to our Government. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we have⁴⁰ given the most decisive, stable and clean Government and have undertaken transformational structural reforms. We have reversed the policy paralysis⁶⁰ engulfing the nation and have restored the image of the country. The major achievement of this Government was that we⁸⁰ strived our utmost to change the mind-set and ignited the self-confidence of the nation. I can¹⁰⁰ proudly say that India is solidly back on track and marching towards growth and prosperity. We have prepared the foundation¹²⁰ for sustainable growth, progress and better quality of life for all our people. We are moving towards realising a 'New India'¹⁴⁰ by 2022, when we celebrate 75 years of India's independence: an India which is clean¹⁶⁰ and healthy, where everybody would have a house with universal access to toilets, water and electricity; where farmers' income¹⁸⁰ would have doubled; youth and women would get ample opportunities to fulfil their dreams; an India free from terrorism, communalism,²⁰⁰ casteism, corruption and nepotism.

Madam Speaker, the last five years have seen India being universally recognised as a bright spot²²⁰ of the global economy. The country witnessed its best phase of macro-economic stability during this period.²⁴⁰ We are the fastest growing major economy in the world with an annual average GDP growth during last five years²⁶⁰ higher than the growth achieved by any Government since economic reforms began in 1991. From being the²⁸⁰ 11th largest economy in the world in 2013-14, we are today the 6th largest in the world. Besides generating high growth rate, we contained³⁰⁰ double-digit inflation and restored fiscal balance. Inflation is a hidden and unfair tax on the poor and the³²⁰ middle class. The average rate of inflation during 2009-2014 was a backbreaking 10%. The then³⁴⁰ Prime Minister admitted as much when he said, "We have also not been as successful in controlling persistent inflation as³⁶⁰ we would have wished. This is primarily because food inflation has increased." In contrast, our Govt. broke the back of³⁸⁰ back-breaking inflation. We brought down average inflation to 4.6% which is lower than any other Government.⁴⁰⁰

PARALYSIS: functionless; RESTORED: to give back;
NEPOTISM: favour to relatives; FISCAL: relating to MoY.

Exercise 10

From the high of almost 6% seven years ago, the fiscal deficit has been brought down to²⁰ 3.4% in 2018-19. The current account deficit, against a high of 5.6%⁴⁰ six years ago, is likely to be only 2.5% of GDP this year. We contained⁶⁰ the fiscal deficit notwithstanding the Finance Commission's recommendations increasing the share of the States from 32% to⁸⁰ 42% in central taxes, which we accepted in the true spirit of cooperative federalism, thereby transferring significantly¹⁰⁰ higher amounts to the States. Due to a stable and predictable regulatory regime, growing economy and strong fundamentals, India could¹²⁰ attract massive amount of Foreign Direct Investment during the last 5 years - as much as \$239 billion.¹⁴⁰ This period also witnessed a rapid liberalisation of the FDI policy, allowing most FDI to come through the¹⁶⁰ automatic route.

Madam Speaker, the last five years have witnessed a wave of next generation structural reforms, which have set¹⁸⁰ the stage for decades of high growth. We have undertaken path breaking structural reforms by introducing Goods and Services Tax²⁰⁰ and other taxation reforms. The period of 2008-14 will be remembered as a period of aggressive credit growth²²⁰ and, as per RBI, the primary reason for spurt in non-performing loans and stressed assets. Outstanding loans²⁴⁰ of public sector banks ballooned from Rs. 18 lakh crore to Rs. 52 lakh crore during this period. Many projects were started that could²⁶⁰ either not be completed or had low capacity utilisation resulting in their inability to pay back their loans. There were high stressed²⁸⁰ and non-performing assets (NPAs) amounting to Rs. 5.4 lakh crore in 2014. Many more were hidden through³⁰⁰ restructuring or otherwise which were discovered during Asset Quality Reviews and inspections carried out since 2015.³²⁰ We put a stop to such questionable practices and stopped the culture of "phone banking". The four R's approach of recognition, resolution,³⁴⁰ re-capitalisation and reforms has been followed. A number of measures have been implemented to ensure Clean Banking. Through a transparent³⁶⁰ and accountable process, we recognised these NPAs. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has institutionalised a resolution-friendly³⁸⁰ mechanism, which is helping in recovery of non-performing loans while preserving the underlying businesses and jobs. Earlier, only small businessmen⁴⁰⁰ used to be under pressure of repayment of loans while in the case of big businessmen, it was the headache⁴²⁰ of banks. But now, defaulting managements are either paying or exiting their businesses. A large amount has been recovered by banks.⁴⁴⁰

SPURT-sudden rise; TRANSPARENT: openness.

Exercise 11

We have ushered in a new era of transparency. We have given a corruption free government. The Real Estate Act,²⁰ 2016 and Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988 are helping to bring transparency in the real estate sector.⁴⁰ The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 will help confiscate and dispose off the assets of economic offenders who⁶⁰ escape the jurisdiction of the laws in India. Additionally, we conducted transparent auction of natural resources including coal and spectrum.⁸⁰ We have walked the talk. As a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary in 2019,¹⁰⁰ our Government initiated the world's largest behavioural change movement with the Swachh Bharat Mission. India has achieved 98% rural sanitation¹²⁰ coverage and as many as 5.45 lakh villages have been declared "Open Defecation Free." It is a holistic programme¹⁴⁰ and has succeeded in changing the mindset of our people. With the people participation, they transformed it from a¹⁶⁰ Government Scheme to a national movement. I thank the 130 crore people of the nation for the success¹⁸⁰ of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan who adopted it whole heartedly. The poor have the first right on the resources of the nation.²⁰⁰

The Government while maintaining the existing reservation for SC/ST/Other Backward Classes, have now ensured 10%²²⁰ reservation in educational institutions and Government services for poor. In these institutions, around 25% extra seats will be provided²⁴⁰ so that, there is no shortfall of presently available/reserved seats for any class. To provide food grains at affordable prices to the²⁶⁰ poor and middle classes, about Rs.1.70 thousand crores were spent in the year 2018-19 which is²⁸⁰ almost double the amount of Rs. 92,000 crores spent in the year 2013-14. We ensured³⁰⁰ that everyone gets food and none goes to sleep hungry. Rs.60,000 crores are being allocated for MGNREGA³²⁰ in 2019-20. Additional amount would be provided if required. We have worked to bridge the urban-rural³⁴⁰ divide in the country. Hon'ble Members in this August House, most of whom are from rural areas, will³⁶⁰ agree that several times in the past, only empty promises have been made to people living in our villages. During³⁸⁰ the last five years, we have undertaken targeted expenditure to improve their quality of life in all its dimensions.⁴⁰⁰

USHERED: introduced; FUGITIVE: left country illegally;
CONFISCATE: to take property by the state;
HOLISTIC: natural way.

Exercise 12

Madam Speaker, till the year 2014, about 2.5 crore families were forced to live the life of 18th century without electricity.²⁰ Under 'Saubhagya Yojna', we provided free electricity connection to almost every household. By March, 2019, all willing families⁴⁰ will get electricity connection. In mission mode, we have provided 143 crore LED bulbs with the⁶⁰ participation of private sector. This has resulted into a savings of approximately Rs. 50,000 crore per year in electricity bills⁸⁰ of poor and middle class families. The past five years have seen massive scale up of health care. Earlier, a¹⁰⁰ poor man used to be in dilemma whether to fulfil daily needs of the family or save the life of¹²⁰ an ailing member. This situation has deeply pained our Hon'ble Prime Minister. We launched the world's largest healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat,¹⁴⁰ to provide medical treatment to nearly 50 crore people. Already close to 10 lakh patients have benefited for medical treatment¹⁶⁰ which would have cost them Rs. 3,000 crore through free treatment made available under the scheme. Lakhs of¹⁸⁰ poor and middle class people are also benefiting from reduction in the prices of essential medicines, cardiac stents and knee implants,²⁰⁰ and availability of medicines at affordable prices through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras. There are 21 AIIMS operating²²⁰ being established in the country presently. 14 of these 21 AIIMS have been announced since 2014. I am happy to announce setting up of new the 22nd AIIMS in²⁴⁰ Haryana. The Aspirational Districts Programme is providing targeted development to the 115 most backward districts of the country.²⁶⁰ The programme has achieved notable results with improved performance on all indicators - health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources,²⁸⁰ financial inclusion and skill development.

Madam Speaker, our hard working farmers were not getting the full value of their produce.³⁰⁰ With an aim to double the income of farmers, our Government, for the first time in history has fixed the³²⁰ minimum support price of all 22 crops at minimum 50% more than the cost. Agriculture continues to be³⁴⁰ the main driver of the rural economy. Our hard-working farmers, supported by pro-farmer policies of our Government in the³⁶⁰ past four and half years, have produced agriculture commodities in record quantities. Declining prices of agricultural commodities in the international³⁸⁰ market and fall in food inflation in India since 2017-18, relative to non-food sector, have however, reduced the⁴⁰⁰ returns from farming. Small and fragmented land holding on account of repeated divisions has also contributed in decline in the⁴²⁰ income of the farmer family. Hence, there is a need for providing structured income support to the poor land-holder.⁴⁴⁰

DILEMMA: difficult choice; STENT: duct to keep passage open;
ASPIRATIONAL: to think big; PROCURING: providing.

Education and Technology Ex. 13-18

FORMULATE: to set forth systematically. OPTIMAL: most favourable

Exercise 13

This is the third meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education since India attained her Independence. It is now ³⁰ necessary in the light of experience we have gained in the last three years to consider carefully and dispassionately our ⁴⁰ hopes and plans for the education of free India in the coming years. It was but natural that after the ⁵⁰ attainment of freedom we should have considered ambitious programmes for the expansion of our national education. This was necessary as ⁶⁰ education is one of the most important of our nation building activities. We had also to make special efforts to ⁷⁰ wipe out the deficiency in education created by over a hundred years of foreign rule. It was in this spirit ⁸⁰ that the Ministry of Education prepared a programme of work for the next ten years. It was obvious that we ⁹⁰ had to build our educational structure from its very basis and improve it both qualitatively and quantitatively. The number of ¹⁰⁰ our literates was and is lamentably low. Even the literacy that is imparted is not of the highest quality. In ¹¹⁰ view of the demand for an all-round expansion and improvement, it became necessary to fix an order of priorities, ¹²⁰ so that our limited resources were not frittered away in attempting too many things simultaneously. You will remember that it ¹³⁰ was with this object in view that the Ministry of Education, with your general support, proposed that our immediate objectives ¹⁴⁰ should be four, namely, one the provision of basic education on a universal, free and compulsory basis for all our ¹⁵⁰ school-going children, two, the provision of adult education in order to wipe out the colossal illiteracy of our masses; ¹⁶⁰ three improvement and expansion of technical education in order to solve the problem of manpower for industrial and technical ¹⁷⁰ development; and four, the reorganisation and improvement of university education from a national point of view.

The Post-War Development ¹⁸⁰ Plan laid down that it would take 40 years to implement a scheme of basic education and cost the nation ¹⁹⁰ a sum of Rs. 8,000 crore at the rate of about Rs.200 crore a year. You will ²⁰⁰ remember that after the attainment of Independence we all felt that the period was too long and exigencies of our ²¹⁰ national economy demanded a reduction in the cost. We realised that lack of finance was not the only obstacle in our way. ²²⁰

You considered these reports last years and generally approved of the recommendations. I agree with your views and feel that ²³⁰ in the light of the modifications suggested,

we may prepare our programmes on the basis of co-operation between the State ⁴⁴⁰ and the people, so that the State may extend the necessary facilities and services on the one hand and the ⁴⁵⁰ people on the other, supplement on a voluntary basis the efforts of the State. To improve our standards of technical ⁴⁶⁰ education, the programme that we had envisaged was the establishment of four higher technological institutes in addition to the strengthening ⁴⁷⁰ of existing institutions. Considerations of finance did not permit us to start with all the four, but we thought that ⁴⁸⁰ at least a beginning should be made. The Eastern Higher Technological Institute near Calcutta was taken in hand though ⁴⁹⁰ even ⁵⁰⁰ waiting for the construction of all the necessary buildings. The scheme is in progress and I hope that the next ⁵¹⁰ academic year will see the first batch of teachers and students working in this Institute. Simultaneously, it has been our aim ⁵²⁰ to strengthen the existing institutions by improving their quality and increasing their capacity. In the field of university education, ⁵³⁰ the Indian University Education Commission under the Chairmanship of Professor Radhakrishnan was asked to submit its report within nine months. ⁵⁴⁰ You will be glad to know that it has already done so. The Report is before you and one of ⁵⁵⁰ the main functions of this meeting of the Board will be to consider the recommendations of the Commission. I have ⁵⁶⁰ even at the risk of some repetition recapitulated these points, so that we may be in a position to judge ⁵⁷⁰ where we are. You will appreciate that so far as planning is concerned, the Ministry is ready with its programme ⁵⁸⁰ in all the four fields mentioned by me. I would, therefore, like to draw your attention to the obstacle which ⁵⁹⁰ stands in the way of their immediate implementation. You will remember that in 1947 the problem of refugees ⁶⁰⁰ from Western Pakistan absorbed almost all the energy and a major portion of the finances of the nation. There was, ⁶¹⁰ therefore, no hope of adequate funds being available for educational expansion in the immediate future, but in spite of these ⁶²⁰ difficulties, the Budget for 1998-99 saw an increase in provision for education. During ⁶³⁰ 1998-99, our scheme for educational reconstruction reached a suitable stage for implementation. It was my hope that the ⁶⁴⁰ 1999-2000 budget would enable us to make a beginning with the programme for the same now. ⁶⁵⁰

DISPASSIONATELY: without any emotion; LAMENTABLE: regrettable; FRITTERED: wasted away; COLOSSAL: huge; ENVISAGED: planned; RECAPITULATED: to remember again.

we may prepare our programmes on the basis of co-operation between the State ⁴⁴⁰ and the people, so that the State may extend the necessary facilities and services on the one hand and the ⁴⁵⁰ people on the other, supplement on a voluntary basis the efforts of the State. To improve our standards of technical ⁴⁶⁰ education, the programme that we had envisaged was the establishment of four higher technological institutes in addition to the strengthening ⁴⁷⁰ of existing institutions. Considerations of finance did not permit us to start with all the four, but we thought that ⁴⁸⁰ at least a beginning should be made. The Eastern Higher Technological Institute near Calcutta was taken in hand though ⁴⁹⁰ even ⁵⁰⁰ waiting for the construction of all the necessary buildings. The scheme is in progress and I hope that the next ⁵¹⁰ academic year will see the first batch of teachers and students working in this Institute. Simultaneously, it has been our aim ⁵²⁰ to strengthen the existing institutions by improving their quality and increasing their capacity. In the field of university education, ⁵³⁰ the Indian University Education Commission under the Chairmanship of Professor Radhakrishnan was asked to submit its report within nine months. ⁵⁴⁰ You will be glad to know that it has already done so. The Report is before you and one of ⁵⁵⁰ the main functions of this meeting of the Board will be to consider the recommendations of the Commission. I have ⁵⁶⁰ even at the risk of some repetition recapitulated these points, so that we may be in a position to judge ⁵⁷⁰ where we are. You will appreciate that so far as planning is concerned, the Ministry is ready with its programme ⁵⁸⁰ in all the four fields mentioned by me. I would, therefore, like to draw your attention to the obstacle which ⁵⁹⁰ stands in the way of their immediate implementation. You will remember that in 1947 the problem of refugees ⁶⁰⁰ from Western Pakistan absorbed almost all the energy and a major portion of the finances of the nation. There was, ⁶¹⁰ therefore, no hope of adequate funds being available for educational expansion in the immediate future, but in spite of these ⁶²⁰ difficulties, the Budget for 1998-99 saw an increase in provision for education. During ⁶³⁰ 1998-99, our scheme for educational reconstruction reached a suitable stage for implementation. It was my hope that the ⁶⁴⁰ 1999-2000 budget would enable us to make a beginning with the programme for the same now. ⁶⁵⁰

Exercise 14

We are meeting after a year to discuss our common problems. As you are aware, the Indian Historical Records Commission²⁰ deals with all kinds of historical records. The scope of our deliberations is therefore, wide and extensive. It will, however,⁴⁰ be of advantage to confine ourselves to matters of first concern, and I am sure you will agree that these⁶⁰ relate to questions affecting the National Archives. In all countries the National Archives are the treasure-houses of their historical⁸⁰ wealth, and we in India can justly take pride for the extent and magnitude of our richness in this field.¹⁰⁰ Our National Archives contain a vast collection of records, but systematic series begin from 1672. Some of the¹²⁰ latest records are as late as 1999. They, therefore, tell the story of nearly 300 years of¹⁴⁰ a most interesting and momentous period of India's history. If what remains of the scattered records of the Moghul period¹⁶⁰ are added to these collections, we can say that our records go back to the 15th century. There are not¹⁸⁰ many countries which can claim records which go so far back. From the point of view of quantity also ours²⁰⁰ is one of the biggest collections not only in Asia, but in the world. I cannot give you the exact²²⁰ number of our records, for much work of indexing and cataloguing still remains to be done, but to give you²⁴⁰ some idea of the extent of the collection, I may say that if all these records are assembled in one²⁶⁰ place, there is no building in India big enough to contain all of them. It is hardly necessary for me²⁸⁰ to stress before the present audience the importance of national records. Such records are the basis of history and can³⁰⁰ alone give authenticity to our knowledge of the past. When we read of the past, we are often troubled by³²⁰ the fact that our knowledge is neither complete nor adequate. Contemporary historians hardly ever leave accounts which satisfy succeeding generations,³⁴⁰ and in fact, they are often not in a position to judge what should be recorded and what left out.³⁶⁰ If, however, complete records are available, the annals of the past can be reconstructed, but, in most cases, such records³⁸⁰ of the past do not exist. We know that during the Moghul period, India had the instruments of civilised law.⁴⁰⁰

During the 19th century, the European States adopted the convention that all State records should be opened to the public⁴²⁰ after a lapse of 50 years. The records of the Napoleonic era were thus released to the public in about⁴⁴⁰ 1870. The Napoleonic era was a period of great

progress in different fields, and it was described contemporaneously⁴⁶⁰ by many well-known historians. In fact, all the known methods of history writing were used in making the Napoleonic⁴⁸⁰ period vivid to the public of the day, but even then, when the official records became available in 1870,⁵⁰⁰ it was found that our knowledge of the period was both enriched and altered. Much new light was thrown⁵²⁰ on obscure incidents and happenings. Many old opinions had to be revised in the light of the new information. Similarly,⁵⁴⁰ the official papers relating to the so-called Indian Mutiny of 1857 were released in 1907.⁵⁶⁰ The Government of India published a three-volume history of the Mutiny based on these records. It is true that⁵⁸⁰ this book was written from the British point of view, and did not therefore, do full justice to the Indian⁶⁰⁰ participants. It is, therefore, necessary that these records should be examined afresh, and a true account of the period written⁶²⁰ in as objective a manner as possible. Even then the official history which was based on these records revealed many⁶⁴⁰ facts that were previously unknown and corrected many of our wrong ideas about the different characters who participated in these⁶⁶⁰ momentous happenings. These two examples show how essential records are for a true interpretation of history. If, however, the records⁶⁸⁰ are to be utilised to the fullest extent, it is necessary that they should not only be preserved, but also⁷⁰⁰ arranged and classified systematically. There must also be sufficient number of scholars with the necessary knowledge and scientific attitude⁷²⁰ to take full advantage of the information contained in them. In our National Archives, we have an immense storehouse⁷⁴⁰ of such records but two things have stood in the way of our utilising them fully. One, we have not⁷⁶⁰ been able to make arrangements for all the records to be kept in one place. And two, we have not⁷⁸⁰ been able to appoint the staff necessary for the completion of the work of classification and indexing of the available records.⁸⁰⁰ In 1998, I had intended that the Government of India should undertake this task at an early date,⁸²⁰ and, accordingly, a scheme was drawn up for the improvement of the tempo and the quality of the work later.⁸⁴⁰

ARCHIVES: places where public records kept; MOMENTOUS: to have great importance; AUTHENTICITY: genuine, true; ANNALS: history; CONTEMPORANEOUSLY: to happen in the same period of time.

progress in different fields, and it was described contemporaneously⁴⁶⁰ by many well-known historians. In fact, all the known methods of history writing were used in making the Napoleonic⁴⁸⁰ period vivid to the public of the day, but even then, when the official records became available in 1870,⁵⁰⁰ it was found that our knowledge of the period was both enriched and altered. Much new light was thrown⁵²⁰ on obscure incidents and happenings. Many old opinions had to be revised in the light of the new information. Similarly,⁵⁴⁰ the official papers relating to the so-called Indian Mutiny of 1857 were released in 1907.⁵⁶⁰ The Government of India published a three-volume history of the Mutiny based on these records. It is true that⁵⁸⁰ this book was written from the British point of view, and did not therefore, do full justice to the Indian⁶⁰⁰ participants. It is, therefore, necessary that these records should be examined afresh, and a true account of the period written⁶²⁰ in as objective a manner as possible. Even then the official history which was based on these records revealed many⁶⁴⁰ facts that were previously unknown and corrected many of our wrong ideas about the different characters who participated in these⁶⁶⁰ momentous happenings. These two examples show how essential records are for a true interpretation of history. If, however, the records⁶⁸⁰ are to be utilised to the fullest extent, it is necessary that they should not only be preserved, but also⁷⁰⁰ arranged and classified systematically. There must also be sufficient number of scholars with the necessary knowledge and scientific attitude⁷²⁰ to take full advantage of the information contained in them. In our National Archives, we have an immense storehouse⁷⁴⁰ of such records but two things have stood in the way of our utilising them fully. One, we have not⁷⁶⁰ been able to make arrangements for all the records to be kept in one place. And two, we have not⁷⁸⁰ been able to appoint the staff necessary for the completion of the work of classification and indexing of the available records.⁸⁰⁰ In 1998, I had intended that the Government of India should undertake this task at an early date,⁸²⁰ and, accordingly, a scheme was drawn up for the improvement of the tempo and the quality of the work later.⁸⁴⁰

Exercise 15

I am glad to welcome you to this first All India Conference on Letters to be held under the ²⁰ auspices of the Central Government. The history of India's achievement in the field of letters extends over millenniums, and is ⁴⁰ evidence of the innate genius of the people and the encouragement and support extended by enlightened kings and other lovers ⁶⁰ of letters. These great traditions still remain; but for reasons which are well known, the patronage which in the past ⁸⁰ was extended to literature by the State has been absent ever since India lost her independence. Now that India is ¹⁰⁰ free, it is imperative that we try to make up for the lost ground and create conditions in which our ¹²⁰ languages can develop their innate potentialities and contribute to the heritage of the world. I may briefly refer to the ¹⁴⁰ proposal which was put forward over five years ago by the Asiatic Society of Bengal for the establishment of a ¹⁶⁰ National Cultural Trust. This was to be charged with the task of stimulating and promoting the culture of the country ¹⁸⁰ in all its aspects. The Society proposed that the Trust should function as an autonomous body and consist of three ²⁰⁰ Academies, viz., an Academy of Letters to deal with the Indian languages, literature, philosophy and history; an Academy of Art ²²⁰ and Architecture, and an Academy of Dance, Drama and Music. It was intended that these Academies should aim at maintaining ²⁴⁰ and improving the standards of achievement of all these fields of culture. Since literature and culture can flower best in ²⁶⁰ an atmosphere free from the restrictive influences of officialdom, it was proper for the Asset Society to recommend that the ²⁸⁰ Trust should be an independent body, predominantly non-official of its composition, and operate through its own agencies. In order ³⁰⁰ to give greater freedom to the Trust and made to independently of annual grants from the Central or Provincial Governments, ³²⁰ the Society also proposed that an endowment of four crores of rupees should be created. The proposals were referred to ³⁴⁰ the Central Advisory Board of Education which asked one of its committees to examine them. Accordingly it was recommended that ³⁶⁰ the Central Government should contribute half the amount, while the Provincial Governments and the Indian States should contribute the balance. ³⁸⁰ You are all aware that ever since the attainment of Independence, the country has been passing through a period of difficulty. ⁴⁰⁰

As you know, the financial difficulties still continue and this is not certain when the Government will be in a ⁴²⁰

position to carry out its programme in respect of the Trust. Nevertheless, a beginning has been made and ⁴⁴⁰ an all-India Conference on Art was held at Calcutta in August 1949, as a result of which ⁴⁶⁰ an Advisory Body on Art was set up. We have decided to hold the Conferences on Letters and on Dance, ⁴⁸⁰ Drama and Music during the current year so that the advisory bodies for these subjects may also be set up, ⁵⁰⁰ without further delay. In the pursuance of this decision that we have met today and I am hopeful that ⁵²⁰ your deliberation will help us the attainment of our objectives.

I am glad to find this array of non-official ⁵⁴⁰ talent in this assembly, the more so as the importance of non-official initiative in the fields of culture cannot be ⁵⁶⁰ over-emphasised. If you look at the agenda, you will find that the first item for your consideration is a ⁵⁸⁰ proposal for the establishment of an Indian Academy of Letters which will co-ordinate literary activities in all the Indian languages. ⁶⁰⁰ 'Co-ordinate' is perhaps an unfortunate word, because all literary creation is an expression of the freedom of the spirit and ⁶²⁰ does not lend itself to control an organisation. What, however, an Academy can do is to consider ways and means ⁶⁴⁰ for the preparation and maintenance of an over-all survey of literature in all the Indian languages so that through greater ⁶⁶⁰ knowledge of one another's efforts, literary men and women in all the languages can be spurred to greater activity and ⁶⁸⁰ help in the creation of a literature which is comparable to that of the advanced languages of the world. So ⁷⁰⁰ long as there was an alien Government in the country, the people were suspicious of any governmental interference in the ⁷²⁰ sphere of literature and culture. This was natural, for the people feared that such interference would have political implications. Today, ⁷⁴⁰ with the establishment of a national Government, there need be no such political fears, and some people, in fact, expect ⁷⁶⁰ the Government to be entirely responsible for the development of our languages. I would, however, like to state that even ⁷⁸⁰ a National Government cannot, and should not be, expected to develop literature and culture through official orders. The Government should ⁸⁰⁰ certainly help both by material assistance and by creating an atmosphere which is congenial to cultural activities, but the main ⁸²⁰ work of the development of literature and culture must be the responsibility of individuals endowed with talent and genius. ⁸⁴⁰

INNATE: inborn; GENIUS: extra intelligent; ENDOWMENT: to give permanent income; COORDINATE: to bring harmony;

position to carry out its programme in respect of the Trust. Nevertheless, a beginning has been made and ⁴⁴⁰ an all-India Conference on Art was held at Calcutta in August 1949, as a result of which ⁴⁶⁰ an Advisory Body on Art was set up. We have decided to hold the Conferences on Letters and on Dance, ⁴⁸⁰ Drama and Music during the current year so that the advisory bodies for these subjects may also be set up, ⁵⁰⁰ without further delay. In the pursuance of this decision that we have met today and I am hopeful that ⁵²⁰ your deliberation will help us the attainment of our objectives.

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Exercise 16

On behalf of the Indian National Commission and myself, I extend a very cordial welcome to Mr. Border, Director General ²⁰ of UNESCO, on the occasion of his first official visit to India. The welcome is greater as we have ⁴⁰ been expecting him since last year, and the disappointment felt at his inability to fulfil his engagement then, has accentuated ⁶⁰ our pleasure in finding him in our midst today. We welcome him not only because he is the Director General ⁸⁰ of UNESCO, but also because of the personal contribution he has made, both before and since he assumed that office, ¹⁰⁰ towards the furtherance of peace through education. His work in rural adult education in Mexico won the appreciation of discerning ¹²⁰ critics all over the world. Ever since he assumed office as Director General, he has given a new impetus to ¹⁴⁰ the programme of Fundamental Education and the service of under-developed areas. I have every hope that his present tour ¹⁶⁰ of India, Ceylon and Pakistan will establish closer bonds between UNESCO and these countries and lead to greater efforts in ¹⁸⁰ the cause of education for peace and unity. UNESCO is one of the specialised agencies of UNO which ²⁰⁰ was established to achieve international unity and peace. We must, however, confess that world unity on the political plane is ²²⁰ still a distant goal. The world organisation which have been set up to achieve political unity, whether as the League ²⁴⁰ of Nations or the United Nations organisation, have not yet achieved anything that can rekindle the hopes of men. ²⁶⁰ UNO, founded to solve all political problems in a spirit of equity by remaining free from entanglement with ²⁸⁰ power blocks, is unfortunately itself becoming a victim of power politics. The conflicts between nations that formerly marked the field ³⁰⁰ of diplomacy are now often displayed in the deliberations of UNO. How can we then hope that ³²⁰ UNO will succeed in its aims unless it can disentangle itself from the fact of political groupings and judge ³⁴⁰ all questions from the point of view of international justice and peace? While aware of the present shortcomings, India is ³⁶⁰ nevertheless a staunch supporter for world peace, is so precious an objective that we cannot give ³⁸⁰ up any instrument which offers even a remote hope of achieving it. And what instrument of world peace can there be other than UNO? ⁴⁰⁰

If therefore in this troubled world we can find any gleam of hope for unity and peace, it can be ⁴²⁰ only through the activity of UNESCO. UNESCO rightly recognises

that all conflicts originate in the mind of man, and hence ⁴⁴⁰ it is in the minds of men that the bastions of peace must be built. The emphasis here is on ⁴⁶⁰ the cultural unity of mankind to which different countries and different peoples have made their contribution. In UNESCO one may ⁴⁸⁰ therefore forget the clashes of take success and live in an atmosphere where representatives who oppose one another in ⁵⁰⁰ UNO can co-operate in creative effort. I may cite as an instance the political differences which have divided our ⁵²⁰ country from South Africa. India has rightly sought the help of UNO to remove discrimination and racial inequality ⁵⁴⁰ that prevail in South Africa, but in UNESCO we find that the representatives of South Africa co-operate with the representatives ⁵⁶⁰ of India in advancing the cause of education, science and culture. Education is basic to the creation of an atmosphere ⁵⁸⁰ in which human beings can meet one another on a plane of friendship and equality, and we are particularly happy ⁶⁰⁰ that the direction of UNESCO is today in the hands of one who has identified himself with the furtherance of ⁶²⁰ these ends.

Mr. Director General, you will perhaps agree with me that man and women of the present generation have been ⁶⁴⁰ brought up in an atmosphere of such national exclusiveness that they cannot be expected to achieve world unity and world ⁶⁶⁰ citizenship easily. They have been trained to think on lines which make it difficult to transcend the limitations of race, ⁶⁸⁰ class or nationality. If therefore, we are to achieve world unity, and all agree that without such unity the future ⁷⁰⁰ of man is dark, all our efforts must be concentrated to educate the future generations for world citizenship. If from ⁷²⁰ their earliest days, the children of today are trained to think of one another in terms of unity and brotherhood, ⁷⁴⁰ they will, when they grow up, develop an attitude of mind in which the present conflicts will become unnecessary and ⁷⁶⁰ unreal. I also hope, Mr. Director General, that you will agree with me that for achieving this end the entire ⁷⁸⁰ method of teaching history and geography in schools must be changed. Till this has been done, there can be no ⁸⁰⁰ hope of achieving a real unity of purpose among the peoples of the world and without such unity there can ⁸²⁰ be no world citizenship. The way in which we teach history and geography today very much militates against this objective. ⁸⁴⁰

ACCENTUATED: emphasized; IMPETUS: moving force;
REKINDLE: to inspire; STAUNCH: untiring; TRANSCEND: to go beyond, exceed limits; MILITATES: to influence against.

Exercise 17

Though this is the first occasion on which I have, in person, attended a session of UNESCO, I may claim ³⁰ that in spirit I have always been with you and followed your deliberations and activities with the keenest interest and ⁴⁰ sympathy. This I have done as I feel that, in view of the disaster which threatens the future of mankind, UNESCO alone offers a faint ray of hope. Mankind has, in the course of the last century, made phenomenal advances ⁸⁰ in knowledge and material prosperity but this progress has not been reflected in man's moral and political achievement. Increased knowledge ¹⁰⁰ has therefore, led not only to a greater provision for comforts and victory over want and disease, but also, alas, ¹²⁰ to an increase in man's power for destruction and death. This power is so great today that, unless all men, ¹⁴⁰ have a sense of community, it may well lead to common ruin for all. It is only through a re-education ¹⁶⁰ of man that we can create that sense of psychological unity and common citizenship which the technological unity achieved by ¹⁸⁰ the advance of modern science requires of man. This is the reason why, in 1949, when the Indian ²⁰⁰ National Congress for Co-operation with UNESCO was founded, I placed such great emphasis on the importance of UNESCO's work. I ²²⁰ pointed out with regret that while the United Nations were founded for the achievement of peace and unity, the result ²⁴⁰ had, in fact, been the division of the world into two warring camps. It is true that some progress has ²⁶⁰ been achieved here, in place of a multitude, of nations, each struggling on its own, the United Nations present a ²⁸⁰ picture of two solid blocks array one against the other. Nevertheless, to any man who looks forward to co-operation, and ³⁰⁰ friendship among nations, this picture can bring no message of hope. It seems that the only hope lies in UNESCO, ³²⁰ which asks to achieve unity in the field of education, science and culture, even among those who are politically divided. ³⁴⁰ I feel that if UNESCO could achieve its objectives and create understanding between different nations on the cultural plane, there ³⁶⁰ is hope that, with time, the cultural understanding would make itself felt in the economic and political fields also. In ³⁸⁰ the course of the last two years, my hope in UNESCO and my apprehensions about the United Nations have both increased. ⁴⁰⁰

It is true that UNESCO is barely half a dozen years old. But these few years have been of immense ⁴²⁰ significance for the future of man. This period has revealed fissures in our political and intellectual attitudes which, unless

they ⁴⁴⁰ are checked on time, may well involve the whole of humanity in one common ruin. It is, therefore, necessary that ⁴⁶⁰ we should attempt to evaluate what UNESCO has done during these turbulent years and survey its past achievement so that ⁴⁸⁰ we can map out with greater confidence the course of its future action.

The aim of UNESCO is to bring ⁵⁰⁰ nations together through education, science and culture. Ever since its foundation, UNESCO has yearly passed resolutions and adopted programmes ⁵²⁰ to achieve that end. One of the greatest achievement of UNESCO has been to help frame a new and Universal ⁵⁴⁰ Declaration of Human Rights which has since been adopted by the United Nations. Similarly, in the field of technical assistance ⁵⁶⁰ to underdeveloped countries and the restoration of educational and cultural facilities in the war-devastated countries, and in the exchange ⁵⁸⁰ of persons and ideas between different nations, considerable progress has been achieved. Even more important is the project which UNESCO ⁶⁰⁰ seeks to adopt for the provision of fundamental education to immense areas of the world as yet without adequate facilities. ⁶²⁰ It is a sad reflection on our civilisation that almost three-fourth of the adult population of the world are ⁶⁴⁰ still unlettered. Literacy and ignorance directly contradict all our professions for the rights of men and constitute a threat to ⁶⁶⁰ universal democracy, peace and progress. I should like to congratulate UNESCO upon its realisation that it is only by improving ⁶⁸⁰ the human material through education in the less fortunate areas of the world that prospects of world peace can be ⁷⁰⁰ secured. While no one can for a moment question the programme of UNESCO in these fields, I feel sure that ⁷²⁰ you, Mr. President, and you Mr. Director General, will agree with me that UNESCO cannot succeed in its objectives so ⁷⁴⁰ long as the fear of war and destruction cripple the creative energies of man. Unless this threat can be averted, ⁷⁶⁰ all our efforts to advance education, science and culture seem a mockery. If the world is to be saved from ⁷⁸⁰ disaster, we must, as intelligent men and women, decide what steps UNESCO can take to avoid the threat of war. ⁸⁰⁰ It will not do to say that the questions of war and peace are primarily political and do not concern UNESCO ⁸²⁰ which is a body devoted to the advancement of education, science and culture. That cannot be so always as such. ⁸⁴⁰

DISASTER: misfortune; RUIN: wrecked state; FISSURES: splits.
TURBULENT: disturbed, riotous; DEVASTATED: to lay waste; CRIPPLE: disabled.

they ⁴⁴⁰ are checked on time, may well involve the whole of humanity in one common ruin. It is, therefore, necessary that ⁴⁶⁰ we should attempt to evaluate what UNESCO has done during these turbulent years and survey its past achievement so that ⁴⁸⁰ we can map out with greater confidence the course of its future action.

The aim of UNESCO is to bring ⁵⁰⁰ nations together through education, science and culture. Ever since its foundation, UNESCO has yearly passed resolutions and adopted programmes ⁵²⁰ to achieve that end. One of the greatest achievement of UNESCO has been to help frame a new and Universal ⁵⁴⁰ Declaration of Human Rights which has since been adopted by the United Nations. Similarly, in the field of technical assistance ⁵⁶⁰ to underdeveloped countries and the restoration of educational and cultural facilities in the war-devastated countries, and in the exchange ⁵⁸⁰ of persons and ideas between different nations, considerable progress has been achieved. Even more important is the project which UNESCO ⁶⁰⁰ seeks to adopt for the provision of fundamental education to immense areas of the world as yet without adequate facilities. ⁶²⁰ It is a sad reflection on our civilisation that almost three-fourth of the adult population of the world are ⁶⁴⁰ still unlettered. Literacy and ignorance directly contradict all our professions for the rights of men and constitute a threat to ⁶⁶⁰ universal democracy, peace and progress. I should like to congratulate UNESCO upon its realisation that it is only by improving ⁶⁸⁰ the human material through education in the less fortunate areas of the world that prospects of world peace can be ⁷⁰⁰ secured. While no one can for a moment question the programme of UNESCO in these fields, I feel sure that ⁷²⁰ you, Mr. President, and you Mr. Director General, will agree with me that UNESCO cannot succeed in its objectives so ⁷⁴⁰ long as the fear of war and destruction cripple the creative energies of man. Unless this threat can be averted, ⁷⁶⁰ all our efforts to advance education, science and culture seem a mockery. If the world is to be saved from ⁷⁸⁰ disaster, we must, as intelligent men and women, decide what steps UNESCO can take to avoid the threat of war. ⁸⁰⁰ It will not do to say that the questions of war and peace are primarily political and do not concern UNESCO ⁸²⁰ which is a body devoted to the advancement of education, science and culture. That cannot be so always as such. ⁸⁴⁰

Exercise 18

It is for me a great pleasure to associate myself with the formal opening of the Indian Institute of Technology²⁰ at Kharagpur. When I assumed charge of the Ministry of Education in 1947, I felt that of the⁴⁰ many tasks of educational reconstruction that faced the country, two were of paramount urgency. The first was the creation of⁶⁰ a nation-wide system of Basic Education for all children of school-going age, and the second the provision of⁸⁰ facilities of the highest type of education in the technical field. You are aware that the prevailing system of education¹⁰⁰ in the country has been mainly literary and academic. It has not supplied us with the high level scientific and¹²⁰ technical personnel that is necessary to develop our economic and material resources, and improve the standard of life of our¹⁴⁰ people. For such education we have had to send our students abroad, and from various points of view this has¹⁶⁰ never been and cannot be fully satisfactory. One of the first decisions I took on assuming charge was that we¹⁸⁰ must so improve the facilities for higher technical education in the country, that we could ourselves meet most of our²⁰⁰ needs. The large number of our young men who had been going abroad for higher training could have received²²⁰ such training in the country itself. Indeed, I looked and still look forward to the day when the facilities for²⁴⁰ technical education in India will be of such a level that people from abroad will come to India for higher²⁶⁰ scientific and technical training. The Government of India has already before them a scheme for the establishment of four institutions²⁸⁰ of the standard of the MIT. I felt that whatever the financial and other obstacles, we must³⁰⁰ go ahead with the implementation of that scheme. The first item in that programme was the establishment of the Eastern³²⁰ Institute near Calcutta, and I am happy that in spite of the tremendous difficulties we have had to face in³⁴⁰ the last four years, we are able to participate in the opening of the Institute today. I would here like³⁶⁰ to place on record my deep appreciation of the generous help we have received from the Government of West Bengal³⁸⁰ who have given to the Institute, free of cost, a magnificent plot of some 1200 acres, and this building.⁴⁰⁰

It has been clear to me from the very beginning that this Institute must provide instruction of the highest standard,⁴²⁰ under the supervision of recognised authorities in their respective fields. We have intended that only men of the highest quality should⁴⁴⁰ be in charge of the different

departments, and we have not hesitated even to go outside India to recruit professors⁴⁶⁰ wherever necessary. We have also felt that there is no point in providing specialised courses merely because such courses exist⁴⁸⁰ elsewhere but those course should be provided only if a clear need for their provision is felt. We have therefore, decided⁵⁰⁰ that facilities in different subjects will be made available at the Institute only when we are satisfied. As⁵²⁰ have said earlier, these higher technical institutes are intended to fill important gaps in the provision of facilities for higher⁵⁴⁰ technical education. Pending the establishment of such institutes, we have sought to fill some of these gaps by improving the⁵⁶⁰ facilities available in the existing institutions. On the recommendation of the All India Council for Technical Education, a scheme for⁵⁸⁰ the strengthening and improvement of fourteen engineering and technological institutions situated in different parts of the country has been sanctioned⁶⁰⁰ and is now in the third year of its operation. This scheme will cost approximately Rs. 1.5 crore.⁶²⁰ The Government have also sanctioned large amount for the development of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Now that the⁶⁴⁰ Indian Institute of Technology has been established, fresh encouragement will be given to the improvement of technical education throughout the⁶⁶⁰ country. The Institute will provide postgraduate and research facilities which can be utilised properly only if a sufficient number⁶⁸⁰ of graduates in engineering and technology of a sufficiently high quality are forthcoming to take advantage of the facilities offered.⁷⁰⁰ This aspect of the question is constantly in our minds and I can assure you that the Government will continue⁷²⁰ to take a deep interest in the all-round development of facilities of technical education throughout the country. The Institute⁷⁴⁰ which is being inaugurated today will have provision for the teaching of 2,000 students at the undergraduate level,⁷⁶⁰ and 1,000 students for postgraduate study and research. These students will be drawn from all over the country, and⁷⁸⁰ their close association in a fellowship of study and research in some of the most formative years of their life⁸⁰⁰ will, we earnestly hope, develop in them a consciousness of their common Indian nationality and culture. The Institute's main function⁸²⁰ is, no doubt, to provide facilities for training high-grade engineers and technologists, but facilities for research, as well.⁸⁴⁰

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PARAMOUNT: supreme: FARNESTLY: honestlv.

Constitution and Law Ex. 19 - 25

Exercise 19

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution Bill, 1988 which is brought on the floor of this House. Sir, it is a welcome measure in the right direction. This Bill seeks to devolve more powers to the District Councils. Sir, in the District Councils, the Members are the tribals. Sir, the founding fathers of the Constitution of India through their wisdom and political foresight recognised the very delicate sentiments, culture and traditions of the tribals. They foresaw that unless certain protections are given to the tribals in the management of their affairs, they will be submerged in the process of normalisation along with the most or more advanced people of the plains. This aspect was recognised not only by the founding fathers of the Constitution but by the alien rulers as well. According to 1937 Act, certain areas of Assam in the North-Eastern region were kept excluded, to be looked after by the Governor. This was also a recognition to the very peculiar feature prevailing in the tribal area. This was intended to protect the innocent tribals from being exploited by more advanced people of the plains. So, when the Constitution was drafted this special provision was made to protect the interests of the tribals, particularly in the North-Eastern region.

Sir, even before the drafting of the Constitution of India the tribal in the North-Eastern region agitated and they showed their resentment that when the British leave the country they should be kept in such a way that their culture and their tradition are safeguarded. When the Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly in which Brother Basu was also a Member, when they visited Kohima, they were told that the Nagas want a separate home. In other words, they do not want to lose their identities, they want to preserve their culture, they want to preserve their traditions. Similar is the case of Mizoram, Meghalaya and other tribal areas. In this Amendment, there are some features for which, this House should not have an iota of doubts. If you just look at the face of the Bill, a question would arise that when the entire State is predominantly tribal, why should we have Tribal Councils that even among the tribals. There are some minorities within tribals who have to be cared.

When we devolve powers in the District Councils, or at the grassroot levels, it clearly shows the intention of the Government to extend the democratic process even

at the grassroot level so that this would give more opportunities to the people for deeper involvement in the scheme of things in the whole country. If we all the time look at the tribals as backward and if we do not give opportunity to them to develop, how can they be trained in the art of governance? How can they be trained in running the affairs of their own State? I feel that devolution of more powers to the local self-government specially in the tribal areas is a very welcome feature and is in the right direction. I am afraid that while giving more powers to the Council, if we do not again give them financial powers, I think this will be like an anti-drama. Without financial powers, how can they manage? Therefore, in the amendment, I think you have rightly given more financial powers for the management of the District Councils. Now a suspicion has arisen if we do not allow the legislators to attend the District Council, does it mean a distrust. I don't think so. Even if the Governor has to use his discretion, he has to consult the Council of Ministers. Therefore, the question of misuse of discretionary power by the Governor, I think, would not arise. And also, use of discretion is on matters pertaining to the progress of these tribals and, therefore, we should not misconstrue the spirit of the amendment which we are having before us.

In Tripura, the tribals are the real inhabitants but because of historical reasons, because of political reasons, they are completely submerged by outside people and, therefore, specially for Tripura, a special provision to safeguard the interests of the tribals in matters of appointments, in matters of law, in matters of land, in matters of their traditions and customs, shall have to be worked out. I would request the Government to ensure that more protection and more safeguards are initiated especially for the tribal minorities of Tripura. After all, in their own home, they are finding themselves in a minority and, therefore, it is our moral obligation to ensure their safety, their security and their future. I do not want to dwell much on this. I only wish that the District Council in Mizoram, which has been envisaged in this amending Bill, works well. The agreement with Mr. Laldenga also clearly indicate that protection would be given to these minorities which is good if for the people here.

TRIBALS: one who lives in tribes; ALIEN: foreign; IOTA: petty, very small; MISCONSTRUE: misunderstand; DWELL: to deal in.

Exercise 20

Hon'ble Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to submit that the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution Amendment Bill, 1988²⁰ will curb the powers of the autonomous District Councils. With the adoption of the Bill the undesirable interference of the⁴⁰ State Government with the functioning of the councils will increase. This Bill will make the autonomous District Councils puppets in⁶⁰ the hands of the State Government and as a result of which the objective with which the autonomous District Councils⁸⁰ were constituted will be frustrated. Therefore, I oppose this Bill tooth and nail. Sir, the demands of the District Councils¹⁰⁰ in the North Eastern Regions are for more powers. It is a fact that the District Councils held meetings for¹²⁰ more powers. They submitted a Memorandum to the Central Government for the same purpose. They wanted that in their daily¹⁴⁰ work and in their developmental works the State Governments should not interfere. They feel that interference from the State Government¹⁶⁰ will hamper the developmental works within their respective jurisdictions. The idea was that the autonomous District Councils should get all¹⁸⁰ opportunities to function independently on the basis of their allotted powers. I shall show how this Bill curbs the powers²⁰⁰ of the autonomous District Councils. Even in day to day matter within the jurisdiction of an autonomous District Council the²²⁰ Council of Ministers of a State is interfering. Under paragraph 1 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the autonomous²⁴⁰ District Councils are empowered to reconstitute their respective areas. A Council can exclude an area from its jurisdiction where the²⁶⁰ tribals are in minority and instead include a neighbouring area where the tribals are in majority. It is also provided²⁸⁰ for in the said provisions of the Sixth Schedule that the Governors shall approve the re-determination of areas by the³⁰⁰ Councils.

Under the present Bill the Governors will have to consult their respective Council of Ministers when areas will be³²⁰ re-determined by the Councils. It means the State Governments have been empowered to interfere with the Reconstitution of the District³⁴⁰ Councils. Again, under the existing Sixth Schedule the Governors are empowered to nominate four members to the autonomous District Councils³⁶⁰ but now, under the present Bill, the Governors will be forced to consult the Council of Ministers while nominating four³⁸⁰ members to the said Councils. The District Council is empowered to make rules for the conduct of its business.⁴⁰⁰

Under paragraph 4 of the Sixth Schedule to the

1988

Constitution, a Regional Council or District Council shall have power to⁴²⁰ make rules regulating the constitution of village councils and courts with the previous approval of the Governor. They will also⁴⁴⁰ have power to make rules regulating the procedure to be followed by village councils or courts in the trial of⁴⁶⁰ suits and cases with the previous approval of the Governor. But now under the present Bill the Governor will be⁴⁸⁰ compelled to take the advice of the Council of Ministers in such matters. Consequently, the Regional Council or the District⁵⁰⁰ Council will have to remain at the mercy of the State Government even for laying down procedures for the conduct⁵²⁰ of its business. Under paragraph 6 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the District Council can establish primary schools.⁵⁴⁰ Under the same paragraph the District Council can prescribe the language in which the education is to be imparted to⁵⁶⁰ primary students. Again under the same paragraph, the District Council can construct dispensaries, markets and roads and can manage ferries,⁵⁸⁰ fisheries and waterways. The District Council can make regulations for the regulation and control of all these activities with the⁶⁰⁰ approval of the Governor. But now under the present Bill, the Governor will have to take the approval of the⁶²⁰ Council of Ministers while approving of the regulations made by the District Council. Consequently, the State Government has been empowered⁶⁴⁰ to interfere with the development work of the District Council. Under paragraph 9 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution,⁶⁶⁰ if any dispute arises over the share of royalties for exploitation of mineral resources between the State Government and the⁶⁸⁰ District Council, the dispute shall be referred to the Governor and his decision there on shall be final. But under the⁷⁰⁰ present Bill the decision of the State Government in such a matter shall be final and in this manner the⁷²⁰ District Council will be deprived of its due share of royalty. The present Bill seeks to give more powers to⁷⁴⁰ the State Government to interfere with the discretionary powers of the Governor. At the same time all democratic norms are⁷⁶⁰ being flouted to curb the powers of the District Council by the Council of Ministers. Under paragraph 15 of the⁷⁸⁰ Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the Governor can annul a legislation of the District Council with the approval of the⁸⁰⁰ State legislature if it is likely to endanger the safety of India or is likely to be prejudicial to public⁸²⁰ order. But now under the present Bill the Governor will not be required to take approval of the State Legislature.⁸⁴⁰

HAMPERED: to hinder, to make slow; JURISDICTION: legal limits; IMPARTED: communicated; FLOUTED: violated; ANNUL: to cancel; PREJUDICIAL: affecting one's interests.

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Exercise 21

Sir, under paragraph 16 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the Governor may on the recommendation of a Commission²⁰ appointed under paragraph 14 of the said Schedule order the dissolution of a District Council on charges of corruption in⁴⁰ the Commission's Report. Thereafter he may direct that a fresh general election shall be held immediately for the reconstitution of⁶⁰ the Council. He may also assume the administration of the area under the authority of the Council himself or place⁸⁰ the administration of such area under the Commission appointed under the said paragraph or any other body considered suitable by¹⁰⁰ him with the previous approval of the State Legislature. But now under the present Bill the Governor will not be¹²⁰ required to get the approval of the State Legislature if he wants to assume the administration of the area under¹⁴⁰ the authority of a Council himself. The Governor can now dissolve the District Council with the consent of the Council¹⁶⁰ of Ministers. Consequently, the representatives of the people in the Legislature will be deprived of expressing their views on the¹⁸⁰ dissolution of the Council. So the present Bill strikes at the very root of democracy. The present Bill relates to²⁰⁰ Tripura and Mizoram. We have five crores tribals in our country. What is the condition of these tribals? What facilities²²⁰ do these tribals enjoy to develop themselves educationally and culturally? How is it that under the Constitution even after fifty²⁴⁰ three years of Independence we have not yet been able to provide sufficient facilities to the tribals to enable them²⁶⁰ to develop their language, culture and education? Who is responsible for it? According to me the ruling Party at the²⁸⁰ Centre who is ruling most of the State Governments is responsible for it because it favours the majority community people³⁰⁰ in a State to keep itself in power.

The ruling Party neglects the interest of tribal minorities to please the³²⁰ majority community people. I feel that every tribal community in this country has got the right to preserve its language³⁴⁰ and culture under the Constitution. The same Constitution gives the tribals safeguard and autonomy to keep their tradition, heritage and³⁶⁰ self determination. So in various parts of the country the tribals are now demanding autonomy. But the Government of³⁸⁰ India is concentrating powers instead of accepting the demands of the tribals for autonomy as in the case of Tripura.⁴⁰⁰

Now, the tribals have become minority there. The language and culture of the majority people there are very

much developed.⁴²⁰ So the main question before Tripura is how to preserve language and culture of the tribals. The Sixth Schedule to⁴⁴⁰ the Constitution gave Constitutional guarantees to the tribals for the preservation of their language and culture, it is very unfortunate⁴⁶⁰ that the said Schedule is now being amended for snatching away the Constitutional rights. The tribals of Tripura struggled long⁴⁸⁰ for the formation of autonomous District Council. They got their autonomous District Council after the Left Front Government came to⁵⁰⁰ power there. What happened during the last election in Tripura? It is known to the Hon'ble Minister and to the⁵²⁰ people of Tripura. Ten days before election, Tripura national volunteers murdered people of majority community in tribal areas in order⁵⁴⁰ to create a feeling of insecurity among them. Taking advantage of the insecurity of the people of the majority community⁵⁶⁰ the Central Government declared Tripura a disturbed area and deployed army there. The ruling Party exploited the issue of security⁵⁸⁰ for the people of the majority community and came to power unjustly.

Now the present Bill seeks to please the⁶⁰⁰ people of the Bangali origin in Tripura. Entire tribal Community are against this Bill. What is the viewpoint of the⁶²⁰ tribals in the North Eastern region about this Bill? The tribals in the said region held meetings and submitted Memorandum⁶⁴⁰ to the Central Government. They also met the Minister. The Minister assured them that the draft Bill which had been⁶⁶⁰ sent to them by the Central Government would be discussed with them before it was given the final shape. Sir,⁶⁸⁰ no District Council of the North Eastern region has supported the present Bill. The Autonomous District Council of Tripura has⁷⁰⁰ unanimously protested against this Bill. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to withdraw this Bill. This Bill cannot satisfy⁷²⁰ the tribals of Tripura and the North Eastern region. This Bill will lead them to the path of destruction. Therefore,⁷⁴⁰ the Hon'ble Minister should withdraw this Bill in order to safeguard the interest of the tribals in Tripura. Sir, Tripura⁷⁶⁰ was included in the Sixth Schedule in 1984, having no power in the District Council. There were commitments⁷⁸⁰ in the Memorandum of Settlement of Tripura and Mizoram with a view to safeguarding the interests of the minority tribals⁸⁰⁰ in these States as well as restoration of peace and normalcy in Mizoram and Tripura. There were underground activities going⁸²⁰ on for years together. It was the feeling of the tribal people that they would lose their identity in future.⁸⁴⁰

DEPRIVED: to take away; AUTONOMY: independence;
HERITAGE: past cultural influence; DEPLOYED: placed usefully.

Sir, another aspect of the Postal Department, a very important one, is the wonderful organisation of postal savings banks. This²⁰ organisation also covers every nook and corner of our country. There are 650 lakh account-holders and⁴⁰ Rs. 14,000 crores of deposits. It is a wonderful banking system, encouraging the saving effort even in small villages. And⁶⁰ we want to develop it further and modernise it further. We have been able to make the savings bank⁸⁰ a part of the national banking system by joining with the clearing house system in the bigger cities, which means that¹⁰⁰ our cheques can be handled in a very fast way in the clearing house and everything can be taken care¹²⁰ or as if we are using that service.

Sir, some points have been mentioned regarding the working of the postal¹⁴⁰ service, particularly the EDPs and the RMS side of it. Many Hon. Members have raised it¹⁶⁰ and they have shown concern that we are not doing much for the EDPs. The first thing about¹⁸⁰ the EDPs when we consider how much they are paid, is that they are not wholetime Government servants.²⁰⁰ They are not even temporary Government servants in that sense. When an EDP is recruited, one of the²²⁰ considerations is that he has already some other occupation, and his working hours are calculated according to the workload. And²⁴⁰ every year his emoluments are revised in the light of the work that he is handling. It is in no²⁶⁰ case more than five hours because after that, we upgrade the post office and a regular department man gets appointed.²⁸⁰

We have a full point system in this, and once that stage is reached, it is converted into this. Another³⁰⁰ advantage they have is that they are in the channel of promotion in the regular department after a certain time³²⁰ which means that they do not remain EDPs all their life but they sort of move into a³⁴⁰ permanent cadre of the department. A committee has been formed. When a Pay Commission is formed by the Government of³⁶⁰ India, we also appointed a Committee to go into the emoluments of EDPs. The same has been done³⁸⁰ this time. Mr. Sharma is heading the one-man committee and he is going to give his report very soon.⁴⁰⁰

Now, Sir about the RMS, this system was changed a few years back because of various reasons, the⁴²⁰ main reason being that it took a long time to the sorting in the trains and when the trains and when the trains⁴⁴⁰ move fast and they not stop at various stations, the time in a fast train is not enough⁴⁶⁰ really do the kind of sorting that was done before. Apart from this, there are other considerations like fast moving⁴⁸⁰ mails. Points have been

made that after this after this new system had been introduced, it has meant delays of as much⁵⁰⁰ as seven days or three days. Figures were mentioned. Sir, as promised by the former Minister, we have made two⁵²⁰ reviews of it, not one, and we are again trying to review this to see how the new, modified system⁵⁴⁰ has been working. It has been found to be satisfactory in most places and instead of delaying, it has accelerated⁵⁶⁰ the movement of mails. Particularly the newspapers and second class mail cards, etc. which were tremendously delayed in the old⁵⁸⁰ days, now get the same priority as first class mails.

So, in totality, it is a much better system, considered⁶⁰⁰ from every point of view. So far as the interests of the employees are concerned no one has been declared⁶²⁰ surplus. They have not even been moved from their places of work. Within the department itself, we are trying to⁶⁴⁰ adjust them in sections which are overloaded. We are trying to see that they are disturbed least by this new⁶⁶⁰ change. Now I will come to some of the points which will cover other points also which were raised in⁶⁸⁰ the House. My friend mentioned about the interception of telephone calls and mail. Section 26 of the Indian Post Offices⁷⁰⁰ Act make similar provision in this respect which are very much relevant in this context. This matter was referred to⁷²⁰ the Law Commission and they have made certain recommendations. They say that this need not be abolished but certain safeguards⁷⁴⁰ by way of provision for review, etc. should be made.

We have accepted this recommendation and we are incorporating an⁷⁶⁰ amendment through legislation. Actually one amendment was introduced but which lapsed with the lapse of the last Lok Sabha. We⁷⁸⁰ want to bring it again in accordance with the recommendation of the Law Commission. Therefore, this side would be looked⁸⁰⁰ after. I need not say that this is resorted to in extreme cases, when really problem of national interest arise.⁸²⁰ The Law Commission has gone thoroughly into these things and we have accepted this recommendation and implemented all the suggestions.⁸⁴⁰

EMOLUMENTS : salary & other benefits

SORTING : picked out from mixed lot

ACCELERATE : fasten

Exercise 23

Sir, regarding the public sector: I am very happy to see that we have now 224 public sector²⁰ enterprises in India run by the Central Government. From five public sector units with an investment of Rs.29 crores,⁴⁰ we have now come to have 224 public sector units with an investment of almost Rs.26,000⁴⁰ crores. Some of my friends from the Opposition were mentioning that our investment is not proper. Is it improper to⁴⁰ have 224 units in place of 5 and investment increasing from Rs.29crores to Rs. 26,000⁴⁰crores? Sir, the public sector at one time was only the postal department set up by the East India Company.¹²⁰ But now look at the growth. Now, not the postal department only but several other departments, firms and facilities¹⁴⁰ that we have. Then about the sales growth, I must comment. Not only there is growth in investments but also¹⁶⁰ growth in sales. In ten years we are able to show a remarkable sales growth of six times in this¹⁸⁰ country. This is also a result of the good economic policy.

Sir, I would not take much of time but²⁰⁰ I would like to say one thing about the restlessness shown in many parts of this country because our country²²⁰ is a developing nation. As a developing nation, our economy has developed in many spheres. People have been demanding more²⁴⁰ in many sectors. More people wanting to travel by trains more people wanting to travel by air. When there is²⁶⁰ more demand for everything, you find that the infrastructure is not coping with the development of the economy. I think²⁸⁰ the Finance Minister and the fiscal planners of this country will have to throw a little more light on this³⁰⁰ aspect. Infrastructural plan is also very important. When you think of providing more wagons, there should be sufficient railway stations,³²⁰ the platforms must be long enough. Otherwise, people get discomfort and our achievements on various points will be immediately sidetracked.³⁴⁰ By more waiting at the railway station for hours, I think the passengers will feel that nothing is achieved in³⁶⁰ our country and that everything is of disadvantage to them. He forgets immediately the achievements made in this country. So,³⁸⁰ the small thing which the people are coming across every day in their day-to-day life, is the infrastructural weakness⁴⁰⁰

Sir, about the recovery our economy has made, I do not want to compare it with that happened in⁴²⁰ their Govt.'s

time. We have not sold the gold which is reserved in the country. In 1978-79⁴⁴⁰ and 1979-80 did they not sell the gold? Did they not stop collections for cheap popularity?⁴⁶⁰ Did they not distort the economy at that time by wrong fiscal policies? Sir, many things are there. But I⁴⁸⁰ do not want to take your time because we are now discussing on a very important document in the House⁵⁰⁰ Sir, the productivity has to be increased. For productivity increase, the theme of the Budget itself is increasing the production- Thermal power generation is an important factor. Sir, I come from a State where electricity used to be a surplus⁵⁴⁰ commodity every year. But last year because of the drought we find suddenly that there is power shortage. Sir, in⁵⁶⁰ the State of Kerala there is no thermal power station. There was a proposal for the Silent Valley Project, but⁵⁸⁰ that was turned down on ecological reasons. We accept it fully because ecology, protecting nature, is very important. And we⁶⁰⁰ welcome the decision of the Prime Minister and the Government of India. But at the same time to compensate that⁶²⁰ and to remove the shortage of power, I request the Finance Minister to explore the possibility of sanctioning a thermal⁶⁴⁰ power station to that State.

Sir, before concluding, I would like to dwell upon one or two small points. I⁶⁶⁰ come from an area which is a border State, border not with China or Pakistan. It has a border with⁶⁸⁰ the Indian Ocean. On almost three sides we are covered with Ocean, if you take Kanyakumari also in to account. This⁷⁰⁰ is vulnerable. The developments in the Indian Ocean, as everybody knows, are very unhealthy competition of super powers. They are⁷²⁰ creating problems of insecurity for that State and the border areas. So I am glad that the Government of India⁷⁴⁰ has thought about locating the Naval Academy in that State at Cannanore. But, Sir, air force station and the army⁷⁶⁰ stations will have to be thought of in this part of the country, because this is surrounded on three sides⁷⁸⁰ by the Ocean. Security is more important. Similarly, political extremism at various points is emerging in various shapes and forms.⁸⁰⁰ It is necessary to have a strong police force. So, the security arrangement is very necessary. I am concluding with⁸²⁰ one word. Cochin is the commercial and industrial capital of the State. Cochin was known as the queen of the Arabian Sea.⁸⁴⁰

SIDETRACKED	:	over looked
SPHERES	:	area
EXPLORE	:	to find out

Exercise 24

As I read about these experiments, their successes and failures, the groping towards and discovery of truth and about his²⁴ prolonged struggle with himself and how he forged the gem-like purity of his personality out of what seemed rather⁴⁰ ordinary and unpromising material in the beginning, I came to see something of the great picture of his development and⁶⁰ to realize that this was no ordinary person. Here was a man who was working on himself as a jeweller⁸⁰ works on an uncut diamond. Also, he was extraordinarily introspective and self-critical. He judged himself as ruthlessly as I was¹⁰⁰ going to say as others, but I cannot do so because he judged them not ruthlessly but compassionately.¹²⁰ So, how shall I put it? While he judged others compassionately, he judged himself as ruthlessly as if he were a criminal¹⁴⁰ before the bar of his own conscience, of the still small voice which continued to whisper to him all his life,¹⁶⁰ till it was strong enough to drown the sound of world noises.

I thought of many of his great contemporaries¹⁸⁰ Tagore, Sapru, Nehrus, Patel who were, so to speak, to the manner born of great families, usually with first class²⁰⁰ education and cut out for the role of leadership by their heredity, their environment and their personality. On the other hand,²²⁰ if you look at the early or even middle age photographs of Gandhi, you see no Apollo-like beauty,²⁴⁰ no charisma, no clearly discernible signs of his destined greatness. Even in his personal appearance, you see the miracle of the²⁶⁰ spirit gradually permeating and transforming matter. The recruit in the ambulance corps of the Boer army or the barrister²⁸⁰ who started practice in South Africa might be any one. But look at some of the photographs of his later years I am thinking of one photograph³⁰⁰ in particular, with a far away look in his eyes as if talking with God and the thoughtfulness, the composure,³²⁰ the compassion of Buddha in the face. What a difference! His whole life, as he said, was thus a continuous³⁴⁰ experiment in the search of truth. He was always seeking, always learning, always ready to learn. As he has pointed out³⁶⁰ in his preface to "The India of my Dream," "I am not at all concerned with appearing to be consistent."³⁸⁰ My experiments in the political field are now known not only in India but, to a certain extent, to the 'civilized' world.⁴⁰⁰

In my search after truth, I have discovered many new ideas and learnt many new things. Old as I am,⁴²⁰ I have no feeling that I have ceased to grow inwardly." So, weighing

every step he took, in the political⁴⁴⁰ as well as in other field, in the scale of moral values, he grew not only in mind, which is not⁴⁶⁰ so rare, but also in the power of the spirit, working out an amazing harmony in what are usually considered⁴⁸⁰ discordant elements in most men's personality. His main inspiration in life was God as he conceived Him but he realized⁵⁰⁰ early that, after God, the source of power and inspiration for work lay in the people, whose service was his life's⁵²⁰ highest ideal. He could not serve them fully unless he was able to identify himself with them completely,⁵⁴⁰ to such an extent that they could irresistibly feel one with him. He attuned himself, in his way of life,⁵⁶⁰ to the deprived, the exploited, the poor, the hungry, the ignorant, the who constituted the large majority in the country.⁵⁸⁰ He had seen that most of the national leaders, in the early decades of the century, lived a life which was⁶⁰⁰ as a rule, quite cut off from the life of the masses. They did not speak in their languages or⁶²⁰ dress like them or live in their style and were not really concerned with their problems or their moving and⁶⁴⁰ miserable condition. They were more concerned with the protection of their individual and class interests.⁶⁶⁰

Gandhiji changed all that. A man of the people, he equated himself with the people quietly, passionately, sincerely without the fanfare claims which the later⁶⁸⁰ champions of the poor and the exploited have made fashionable. He deliberately reduced his standard of living to that of the⁷⁰⁰ poorest and the lowliest so that they may look on him as one of themselves and may feel no⁷²⁰ hesitation in opening their hearts to him. The irrepressible and well beloved Dear Naidu did once say, with her⁷⁴⁰ great humor, that 'it takes a great deal to keep Bapu in poverty.' But no one can deny that he⁷⁶⁰ ate, dressed, travelled and lived as an ordinary poor villager would and managed to control completely the urge to seek⁷⁸⁰ physical comforts and carefully cultivated the capacity of non-possession. As days went by I saw I had to throw⁸⁰⁰ overboard many other things which I used to consider as mine and a time came when it was a matter of positive joy to give up these things⁸²⁰ Exploring the cause of that joy, I found that, if I kept anything as my own, I had to defend it against the whole world."⁸⁴⁰

INTROSPECTIVE: self examination;

RUTHLESSLY: hard & cruel; DISCERNIBLE: not seen clearly;

PERMEATING: spreading through porous material;

DEPRIVED: due not given.

Exercise 25 (Legal)

The 1977 Recruitment Rules govern the process of recruitment to post under State civil services. While Rule 3³⁷ provides the method of recruitment, Rule 4 prescribes the procedure of appointment, Rule 5 specifies disqualifications for appointment, and Rule 7⁴⁰ prescribes the procedure for promotion. Rules 3A and 15 provide for appointment of ex-servicemen and retired government servants.⁶⁰ Rule 16, with which we are concerned, prescribes relaxation of rules relating to appointment and qualifications. This Rule is in⁹⁸ recognition of exigencies of public service which may require employment of certain persons who may not possess the prescribed qualifications.¹⁰⁰ It is therefore, in the form of an exception, which is the reason it provides that "notwithstanding anything contained in the¹²⁰ rules or recruitment specially made in respect of any service or post". It is also provided that for invoking⁴⁰ this Rule, the government must record its reasons in writing. Rule 16(a) enables the government to make appointments of⁶⁰ certain officers and Rule 16(b) empowers such appointments by relaxing the qualifications prescribed. We are concerned with Rule 16(a),¹⁸⁰ which in turn comprises three categories of officers in whose favour the relaxation could be made.

The first relates²⁰⁰ to appointment of officers who worked in Defence Service, All-India Service or a Civil Service of the Union,²²⁰ or the State. The second relates to appointment of an officer holding a post of an equivalent grade by transfer or²⁴⁰ by deputation. The third, with which we are concerned, relates to appointment of an officer who by bodily infirmity is²⁶⁰ permanently incapacitated for the post he holds. For appointment of such an officer, the Rule prescribes two conditions and they are²⁸⁰ indicated in the proviso. The first condition is that the said officer should not be appointed to a post lower than³⁰⁰ the post held by him or her. The second condition is that if the officer consents, he can be³²⁰ appointed to a post lower than the one that was held by him or her. This is the crucial facet³⁴⁰ of the Rule that has fallen for our consideration. Having analysed the Rule in detail, we can re-state its³⁶⁰ application and operation as: Invocation of Rule 16 is an exception. However, if the power is exercised, it will operate³⁸⁰ notwithstanding anything contained in the 1977 Recruitment Rules or other rules and reason for exercise for such a power.⁴⁰⁰

An officer who by bodily infirmity is permanently incapacitated can be appointed to the new post in relaxation of the⁴²⁰ existing Rules. However, such appointment shall not be lower than the one he holds. The prescription that such an

officer⁴⁴⁰ cannot be appointed to a post lower than that held by him or her can be waived or deviated⁴⁶⁰ from if the officer himself consents for the same. We will now refer to next set of Rules that govern⁴⁸⁰ fixation of seniority of government employees and they are the 1957 Seniority Rules. We are concerned with Rule 6⁵⁰⁰ which is extracted as: Rule 6. The transfer of a person in public interest from one class or grade of⁵²⁰ a service to another class or grade carrying the same pay or scale of pay shall not be treated as⁵⁴⁰ first appointment to the later for purposes of seniority; and the seniority of a person so transferred shall be determined⁵⁶⁰ with reference to his first appointment to the class or grade from which he was transferred; Provided that, where the⁵⁸⁰ transfer is made at the request of the officer, he shall be placed in the seniority list of the class⁶⁰⁰ or grade of service to which he is transferred below all the officers borne on that class or grade of⁶²⁰ service on or before the date of the transfer.

Provided further, that the seniority of a person transferred in public⁶⁴⁰ interest vis a vis the persons actually holding the post in the Class or Grade to which he is transferred⁶⁶⁰ shall be determined on the date of such transfer with reference to his first appointment to the class or grade from⁶⁸⁰ which he was transferred.

The above rule contemplates transfers under two contingencies, the first is when the transfer is made⁷⁰⁰ in public interest and the second is when transfer is made at the request of the officer. The purpose of transfer,⁷²⁰ considerations that weigh, the consequences that follow a transfer made in public interest, as against a transfer made at the⁷⁴⁰ request of the officer, vary substantially. The purpose and object of transfer in public interest is singular and straightforward,⁷⁶⁰ that is, to ensure effective and efficient administration. This is for the reason that administration and provisioning goods and services⁷⁸⁰ in a welfare State requires the government to deploy officers at different places and the exigencies of service take within⁸⁰⁰ its sweep the need to redeploy or transfer them from one place to another for other reasons, all intended to⁸²⁰ subserve the purpose of the State. All these decisions are transfers in public interest benefit the people at large.⁸⁴¹

EXIGENCIES: urgent demand;

INFIRMITY: weak or ill;

CONTINGENCIES: possible future situation;

CONTEMPLATES: to think carefully about something.

Exercise 26 (Legal)

In the opinion of this Court, the decision delivered by the three Judge Bench of the Supreme Court in Express Newspapers¹ is a binding decision under Article 141 of the Constitution of India. The said decision is not only⁴⁰ binding on this Court but also on all the other governmental authorities. The Supreme Court spoke in one voice⁶⁰ and quashed the Show Cause Notices threatening re-entry. There was no dissenting view in the said decision. As per the⁸⁰ leading judgment of Justice Sen, the then Government had contemplated a legislation to provide a forum for adjudication of such¹⁰⁰ disputes, which did not materialise. Thus, the Supreme Court relegated the parties to a civil suit for adjudication of the¹²⁰ disputes in respect of conversion charges and occupation charges etc. The Court further suggested arbitration for resolving the disputes¹⁴⁰ between the parties, which was also contemplated for determining the quantum of conversion charges payable, which was not acceptable to the Government.¹⁶⁰ Failing all of these options for providing a forum or resorting to arbitration, the Government had the option¹⁸⁰ to file a duly constituted suit to realize the conversion charges and additional ground rent whatever may be recoverable.²⁰⁰ No other liberty was given to the Union of India. In fact, a mandatory injunction was passed restraining the Union of India²²⁰ from taking any steps with respect to termination of lease for non-payment of conversion charges or otherwise for construction²⁴⁰ of Express building till the amount recoverable is decided by a Civil Court.

In addition, the Supreme Court quashed the²⁶⁰ Show Cause Notice and declared that the construction of Express Building on the portion on the west side²⁸⁰ with an increased FAR 360 with double basement was with permission of the Union of India and there was³⁰⁰ no breach of the lease deed. The Supreme Court also directed the Union of India, Delhi Development Authority³²⁰ and Municipal Corporation of Delhi, forbearance and from issuing any threats in any manner whatsoever. Union of India was only³⁴⁰ permitted to enforce its claim for recovery of conversion charges and additional ground rent, if any, by a duly constituted³⁶⁰ suit. The MCD was directed to compound the construction of double basement, the excess basement beyond the plinth limit³⁸⁰ and the underground passage on payment of usual composition fee. This is the usual practice by local bodies here.⁴⁰⁰

This Court is of the view that the stand of the Union of India that the decision of Justice Sen is⁴²⁰ merely a minority view, is not tenable. This is because of the following two reasons: one, that the decision was of a three Judges Bench⁴⁴⁰ which had

three concurring opinions. Justice Sen wrote the leading judgment. The other two Judges did not state that they had⁴⁶⁰ any difference of opinion with Justice Sen and neither their opinions were dissenting opinions. The decision in Express Newspapers is⁴⁸⁰ a binding decision of the Supreme Court rendered by a three Judge Bench. The concurring opinions which permitted the⁵⁰⁰ Union of India to proceed in accordance with law can only mean that the Government could have proceeded in terms of the directions⁵²⁰ issued in the lead judgment and nothing more. There was a clear embargo upon taking steps for termination⁵⁴⁰ of lease and claiming any other amounts except conversion charges and additional ground rent. Compounding was also permitted.⁵⁶⁰

The MCD was given a direction to compound the construction of the double basement and other constructions. Second, the later decision⁵⁸⁰ of the Supreme Court has also categorically held, following the opinions of Lord Esher MR in the⁶⁰⁰ Guardian of Poor judgment where the Judges do not give differing opinions explicitly, it must be taken that each of them⁶²⁰ agrees with the judgment of the other. In Keshav judgement, the Supreme Court has clearly held that the reasoning of⁶⁴⁰ Justice Sen is the law laid down on behalf of all three Judges and on behalf of the Court. Since there is no⁶⁶⁰ dissenting opinion, the directions given in paragraphs 194 to 197 is binding on⁶⁸⁰ both the parties and would operate as per law. A reading of all the above judgements also establishes that⁷⁰⁰ even if Justice Sen's judgment is a minority opinion it has a binding force on all the High Courts⁷²⁰ as per Article 141 of the Constitution of India. Thus, no notice of termination of lease and re-entry could have been⁷⁴⁰ issued by the Union of India. Even the amount recoverable by the Union of India was only in terms of⁷⁶⁰ paragraph 194 of the judgment delivered by the Supreme Court, where only conversion charges and additional ground rent⁷⁸⁰ would be liable to be recovered and the same may be carried out by a duly constituted suit.⁸⁰⁰ The basis of the L&D's impugned action that Justice Sen's judgment is of a minority view is⁸²⁰ thus completely untenable. The suit of the Union of India, has been filed by the L and Development Officer at that time.⁸⁴⁰

QUASHED: decision made illegal; ADJUDICATION: to decide under law; INJUNCTION: official order for not to do something;

FORBEARANCE: being patient & sympathetic;

EMBARGO: official order to stop business;

COMPOUNDING: to combine two elements.