

Speech delivered in the Parliament (Lok Sabha)
by Bala Singh, M.A.M.P. on 8-5-62 at 4-15 pm.

Mr. Speaker,

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Sir,

I ~~came~~ rise to speak on the general Budget presented 16 days ago in this House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, ~~Mr. Morarji Desai~~. A budget is regarded as a true picture of the economic conditions of the country. In the international field, a country bases its commercial and political relations after a scrutiny of the ^{budget of the} other countries concerned. It is very important, therefore, to make a scientific analysis of such an important document, ~~of the nation~~.

For a long past, we have now been made familiar with ~~the~~ deficit budgets in this country. Our Finance Minister has displayed a regrettable calousness in the matter of utter disregard of the consequences to which his budget is likely to give rise, ~~as far~~ as the citizens are concerned. His present budget is like an illfitting garment tailored by an unskilled craftsman, such as remains a constant source of irritation. The budget in question amply proves that the cliché that "statistics can prove anything", is not devoid of truth. It is on the basis of statistics alone that the Finance Minister has sought to lend an air of plausibility to this budget. Although it violently clashes with economic realities of ^{our} other countries, the casualness with which the Finance Minister has treated his own statistics is apparent from the fact that he has no definite proposals in regard to the expenditure items incurrable on account of the dearness allowances granted by the Government to its employees. It is because ~~the~~ the Finance Minister ^{himself} in his heart of heart, knows the unreal nature ~~of his~~ ~~unreal nature~~ of his own statistics. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has lightly informed the House that he is presenting a deficit budget ~~amounting~~ to the tune of

only Rs. 150 crores to cover which he proposes fresh taxes to the tune of Rs. 71.7 crores.

This ever increasing policy of squeeze is neither ~~the~~ true socialism nor good commonsense. It can only ~~be~~ lead to financial/chaos and misery to a large mass of people, and eventual deterioration of our ~~economy~~ economy. Such taxes have been shown to be illconceived by the experience of various countries, avowedly walking on the road to socialism. Indiscriminate and progressively rising taxation neither augments the State resources nor is helpful to equitable distribution of wealth. It inevitably results in what the Finance Minister ~~says~~ ^{professes} ~~he~~ ^{he} wishes to avoid, namely, taxing the peoples' patience."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want the Finance Minister to note that the economic policies of his Government are having a very deleterious ^{effect} ~~effect~~ on our financial stability. Our economic progress and our standards of living. Retarded production, increasing unemployment, official ~~corruption~~ corruption and progressive taste for anarchy and tyranny that is ^{growing} ~~going~~ in our rulers are a direct result of this illconceived policy. On a proper analysis, most of our economic ills and the moral chaos that results therefrom, are directly traceable to the financial policies of the party which is sitting astride the neck of the hapless people of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the professed aim of the ruling party is to establish a socialist pattern of society in this country, but that is not the real destination, to which we are being led. We are being led to State-slavery, gradual extinction of

the rights of the individual, perpetuation of power in the hands of few, and decay of all basic moral principles that ensure happiness and prosperity to a people and impart endurance to their social structure.

Whether the ruling party is deliberately pushing this country towards the debacle or they are merely slaves of their own shiboleths is a subject into which I do not ^{care} ~~care~~ to venture at this occasion. I merely point out that by proposing an increase of 5 percent in ^{corporate} ~~corporate~~ taxes and other such measures, the Finance Minister has provided indication as to how his mind is working. For, this proposed increase, certainly cannot have been aimed at encouraging the industrial production or proper ^{accumulation} ~~investment~~ of capital.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 44.5 crores of indirect taxation is ^a direct assault on the already poor standards of living of our people, ^{that is} ~~is~~ why I say that whatever else this budget may be, it is ^{not} a budget which comes out of the brain of a person who has any love or ~~the~~ sympathy for the commonman of this country.

Sir, not long ago, our Hon'ble Prime Minister said while addressing the Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry that, "suppression of private enterprise is a bad thing". Was this declaration an outcome of temporary ^{expedience} ~~experience~~ or is our Finance Minister ~~at~~ at cross purposes with his own Leader ^{of the House}? This is a question which inevitably arises on a careful scrutiny of the current budget which is now before the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I conclude, I wish to say one more thing, the Finance Minister has perorated that there are two alternatives to his proposed high level of taxation, either an upsurge of prices or prolongation of poverty in this country. I wish to say that these are not the two alternatives to his proposed taxes but both these

deplorable eventualities are demonstrably the necessary consequences of his proposals.

Sir, it would not be quite ~~in~~ proper if I sit down without making a passing reference to the situation that has ~~been~~ impelled my constituents to send me to this House with an overwhelming majority of votes. I referred to the treatment that has been meted out to the Sikh people by our Congress rulers. — Ever since the power has slipped ^{to} in their hands. Through some ^{nameless} ~~unnamed~~ mis-understanding and not, perhaps, ^{intention} ~~misconception~~, the Sikhs ~~at large~~ have been ^{ostracised} ~~austeresized~~. They have been misrepresented throughout the country and the outside world as ^a ~~the~~ people lacking in basic patriotism and accursed with secessionism. They have refused to form a unilingual Punjabi State on grounds that are demonstrably ^{shurlous} ~~superior~~. By ^{this} they have not only estranged a loyal patriotic and dynamic people but have also grievously weakened the foundations of national integration. ^{on} the floor of this august House, I appeal ~~to~~ to the Treasury Benches, notably ^{to} the Hon'ble Prime Minister, to the elected representatives of the country, and through them to the people of India for a better understanding of the case of Sikhs and for ^{an} ~~the~~ ^{genuine} appreciation of their genuine grievances and natural apprehension? / Sir, I thank you.