2975

Revised draft amendments to the Motion on the Fourth Five Year Plan given notice of by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha

For the original Motion, the following be substituted:

This House, having considered the Fourth Five Year Plan, 1969/74, regrets to find that the Plan, even though placed before the House for its consideration in the middle of the second year of the Plan period, has not offered any reorientation in the light of the experience so far encountered from the failure of the Second and Third Five Year Plans. The Fourth Plan contains all the unfortunate evils of the earlier Plans such as undue emphasis on heavy industry at the cost of agriculture, a bias in favour of State enterprises which have so far failed to give any reasonable return to the exchequer, a neglect of the primary aim of creating employment opportunities and a continued reliance on inflationary policies.

During the past two years, employment has failed to pick up, exports have slumped and industrial production has lagged behind. These developments considerably weaken the assumptions on which the Plan has been formulated.

The House is deeply concerned at the continuing increase in unemployment. While those seeking jobs increase by 100,000 a week, fresh employment opportunities created are few and far between. The creation of adequate employment opportunities is linked inescapably with the growth of the economy as a whole. The expansion of the Indian economy, whether in agriculture, trade or industry, can only be achieved if the Government's policies provide incentives to hard work and enterprise which are at present lacking. Among the factors that would provide such incentives are a stable currency, reasonable direct and indirect taxes and reducing the mass of red tape in which all economic activity is enmeshed. The needs of production and of social justice alike call for remuneration to be linked progressively with productivity.

In addition, the House is of the view that the Fourth Plan should be revised to provide Rs. 1,000 crores over the plan period for massive rural works which would enable almost every job-seeker to get remunerative work as of right.

For the educated unemployed and skilled persons, a separate corporation should be set up which would help to reorient, wherever necessary, the skills of young people and provide them with financial and technical assistance to set themselves up in small industry, trade and transport. The educated unemployed persons can also be invited to join in a countrywide programme of adult literacy and education. A department of Economic Opportunities should be added to the Government of India which would administer this entire programme of employment.

The House regrets to note that, while India's economic development demands rapid expansion of irrigation facilities, the Plan programmes are tardy and inadequate. The House is of the opinion that there should be considerable acceleration in the execution of major and medium irrigation schemes and launching of new projects so that the irrigation potential is fully realised within a decade.

The House further recommends top priority to programmes of water management.

These modifications would not only help to make India agriculturally self-sufficient but provide surpluses for export but also sharply raise the income of agriculturists and impart a dynamic impulse to economic development.

The House is concerned at the persistent rise in prices caused by the loose fiscal and monetary and credit policies on the one hand and the consequent near stagnation in the economy on the other. The House affirms that eschewing of deficit financing and inflationary policies and ensuring the stability of prices should be the governing consideration in the Government's management of the economy.