

Reading and Dictation Passages have been marked for 20 words each, that the same can be dictated for 80 to 160 wpm speed.

Exercise 1

Sir, natural calamities seemed to be now a very regular feature. This year there are several States which are seriously²⁰ affected by drought. In some States it is the second successive year of drought and in some other States it is⁴⁰ almost the third successive year. It means that large sums of money will have to be provided and I trust⁶⁰ the priorities will be respected. We cannot go on putting up with a situation in which hundreds of thousands of⁸⁰ villages today are without drinking water. Where from any drinking water is to be provided is not even known. The State¹⁰⁰ Governments do not know what to do with it. It is not money alone that matters though large sums of¹²⁰ money will have to be provided to ensure that drinking water is made available to villages.

The Finance Minister knows¹⁴⁰ that farmers must be given remunerative price. Mr. Finance Minister, I would request your attention to this particular point. You¹⁶⁰ have said that by giving remunerative prices to farmers in respect of sugar you have seen the result, immediately and¹⁸⁰ the manner in which the sugar cultivation improved, has increased and you have larger sugar production. That is exactly what we²⁰⁰ say. If you give remunerative price to farmers for what they produce not only will you be doing justice to²²⁰ them, but you also will ensure increased production. Productivity is one of your major, ought to be one of your²⁴⁰ major thrust bears. It is the one thing in which you are not being successful whether it is on the²⁶⁰ agricultural front or on the industrial front. I hope that this is something to which you will pay greater attention.²⁸⁰ When the Finance Minister started his Budgetary exercise in 2008, he endeavoured to do two things. One was³⁰⁰ to loosen the tight regulatory grip that he had on industry. Government decided to loosen it a little bit. The³²⁰ second thing that they had decided to do was to streamline the fiscal and Budgetary process so as to enhance³⁴⁰ revenue collection and stabilise the business and trade. On both these fronts subsequent developments have been somewhat hesitant, but in³⁶⁰ some cases very contradictory also. So far as loosening the tight grip that Government has on the industry, I think³⁸⁰ Government has realised that by really loosening it in a judicious way, there has been tremendous improvement in the situation.⁴⁰⁰

CALAMITIES: Disaster. **ENEAVOURED:** made serious effort

Exercise 2

Why that process has stopped, I don't know. But I would recommend to the Finance Minister that loosening of the ²⁰ control in a selective way is a highly desirable and to continue it if you want to ensure that ⁴⁰ productivity increases. Productivity can only increase if there is less and less restrictions and fewer restrictions. Even more than that ⁶⁰ please note that what is not yet changed is the delay that takes place in decision making. The delay in ⁸⁰ decision making has a disastrous effect in many ways. I would say that unless the Finance Minister or rather the ¹⁰⁰ entire Government makes a decisive and determined effort in this direction they will find that many of their good policy ¹²⁰ decisions may also not produce the desired results. So far as streamlining of the fiscal and budgetary process is concerned ¹⁴⁰ I have already said that the streamlining has been successful upto a point but it is the budgetary process where the Finance Minister desired to have an open policy that have something in regard to say. He has been in fact ¹⁸⁰ along a Budget every month in the sense that fiscal changes that are frequently being made. The way in which ²⁰⁰ Excise duties are being changed and changed in a significant way give that impression. Some of the changes that are ²²⁰ being made may have really disastrous effect on industry. We do not know the reasons as to why these changes ²⁴⁰ are being made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the streamlining process in regard to taxation policy is good. I understand that the Income-Tax ²⁶⁰ Bill is being revised. Considerable amount of work and time was devoted some time back also. There is a Choksi ²⁸⁰ Committee report which I hope you will look into while examining this matter. So, I will not say much on ³⁰⁰ that. There are two-three things which should be attended to. Look at the state of affairs in the construction ³²⁰ industry. Why is the construction industry not flourishing as much as it should be at a time when there is ³⁴⁰ tremendous housing shortage. It is entirely because of the way in which the Urban Ceiling Act is being operated. I ³⁶⁰ think it is time that the Government seriously re-examine that Act with a view not to defeat the main objective ³⁸⁰ of the Urban Ceiling Act but with a view ensuring that it does not become a throttle in the construction ⁴⁰⁰ activity so as to become incapable of reducing the housing shortage which is very serious. Not only there is housing ⁴²⁰ shortage in the urban areas even in rural areas there is tremendous shortage of housing which need very urgent attention. ⁴⁴⁰

FISCAL: relating to money; **FLOURISHING:** growing

Exercise 3

Sir, with regard to the family planning programme of the Government of India, it is true that our Government and²⁰ our country have been perhaps the pioneers in respect of taking advantage of the World Health Organisation expertise and assistance⁴⁰ in regard to family planning programme and that in the last several years, one cannot ignore some of the good⁶⁰ sides of the achievements of the family planning programme. Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government⁸⁰ to two aspects of the matter. One is that after having got this experience of some years, more than a¹⁰⁰ decade or two, can we not have some kind of a sustained uniform policy with regard to the various projects¹²⁰ and programmes of family planning, particularly with regard to two things? One is the assistance that we would like to¹⁴⁰ rope in of the country agencies. Because, by its very nature, this is not something which the Government can do¹⁶⁰ Government can spend money, Government can give encouragement, but basically it is a questions of educating the people, educating the¹⁸⁰ illiterate and educating the people in the countryside and also taking the maximum possible help from the voluntary social institutions²⁰⁰ in which a large number of women organisations are also doing a lot of good work. In this regard, the²²⁰ complaint I hear is that the policy of the Government in regard to incentives offered, is not quite free from²⁴⁰ faults.

Every now and then, different kinds of incentives are tagged on while attracting more people. Then those incentives are²⁶⁰ not maintained for a particular period of time so that certain incentives are withdrawn and certain new incentives are given.²⁸⁰ The result is that the interest in the programme is for the incentives offered rather than for the ultimate objective³⁰⁰ of controlled and healthy family planning. I would, therefore, request the Government to ensure that the family planning programme has³²⁰ a certain sustained outlook that the incentives are well thought out and that there is no change every now and³⁴⁰ then in regard to this or that incentive. Then, this should be free from one very serious error. This is³⁶⁰ not only an error, I would say it is a criminal thing. In the name of operations, a³⁸⁰ large number of old people, children and boys are also booked into the whole thing, because they get some extra financial incentive.⁴⁰⁰

UNIFORM: same; **INCENTIVES:** gains

Exercise 4

Now I come to Demand about the freedom fighters. I endorse very warmly many of the points which my Hon.²⁰ friend made when he talked about genuine and bogus freedom fighters. In fact, the Government of India themselves in various⁴⁰ replies in the past in this august House have told us about how many bogus cases were also found out.⁶⁰ Here we must remember that to some extent, we, the elected Members of State Legislature and Parliament, are also responsible⁸⁰ for giving false information or false certificates. I am not saying that this or the particular person has done it.¹⁰⁰ But when the Government say that in the absence of any proper proof, the certificate of a Member of Parliament or¹²⁰ Member of Legislative Assembly should be attached, surely the Member of Parliament or Member of Legislative Assembly should be 100¹⁴⁰ percent sure of his facts and he just should not do it by way of obliging any person. It is there¹⁶⁰ where the bogus cases come. I am only making an appeal through this speech to Members of Legislative Assembly in State Legislature¹⁸⁰ and Members of Parliament here that we take extraordinary care so that we do not issue certificates liberally or irresponsibly²⁰⁰ because otherwise it becomes more difficult for the Government.

The second point is that some freedom fighters are not yet²²⁰ included in this scheme. I do not know whether the Minister has ready information at hand in this regard. There²⁴⁰ is also the project of old freedom fighters homes. I remember there is one in Delhi. But it is neglected.²⁶⁰ Some of the old freedom fighters who are living in Delhi are staying in this House. There is no one²⁸⁰ to look after them. They are not given proper food, proper drinking water, hot water for bath and so on.³⁰⁰ Because they are old and infirm, naturally they need these things all the more. Therefore, I would like the Government to³²⁰ take particular care of these old freedom fighters homes. Lastly, although I know that the Government of India have paid³⁴⁰ a lot of money to these freedom fighters, I see from letters received by me not only from Gujarat but³⁶⁰ from other parts of the country as well that the papers of freedom fighters are not disposed of, although the applications³⁸⁰ had been properly sent through the State Administrations and more than two years have elapsed. Some of them are above⁴⁰⁰ sixty-five. If they have to wait for another one or two years to get their pensions, they may not be available⁴²⁰ to take it. We are prepared to give some additional grants if the Minister wants it that way to them.⁴⁴⁰

GENUINE : real

INFIRM: weak, shaky

Exercise 5

Sir, this entire discussion has been initiated by the Finance Minister. He feels somewhat optimistic about the economic situation. I²⁰ confess that this is the one point on which I must disagree. The situation today is something that causes much⁴⁰ concern. There is rising unemployment. The prices are also rising. Finance Minister feels that there is justification for viewing the⁶⁰ situation hopefully because he thinks that the infrastructure are performing very well. I do not understand on what basis he⁸⁰ has come to this conclusion. He says that the power generation is more satisfactory than last year. But should he¹⁰⁰ be satisfied with power generation of 51 per cent? Should the efficiency not be very much greater? There is no¹²⁰ reason why the power stations should not be operating more efficiently and unless you insist upon it, you cannot obtain¹⁴⁰ a requisite degree of improvement in efficiency. But, in any case, to be complacent, and say that the infrastructure is¹⁶⁰ performing well, is very strange.

Similarly, in the case of coal, you put enormous sums of money in an industry¹⁸⁰ which is also the next basic industry. The results are unsatisfactory. The production remains as unsatisfactory as ever, while the²⁰⁰ costs are increasing. When he says the price situation is under control, I do not know on what basis the²²⁰ price situation is said to be under control. I am sorry that he places too much reliance upon statistics. The²⁴⁰ interpretation of statistics is important and they are capable of being manipulated in any manner as one would like in²⁶⁰ order to produce conclusion that one desires statistics are undoubtedly necessary. They have to be collected. But we have to²⁸⁰ judge them we have to interpret them very carefully. I would say that when the Finance Minister forms the conclusion³⁰⁰ in regard to price situation, he should ask the housewives and see what they have to think about the price³²⁰ situation. Inflation is really increasing, rising very seriously. Every household is deeply disturbed. In such a position to say that³⁴⁰ the price situation is under control is scarcely right. What is still more unfortunate is the fact that so many³⁶⁰ decisions are being taken which must lead to further increased in prices. The railways freight rates have been increase³⁸⁰ within a year and I do not know whether it is part of the next Budget exercise that is being carried on.⁴⁰⁰

REQUISITE: minimum requirement

ENORMOUS: huge

Exercise 6

Similarly, postal charges have been raised considerably, each of them resulting in a revenue increase of Rs.400 crores²⁰ to Rs.500 crores of rupees. What can be the effect of all these increases? Then there are administered⁴⁰ prices which also continue to be administered upwards always and not downwards. What are the prices administered for? In⁶⁰ order to see that the public sector enterprises produce revenues, and increase budgetary revenues. It is quite clear that every⁸⁰ step that is being taken like this must result in increase in prices. Further, Mr. Finance Minister says that tax¹⁰⁰ revenues continue to display buoyancy. This is the one statement, in regard to which I can have no difference of¹²⁰ opinion. It is showing buoyancy. But there again I would like to warn the Finance Minister that the buoyancy is¹⁴⁰ not going to continue at the same rate and in the same manner that it has been in the past.¹⁶⁰ At least if it does so, I shall be very happy. But the chances of its being happening are small. He¹⁸⁰ says the foreign exchange reserves are at comfortable level. I am very glad, he thinks so.

He may even²⁰⁰ say that they are comfortable. If they are at comfortable level, then there is certainly going to be greater²²⁰ drain upon it because steps being taken to stimulate exports further and so on and so forth. But I think²⁴⁰ the balance of payments position is precarious and as he himself admits is one of the issues which causes him²⁶⁰ concern, and quite rightly so. I would like to draw his attention to the fact that the imports have²⁸⁰ been liberalised and over-liberalised as a stage when rupee is for all practical purposes devalued. Imports therefore must cost³⁰⁰ very much more and increase the chain on limited foreign exchange reserves. Liberalisation of imports is necessary but only in³²⁰ highly selective areas. That was not done. I think in their initial enthusiasm, they have over-done it. The second³⁴⁰ point of concern was about the rise of Government expenditure. On that count, what has he done? Nothing is done.³⁶⁰ On the other hand, Governmental expenditure has gone up and will go up now further because of the Pay Commission's³⁸⁰ recommendations, which Government has already implemented. There are other things which are beyond his control, like the natural calamities which⁴⁰⁰ must be attended to, and substantial sums of money will have to be provided. I hope that the Finance Minister⁴²⁰ realises that. For the next year, he has provided certain amount in his anticipatory budget about Rs.500 crores.⁴⁴⁰

MANIPUL ED: falsification; SCARCELY: hardly

BUOYANCY: enthusiasm

Exercise 7

Since yesterday, we have had a very fruitful exchange of opinions on the issues that have been covered in the²⁰ Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. From the tenor of our discussions, I believe that⁴⁰ there is broad agreement with the goals and policies suggested in the Mid Term Appraisal and that it can⁶⁰ act as a blue-print for further action on development matters in the Tenth Plan. It can also⁸⁰ act as the starting point for initiating work on the Eleventh Five Year Plan. During the course of our discussions,¹⁰⁰ a number of very valuable suggestions were made by Chief Ministers which may require a review of some of our policies,¹²⁰ programmes and approaches. I am certain that the Planning Commission has taken note of these suggestions and will¹⁴⁰ act on them in the coming months. Today, India is at a historic point in its development trajectory.¹⁶⁰ As I said in my opening remarks yesterday, we are now at a point in time where we can deliver¹⁸⁰ growth at a rate of 7 per cent - 8 per cent. At this point in time, owing to the development over the²⁰⁰ last two decades, there are no external constraints to the growth of our country. It is very much in the²²⁰ realm of possibility for this country to become a prosperous nation, rid of the perennial problems of poverty, ignorance²⁴⁰ and disease. The world is today looking at India with great interest as the saga of our development and²⁶⁰ rise to prominence on the international stage unfolds. Rare are such moments in history when a nation suddenly captures the²⁸⁰ imagination of the world.

In such circumstances, if there are any constraints, these are purely internal. Our success in living up³⁰⁰ to our potential depends solely only on us. No external force can be blamed if we do not rise up³²⁰ to everyone's expectations. Therefore, it is incumbent on all of us in this august gathering to ensure³⁴⁰ that we realize this potential. It is this vision of a resurgent India that must guide our actions while discharging³⁶⁰ our duties. As I had said earlier, the environment for India's development has never been as favourable as it is now.³⁸⁰ The challenge before us is to combine the economics of growth with the economics of equity and social justice.⁴⁰⁰

TRAJECTORY: path;

PERENNIAL: growing continuously;

SAGA: big programme;

INCUMBENT: responsible person.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, corresponding to the typed text on the left. The notes are written in a cursive style, using various symbols and abbreviations to represent the words and phrases of the original text.

Exercise 8

Another thing I want to say is that we want an ideal to be set up for the nation. It is only²⁰ the performance of this august body which can set an ideal or an example for the people to follow. I⁴⁰ do not say that people who have no respect for law and those who have committed any offence should be saved⁶⁰ or protected. But then, it can be done only by utilising the funds of the people, collected from the people⁸⁰ in a proper manner so that we can positively make progress. For this purpose, I would request the Hon. House¹⁰⁰ that if some amendments to the Rules of Procedure are necessary, we must think of it and we must make¹²⁰ the principles and the rules such that the House is not disturbed or no disturbances are created every day and¹⁴⁰ our time is not wasted. Another aspect to which I would draw the attention of the Hon. House through you¹⁶⁰ is that economy is one of the most important factors, and economy has to be effected by us also. I¹⁸⁰ was reading the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report for the year. I find that crores of rupees have not been²⁰⁰ utilised for years together. During the period a leader of the Opposition party, was Minister of Industries, what was done²²⁰ has to be looked into.

I would draw the attention of the Hon. House to the fact that if you²⁴⁰ read the whole book, you will find no manual of accounts no statements and no documents reconciling the actual²⁶⁰ expenditure made and nothing could be done. You will find in this a large number of such items involving crores²⁸⁰ of rupees. This has affected the economy of this country. What has been done about it? I would make a³⁰⁰ submission that, wherever you find such wastages of money, in those cases, a very stringent view has to be³²⁰ taken and those persons who are guilty must be punished, individual responsibilities must be fixed. That is why³⁴⁰ every time we are finding this criticism in this august House that the public enterprises are not making any profit.³⁶⁰ They are running in loss. It is a must that the faculty must be punished, because we are wedded to³⁸⁰ the principle of socialism and we want the poorer people of this country to come up. But with this sort of⁴⁰⁰ performance, it is impossible. The high-ups or low-ups, I do not know, whoever is responsible, action must be⁴²⁰ taken against them. Otherwise, the economy will not improve as envisaged in the Budget for the year under consideration.⁴⁴⁰

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

DIGNITY: respect; **STRINGENT:** rigorous, strict

Exercise 9

The NDC is a political body and that is its strength. Here we are gathered in this room,²⁰ representing a diverse set of political backgrounds, views and ideologies. However, we are all, I believe, in agreement that⁴⁰ economic development and the prosperity of every citizen is a collective national goal. Over the last two days, I have⁶⁰ heard this resonate from every speaker and it is heartening that political differences will not come in the way of⁸⁰ achieving our common objective of building a prosperous, inclusive, equitable, humane, caring and just India. While we have noted each and every¹⁰⁰ suggestion made by the Chief Ministers and will take due note of them, I would like to dwell¹²⁰ of them. A number of Chief Ministers have expressed concern about issues relating to state finances, particularly¹⁴⁰ the effect of the recommendations of the XII Finance Commission, the level of permissible market borrowings, and interest cost on¹⁶⁰ borrowings. Some have raised issues related to mineral royalties and externally aided projects. The Finance Minister, In his intervention, has¹⁸⁰ touched upon these and I believe that he will work to allay any apprehensions that may exist. Healthy state finances²⁰⁰ are as important as healthy central finances and fiscal prudence and stability must be our joint endeavour.

Agriculture and irrigation²²⁰ have indeed been a common priority in all the Chief Ministers' interventions and rightly so. Rejuvenating our agricultural credit system,²⁴⁰ providing some measure of relief to farmers, improving the quality of our extension work, attending to the specific needs and²⁶⁰ problems of drylands and wastelands and enhancing investments in irrigation have emerged as common concerns. Given the importance of this sector,²⁸⁰ I believe that we could give focused attention to this subject by constituting a sub-Committee of the NDC,³⁰⁰ which could submit its reports within the next six months for inclusion in the Approach Paper to the³²⁰ Eleventh Five Year Plan. I propose, therefore, that we agree to the formation of a sub-Committee of the NDC³⁴⁰ for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues. With your approval, I will constitute this³⁶⁰ sub-Committee immediately with the Agriculture Minister as Chairman so that the work can be in right earnest³⁸⁰ and we can benefit from their wisdom while framing the Eleventh Plan for our growth oriented economy of the future as such.⁴⁰⁰

RESONATE: to give sounds; **ALLAY:** to reduce;
PRUDENCE: wisdom; **DWELL:** to deal with.

Handwritten shorthand notes corresponding to the typed text, written in a cursive style on lined paper.

Exercise 10

Another thing I want to say is that we want an ideal to be set up for the nation. It is only ²⁰ the performance of this august body which can set an ideal or an example for the people to follow. I ⁴⁰ do not say that people who have no respect for law and those who have committed any offence should be saved ⁶⁰ or protected. But then, it can be done only by utilising the funds of the people, collected from the people ⁸⁰ in a proper manner so that we can positively make progress. For this purpose, I would request the Hon. House ¹⁰⁰ that if some amendments to the Rules of Procedure are necessary, we must think of it and we must make ¹²⁰ the principles and the rules such that the House is not disturbed or no disturbances are created every day and ¹⁴⁰ our time is not wasted.

Another aspect to which I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble House through you ¹⁶⁰ is that economy is one of the most important factors, and economy has to be effected by us also. I ¹⁸⁰ was reading the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report for the year. I find that crores of rupees have not been ²⁰⁰ utilised for years together. During the period leader of the Opposition party, was Minister of Industries, what was done ²²⁰ has to be looked into. I would draw the attention of Hon'ble House to the fact that if you ²⁴⁰ read the whole book, you will find no manual of accounts no statements and no documents reconciling the actual ²⁶⁰ expenditure made and nothing could be done. You will find in this a large number of such items involving crores ²⁸⁰ of rupees. This has affected the economy of this country. What has been done about it? I would make a ³⁰⁰ submission that, wherever you find such wastages of money, in those cases, a very stringent view has to be ³²⁰ taken and those persons who are guilty must be punished, individual responsibilities must be fixed. That is why ³⁴⁰ every time we are finding this criticism in this august House that the public enterprises are not making any profit. ³⁶⁰ They are running in loss. It is a must that the guilty must be punished, because we are wedded to ³⁸⁰ the principle of socialism and we want the poorer people of this country to come up. But with this sort of ⁴⁰⁰ performance, it is impossible. The high-ups or low-ups, I do not know, whosoever is responsible, action must be ⁴²⁰ taken against them. Otherwise, the economy will not improve as envisaged in the Budget for the year under consideration.

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Handwritten shorthand notes corresponding to the text above, written in a cursive style on lined paper.

IDEAL: objective; STRINGENT: strict.

Exercise 11

All the Hon'ble Members have been supplied with copies of this declaration and so I shall not read it over ²⁰ again. I shall merely point out very briefly some salient features of this declaration. It is a short and simple ⁴⁰ document in four paragraphs. The first paragraph, it will be noticed, deals with the present position in law. It refers ⁶⁰ to the British Commonwealth of Nations and to the fact that the people in this Commonwealth owe a common allegiance ⁸⁰ to the Crown. That in law is the present position. The next paragraph of this declaration states that the Government ¹⁰⁰ of India have informed the Governments of the other Commonwealth countries that India is soon going to be a Sovereign ¹²⁰ Independent Republic, further that they desire to continue her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations accepting the King as ¹⁴⁰ a symbol of the free association. The third paragraph says that the other Commonwealth countries accept this, and the fourth ¹⁶⁰ paragraph ends by saying that all these countries remain united as free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations. ¹⁸⁰ You will notice that while in the first paragraph this is referred to as the British Commonwealth of Nations, in ²⁰⁰ the subsequent paragraph it is referred to only as the Commonwealth of Nations. Further, you will notice that while in ²²⁰ the first paragraph there is the question of allegiance to the Crown which exists at present, this question does not ²⁴⁰ arise later, because India by becoming a Republic goes outside the Crown area completely. There is a reference, in connection ²⁶⁰ with the Commonwealth, to the King as the symbol of that association.

Observe that the reference is to the King ²⁸⁰ and not to the Crown. It is a small matter, but it has a certain significance. But the point is ³⁰⁰ this, that in so far as the Republic of India is concerned, her Constitution and her working are concerned, she ³²⁰ has nothing to do with any external authority, and none of her subjects owe any allegiance to the King ³⁴⁰ or any other external authority. The Republic may, agree to associate herself with certain other countries that happen to be ³⁶⁰ monarchies or whatever they choose to be. This declaration states that this new Republic of India completely sovereign and owing ³⁸⁰ no allegiance to the King, as the other Commonwealth countries do owe, will be a full member of the Commonwealth. ⁴⁰⁰

SALIENT: leading; ALLEGIANCE: loyalty; SOVEREIGN: independent;
REPUBLIC: state with elected head; MONARCH: King.

Exercise 12

I am placing the declaration before this Hon'ble House for its approval. Beyond this approval, there is no question of ²⁰ any law being framed in accordance with it. There is no law behind the Commonwealth. It has not even the ⁴⁰ formality which normally accompanies treaties. It is an agreement by free will, to be terminated by free will. Therefore ⁶⁰ there will be no further legislation or law if the House approves of this. In this particular declaration nothing very much ⁸⁰ is said about the position of the King, except that he will be a symbol. It has been made perfectly ¹⁰⁰ clear that the King has no functions at all. He has been made perfectly ¹⁰⁰ clear that the King has no functions at all. He has a certain status. The Commonwealth itself, as such, is ¹²⁰ not a body, if I may say so, it has no organization through which to function and the King also ¹⁴⁰ can have no functions. Now, some consequences flow from this. Apart from certain friendly approaches to one another, apart from ¹⁶⁰ a desire to co-operate, which will always be conditioned by each party deciding on the measure of co-operation and following ¹⁸⁰ its own policy, there is no obligation. There is hardly any obligation in the nature of commitments. But an attempt ²⁰⁰ has been made to produce something which is entirely novel, and I can very well understand lawyers on the one ²²⁰ hand feeling somewhat uncomfortable about a thing for which they can find no precedent or parallel.

There may also be ²⁴⁰ others who feel that behind this there may be something which they cannot quite understand, something risky, something dangerous, because ²⁶⁰ the thing is so simple on the face of it. That kind of difficulty may arise in people's minds. What ²⁸⁰ I have stated elsewhere I should like to repeat. There is absolutely nothing behind this except what is placed before ³⁰⁰ this House. I might clear up one or two matters which are not mentioned in his declaration. One of these ³²⁰ as I have said, is that the King has no functions at all. This was cleared up in he course ³⁴⁰ of our proceedings. It has, no doubt, been recorded in the minutes of the Conference in London. Another point was ³⁶⁰ that one of the objects of this kind of Commonwealth association is now to create a status which is something ³⁸⁰ between being completely foreign and being of one nationality. Obviously, the Commonwealth countries belong to different nations. They are different ⁴⁰⁰ nationalities. Normally either you have a common nationality or you are foreign. There is no intermediate stage. Uptill now ⁴²⁰ in this Commonwealth or the British Commonwealth of Nations, there was a binding link which was allegiance to the King.

TREATIES: agreements among sovereigns; PRECEDENT: example.

Exercise 13

The House will remember that there was some talk at one stage of a Commonwealth citizenship. Now, it was difficult ²⁰ to understand what the status of Commonwealth citizenship might be except that it meant that its members were not completely ⁴⁰ foreign to one another. That un-foreignness remains, but I think it is as well that we left off talking about ⁶⁰ something vague, which could not be surely defined. The other fact also remains, as I have just stated, the fact ⁸⁰ that we should take the right to ourselves, if we so choose, to exercise it at any time to enter ¹⁰⁰ into treaties or arrangements with Commonwealth countries assuring us of certain mutual privileges and preferences. I have briefly placed before ¹²⁰ the House this document. It is a simple document and yet the House is fully aware that it is a ¹⁴⁰ highly important document or rather what it contains is of great and historic significance. I went to this Conference some ¹⁶⁰ weeks ago as the representative of India. I had, of course, consulted, my colleagues here previously, because it was a ¹⁸⁰ great responsibility and no man is big enough to shoulder that responsibility by himself when the future of India is ²⁰⁰ at stake. For many months past we had often consulted one another, consulted great and representative organizations, consulted many Members ²²⁰ of this House. Nevertheless, when I went, I carried this great responsibility and I felt the burden of it. I ²⁴⁰ had able colleagues to advise me, but I was the sole representative of India and in a sense the future ²⁶⁰ of India for the moment was in my keeping. I was alone in that sense and yet not quite alone, ²⁸⁰ because, as I travelled through the air and as I was there at the conference table, the ghosts of many ³⁰⁰ yesterdays of my life surrounded me and brought up picture after picture before me, Saints and guardians keeping watch over ³²⁰ me telling me perhaps not to trip and not to forget them. I remembered, as many Members might remember that ³⁴⁰ day nineteen years ago when we took a pledge for the first time on the bank of the River Ravi, ³⁶⁰ at the midnight hour on 26th January, and how we took that oft-repeated pledge year after year in spite ³⁸⁰ of difficulty and finally I remembered that day when, standing at this very place, I placed a resolution before this House. ⁴⁰⁰

Let us not be led away by considering the situation in terms of events which are no longer here. You ⁴²⁰ will see that the Resolution of the Congress that I have read out says that because India becomes a Republic ⁴⁴⁰ the

Handwritten shorthand notes in Devanagari script, corresponding to the typed text on the left. The notes are written on lined paper and use various symbols and abbreviations characteristic of shorthand.

association of India with the Commonwealth must, of course, change. Further, it says that free association may continue subject ⁴⁶⁰ only to our complete freedom being assured. Now, that is exactly what has been attempted, in this declaration of London. ⁴⁸⁰ I ask you or any Hon'ble Member to point out in what way the freedom, the independence of India, has ⁵⁰⁰ been limited in the slightest. I do not think it has been. In fact, the greatest stress has been laid ⁵²⁰ not only on the independence of India, but on the independence of each individual nation in the Commonwealth. I am ⁵⁴⁰ often asked how we can join a Commonwealth in which there is racial discrimination, in which there are other things ⁵⁶⁰ happening to which we object. That, I think, is a fair question and it is a matter which must necessarily ⁵⁸⁰ give us some trouble in our thinking. Nevertheless, it is a question which does not really arise. That is to ⁶⁰⁰ say, when we have entered into an alliance with a nation or a group of nations it does not mean ⁶²⁰ that we accept their policies and it does not mean that we commit ourselves in any way to something that ⁶⁴⁰ they may do. In fact, this House knows that we are carrying on at the present moment a struggle, or ⁶⁶⁰ our countrymen are carrying on a struggle, in regard to racial discrimination in various parts of the world. The House ⁶⁸⁰ knows that in the few years one of the major questions before the United Nations, at the instance of ⁷⁰⁰ India, has been the question of Indians in South Africa. May I, if the House will permit me, for a ⁷²⁰ moment refer to an event which took place yesterday, that is, the passing of the resolution at the General Assembly ⁷⁴⁰ of the United Nations, and express my appreciation and my Government's appreciation of the way our delegation has functioned in ⁷⁶⁰ this matter and our appreciation of all those nations of the United Nations, almost all, in fact all barring South ⁷⁸⁰ Africa, which finally supported the attitude of India?

One of the pillars of our foreign policy, repeatedly stated, as to ⁸⁰⁰ fight against racial discrimination, to fight for the freedom of suppressed nationalities. Are we compromising on that issue by remaining ⁸²⁰ in the Commonwealth? We have been fighting on the various issues even though we have thus far been a Dominion of the Commonwealth. ⁸⁴⁰

PRIVILEGES: special rights; PLEDGE: oath; STRESS: pressure;
RACIAL: based on race; SUPPRESSED: to crush down.

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Progressive Shorthand (Monthly) June 2025

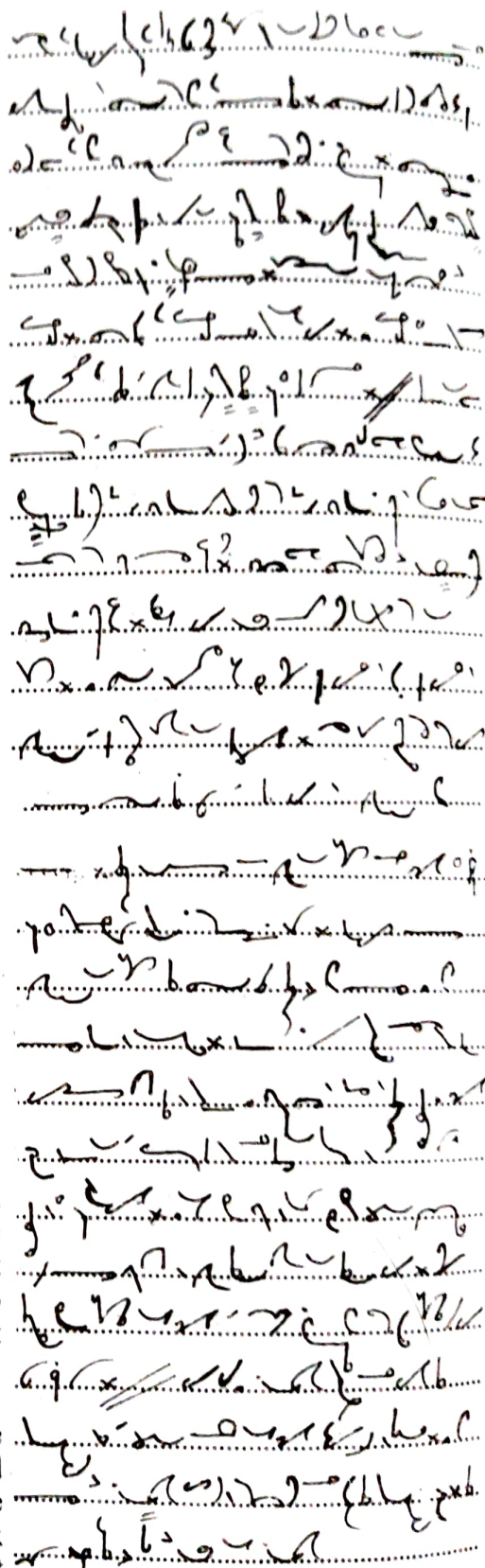
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Exercise 14

I am afraid that if we adopted that attitude, then there would hardly be any association for us with any ²⁰ country, because we have disapproved of something or other that country does. Sometimes it so happens that the difference ⁴⁰ is so great that either you cut off relations with that country or there is a conflict. Some years ago, ⁶⁰ the United Nations General Assembly decided to recommend to its Member States to withdraw diplomatic representatives from Spain, because Spain ⁸⁰ was supposed to be a Fascist country. I am not going into the merits of the question. Some think that question ¹⁰⁰ comes up in that way. The question has come up again and they have reversed that decision and left it ¹²⁰ to each Member States to do as it likes.

Take any great country or a small country and see what ¹⁴⁰ this means, you do not agree with everything that the Soviet Union does, therefore, why should you have representation there ¹⁶⁰ or why should you have a treaty of alliance in regard to commercial or trade matters with it? You may ¹⁸⁰ not agree with some policies of the United States of America, therefore, you cannot have a treaty with them. That ²⁰⁰ is not the way nations carry on their foreign policy or any policy. The first thing to realize I think, ²²⁰ is that there are different ways of thinking, different ways of living and different approaches of life in different parts ²⁴⁰ of the world. Most of our troubles arise from one country imposing its will and its way of living on ²⁶⁰ other countries. It is true that no country can live in isolation, because the world as constituted today is progressively ²⁸⁰ becoming an organic whole. If one country living in isolation does something which is dangerous to the other countries, the ³⁰⁰ other countries have to intervene. To give a rather obvious example, if one country allowed itself to become the breeding ³²⁰ ground of all kinds of dangerous diseases, the world would have to come in and clear it up, because it ³⁴⁰ could not afford to allow disease to spread all over the world. The only safe principle to follow is that, ³⁶⁰ subject to certain limitations each country should be allowed to live its own life in its own way. There are ³⁸⁰ at present several ideologies in the world and major conflicts flow from these ideologies which we will consider later. ⁴⁰⁰

We join the Commonwealth obviously because we think it is beneficial to us and to certain causes in the world ⁴²⁰ that we wish to advance. The other countries of the Commonwealth want us to remain there because they think it is ⁴⁴⁰ beneficial to them. It is mutually understood, that it is to the advantage of the nations in the Commonwealth



and ⁴⁶⁰ therefore, they join. At the same time, it is made perfectly clear that each country is completely free to go ⁴⁸⁰ its own way, it may be that they may sometimes go so far as to break away from the Commonwealth. ⁵⁰⁰ In the world today where there are so many disruptive forces at work, where we are often on the verge ⁵²⁰ of war, I think it is not a safe thing to encourage the breaking up of any association that one ⁵⁴⁰ has. Break up the evil part of it, break up anything that may come in way of your growth, ⁵⁶⁰ because nobody agrees to anything which comes in the way of a nation's growth. Otherwise, apart from breaking the evil ⁵⁸⁰ parts of the association, it is better to keep going a co-operative association which may do good in this world ⁶⁰⁰ than to break it.

Now, this declaration that is placed before you is not a new move and yet it ⁶²⁰ is a complete reorientation of something that has existed in an entirely different way. Suppose we had been cut off ⁶⁴⁰ from England completely and we had then desired to join the Commonwealth of Nations it would have been a new ⁶⁶⁰ move. Suppose a new group of nations wanted us to join them and we joined them in this way, that ⁶⁸⁰ would have been a new move from which various consequences would have flowed. In the present instance, what is happening ⁷⁰⁰ is that a certain association has been in existence for a considerable time past. A very great change came in ⁷²⁰ the way of that association about a year and eight or nine months ago, from August 15, 1947. ⁷⁴⁰ Now another major change is contemplated. Gradually the conception is changing. Yet that certain link remains in a different form. ⁷⁶⁰ Politically we are completely independent. Economically, we are as independent as independent nations can be. Nobody can be hundred per ⁷⁸⁰ cent independent in the sense of absolute lack of interdependence. India has to depend on the rest of the world ⁸⁰⁰ for her trade and for many supplies that she needs, today for her food unfortunately, and so many other things. ⁸²⁰ The House knows that inevitably during the past century and more all kinds of contacts have arisen between England and this country. ⁸⁴⁰

FASCIST: dictatorship based on one religious group; INTERVENE: to come in between; IDEOLOGIES: thinking; REORIENTATION: redirection; CONTEMPLATED: planned; CONCEPTION: an idea arise.

Exercise 15

I wanted the world to see that India did not lack faith in herself, and that India was prepared to ²⁰ co-operate even with those with whom she had been fighting in the past, provided the basis of co-operation today was ⁴⁰ honourable, that it was a free basis, a basis which would lead to the good not only of ourselves, but ⁶⁰ of the world also. That is to say, we would not deny the co-operations simply because in the past we ⁸⁰ had fought, and thus carry on the trail or our past 'karma' along with us. We have to wash out ¹⁰⁰ the past with all its evil. I wanted, if I may say so in all humility, to help in letting ¹²⁰ the world look at things in a slightly different perspective, or rather try to see how vital questions could be ¹⁴⁰ approached and dealt with. We have seen too often in the arguments that go on in the assemblies of the ¹⁶⁰ world this bitter approach, this cursing of each other, this desire not in the least to understand the other but ¹⁸⁰ deliberately to misunderstand the other, and to make clever points.

It may be a satisfying performance for some of us ²⁰⁰ on occasions to make clever points and be applauded by our people or by some other people. But in the ²²⁰ state of the world today, it is a poor thing for any responsible person to do, when we live on ²⁴⁰ the verge of catastrophic wars, when national passions are roused, and when even a casually spoken word might make all ²⁶⁰ the difference. Some people have thought that by our joining or continuing to remain in the Commonwealth of Nations we ²⁸⁰ are drifting away from our neighbour in Asia, or that it has become more difficult for us to co-operate with ³⁰⁰ other great countries in the world. But I think it is easier for us to develop closer relations with other ³²⁰ countries while we are in the Commonwealth than it might have been otherwise. This is rather a peculiar thing to ³⁴⁰ say. I have given a great deal of thought to this matter. The Commonwealth does not come in the way ³⁶⁰ of our co-operation and friendship with other countries. Ultimately, we shall have to decide, and ultimately the decision will depend ³⁸⁰ on our own strength. If we dissociate ourselves completely from the Commonwealth, then for the moment, we are completely isolated. ⁴⁰⁰

I think you will find that during this period of two years or less, India has gone up in the ⁴²⁰ scale of nations in its influence and in its prestige. It is a little difficult for me to tell you ⁴⁴⁰ exactly what India has done or has not done. It would be absurd for anyone to expect that India can ⁴⁶⁰ become the crusader for all causes in the world and bring

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

forth results. Even in cases that have borne fruit ⁴⁸⁰ it is not a thing to be proclaimed from the house-tops. But something which does not require any proclamation ⁵⁰⁰ is the fact of India's prestige and influence in world affairs. Considering that she came on the scene as an ⁵²⁰ independent nation only a year and a half or a little more ago, it is astonishing, the part that India ⁵⁴⁰ has played.

One more thing I should like to say. Obviously a declaration of this type or the Resolution that ⁵⁶⁰ I have planned before the House is not capable of amendment. It is either accepted or rejected. I am surprised ⁵⁸⁰ to see that some Hon'ble Members have sent in notices of amendments. Any treaty with any foreign power can be ⁶⁰⁰ accepted or rejected. It is a joint declaration of eight countries, and it cannot be amended in this House or ⁶²⁰ in any House. It can be accepted or rejected. I would, therefore, beg of you to consider this business in ⁶⁴⁰ all its aspects. First of all, make sure that it is in conformity with our old pledges, that it does ⁶⁶⁰ violence to none. If it is proved to me that it does violence to any pledge that we have undertaken, ⁶⁸⁰ that it limits India's freedom in any way, then I certainly shall be no party to it. Secondly, you should ⁷⁰⁰ see whether it does good to us and to the rest of the world. I think there can be little ⁷²⁰ doubt that it does us good, that this continuing association at the present moment is beneficial for us, and it ⁷⁴⁰ is beneficial, in the larger sense, to certain world causes that we represent. And lastly, if I may put it ⁷⁶⁰ in a negative way, not to have had this agreement would certainly have been detrimental to those world causes as ⁷⁸⁰ well as to ourselves. And finally, about the value I should like this House to attach to this declaration and ⁸⁰⁰ to the whole business of the talks leading up to this declaration. It is a method, which brings a touch ⁸²⁰ of healing with it in this world which is today sick and which has not recovered from so many wounds. ⁸⁴⁰

TRAIL: track, way; PERSPECTIVE: to see in natural form;
CATASTROPHIC: destructive; CRUSADOR: one who makes advance effort; PROCLAMATION: public declaration; DETERIMENTAL: damaging. DISSOCIATE: to separate from society.

WORK HARD, ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN A DAY

Exercise 16

Sir, each anniversary of Independence is sacred to the country. On each anniversary we remember our freedom fighters. On this ²⁰ day we recall the builders of modern India. Today, standing on the sacred soil of Red Fort, I recall 1857 ⁴⁰ when our first freedom fighters came to this Red Fort. I recall 1945, when soldiers of the Indian ⁶⁰ National Army were prosecuted here. Their only crime was that they fought for the freedom of the motherland. In 1947 ⁸⁰ at this very place, Panditji hoisted the flag of Independent India. Today, when we are assembled here, we remember the ¹⁰⁰ ideals, the principles, the values, and the dreams which inspired our freedom fighters to win freedom for the country. Today, ¹²⁰ all of us assembled here rededicate ourselves to that cause.

On this fortieth anniversary, we naturally think not only of ¹⁴⁰ the events of the last one year but of the last 40 years. At the same time, we look forward ¹⁶⁰ to the future as well. Our elders got us freedom and entrusted us with the responsibility of safeguarding and maintaining ¹⁸⁰ that freedom. It is our responsibility to protect it. During these four decades we faced many situations, a number of ²⁰⁰ threats and also pressures. We faced conspiracies, we faced aggressions. We did not bend, we protected the unity and integrity ²²⁰ of India with our courage, our blood and our sacrifices. We showed to the world that India is strong, India ²⁴⁰ is one and it cannot be divided. We demonstrated to the world that no one can enslave us again. We ²⁶⁰ made it clear that nobody can weaken the unity of India. We made it evident that no sacrifice is too ²⁸⁰ big for the security of our country, the independence of our country and the unity of our country. No amount ³⁰⁰ of labour, no amount of sacrifice is too high a price to pay for this purpose. Our soldiers, our officers ³²⁰ give the best years of their lives to guard our frontiers and to defend us. In return we look after ³⁴⁰ them, we provide them with the best of weaponry and ammunition. We see to it that they get the best ³⁶⁰ tools. We are pledged to do so. The freedom of India means the freedom of the people. The freedom of ³⁸⁰ India means that we should strengthen the roots of democracy, and hold impartial elections in which every citizen can participate. ⁴⁰⁰

We conduct Parliament in such a way that the voice of the people of India is listened to and which ⁴²⁰ looks after and builds the future of the country. The meaning of free India is that it has an independent ⁴⁴⁰ judiciary and rule of law. Free India means that it has a free and unfettered Press. But it is not ⁴⁶⁰ so easy to

Handwritten shorthand notes corresponding to the typed text, written in a cursive style on lined paper.

protect democracy, especially when we find that there are people who endanger our freedom through irresponsibility and ⁴⁸⁰ indiscipline, who show disrespect to the Constitution and its institutions through their behaviour. Still we have demonstrated that the roots ⁵⁰⁰ of democracy in our country are deep. Our people must remain alert. It is only a Government based on democracy ⁵²⁰ that can function in a country like India. Our great economic achievements have been acclaimed all over the world. Gandhiji ⁵⁴⁰ had taught us that the process of development and the task of building the country should begin with the poor ⁵⁶⁰ people by eradicating poverty. He taught us that the moral duties should be kept in the forefront in our national ⁵⁸⁰ life. We have taken the country forward towards these very objectives. Eradication of poverty has been given highest priority. We ⁶⁰⁰ have used our entire energy in eradicating poverty. Indiraji gave a call for eradicating poverty. She brought about a new ⁶²⁰ awakening in the country as a result of which there was reduction in poverty. Because of her New Economic Programme ⁶⁴⁰ and other programmes for rural development, be it NREP or IRDP or any other, ⁶⁶⁰ there has been improvement in the lives of the poor people of the country. We see that the picture has ⁶⁸⁰ changed during the last 40 years. Forty years ago, 2-3rd of India's population was below the poverty line. Today ⁷⁰⁰ 2-3rd of the population has come above the poverty line. This achievement is due to our anti-poverty programmes. ⁷²⁰ They have also smashed the hold of feudalism. Eradication of poverty has been carried forward through the Green Revolution. As ⁷⁴⁰ a result in just a few years' time things have improved considerably on the frontiers as earlier there was ⁷⁶⁰ drought 21 years ago, Prime Minister has to seek foodgrains from foreign countries. How small she felt when she has ⁷⁸⁰ to bow down to others for foodgrains. It was then that she decided that never again would India appeal to ⁸⁰⁰ foreign countries for foodgrains. She overruled her technocrats and her other advisers and took steps which brought about the Green ⁸²⁰ Revolution in the North-Western part of the country. Indiraji's foresight and hard work of farmers produced these desired results. ⁸⁴⁰

LACUNA: defects; PROSECUTED: to sue in courts; CONSPIRACIES: coming together for bad motives; IMPARTIAL: unbiased; FEUDALISM: system of land owners; ERADICATE: complete removal.

Handwritten shorthand notes corresponding to the text on the left, including abbreviations like NREP, IRDP, and various symbols for words and phrases.

Exercise 17

An integrated National Education programme the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has been launched for universalising elementary education and a National Mission²⁰ constituted with the Prime Minister as Chairman. The programme aims to provide eight years of quality elementary education for all⁴⁰ children up to the age of 14 years in a Mission mode with a thrust of community ownership, disadvantaged group and⁶⁰ girls' quality education and alternative modes of education. All existing schemes on elementary education will converge with this scheme after⁸⁰ the Ninth Plan and it will cover all districts in the country by March, next year. We are determined to¹⁰⁰ maintain and strengthen our competitiveness in the field of technology education. A task force set up for this purpose under¹²⁰ the HRD Minister has made wide ranging recommendations to upgrade and expand this area of education,¹⁴⁰ The Roorkee Engineering College will be upgraded in to an IIT and funding for IIT, Guwahati has been¹⁶⁰ stepped up to ensure its early completion. The base of IIMs to be expanded, regional engineering colleges are¹⁸⁰ to be strengthened and new institutes will be set up with public private partnership. The role of the private sector will²⁰⁰ be encouraged. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for computer literacy and studies in schools is being launched and other initiatives²²⁰ planned for encouraging IT education from school/college levels. Last year, I announced the availability of 100 per cent²⁴⁰ deduction from income tax of payments made to institutions for vocational education and training by the private sector set²⁶⁰ up in rural areas and small towns. I propose to make the same deduction available for payments to engineering institutions²⁸⁰ also.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have personally experienced poverty and faced problems in pursuing higher studies. I, therefore, feel that³⁰⁰ no deserving student in the country should be deprived of higher and technical education for want of finances. I am glad³²⁰ that the Indian Banks Association has formulated a new comprehensive Educational Loan Scheme, which will cover all courses in schools³⁴⁰ and colleges in India and abroad. Loans will be available under this scheme up to Rs. 7.5 lakh³⁶⁰ for studies in India, and Rs. 15 lakh for studies abroad. No collateral or margin will be stipulated for loans up³⁸⁰ to Rs. 4 lakh. The interest rate will not exceed PLR plus 1 per cent for loans.⁴⁰⁰

The year 2001 is being observed as Women's Empowerment year. My Colleague, the Deputy Chairman

of the Planning Commission ⁴²⁰ is heading a Task Force to review the programmes for women. Meanwhile I propose to strengthen the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh ⁴⁴⁰ for providing micro credit to poor assetless women through NGOs. Launch an integrated scheme for women's empowerment in ⁴⁶⁰ 650 blocks through women's self help groups. Start a new scheme for women in difficult circumstances like widows ⁴⁸⁰ of Vrindavan, Kashi and other places, destitute women and other disadvantaged women groups. In keeping with Governments's commitment to improve ⁵⁰⁰ the Welfare of the scheduled tribes, a separate National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation with an authorised share capital of ⁵²⁰ Rs.500 crore has been set up. The allocation for the schemes for welfare of scheduled tribes in the ⁵⁴⁰ Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been enhanced from Rs.786 this year to Rs.986 crore ⁵⁶⁰ in the coming year. Similarly, the allocation for the schemes for welfare and upliftment of scheduled castes ⁵⁸⁰ in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been enhanced from Rs. 709 crore this ⁶⁰⁰ year to Rs. 790 crore in the coming year.

Hon'ble Members may recall my announcement in the last budget ⁶²⁰ of a new Group Insurance Scheme, the "Janashree Bima Yojana" to extend Social Security cover to the poorest sections ⁶⁴⁰ of society. The said scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 10 August, 2000 and has been well ⁶⁶⁰ received. 332 schemes have been approved so far covering people in the BPL segment. ⁶⁸⁰ I believe that the Social Security cover needs to be widened to minimize the miseries of our people ⁷⁰⁰ below the poverty line. Accordingly, I propose to introduce two more schemes during the next financial year. A special scheme ⁷²⁰ for landless agricultural labourers, the Khetihar Mazdoor Bima Yojana, which will provide benefits of insurance cover as available under ⁷⁴⁰ Janashree Bima Yojana and a pension of Rs.100 per month, to the beneficiary on attaining the age of 60 years. ⁷⁶⁰ In the case of beneficiaries who join the scheme at a young age, some periodical payments at the end ⁷⁸⁰ of every ten years are also envisaged. The beneficiaries will be required to make a small contribution towards the premium. ⁸⁰⁰ A Shiksha Sahyog Yojana, to provide an education allowance of Rs.100 per month to the children of parents ⁸²⁰ living below the poverty line, to meet the expenses of education during their studies from 9th to 12th standard now. ⁸⁴⁰

FANTASY: day dream; SCRUTINIZED: closely examined.

of the Planning Commission is heading a Task Force to review the programmes for women. Meanwhile I propose to strengthen the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh for providing micro credit to poor assetless women through NGOs. Launch an integrated scheme for women's empowerment in 650 blocks through women's self help groups. Start a new scheme for women in difficult circumstances like widows of Vrindavan, Kashi and other places, destitute women and other disadvantaged women groups. In keeping with Governments's commitment to improve the Welfare of the scheduled tribes, a separate National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation with an authorised share capital of Rs.500 crore has been set up. The allocation for the schemes for welfare of scheduled tribes in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been enhanced from Rs.786 this year to Rs.986 crore in the coming year. Similarly, the allocation for the schemes for welfare and upliftment of scheduled castes in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been enhanced from Rs. 709 crore this year to Rs. 790 crore in the coming year.

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Exercise 18

Meanwhile, I have some good news for workers. The wage ceiling for coverage under the EPF and MP Act.²⁰ 1952 has been enhanced from Rs. 5000 to Rs.6500 to promote⁴⁰ the welfare of employees. I propose to enhance the ceiling for Government contribution of 1.16 per cent of⁶⁰ monthly wage of employees to the pension Fund from Rs.5000 to Rs.6000 per month. The extra⁸⁰ expenditure on this account is estimated to be Rs 77 crore per annum. Whereas the organised sector is at¹⁰⁰ present covered by various pension, provident fund and gratuity schemes, the unorganised sector does not have adequate social security coverage.¹²⁰ I am asking the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority to look into all these issues and provide a road map for pension¹⁴⁰ reforms by October 1, 2001. Journalists have to increasingly take greater risks in covering terrorist and other¹⁶⁰ violence prone incidents. As an acknowledgement of their services and sacrifices, and with the expectation of a better treatment at¹⁸⁰ their hands, I propose to set up a Journalists Welfare Fund with a contribution of Rs.1 crore under the grants of²⁰⁰ Ministry of I & B. My colleague the I & B Minister will announce the details of the scheme.

Our²²⁰ entertainment industry, particularly the film industry not only provides the much needed fantasy to millions of our people who live²⁴⁰ in an otherwise harsh and cruel world, it has also emerged as an important segment of our economy and holds great²⁶⁰ promise for the future. Two years ago, I provided for this industry the same tax exemption that was available for²⁸⁰ merchandise exports. A few months ago, the Government issued a notification under the IDBI Act whereby entertainment industry³⁰⁰ including films has been declared as an industrial concern. Banks are in the process of finalising guidelines for financing³²⁰ such projects that are bankable. I hope that the film industry will take full advantage of these measures to bring³⁴⁰ about a greater degree of professionalism and transparency in this operations, and will not do things *chupke chupke* and certainly not³⁶⁰ *chori chori*. As I have already stated the most serious problem is the poor state of the fiscal health of³⁸⁰ both the Central and State Governments. The combined fiscal deficit of the two together is around 10 per cent.⁴⁰⁰

As promised in my earlier Budget Speeches, I appointed the Expenditure Reforms Responsibility Bill⁴²⁰ in this House in the last session. The Bill seeks to reduce the fiscal deficit to 2 per cent⁴⁴⁰ and completely eliminate the revenue deficit over the next five years. A number of

initiatives have already been taken to contain ⁴⁶⁰ in particular, the growth of non-plan expenditure. I have not allowed any increase in non-plan expenditure this year. Consequently ⁴⁸⁰ for the first time in many years, the fiscal deficit target fixed in the budget has indeed been achieved, and remains ⁵⁰⁰ at 5.1 per cent in the RE of the current year. The target of 3.6 per cent ⁵²⁰ revenue deficit has also been achieved.

I intend to carry forward the process of bringing about structural changes ⁵⁴⁰ in the composition of Central Government expenditure and effect economy in non-plan revenue expenditure with ⁵⁶⁰ greater vigour while improving the quality of plan expenditure. For this, I propose to take the following initiatives: User charges for services provided by government and ⁵⁸⁰ its agencies will be revised keeping in view the increased cost of these services. A portion of this increase will be ⁶⁰⁰ provided to enhance the maintenance and quality of these services. Similarly, Postal rates will be revised moderately to contain the ⁶²⁰ rising postal deficit.

All requirements of recruitment will be scrutinized to ensure that fresh recruitment is limited to 1 per cent ⁶⁴⁰ of total civilian staff strength. As about 3 per cent of staff retire every year, this will reduce the manpower ⁶⁶⁰ by 2 per cent per annum, achieving a reduction of 10 per cent if five years as announced by ⁶⁸⁰ the Prime Minister. The Surplus Pool under the Department of Personnel will be streamlined and equipped to redeploy and retrain surplus staff. ⁷⁰⁰ Employees in the Surplus Pool will also be offered an attractive VRS package. Standard licence fee or ⁷²⁰ government accommodation will be enhanced by 50 per cent for Group A, 25 per cent for Group B ⁷⁴⁰ and 15 per cent for other categories of staff with effect from April 1, 2001. Facility of ⁷⁶⁰ LTC to Central Government employees will be suspended for 2 years for the remaining part of the four-year ⁷⁸⁰ block period except for employees who are entitled to last LTC before retirement. Use of Information Technology ⁸⁰⁰ in government activities with large public interface will be maximized to promote efficiency. For this purpose, operations like GPF, ⁸²⁰ pension, pay and accounts offices, passports, income tax, customs, central excise, will be fully computerized by March 31, 2002. ⁸⁴⁰

initiatives have already been taken to contain ⁴⁶⁰ in particular, the growth of non-plan expenditure. I have not allowed any increase in non-plan expenditure this year. Consequently ⁴⁸⁰ for the first time in many years, the fiscal deficit target fixed in the budget has indeed been achieved, and remains ⁵⁰⁰ at 5.1 per cent in the RE of the current year. The target of 3.6 per cent ⁵²⁰ revenue deficit has also been achieved.

I intend to carry forward the process of bringing about structural changes ⁵⁴⁰ in the composition of Central Government expenditure and effect economy in non-plan revenue expenditure with ⁵⁶⁰ greater vigour while improving the quality of plan expenditure. For this, I propose to take the following initiatives: User charges for services provided by government and ⁵⁸⁰ its agencies will be revised keeping in view the increased cost of these services. A portion of this increase will be ⁶⁰⁰ provided to enhance the maintenance and quality of these services. Similarly, Postal rates will be revised moderately to contain the ⁶²⁰ rising postal deficit.

All requirements of recruitment will be scrutinized to ensure that fresh recruitment is limited to 1 per cent ⁶⁴⁰ of total civilian staff strength. As about 3 per cent of staff retire every year, this will reduce the manpower ⁶⁶⁰ by 2 per cent per annum, achieving a reduction of 10 per cent if five years as announced by ⁶⁸⁰ the Prime Minister. The Surplus Pool under the Department of Personnel will be streamlined and equipped to redeploy and retrain surplus staff. ⁷⁰⁰ Employees in the Surplus Pool will also be offered an attractive VRS package. Standard licence fee or ⁷²⁰ government accommodation will be enhanced by 50 per cent for Group A, 25 per cent for Group B ⁷⁴⁰ and 15 per cent for other categories of staff with effect from April 1, 2001. Facility of ⁷⁶⁰ LTC to Central Government employees will be suspended for 2 years for the remaining part of the four-year ⁷⁸⁰ block period except for employees who are entitled to last LTC before retirement. Use of Information Technology ⁸⁰⁰ in government activities with large public interface will be maximized to promote efficiency. For this purpose, operations like GPF, ⁸²⁰ pension, pay and accounts offices, passports, income tax, customs, central excise, will be fully computerized by March 31, 2002. ⁸⁴⁰

FANTASY: day dream; SCRUTINIZED: closely examined.

WRITE CORRECT OUTLINES ALWAYS

Exercise 19

The Expenditure Reforms Commission which was set up last year, has presented reports concerning downsizing in 6 Ministries and Departments.²⁰ These include Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Coal, Department of Heavy Industry, Department of⁴⁰ Public Enterprises and Ministry of Small Scale Industries. Reports of the Commission concerning other Departments will also be received within⁶⁰ the next six months. These recommendations will be implemented by July 31 2001 and identified surplus staff⁸⁰ transferred to the Surplus Pool.

Charity, it is said, must begin at home. I believe austerity, too, must begin¹⁰⁰ at home. To lead by example, based on the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, I propose to abolish three secretary,¹²⁰ special secretary level and two joint secretary level posts in the Department of Economic Affairs. This will be done in¹⁴⁰ stages by 31, July. In addition, another 44 posts of directors and below will be abolished, as¹⁶⁰ against 31 recommended by the ERC. 1675 posts are being abolished in the Currency¹⁸⁰ and Coinage Division which will be restructured and corporatised. The National Savings Organisation is to be downsized from a²⁰⁰ level of 1191 staff to about 25. I have asked ERC to provide their²²⁰ recommendations in respect of the Departments of Revenue and Expenditure also. I am confident that this will expedite the²⁴⁰ process of right sizing the establishments in all the Ministries/Departments of Government. The Planning Commission has commenced the task²⁶⁰ of preparing the Tenth Plan. Given the severity of resource constraints, improvement in the quality of government spending is of²⁸⁰ the essence. It has therefore been decided to subject all existing schemes, both at the Central and State levels, to³⁰⁰ zero based budgeting and to retain only those that are demonstrably efficient and essential. Furthermore, all schemes that are similar³²⁰ in nature will be converged to eliminate duplication. Centrally sponsored schemes that can be transferred to States will be identified. Resource³⁴⁰ flows will be linked to performance. Necessary procedural changes will also be made to speed up the decision making process³⁶⁰ for approval of schemes. Utmost importance will be given to decentralized planning. The Central Government pension liability has reached unsustainable³⁸⁰ proportions: as a percentage of GDP, it has risen from about 0.5 per cent to 1 per cent now.⁴⁰⁰

As such it is envisaged that those who enter Central Government Services after October 1, 2001 would receive

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⁴²⁰ pension through a new pension programme based on defined contributions. In order to review the existing pension system and to ⁴⁴⁰ provide a roadmap for the next steps to be taken by the Government, I propose to constitute a High Level Expert Group, ⁴⁶⁰ which would give its recommendation within 3 months. I have drawn your attention to the increasing share of debt ⁴⁸⁰ service burden in the expenditure budget caused by rising government debt and worsened by the prevalence of high real interest rates.

⁵⁰⁰ Most interest rates in the economy are now market determined. But, their movement downward is constrained by the rigidities ⁵²⁰ inherent in the administered interest rates governing the contractual saving sphere i.e. Provident Fund and Small Savings Schemes. I ⁵⁴⁰ have examined this issue very carefully. I find that the interest rates provided in all these schemes seldom exceeded consumer ⁵⁶⁰ price inflation by more than 3 per cent between 1980 and 1998. Since then, this difference has ⁵⁸⁰ risen to 6 to 8 per cent. Not only are such high real interest rates putting an unsustainable burden on ⁶⁰⁰ both Central and State Governments but the resulting high cost of capital is also inhibiting economic growth all round. I ⁶²⁰ am therefore reducing most administered rates by 1.5 per cent as of March 1, 2001. Government guarantee ⁶⁴⁰ and tax incentives for these schemes will continue. For the future, I propose to explore a better system for the ⁶⁶⁰ determination of these rates. I propose to appoint an Expert Committee to provide recommendations on this issue.

The benefit of ⁶⁸⁰ reduction in interest rates on Small Savings Deposits will be fully passed on to the States. This will reduce their ⁷⁰⁰ borrowing cost from Small Savings by 100 to 150 basis points. In addition, I am also reducing the ⁷²⁰ interest rate on loans portion of Central assistance to State Plans by 50 basis points. Alignments of interest rates on ⁷⁴⁰ GPF by the State Governments along with the reduced provident funds interest rates at the Centre will ⁷⁶⁰ further reduce the interest burden of State Governments. Moreover, because of the anticipated increase in gross tax collection of the ⁷⁸⁰ Centre, devolution of Central taxes to States is expected to increase by over Rs. 9000 crore in 2001-02 ⁸⁰⁰ over the current year. All these measures will help in reducing the debt burden of the States and ⁸²⁰ improve their fiscal position. Along with fiscal consolidation at the Centre, it will be our endeavour to work for States.

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ABOLISH: to end; ELIMINATE: to remove;
DECENTRALIZE: to spread; INHIBITING: restraining;
DEVOLUTION: distribution of finances;

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Exercise 20 (Legal)

Writ Petition No. 76 of 2016 was filed for declaring "right to sexuality", "right to sexual autonomy"²⁰ and "right to choice of a sexual partner" to be part of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21⁴⁰ of the Constitution of India and further to declare Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code to be⁶⁰ unconstitutional. When the said Writ Petition was listed before a three-Judge Bench on 08.01.2018, the Court⁸⁰ referred to a two-Judge Bench decision rendered in Suresh Koushal wherein this Court had overturned the decision rendered by the¹⁰⁰ Division Bench of the Delhi High Court in Naz Foundation. It was submitted by Mr. Arvind Datar, learned senior counsel¹²⁰ appearing for the writ petitioners, on the said occasion that the two-Judge Bench in Suresh Koushal had been¹⁴⁰ guided by social morality leaning on majoritarian perception whereas the issue, in actuality, needed to be debated upon in the backdrop¹⁶⁰ of constitutional morality.

A contention was also advanced that the interpretation placed in Suresh Kaushal upon Article 21¹⁸⁰ of the Constitution is extremely narrow and, in fact, the Court has been basically guided by Article 14 of the²⁰⁰ Constitution. Reliance was placed on the pronouncement in NALSA case wherein this Court had emphasized on "gender identity and sexual orientation".²²⁰ Attention of this Court was also invited to a nine-Judge Bench decision in K.S. Swamy and another v. Union of India and others²⁴⁰ wherein the majority, speaking through Chandrachud, J., has opined that sexual orientation is an essential²⁶⁰ component of rights guaranteed under the Constitution which are not formulated on majoritarian favour or acceptance. Kaul, J, in his²⁸⁰ concurring opinion, referred to the decision in Mosley v. News Group Newspapers Ltd. to highlight that the emphasis for individual's³⁰⁰ freedom to conduct his sex life and personal relationships as he wishes, subject to the permitted exceptions, countervails public interest.³²⁰ The further submission that was advanced by Mr. Datar was that privacy of the individual having been put on³⁴⁰ such a high pedestal and sexual orientation having been emphasized in the NALSA case, Section 377 IPC³⁶⁰ cannot be construed as a reasonable restriction as that would have the potentiality to destroy the individual autonomy and³⁸⁰ sexual orientation. It is an accepted principle of interpretation that a provision does not become unconstitutional merely because of abuse.⁴⁰⁰

Appreciating the said submissions, the three-Judge Bench stated that: "Certain other aspects need to be noted. Section 377⁴²⁰ IPC uses the phraseology "carnal intercourse

against the order of nature". The determination of order of nature⁴⁴⁰ is not a constant phenomenon. Social morality also changes from age to age. The law copes with life and accordingly⁴⁶⁰ change takes place. The morality that public perceives, the Constitution may not conceive of. The individual autonomy and also individual⁴⁸⁰ orientation cannot be changed unless the restriction is regarded as reasonable to yield to the morality of the Constitution.⁵⁰⁰ What is natural to one may not be natural to the other but the said natural orientation and choice cannot be⁵²⁰ allowed to cross the boundaries of law and as the confines of law cannot tamper or curtail the inherent right embedded in an individual under Article 21⁵⁴⁰ of the Constitution. A section of people or individuals who exercise their choice should never remain in a state of fear.⁵⁶⁰ When we say so, we may not be understood to have stated that there should not be fear of law⁵⁸⁰ because fear of law builds civilised society. But that law must have the acceptability of the Constitutional parameters.

That is⁶⁰⁰ the litmus test. It is necessary to note, in the course of hearing on a query being made and⁶²⁰ Mr. Datar very fairly stated that he does not intend to challenge that part of Section 377 which relates⁶⁴⁰ to carnal intercourse with animals and that apart, he confines to consenting acts between two adults. As far as the⁶⁶⁰ first aspect is concerned, that is absolutely beyond debate. As far as the second aspect is concerned, that needs to be⁶⁸⁰ debated. The consent between two adults has to be the primary pre-condition. Otherwise the children would become prey, and⁷⁰⁰ protection of the children in all spheres has to be guarded and protected. Taking all the aspects in a cumulative⁷²⁰ manner, we are of the view, the decision in Suresh Kumar Koushal's case requires re-consideration." The three-Judge Bench expressed⁷⁴⁰ the opinion that the issues raised should be answered by a larger Bench and, accordingly, referred the matter to the larger Bench.⁷⁶⁰ That is how the matter has been placed before us. We have heard Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, learned senior counsel⁷⁸⁰ assisted by Mr. Saurabh Kirpal, learned counsel appearing for the petitioners in Writ Petition No. 76 of 2016,⁸⁰⁰ Ms. Jayna Kothari, learned counsel for the petitioner in Writ Petition No. 572 of 2016⁸²⁰ and Mr. Arvind P. Datar, learned senior counsel for the petitioner in Writ Petition No. 88 of 2018.⁸⁴⁰

PERCEPTION: thought; **PEDESTAL:** high level position;;
POTENTIALLY: inner strength;
TAMPER: to shatter; **CUMULATIVE:** in total.

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Exercise 21

I am glad to be here amidst you today. Punjab University had acquired a prominent place in the intellectual map of²⁰ India long before independence. Although the University had a fresh start at Chandigarh in 1947, in the wake⁴⁰ of partition, it is good that you have been able to keep up the traditions of this premier Institution. The⁶⁰ success of a University is measured not merely in terms of the number of students enrolled, or teachers employed; but⁸⁰ in its ceaseless endeavour to attain peaks of excellence and the quality of intellectual leadership that it offers to the¹⁰⁰ young generation. I am happy that you have been able to maintain three ideals of a university and I congratulate¹²⁰ the teachers and students of Punjab University for their achievements.

We are living in a dynamic age, characterised by speedy¹⁴⁰ and continuous changes, posing ever fresh questions regarding the ideals of University education. A University true to its very definition,¹⁶⁰ has always stood for universal outlook based on humanitarian reason and tolerance. The success of a university consists in its¹⁸⁰ capacity to produce independent thinkers endowed with strength of character. It is only such great thinkers that have made significant²⁰⁰ contribution to the enrichment of human thought and progress of making. All through the history of making, we find that²²⁰ societies are always in a process of continuous renewal in which all ideas, institutions and structures undergo transformation, leaving old²⁴⁰ grabs and taking up new forms and postures. This process of constant struggle for renewal has been the chief characteristic²⁶⁰ of the evolution of modern societies. What is essential is that we should contribute our mite to this process of²⁸⁰ renewal, endowed with the strength of character and courage of conviction. The academic community and institutions of higher learning have³⁰⁰ a big role to play in providing intellectual leadership to society in this unique struggle in the area of thought.³²⁰ Our Universities should have the moral courage and intellectual honesty to assume this leadership. In the present day world,³⁴⁰ Universities cannot remain isolated for ever from contemporary society and its problems. They must try to reach out to society³⁶⁰ and help in finding solutions to the ever increasing problems of contemporary life. This active participation of Universities in the³⁸⁰ life of the community will go long way in enriching the quality of life of the community at large.⁴⁰⁰

We are passing through a time of severe stresses and strains. Some of the social tensions around us today are⁴²⁰ thrown up by the very process of our own social development. We are decisively moving away from the rigid traditions⁴⁴⁰ of a distant past and are on the threshold of an irreversible trend towards new horizons on the

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road of⁶⁰⁰ modernisation. Our industry, agriculture, education, health all are fast developing. Science and technology are slowly, but surely, becoming a way⁴⁸⁰ of our life. And yet emotionally we are not able to make any decisive break with the past. Our emotional⁵⁰⁰ attachments are still conditioned by old traditions. Presumably, it is this conflict in the process of development that is reflected⁵²⁰ in the current situation with occasional outbursts of fury on matters like regionalism, religion, community, caste and so on.⁵⁴⁰ It is true that languages, religion, ways of life are all parts of our cultural heritage. What is needed is⁵⁶⁰ to find solutions to new problems while trying to preserve all that is worthy in our heritage. This process of⁵⁸⁰ growth demands that our cultural hearitage should also land itself to continuous renewal, and it is in this renewal, that⁶⁰⁰ we should look forward to the necessary leadership in our intellectual community. It is this ability to provide intellectual leadership⁶²⁰ that is expected of our Universities. India has made rapid and significant progress in the field of University education since⁶⁴⁰ independence. It is a matter of pride for all of us to know that today our scientists, doctors, engineers and⁶⁶⁰ technologists are serving in many parts of the world.

This is a welcome development. But it is very distressing at the⁶⁸⁰ same time to see a large number of educated youth unemployed. One wonders sometimes, whether the growth in education, specially⁷⁰⁰ higher level education in our country, is in the right direction and is in step with the absorbing capacity of⁷²⁰ our economy. The primary objective of 'learning for earning' cannot be ignored in a country like ours. A job-oriented⁷⁴⁰ education from elementary to the university level, has also to be planned, well in accordance with the employment outlets likely⁷⁶⁰ to be generated by our economic development. The most appropriate education is that which enables the recipient to develop character,⁷⁸⁰ strengthen mental faculties, expand intellectual horizons and enables one to stand on his own feet. Convocations are occasions for happiness⁸⁰⁰ and satisfaction for universities, teachers and students, who have reached an important milestone in their lives, but the process of⁸²⁰ education does not stop with these moments of joy. Every individual keeps learning throughout his life which benefits society.⁸⁴⁰

PREMIER: foremost;

CONTEMPORARY: present times;

ENDOWED: blessed with;

THRESHOLD: beginning;

LINGUISTIC: on the basis of language;

TECHNOLOGIST: users of technology.

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Exercise 22

Honourable Speaker, My government is working in mission mode to connect every part of the country with highways and expressways.²⁰ The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan has accelerated the pace of project completion. Ten years ago, the budget⁴⁰ for capex was around 2 lakh crore rupees, which has now increased to over 11 lakh crore rupees in the last budget.⁶⁰ Continuing the progress of the last decade, my government has made record investments in the past six months⁸⁰ in infrastructure for the future. The foundation has been laid for India's first deep-water mega port at VadHAVAN.¹⁰⁰ This port, being built at a cost of 76,000 crore rupees, will rank among the top ten ports in the world.¹²⁰ India's aviation sector is growing rapidly. The country's airline companies have placed orders for more than¹⁴⁰ 1,700 new aircrafts. We are expanding airports to operate such a large fleet. Over the past decade, the number of airports¹⁶⁰ in the country has doubled. To accelerate the journey towards a Viksit Bharat, it is essential to make our cities future-ready.¹⁸⁰ In this direction, my government has focused on modernizing urban amenities and making them energy-efficient. Simultaneously, the foundation²⁰⁰ is being laid for the development of new cities.

My government has decided to invest approximately 28,000 crore rupees²²⁰ to establish 12 industrial nodes and build 100 industrial parks near cities across the country. Efforts to streamline urban transportation²⁴⁰ are continuously underway. Metro projects in Delhi, Pune, Thane, and Bengaluru, along with the recently launched Namo Bharat Rapid Rail Services²⁶⁰ on the Ahmedabad-Bhuj route, are shaping the cities of a Viksit Bharat. Just a few weeks ago,²⁸⁰ work began on the Rithala-Narela-Kundli corridor in Delhi, which will be one of the major sections of the Delhi Metro network.³⁰⁰ The metro routes in Delhi are expanding rapidly due to my government's continuous efforts. In 2014, the³²⁰ total metro network in Delhi-NCR was less than 200 kilometres. Now, it has more than doubled.³⁴⁰ Today, I am extremely pleased to share that India's metro network has crossed the milestone of 1,000 kilometres. India has now become³⁶⁰ the third largest country in the world in terms of metro networks. Additionally, the decision to deploy 52,000 electric buses³⁸⁰ in the country, at an estimated cost of 8,000 crore rupees, will provide smooth and clean urban transportation.⁴⁰⁰

My government has consistently worked on policies of multi-dimensional and inclusive development. Therefore, while emphasizing on physical infrastructure, equal efforts⁴²⁰ have also been made by my government for a social infrastructure revolution. Providing affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare⁴⁴⁰ to every section of

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society is a top priority for my government. With improved hospital facilities, treatment options, and the availability⁴⁶⁰ of medicines, healthcare expenses for ordinary families are steadily decreasing. To ensure that better healthcare services reach citizens, 1.75 lakh⁴⁸⁰ Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been established across the country. Considering the rising number of cancer patients and the⁵⁰⁰ high cost of treatment, several cancer drugs have been exempted from customs duty. Nearly 9 crore women have been screened⁵²⁰ for cervical cancer. Due to the efforts of my government, significant progress has been made in combating encephalitis, with the⁵⁴⁰ mortality rate due to this disease reduced to 6%. Under the National TB Eradication Programme, the number⁵⁶⁰ of TB patients has also decreased. I urge all citizens and Hon'ble MPs to contribute towards the success⁵⁸⁰ of the TB-free India campaign. India has also seen substantial improvements in maternal and infant mortality rates.⁶⁰⁰

The government is boosting health infrastructure and medical equipment manufacturing. New bulk drug and medical devices parks are being developed⁶²⁰ in the country, creating numerous employment opportunities. A modern and self-reliant agricultural system in India is our goal. My government⁶⁴⁰ is working with dedication to ensure fair prices of crops to farmers and to increase their income. In 2023-24,⁶⁶⁰ India achieved a record production of 332 million tons of foodgrains. Today, India is the⁶⁸⁰ largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices in the world. The government has consistently increased the Minimum Support Price for both⁷⁰⁰ Kharif and Rabi crops. Over the past decade, spending on the procurement of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, and coarse grains⁷²⁰ has tripled. In the past six months, 100 climate-resilient, bio-fortified, and high-yielding advanced crop varieties have been⁷⁴⁰ released to farmers. To strengthen agricultural infrastructure, the scope of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme has been expanded.⁷⁶⁰ This initiative will boost employment opportunities in rural areas. To enhance oilseed production and achieve self-reliance in edible oils, a⁷⁸⁰ National Mission on Oilseeds has been approved. A National Mission is also being implemented to promote Natural Farming. Earlier this year,⁸⁰⁰ the duration of the special package for ensuring availability of DAP fertilizer at affordable rates to farmers⁸²⁰ was extended. A few weeks ago, the India Meteorological Department completed 150 years for building a weather-ready and climate smart India.⁸⁴⁰

President: Droupadi Murmu

ACCELERATE: to increase gradually;

ACCESSIBLE: reachable;

ENCEPHALITIS: inflammation of the brain disease;

PROCUREMENT: to collect.

Exercise 23

Sir, similarly, at the time of independence, our manufacturers were restricted to a few simple things. Today, with the development that²⁰ has taken place during the last 60 years, our industries have progressed to such an extent that India can manufacture⁴⁰ products comparable with those of advanced countries. We have today reached a stage from where we can leap forward with⁶⁰ greater energy and compete with others. Our scientists have shown to the world that they are capable of achieving the⁸⁰ highest in the field of science. Our technocrats have proved that they can master all types of technology successfully. The¹⁰⁰ path ahead is long none can say that we have not traversed far enough during the last sixty years.¹²⁰ We are building the India of our future on the foundations of development that have been soundly laid during these¹⁴⁰ sixty years. We shall see to it that our industries grow and expand rapidly. We shall see to it that¹⁶⁰ our youth get new and more opportunities of employment. We have to see that our productivity rises, prices go down¹⁸⁰ and quality improves. It should be our effort to associate our workers in the public sector units with management. We²⁰⁰ should ensure that our science and technology are not borrowed from foreign countries but develops in a way that benefits²²⁰ the country and also the poor people of the country. They should be able to meet our demands and requirements.²⁴⁰ We also have to see that they go ahead and see the work done in other parts of the world,²⁶⁰ meet the challenges and show the way to the world.

The most important thing, however, is that we should not²⁸⁰ allow our attention to be diverted. Our attention must be concentrated all the time on the poorest and the weakest³⁰⁰ person. In the field of agriculture, the production has increased a great deal, it has reached 150 crore tonnes. But³²⁰ we find that it is stagnating at 150 crore tonnes for the last three years. It is true that the³⁴⁰ monsoon has not been good during these years. Farmers in many regions and parts of the country have to face³⁶⁰ difficulties but we are resolved to ensure that the farmers produce is not affected by the vagaries of weather in³⁸⁰ future. We have to take steps to ensure increase in agricultural production in spite of adverse weather in our country.⁴⁰⁰

Some 70 per cent of our population reside in rural areas, and almost the same percentage of people are poor⁴²⁰ and they earn their livelihood in the agricultural

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farms. The number of agricultural labourers is much more than that of ⁴⁴⁰ farmers. We have to pay special attention towards them. If we want to eradicate poverty we have to begin with ⁴⁶⁰ the farmer's fields. We have started spreading the Green Revolution and we are happy to see that during the last ⁴⁸⁰ two years an improvement has been noticed for the first time in Uttar Pradesh. Improvement has also been noticed in ⁵⁰⁰ Bihar, Orissa and Bengal where the output of farmers is increasing. Poverty has been reduced in the rural areas. At ⁵²⁰ the same time we have to pay special attention to the production of cotton, oil seeds and pluses. In this way ⁵⁴⁰ we will see that with the spread of greenery poverty would be gradually reduced and would ultimately vanish. This year ⁵⁶⁰ we have provided more resources than ever before for programmes meant for eradication of poverty. At the same time we ⁵⁸⁰ have strengthened the administration as part of the poverty eradication programme. I have myself travelled far and wide, and after ⁶⁰⁰ seeing the work with my own eyes and discussing the matter with the officers, strengthened these programmes and intensified them. ⁶²⁰ Most important of all we have treated education as a part of the poverty eradication programme because as long as ⁶⁴⁰ the children of the poor people do not get good education, poverty cannot be eradicated. Today, however, we find another ⁶⁶⁰ problem before us, a very serious problem, that is of unemployment of the youth.

We find signs of pessimism in ⁶⁸⁰ our youth. Millions of our young people do not succeed in getting employment and millions remain dissatisfied even after getting ⁷⁰⁰ employment because they do not get what they want. We have to concentrate on the employment scene. There are some ⁷²⁰ weaknesses and deficiencies in our set-up. There is employment, there are jobs, but the education skills that are ⁷⁴⁰ required to fill up the vacancies are not there. Millions of boys and girls are matriculates, millions of them are ⁷⁶⁰ degree holders but all cannot get white-collar jobs. We have taken care of these things. In our new education ⁷⁸⁰ policy it has been our endeavour to make up for the deficiency in our set-up. Through this policy we will ⁸⁰⁰ ensure that the boys and girls coming out of schools and colleges, get such education which provides them employment. At ⁸²⁰ the same time we will have to see that the rural employment programmes are implemented to give maximum benefit to the people. ⁸⁴⁰

TRAVERSED: to cross over; **STAGNATING:** stationary;

VAGARIES: sudden changes; **PESSIMISM:** one who see darker side;

DEFICIENCY: shortage.

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Exercise 24 (Budget)

Honourable Speaker Sir, PM SVANidhi scheme has benefitted more than 68 lakh street vendors giving them respite from high-interest informal sector²⁰ loans. Building on this success, the scheme will be revamped with enhanced loans from banks, UPI linked⁴⁰ credit cards with Rs. 30,000 limit, and capacity building support. Gig workers of online platforms provide great dynamism to the⁶⁰ new-age services economy. Recognising their contribution, our government will arrange for their identity cards and registration on the⁸⁰ e-Shram portal. They will be provided healthcare under PM Jan Arogya Yojana. This measure is likely to assist nearly¹⁰⁰ 1 crore gig-workers. Each infrastructure-related ministry will come up with a 3-year pipeline of projects that can be¹²⁰ implemented in PPP mode. States will also be encouraged to do so and can seek support from the¹⁴⁰ IIPDF scheme to prepare PPP proposals.

An outlay of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore¹⁶⁰ is proposed for the 50-year interest free loans to states for capital expenditure and incentives for reforms. Building on the¹⁸⁰ success of the first Asset Monetization Plan announced in 2021, the second Plan for 2025-30²⁰⁰ will be launched to plough back capital of Rs. 10 lakh crore in new projects. Regulatory and fiscal measures will be²²⁰ fine-tuned to support the Plan. Since 2019, 15 crore households representing 80 per cent of India's rural population²⁴⁰ have been provided access to potable tap water connections. To achieve 100 per cent coverage, I am pleased to announce²⁶⁰ the extension of the Mission until 2028 with an enhanced total outlay. The Mission's focus will be on the²⁸⁰ quality of infrastructure and O&M of rural piped water supply schemes through "Jan Bhagidhari". Separate MoUs will be³⁰⁰ signed with states/UTs, to ensure sustainability and citizen-centric water service delivery. Building on the July Budget proposals,³²⁰ urban sector reforms related to governance, municipal services, urban land, and planning will be incentivized. The Government will set up³⁴⁰ an Urban Challenge Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore to implement the proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment³⁶⁰ of Cities' and 'Water and Sanitation' announced in the July Budget. This fund will finance up to 25 per cent³⁸⁰ of the cost of bankable projects with a stipulation that at least 50 per cent of the cost is funded from bonds.⁴⁰⁰

We will incentivize electricity distribution reforms and augmentation of intra-state transmission capacity by states. This will improve financial health and⁴²⁰ capacity of electricity companies. Additional borrowing of 0.5 per cent of GSDP will be allowed to states,⁴⁴⁰ contingent on these reforms. Development of at least 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047 is essential⁴⁶⁰ for our energy transition efforts. For an active partnership with the private sector towards this

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goal, amendments to the⁴⁸⁰ Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act will be taken up. A Nuclear Energy Mission for research⁵⁰⁰ & development of Small Modular Reactors with an outlay of Rs. 20,000 crore will be set up. At least 5 indigenously developed⁵²⁰ SMRs will be operationalized by 2033. The Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy will be revamped⁵⁴⁰ to address cost disadvantages. This will also include Credit Notes for shipbreaking in Indian yards to promote the circular economy.⁵⁶⁰ Shipbuilding Clusters will be facilitated to increase the range, categories and capacity of ships. This will include additional infrastructure facilities,⁵⁸⁰ skilling and technology to develop the entire ecosystem. For long-term financing for the maritime industry, a Maritime Development Fund⁶⁰⁰ with a corpus of Rs. 25,000 crore will be set up. This will be for distributed support and promoting competition.⁶²⁰ This will have up to 49 per cent contribution by the Government, and the balance will be mobilized from ports⁶⁴⁰ and private sector.

UDAN has enabled 1.5 crore middle-class people to meet their aspirations for speedier travel.⁶⁶⁰ The scheme has connected 88 airports and operationalized⁶⁸⁰ routes. Inspired by that success, a modified UDAN scheme⁷⁰⁰ will be launched to enhance regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and carry 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years.⁷²⁰ The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and North East region districts. Greenfield airports⁷⁴⁰ will be facilitated in Bihar to meet the future needs of the State. These will be in addition to the expansion of the⁷⁶⁰ capacity of Patna airport and a brownfield airport at Bihta. Financial support will be provided for the⁷⁸⁰ Western Koshi Canal Project benefitting a large number of farmers cultivating over 50,000 hectares of land in the Mithilanchal⁸⁰⁰ region of Bihar. Mining sector reforms, including those for minor minerals, will be encouraged through sharing of best practices and institution⁸²⁰ of a State Mining Index. Under the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing fifty thousand dwelling units in⁸⁴⁰ stressed housing projects have been completed, and keys handed over to home-buyers. Another forty thousand units will be completed soon.⁸⁴⁵

FM- Nirmala Sitharaman

REVAMPED: re.strengthened;

GIG WORKERS: short duration workers;

AUGMENTATION: increase;

REACTORS: energy creators; INDIGENOUSLY: locally.

Exercise 25 (Legal)

In the Full Bench decision, the High Court held as: Registration of document is a sine qua non for referring²⁰ the matter to the Collector, if the Registering Officer believes that the property is undervalued. No jurisdiction has been conferred⁴⁰ on the Registering Officer to refuse registration, even if the document is undervalued. Besides, there is no authority for him⁶⁰ to call upon the person concerned to pay additional stamp duty. Collector is the prescribed authority to determine the market value,⁸⁰ after affording a reasonable opportunity of hearing the parties. The Registering Officer cannot make an open enquiry to ascertain¹⁰⁰ the correct market value of the property by examining the parties. However, it is expected that he has to give¹²⁰ reasons for his conclusion for undervaluation, however short they may be. He can neither delay nor refuse registration of the¹⁴⁰ instrument, merely because the document does not reflect the real market value of the property. In order to¹⁶⁰ reach a conclusion, there is no bar for the Registering Officer to gather information from other sources, including official¹⁸⁰ or public record. Valuation guidelines, prepared by the revenue officials periodically, are intended with an avowed object of assisting²⁰⁰ the Registering Officer to find out prima facie, whether the market value set out in the instrument has been set forth correctly.²²⁰

When the Collector exercises powers under sub-sections (2) and (3), he shall be deemed to be a quasi-judicial²⁴⁰ authority, as the detailed procedure prescribed in the relevant rules evidently portrays that the Collector's decision is²⁶⁰ relatable and verifiable by the materials on evidence, which he brings into record, on making an enquiry after hearing the²⁸⁰ parties concerned. The Collector has been conferred with such powers by the statute, whereas the Registering Authority is not.³⁰⁰ The powers of the Registering Officer are remarkably limited that is to say, he cannot at all hold any enquiry³²⁰ to ascertain the quantum of Stamp Duty payable on an instrument. As adverted to supra, he shall not undertake a³⁴⁰ detailed enquiry by examining the parties, which powers are exercisable by the Collector alone. The relevant rules would indicate³⁶⁰ that the procedures have to be adopted for an enquiry by the Collector. A detailed procedure has been formulated in³⁸⁰ Rule (4) for the Collector to act on receipt of reference under Section 47-A in Tamil Nadu Stamp Rules.⁴⁰⁰

It does not lay down any procedure as to what are the duties to be performed by a Registering Officer, while⁴²⁰ ascertaining the market value of the property. The necessary upshot would be, the legislature thought it appropriate to curtail the⁴⁴⁰ powers of the Registering Officer, probably for the reason

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that allowing the Registering Officer to make an open enquiry would⁴⁶⁰ lead to loss of time for registration, resulting in accumulation of documents for registration with him. Further, prescribing an authority⁴⁸⁰ for the special purpose of conducting enquiry is very much essential, who shall not be the Registering Authority. We are⁵⁰⁰ in complete agreement with the view taken by the Full Bench of the High Court. It is not permissible for the⁵²⁰ Registering Officer to undertake an open enquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the correct market value of the property.⁵⁴⁰ If the Registering Officer is bona fide of the view that the sale consideration shown in the sale deed is not⁵⁶⁰ correct and the sale is undervalued, then it is obligatory on the part of the Registering Authority as well as the⁵⁸⁰ Special Deputy Collector (Stamps) to assign some reason for arriving at such a conclusion. In such circumstances,⁶⁰⁰ if the document in question is straightway referred to the Collector without recording any prima facie reason, the same would vitiate⁶²⁰ the entire enquiry and the ultimate decision.

In the case on hand, it is not in dispute that the Form I⁶⁴⁰ notices did not contain any reason. It also appears that the Collector (Stamps) in his order also failed to indicate⁶⁶⁰ the basis on which the sale consideration shown in the two sale deeds was undervalued. There is one more aspect⁶⁸⁰ of the matter which we should look into. The High Court in its impugned judgment while recording the facts stated:⁷⁰⁰ The third Respondent, having refused to release the documents on the ground that it was undervalued, referred the same to the⁷²⁰ second Respondent Special Deputy Collector (Stamps), Madras under section 47(A)(1) of the Act for determining the⁷⁴⁰ correct market value of the property and also issued notice in Form I, thereby fixing the value of the property⁷⁶⁰ in Doc.No. 487/2002 at Rs.45 lakhs and the other property in⁷⁸⁰ Doc.No.488/2002 at Rs.13 lakhs.. Thereafter, the second Respondent also issued⁸⁰⁰ Form II notice to the parties to the documents for enquiry before him. The Appellant, who is the purchaser of the property⁸²⁰ filed his objections. After enquiry, the second Respondent Special Deputy Collector (Stamps) in his proceedings fixed the market value of the property.⁸⁴⁴

SIN QUA NON: equivalent;

JURISDICTION: legal boundaries;

EVIDENTLY: based on proof;

BONA FIDE: genuine legally;

PRIMA FACIE: on the face of it;

IMPUGNED: order panel against decision.

Exercise 26 (Legal)

Senior Counsel on behalf of Express Newspapers have made the following submissions: Firstly, they recalled the various facts leading to the decision²⁰ of the Supreme Court. According to Senior Counsels, Express Newspapers was targeted by the then Government for its⁴⁰ anti-emergency stance during the years 1977 to 1979; Secondly, Once the new Government was elected, actions⁶⁰ were taken by the then Lieutenant Governor and the MCD etc., seeking to demolish and re-enter the property. This was⁸⁰ despite the fact that all the steps undertaken by Express Newspapers that is, of the initial construction of¹⁰⁰ the building on the east side due to the existence of the drain/sewer line, the shifting of the sewer line,¹²⁰ the construction on the west side, change of user of some portions to general commercial purpose, the use of the¹⁴⁰ basement for a Hindi newspaper, etc., were all done with the approval of the concerned authorities; Thirdly, Show Cause notice issued on¹⁶⁰ 10th March, 1980 was, thus, an act of vendetta. The same was challenged before the Supreme Court, and¹⁸⁰ in terms of the said judgment the Union of India could enforce its rights only by way of a civil suit.²⁰⁰

Fourthly, Express Newspapers applied for conversion in the year 2007, however, the same was not accepted. The termination²²⁰ which was issued was stayed; Fifthly, According to Sr. Counsels, various allegations were raised by the Union of India, however,²⁴⁰ the clear direction of the Supreme Court was that the Union of India could file a suit for recovery of the²⁶⁰ conversion charges and the MCD was to compound the construction which was already made. Sr. Counsels²⁸⁰ have relied upon the various decisions. Sixthly, The questions which have been raised by the L&DO are³⁰⁰ breach of clause 2(5) and 2(14) of the lease deed. On each of the issues, it is his³²⁰ submission that the Supreme Court's decision has already been rendered; Seventhly, According to Sr. Counsel even if there is³⁴⁰ misuse, only a recovery suit can be filed by the Union of India and no termination can be resorted to;³⁶⁰ Eighthly, The misuse is also based on non-newspaper use which is already recognized and permitted by the Government. The order³⁸⁰ permitting the subletting to tenants, though, subject to the outcome of the writ petition, tenants could take possession.⁴⁰⁰

Ninthly, In view thereof, the Union of India filed a review petition which was also dismissed. Insofar as the misuse of⁴²⁰ basement is concerned, the Supreme Court holds that the construction of double basement is not illegal. On unauthorized construction,⁴⁴⁰ the Supreme Court directed that the Corporation

Handwritten notes in Urdu script, likely a translation or commentary on the English text. The notes are written in a cursive style and cover the right side of the page.

will compound the deviation; Tenthly, According to Sr. Counsel, the termination of the lease is in the⁴⁶⁰ teeth of the restraint order passed by the Supreme Court. It is his submission that the impugned notices are nothing⁴⁸⁰ but a fraud on power. Counsel, submitted that one, in paragraph 185 of the Supreme Court judgment,⁵⁰⁰ the clear undertaking was recorded to the effect that Express Newspapers would approach the Government of India since the said undertaking⁵²⁰ was made by the counsels before the Court, Express Newspapers was bound by the said undertaking; Secondly, Express Newspapers ought to have applied⁵⁴⁰ to the Union of India for permission for change of user and for payment of necessary additional ground rent and⁵⁶⁰ conversion charges. This obligation is of a binding nature, but they did not approach the Union of India for permission for⁵⁸⁰ change of user and for payment of ground rent and conversion charges; Thirdly, the only common order in the Supreme Court⁶⁰⁰ judgment was the quashing of the show cause notice.

In a subsequent decision of the Supreme Court, it is not⁶²⁰ open to a two Judge Bench to decide as to what the three judges had said in the Express Newspapers' decision;⁶⁴⁰ Fourthly, there ought to have been some morality on the part of Express Newspapers to approach the Government to seek⁶⁶⁰ regularization and conversion. For a period of six months, it did not approach. Once the lease was terminated,⁶⁸⁰ the building vests in the Union of India; Fifthly, in this case, there is no issue of freedom of press that is involved.⁷⁰⁰ The land being public land, it is the bounden duty of the lessor to terminate the lease. The Union of India⁷²⁰ has merely followed the law; Sixthly, the Constitutional issues relating to Article 14 would not apply once the termination⁷⁴⁰ takes place. He submitted that, in fact, Express Newspapers has agreed to reimburse the costs of shifting of the sewer line.⁷⁶⁰ Since the sub-letting was done as per the interim order of the Supreme Court, if no regularization is⁷⁸⁰ sought, the tenants cannot remain. The officials from the L&DO had also appeared before the Court from time to time⁸⁰⁰ and the computation was initially filed computing the dues at a whopping Rs.17,000 crores!⁸²⁰ An affidavit was then sought which was filed by the L&DO. The computations from both sides were finally handed over.⁸⁴⁰

VENDETTA: serious dispute;

CONVERSION: putting to other use;

BREACH: breaking agreement;

QUASHING: to stop a decision;

REIMBURSE: to pay back.