

जहाँ विसंगतियाँ हैं तो किस प्रकार की विसंगतियाँ उनके संज्ञान में आई हैं? विसंगतियाँ नहीं होने चाहिए, यह तो आप सिद्धांत रूप से बात स्वीकार करेंगी। लेकिन फिर भी आपने यह कहा कि चूंकि वे स्वायत्तशासी संस्थान हैं अतः उन्हें इस बात का अधिकार है कि वे अपने जो भी चाहें नियम बना लें। लेकिन क्या वे ऐसे भी नियम बना सकते हैं जो कुल मिलाकर मूल धारा के विपरीत हों? अगर ऐसी स्थिति है तो क्या उसकी जांच नहीं होनी चाहिए? पहली बात तो कृपा करके बताएं कि कितने संस्थान ऐसे हैं जहाँ विसंगतियाँ हैं और उनमें कितने कर्मचारियों को क्षति हो रही है या लाभ पहुंच रहा है?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: First of all, I would like to say that no such figures are Centrally maintained.

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: सभापति जी, यह बात समझ में नहीं आई ... (व्यवधान)

Unutilised amount in MPLADS in Punjab

*264. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that remained unutilised by Members of Rajya Sabha from Punjab as on 31st March 1998 under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS);

(b) the names of such Members alongwith utilised amount;

(c) whether the unutilised amount has since been distributed equally amongst all the sitting Members of Rajya Sabha from Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) As per the extent Guidelines of MPLADS, the unutilised amount of retired Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament in a particular State will be equally distributed amongst their successors in that particular State. So far as the State of Punjab is concerned, since the inception of the Scheme no Rajya Sabha Member retired till 31.3.1998, the date in question.

A statement indicating the dates of retirement of Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament from Punjab alongwith the unspent balance of funds, as reported by nodal Collectors, is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of retired MP	Date of retirement from Rajya Sabha	Balance as on 30.11.99
1.	Sh. Balbir Singh	09.04.1998	32.80
2.	Sh. Jagir Singh Dard	09.04.1998	60.00
3.	Sh. Iqbal Singh	09.04.1998	28.20
4.	Sh. Venod Sharma	09.04.1998	7.10
5.	Sh. Surinder Kuamr Singla	09.04.1998	NIL
6.	Sh. Mohinder Singh Kalyan	04.07.1998	NIL
7.	Sh. Virendra kataria	04.07.1998	NIL

श्री सुखदेव सिंह लिब्रा: चेयरमैन साहब, आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो यह रकम नोडल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स को भेजी जाती है उसमें मैं समझता हूँ कि देरी हो जाती है क्रेसांडेंस में और वह अनडिस्ट्रीब्यूटेड रह जाती है। मेरा यह सुझाव है कि इसमें क्या हर्ज है कि जब बजट में पैसा पास हो गया है तो दो करोड़ रुपया पहले ही नोडल डिस्ट्रिक्ट में जमा कर दिया जाए और क्रेसांडेंस उनका चलता रहे।

श्री अरुण शौरी: जो आनरेबुल मेम्बर ने सजेक्शन दिया है... This kind of thing has been considered by the Committee. It is a misconception to think that this Ministry releases funds for the MPs only in instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each. The position is that when the works are got sanctioned, they may amount to Rs. 2 crores. If the work that has got sanctioned, let us say, is of Rs. 2 crores, then Rs. 2 crores are released at once. There is a case. (Interruptions). Let me explain. Let me mention it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him. Please hear him first.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The procedure is like this. Supposing a new Member comes in. He designated his constituency. Immediately, Rs. 50 lakhs are released even if the cost of the work that has got sanctioned, is Rs. 2/- At once, Rs. 50 lakhs are sanctioned. If the Member gets his work approved and if its cost is Rs. 2 crores, then

Rs. 2 crores are sanctioned in one go. I will give you a specific instance. Shri Jagmohan, who was a distinguished Member of this House and who is now a Member of the other House, got his works sanctioned in the beginning of the financial year. The cost was Rs. 2 crores. I found from the files that immediately, the entire amount was released because the works had got sanctioned for the amount. If the works that have been sanctioned cost less, you have to wait for the expenditure to be incurred. As soon as the expenditure advice is received—I have checked it up—it is put into the computer. The bill is raised with the Pay and Accounts Section of the Cabinet Secretariat for the amount to be paid. Under the rules, the Pay and Accounts Sections is the only Section which can correspond and deal with the Reserve Bank of India. They send an advice to the Reserve Bank of India.

The latter prepare a demand draft, and that demand draft is then sent to the Collector. I am trying to shorten that procedure. I found that this procedure of the expenditure statement being received, the bill being raised, the advice being sent to the PAO, the advice, then, being sent to the Reserve Bank, and the demand draft being sent back, all this takes 12 to 15 days. I have contacted the Governor of the Reserve Bank as well as the Cabinet Secretary to find out whether this period of 12 to 15 days can now be shortened, in the days of E-mail and other facilities, to two or three days. And, I will certainly, be reporting to the hon. Member and the House on the new procedure that will be evolved.

श्री रामजीलाल: सर, दो-दो महीने लगते हैं।

श्री सुखदेव सिंह लिब्रा: सर, मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया। माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि कोरेसपाउंड्स में 10-12 दिन लगते हैं। मगर मेरे अपने केस में दो महीने से कोरेसपाउंड्स चल रही है जिस कारण पैसा नहीं मिल पा रहा है। इस पीरियड को आप कैसे शॉर्ट करेंगे? अगर आप पैसा जल्द जमा करा दें तो यह समस्या हल हो जाएगी।

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, that would be contrary to the scheme that has been implemented. This proposal of putting the Rs. 2 crores at once with the District Collector, and that money being spent or not being spent over a long period, would be contrary to the scheme that has been thought of till now by the Committees of the two Houses. As regards the suggestion of the hon. Member, I will,

certainly, put it to the Committee. The Committee is meeting again—the Deputy Chairman has called a meeting on Monday—and I will put this suggestion to the Committee itself. But I, certainly, feel that this suggestion, that the Rs. 2 crores should at once be transferred to the District Collector, would be going beyond the scope of the present conception of the scheme. The better way for us would be to cut down on correspondence between the Departments and the Collectors. And, I can assure the House that I am getting the entire procedure examined.

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय: माननीय सभापति महोदय, संसद सदस्य स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना के अंतर्गत प्रत्येक संसद सदस्य को साल में दो करोड़ रुपए दिए जाते हैं। अब एक नई योजना लागू कर दी गयी कि साल में 4 इंस्टालमेंट्स में उन को धनराशि दी जाएगी। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब एक साल में 2 करोड़ दिए जाते हैं तो 4 इंस्टालमेंट्स की बात हम को समझ में नहीं आती कि यह चार इंस्टालमेंट्स में क्यों दिया जाएगा? महोदय, 31 मार्च के बाद जब सरकार का बजट पास होता है तो ये दो करोड़ रुपए संसद सदस्य के नाम पर अलॉट किए जाते हैं और जब संसद सदस्य अपनी अनुशंसा के मुताबिक जनहित के कल्याणकारी सार्वजनिक कार्यों के संबंध में कलेक्टर को लिखकर देता है तो वह निर्माण कार्य उस राशि में से तत्काल शुरू होने चाहिए। मगर आप 50-50 लाख रुपए की दो किस्में कर रहे हैं। इस कारण हमारे एमपीज को काफी असुविधा हो रही है। मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन है कि कुछ राज्य सभा सदस्य मार्च-अप्रैल में रिटायर हो रहे हैं और उन के दिमाग में कई ऐसी स्कीम्स हैं। वह सोचता है कि मैं अपने होते हुए अपने क्षेत्र में कुछ अच्छे कार्य करूँ। तो क्या सरकार उन के लिए दो करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान करेगी?

दूसरे, जब 1993-94 में यह स्कीम चालू की गयी तो नए-नए सांसदों ने कई प्रोजेक्ट बनाकर दिए। महोदय, मैंने पूर्व में भी इस सदन को यह प्रश्न उठाया था कि जो स्थानीय कलेक्टर हैं, उन्होंने मनमाने ढंग से उस धनराशि का दुरुपयोग किया है। उन्होंने उस का उपयोग, नहीं दुरुपयोग किया जिस कारण संसद सदस्यों ने पब्लिक के सामने जिन कार्यों की घोषणा की थी कि इस स्कूल के लिए दो लाख रुपए या फलों गांव की सड़क निर्माण के लिए 3 लाख रुपए खर्च किए जाएंगे, वह नहीं होने से उस संसद सदस्य की पोजीशन पब्लिक के सामने खराब हो गयी है। उस ने पब्लिक के सामने घोषणा की थी कि उस को दो करोड़ रुपए सरकार ने दिए हैं जिस में से वह काम करवा रहे हैं, मगर कई जगह देखा गया कि कलेक्टर ने मनमाने ढंग से रुपए खर्च कर दिए। महोदय, मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे संसद सदस्यों की अनुशंसा के बिना अगर कलेक्टर ने कोई धनराशि खर्च की है तो क्या आप उस की जांच करवाएंगे?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the hon. Member has put two questions, I will start with the second one first. Please don't take it amiss. There was one case which was brought to the attention of the Government; actually, the Ministry itself found out. There is only one case in which there was diversion of funds. In one district—I can name the district—the Collector himself diverted the funds for repairing his house, not his personal house, but his official accommodation. Sir, that matter was taken up very seriously. I have found from the files that it was a case in Punjab. Processing the case took such a long time that, in between, that officer had retired.

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया: क्वैश्चन भी पंजाब से आ रहा है।

श्री अरुण शोरी: बिल्कुल इसीलिए सतर्कता है।

Sir, because the officer had retired, the pension and other emoluments which were due to him were stopped, and this was an example for others also. Second, Sir,—I hope, none of us will take it amiss—as you know, the CAG examines the working of the MPLAD schemes, and such cases that were examined by him did show that the fault lay as much with many of us as with the officers. Many things were diverted, many unauthorised works were undertaken—he has given a complete list, constituency-wise, in his report in 1998. So, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that if such a case of involvement of an officer is brought to the attention of the Ministry, you can rest assured that it will be immediately examined, action will be proposed, and it will be brought to the attention of the Member also. But the CAG's report, certainly, suggests that we also would have to be more vigilant.

Sir, the first point that has been made was about not releasing Rs. 2 crores in a single instalment. Sir, I will put it to the Committee, but my own view is that it is good to tie the releases to the actual progress of the work because, otherwise, what will happen is that these complaints will multiply even more. We should be prodding District Collectors and Chief Secretaries and others to expedite the processing of the proposals which are put. Sir, releasing the Rs. 2 crores in a single instalment will compound problems, but I will, certainly, put it to the Committee.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, ... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री रामजी लाल: सर, जो मैम्बर रिटायरमेंट पर होते हैं और जिनका दो-ढाई करोड़ रुपया बाकी बचा रहता है, उनका क्या होगा? अब मेरे ढाई करोड़ रुपए बाकी हैं और मैं 2 अप्रैल को रिटायर हो रहा हूँ इसके लिए आप क्या करेंगे? मंत्री जी (आप इस बारे में कुछ बताएं)।(व्यवधान)..... ढाई करोड़ रुपए बाकी पड़े हैं और 2 अप्रैल को मैंने रिटायर होना है, उस पैसे का क्या होगा? क्या वह पैसा लेप्स हो जाएगा?

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय: सर, जो सदस्य रिटायर हो रहे हैं, उनके संबंध में मंत्री जी ने जवाब नहीं दिया।

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, there is a misconception, and I will tell you ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, this is really something which we don't attend to on our own. Every Monday morning, Sir, this thick report, giving the releases, authorisations and all, is sent to the Secretariat. I am told that all advices about releases are sent to the Members of Parliament also. I myself check it up. Each time, I come to the House, some Members are kind enough to give me a letter to say that the release has got delayed. I go and check it up. Actually, the release has been made on 11th November ...(*Interruptions*)... I will just explain why this happens. The advice is sent every Monday to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, in each Member's case, that the release has been given. The second thing that is happening is that it is sent to every Member. I found out, to his constituency address. Henceforth, it will also be sent to the Delhi address because, very often, Members are here and they don't get to know till much later. But, Sir, when such prompt information is given every week, I will make arrangements with your permission, that this can be available in the Library also so that it is available to every Member. Yes, every week, as a member I am told what has been released and what has not been released. When, I complain two years later that I am now retiring in 15 days, and unless it is an emergency release, all this money will lapse. Sir, the inference has to be that I have not been vigilant enough over the preceding period. So, I feel that we Members should, probably, pay more attention to information. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Works have not taken place because of the Election Commission's restrictions. That is why works

have not taken place in 1999-2000. Amounts have not been released for 1999-2000. It is not the mistake of the Members. In the intervening period, various elections like Assembly elections, Zilla Panchayat elections, are coming in the way of MPLAD schemes. That is where the works got delayed. That is a point to be taken note of. For 1999-2000, so far, no release of funds has been made because the funds of 1998-99 have not been spent. (*Interruptions*)

श्रीमती मालती शर्मा: चेयरमेन साहब, हमारा अंतिम समय आ गया है। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: आपका अंतिम समय नहीं आया है। अभी आपको जाने नहीं देंगे। ... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती मालती शर्मा: सर, अप्रैल में हमने रिटायर होना है। मंत्री जी से हमारा निवेदन है कि हमारा पैसा जारी किया जाए। ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the embargo on spending when the election process has commenced is for good reasons. It is a part of the code of conduct devised by the Election Commission; no ministry and no Government has any way around it. It has been formulated like in other codes of conduct. They have been formulated for good reasons so that they do not give an undue advantage to the sitting MPs versus others. But the second point was, maybe, the Members of Parliament had enough to do with the frequency of these elections. Probably, one way to ensure expeditious disposal of works is that we should not bring down the Governments so often. (*Interruptions*)

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: मंत्री जी, आप इनको एसोरेन्स दे दीजिए। तीन महीना, चार महीना का समय दे दीजिए। ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, what is happening? You have called my name and everybody else is asking. सर, मेरा तो अंतिम समय नहीं आ रहा। अभी तो मेरा समय है, लेकिन 12.00 बजने वाला है, इसलिए मैं पूछना चाहता था।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: अन्तिम यात्रियों को मौका दीजिए, आप तो अभी रहेंगे। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री एम० वेंकैया नायडु: किसी का अंतिम समय नहीं हो रहा, होने का सवाल ही नहीं है। लंबी यात्रा है यह। Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the Minister aware of the fact that there is an inordinate delay in the execution of the works? Will the Minister take this up with the State Governments? Because, after all, the executive authority is under the control of the State

Governments. Will the Minister consider a suggestion to make trips to all the State capitals and hold meetings with the District Commissioners or Collectors, along with Members of Parliament, to sort out the problem of inordinate delay with regard to execution of the works? Sanctioning is one stage and execution is the next important stage.

Secondly, keeping in view that the Rajya Sabha Members have a wider constituency of a State, 20 or 25 districts, to which they belong, will the Minister consider releasing Rs. 2 crores at one stretch, if sufficient recommendations are made in a proper forum? Because, after all, it is a continuous process, as far as the Members of Rajya Sabha are concerned. Will the Minister keep these two things in mind and respond too?

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: For a change, I agree with him. Sir.

श्री सभापति: आप दोनों का अभी अंतिम समय नहीं है।

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: My distinguished predecessors, Mr. Ram Naik and Mr. Bangaru Laxman, had actually started a process of holding meetings by the States along with the MPs, Chief Secretaries and concerned officers of the respective State, in this regard. The next meeting was scheduled for February in West Bengal and Orissa and I will certainly follow that practice. I find, Sir, that the preceding Ministers had been taking up this matter with a great deal of interest. There is lot of correspondence going on with Chief Secretaries and with Chief Ministers reminding them of the need to expedite this. The Chief Secretaries had held meetings. If that is not working in a particular case, I would, of course, attend to it. If the Committee devises some other scheme about releasing the funds in one go, I can only repeat what I had said. I will bring to your attention, a case of one constituency in Tamil Nadu in which, in one go, Rs. 3 crores were released on 2.12.1999. So, it really depends on the works that get sanctioned and the MPs pursuing it. Sir, it is better to do it at the Collector's office.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a procedural point to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. Sir, all these works which are undertaken are treated as deposited works and establish-

ment charges of 15 per cent are being reduced for every work which is undertaken. I do not see any reason for treating such works as a kind of deposited work and reducing the establishment charges for every work. If the establishment charges are reduced, then the money available for undertaking any work gets reduced to that extent. Will the Government look into this matter and rectify it?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Most certainly, Sir. I am sure many of the rules relating to the establishment works were framed under your able guidance and knowledge. But I will certainly have the matter examined.

श्री अमर सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कई बार ऐसा हुआ कि संसद सदस्य विभिन्न जिलों में जो अपना कार्य करते हैं, कार्य संपादित हो जाने के बावजूद डिस्ट्रिक्ट कलक्टर समय से अपनी रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजता। उसमें संसद सदस्यों की कोई गलती नहीं होती लेकिन जिला प्रशासन और कलक्टर वह रिपोर्ट 2-3 महीने तक नहीं भेजते और उस रिपोर्ट के बिना पैसा रिलीज़ नहीं होता। इसमें हम संसद सदस्यों की बदनामी होती है कि इनको पैसा आवंटित है लेकिन ये विकास के काम में रुचि नहीं दिखाते हैं। तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वे सरकार की ओर से कोई ऐसा प्रावधान करेंगे कि काम के संपादित हो जाने के बाद, जिला प्रशासन और कलक्टर अपनी रिपोर्ट भेजने में जो शिथिलता बरतते हैं, वह न हो। सभापति महोदय, उनकी रिपोर्ट समय से न पहुंच पाने के कारण हमारे फंडज़ डिस्बर्स नहीं होते और हम उससे वंचित रह जाते हैं। क्या इस तरह का कोई प्रावधान आप करेंगे जिससे हम इस समस्या से छुटकारा पा सकें?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, regarding complaints against District Collectors, I would say, Sir, this is the Council of States and as such we are very jealous of the federal principle. The District Collectors come—I am not trying to evade the issue; I am putting this problem to the hon. Member so that we can find a way out—under the control of State Governments. If you set up a precedent by which a Central Ministry will directly deal with District Collectors, you may then see, as Mr. Bhardwaj and others would tell us, many State Governments protesting that we are interfering with their officers and so on. But, sir, if I may say, there is one another intermediate way and that is, whenever a Member comes across a case in which a District Collector is taking an unduly long time in forwarding such a report, for whatever reasons, and the Member brings it to the attention of the Ministry, I assure you that we will immediately contact the Chief Secretary and other personally and see that they contact the

concerned district collectors.

श्री श्रीफ-उद-दीन शरीक: सभापति महोदय, यह भी देखने में आया है कि हमारा जो काम करने का तरीका है, वह पुराना है और पुरानी आदतें हमसे तब्दील हो नहीं सकती, बदकिस्मती यह है। एक काम के लिए किसी स्टेट में यह नियम बना है कि अगर 10 लाख रुपये का काम है तो उसके लिए टेंडर तलब करना है और टेंडर तलब करने से लेकर उनके आने तक और एप्रूव होने तक खासा वक्त लगता है। एक जगह हमें यह तजुर्जा हुआ कि टेंडर तलब किया गया और सिर्फ एक टेंडर आया। इसलिए दो महीने के बाद फिर टेंडर तलब किया गया, फिर एक आया। फिर उसे कैंसिल करके तीसरी बार टेंडर किया गया तो दो आए। उसमें दूसरे का प्राईस लोएस्ट था तो वह टेंडर उसके हक में गया। तब पहले वाला कोर्ट में चला गया। इस सारे मामले में दो साल गुजर गए और दो साल तक वह फंड इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा सका।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई ऐसा तरीका नहीं निकाला जा सकता कि स्टेट की कोई एजेंसी हो, उसी के थ्रू यह काम कराया जाए ताकि बार-बार टेंडर न करना पड़े? अगर ऐसा कोई रास्ता निकाला जा सकता है तो अच्छा है वरना टेंडरों में ही मेबर का सारा टैयोर खत्म होता चला जाएगा और पैसा वापस आ जाएगा।

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I think, there are two points that have to be harmonized. The first one is: The need for expeditious completion of these works. The second one is: The good repute of this House. Both have to be seen together because systems like tenders and so on have been instituted for good reasons. For us to bypass them, only in the case of MPLAD Scheme, will just make the step a focus of public attention—that this has been done for some other purpose than expeditious disposal. That, this is specially the case will become apparent you see the CAG Report. The CAG has come down, very heavily, on a very large number of cases, I think, in about 200 cases, works were given to contractors on the recommendation of a particular Member of Parliament or of a particular district collector, rather than by going through the entire process. That puts up the entire House and the entire Scheme, which is under your guidance for, under a shadow. So, instead of finding these solutions only in regard to the Rs. 2 crores that we are authorized to spend, we should work on improving the tendering processes and so on. If it is happening in a project recommended by a distinguished Member of Parliament, that sort of a thing must be happening in other State projects as well. So, we should work on that, rather than finding an exception for ourselves.

SHRI O.S. MANIAN: What I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister is this. There was a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs to specify a particular work under the MPLAD Scheme. At that time, the allocation, under the MPLAD Scheme, was Rs. 1 crore. Now, the allocation, under the MPLAD Scheme, has been raised to Rs. 2 crores. Is there any proposal before the Government to raise the ceiling for a specified work from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs? If it is not possible for the Government to raise the ceiling from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs, will the Government come forward to raise the above ceiling, at least, for construction of bridges under the MPLAD Scheme?

The second part of my supplementary is, as per the present norms of the MPLAD Scheme, the Members of Parliament are not able to allocate funds from the MPLAD Scheme for construction of flood-protection walls. Will the Government come forward to allow the Members of Parliament to allocate funds from the MPLAD Scheme for construction of flood-protection walls by reviving the present norms?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the hon. Member's first point is about raising the ceiling from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs. We are, certainly, open to all suggestions. We will, certainly, bring it to your attention Sir, to the attention of the hon. Deputy Chairperson and for the consideration of the Committee whether this ceiling should be raised....*(Interruptions)*.... I think it has been relaxed.

The second point is about the construction of flood-protection walls. Many such proposals, well intentioned, have come. Construction of flood-protection walls is an important work. For instance, there are proposals for railway amenities. But, as per the guidelines, which have been given thus far. These have also been put together for good reasons—it has been specified that those things which are normally taken up by the department concerned, there are regular Budgets. For instance, for construction of flood-protection walls, there is a very substantial Budget. Whether you want to use this fund for those works also, it is for all of you to consider. For example, in a particular constituency, a bridge has not been taken care of and the Member of Parliament of that constituency would want to help with that particular bridge. But then, that, gets into the general question

of development of many works, which are not small works, for the purpose of this Scheme. I will certainly put it before the Committee.

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Sir, my experience has been rather tortuous. I find the department too slow, too sluggish and too bureaucratic. I have gone myself to the department. I have written to the Prime Minister. I have written to the Minister concerned, but the department goes on in its own way. I am glad that you are here today, and I can talk to you. Let me give you a specific instance. I allocated my first instalment to the victims of violence in the Valley of Kashmir. I did not hear anything from the department for a long time. Then, they informed, "they have sanctioned Rs. 50 lakhs, which has been received by the Deputy Commissioner there." I agree that cash should not be given to the victims for rehabilitation. But in order to rehabilitate them some machines could be given to them, some training in crafts could be given to them. But no reply was received from the department till the Deputy Commissioner wrote to me that the department is not sanctioning anything. And when they replied, they said, "You can build a hall, you can build some rooms, but you cannot put machines there to learn any kind of trade or to imbibe any kind of trade. I do not know whether it is true or not. But when you say that the victims of violence have to be rehabilitated, they have to be rehabilitated by some way or the other. What purpose will the hall serve? I do not know. Then, again in the case of Assam, one Deputy Commissioner has sent a letter to me and to the department that certain type of works could be undertaken. But there has been no response from the department. I do not know what should be done. Now, you are here, let me talk to you.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I have been here only for only 2-3 weeks. But that has not been my experience about the department. With all sincerity, I can report to you that there has been no single instance like this. Some distinguished Members, like Shrimati Shabana Azmi and Shri Yadav brought some cases to my knowledge, and I found that the Department has been responding to them the very same day. Then, in each instance I have been responding to the concerned Members the very next day. So, I would not like to pass any stricture about the department. In my opinion, victims of violence should be helped, handicapped should be helped; but you

have laid down certain guidelines as to what kind of help is possible. I would like to allocate some moneys from this fund to the National Institute of the Blind. But it can not be given under the guidelines. So, the department cannot go against the guidelines. For that, we must go back to the Deputy Chairman and to the Committee to get an exception. The distinguished Member may say that the guidelines come in the way of good works. I can assure you that all those cases have been referred to the Committee, with a strong endorsement from the department. This is the only legitimate way. And I do find that, over the years, the guidelines have been amplified. They have been relaxed. I would like to give an instance here. Earlier, ambulances could be given to Government hospitals only. But, in the last few months, the Committee has decided that ambulances may be given to charitable hospitals also. Now, you can give money for that purpose. Then, there was a bar that money could not be given to works connected with railways. Some distinguished Members of Parliament said that there should be no unmanned level crossing. The guidelines have now been changed in this respect. So, if you say that the department should do on its own, without changing the guidelines, and tomorrow you come down on the department, that will not be fair.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ, बात सभापति महोदय तक पहुँची है, उपसभापति महोदय तक पहुँची है, क्या आपको किसी राज्य सरकार के बारे में यह जानकारी है कि उसने यह समूची राशि रोक दी है और सारे ट्रेजरी आफिसर्स, कलेक्टर को एक निर्देश दिया है कि इस राशि को सबसे पहले कर्मचारियों और अधिकारियों की तनख्वाह पर बांट दिया जाए, बाकी सारे काम बाद में देखे जायेंगे? ऐसी सरकार के बारे में क्या आपने पता लगाया है? यदि इसकी जानकारी आपको है तो आप उस राज्य सरकार को क्या निर्देश दे रहे हैं?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, this is the first time I am hearing such a case. If it is U.P., I will certainly enquire into the matter. Sir, I will immediately report back to the Chairman and the hon. Member. If this is the case, it would be a complete violation of everything under the scheme. The funds cannot be diverted in this manner.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, I am Member from U.P. It is my personal experience. I have sanctioned only three days back schemes

amounting to Rs. 50 lakhs. There is no such restriction so far as the three districts where my works are going on are concerned, and I have not noticed any such thing.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is why, Sir, being very zealous of the reputation and rights of the States, this House would certainly not like to take without examination a sweeping statement like that. They have mentioned about U.P. Sir, whichever the State may be, if specific information is given, we will certainly take it up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhundar...(Interruptions)...

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, we want a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, it is a very important subject ...(Interruptions)...

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: श्रीमान्, ऐसा नहीं है। उत्तर प्रदेश में कहीं-कहीं पर यह घटना हुई। ...(व्यवधान)

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, my party members are raising it for a long time. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: महोदय, इस पर विचार करने के लिए Half an hour discussion रखा जाना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: पहले भुंडर जी को कहने दीजिए। पहले भुंडर बोलेंगे। I have called the hon. Member.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, after Mr. Bhundar I want to say something.

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर: ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन साहब, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्वेश्चन का पार्ट "सी" था—यह जो एमाउंट बचा है स्टेट में, इसको मैम्बर्स में ईक्वल डिस्ट्रिब्यूट करना था। तो हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या इसको सारे मैम्बर्स में ईक्वल डिस्ट्रिब्यूट करेंगे? दूसरे, ऑनरेबल मैम्बर ने जो पूछा था मैं उसे सप्लीमेंट करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर मैम्बर एमाउंट और प्रोजेक्ट दे देता है तो स्टेट की जो नोडल एजेंसी होती है, वह उस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए निजी इयूटी लगा देती है। जे०ई० होता है या एस०डी०ओ० लेवल का इंजीनियर होता है। दो-दो, तीन-तीन महीने एजेंसी वाले उस प्रोजेक्ट को देते नहीं हैं और अगर दे भी देते हैं तो कोई न कोई कमी उसमें रह जाती है। इसलिए मैं आपसे यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप इसका कोई टाइम फ्रेम नियम करेंगे कि अगर मेम्बर लिख कर देता है तो जो नोडल एजेंसी है, उसको इक्कीस दिन में, एक महीने में या दो महीने में वह कंप्लीट कर दे और अगर न करे तो यह उसकी जिम्मेदारी हो?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the position in regard to Punjab has been explained. Since the inception of the scheme, a particular date was given by the Members, whether any Member had retired by that particular date. But no Member had retired. Now, since the inception of the scheme, seven Members from Punjab have retired and Rs. 26.35 crores had been released to them. Works for Rs. 25.07 crores were sanctioned. So, the balance that was remaining was about Rs. 1.28 crores. Now, Sir, there is a difficulty in distributing it immediately among the Members, and I will explain what it is. The rule is—framed under your guidance, Sir,—that a Member who is retiring can get his works sanctioned till 45 days before he retires. Now, in case the work has been sanctioned but has not been completed, you cannot take the money and distribute it and because, the work has commenced and what will happen to that work? Therefore, how much is to be distributed will be known only after the completion of the work. Only then we will know as to how much is left. Often 10% more may be spent on that particular work. So, I think there is a slight complication in that regard. Sir, the second question is regarding putting a time-limit on the work being completed. The works which are being sanctioned are of a variety of natures. All of them cannot be completed within a standard time. And interruptions come because of elections and other things, which Mr. Ravi just pointed out. It is a suggestion for action. I will have it examined. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please hear me.

About 25 more Members want to ask questions. Some hon. Members have suggested a Half-an-Hour Discussion. On this question, I have already given 40 minutes. Half an hour is over. *...(Interruptions)...*

Please hear me.

I find that on this question, every Member has a *Ram kahani* of his own. So, it would be better, we have a Committee in Rajya Sabha, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman. It would be better if this is discussed in that Committee. Our Members can meet in that Committee. After coming to a consensus on what should be done, we can suggest to our Minister that some broad guidelines have to be changed and that some other things have to be done. first, let us

discuss it in our Rajya Sabha Committee and come to some conclusion. Then we shall approach the Government for what is required to be done. Otherwise, if we try to go on asking questions here—I think all the Members have some story or the other—we would be wasting the time of the House.

I will ask the Deputy Chairman to call a meeting of the Members.

†श्री मोहम्मद आज़म ख़ान: कमेटी का कार्यकाल तय कर दिया जाए, एक टाइम लिमिट कर दिया जाए एक महीने या दो महीने के लिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Committee is a permanent Committee of Rajya Sabha, with Deputy Chairman as its Chairman. So, IO will suggest to her that she should get in touch with Members, and Members should get in touch with her, so that some *via media* could be found. Each case has a long story. I have heard one or two stories. Hon. Members are having great difficulties. There is no doubt about it. There are genuine difficulties.

†श्री मोहम्मद आज़म ख़ान: सभापति जी, यह सब तो पहले से है ही, इन सारी प्रॉब्लम्स के लिए आप कमेटी बनाना चाहते हैं।

श्री सभापति: कमेटी नहीं बनाना चाहते हैं। वही कमेटी रहेगी डिप्टी चेयरमैन की और नहीं बनेगी।

†श्री मोहम्मद आज़म ख़ान: यदि आप एक मिनट का समय दे दें तो कुछ ऐसी बातें हैं जिन्हें यहां कहना मुनासिब होगा। म्युनिसिपल बोर्ड को यह अधिकार है कि उसे केवल एक लवज लिखना होता है “नो ऑब्जेक्शन” सड़क, पुल, पुलिया बनाने के लिए, स्कूल, बिल्डिंग बनाने के लिए। मेरा विरोध नगर पालिका अध्यक्ष से है वह परमिशन नहीं देता। यह मामूली सी बात है कि जिलाधिकारी को यह अधिकार दे दें, अपार्ट फ्राम कि वह किस पार्टी का है, नहीं है, यदि वह समझता है कि परमिशन मिलनी चाहिए तो परमिशन दे दे वरना एक लवज की वजह से डेढ़ सौ सड़कों का काम रुका हुआ है, डेढ़ सौ, दो सौ सड़कें रुकी हुई हैं और वह बाद में सियासत के नजर हो जाता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, what you have said is a very genuine problem. You have a genuine problem. I will suggest to Deputy Chairman that she should call a meeting of the Members of this

†Transliteration of the speech in persian script is available in the Hindi version of the debate.

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House and discuss with them individually and collectively and come to some conclusions.

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Relief to Central Government Pensioners

***262. SHRI RAGHAVJI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government pensioners have been given a raw deal following recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering extension of remedial measures therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. In fact, the pensionary benefits in respect of the Central Government employees have been substantially liberalized keeping in view the recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Regularisation of Contract Labourers

***265. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction has been issued by the Union Government to all the Ministries/State Governments/PSUs/Banks/Financial Institutions and other Government Organisations to regularise the services of contract labourers on permanent basis engaged for sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of office premises in the light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated the 6th