

de-reserve items exclusively reserved for the small scale sector. Will you take up this question with the concerned Ministry, i.e. the Ministry of Industry, and also with the Cabinet and see that this de-reservation is not resorted to indiscriminately?

SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY: Sir, two items, namely, ice cream and biscuits have been de-reserved and no other industry has been de-reserved now. No other items will be de-reserved.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Minister, Abid Hussain Committee's recommendations are there in today's newspapers. You see to it.

SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY: Yes, Sir. These are the two items which have been de-reserved, but we will take it up and see that no other items are de-reserved.

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह: सभापति महोदय, आज देशभर में हजारों मेट्रिक टन फल विधायिन सुविधा ने होने के फलस्वरूप गत-सड़ जाता है। ऐसा फल विधायिन के लिए तो उपयुक्त है लेकिन मार्केट के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। वह भी मार्केट में बेचा जाता है। फलस्वरूप फल-उत्पादक को उसकी सही कीमत नहीं मिलती है और अगर फल उत्पादक खुद विधायिन को तो मार्केटिंग को प्रबलम आती है क्योंकि सिन्थेटिक पेय पदार्थों के साथ कम्पीट नहीं कर सकता। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो सिन्थेटिक पेय पदार्थ बनाते हैं उनको क्या आप बाध्य करेंगे कि कम से कम 20 प्रतिशत उसमें फल-रस का होना अनिवार्य किया जाये? ऐसी कम्पनियों को आप इस बात पर बाध्य करेंगे कि उनका लाइसेंस उन्हें तभी दिया जायेगा जब वे वहां पर कम से कम 20 प्रतिशत शुद्ध फल-रस तैयार करें और बेचें।

SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY: Sir, this does not come within the purview of this question. The hon. Member has come up with a Private Member's Bill and I will answer it at that time.

Beneficiaries of Minority Communities under IRDP/TRYSEM/JRY

***362. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:** Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries belonging to minority communities under IRDP/TRYSEM/JRY, during the year 1995-96, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have any other schemes for minorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) Coverage of beneficiaries belonging to minority communities is not monitored under IRDP/TRYSEM/JRY Schemes.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, this is the most disappointing answer which the hon. Minister has given. Sir, coverage of beneficiaries under various Central Government schemes is to be monitored to see whether various sections of the society are receiving their share and whether these benefits are being given to them.

Sir, the minorities have a feeling, and it is a correct feeling, that they are not getting the benefit from the various schemes of the Government of India as well as of the State Governments, in the dispensation of various schemes. Now, if the State Government or the Central Government is not monitoring whether these benefits are reaching the various sections of the society, how do the Ministry ensures that the benefits are reaching them? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to set up a monitoring cell at the district as well as at the State level to monitor various schemes of the Government.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Hon. Chairman, Sir, there are monitoring cells. Even under the Twenty Point Programme

the coverage of minorities has not been done. From our side we are monitoring only the beneficiaries of SC/ST, women and physically handicapped. The other Ministries are also doing the same. We are covering all programmes which cover the minorities. At presents, I am not having the figure about how many people have been benefited, to how many people we have given financial assistance, etc. But, anyhow, we are covering all. Under the NSEP Programme all eligible beneficiaries are covered, irrespective of whether minorities or women or SC/ST. Sir, we are covering 100% eligible beneficiaries. This is the reasons why we are not separately monitoring form minorities at district and block levels. We are giving all amenities, all facilities under our schemes to the minorities.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, it is not correct to say that it has not been monitored. It is the policy of the Government that these schemes are being monitored, For example, I would like to tell you that in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance there is a separate chapter for monitoring the schemes for minorities. At the district level, the credit flow and priority sector are there. It is the policy of the Government. It is wrong on the part of the hon. Minister to say that these are not being monitored. No doubt, the intention of the Government is very clear that the schemes should reach the beneficiaries. But, how do we know that the benefit is reaching them? How would the Members of Parliament and the community come to know that they are getting social justice? It is the policy of the Government that these sections have to be monitored. One of the directives under the Fifteen Point Programme is to monitor all the schemes meant for social sector, to see whether they are reaching the minorities or not. There is a directive under the Fifteen Point Programme. Now, if the hon. Minister says that we are not monitoring, it is wrong. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will set up a similar kind of monitoring cell as has been set up

by the Ministry of Finance and banks to see that the minorities get justice.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is also aware that there is no specific reservation for job, employment, etc., for minorities. There is a reservation for physically handicapped, SC/ST and women. Even the Twenty Point Programme, since its inception, has not covered the minorities. But, anyhow, the Ministry will consider the view of the hon. Member. There are separate figures. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: It is meant for the minorities. Now he says that it does not cover the minorities.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: You see, even the Social Welfare Ministry is also monitoring all schemes except minorities. We are giving all facilities earmarked for the minorities but the number and other things we are monitoring.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: How do we know that they are reaching to minorities?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Certainly, we will look into it.

SHRI K.R. JAYADEVAPPA: There are many Central Government schemes like JRY, CRDP, for the benefit of the poor and the minorities. The Central Government's monetary assistance to these schemes is also known. But, unfortunately Members of Parliament are not being invited by the implementing authority to the meetings. The word of MLAs will carry more weight and they are recognised by the people and the beneficiaries. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any plan before the Government to issue a direction to the concerned authorities to invite the Members of Parliament to these meetings at the time of implementation of the schemes.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have already issued guidelines in this respect. All our Centrally-sponsored schemes are being

implemented through the District Rural Development Agency. The District Collector or the Zila Parishad Chairman, is the Chairman of the DRDA. All Members of Parliament, all MLCs, all MLAs and the local representatives are other legally entitled members. If the Chairman convenes a meeting, he will inform it to the MPs also ...*(Interruptions)*...

If it is not informed to you, then tell me the particular time, the particular meeting, about which you were not informed. Then, we will give ...*(Interruptions)*... There are specific guidelines and instructions also ...*(Interruptions)*... Some MPs had also represented that they were not called for the meeting. We have informed the concerned District Magistrate about it.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think there is a widespread feeling in the country that the minorities are not getting their due benefits from these various beneficiary-oriented programmes. That is why, some years ago in the Ministry of Finance a programme was instituted to monitor the flow of bank credit going to the minorities. Since the hon. Minister says that he has no knowledge of what is happening to these programmes, through you, Sir, I would like to ask him whether he would recommend to the appropriate authorities that as a part of the periodic survey of poverty, there should be, from time to time, an analysis of the poverty profile of the minority community; so that we could know what is being done for the welfare of the minorities.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, we accept that. From now onwards we will monitor for minorities also. We get figures for minorities under IRDP, TRYSEM and Individual Beneficiary Programmes. Under Wage Employment Programmes we are providing wage for everybody who is below the poverty line irrespective of the fact whether the individual belongs to SC or ST or minority community.

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने यह कहा कि उनका मंत्रालय इस बात का आकलन नहीं कर रहा है कि अल्पसंख्यकों को इससे कितना फायदा हो रहा है। मेरे प्रश्न का भाग (क) यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बता सकेंगे कि यह जो योजनाएं हैं, खास कर के ट्राइसेम और जवाहर रोजगार योजना का कोई आकलन या इवेल्यूएशन हुआ है और यदि हुआ है तो उससे कुछ फल सामने आया है या उसके अनुसार उन्होंने सोचा कि अल्पसंख्यकों को किस प्रकार से फायदा दे सकते हैं? मेरे प्रश्न का भाग (ख) यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय को इस बात की जानकारी है कि सोशल वेलफेयर मिनिस्ट्री ने इस प्रकार के कुछ जिलों के संबंध में, योजनाओं के संबंध में कि अल्पसंख्यकों को लाभ हुआ है या नहीं एक सर्वेक्षण कराया था? क्या उससे कुछ उन्होंने लाभ उठाने की चेष्टा की है? यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I have already told the hon'ble Member about the coverage of beneficiaries. We are not monitoring the minorities. However, the minorities are getting the benefits of our schemes. For example ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why we are not monitoring the minorities. We are evolving a monitoring scheme for the minorities also. At present the Ministry is not monitoring them.

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी: वह तो आपने बता दिया है। डा० मनमोहन सिंह जी ने जो सवाल किया, उनको आपने आश्वासन दे दिया है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि सोशल वेलफेयर मिनिस्ट्री और माइनरिटीज़ कमीशन ने इस प्रकार का सर्वे करवाया है, उसकी जानकारी उनको है या नहीं है? यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minorities Commission is there to monitor them. But in our Ministry, since inception, we are monitoring for the SC, ST, physically handicapped and the common beneficiaries only. For the minorities we are not monitoring; however, we are giving benefits to the minorities also. For example, under the National Social Assistance Programme, everybody who is below the poverty line is getting benefits irrespective of the fact whether the individual belongs to SC, ST or minority community. So, what is the necessity to

monitor a particular community separately? in the remaining schemes also we are giving benefits. But, in our Ministry there is no monitoring system especially with regard to minorities. The suggestion given by the hon. Member is well taken. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will try to get figures with regard to the minorities as to how much amount has been given. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hereafter, we will try to do monitoring. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hereafter he will do monitoring. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Fine! ...*(Interruptions)*...

Acknowledgement and reply to letters received from Members of Parliament

*363. SHRI NAGMANI:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in more than 75% cases acknowledgements to letters of Members of Parliament are not being sent within fifteen days and the final replies are also not being sent to them within three months;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last three years, department-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against the concerned officers found responsible in such a cases and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) All Ministries/departments of Government of India are required to scrupulously observe the guidelines laid down in the Manual of Office Procedure (MOP) for sending prompt replies to letters received from Members of Parliament. In case delay in anticipated in sending a final reply, an interim reply

is to be sent within a fortnight, indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given. Any violation of the procedure and deliberate delays are required to be dealt with as per disciplinary procedure. This is being closely monitored by the respective ministries/departments. There is no system for centralised tabulation of letters of Members of Parliament in various ministries/departments, in terms of the acknowledged letters, replies sent or still pending for reply. It is, therefore, not possible to state in how many cases final replies were not sent by ministries/departments during the last three years and whether any action has been taken against any delinquent officials.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: मान्यवर, सभापति जी, मेरा प्रश्न जो है यह अत्यंत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। पूरा सदन मेरे इस प्रश्न से, मुझे विश्वास है कि सहमत होगा। मान्यवर, जो पहले सत्ता में लोग रहे, अब इस तरफ बैठे हैं, पहले वे नहीं महसूस करते थे, इसकी आवश्यकता महसूस नहीं करते थे। जो लोग वर्तमान मंत्रिमंडल में हैं ...*(व्यवधान)* ये लोग भी पहले इसका अनुभव करते थे, अब नहीं करते हैं लगता है।

मान्यवर, हम लोग जब मंत्री लोगों को पत्र लिखते हैं—प्रधानमंत्री को, दूसरे मंत्री लोगों को, सार्वजनिक हित के लिए लिखते हैं, सार्वजनिक योजनाओं के लिए लिखते हैं, निजी कार्यों के लिए लिखते हैं जनता के हित में तो एक तीन लाइन का उत्तर आता है—“I have received your letter dated such and such I am having the matter looked into.”

इसके बाद “I am having the matter looked into...”

इसके बाद ये लोग आंख बन्द कर लेते हैं।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: पीछे सिगनेचर करते हैं उसके बाद आंख बंद करते हैं।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: जो मंत्री जी का उत्तर है इससे मुझे बड़ी निराशा हो रही है क्योंकि इसके लिए रूल्स बने हुए हैं। मैनुअल आफ ऑफिस प्रोसीजर, एम०ओ०पी० है लेकिन इस मैनुअल का लगता है कि आज तक कभी पालन नहीं किया गया है क्योंकि मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हमारे पास कोई रिकार्ड नहीं है कि कितने पत्र आए और कितने पत्रों का उत्तर दिया गया और किसमें क्या कार्यवाही की गयी। अगर इस तरह का मैनुअल है तो इसके लिए इनको रिकार्ड मेटेन करना चाहिए, रजिस्टर मेटेन करना चाहिए और इसमें तीन स्टेज बतायी गयी

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ish Dutt Yadav.