

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, 23rd July, 1996/1st Sharvana
1918 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the Clock.
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shrimati Aziza Imam, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha, on the 22nd July, 1996 at the age of 72.

Born at Patna, in February, 1924, Shrimati Aziza Imam was educated at St. Joseph's Convent School, Patna. A social worker, Shrimati Aziza Imam was engaged in the uplift of the weaker sections of society and was closely associated with several social welfare organisations in various capacities.

She was a member of the Bihar State Relief Committee; the All India Women's Conference, Bihar Branch; Board of the (Adult) Social Education, Bihar; Council for Child Welfare, Bihar Branch; etc. She was the Vice-President of the Indian Council of Social Welfare, Bihar Branch, Patna and Chairman of the Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangh, Bihar Branch. She was also Secretary, Regional Seminar for Asia in the National Federation of Indian Women and was a delegate of the Federation to Moscow during the International Year of the Child.

Shrimati Aziza Imam represented the State of Bihar in this House from March, 1973 to April, 1976 and again from April, 1976 to April, 1982 and evinced keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

In the passing away of Shrimati Aziza Imam, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shrimati Aziza Imam.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ग्रामीण जनसंख्या के विकास हेतु योजनाओं का सर्वेक्षण

*181. श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) आर्थिक उदारीकरण योजना के अंतर्गत ग्रामीण जनसंख्या के विकास हेतु किन-किन योजनाओं का सर्वेक्षण किया गया है; और

(ख) इन योजनाओं के माध्यम से गांवों के विकास के लिये कितने वर्ष का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
THE MINISTER OF COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)
A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The strategy pursued in the process of economic reforms for liberalising the economy has not only strengthened the on-going wage employment programme like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and major self employment programmes of Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP), but also initiated two new wage employment programmes; (i) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), and (ii) Intensified JRY from October 1993.

2. To give more emphasis on infrastructural development and creation of more employment avenues in the rural areas, the Government restructured and streamlined the existing rural employment programmes from January, 1996. Prior to January 1996 the employment generation programmes, like

JRY were implemented in different streams and with sub-schemes with specific objectives. It was felt that the different streams and sub-schemes could be rationalised and simplified so that those with mutually exclusive objectives could be implemented independently. Accordingly, a committee was set up for the streamlining and restructuring of JRY and other rural employment programmes.

3. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee, the Government of India has decided to restructure the programmes as follows from 1.1.1996:—

(i) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Million Wells Scheme, which were sub-schemes of JRY with earmarking of funds on the basis of percentages have been taken out of JRY and made independent schemes by themselves.

(ii) The remaining part of the JRY First Stream comprising the share of the DRDA (20%) and Panchayats (80%) will continue as before.

(iii) The Innovative JRY (3rd) for taking up pilot projects of innovative nature will, however, continue with the same stipulation namely, 5% of JRY funds or maximum of Rs. 75 crores.

(iv) Rural Housing Scheme has been merged with IAY and both the schemes taken together and amalgamated will hereafter be called IAY.

(v) The Intensified JRY (JRY Second Stream) was merged with the EAS from 1.1.1996 and the uncovered blocks of Intensified JRY have been covered under the EAS.

4. In the case of IRDP, the following changes have been made on the basis of the interim recommendations of the Expert Committee of IRDP, so as to

make it more effective instrument of poverty alleviation in the rural areas:

(i) Enhanced subsidy to Rs. 7500 or 50 per cent of the project cost whichever is less for trained educated rural youth belonging to the families below poverty line.

(ii) Extended the existing concept of community minor irrigation scheme which carries 50% subsidy without any ceiling on the project cost, to all the group ventures under IRDP with subsidy amounting to Rs. 1.25 lakh or 50 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less.

(iii) Increased the permissible limit of expenditure on programme infrastructure from 10 per cent to 25 per cent in the North Eastern States including Sikkim and 20 per cent in other parts of the country, so that the projects can support adequate forward and backward linkage.

(iv) Introduced back-end subsidy i.e. depositing the subsidy in the name of beneficiary in the bank, with the stipulation that the money so deposited will be adjusted towards the last few instalments of repayment.

श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में सरकार द्वारा गांव में रहने वाले लोगों के विकास के लिये विभिन्न प्रकार की योजनाओं का जिक्र किया गया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि गांव के विकास के लिए, वहाँ के रहने वाले लोगों के लिये शिक्षा, पेय जल, प्राथमिक चिकित्सा तथा अन्य न्यूनतम आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने से संबंधित कार्य किया जाना चाहिये। सरकार के उत्तर में यह बताया गया है कि उसमें निरंतर कार्य किया जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि 31 मार्च, 1996 की स्थिति में, गांव में निवास करने वाले लोगों में से गरीबी रेखा के नीचे की ज़िंदगी जीने वालों की कुल आबादी कितनी थी तथा उनमें से कितने लोगों को आर्थिक क्षेत्र में उन्नयन की

दृष्टि से उनके जीवन-स्तर को सुधारने के लिये वर्तमान वित्तीय सत्र में लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in the answer, we have given figures about the various anti-poverty programmes aimed at poverty alleviation. Yesterday, Sir, in the Budget, the Government has disclosed that it was providing an additional sum of Rs. 2,466 crores targeted at seven basic minimum services. Many of these services will come under the head of one of the anti-poverty programmes and some will be implemented separately. It is too early now to have a break up of this amount of Rs. 2,466 crores because this is an additional assistance to State Plans and U.T. Plans and the allocation of the programmes across the States and across the Union Territories will have to be decided by the Planning Commission in the next few weeks. We believe that the anti-poverty measures, the poverty alleviation programmes, that have been taken up over the years have brought relief to the rural sector and these measures have raised a number of people above the poverty line. I would like to recall that three days ago, we got into a debate in this House on the question of proportion of poverty and the measuring of poverty. How do we measure poverty? With great respect to Mr. Satish Agarwal who sought to engage me in a debate on that, I would say that we can measure poverty by income, we can measure poverty by capability. The report which he relied upon does measure poverty both by capability and by income. So, I think that unless you define poverty in a way, you cannot really measure poverty. What I was saying on that day is the only answer that I can furnish today. If you wish to measure poverty by income and go by the National Sample Survey, there is indeed a reduction in poverty both in the rural and urban area. But, as I said, there is no gainsaying the fact that many Indians still live below the poverty line and are extremely poor. For example, Sir, if you look at the increase in real

wages, now the increase in real wages has again been measured. We do find that after the crisis year of 1991-92, there has been a percentage change in the real wages of labour. That is a positive change. The real wages of unskilled labourers have improved over the last three or four years. It stands to reason that every section of the population has benefited by the anti-poverty programmes and the development programmes. But, Sir if the Member wants to have a fuller discussion on poverty and poverty reduction, we should really discuss it in a debate. It will not be possible for me to give all these figures in the space of a short answer to a question.

श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह: माननीय सभापति महोदय, में दूसरे सप्लीमेंट्री प्रश्न के द्वारा सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मार्च, 1996 तक गाँव में रहने वाले कितने लोग थे जिनके पास आवास नहीं था और वर्तमान वित्तीय सत्र में कितने लोगों को आवास मुहैया कराने का सरकार द्वारा लक्ष्य रखा गया है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please permit my colleague, Shri Yerran Naidu to answer this question because it deals with his Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A powerful team—today.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.): Sir, tomorrow also there is a question regarding Indira Awas Yojana.

As per the latest Census figures, the number of houseless people is 1,30,00,000. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held recently, it was unanimously agreed that we should complete provision of houses to all the houseless people by 2000 AD. The estimated requirement of money is Rs. 27,000 crores.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHAN-DARI: What is the target for this year?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What part do you think he has not answered?

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: He has not replied about the target for this year.

श्री अनंतराय देवशंकर दवे: इस साल कितना रखा है, वह पूछ रहे हैं।

श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाह रहा था कि कितने लोगों को आवास मुहैया कराने की सरकार की योजना है?

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: About the number of houseless people, I have already mentioned. In the current year's Budget, a provision was made for construction of 25 lakh houses. In the Budget presented yesterday by our Finance Minister, an amount of Rs. 2,246 crores was earmarked for the seven basic minimum services. Out of this, budget allocation is made for constructing 25 lakh houses in the current year. In addition to 25 lakh houses, Rs. 250 crores were also allotted.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: मान्यवर सभापति महोदय, गांव के विकास के लिये मंत्री जी ने कई योजनाओं का अपने लिखित उत्तर में उल्लेख किया है जिसमें प्रमुख रूप से इंदिरा आवास योजना और दस लाख कुओं की योजना का उल्लेख किया है। मान्यवर, मेरी यह व्यक्तिगत जानकारी है कि इंदिरा आवास योजना और दस लाख कुओं की योजना इन दोनों के लिये सरकार पर्याप्त धन आवंटित करती है, इसमें बहुत धन सरकार देती है। लेकिन दोनों योजनाएं पूर्णतः असफल हो गई हैं। मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से दस लाख कूप योजना के संबंध में मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि दिनांक 1.1.96 से यह योजना लागू की गई है। अब तक इसमें क्या उपलब्धि हुई है और सरकार को इसकी क्या सूचना मिली है। मेरी जानकारी है कि कुछ नालों की खुदाई हो जाती है, कुछ नए ड्रेनेज बन जाते हैं। इसके अलावा इस धन का बराबर दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। तो मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि इस धन का सदुपयोग करने के लिए आपके पास क्या योजना है? मान्यवर, मेरा दूसरा भी पॉइंट यह है कि अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति के लिये तो मकान आवंटित किये जाते हैं या आवंटित हुये हैं। मुझे इसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन देश के अंदर गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे जो लोग रहने वाले हैं, क्या उनके लिये भी सरकार की कोई योजना है कि उनको मकान उपलब्ध कराए जा सके?

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Million Wells Scheme does not come under the Indira Awas Yojana. It is a sub-scheme under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Under the Million Wells Scheme, we constructed 87,634 wells in the year 1989-90. In the year 1994-95, we constructed 56,433 wells. Last year, i.e., 1995-96, we constructed 1,42,717 wells.

But from the year 1996 onwards, we separated it from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. It is a separate scheme now. This year also, we have allocated a lot of money for the Million Wells Scheme.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: मकानों के संबंध में तो आपने बताया नहीं। जो इंदिरा आवास योजना है इस योजना के अंतर्गत अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति के अलावा जो गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले लोग हैं उनको मकान उपलब्ध कराने के लिये सरकार की क्या योजना है?

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the Indira Awas Yojana, the target for the year 1989-90 was 1,51,454 houses. We constructed 1,86,023. Last year, i.e., 1995-96, the target was 11,14,489 houses. We constructed 8,62,836 houses. Thus, there is a 75.19% achievement.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: महोदय, मकान बने इसमें हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इंदिरा आवास योजना के तहत जो मकान बने, ये अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों को आवंटित किये गये, यह ठीक है। लेकिन देश में जो दूसरे लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले हैं उन लोगों का मकान देने की सरकार की क्या योजना है? हम संख्या नहीं पूछ रहे हैं।

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Indira Awas Yojana is a separate scheme from 1996 onwards. Previously, under this scheme we constructed houses only for the SCs, the STs and the bonded labour. Then, it was

extended to the OBCs who were below the poverty line. Now, we are constructing houses for the SCs, the STs, the bonded labour and the OBCs. Previously, 6% of the funds of the JRY were being utilised for this scheme, which we have now enhanced to 10%. So, we have extended this scheme to the backward class people also who are below the poverty line.

कुमारी सरोज खापरडे: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के विवरण में अभी बताया है कि उन्होंने वर्तमान मजदूरी रोजगार कार्यक्रमों को मजदूरी देने के साथ दो नई योजना मजदूरी कार्यक्रम आवासन योजना और सुदृढ़ जे० आर० योजना शुरू की है। मान्यवर क्या आप जानते हैं कि इन मजदूरी कार्यक्रमों के अंतर्गत महिलाओं को पुरुषों की अपेक्षा कम मजदूरी दी जाती है इसी सदन में पिछले सप्ताह मेरे एक प्रश्न के जवाब में ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया था कि महाराष्ट्र आदि राज्यों में ऐसा हो रहा है। इस बारे में मैंने माननीय मुख्य मंत्री महाराष्ट्र को एक चिट्ठी भी लिखी है। मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या मंत्री जी इस भेदभाव को मिटाने के लिये कोई ठोस नीति या कदम उठाएंगे? यदि हाँ, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या रहेगा?

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no discrimination in the implementation of the wage employment programmes. The wages for both men and women are equal. We received some complaints...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, neither the wages are equal, nor are the problems the same.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, the Minister should go and see for himself that this is observed only in breach.

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Sir, from our side, instructions have been issued that for men and women.....*(Interruptions)*...Just one minuted, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allow him to answer.

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Sir, under the wage employment program-

mes, both men and women are equal. But in some States, they are not being given equal wages. Some complaints have come and we have asked the State Governments concerned to look into those complaints. The Employment Assurance Scheme is the biggest wage programme. Under this Scheme, we are giving instructions that equal wages must be given to both men and women.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: How was it being implemented? We all know that the wages are equal only on paper. But this is not being implemented.

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Sir, the States are the implementation agencies. The Employment Assurance Programme is being funded by both the States and the Centre. But the States are responsible for its implementation as per guidelines given by the Centre.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Sir, under the Indira Awas Yojna, the Government gives roughly Rs. 22,000 for a house, including the cost of construction and other facilities like roads, drainage, lights, etc. The amount was fixed some three or four years back. Now, the cost of material has gone up and it is very difficult to manage the construction of a house within this amount of Rs. 22,000. I would like to know whether the Government has got any proposal to enhance this amount for each house at least to Rs. 30,000 so that a house of reasonable quality can be constructed.

SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.: Mr. Chairman, sir, the present unit cost is not Rs. 20,000 but Rs. 14,000 for plain areas. For hill areas, desert areas and loose soil areas, the unit cost is Rs. 15,500. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held on the 4th and 5th, we decided to enhance the unit cost to Rs. 20,000. within a day or two, we are issuing instructions to all the State Governments to enhance it from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 20,000.

श्री अनंतराव देवशंकर दवे: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के संतुलित विकास के लिये आई०आर०डी०पी० और कई छोटी-मोटी योजनाएँ चल रही हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन सब की निरन्तर मनीटरिंग के लिये सरकार ने क्या कोई व्यवस्था की है? यदि हाँ, तो उस व्यवस्था का ब्यौरा क्या है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, many schemes are Centrally-sponsored schemes. ICDS is a scheme which is a Centrally-Sponsored scheme. Now it is the Government's view that most of the Centrally-sponsored schemes should be transferred to the control of the State Governments; that is also part of the principle of federalism. However, at the Chief Minister's Conference, most Chief Ministers expressed the view that Centrally-sponsored schemes should remain Centrally-sponsored schemes and they should get financial assistance, but they should remain Centrally-sponsored schemes. There is, of course, a divergent point of view. As hon. Members would know, I mentioned in my Budget Speech yesterday that while we respect the views of the Chief Ministers, it is the view of this Government that as far as possible most of the Centrally-sponsored scheme should be transferred to the control of the State Governments. A part from these schemes on which there is a divergent point of view, we intend to take on other anti-poverty programmes, fix an entitlement ratio for each State and distribute the funds allocated to the States according to the entitlement ratio. We believe that the State Governments must bear the primary responsibility for implementing these programmes. These are welfare programmes. The Government which is closest to the people is the State Government and only if they bear the primary responsibility will there be accountability; people can also demand from the State Government why these programmes are functioning well in one State and why they are functioning well in another State. These are matters under

discussion. The Planning commission is drawing up revised guidelines, as I said yesterday. Once these revised guidelines are drawn up, they will be placed before the House and they will be circulated to the State Governments. I think transferring most Centrally-sponsored schemes and most anti-poverty programmes to the State Governments will ensure better control, better monitoring and better accountability.

Emergence of India as a Transit Point in Narcotic Smuggling

*182. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is fast emerging as the single most important transit point in narcotic smuggling as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 28th May, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A Statment is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) India has traditionally been a transit country for drug trafficking owing to its geographical proximity to South West Asian and South East Asian major narcotic drugs producing regions. As drug trafficking is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether the transit traffic is increasing or decreasing. However, in recent times owing to major sustained efforts by the enforcement agencies large seizures of drugs have been made.

The details of seizures effected during 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto June) (provisional) are given below: