

RAJYA SABHA

(Friday, the 22nd March, 1985) 1 Chaitra;
1907 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Eradication of unemployment amongst rural women

*141. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take special measures for eradicating unemployment amongst the rural women in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to select districts for the purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the names of the districts and the Central assistance proposed to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) While women are participating in all the income generating rural development programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) to focus greater attention on them a special sub-scheme of IRDP called Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was launched in September, 1982.

(b) Fifty districts in 22 States have been selected during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(c) List of selected districts is placed on the Table of the House. There is no uniform Central allocation per district. (See below) The releases depend upon the number of groups formed in each district.

List of the Districts selected under Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas

Name of the State	Name of the District approved for DWGRA
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Adilabad 2. Srikulam 3. Cuddapah
2. Assam	1. Karbi Anglong 2. Dhubri
3. Bihar	1. Hazaribagh 2. Madhubani 3. Gopalganj 4. Samastipur
4. Haryana	1. Meerut 2. Sirsa

1	2
5. Himachal Pradesh	1. Kangra
6. Karnataka	1. Bijapur 2. Chickmangalur
7. Kerala	1. Wynad 2. P. lghat
8. Madhya Pradesh	1. Sh. hdol 2. Chhindwara 3. Guna 4. R. ipur
9. Maharashtra	1. Osmanabad 2. Bhondara
10. Manipur	1. Central District
11. Meghalaya	1. West Khasi Hills 2. East Garo Hills
12. Orissa	1. Kalahandi 2. Bolangir 3. Dhenkanal 4. Sambalpur
13. Punjab	1. Gurdaspur 2. Bhindara
14. Rajasthan	1. Banswara 2. Pali 3. Bhilwara 4. Alwar
15. Sikkim	1. West District
16. Tamil Nadu	1. Dharamapuri 2. Periyar
17. Tripura	1. West District
18. Uttar Pradesh	1. Bansi 2. Banda 3. Sultanpur 4. Etawah 5. Deoria
19. West Bengal	1. Purulia 2. Bankura
20. Gujarat	1. Ahmedabad 2. Junagadh
21. Jammu & Kashmir	1. Doda
22. Nagaland	1. Kohima

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Sir, first of all, after the implementation of this new programme how many women have been employed as a result of this programme?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, as given out by me in the main answer, the scheme was launched in 1982. It took some time to build up the infrastructure for the implementation of the scheme. But, Sir, in total 1922-member groups have been formed during 1983-84 and 30,942 member groups during 1984-85. The total expenditure incurred up to December 1984 is Rs. 57.43 lakhs.

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: I wanted to draw the attention of the Minister that in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1215, dated 6th May 1983, it was admitted—I quote:

“Keeping in view the inadequate involvement and participation of rural women in income generating activities in rural areas, the Ministry has recently launched a new scheme, viz. ‘Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas—DWCRA’.”

It was thus admitted by the Government that there was inadequate involvement of women in all these programmes. Sir, I want to mention that in spite of all the development plans and in spite of implementing the 20-Point Programme, the employment potentialities for rural women have been decreased in a serious way due to various reasons and the need for additional survey was admitted by the Government. Sir, here, my question is whether any special measures have been taken for this particular rural employment. I want to know what special measures were taken for creating employment potentialities.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, as I mentioned, the main emphasis in our Five Year Plans has been consistently on providing minimum health facilities, integrated with family welfare, nutrition of women and children, acceleration of women’s education and their increase in the labour force and welfare services for women in need. Sir, these welfare and development schemes have been introduced to improve the living conditions of women and their

increased access to and control over material and social resources. It is also true that under the general schemes like IRDP and NREP the coverage of women has not been up to the expected level. If you look at the section-wise population covered with a view to ascertain the women and men participation, you will find that in 1982-83, the number of women beneficiaries was 2.08 lakhs under IRDP and it was 1.87 lakhs under IRDP in 1983-84. The percentage works out to be something of the order of 6.43 per cent and 5.68 per cent. It is quite heartening to note that this year it has picked up. It has gone up to 14.78 per cent in the overall implementation of IRDP. As the hon. Member has just now mentioned, I share his views. It is after reviewing the position that the Government of India launched a special programme in 1982 under this DWCRA system under which special attention is being paid to include women amongst the beneficiaries and to take care of the children while the woman are working under the scheme.

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER : My question has not been replied. I wanted to know whether the employment potential of the rural women has increased or decreased. According to a recent survey, it has decreased. I want to know it from the hon. Minister.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I presented a comparative study under various schemes, especially under IRDP. As I said, we will have a very strong monitoring system to find out how much involvement of women is there in the rural development schemes.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : श्रीमन् मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि 22 अलग अलग राज्यों में जो कुल 50 जिलों का चयन हुआ है, इन 50 जिलों के चयन करने का आधार, क्राइटेरिया क्या है ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, as I mentioned in answer to the main question, there are 50 districts which have been selected in consultation with all the 22 States.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you go on interrupting, how can he answer? You must hear the answer first.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: There are three criteria for selecting the districts and they are on the basis of backwardness, high incidence of child mortality and low literacy rate among the women. These are the broad guidelines on which the State Governments were consulted and we were able to select these 50 districts in 22 States. As a matter of fact, these are pilot projects and we would like to increase them as and when we get matching resources.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I would like to ask the hon. Minister that apart from taking a very general overall view as such, have women been treated as special target group and has he taken into consideration the involvement of the registered voluntary organisations? If so, is the Minister aware that the Central Social Welfare Board has 10,000 registered voluntary organisations which have a base in the remote rural areas and which have brought out a computerised directory with all the locations district-wise which is first of its kind in Asia? Will the Minister consider these organisations and strengthen their rural base in order to encourage them and to use them in a very positive manner?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Yes Sir.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I wanted to know whether it has been treated as a special target group.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Yes Sir. The hon. lady Member wants to know whether the special target groups have been identified. The scheme was designed to create groups. Since individual ventures may not be effective due to the existing socio-economic constraints, with a view to encouraging the rural women, the formation of homogenous groups, each with a membership of 15 to 20, has been suggested in the scheme. In order to facilitate and promote the participation of group members in the income generation activities, provision has been made for the child care facilities also. Similarly, child care facilities have been provided for in the NREP so that the children are not left uncared for when the mothers are working.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Sir, in the efforts to make Sirsa declared a backward district from the industrial point of view, the hon. Minister says that Sirsa is a backward district regarding women employment and, therefore, it has been included in the list. It is heartening to note that. But I want to ask that in Sirsa district what the break-up is and in what manner the women have been employed or made to earn a living for themselves and to improve their standard of living because, as far as I know about it, there is no scheme for women whatsoever in Sirsa district and if it is there, it must be only on paper because no relief has percolated down to any level.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, primarily the implementing agency are the State authorities because it is done through development blocks and district rural development agencies. It is done through their development functionaries. Necessary staff is also provided by the State through their district and block level agencies to take care of the implementation of the scheme. Sir, it will be difficult for me to give a break-up of sub-tehsils and taluks. I will definitely take care of the suggestion made by the hon. Member and find out from the State Government as to the implementation of a particular scheme in a district and I will send on to the hon. Member the reply from the State Government.

श्री सुरज प्रसाद : सभापति महोदय, हरल क्षेत्रों में खेत मजदूरों की जो औरतें हैं उनमें बेकारी की संख्या सब से अधिक है। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस स्कीम के अन्दर खेत मजदूरों की औरतों को काम देने की दिशा में कितनी तरक्की हुई है? दूसरी बात यह है कि एन०आर०ई०पी० के अन्दर राज्यों को मेचिंग ग्रांट देना था, सरकार का जो मिड टर्म अप्रैजल है उसमें यह बात कही गई है कि राज्यों ने मेचिंग ग्रांट एन० आर० ई० पी० स्कीम के अन्दर नहीं दी है। क्या सरकार उन राज्यों का नाम बताएगी जिन राज्यों में इस तरह की बातें पाई जाती हैं और उन राज्यों को सरकार ने क्या निर्देश दिया है कि

इस तरह की स्कीम में मर्चिंग ग्रांट का देने में कदम उठाए ?

श्री बूटा सिंह : सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि लैंडलेस रूरल एम्प्लॉयमेंट ग्यारंटी की जो हमारी महिलाएं हैं उनको लिए अलग से इस स्कीम का अन्तर्गत कोई मोनिटरिंग हो रही है तो मेरा जवाब नहीं में है। क्योंकि *No separate monitoring is carried out of women beneficiaries under the scheme of Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme.* जो आपन पूछा है राज्यों में मर्चिंग ग्रांट इन स्कीमज के बारे में पूरी उपलब्ध हुई है या नहीं हुई है; अभी मेरे पास आंकड़े नहीं हैं। मगर यह जरूर है कि जिस तरह का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन होना चाहिए था राज्यों में उस प्रकार से यह हर एक राज्य में एक जैसा नहीं हुआ है किसी में ज्यादा हुआ है किसी में कम हुआ है। इसका जो विवरण है वह अभी मेरे पास नहीं है मैं बाद में दे सकता हूँ।

SHRI S. W. DHABE: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any study has been made about the payment of wages under the rural employment schemes? We passed a legislation in 1976 for equal wages for men and women. But in all the rural schemes women are paid less than men. I want to know whether any study has been made that women are paid less than men and if so, whether any directions will be issued that women should be paid equal to men.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, this supplementary precisely does not arise out of the question. But I will take the information from the hon. Member and will try to collect the data.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY : Sir, it is heartening to note that the Government is taking all steps to eradicate unemployment amongst rural women. According to him, it has increased to 14 per cent in 1983-84. But the statistics show that it has decreased. Sir, in the reply, he has given the names of specific districts in various States. Has he got any infor-

mation and what is the position with regard to the eradication of unemployment problem in regard to women, especially of the downtrodden people who are below the poverty line and also men who are in the rural area.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, as I stated in answer to the main question, the scheme was started in 1982 and it took about one year to build up and necessary infrastructure for the implementation of the scheme. We are yet to get the return from all the districts selected, they are pilot districts. We will get the information and then compile them and send to the hon. Members and find out how far the beneficiaries have benefited out of it. I want to add one thing, namely, that it is not only that we have sanctioned the schemes but we are keeping a very close monitoring and the products out of these schemes in which these women are employed for their marketing also we are trying to gear up through other agencies like Khadi and Village Industries Commission to see that whatever items are given to these women they are properly marketed and the beneficiaries derive benefits from these schemes. But, Sir, at the moment it is very difficult to say what percentage achievement has been made in each district. I propose to have a study made out and we shall share the information with the hon. Members.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमान पहले जो ग्रामीण कुटीर उद्योग था जैसे तेल घानी का काम, बुनने का काम तथा और भी इस तरह के दर्जनों काम गांवों में थे जो कि बाटा, टाटा और शहरी उद्योगीकरण के कारण गांवों से छिन गये। इसके कारण ही महिलाओं में बेरोजगारी बहुत अधिक बढ़ी है। इस प्रकार का जो परम्परागत उद्योग था इसको जब तक रिवाइव नहीं किया जायेगा तब तक जो बेरोजगारी को हल करने की आपकी स्कीम है उसमें पूरा सहयोग नहीं मिल पा रहा है। इसी संदर्भ में एक बात और जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने महिलाओं को, उनके गांव और आंचलिक क्षेत्रों को देखते हुए ऐसे कामों में लगाया है, जिससे सचमुच में उनकी बेकारी भी दूर हो सकती है और उनका पारिवारिक काम भी चल सकता है ?

श्री बूटा सिंह : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक ही कहा कि बहुत से ऐसे काम थे जो परम्परागत थे जिसमें हमारी महिलाएं काम करती थीं जिससे उनका और उनके परिवार का निर्वाह चलता था। मगर इस प्रोग्राम के अंतर्गत जिसका मैंने उल्लेख किया है जो स्कीम अंडर डी.डब्ल्यू.सी.आर.ए. चालू की गयी है इसका अंतर्गत जिन कामों के ऊपर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है उसमें नर्सरी रेजिंग है, टाय मेकिंग है, लाइव स्टॉक रीयरिंग है, है, रेडीमेड गारमेंट्स हैं, मसाला ग्राइंडिंग डाइंग एण्ड प्रिंटिंग है, वीविंग है, पिकल मेकिंग है, पापड़ मेकिंग है, बी कीपिंग है, सेरीकल्चर है, बास्केट मेकिंग है, रीफ कप मेकिंग है, रोप मेकिंग है, चप्पल मेकिंग है, कायर एण्ड मेट मेकिंग है, सोप मेकिंग है, दरी मेकिंग है, कारपेट मेकिंग है। सम एन्सिलियरी वर्क्स रिलेटेड टु एग्रीकल्चरल इम्प्लीमेंट्स एण्ड निर्दिष्ट हैं... (व्यवधान) अम्बर चर्खा है। यह तकरीबन वही काम है जो परम्परागत हैं और अब तक हमारे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में होते हैं। यदि मेम्बर साहब कोई दूसरा काम बताना चाहते हैं तो हम वह काम भी ले सकते हैं।

Jakarta Conference of Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries on New World Information and Communication Order

*142. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the decision of the Jakarta Conference of the Ministers of non-aligned countries held in January, 1984 on new world information and communication order has been implemented and what is the response of other countries in the matter; and

(b) the extent to which the non-aligned countries themselves are cooperating in evolving their own media for mass communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) The Conference of

Information Ministers on Non-aligned Countries held in Jakarta in January 1984 emphasised the importance of the principles of collective self-reliance and mutual cooperation among non-aligned countries.

The Conference adopted an action programme relating to the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool, Broadcasting organisations of the Non-aligned countries, telecommunication tariff reduction and cooperation in print media as well as films. It also recommended that the Ministers of Communications and of Information of countries acting as re-distribution centres for the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool might meet later in 1984 to work out practical proposals on telecommunication tariff reduction. Accordingly, India declared at the Conference held in Cairo in May 1984 its decision to introduce Developmental Press Bulletin Service for news pool traffic, at half of the concessional press bulletin service tariffs.

The fulfilment of decisions of the Conference is a continuous process. According to the functions of the Intergovernmental Council for the coordination of information and communication of the non-aligned countries, the Council, will, coordinate the activities of the non-aligned countries in the fields of information and communication in implementing the decisions of the Jakarta Conference; monitor the development and progress of efforts undertaken by the non-aligned countries in the field of media cooperation; and initiate activities which may facilitate the smooth implementation of action programmes agreed upon by the Conference.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, न्यू इन्फॉर्मेशन आर्डर का जो मूल उद्देश्य है, वह है समाचार पत्रों के बारे में सेल्फ-सफिशंसी होना। इस मामले में नेतृत्व भारत का है और रहना चाहिए, लेकिन हम लोग देख रहे हैं कि हाल के वर्षों में भारत में आधुनिकीकरण के नाम पर भारतीय अखबारों में साम्राज्यवादी देशों के अखबारों के पूरे के पूरे डिपेंडेंस बड़े पैमाने पर छापे जा रहे हैं जितना कि अंग्रेजी राज्य में