

Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.

Shrimati Margaret Alva, Ministry of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Natwar Singh, Minister of State in the Department of Steel.

Shri P. A. Sangma, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.

Shri R. K. Jaichandra Singh, Minister of State in the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Shrimati Ram Dulari Sinha, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Shri Shivraj Patil, Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology and in the Department of Ocean Development; Atomic Energy, Space and Electronics.

Shri Yogendra Makwana, Minister of State in the Department of Health.

Shri Arun Singh, Parliamentary Secretary.

Thank you.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions. Shri Shrikant Verma.

#### Conference of States' Rural Development Ministers

\*1. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two day conference of State Ministers of

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shrikant Verma.

Rural Development was held in New Delhi in the first week of September, 1984; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the issues discussed and the recommendations made at the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the issues discussed and broad recommendations are annexed as statement.

#### Statement

A two-day conference of the State Ministers in-charge of Rural Development was held on 4th and 5th September, 1984 in New Delhi, wherein mainly a review was made of progress and performance of rural development programme viz. (1) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (2) National Rural Employment Programme NREP), (3) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)/Desert Development Programme (DDP), (4) Training orientation of development personnel, non-officials and IRD beneficiaries, (5) People's participation—including Panchayati Raj Institutions and voluntary agencies, (6) Monitoring/evaluation of the programmes at State, Central level, (7) Implementation and extension of technologies in rural areas, and (8) Approach to the 7th Plan—rural development and poverty alleviation.

Following broad recommendations were made:—

(1) The process of implementation required a strong infrastructure, people's participation and training both of officials and non-officials were also important for the successful implementation of the programmes. Need to strengthen the Panchayati Raj and Administrative structure was also emphasised.

(2) Selection of beneficiaries was to be done in a careful and cautious

manner so that the real benefit accrues to the identified families who are then sustained in a manner to be able to ultimately cross the poverty line. Repayment of loans was also important as grant of loan itself.

(3) In addition to employment generation which was the prime objective of rural development programmes, efforts should be made to ensure that the works are durable.

(4) Close monitoring and regular field visits by officials to blocks will bring more realistic results not on paper but in reality.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Sir, before I put my supplementary, I want to read the last para, i.e. para 4, of the statement. It says:

"Close monitoring and regular field visits by officials to blocks will bring more realistic results not on paper but in reality."

Sir, the situation is the other way round. The visits are only an eye-wash. We have seen enough of official visits to villages and it is nothing but a device for what we call Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), etc. I would suggest that before the Ministry embarks upon the plan, it should reconsider the whole thing and appoint a small committee in the villages which will see whether the programmes are really being implemented or not and what progress has been made.

Secondly, what do you mean by rural development? The rural development is meaningless unless the poorest of the poor, the landless, is the beneficiary. There is a mention of the poor; but there is no mention of the landless in this statement. Then there is a mention of technology. What do you mean by it? Do you want to impose the urban technology in rural areas which will be irrelevant and rather counter productive? Rural technology in our country is 3000 years old and it does not require any change. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to take into consideration these

facts. I would like to know what steps have been taken to embark upon the whole plan taking into account all these facts.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Firstly, when money is given to a beneficiary under the IRDP, there is a process of selection. The open village Sabha selects the poorest of the poor and it recommends the names. It recommends who are the poorest of the poor in each block who should be given loans. At the time of giving loans, the passbooks are given to them. They are also trained a little as to how to make full use of the money so that the poorest of the poor may be able to use it in a proper way. Secondly, there is regular monitoring also. However, there is always scope for improvement. That is why we are thinking that monitoring should be made more effective. The involvement of the non-officials agencies, i.e. the voluntary agencies, is already there. As I said, there is always scope for improvement and we are trying. Firstly, the infra-structure has to be made much stronger. Also, the monitoring has to be improved.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Wherever such plans have been taken up, whether it is China or the Soviet Union or any other country, the programme is always time-bound. It is no use saying that we are embarking upon the plan or we are taking these steps. They will never succeed because the gap between the urban living and the rural living is increasing. We must have a time-bound programme. We are laying too much emphasis on the urban growth and development. But the villages and the rural areas are totally ignored. I agree with the leaders to whichever party they may belong, when they say during their election speeches that the rural development has been ignored for the last four decades. We do not know the reason. For whatever reasons, we do not know. May be, it is a part of the process of civilization. But then this process has to be reversed and the rural development has to be at a faster pace. So, I would suggest or I would rather ask the

hon. Minister whether he or his Ministry has in mind a time-bound programme for each of the points stipulated in the entire Plan.

**SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR:** Well, Shrikanth Verma, you gave the examples of Russia and China and you know very well that the systems of these two Governments are altogether different. I don't think that there is any democratic country in the world where the poorest have been taken care of as much as we have taken in India. And when Shrimati Indira Gandhi introduced the 20-point programme, it was particularly for the improvement of the village people and particularly the poorest of the poor. It is with that object in view various programmes for the rural development were taken up. And we do not say that all these programmes have been taken up in such a short time. As you said, there should be a time-bound programme. That is a fact that we should do it and expedite it. But, as you know, in our country such a vast number of people are very poor that we should have firstly the infrastructure to make them better off. Then, secondly the financial resources. One thing is certain that as soon as possible the poorest of the people or those people who are living below the poverty line should be helped to come up to the condition that they are not poor. They should be able to live their life slightly better, their condition should be improved. That is why all these things are taken care of in the Seventh Plan. Lot of discussions are going on. And, I think, at the time when the Seventh Plan will be finalised, much of the things may be much more clearer than what they are today.

**SHRI BUTA SINGH:** Sir, with your permission, if I may be permitted to add to what my hon. colleague has said, all these rural development programmes are targetted and the targets are fixed in the beginning for five years and then they are broken at each current year. And the monitoring involves not only an officer who does the monitoring weekly,

fortnightly, monthly, quarterly and half-yearly and sends the reports. Therefore, at the end of every year we are able to point out how much has been achieved under a given programme, how much money has been utilised, how many beneficiaries have benefited out of it. If you permit, Sir, I can read out the figures district-wise for the past five years. Therefore, Sir, it is not that there is an absence of close monitoring or a time-bound element. I agree with the hon. Member that it has to be more strict. And we will see that in future this programme is tied with the time-bound limits and the targets are achieved by the State Governments.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Shri Samba Siva Rao—not here. Shri Jagdambi Prasad Yadav.

**SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:** Sir, I am Nirmal Chatterjee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I am sorry. Please allow me some time to familiarise myself with the names.

**SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:** Sir, I have three parts to my question. Firstly, was it found out in the review made that the man-days generated under the plan for the last four years are declining? If so, what are the figures? I may inform incidentally that I am a member of the State-level committee for IRDP and NREP. Secondly, is it true that qualitative-wise there is a report by the World Bank that excepting in Rajasthan and West Bengal, the IRDP beneficiaries are quite often fake? Is it also the finding of the review made? Do they concur with the World Bank report? Sir, I am also a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and I have found out from various States that while report emanate as to how many people have been assisted, there are no reports about the survival of the units which are established under IRDP and various other rural development schemes. Did this meeting, this review session, propose any steps to find out what is happening after initiating some people into some kind of activity? Are

you getting the reports of survival? Can you provide us with them?

**SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR:** Sir, it is not true to say that only West Bengal and Rajasthan are progressing and other States are not progressing. In fact,

**SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:** Qualitatively, I said, not quantitatively.

**SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR:** Well, I would like to tell the hon. Member that West Bengal started a little later, after two years. They did not take up the IRDP immediately. They started it a little later. It is also not true to say that qualitatively other States are poor or they have failed to select the best ones. Here and there, there might have been some errors or mistakes in the process of selection. But barring a few, by and large, the selection has been quite good.

In regard to the mandays, it was expected that yearly, we will provide work for about 300 to 400 million mandays. This was the target. But at the moment we are doing round about 356 million mandays. This is the average we are doing at the moment.

**SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:** Was it declining over the years?

**SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR:** Not declining. When you say it is declining, you may be thinking from that point of view. Previously, in the first two years, much money was given for buying cattle and other agricultural things. But later on, quite a number of persons have been given assistance in regard to setting up small industries and so on. Then, thirdly, assistance is also given for setting up shops. (Interruption). Under NREP, when assistance is given, some money is given for agriculture, for buying cattle and other things. As I have mentioned already, in the second category, assistance is also given for setting up small industries. Then, assistance is also given for setting up shops, like cycle shops, grocery shops and so on. These are the three categories. In the initial stages, it was for agriculture. Now, assistance is being extended to other fields also.

**SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:** Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that a two day conference of State Ministers incharge of rural development was held on the 4th and 5th September, 1984, and they discussed among other things the national rural employment programme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: what does he mean by rural employment programme?

I would like to bring to his notice that there is one centre, near Annaram village in Shadnagar Taluk of Mahboobnagar District. This rural centre has acquired land for it from the poor people. They belong to the backward classes and other weaker sections. When they acquired the land, they have to give employment in them but they did not give employment to the people from whom land has been acquired. There is a rule that one member from each family should be given employment. They should have been given employment. But they have not. These people have become landless, homeless and unemployed. They have been thrown into the streets. For the last two years, they have been making representations. But no results.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please ask your question.

**SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister: what does he mean by rural employment programme? I would like to know whether they are absorbing the local people in this centre or not?

I do not know what is happening in different centres of the country but wherever I have gone, whichever villages I have visited, I have seen that nobody has been given employment. People have made representations to me. For example in a small village namely Annaram, poor landless labourers are there, the Harijans and the backward class people are there. I would therefore, like to know from the Minister whether the officials who are incharge of that programme are discharging their duties properly or not. If not, they must be thrown out and the Government

must take steps to see that the programme is properly implemented. (Interruptions). I would like to know, what is the position and what steps is the Government going to take in this respect?

**SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRA-NAR:** Rural landless employment guarantee programme was started from 15th August, 1983. For this programme a sum of Rs. 500 crores has been provided. In the selection what is done is, as you know, during the off season period, that is, January, February, March, April and May are the off season months for a large number of agriculturists when they are unemployed, at least one member from each such family is given employment for 100 days. Of course, we cannot say that everybody has been selected or taken care of. There is a provision of Rs. 500 crores for this programme and looking to the amount people have been given employment under this RLEG programme.

**SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:** My question was that the local people were not being given employment in this centre at Annaram village. Kindly look into this and see that the local people are given employment. That is my question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Ramanand Yadav. Put a question. No speech please.

**SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:** Question only, no suggestions.

**श्री रामानन्द यादव :** श्रीमन् अर्ध-शिक्षित बेरोजगार जवानों की संख्या देहातों में बहुत अधिक है। अधिक शिक्षित लोग शहरों में नौकरी खोज लेते हैं, लेकिन साधन की कमी के कारण, गुरबत के कारण, देहात के अर्ध-शिक्षित जवान बाहर जाकर नौकरी नहीं ढूँढ पाते।

तो क्या सरकार देहातों में घरेलू उद्योग धंधे खोलकर देहातों के अर्ध-शिक्षित जवानों के लिये नौकरी की व्यवस्था करने पर विचार करेगी ?

क्या सरकार देहातों में ऐसे कामों को कराने का विचार करेगी जो टिकाऊ हों ?

क्या सरकार कार्यक्रम के लागू करने वाले सरकारी तंत्र को जिम्मेदार, असरदार बनायेगी और इस जिम्मेदारी के फेल होने पर सजा देने के लिये किसी उपाय पर सोच-विचार कर रही है ?

**श्री चन्दुलाल चन्द्राकर :** जो माननीय सदस्य ने अभी कहा है वह यहाँ तक सही है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अर्ध-शिक्षित बेरोजगारों की संख्या दिन-प्रतिदिन बहुत बढ़ती जा रही है। इस योजना में पाँच तरह के प्रोग्राम हैं। उनमें इन लोगों को जितना भी काम दिया जा सकता है, चाहे वह अनइम्प्लाइड हो, चाहे शिक्षित हों, अशिक्षित हों, और साथ ही साथ जो शिक्षित हैं, उनके लिये अलग कार्यक्रम जो बनाया गया है, उनको पैसे देने का, उसके अन्तर्गत भी कुछ लोगों को पैसा दिया जा रहा है। लेकिन इनकी संख्या बहुत अधिक है। सबको तो अभी नहीं दिया गया है। इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि इसके अन्तर्गत जो प्रोग्राम बने हैं, उसमें कुछ लोगों को तो काम मिल रहा है।

**SHRI BUTA SINGH:** My hon. colleague, Shri B. Shankranand says that the other side of the problem is that the population is increasing at an alarming rate. Therefore, the hon. Member should help us in this matter. Only then we will be able to undertake this programme effectively.

#### Fall in Cotton Production

\*2. **SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:**

**SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

\*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya.