

by my Hon'ble friend, Shri Yadav Our country imported a number of cross-bar exchanges from one of the subsidiaries of ITT namely, the Bel Telephone Corporation of Belgium. The equipment was found to be faulty. It was found to be second-hand and the Government was deceived by the suppliers who supplied secondhand equipment in the name of new equipment. Now such being the experience of importing equipment, from some of these multinationals, what is the justification for the Government now for opening such a vital sector of the economy like telecommunications not only to the Indian private sector, but also, through them, to the foreign private sector including some of the notorious foreign multinationals like the ITT?

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: Sir, I have in great detail told this august House that, in the beginning, the Indian Telephone Industries started making telephone equipment with British collaboration at Bangalore. Later on, the cross-bar system, as the honourable Member has himself said, came from the ITT. Now, both these systems have become outdated, and this is the reason why the Government of India floated tenders for the switching equipment. We bought the technology from France to manufacture five lakh lines in Gonda and five lakh lines in Bangalore which I have informed this House already. At the same time, we are not depending on the advanced technology from the other countries. We are taking simultaneous action to manufacture and develop our own system by forming a society.

As regards the question of import of technology, I have already told the House that wherever the technology is available, we will not import. But, if it is necessary, please remember, we will buy the technology on a selective basis. Similarly, we are already taking action to import technology for PABXs and for the rural exchanges and have called for global

tenders. By scrutinising the various firms' bids and their capabilities, we will buy one or two technologies and we will ask the other companies, whether in the public sector or in the private sector, to take that technology which was purchased Centrally.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, the next question.

*143. [The questioners (Shri Na-rendra Singh and Shrimati Maimoona Sultan) were absent. For answer, vide cols. 33-35 infra.]

*144. [The questioner (Shri J. P. Goyal) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 35-37 infra].

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 145. Yes, Mrs. Roda Mistry.

Demand to set up Vidarbha Development Board ..

*145. SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY: SHRI SURESB. KALMADI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vidarbha Vikas Mandal Sangarsha Samiti had submitted a memorandum to Government some time in March, 1984 for setting up Vidarbha Development Board under article 371 of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum points out that the Vidarbha region has not received adequate attention from the

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Roda Mistry.

Government of Maharashtra in the matter of economic development. It has, therefore, been urged that a Development Board should be established under article 371 of the Constitution for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. In order to facilitate consideration of the memorandum a reference has been made to the Government of Maharashtra for their views in the matter.

श्रीमती रोडा मिस्त्रि : उपसभापति

महोदय, आर्टिकल 371 क्वार्टर सेंचुरी अगो अमेड की गयी है। थोड़ा-ना ज्यादा ही टाइम ले रहे हैं कंसिडर करने में और फिर हम पूछना चाहते हैं

There was a memorandum submitted to the President which has clearly stated so many things, the discrepancies and the employment disparities and about the separate development boards promised and not given.

हम मंत्री साहिब से पूछना चाहते हैं कि यह सब का क्या हुआ ? दूसरी चीज, ऐसे ही तेलंगाना के डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड में भी होता था और आखिर में जाकर इतना दंगा फसाद हो गया कि सेंटर को इन्टरवीन करना ही पड़ा। तो मैं मंत्री साहिब से रिक्वेस्ट करना चाहती हूँ कि वे हमें बतायें कि 25 साल के बाद भी विदर्भ के मुद्धार के काम नहीं हो रहे हैं, इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्रीमती रामबुलारी मिश्रा : यह मेमोरेंडम

हमको मार्च, 84 में मिला और इसे हमने 6 अप्रैल, 84 को उनके व्यूज जानने के लिये जैसा कि मैंने पहले ही बताया कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को रेफर कर दिया और जहाँ तक कुछ तय करने का सवाल है तो मैं कह सकती हूँ कि

It is also significant that the Government of Maharashtra have not made any formal request to the Central Government for establishing a development board for Vidarbha under the Constitutional provisions.

जहाँ तक तेलंगाना का सवाल माननीय सदस्यों ने उठाया है, जवाब मेरा थोड़ा लम्बा है लेकिन मैं बताना चाहती हूँ... (व्यवधान)
उन्होंने पूछा है... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती रोडा मिस्त्रि : मैंने तेलंगाना के बारे में कुछ पूछा नहीं, मैंने आपसे कहा कि मैंने चेतावनी दी कि वहाँ भी ऐसा हो रहा है... (व्यवधान)

कुमरो सरोज खापड़े : डेवलपमेंट का जवाब दीजियेगा लेकिन तेलंगाना का विदर्भ के साथ जोड़ने का कांशिश दिक्कत मत कीजियेगा (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती रोडा मिस्त्रि : मेमोरेंडम तो '84 में दिया है, मसला तो 25 साल पुराना है। (व्यवधान)

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : हमने महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट को लिखा है। उनके व्यूज आने के बाद ही इस पर विचार हो सकता है।

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir,, during the time of the reorganisation as well as the Nagpur Pact, the people of Vidarbha were given a solemn assurance that they will be treated specially; that is why Article 371 was incorporated in the Constitution of this country. It is now, as she rightly pointed out, over a quarter of a century and there is a tremendous backlog in the progress of Vidarbha. Though Vidarbha has 25 per cent of the population, it has got just 1 per cent of employment. Similarly, whether it is irrigation or it is employment or it is electricity or it is water—in all spheres Vidarbha has been totally neglected and there is a tremendous backlog for the last 25 years. That is why Mr. Dhabe had taken a delegation for a Maha Mandal and given this Memorandum to the President.

Regarding industry also, though Vidarbha is a backward area, it is very unfortunate that according to the no industry 'district' policy of the

Government of India, not one district in Vidarbha is treated as a no-industry district according to the policy of the Government, which is a shame. I would like to ask the Government why, in spite of this policy, they have not done this in this case? Secondly, why the Centre is discriminating against Vidarbha in the matter of gas pipeline from the Bombay High which we have been demanding should go through Vidarbha? The ruling party has had a massive mandate from Vidarbha, but, unfortunately, they have done little for the development of Vidarbha. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Article 371 is an enabling article which authorises us to constitute such a Board. It is admitted, Sir, that Vidarbha is lagging behind. That is why we have been pressing the Maharashtra Government that they should do something for Vidarbha and, if necessary, constitute this Board. As far as taking the Bombay High line through Vidarbha is concerned, Sir, it has been examined and it has not been found feasible.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Shame. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Miss Saroj Khaparde.

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : मुझे समझ में नहीं आता है कि सरकार ने अभी तक सेपरेट विदर्भ बोर्ड क्यों नहीं बनाया ? यह बोर्ड बनाने में सरकार को क्या आपत्ति है ? हकीकत यह है कि मध्य प्रदेश के जमाने में नागपुर बाज दि सेकिड केपिटल आफ ओल्ड विदर्भ, नाउ नागपुर इज सेकिड केपिटल आफ महाराष्ट्र, महाराष्ट्र असेंबली का बिटर सेशन नागपुर में होता है । यह सब होने के बाद मुझे समझ में नहीं आता कि नागपुर के विकास के लिये इतनी सारी बाधायें क्यों आ रही हैं ?

इस के लिये सेपरेट बोर्ड बनाने में क्या आपत्ति आती है ? नागपुर को या विदर्भ को आप कहां तक बंचित और रखेंगे कहां तक बंचित रखना चाहेंगे ?

श्री सुरेश कलमाडी : बिलकुल सही है ।

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: Sir, though there is a provision in Article 371-B of the Constitution for setting up a separate Development Board for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra through a Presidential Order, the Government of Maharashtra have chosen to adopt the mechanism of planning for securing regional development in the State. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Why don't you advice them... (Interruptions)

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Let her reply, because we are interested in the development of Vidarbha. (Inter-ruptions) Let her reply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Mr. Desai.

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : मुझे एक सवाल और पूछना था ।

श्री उपसभापति : जवाब दे दिया उन्होंने ।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: What are the main points in the Memorandum? Is the Memorandum seriously under consideration with the Government of India?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: Earlier I have stated that the memorandum has been referred to the State Government of Maharashtra for their views and comments. We have not yet got a reply from them in this regard.

श्रीमती रोडा मिस्त्र : मेमोरेण्डम पहले सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट पढ़े तो सही क्या लिखा है। पढ़े तो पता लगेगा। ... (अवधान)

श्री समापति : आपको मौका मिल चुका बोलने का, कृपा करके आप अपना आसन ग्रहण करें।

SHRI S. W. DHABE: The demand for establishment of a separate development board for Vidarbha under Article 371 has arisen due to the total failure of the Maharashtra Government to have any effective state level planning or district planning for Vidarbha districts. Up till 1974 there was a State-level planning. In 1974 it switched over to district planning committees. But under these district planning committees not a single irrigation project was planned or undertaken. All the projects were diverted to other areas. Vidarbha got only the catchment area. No major or medium irrigation projects have been sanctioned for Vidarbha. A backlog of Rs. 2000 crores has been admitted not only by the Maharashtra Government Ministers but even Mr. Vasant Sathe made a statement in Nagpur that a development board under Article 371 is a must. May I know why there has been negligence for such a long time? Though Nagpur is called the "second capital of Maharashtra, there is no decision of the Maharashtra Government to make it a second capital. All industries which are proposed to be located in Nagpur area are being taken away by the Central Government to places like Haryana, UP, or Bihar, and the people of Vidarbha are therefore totally disillusioned. This being an urgent matter, consent of the Maharashtra Government is not necessary in a matter like this because it is exclusively in the power of the Central Government under Article 371 to recommend to the President to constitute a board. May I know whether before the time-limit of 31-5-1984

Vidarbha Development Board will be constituted and the demand of the Vidarbha people met?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The honourable Shri Dhabe also raised this matter in 1983. He had written a letter to the honourable President and the honourable Prime Minister. As far as Vidarbha is concerned, it is not correct to say that there are no industries. There are industries practically in every district. As far as the question of the development board is concerned, we have all sympathy and we want to constitute it. But we cannot do it without obtaining the views of the Maharashtra Government. We cannot override them.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: It is a wrong statement he has made. Where are industries in Vidarbha? There is not one single industry there.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Just on obtaining the views of the Maharashtra Government so much time is being taken.

डा० (श्रीमती) नाजमा हेमतुल्ला :
मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि जिस मेमोरेण्डम का जिक्र हो रहा है उसका लिये कहा गया है कि महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट को भेजा गया है, तो वह कब भेजा गया है? क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने उनको कोई टाइम वाउन्ड कहा है कि कब तक वह रिप्लाई दें? वह जब चाहें उसका जवाब देंगे?

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : श्रीमन्, अभी 6 अप्रैल को यह भेजा गया है और अगर उनका जवाब जल्दी नहीं आया तो उनसे हम रिमाइंड करेंगे और अगर आवश्यकता हुई तो मैं मुख्य मंत्री से बात करूँगा।

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*146. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN.
Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state: