

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : सर, हमारा सीधा सवाल है।...(व्यवधान)... अगर भतीजा बोल रहा है, तो हम समझते हैं कि चाचा ही बोल रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : हमारा माननीय मंत्री जी से वही सवाल है, जो राजकुमार धूत जी का मूल सवाल है कि मूल्य में कमी करने के बारे में आप क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं?

श्री जितिन प्रसाद : सर, माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत ही अच्छा सवाल पूछा है। जहां तक दाम का सवाल है, मैं पहले ही सदन को बता चुका हूँ कि इस देश में गैस की डिमांड ज्यादा है और उपलब्धता कम है। इस वजह से हमारे पास पर्याप्त मात्रा में गैस नहीं है और जो भी गैस देश में मिलती है, उसका प्रायोरिटी सेक्टर में उपयोग किया जा रहा है। इस सरकार ने जो प्रायोरिटी सेक्टर बनाए हैं, वह फर्टिलाइजर, जो किसानों के काम आती है, जो पावर, बिजली में उत्पादन के काम आती है और उसके बाद दो-तीन सेक्टर छोड़कर तब सीएनजी की प्रायोरिटी आती है। यह भी एक महत्वपूर्ण चीज है यहां पर Environment and Forest मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं। हमारे देश में पर्यावरण को स्वच्छ रखने के लिए ONG जरूरी है और पर्यावरण के लिए स्वच्छ ईंधन देने के बहुत प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। आप भी ज्यादातर इस बात से सहमत होंगे कि हमें किसानों का खयाल रखना है, फर्टिलाइजर के लिए गैस देनी है, पावर के लिए गैस देनी है और जो आपके घर में चूल्हा जलता है, उसके लिए LPG देनी है। इस वजह से मैं समझता हूँ कि अभी इसमें दाम कम करने की कोई स्थिति नहीं आई है, क्योंकि गैस की मात्रा कम है और हमें इसको बाहर लाना पड़ता है तथा देश की जरूरतों को पूरा करना पड़ता है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल : माननीय मंत्री जी ने ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न का उत्तर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : प्लीज, प्लीज, आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज। क्वेश्चन-322.

Cut in aid to India by UK

*322. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that United Kingdom (UK) is likely to cut aid to India;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) The new Government in the United Kingdom has commissioned a review of each of their bilateral aid programmes being implemented by the Department for International Development (DFID) with recipient countries globally to determine where UK resources are most needed. The status/findings of the review of the UK Government has not yet been communicated.

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the aid, according to the bilateral aid programme, is tied to the specific projects. What are the projects and in which States these projects are being taken up? Are there any statutory guidelines to implement the projects?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that we are getting aids and grants from various bilateral and multilateral agencies. She has asked this question on the basis of some newspaper reports appeared in Indian papers. On this, the Secretary states, "The Department of International Development has reacted that he is reviewing all the bilateral programmes and grants of recipient countries and he is likely to visit this country by the end of this year." Various Centrally-sponsored schemes are there in which these funds are being utilized. There are some State-specific projects, namely, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa. Some funds are also being allocated to Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Some projects are being taken up by these States.

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Sir, the Secretary of Britain has agreed that some funds are being misused like that. Whether it is a fact that the bilateral aid meant for education and health is being misused by the Indian Authorities? Is the hon. Minister aware of that review? I would also like to know whether the ongoing projects have also got hampered due to the aid-cut by the Government of UK.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, sometimes these complaints come. Whenever these complaints come, appropriate mechanism is there which takes the action and, sometimes, the donor countries also draw our attention. The hon. Member is correct in saying that nearly 80 percent of the total aid which we are receiving is being spent mainly on the four heads – health, education, urban poverty and rural poverty alleviation and rural development.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I would like to know whether the other countries, other than the United Kingdom, are also cutting the aid given to India. Number two, which are the States that are going to be affected by this aid cut? What is the remedial action taken by the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question relates to one country. Please focus on that.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, there are five states which are, mainly, receiving these funds – Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. So far as this particular issue is concerned, I am sure the hon. Members are fully aware of the figures because all these figures are available in the Budget documents. The contribution of the external assistance to our total GDP is 0.4 percent, and, to our total budgetary expenditure, it has also come down from 3.4 percent to 2.5 percent. Therefore, it is a peanut in our total developmental exercises.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: While replying to the first question, the hon. Minister referred to some news published in the newspaper. Some time ago, mainly four-five weeks ago, there was a big news in a national daily of our country that there was a huge misappropriation of funds which we received through DFID from U.K. which is used to develop the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Health Mission, etc. Is it that because of the publication of the news of the misappropriation of funds in a particular State that this Fund has been discontinued? Is it a fact? It is a fact, whether the Government of India has taken any action in that particular State wherefrom this news has come?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of the decision by the U.K. Government is concerned, as my colleague has already stated in the main reply, no decision has yet been taken in this regard. After coming to office, the new Government has decided to review the entire aid programme through which they are providing aid to various developing countries, and India is also one of those countries which receive these grants under this DFID Fund operated by U.K. Thereafter, we had the interaction. I myself had the interaction with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I received a letter from the Minister in charge of the DFID. While the Prime Minister, Mr. Cameron,

was on State visit to India, we had made it quite clear that before the U.K. decides to discontinue the aid, they should keep us informed; we would voluntarily suggest to them that we do not require the aid. This is the position so far as the first part of the question is concerned.

So far as the second part of the question in respect of the individual misappropriation or misutilization of Fund is concerned, I have already stated that there is a regular mechanism through which these issues are being adequately addressed.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : सभापति जी, जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि ऐसे तीन, चार राज्य हैं, जिनको यह राशि, जो ब्रिटेन से आ रही है, विशेष तौर पर सहयोग के लिए मिलती है। इसमें बिहार की भी चर्चा की गई है। सर, मैं बिहार से आता हूँ। वहाँ पिछड़ापन, गरीबी, स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा के मामले में जो स्थिति है, वह आप सभी को मालूम है, मुझे कुछ कहने की जरूरत नहीं है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार को यह राशि जिन योजनाओं और परियोजनाओं के लिए दी गई है, क्या उसका सही सदुपयोग हो रहा है? यह कहा गया है कि उसके कहीं न कहीं मिसयूज किये जा रहे हैं, जिसकी वजह से ब्रिटेन सरकार यह सोचने के लिए मजबूर है कि हम यह राशि दें या इसको रोकें। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो पैसा बिहार में गया है, उसका सदुपयोग हुआ है कि नहीं हुआ है? क्या आपके स्तर पर कोई मोनिटरिंग सिस्टम है या नहीं है? क्या भारत सरकार यह कह रही है या नहीं कह रही है, ताकि पता लगाया जा सके कि जिस चीज के लिए आप राशि आबंटित कर रहे हैं, उसका प्रॉपर सदुपयोग हो रहा है या नहीं हो रहा है?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already replied that there is a regular mechanism. So far as Bihar is concerned, I have received a letter from the Bihar Chief Minister on 26th July where he has suggested that when the Prime Minister of Britain was visiting this country, for some of those projects which are in the pipeline in the State of Bihar, that encouragement should be supported. For instance, there are two on-going projects under the DFID. One is, the Bihar Governance and Administrative Reforms. The date of signing the Agreement is 30 July, 2008. The amount involved is 18 million pounds. Another programme is the Support Programme for Urban Reforms. The quantum involved is 60 million pounds and the signature was initialed on 5th March, 2010.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question 323.

श्री रामकृपाल यादव : सर, answer proper नहीं आया है। मैंने pinpoint question किया था, उसका answer नहीं आया।

श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी : उधर कीजिए, इधर नहीं।

Quality of food served in AI Flights

*323. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the quality of food served in Air India (AI) domestic and international flights is substandard;
- (b) whether other domestic and international flights are providing better food services than AI;
- (c) whether Government has received any complaint from passengers of the AI flights; and
- (d) if so, the number of complaints received and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The food provided by Air India on Board is provided from reputed flight kitchens and is comparable with every other airline in the Industry.

(c) and (d) During January 2010 to July, 2010, Air India received 22 and 19 complaints on its domestic & International flights respectively and these were investigated by the respective departments for remedial action. A final reply is sent to the complainant on completion of investigation within 21 days of the receipt of the complaint.

श्री परवेज़ हाशमी : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न के part (a) and (b) का answer दिया है, "No, Sir. The food provided by Air India on board is provided from reputed flight kitchens and is comparable with every other airline in the industry".