

and Technology, Dr. Ramachandran, was appointed to the IIT Madras when his father was Chairman of the Board of Governors. Will he consider to hold an enquiry into such cases of nepotism?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: All that falls within the purview of the Education Ministry. I am quite sure the hon. Member would have taken up with the Education Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, we should have an Half-an-Hour Discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want a discussion on that. You give me a notice and then I will consider it.

Fifth Five Year Plan

*214. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:†

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSAFAIR:

DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

SHRI V. B. RAJU:

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

SHRI J. S. TILAK:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to postpone the finalisation of the Fifth Five Year Plan for another three months in view of the present economic crisis; and

(b) if so, by when the Plan is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission is undertaking various exercises to determine what adjustments are necessary in the Fifth Five

Year Plan. At this stage it is not possible to indicate the exact time by which the Fifth Five Year Plan will be finalised.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: We thought that we shall be having a holiday of the Plan for only three months or so but from the reply given to this House by the hon. Minister of State, it seems it is intended to plan for the 'Holiday Plan'. (Interruptions). May be for good, Sir, may I know what will happen to the planning during this indefinite period when there would be absolutely no planning or no implementation of the Fifth Five Year Plan? Would they do anything about the project in the core sector during the 'Holiday Plan' to boost up power energy in the core sector of the industry?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: There is no question of having any plan holiday. The House is well aware that the core sector is being taken care even in the annual plan for the year 1974-75. If I may quote: For irrigation the amount provided is of the order of 385 crores of rupees which is 100 crores of rupees more than that of last year; for power it is 765 crores which is 121 crores more; for industrial minerals it is 1093 crores which is 341 crores more than what was provided last year and for transport and communications, it is 1026 crores which is 317 crores more than that of last year. Sir, because of the various difficulties, the oil crisis and the rise in prices, it is true that we have taken up several exercises. But we have actually taken care of the core sector in the very first year of the Fifth Plan. There is no question of plan holiday. On the 9th of May, the full Planning Commission will be meeting and we shall take stock of the exercises that are in progress and further decision will follow.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Since this price hike is most uncertain and everything would depend upon the international fuel price, is the Government thinking of switching over to an alternate fuel during the Fifth Plan so that the economy of the plan would not be affected?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The hon. Member has put a very valid question. As was stated by the hon. Minister for Industrial Development, all possible en-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lokanath Misra.

deavours are being made for restructuring our present power structure and also to introduce new methods whereby we can utilise more hydel power projects or such other energies for industrial and other progressive purposes.

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER: Sir, I understand that a Member of the Planning Commission has tendered his resignation from the Planning Commission on the ground that planning itself was very defective. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the planning is defective as he has said and, if so, who is responsible for this defective planning?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: My senior colleague has already stated on the floor of this House the reasons why the Member resigned and what the policies are. There is no question of any defective planning. We stand by the objectives declared to the country and the planning is being done in that direction.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the exercises which are going on are regarding foreign resources or internal resources and the base of procurement of wheat and other essential commodities and, if so, whether there is any truth in the press reports that the Planning Commission is waiting for the visit of Mr. Kissinger as well as the visit of Dr. Chakrabarty to the USSR to ascertain the quantum of foreign assistance available? In this connection, will the senior Minister of Planning state whether he is taking seriously a very valid document produced by Mr. Mohan Dharja for stabilising the economy in this country?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it permissible for a Member from Maharashtra to popularise a Maharashtrian document in this House?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I must confess with great pleasure that the document which Mr. Dharja and his colleagues have produced in the committee is very valid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a good confession.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: And it is not motivated by any parochialism.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will it be allowed to be edited by a Bengali?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I have no objection, Sir, if a Bengali edits it except that it should not be distorted.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It should not be done by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. Otherwise, Marx will sit into it.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: If anyone can edit it to advantage and improve it, it is Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. But this document has great relevance, particularly in view of the shortages that we are facing, of essential commodities, etc. The other question, if I may submit with all respect is rather far fetched, that we are awaiting Mr. Kissinger's visit or we are awaiting some imaginary visit of Dr. Chakrabarti to the USSR for ascertaining the external resources which would be available for the Plan. I would submit that the press report at best reflects a flight of imagination. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: At the worst?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: . . . and at the worst a perversion of mind.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : योजना मंत्रालय का विचार था कि देश की इकानामी पर अग्रिकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा अमरदार हो सकता है। इस सिलसिले में मंत्रालय ने अग्रिकल्चर के लिए खास तौर पर एक ग्रुप कमेटी बैठाई थी। क्या उसने कोई रिपोर्ट तैयार कर ली है और क्या वह मंत्रालय के पास पहुंच गई है ? अगर हां, तो क्या उस रिपोर्ट पर कोई विचार हुआ है।

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: At the time of formulation of the Fifth Plan a steering group on agriculture was appointed by the Planning Commission. It is on the basis of that report that the Draft Fifth Plan has been prepared and presented to the House. We attach great importance to agriculture and all possible emphasis is being laid on it.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: The hon. Minister has said that the full Commission will be sitting in the month of May, this month. Now, can he just indicate the difficulties that are confronting the Planning Commission in revising the Plan? Is it only lack of resources or is there need for revising the priorities in view of the new situation that has developed, particularly in respect of fertiliser and food-grains? Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say: (1) whether in regard to the policy matter particularly of revising the Plan he would take the House into confidence and (2) whether he is taking any immediate measures for giving a shock treatment to the purchasing power that is available with the people? Will it be worth while and will it be possible for them to revise the resources of the Plan without arresting price-rise.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The question of revision will arise after it is finalised. We are at the stage of finalisation of the Plan and naturally there is no question of revision of the Plan. The other suggestions made by the hon. Member are very relevant. In view of the rise in prices and also the oil crisis, not only we shall have to mobilise our resources, we shall have to mobilise the manpower in the country and we shall have to make efforts for more and more exports and see that the crisis of the foreign exchange is met.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: In view of what he has said, does the hon. Minister think that stability of prices will take place in the year 1974 when the price rise is ten per cent more than last year and if so, at what level they want to have the price stabilised in the Fifth Plan or may be in the annual Plan? Half-year Plans are in the offing. May I know what is the position of self-reliance as against foreign aid? The World Bank has estimated that we require foreign aid valued at 12.5 million dollars, though your estimates are quite less. May I know whether there is any country in the world which has offered you aid and you have refused? You have taken aid from Ireland of £6,000. Is this the way self-reliance is going to be achieved? May I know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not too many questions.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: . . . whether the Planning Commission is going to be restructured before the Plan finalisation? Dr. Chakrabarti, a Member of the Planning Commission, attended a meeting of the Delhi School of Economics ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Has he changed his view? Ultimately Mr. Dhar and Mr. Subramaniam only will remain in the Planning Commission.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What about Shri Dharia?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I do not know. He is not a member of the Planning Commission.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I would like to make the position in regard to the concept of self-reliance as has been enunciated in the Plan Document somewhat clear. We have in the Draft Plan Document anticipated that after a period of time we will be able to balance our imports with our exports except to the extent that we shall need money for debt-servicing charges, etc.

AN HON. MEMBER: How much?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: Now, this is one aspect of self-reliance. The other aspect, the conceptual aspect of the framework of the Plan would include progressive reduction of dependence on those items which were previously imported and the progressive production of items needed so as to reduce our dependence on imports. This is the concept of self-reliance and whatever the World Bank may say or any other bank may say, I would submit for the consideration of hon. Members, particularly Shri Krishan Kant, that we should have our own sights clear and we should not allow our sights to be dimmed by the calculations made by the World Bank or any other organisation.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I asked the question on what basis you are going to finalise the Fifth Plan because the Plan basis has been knocked out by the price-level. What is your present assessment of the total foreign aid and restructuring of

the Plan? This is what I asked. What about the present gap?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: While asking the question, Shri Krishan Kant also inducts a very fine objective, namely, while we are finalising the Draft Plan, the bottom has been knocked out of the Plan itself. Now, I submit with all respect that this assumption which the hon. Member has made does not appear to be valid. It is undoubtedly true that the prices have arisen, they have shown a sharp rise, both the prices of internal commodities and those of commodities which we import. Some of these have been of the order which we never anticipated. Now, any planning worth its name must have the capacity, the resilience, to be able to absorb these shocks and not to knuckle under. And the present exercises are directed precisely towards the achievement of this objective, namely, that we take into account the undoubted and unfortunate price rise in our own country of various commodities, that we take into account the price rise of commodities which we are likely to import and which we have to import, and then make a realistic assessment of what our needs would be and how those things can be satisfied without hurting the priorities of the Plan, without hurting the objectives of the Plan without in any way diluting the policies of the Plan. That is the exercise that we are conducting. It would be rather unfair, Sir, if I may submit, to suggest rather casually that the whole basis of the Fifth Plan has been knocked out. The basis of the Fifth Plan is the faith of our party to which he belongs in the people of this country: they have got to make this Plan a success. No outside party, no outside Government, no outside agency can help us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahavir Tyagi, last question.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: In the Consultative Committee of the Agriculture Department where both the Ministers were present it was unanimously decided that with a view to involving the rural population in planning a village-wise survey will be made to collect information with regard to the requirements pertaining to small irrigation, drinking water, roads, schools, hos-

pitals etc. May I know, Sir, whether the final Plan will include the result of that survey or not?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The hon'ble Member has been rightly insisting on the village-wise survey. Sir, as I said earlier, the minimum needs programme that we have undertaken in the Fifth Plan takes care of drinking water facilities, of the rural roads and similar other requirements. Therefore, without survey it will not be possible for us to know what are the requirements. We have asked every State Government already to take this survey of every village and to say whether these basic minimum needs are fulfilled or not. They will have to be fulfilled in the Fifth Plan for which an amount of Rs. 2,800 crores has already been provided. Besides, Sir, we have been insisting on district plans with the same intention in our mind.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: I am glad the Minister has undertaken the survey which I have been insisting upon for years past for which I congratulate him.

*215. [The questioner (Shri S. A. Khaja Mohideen) was absent. For answer vide col. 33 infra]

Uranium in Sonrai Area of Jhansi

*216 **SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:**

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:†

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deposits of uranium have been discovered recently in Sonrai area of Jhansi district;

(b) what are the names of the agencies which conducted the survey; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to carry on the exploration work?

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. R. Choudhury.