

assessment, see how many rooms are decorated with these stolen idols, make a list and carry on prosecution against those who have used them as decorative pieces ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, there has been a law and it can only be done if the law is infringed. If persons have legitimately come across any pieces of art...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Those who steal are themselves idols.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not speak when somebody else is speaking.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I cannot presume like my hon. friend that the art pieces that anybody owns are wrongfully acquired. It is very difficult.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, is there also any way of lawfully acquiring idols from the different temples ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No further question please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I suggest that there should be letters of intent for idols.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमन्, माननीय मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मूर्तियों की चोरी इधर 10-12 वर्षों से अत्यधिक बढ़ी है और यह चोरी की हुई मूर्तियाँ विदेशों में जाती हैं तो क्या सरकार ने इसका अंदाज किया है कि मूर्तियों की कीमत के कारण या सांस्कृतिक महत्व के कारण या कलाकृति के कारण इतनी अधिक चोरी हो रही है और अगर इसका महत्व इस बात में है कि सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि से या आर्थिक दृष्टि से या कलाकृति की दृष्टि से इसकी चोरी होती है और अगर सरकार ने इसका महत्व इस दृष्टि से समझा है तो क्या सरकार ने सारे देश का इन मूर्तियों का सर्वेक्षण कराया

है। और इसकी सुरक्षा जिस ढंग से प्रापने की है कि कुछ गाँव वगैरह को बढ़ाया है तो उससे शायद उसकी ठीक ढंग से सुरक्षा नहीं हो सकती है बल्कि यह आवश्यक है कि गाँवों में, जंगलों में, देहातों में जो लोग हैं उन लोगों को जाग्रत करें कि इनको बचाने के लिये विशेष प्रयत्न क्यों करना चाहिये, तो क्या सरकार ने एमंग दि मासेज़ इसको हाईलाइट करने का इंतजाम किया है।

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : मैं माननीय सदस्य के विचारों से पूरे तौर से सहमत हूँ और इस विषय में प्रत्येक मुख्य मंत्री को लिखा भी है और जहाँ-जहाँ भी मैं गई हूँ वहाँ के जितने अधिकारीगण इत्यादि थे उनको मैंने यह सलाह भी दी है कि लोकल प्राइड आदि इन चीजों में हो तो वह स्वयं देखेंगे कि यह चीजें निकाली न जाय।

•218. [Transferred to the 28th November, 1972.]

#### INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMON MAN IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING

•217. SHRI V. B. RAJU :

SHRI J.S. TILAK :

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH  
MUSAFIR :

SHRI V. R. MOHAN :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state the steps that have been taken by Government to involve the common man in the process of planning; and the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

MOHAN DHARIA) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Involvement of the people in the planning process has been emphasised ever since the inception of planning in the country. As a step to enlist public participation and cooperation, the Planning Commission has been making sustained efforts to encourage the formulation of plans at levels other than at the State Government level. The Commission has also assumed responsibility to assist the States in dealing with the problems of district/area planning. The Planning Commission has circulated guidelines for the formulation of district plans; one of their major plans is to seek the advice of the knowledgeable farmers and entrepreneurs and the experience of officials and non-officials in the formulation of plans at local levels. Some States have taken steps for the preparation of plans at the district and regional levels.

Action has also been initiated in a number of States to set up planning machinery along the lines suggested by the Planning Commission. Financial assistance to States which strengthen their planning machinery is being offered so that the States, through State Planning Boards and otherwise, are able to enlist the participation of the people more effectively in the process of plan formulation. Efforts are being made to expedite the processes of preparation of the plans mentioned above and for bringing about as large a measure of decentralisation in plan formulation and the involvement of people as possible.

The success of these efforts and the resulting involvement of people in planning cannot be assessed in physical terms. It is fair to assume, however, that in our democratic set-up, the capacity to formulate and implement plans has

improved from plan to plan. This is one indication of popular support

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Giving encouragement and assistance to the State Governments is all right. You have also said that guidelines have been issued to seek the advice of the knowledgeable farmers and entrepreneurs and the experience of officials and non-officials? May I know when a big chunk of the Indian population has no property and no means of production with them how are you going to involve them? Here you are going to involve those who have got something, some property, some means of production but the biggest problem for us is we have a large number of people who have no property, no means of production. May I know how you are going to involve them and what you have done about them?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Along with farmers and entrepreneurs officials and non-officials are also to be associated and they will include the representatives of the people and my learned friend will agree with me that this will ensure that the representatives of the people at various levels are involved at the time of the formulation of the plans, particularly district plans.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: My specific question was about those who have got no property. They cannot get any land, they cannot get any benefit. Those who have no property, who have no means of production, could be involved in foodgrains distribution at least at the village level. In the homestead development programme we have done something. Here the point is what you are going to do to involve them in the planning?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : The question relates to the process of planning and how we are going to formulate the plan. It is not a question about distribution of foodgrains. In order to

involve the common man even at the grass root level we have advised the State Governments that they should have their planning body at the State level and they should try to evolve plans on the basis of districts and if the plans are formulated on the basis of the guidelines given by us certainly that will take care of these people who are being mentioned by the hon. Member.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Have you given any guidelines specifically about these people or is it left to the District Boards to decide. This is the basic question. And distribution is also part of planning.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : May I read out what I have replied ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : The planning commission has issued guidelines for the formulation of district plans and in the formulation of the district plans how the people could be involved, how the officials could be involved, that is the point. It is not possible to involve millions of people while preparing the plan. We can take their feelings into consideration, their difficulties into consideration and, therefore, we have been insisting that the planning should start from the grass roots.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : The Chief Minister of West Bengal called the coal-mine owners criminals because they are slaughtering the mines, closing down the mines and throwing out a large number of people as unemployed. Instead of calling the trade union representatives of the coal-mines and talking with them, the planning Minister met the mine-owners in Delhi and assured them that they would not be touched and their mines would not be taken over in violation of the Resolution of the Assembly. It is a part of the association of the common man with the entire Plan by calling the

mine-owners ? Does the Planning Minister consider calling the mine-owners and chit-chatting with them as a part of the Plan ?

SHRI D. P. DHAR : I may respectfully submit that this question does not fall strictly within the ambit of the question that has been asked, but as it does contain an implication about my behaviour and action as a Minister, I would like to answer categorically that I have given no assurance whatsoever to any mine-owner that his mine or his interests in a mine will not be taken over. This assurance has never been given and when the Minister of Steel and Mines made a specific statement on this issue, I hoped that this controversy would come to an end. I take this opportunity of reiterating that no such assurance was given. Secondly, I would submit, with your permission, that everyone in this country has a right to meet a Central Minister, whether he is a monopolist or not a monopolist, whether he is a below the subsistence level or above the subsistence level and it is our duty to receive them and hear their point of view. To that extent. . . .

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : How many of them do you see ?

SHRI D. P. DHAR : I see quite a number of them, but I do not see them in the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the point of order ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Shri Kalyan Roy never asked our friend, Mr. D. P. Dhar, whether he has the right to meet monopolist as he likes, but the trouble is that the common man is repelled by it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Point of order overruled.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: When they meet the uncommon man, the common man is repelled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI D. P. DHAR : Therefore, I think it is part of my duty. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Do not meet too many.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order please.

SHRI D. P. DHAR : It has been my great misfortune that I have never had the company of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta recently.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : How can you, when you meet to many monopolists ?

SHRI D. P. DHAR : I hope I shall allow him to monopolise my time, but I must reiterate that we shall make ourselves available to every section of the population.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : When our utility is over, they have started discarding.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : The confession of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta comes for the first time.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes, Sir, but what is the confession about it ? When these gentlemen were fighting us we were fighting them and we shall have to fight them again in future. What is the confession about it ? My friend is very smart.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you have got to sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : When you get up, I am terribly frightened.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : The criticism has been well made that there

has been very little involvement of the common man as such in the process of planning. The process of planning is not only covering the implementation of the Plan, but also the formulation and initiation of the Plan. May I know from the hon. Minister, apart from the district Planning Council, that was stated, what procedures he is going to adopt in the matter of involving the common man in the formulation and initiation of the Fifth Plan and the various subordinate State Plans ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, we have requested all the State Governments to have their Planning Boards and also we have further advised them that after the constitution of these Planning Boards the representatives of the people at various levels should be taken into confidence while formulating the plans and they should be based on districts so that it will be possible to reflect the aspirations of the people. Even at this level, we would like to have the cooperation of the Members of Parliament and through the Consultative Committee we are trying our best to get their cooperation too. At all levels this sort of involvement will be tried and I can assure the House that we are getting very good response from the State Governments. Nearly 11 State Governments have already constituted their Planning Boards, and I am sure that this process which has now accelerated will gain good speed and that more involvement of the people will be possible.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : I am a common man. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may be a common man. But you have to sit down.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: With a view to obtaining the involvement of the common man in the process of Planning, have the Government considered the feasibility of making a village-wise survey and consulting the villagers in

each village about their essential requirements for development ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : In order to find out the requirements, we have requested the State Governments to formulate various survey plans and the Central Government has assured that nearly 100 per cent of the expenditure will be borne by the Central Government provided . . .

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Have they considered the feasibility of having a village-wise survey for the whole of the country about consulting and taking the villagers into confidence with regard to their development plans?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, I was just stating the same point. We have requested the State Governments, in order to know what are the difficulties at the grass-root level and what are the natural resources so that we would like to have better land information and all these things We have . . .

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : State-wise?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : We have requested the Government to take up the survey for entire State, and naturally, the States . . .

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI .- It is about the State Government. I wanted to just emphasise the fact that the villagers themselves must be involved. For that purpose, they should be consulted.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, the specific word 'village' is not there. But we have told them to have a survey State-wise.

SHRI PAPI REDDI : May I know whether the Government is aware that contrary to this policy, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has withdrawn the powers given to the Zila Parishad Chairman and handed them over to the Collector?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : No, Sir. I am not aware of it.

DR. V. B. SINGH : The problem is, though the Central Government has sent directives, whether the implementation of those directives is being evaluated or not. And in this context, the important thing is that there should have been Block and village conferences to catalogue the problems of the area which could be included on the feasible criteria within the Plan, and may I know whether this has been done or not?

SHRI D. P. DHAR : Sir, these various guidelines have been enunciated to associate people at all levels with the process of the formulation of the Fifth Plan, and I can assure the hon. Member that all the suggestions which he had made earlier in the Consultative Committee have been communicated to the Chief Ministers and I have no doubt in my mind that these suggestions will be incorporated in the process of consultation with the people and in the process of their association with the framing of the Plan.

DR. V. B. SINGH : A part of my question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is that part?

DR. V. B. SINGH : I am explaining. Evaluation is an essential element in the process of planning and therefore at the Planning Commission we have to see whether, whatever directives are sent, they are being implemented or not and if implemented, in what magnitude.

SHRI U. P. DHAR : Sir, there are two aspects of this question. One aspect would deal with the Central Government, namely, the Planning Commission and the other with the Planning Boards which should be set up in every State. Now with Planning Commission we are having a very adequate machinery for evaluation, for appraisal, for monitoring of programmes and we have recommended the same on a smaller, modest scale for the Planning Boards of the States for adoption.