

of Uttaranchal to ensure enhanced connectivity between Delhi and Hill State *via* road, rail and air services not only to attract the tourists and investors but also to make travelling easier; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Chief Minister of Uttaranchal has requested for connectivity between Delhi and Uttaranchal via road and rail only.

(b) Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and Ministry of Railways have already initiated action on proposals for connectivity between Delhi and Uttaranchal.

Conference of Chief Ministers of Southern States

786. SHRI MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recently held Conference of Chief Ministers of Southern States, the Chief Ministers have demanded a better deal from the Central Government to enable them to speed up the pace of development;

(b) if so, the demands made by each of the Chief Minister from the Central Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many project proposals of these States are still pending with the Planning Commission for clearance;

(d) if so, the details of such projects;

(e) the reasons for the delay in clearance to these projects; and

(f) the steps taken by the Central Government to clear these projects speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The issues raised and suggestions made in the Conference of Chief Ministers held by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in Bangalore on 17.1.2004 are indicated in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) does not apply.

Statement

Issues raised at meeting between Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Chief Ministers at Bangalore on 17.11.2004

REGIONAL IMBALANCE

- (1) Govt. or Planning Commission to meet half the funding under the special development plan to Rs. 9600 crores to be spent over 8 years, prepared by the Government for identified areas of 12 backward districts (Karnataka)
- (2) Special grant for backlog in regional development boards set up under Art. 371 for Vidarbha and Marathwada (Maharashtra)
- (3) The regional imbalance problem of Telengana can be eliminated by development of irrigation (Andhra Pradesh)
- (4) A coastal development programme and an Eastern Ghats Development Programme on the lines of the existing Hill Areas and Western Ghats Development estimated last year to cost Rs. 265.5 crores and Rs. 411 crores respectively cover agriculture and allied activities, forestry, power, health, roads, rural development, sericulture, tourism and village industries. (Tamil Nadu)

EXPORT PROMOTION

At least 2% of the value of software exports should be taken in to account for computing eligibility of a State for assistance under the ASIDE scheme (Karnataka)

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

The ONGC commitment under an MoU signed with the State Government to set up an LNG terminal at Mangalore to be used for a petrochemical complex and a power plant at Bidadi must be honoured (Karnataka)

URBAN TRANSPORT

- (1) Planning Commission to support the metro project for Bangalore and help to obtain clearances from Railways and urban development

departments—it requires 20% of equity support from the Centre (Karnataka)

- 2) Planning Commission to clear the commuter rail project for Bangalore with a third of the cost being borne by the Railways, Urban Development Department and the State each (Karnataka)

FINANCING ISSUES

- 1) Writeoff of debt incurred on budgetary and extra-budgetary commitments (Karnataka)
- 2) Reset interest rates on outstanding Central at 6% (Karnataka)
- 3) Pass on external aid to States on back-to-back basis (Karnataka)

FOOD POLICY

Allocate Rs. 250 crores more for PDS for additional below BPL families (Karnataka)

EDUCATION

- 1) Cover children in sixth and seventh standards under mid-day meal scheme (Karnataka)
- 2) Provide Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 500 crores for mid-day meal scheme
- 3) Look at second generation problems like maintenance and quality (Kerala).

HEALTH

Look at second generation problems like maintenance and quality (Kerala)

AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

- 1) Write off interest and penal interest on agricultural loans incurred in last 3 years (Karnataka)
- 2) Increase coverage of crop insurance and extend last date for payment of premium by nonborrowers (Karnataka)
- 3) Release Rs. 400 crores from the Centre as onetime assistance to State's price stabilization fund set up to make advances for agricultural procurement (Karnataka)

- 4) Promote watershed development by rationalizing existing schemes (Karnataka)
- 5) Provide credit at viable interest rate to avoid suboptimal input use and low productivity (Karnataka)
- 6) Support value addition, food processing and market infrastructure (Karnataka)
- 7) GoI additional assistance to be reform linked (Karnataka)
- 8) Price support for dry crops (Karnataka)
- 9) Recapitalise with interim assistance of Rs. 500 crores pending receipt of the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee (Andhra Pradesh)
- 10) Encourage NABARD and RBI to support rural credit through refinance of DCCBs even if they have not met the requirements of Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act in the interim period by raising the reschedule limit of NABARD for short term loans to Rs. 250 crores and the refinance limit to Rs. 1800 crores (Andhra Pradesh)
- 11) Continue Central Plan assistance for the agricultural credit stabilization fund of SCBs and for meeting deficits in the non-overdue cover of DCCBs (Andhra Pradesh)
- 12) Cover cash crops (particularly for small and marginal farmers) in crop insurance, calamity relief and commercial bank lending (Kerala)
- 13) Consult States before taking trade policy decisions that affect interest of their agriculturists (Kerala)
- 14) Improve Coordination among GoI commodity boards and between them and States (Kerala)
- 15) Linkage between PRIs and commercial banks (Kerala)
- 16) Preferential interest rates for agriculture as done earlier, since bank rates to agriculture today are higher than PLRs (Kerala)
- 17) Make the price stabilization fund administered by the Commerce Ministry for plantation crops more effective (Kerala)

- 18) Provide assistance for replanting in respect of plantation crops as there is a scheme today only for rubber (Kerala)
- 19) Subsidy for buying seeds, fertilizer and tractors (Pondicherry)
- 20) State has subsidized lowering of interest rate on cooperative credit by 3% and rescheduled crop loans; it need to be further lowered below 9% (Tamil Nadu)
- 21) Poor quality seed (sunflower and cotton) and failed bore wells due to fall in ground water level through overexploitation led to farmers' suicides and it is necessary to support Seed Acts of the Centre and States (Andhra Pradesh)
- 22) Improve control systems in cooperative banks (Andhra Pradesh)

IRRIGATION

- 1) Extend AIBP to minor irrigation, make it a grant at least up to 50% or reduce interest rate and cover command area development (Karnataka)
- 2) Permit utilization of NABARD assistance for major irrigation projects
- 3) Implement the Naidu Report on micro-irrigation (Karnataka)
- 4) Build micro-irrigation expenditure into new irrigation projects, design canal systems to discharge water only for light irrigated crops and punish violations of cropping pattern (Karnataka)
- 5) Support the AP Water Resources Development Corporation by permitting external aid, additional borrowings through annuities, irrigation bonds and commercial loans as well as direct assistance (Andhra Pradesh)
- 6) The irrigation projects proposed for APWRDC will provide protection for existing layout and funds can be raised from NRIs, agriculturists themselves etc.; so they could even be packaged for the private sector (Andhra Pradesh)
- 7) Dry land farming and drinking water problems (Maharashtra)
- 8) Extend to AIBP to cover tank and water body restoration (Tamil Nadu)

[9 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

- 9) Support the peninsular river water grid (Tamil Nadu)

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1) Clear PMGSY proposal of Rs. 900 crores pending in RD and proposal for using diesel cess for raising loan of Rs. 2000 crores (Andhra Pradesh)

SOCIAL SECURITY

- 1) Increase monthly old age pension amount to Rs. 225 and extend coverage even to persons with families, introduce pensions for physically handicapped and widows (Andhra Pradesh)
- 2) Extend assistance to 46000 applicants who are not covered but are entitled to aid under the Family Benefit Scheme (Kerala)

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1) Support proposals for projects totaling to Rs. 22980 crores for infrastructure in Mumbai with assistance from Planning Commission of over Rs. 5000 crores (Maharashtra)
- 2) Assistance may be provided to develop roads, bridges, airport and port (Pondicherry)
- 3) Improve infrastructure in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochy (Kerala)
- 4) Provide assistance for infrastructure development covering flyovers, metro rail (Rs. 5000 crores), commuter rail to feed metro rail, connecting road from international airport (Rs. 2000 crores) etc. requiring support to the extent of Rs. 8000 crores (Karnataka)
- 5) Assistance for urban infrastructure, using perhaps funds to be drawn through foreign exchange reserves to the extent of Rs. 1000 crores Projects indicated at Bangalore were:

- * A new airport at Chennai
- * Rs. 18000 crores worth of projects for Chennai (with Rs. 2160 crores drawn this year) for Chennai, excluding Metro, are ready to handle congestion
- * Rs. 8000 crores of road projects are on the anvil (Tamil Nadu)

EMPLOYMENT

- 1) Develop a policy for urban skilled and educated unemployed including those affected by closure of sunset industries (Maharashtra)
- 2) Cover Medak, Prakasham, Kurnool and Chittoor districts also under the Food for Work programme (Andhra Pradesh)
- 3) Follow the Maharashtra EGS pattern as the food for work programme had led to foodgrains smuggling and export (Andhra Pradesh)
- 4) have a special fund for educated unemployed (for training) and promote micro-enterprises in informal sector using self help groups for marketing etc. similar to the idea now being mooted for rural business hubs covering the service sector. (Kerala)
- 5) Introduce monitoring system for employment (Kerala)
- 6) Provide adequate funds for upgradation (Kerala)
- 7) Focus on urban educated unemployment (Tamil Nadu)

INDUSTRY

- 1) Encourage traditional industries using a cluster approach and focusing on integrated development (Kerala)
- 2) Support for small scale industries by providing refinance facilities to credit institutions and a revolving fund to upgrade technology; cluster based assistance is required for foundries at Belgaum, jeans at Bellary, valves at Dharwar and dal processing at Gulbarga (Karnataka)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- 1) Support a Korean company proposal which will have to be taken up with DoE through first few years with equity; it has already obtained the State's concessions (Andhra Pradesh)
- 2) Special assistance for a followon project for land record documentation requiring Rs. 200 crores which can be utilized in one year; at least take up a pilot project in Maddur and Bailhongal (Karnataka)

ENERGY

11 kv. substations metered, energy audit done, agricultural feeders put in and metered, 2 to 3 pumpsets per low capacity transformer and shift to high voltage distribution system to tackle theft and leakage planned, but privatizing distribution may be attempted only in a few industrial cities (Andhra Pradesh)

GENERAL

- 1) Locate anganwadis and schools in the same premises (Andhra Pradesh)
- 2) Restructure CSSs with one local area programme with broad departmental guidelines and an option for States on how to draw funds so that Plan Coordination division could perform its original function of providing flexibility to States (by identifying the Ministry to monitor the chosen programme) and good State ideas like widows pension and 40% of budget as united grants to PRIs could be picked up at the Centre and by other States (Kerala).
- 3) PRIs should be given greater role in all programmes but funds should be passed not be passed on to them directly by the Centre (Kerala)
- 4) Restore one-time ACA for the State to last year's levels (Kerala)
- 5) Bundle together projects that can be posed for external aid in different sectors and also seek bilateral aid from small donors (Pondicherry)
- 6) Include port development in the list of projects posed for external aid (Pondicherry)
- 7) Explore possibilities of private investment and consult agencies like IDFC for funds required for building an additional jetty (Pondicherry)
- 8) Seek assistance from external investors like those in Singapore for developing Pondicherry
- 9) Increase Central assistance for Pondicherry to at least 60% of their Plan outlay

- 10) Consider extension of runway for Pondicherry airport consulting Airports Authority of India
- 11) Develop hotels in Pondicherry seeking if necessary private investment and working through tour operators
- 12) Develop the temple town of Karaikal town for purposes of tourism (Rs.210crores)

Development of infrastructure in U.P.

†787. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive National Scheme has been formulated by State Government of Uttar Pradesh for development of infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Central Government for the said purpose; and

(d) the amount spent so far out of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) State Government of Uttar Pradesh has not formulated any National Scheme for development of infrastructure in the State.

Foreign experts in Consultative Committee of Planning Commission

788. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a constituent of Government was against the foreign experts appointed in the Consultative Committees of the Planning Commission; and

(b) whether the solution of completely dissolving the Consultative Committee was not a case of throwing out the baby with the bath water?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.