

1767 Resolution re:
mobilising public

[6 DEC. 1957] enthusiasm and support
for 2nd Five Year Plan

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 6th December 1957

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION
REGARDING THE WORKING OF THE
PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT, 1950**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME
AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA) Sir,
on behalf of Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, I
beg to lay on the Table a copy of the
following papers:

- (i) Statistical information regarding the
working of the Preventive Detention Act,
1950, during the period 31st March 1956 to
31st October 1956.
- (ii) Statistical information regarding the
working of the Preventive Detention Act,
1950, during the period 31st October, 1956
to 30th September, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-421/57 for
(i) and (ii).]

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

**THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1957**

SECRETARY: I have to report to the
House the following message received
from the Lok Sabha, signed by the
Secretary of the Lok Sabha: —

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule
120 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct
of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to
inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting
held on the 5th December, 1957, agreed
without any amendment to the Indian
Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1957, which
was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting
held on the 28th November, 1957."

85 RSD—1.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION
REGARDING MOBILISING PUBLIC
ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT FOR
THE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Saksena is unable
to be present, and he has authorised Prof.
N. R. Malkani to move the Resolution. If
the House grants permission to Prof.
Malkani, he may move the Resolution.

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI (Nominated): Sir, I
move the following Resolution:

"This House is of opinion that with a view
to securing maximum public co-operation
and voluntary effort for the full and timely
realisation of the tasks, targets and aims of
the Second Five Year Plan and in particular
the Social Welfare Programme embodied
therein, Government should take immediate
steps to organise the people at all levels and
mobilise their wholehearted enthusiasm and
support for the Plan."

Sir, in a way this resolution is extremely
controversial and its object is almost
obvious. Yet, I beg to submit the urgency of
the problem which I have raised. The
urgency arises because our present Plan, a
big Plan, a considerable Plan, is facing
difficulties in the second year now, and we
feel that perhaps we may have to modify the
Plan, reduce the Plan; we feel perhaps that
we are not quite sure even about the core of
the Plan; we are trying to find the core of
the Plan, the inner core of the
Plan. It appears as if the targets fixed by the
Plan cannot be achieved easily and that we
will have to organise our efforts. The
resolution indicates the direction in which
special efforts should be made. I am keen,
as you are all keen, that the targets should
be achieved, that the tempo should not be
reduced, but yet conditions have changed
and we have difficulties to face, and we
have got to

[Shri N. R. Malkani.] adjust ourselves. The accent, the emphasis, the direction, has to be changed, and therefore I say that the best way that the direction can be changed, the emphasis can be changed, is that you must make an appeal to the people, to mobilise their efforts in another direction. I say this advisedly because I am afraid that so far we have not paid sufficient attention to public co-operation and how to secure public co-operation. That public co-operation is available, and it has got to be properly mobilised and also that public co-operation has got to be sought at different levels for different purposes. To that also we have not paid sufficient attention.

Sir, we all know that the best way under the circumstances is to reduce our capital expenditure as far as possible, because we have not got enough capital. So far as foreign resources are concerned, we have our own apprehensions that it may not be available to the extent contemplated by the Plan. We thought that we would get foreign aid to the tune of Rs. 800 crores. We are not sure of that. It was suggested that this year alone we require foreign aid to the tune of Rs. 135 crores, and now it is thought that we may not get it. Probably we would need it to the extent of Rs. 500 crores in the next two or three years. Let us hope for the best. A very favourable atmosphere has been created abroad by our Finance Minister, and yet nobody can say for certain that the aid required will be forthcoming.

Coming nearer home, even here the prospect is not very bright. We are afraid of indulging in deficit financing to the extent that was contemplated by the Plan, because already there are inflationary pressures. We do not wish to go forward with it further, and we want to watch the results of deficit financing very vigilantly from time to time, from quarter to quarter of the year. With regard to internal resources, we find that they are fairly good. I am one of those who believe that

these have to be developed and can be developed. We have begun with increasing taxation, which is good. The idea is that we will also get small savings on a large scale. I hope so and also hope that Government will take active steps to stop what is called wasteful expenditure in a variety of ways, again here too with the cooperation of the public. But more than that, even when these steps have been taken, I do personally feel that public co-operation can be had by organising the public in a different way. Sir, before me there is a report which was circulated to us recently, of the Study Team for Community Development and National Extension Service—Committee on Plan Projects. We have not had time to read the whole of the report. Almost in the first few pages of the report it deals with democratic decentralisation, and opens with these remarks:

'Admittedly, one of the least successful aspects of the CD. and N.E.S. work is its attempt to evoke popular initiative. We have found that few of the local bodies at a level higher than the village pan-chayat have shown any enthusiasm or interest in this work; and even the panchayats have not come into the field to any appreciable extent.'

The paragraph ends with this:

"So long as we do not discover or create a representative and democratic institution which will supply the 'local interest, supervision and care necessary to ensure that expenditure of money upon local objects conforms with the needs and wishes of the locality' invest it with adequate power and assign to it appropriate finances, we will never be able to evoke local interest and excite local initiative in the field of development."

And so the report goes on for the next 25 pages.

Sir, I happened to be at Srinagar two months ago when the Central

Council of Local Self-Government held its sittings for about three days on the 26th, 27th and 28th September. Sir, the report was discussed by the Central Council for nearly a day and a half and it was an official body, Ministers mostly were there and the Deputy Ministers of Local Self-Government representing all the States were there. There were only three non-officials. I was one of them representing the A.I.C.C. Sir, I have written about it and I will also say a few words about it that it was delightful to see that an official body with almost all the Ministers accepted this part of the report almost *in toto*, with certain reservations and certain cautions. They were all of the opinion, clearly of the opinion, that development work in India should be done, as far as possible, through local self-government bodies, more especially the Panchayats, at the bottom. Ours is an agricultural economy. The vast majority of the people live in the villages. Their condition has been touched but little by the first plan. Their condition has not been materially altered during the last five or six years, much less the condition of the agricultural labourer and still less the condition of the Harijan. The underprivileged still remain largely underprivileged. The Council was of the opinion that the masses of the people, mostly underprivileged and backward, if their condition was to be improved, it could be improved materially and substantially by organising local self-government bodies, more especially the Panchayats. Whether the Panchayat is given judicial powers or not, whether the Panchayat is given administrative power or not, the Panchayats must be entrusted with development work today and tomorrow, and not the day after. The finances are there, available, even the trained staff is available at the block level and the village level—it is a new creation for the last five or six years, a very important creation, a very beneficial creation to my mind. A number of extension officers at the village level, at the block-level and even at the district level are available.

The machinery is there, the funds are there but local bodies properly organised with powers, with funds, with skills, with supplies, are not there. And the Council was of opinion that as the Panchayat Acts have been passed almost by all the States—and there are thousands of Panchayats all over the country and these Panchayats today are in a languishing state, without powers, without funds, without staff and they are meeting the fate of the old district boards and local boards—they were a vital thing and their activities should be revived and that can be done today and tomorrow by giving them development work. It has been done in two or three States. It has been done in Kashmir. It has been done in Saurashtra. It has been done, to a great extent, in Bihar, that is what we hear from the reports that are available. Sir, I myself went through Kashmir for about ten days into the interior covering about 800 miles and have found that the Panchayats have suddenly become very active and very bright, since the development work had been given to them. They do work quickly and with the least amount of corruption, with almost no corruption, because they know the work is for the benefit of the people themselves. There agriculture has been going ahead for the last two years and but for the calamity this year on account of heavy rains and floods, Kashmir would almost have been self-supporting so far as food is concerned. They have gone ahead with the planting of fruit trees on a very large scale and we might take note of it. Sir, the Prime Minister of Kashmir himself said that in his State within two years 963 Panchayats have come to new life. Sir, I am of the opinion and I am convinced about it that if we really wish to raise the economic condition, the social condition of the villagers, the best way is to organise the Panchayats and to give them all development work not only under the plan but also outside the plan, and all moneys which are there for development work. So, I am of opinion that development of a particular area should be

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[Shri N. R. Malkani.] done either through a local self-governing body or a Panchayat, as the case may be.

Sir, the Government has considered this report. Some of the States have responded cordially. For instance Madras has already taken action about it—that might be after knowing the reaction of Kashmir—and I hope the Government of India will give a bold lead in this direction so that development work in the country can go ahead, go apace and all our resources which could be tapped and which were not being tapped, can be tapped.

Sir, we are now talking of meeting the deficit of foodgrains. The deficit is likely to increase unless we face the problem in a proper way and the proper way is that the local resources must be developed by local bodies and the local initiative, not by people of the district or at the provincial level or at the central level. It must be developed by local people. I could give you a brief resume about this from experience because I tour very heavily. I have seen that wherever local initiative is forthcoming, the manurial resources have been gathered on a large scale. Today we are thinking of importing manures, chemical fertilisers from abroad but we have not resources to import them. We are crying hoarse for want of fertilisers. I think you had better cry hoarse that the manurial resources that are available in the country, in the villages, are now utterly wasted—night soil wasted, cow-dung wasted, leaves wasted and the whole of the village stinks with the smell of nothing but cowdung, because we do not know how to utilise the manures that are available. Then with regard to seed multiplication farms and so on, I have seen Panchayats in Kashmir having small farms, modern farms, sometimes with 2, 3, or 4 acres of land, helping in the planting of fruit trees. They sell little fruit plants or

saplings all over the country so that they will be producing four times as much fruit as they have been producing up till now. Now, similar experiments can be multiplied in India and copied. About seed farms, there are very few seed farms for supplying good seeds to the cultivators. It can be done provided we go in the right direction.

Coming to another point, we have been talking of a co-operative commonwealth, we have been talking of cooperative farming, through co-operative societies. Permit me to say, Sir, that during all my tours I have seen considerable improvement but none in the direction of co-operative movement. It is not a movement, it is an organisation, a bureaucratic organisation. There is nothing new in it; it has no co-ordination; its policy is the same as before, merely advancing credit and generally dues are in arrears because the money is not recovered in time. Sir, it is a movement which ought to be revived with a real drive and that can be done, as pointed the Kashmir Director or rather the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. These co-operative societies are in a languishing state. He said that when the crisis came upon them after partition, they did not know what to do. Nobody would take even loans. Everything was at a standstill. A bright idea then suddenly came to them that these societies could supply essential goods and they supplied nothing but rice for some time and salt and gur and kerosene oil, and immediately the societies came into light because they met the needs of the community. Immediately after that, step by step, they went ahead. Today, Sir, they are purchasing grains for the State, surplus grains for the State. They will be soon storing also seeds for distribution among the farmers. They are going to have warehouses very soon for storing grains. The point that I mean to suggest is that a great deal can be done by the co-operative societies provided there

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is imagination behind it, a drive behind it, provided they are made to meet the needs of the people. Today we are not doing so. So, Sir, again I say that this is another way in which the targets of the Plan can be achieved, if agricultural economy is based on the co-operative principle. We might make a simple and humble beginning with the co-operative stores and end with the co-operative farming, with all the land pooled together. We have not taken a single step in that direction, although this is a good and fine step forward.

Sir, in this direction also, to my mind, much can be done. There is another activity also with which I am familiar. We all talk about *shramdan*. It has been done here and there in a very casual, unplanned manner. The only planned manner I am aware of is at Kosi which I have visited twice. There is also the Gandak, Borhi Gan-dak in Bihar which I visited last year, about 100 miles of co-operative Bund building done on the Borhi Valley. I am closely connected with the Bharat Sevak Samaj. The Bharat Sevak Samaj has got a special section for public co-operation. Government is also helping the Bharat Sevak Samaj in order to mobilise the aid of the public, the help of the public but when all is said and done, it is only a small matter. It is only a small thing of what can be done in a big way all over the country. Sir, big projects have been built—I refer to the river valley projects—but have we ever made any efforts to mobilise public co-operation, public help? Money has been spent, crores have been spent, crores worth of machinery has been imported, officers have been appointed, trained and skilled and all that but what about the common man? Have we taken his help in digging or filling or levelling or, for that matter, in any work? Lakhs of people can be employed. It is my duty as an individual, as a non-official, as a citizen of India, to work for the Plan in an organised way. It is also, in my opinion, the duty and the obligation of

the Government to welcome that help as far as possible. Without that help, the common man's assistance will be wasted and cannot be put to use. Sir, I have seen this *shramdan* done in camps also in a very haphazard manner. I do wish the non-official organisations get more help, on a much larger scale and in a better organised manner. These non-official organisations can help in these projects and this source has not been adequately tapped. We have only one or two experiments all over the country. That experiment is promising and I would wish the Government to gain by that experiment and spread this all over the country on a much larger scale, more so as we cannot import machinery, we cannot have skills imported from abroad. Technical men cannot be had by the hundreds or the thousands but the common man can be had by the lakhs and by the crores. I may say, Sir, that up to now these lakhs and crores have not been properly mobilised as they should have been mobilised. I would also say, Sir, that our Plan has four important sections. There is also one section about social services and I consider it to be a very important section. In any case, I have tried to study that; I have tried also to organise and assist those activities that are called social service activities as far as possible. I am obliged to say with regret that the budget for social services has been cut as it should not have been cut—all budgets have been cut but more so the budget relating to social services. Even in the first plan not a fair deal was, given to this subject but in the second plan there was a better deal but not as good as the other schemes. That, however, is not the real complaint. My real complaint is this. I may say this because I am connected with a number of non-official bodies. These non-official bodies do not receive the support from official agencies as they should. I am connected with the Harijan Sevak Sangh, the Bharat Sevak Samaj, the A.I.C.C. constructive work and other organisations. I am connected with the work relating to the scheduled castes, the

[Shri N. R. Malkani.] Harijans, and so on, and I could give you facts and figures. I will present a few. Take the Harijan work. The Government of India has earmarked about fifty lakhs of rupees for publicity and propaganda for the abolition of untouchability every year. The highest authorities have told me that this is a work which cannot be done by officials and that it can be done well only by the non-officials. It is only those who are devoted to the cause of Harijans and the abolition of untouchability that can do this publicity as Gandhiji used to tell us and as we know it from our experiences. They do tell you in private that it is not a collector or a district magistrate or a tehsildar who can go about and do propaganda for the abolition of untouchability. He can only go round and write reports. He can say, "I have visited this place and that." It is only the non-officials who can do this work that will show results and yet, to the best of my memory—I stand to be corrected—hardly five lakhs out of this sum of fifty lakhs of rupees are given to non-official bodies. The most important is the Harijan Sevak Sangh, and as far as I know, it gets Rs. 3,25,000. We tried our best to get more. I am a member of the Central Board and I was also for sometime on its Executive Committee. We waited upon the President, upon the Ministers and others to give us at least fifteen lakhs of rupees or ten lakhs of rupees out of this sum of fifty lakhs of rupees. It is an all-India organisation with branches all over the country, at the district level and sometimes even at the tehsil level, and yet we got only three lakhs and a quarter. Yet, you read the report of the activities of this body—I challenge you to do so—and you will find that the money has been spent very well. A number of pracharaks have been kept all over the country, specially in places where untouchability is deeply rooted but for lack of funds this machinery cannot be multiplied. The Harijan Sevak Sangh has got very small funds of its own. Donations are

very few. Sir, take the case of the ex-criminals. I am connected with a small work going on here in Delhi itself and I know the difficulties, almost obstacles of procedure which come in the way of sanction of the grant and specially in handing over the money. May I tell you, Sir that today I am short of Rs. 500 for the man in charge came to me and said, "I cannot carry on work. I cannot pay my people because the sanction has not come." The sanction gets stuck up somewhere. He told me that he has got one man to go round all the offices to see that the papers go forward, one man to see that the papers go forward. I may tell you, Sir, that the Development Commissioner is a friend of mine, a personal friend of mine and I may say that the Minister there is very friendly, extremely kind and friendly to me but something is wrong somewhere which makes things get stuck up. That friend of mine told me, "Well Malkani, you select some one else. I want to go"—he is one of the finest social workers I know—"We wait for the money to be sanctioned but the money never comes in time. We have to pay every month the salaries and all that but the money is not with me." Something is wrong not with the men but with the procedure; if there is nothing wrong with the procedure, then there is something wrong somewhere else. In social services, the human factor is far more important than the machinery or organisation or even, for the matter of that, procedure. Sympathy is required; quick work is required and quick expression of sympathies. I have done flood relief work which worked fairly well on a large scale in my own place, Sind. I used to be the first to go there. I may have had little to give but I gave it immediately and then came Government help, money pouring in almost like a deluge, twenty lakhs of rupees, twenty-five lakhs, and so on. But it was a question of six months or later when the money came but first of all, it was for me to rush there and give the money, as much as I had got, immediately. If only Government could

understand that and their men could adopt this method of giving the money as quickly as possible and as soon as possible, it will be useful. I went to Bihar two years back when there was trouble there. I was sent by the Congress Party. I found that money was being spent very well, fairly well not by the non-official agency but by the official agency. The Congress in Bihar has good tradition; is very well organised and has a large number of workers but the Government said that they must spend the money themselves. May I say, Sir, even in Kashmir I saw a good many things, good many activities but there too there was the same difficulty. There was relief work going on on a large scale but it was not done through the co-operative societies; it was not done through the Panchayats which are in a position there to do that but by the official agency. This position has got to be altered. Now, Sir, we say that this relief work in emergency, in distress, must be done by people themselves. The people are willing to do the work but the only point is that money should come in quickly from the Government, with few conditions, with no insistence on this form and that form, asking for this return and that return; so many forms and procedures are there that the amount gets stuck up. That should not happen. This has happened all over the country, wherever I have gone.

Now, take the work of the Central Social Welfare Board. (*Time bill rings.*) Fortunately or unfortunately it is today working under the Education Ministry. It is a Board which I like and one of the reasons why I like this is that it has a happy mixture of official and non-official agency at the Centre as well as at the district level. It is a very happy mixture due to the person who is the chief organiser of the Board and yet it is an official agency. Fortunately she occupies such a privileged position that the money is given to her generously and she takes it with both her

hands and spends it well. She is extremely fortunate in getting what she wants. Generally that luck and that fortune does not come my way or anybody else's way. I wish that Government gave to other non-official organisations as generously and as abundantly as they gave to the Central Social Welfare Board, and also that Government organised matters in such a way that the officials and the non-officials were put on an equal basis and the non-officials had the final voice in them. May I say that in this lay a unique part of the Plan, which is the quality of the Plan, the value of the Plan, the tone of the Plan. Social services can be toned up and the quality raised by throwing in non-officials and organising them and giving them generous help which has not been forthcoming up till now.

Sir, this is something that I have to say though much more remains to be said, and I hope that I have been able to convince the House that this non-official opinion and non-official effort can be organised in a big way. It has not been organised, but that does not in any way divest me of my responsibility as an individual to do my best for the country, whether Government helps or does not help. In fact I go ahead with my own work. As a matter of fact it is a challenge to everyone of us, to every citizen of India to give his best and put his best in such a way that the Plan becomes a success, and in no way the core of the Plan is affected, in no way the tempo of the Plan is reduced, but the tone, the accent and the direction must be changed in such a way that to a great extent we succeed in the quality of the thing, if not in the quantity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that' with a view to securing maximum public co-operation and voluntary effort for the full and timely realisation of the task, targets and aims of the Second Five Year Plan and in.

[Mr. Chairman.]

particular the Social Welfare programme embodied therein, Government should take immediate steps to organise the people at all levels and mobilise their wholehearted enthusiasm and support for the plan."

SHRI P. J. THOMAS (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, I am in general agreement with the Resolution and believe most of us are. There cannot be any difference of opinion about the general objective, but the question is how to attain it and how to obtain this public co-operation and get things done. But I think in this matter our experience so far has not been successful^,

Mr. Chairman, we are now engaged in carrying out Five Year Plans on a democratic basis. It is commendable indeed. But if they are to be successful, at least, four things are necessary. First of all, the inclination to work hard must be there. Secondly people must save a part of their earnings, however small this may be. Thirdly, they must be able to make sacrifices according to the Plan's requirements. And fourthly they must work in a team spirit and there must be team work at all levels. I ow these four, in my opinion, are essential for carrying out a Plan on a ciemocratic basis.

But I am sorry in regard to nearly all these points the position is rather defective in this country. Now I do not want to elaborate these points, because these things have been spoken about here several times.

Take the case of hard work. I remember, when I was a little boy, my father used to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and go to the fields with the labourers and begin ploughing. They worked very hard in the forenoon, and in the afternoon there was other work to be done. To-day in our country the farmers do not get up so early and the labourers in general do not come to work till 8 o'clock or even **later**. Certain msrimum hours have

been fixed by Government in some industries. As the labourers in some occupations begin work so late, the farm labourers also are demanding the same privilege. What a contrast to other countries! Take, for instance, Germany which I have visited. There most of the people begin work before 7 o'clock, if not 6 o'clock, and even Government offices begin work at 8 o'clock whereas in this country in many States Government offices work begins at 11 o'clock. If the Government is that way, how can we expect the people to work much more? In the matter of hard work my opinion is that we have not laid sufficient emphasis. It must start at the higher \ levels. Then only will it go down to the lower levels. We must ourselves I start work early. I remember meet-| ing a German who had come here to work in an Indian factory. He told me that in his opinion this country 'cannot' become great. On my asking him why, he said, "I do not see many people working hard here." Is that not true? Are not 'go slow tactics' becoming common m the country? Take for instance the case of the postal employees for whose benefit a commission has been appointed. We have been very kind to them. Yet in my opinion they are doing their work rather badly. As I see it, the standard of their work has gone down and letters now take longer time to get to destinations than formerly. I do not want to go into this in detail. Anyway this is an example to show that the spirit of hard work ia terribly lacking in this country and matters are getting from bad to worse—not going up at all. But in war devastated countries like Germany and Japan there has been a phenomenal rise in the standard and amount of their work after the last War. Work is continuing hard even in a prosperous country like America. Even the high-placed executives of industries do not spare themselves. I have seen these things with my own eyes.

Secondly, people must save. Only by saving can there be capital forma'

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tion, which is the very soul of economic development. It is well known how the English people, how the poor labourer and the poor farmer, in the last three centuries, worked hard, stinted even in his food and saved. Thus was capital formation hastened in that country. Even in my part of the country I remember, some twenty years ago, there were farmers who worked hard and saved a part of their earnings and through chit funds they were able to build up capital. Then came the banks which continued this work. To-day the position regarding saving is worse than formerly, because all want to raise their living standards. But what does this mean? Formerly in South India most people ate only a small quantity of rice and a lot of dry grains and heavy vegetables. But with the rise in living standards all want that they must fill • their stomachs with rice only. This demand has to be met and this means importing of rice at any price and frittering away our resources on that account. We waste our resources this way by going in for the scarce and higher-priced foodgrains, and so very little saving takes place and there is no kind of efficient drive for savings. Unless there is some sacrifice, there can be no savings and there will be the foreign exchange difficulty. Now, we have been importing too much of foodgrains and this has been one of the chief causes of the shortage of foreign exchange. In my opinion there are enough food-grains of one sort or other in this country for the reasonable consumption of the people. In other countries when their living standards rise, they eat less of cereals and more of vegetables, fish and so forth, whereas in this country when people get more money they want more foodgrains, and the scarcest of them, rice. As long as this tendency continues, how can there be relief to our foreign exchange difficulties. Well, this crisis should have been prevented by taking proper steps in time, by reducing the imports of rice. It is not too late even now.

We have to reduce the rice consump-

tion in the country. So here some sacrifice is required and it will only mean better health. In regard to this my fear is that Government is afraid of pressing the people for such changes in their food habits because of the consequence of their unpopularity and their fear Of other political parties making capital out of it. Well, this is the queer consequence of adult franchise and the working of political parties in this country.

Well, the question now is: Do you want the Plan to be earned out or not? If you want it, there must be proper action and you must be firm in certain respects. You must tell the people that if they want prosperity in future, they must make some sacrifice now. Also people at the top must set an example. As a matter of fact many of our people are living quite healthy lives without eating twelve ounces of rice. One can live quite comfortably with six ounces of rice provided dry grains and heavy vegetables are consumed. It is possible to demonstrate this. But nothing is being done in this land. We are simply pandering to the weaknesses of the people by making terrible sacrifices of our poor resources to give them twelve ounces of cereals. If we are more firm, I am sure this Plan can go through.

Then comes the question of team work. There are the difficulties regarding caste, community, religion, etc., which hamper team work. All these must be properly adjusted and it is not a very difficult matter; it is the social difficulty. Of course we know how, for instance, these factors have been keeping the co-operative movement down and what the difficulty is. On this point we have got the report of a committee of the Reserve Bank which went into the whole question. They have said that one of the fundamental causes for the slow progress of the co-operative movement in our country is the communal difficulty. It is due to people of different communities being president, secretary and so on, and complications arise

[Shri P. J. Thomas.] when the president and other functionaries become communal-minded. Therefore the people must be made to labour hard imbibing the spirit of team work and that spirit must be inculcated in them.

Now the question is how to carry out these things effectively. My friend, Mr. Malkani, was speaking of various matters. I am in general agreement with him. But we want something more definite. In fact something has been done already, not by Government but by bodies like the Bharat Sevak Samaj and others. It is all as a result of the national movement started under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. Much is going on, but unfortunately the youths of the country have not been influenced properly so far.

We must organise the youth of the country. In China, they have effectively organised the youth for work. Millions of Chinese— young people up to 25—have been brought together. They work together and they are able to carry out big works and thus earn their living while getting valuable training. They have organised that way. They become a better people when they work together. The qualities we are lacking in can be made good only by our younger people coming together, working together, living and eating together, saving together. That kind of a living, in a camp life is required, if you want to improve these young people. Older people cannot be improved. In all these matters, the younger people must be given an opportunity. We must organise them and only in that way can a new manhood be built up, a new womanhood also.

Already, some efforts in this direction are being made by the Planning Commission in work and orientation camps. I have taken a keen interest in this matter because I have seen such camps working in Germany after World War I and later in America 'n

the depression days. The efforts here are largely due to the enthusiasm of our Planning Minister, Mr. Nanda. Work was started in Kerala in a place called Kalamasseri, in this connection. About 300 unemployed young men were brought together. They were people belonging to all castes and creeds. They lived together; worked together and they also got some training together. I could see that every week they were becoming better and better. They have organised some cooperative societies not like the ordinary ones in the country, much better. Some of these men have gone into factories. They are also starting some fish curing centres. Much work is going on there today. But the Government is slow in giving support to it due, I believe to the usual red-tapism.

In my opinion, if unemployed young people can be organised and given training and work, it will be good. They can be given contracts, at least sub-contracts, to work them, with the help of Government's engineers. Thus we can also give them a new training. We can make them work better, and in that way, we can build up a new manhood. Many countries in the world have done this, and we have to carry it out here also.

We have urgently to organise the youth, and put them together for several months—even for a year, if possible—and make them work. Then, they can be put into the industry; some into existing industries. Other can take up small industries on a self-employed basis, and they can be colonised into townships, built by themselves. They must work on a co-operative basis. Of course, cooperation is the most important thing required for building up this economic life and for carrying out the Plan.

Therefore, my suggestion is that we must have certain specific schemes. It is no use talking in general about it as we have often been talking in the past. I should like to have an

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organisation of the youth, just as they have been doing in some other countries. For that, we must make a definite plan on the experience already accumulated from places like Kerala and also in West Bengal where, I believe, Work and Orientation camps have been working. Much good has also been done by the labour camps which have been functioning in our schools. Those boys who come out of these labour camps, even one week after, are somewhat different people. Our social differences have been greatly reduced thereby. I found in some places that the lower caste men become leaders—because there is leadership in them—and the upper-class people agree to this. Can that be possible in the usual village life in our Panchayats, for example? It is not possible and therefore special steps as I have mentioned have to be taken for building up a new manhood.

I, therefore, commend this Resolution, but I should very much like that specific schemes like this must be drawn up and work should start immediately. Only thus can the Second Five Year Plan succeed, and I do not hope that success will be achieved by such a method.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE BURMA OIL COMPANY/ ASSAM OIL COMPANY REGARDING THE FORMATION OF A RUPEE COMPANY TO EXPLOIT THE OIL RESERVES IN ASSAM

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : Sir, as the Hon. Members are aware, negotiations were being conducted with the Burmah Oil Company Assam Oil Company for the formation of a Rupee Company to exploit the oil reserves discovered in Nahorkatiya, Hugrijan and Moran areas in Assam. These negotiations were suspended in May 1957 and resumed on the 18th November, 1957. An agreement has now been concluded between the Government of India

and the Burmah Oil Company/Assam Oil Company and this will be executed shortly. The broad features of the agreement proposed to be executed are: —

(1) The Rupee Company will undertake production of oil and will also arrange for the construction in two stages, and operation of a pipeline or such other related facilities as may be considered necessary for the transport of the crude oil up to Barauni. During the first stage, the pipeline or other related facilities will be laid up to an intermediate locality to be approved by the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company and during the second stage the extension of the pipeline or other facilities from such intermediate locality to Barauni will be taken in hand. The timing of the commencement of each of the two stages shall be determined by the Government of India.

(2) The oil produced by the Rupee Company will be sold to two refineries sponsored by the Government of India and to be established in the public sector. The delivered price of crude oil payable by each such refinery shall be either the lowest price delivered in Calcutta at which such crude oil can be secured by the refinery from any alternative source or the cost incurred by the company together with a reasonable commercial return, whichever is less, such price being fixed by the Company with the approval of the Government of India after examination of costs and subject to review every half year.

(2) The Burmah Oil Company have offered to advance a Sterling loan to the extent of 10 million pounds to the Rupee Company on terms to be agreed between that Company and the Government of India to meet the foreign exchange content of the cost of the first stage of construction of the pipeline and other related facilities. In the context of this firm commitment given by the Burmah Oil Company, it is proposed to have a refinery