

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 1st December, 2005/10 Agrahayana, 1927 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Regional disparities of States

*121. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional disparities of different States are widening;

(b) whether as per statistics prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal together account for 42.5 per cent of aggregate State domestic product, while Orissa, Bihar and a few other States' share has far declined in 2003-04 at 1993-94 price level;

(c) whether it is because of the fact that the new economic policy of Government hardly had the scope for practising welfare economics in these backward and poverty-stricken States; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Tenth Five Year Plan document (Para 1.29, Chapter I, Volume I, Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-07) and Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan (Para 18.2 of Chapter 18) recognize the growing regional disparities.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Ms. Pramila Bohidar.

(b) As latest statistics provided by the Central Statistical Organisation, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal together account for 42.76% of all India Gross Domestic Product in 2003-04 at constant 1993-94 prices. The share of Orissa, Bihar and other States in the all-India GDP for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 are provided in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. On the contrary, the new economic policy of Government, with its emphasis on more inclusive growth, has enhanced the scope for social and economic development in the backward States. A substantial increase in the resources transferred from the Central Government has been guaranteed through the acceptance of the award of the Twelfth Finance Commission. The implementation of the National Employment Guarantee Act, under which the wage component payable to unskilled workers will be met entirely by the Central Government, will result in direct benefits for people below the poverty line in backward areas. The significant increase in funding for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the launch of the National Rural Health Mission and the Bharat Nirman Programmes have all been designed to help States to step up expenditures in the social and infrastructure sectors. A cooked Mid-Day Meals Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government, for all primary schools has been implemented since September, 2004. In addition, the Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana (RSVY) that was designed to ensure special focus on backward districts has been enlarged, strengthened and subsumed into the new Backward Regions Grants Fund. In addition to overall growth targets for the country, the Tenth Five Year Plan has also specified State-wise growth rate targets with a view to encourage introspection at the State level as well as to serve as a catalyst to reinvigorate planning at the State level.

Statement-I

State-wise share of GSDP at 1993-94 prices

Sl. No.	State/UT	Share(%)		
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.14	7.04	6.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.09	0.09	0.09
3.	Assam	1.47	1.46	1.42
4.	Bihar	2.47	2.80	2.41

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Jharkhand	1.71	1.91	1.93
6.	Goa	0.34	0.35	NA
7.	Gujarat	6.45	6.83	7.27
8.	Haryana	2.77	2.79	2.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.64	0.64	0.64
10.	J & K	0.72	NA	NA
11.	Karnataka	5.68	5.75	5.63
12.	Kerala	3.02	3.09	3.03
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4.22	3.84	4.19
14.	Chhattisgarh	1.44	1.41	1.52
15.	Maharashtra	12.95	13.44	13.29
16.	Manipur	0.15	0.16	0.17
17.	Meghalaya	0.20	0.20	NA
18.	Mizoram	0.08	0.08	NA
19.	Nagaland	0.20	NA	NA
20.	Orissa	1.98	1.90	2.01
21.	Punjab	3.31	3.23	3.14
22.	Rajasthan	4.47	4.02	4.25
23.	Sikkim	0.05	NA	NA
24.	Tamil Nadu	7.02	6.96	6.64
25.	Tripura	0.26	0.27	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8.68	8.38	8.17
27.	Uttaranchal	0.62	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	7.24	7.47	7.40
29.	A & N islands	0.05	0.05	NA
30.	Chandigarh	0.23	0.24	0.24
31.	Delhi	3.21	3.32	3.34
32.	Pondicherry	0.20	0.20	0.19
All-India GDP		100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: For Sl. No. 1-32—Directorate of Economics and Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India—Central Statistical Organisation

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that, based on the population percentage of Orissa and Bihar, the proportion of investment by the financial institutions is much less in these States. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, based on the population ratio, how the investment proportion of various States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, compares with Orissa and Bihar which are poor States.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, Sir, as far as Orissa is concerned, the approved outlay for the current year is Rs. 3,000 crores. The expenditure reported till 30th September, 2005 is Rs. 857.27 crores, that is, 28.57 per cent. I would like to share with the hon. Member, through you, Sir, the information with regard to the expenditure incurred during the Tenth Plan period, which is as follows:

As far as the Annual Plan is concerned, in 2002-03, the approved outlay was Rs. 3,100 crores and the expenditure under this head was Rs. 2,492 crores. In the year 2003-04, the approved outlay was Rs. 3,200 crores and the expenditure incurred was Rs. 2,436 crores. In the year 2004-05, the approved outlay was Rs. 3,500 crores and the expenditure incurred was Rs. 2,739 crores. In the year 2005-06, the approved outlay is Rs. 3,000 crores and the expenditure incurred up to September is Rs. 857 crores.

Now, as far as Bihar is concerned, I would like to share the figures with the hon. Member. In fact, the UPA Government has been giving the needed attention to the backward regions. As you are aware, Bihar and Orissa are the most backward States of the country along with some others. Now under the Bharat Nirman we have given the highest consideration, as far as Bihar is concerned. As far as irrigation is concerned, we have made available...

श्री सभापति: आप टोटल बता दीजिए कि बिहार को कितना पैसा दिया गया है?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: As far as Bihar is concerned, the total amount, under various programmes, is more than Rs. 3,000 crores.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Is it a fact that due to lack of basic rural infrastructure in Orissa, the foreign and domestic institutional investors are not interested to invest in Orissa, which has resulted in regional imbalance?

What is the Government of India's action plan to tackle this issue?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the UPA Government has taken a number of steps to address this problem not only in Orissa but also in other backward regions of the country. Now, I would like to share some of the information with the hon. Member. As far as the reasons for backwardness are concerned, these could be geographical location, lack of natural resources, poor governance and delivery system. These are the main reasons for regional disparity. Redressal of regional imbalance is an integral component of every Five Year Plan. The hon. Member, I am sure, must have gone through the Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan Document, where particularly the Tenth Five Year Plan has adopted the following approaches to resolve the regional disparity issues under the Mid-term Appraisal. They are (i) Identify the backward areas and target them with additional resources; (ii) Improve overall environment for economic growth in less developed States through infrastructure, institutional reforms and incentive structures. Sir, Orissa figures as one of the backward States in the country. That is why a number of schemes have been undertaken. To address these problems pertaining to backward regions of the country, the Central Government helps in the process of regional development through weightage in the formula used for the distribution of Central assistance and the Special Area Programme that is there, namely, the RSV. In fact, the hon. Member would be happy to know that nearly 8-10 districts are covered under this scheme in the State of Orissa. There are other special programmes which are being addressed to take care of the backwardness of the States. No. 1 is the Backward Region Grant Fund. As the hon. Member knows, an announcement has been made by the hon. Finance Minister, during the Budget Session, providing Rs. 5,000 crores, particularly for this year alone, namely, 2005-06. Then, there are a number of other programmes which have been specially targeted...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The details may be circulated amongst the hon. Members.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Okay, Sir. I will be very happy to send them all these details.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, I would like to know whether the Planning Commission or other Ministries have to allot more funds to fill in the gaps in the development of the States. But, sometimes it happens that the performing States stand at a disadvantage. I would like to know

from the Government whether there is any scheme to give better incentives for the performing States rather than punishing them with less allotment in the belief they do not require funds, and whether the newly constituted Centre-State Commission is going to look into the matter.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, it is true to some extent that the performing States, particularly, who are in a better position will, certainly, have certain advantage. We have to look into the status of the backward regions. It is where the highest number of poor people is living, and these are the areas which require the attention of the Government. Sir, as far as the performing States are concerned, the best performing States, as has been pointed out, have also been receiving certain financial assistance; particularly, under the Twelfth Finance Commission recommendations, there are certain schemes which have been given to favour those States which have performed well.

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में यह स्वीकार किया है कि देश में जितने पिछड़े राज्य हैं, उनमें उड़ीसा एक है और वह बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ राज्य है। सारी दुनिया जानती है कि उड़ीसा में कालाहांडी जैसा इलाका है। सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब यह एक पिछड़ा राज्य है और दुनिया में सभी जानते हैं कि कालाहांडी उड़ीसा का एक बहुत पिछड़ा इलाका है तो क्या सरकार उड़ीसा को एक विशेष राज्य का दर्जा देने का विचार करती है जिससे उसका शीघ्रता से विकास हो सके?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, Orissa has already been listed as one of the backward States, and that is the reason....

श्री सभापति: इनका सवाल सीधा सा है। आप कोई विशेष दर्जा देने वाले हैं, देने वाले हैं तो हाँ कर दीजिए, नहीं तो न कर दीजिए।

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Well, Sir, KBK districts have been treated as the most backward regions in the States.

श्री मोती लाल बोरा : कंसीडर कर रहे हैं, ऐसा बोल दीजिए।

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: That is the reason, Sir, why Orissa is receiving nearly a special grant of Rs. 250 crores every year under that (Interruptions)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I think this is a very important question, Sir, and rather sweeping generalisation is being made, I understand, in the written statement. Now, Sir, the basic essence of the new Economic Policy is greater emphasis on the interplay of market forces to take care of the problem. Now, on the other hand, while orally answering the question,

the hon. Minister is saying that certain advanced States enjoyed a certain advantage over the backward States. So, infrastructure is the major area where the Government of India has to intervene. Now, insofar as the States of Bihar and Orissa are concerned, what is the kind of effort that the Government is undertaking? For example, you take Bihar. One of the major problems of Bihar is its proneness to floods and this is because of rivers which are international rivers and over which the State Government does not have any control. So, unless those historical disadvantages that these States are suffering from are removed through very calculated and systemic State intervention, how can the new Economic Policy which emphasise on market reforms and unleashing of animal forces of market address these issues?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I really appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. That is the reason, Sir, the UPA Government has come out with one of the best initiatives in the recent years in any country in the world, i.e., *Bharat Nirman*. If the hon. Member refers to the *Bharat Nirman* document, he would appreciate how Orissa and Bihar have been given a weightage. If the hon. Member would like to have the details, I would like to share it with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you should give the reply to the question put by the hon. Member.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, now, for example, he has referred to the States of Orissa and Bihar. Now, Sir, under *Bharat Nirman*, I would like to share this information with the hon. Member that as far as irrigation is concerned...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, this is an important question. Sir, through you, I would urge the hon. Prime Minister to reply because he is a leading thinker on this subject.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is absolutely true that there are many factors which go to define the backwardness or progress being made by any State. Infrastructure happens to be one of the important elements which influences the pace of development. The hon. Member has referred to the flood problem, and it is in recognition of this that, last year, we appointed a Task Force to look at the whole problem of river systems, not only in the North-Eastern Region of our country but also in Bihar. That Report has been received. Because inter-State river systems are involved and Nepal is an important factor, we will, I think, pursue that

part to accelerate the pace of utilisation of water resources development taking into account the sensitivities of Nepal in the matter. But, in addition, I would like to say that there are several programmes which give a special weightage for backward States, like Bihar and Orissa. For example, we have this year covered 150 districts under the Food-for-Work-Programme. Bihar and Orissa are among the biggest beneficiaries. In addition, we have a special programme for Bihar and Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa. Also, for the naxalite affected areas, a programme is being drawn up. The biggest beneficiary of the Employment Guarantee Programme, which we have launched from this year, will be States like Bihar and Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next Question No. 122. (*Interruptions*)

श्री खन्नारायण पाणि: सर, मुझे मौका दीजिए, मैं उड़ीसा से हूँ... (व्यवधान) मैं उड़ीसा से मेंबर हूँ, मुझे मौका दीजिए (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: कुछ भी रिकॉर्ड नहीं हो रहा है ... (व्यवधान)

श्री खन्नारायण पाणि: *

TRAI's direction to private companies

*122. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has given any direction to private telecom companies to immediately discontinue "misleading" tariff plans and show all monthly fixed recurring charges under one subhead for transparency to subscribers; and

(b) if so, the details of the direction given by TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) on 16th September, 2005 has directed all telecom service providers that no tariff plan shall be offered, presented, marketed or advertised in a manner that is likely to mislead the subscribers and that all monthly fixed recurring

*Not recorded.