

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question 61.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of village clusters

*61. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to set up village clusters in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the budget estimates and the arrangements of funds proposed for Rurban Mission?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir. The Government proposes to develop rural clusters in the country under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), with the objective of improving the quality of life of the people in the cluster, bridging the rural urban divide and reducing migration from rural to urban areas.

(b) The scheme is under finalization and the details are being worked out.

SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Sir, the Minister has stated in his reply that the SPMRM scheme is under finalization and the details are being worked out. But in the month of January it was reported that there would be 300 village clusters, with an investment of ₹ 6,000 crores in five years. Also, the then Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, had stated that they would be incorporating provisions, after studying the Gujarat model, within one-and-a-half months, or, not more than two months. But still, the definitions and particulars have not been given.

Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is this. The Prime Minister had talked about developing the Eastern part of the country, which is the North-East. Will the Government take up cluster of villages in the North-East? If yes, when will they be taken up and if no, why has it not been done?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, this Scheme, the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rural Rurban Mission, was announced in the Budget Speech of last year by the Finance Ministry, which was regarding delivery of integrated, project-based

infrastructure, development of economic activities and skill development in rural areas.

Sir, the objective of this Scheme was to improve the quality of life, the standard of living, in the rural clusters and to bridge the rural-urban divide. The third important objective was to reduce migration from rural areas to the urban areas.

Sir, in this regard, we have decided to have 300 such clusters and that too, in all the States of the country, including the Union Territories. So, there is no question that the Eastern States will not be given the benefit. They would also be included. All the Eastern States will be included.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Second question.

SHRI PANKAJ BORA: No, no. Sir, it came out in the month of January itself, when the Secretary had stated that 300 clusters would be developed with the purpose of investing ₹ 6,000 crores for skill development and stopping migration from villages to the towns. That was stated long back, but what I wanted to know was that after the study of the Gujarat model, why has it not been started till now. My second supplementary is: Isn't it a fact that for development of the village clusters, the Government proposes foreign investment in these clusters through the NGOs? Also, I would like to know whether the Government has already consulted the State Governments regarding the sharing, because my State has not been consulted. That is the reason why I wanted to know about it from the hon. Minister.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, the selection of the clusters would be Totally done by the State Government. We have only provided the criteria that for hilly States, desert areas, islands or tribal areas, the size of the population should be between 5,000 and 15,000. For the plain areas, the number should be 25,000 to 50,000. So, wherever the State Government would decide that here is the place where the cluster should be developed, then it may be consisting of five *gram panchayats* or ten villages or if the villages are thickly populated then it can be within three or four villages. In the difficult areas, the limit is from 5,000 to 15,000. The hon. Member has asked for the Budget allocation. Sir, 300 clusters will be developed by 2019-20 and the total budget required would be ₹ 6,907 crores. Wherever there is a requirement for critical gap, then we would be providing up to 30 per cent. In our own assessment, a cluster would be developed within the amount of ₹ 65 crores to ₹ 67 crores. If the amount of the State Government with the convergence of other line departments comes out to be ₹ 47 crores, then the rest of it would be bridged by our critical gap adjustment. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. What is the standard and ideal size of the cluster village?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: As I have already explained, in the plain and the coastal areas the population standard would be between 25,000 to 50,000. With regard to the facilities to develop a cluster, we have laid down about twelve things which are to be provided in that cluster of villages so that there is some resemblance to the facilities which are available in the urban areas. One is piped water supply; sanitation is second; solid and liquid waste management, street light, health care connectivity, upgradation of school education facilities, skill development, development of other economic activities, e-gram connectivity, village streets and drains water village road connectivity and public transport are also there. Sir, out of these twelve facilities which would be provided, four could be provided by the private agencies like e-gram, public transport and skill development. These are four items where we would see to it that other community organizations or NGOs should also be involved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A.V. Swamy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Sir, my second supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You get only one supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: It is very, very important. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Zhimomiji, you get only one supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Unless it is clarified, I cannot go back to my State. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not satisfied with the answer, please take it up with the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Sir, now my question is: The hon. Minister clearly said that in the tribal areas ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Sir, second supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is asking a question for the first time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: In the tribal areas, the size of the population varies from 5,000 to 15,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you wish to clarify?

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: But here...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is all right. He has understood your point. Let it be clarified.

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Sir, let me just make my point and then the hon. Minister can clarify.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your place.

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: In tribal areas, sometimes, a population of 5,000 is spread over an area of two to three thousand square kilometres. The hon. Minister has come out with the clear number of village clusters to be taken up, that is, 300. Sir, out of these 300 clusters, will all the clusters be given the same amount or will they be given money according to the size of their territories?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, this needs to be factored in.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, this is very clear that if the population is scattered one, still we would see that the hill areas or the Eastern States are also covered under this Scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri A.V. Swamy. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, this is not a discussion. Mr. Zhimomi, please, sit down now.

SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Sir, my submission is that the worst thing I have seen during these last sessions is that it seems the Government has forgotten that there is something called Panchayati Raj and there are representative units of self-government which have anything to do with the socio-economic development. Whenever someone thinks of clusters...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Whenever a development programme is taken up, the Panchayati Raj institutions, which are available from village level up to the districts levels, are being ignored. It means, it is contrary to whatever has been laid down in the Constitution. It is transgression of Constitutional rights of the people when Government schemes are doled out.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, the detailed project will be prepared with the inputs from the Panchayat. And, first of all, the Integrated Cluster Action Plan, which shall be the key document covering base line studies, outlining

the requirements at the cluster and the key interventions needed to address these needs and to leverage its potential, emphasis will be laid on the involvement of the community. It is very much clearly written that after consultation with the Panchayat, Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha, the ICAP would be prepared. At the State level, they would clear it in a High-Powered Committee and then it would be sent to us. Then, the cluster would be given recognition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harivansh.

SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Sir, I have a small clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am afraid not. I can't have a discussion on a supplementary question.

SHRI A.V. SWAMY: I have a small clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Seek that directly from the Minister. Now, Shri Harivansh.

श्री हरिवंश : सभापति महोदय, मेरी एक बहुत सहज जिज्ञासा है। हमारे देश में 6 लाख से अधिक गांव हैं, अगर 300 क्लस्टर में बांटते हैं, तो एक क्लस्टर में कुल कितने गांव होंगे और उसका एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव अरेंजमेंट क्या होगी? उनका गवर्नेन्स कैसे होगा? क्या जिस तरह से हमने पंचायत की व्यवस्था रखी है, जिस तरह से जिला परिषद को रखा है, क्या उसी तरह से इसके एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के लिए आप कोई नई इकाई बनाने जा रहे हैं?

श्री चौधरी बीरेन्द्र सिंह: सभापति महोदय, क्लस्टर में कितने गांव होंगे, यह वहां की जो भी ज्योग्रेफिकल कंडीशन है, उसको देखना होगा। कहीं किसी इलाके में बड़े गांव हैं, बड़े गांव में हो सकता है कि पांच गांव में ही चालीस-पचास हजार की पापुलेशन मिल जाए और जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा, हो सकता है कि रिमोट एरियाज, खासतौर पर फुटहिल्स और अपर रीचेज ऑफ द हिल्स में यह संभव ही न हो कि दो गांव या पांच गांव से काम चले और यह भी हो सकता है कि वहां तीस गांव तक हों। तो हमारा अंदाजा यह है कि इस स्कीम के माध्यम से 300 क्लस्टर बनने से करीब चार हजार से पांच हजार गांव हम ले सकेंगे। इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि जिस देश में 6 लाख गांव हैं, उनमें से चार-पांच हजार गांव लिए जाएं। यह स्कीम तो दूसरों को इंस्पायर करने के लिए है कि जब एक क्लस्टर में एक्टिविटीज देखेंगे, वे एक्टिविटीज जो किसी शहर में संभावित हैं, वे उस क्लस्टर में होंगी, क्योंकि हमने इसमें यह प्रावधान भी किया है कि जिस गांव में एक्टिविटीज होंगी, वहां मल्टी कनेक्टिविटी होगी। हर गांव सड़क से जुड़ा होगा। जैसे ई-ग्राम की बात कही, हर गांव ई-ग्राम के माध्यम से जुड़ा होगा और ऐसा अनुभव होगा कि जैसे वह एक कामर्शियल हब की शकल ले रहा है। तभी तो वहां कामर्शियल एक्टिविटीज होंगी और तभी वहां के इलाके में इन्कम जनरेशन के साधन बढ़ेंगे। इस भावना के साथ हमने यह स्कीम बनाई है।

Demand and supply of power

*62. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: