

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, will my subject be taken up?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes. Actually, yesterday the discussion on situation arising out of the misuse of funds provided by the Central Government under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme raised by Shri V Narayanasamy, was not concluded. So, that will be taken up first. But, I request all the speakers on this subject to be very brief because the next Short Duration Discussion has to be taken up. Now, before I call Mr. Gill, I want the Minister to lay a statement on the Table.

Statements by Ministers—Contd.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह) : महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित ग्रामीण विकास संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के अट्टाईसवें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Situation Arising out of Misuse of Funds provided by the Central Government under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I want to thank Mr. Narayanasamy for somehow managing to, not on a Friday, but on a Thursday, raise a discussion on perhaps the most important project of this UPA Government which is the rural employment programme which Mrs. Gandhi, the UPA Chairperson, the Prime Minister and many others, I suppose, have pushed hard to try, and, somehow, get it down to rural India, to ground India and to poor India. It has been running. I think, for a number of years now and something like, may be, Rs. 30,000 crores or more or whatever have been spent on it; I am guessing this. I also see that a decision has been taken to implement it from 200 districts to 600 districts, which means really the whole India; maybe a few districts will be left out; I can't say. Therefore, there is a determination to move forward and to expand it to a section of people which needs tremendous help. Arjun Sengupta's Report, has, I think, highlighted the whole situation even more dramatically. Eighty-six per cent or whatever of people with twenty rupees or less. And, that is the area which is linked to this scheme also and endeavours to try and do something for them. And, therefore, I think, Mr. Narayanasamy's success in bringing this forward has to be commended because you need to discuss and assess where have you got. I have been, over the last couple of years, hearing a very able Minister of Rural Development, our friend from Bihar, and whenever he takes over, I don't think anybody is really able to beat him up on his assertion that the programme is doing tremendously well and there are great achievements in it. I have certainly heard it that way. But, while that may be true, partly or wholly, an assessment, a critical assessment, by this country, by this Parliament, is necessary. And, therefore, I look at what has come up today. Now, I heard Mr. Narayanasamy and

everybody with all the attention I could get. Mr. Narayanasamy was, emotionally and with his field visits, very clear that there was vast leakage; there was theft; there was improper working; there was all the misdoing by the officials and the *Sarpanches* and the BDOs who have to do it. He has been around, and he does travel around. It was difficult to bring his emotions down. I don't blame it. But then I heard others, from all parties here, say practically the same thing that while, on the one hand, the Government and the Prime Minister says that there can be no shortage of money for this, we will give you more, and on the other, there is a perception of the people who represent the field, who go there, who actually get a ground-level impression, which is truer than the impression of the Government people going on visits. I have been in that area of work, and a team led by a Joint Secretary going and having a look, as one of them discussed a kind of inspection which is carefully guided. I think that came out here in one or two speeches.

I think this impression of the hon. Members, to me, is much more relevant. I have also been to Shivpuri and some other places. I have asked the people and my former cousins also about the tribal people and how do they see it. And it is quite obvious whether you give them Rs. 70 a day or Rs. 100 a day, it is the inherent right of certain people to take a part cut out of it. That is the way I would put it. And I doubt if it is easy to prevent that. But one has to try, one has to fight to try and reduce, if not eliminate, it. Otherwise, one would worry where this money, which will go up to a vast amount when you have 600 districts, will be going.

Incidentally, sitting in Cambridge, I was discussing this with a distinguished economist friend of the Prime Minister. We both belong to Punjab. I carried on, in my layman's view, arguing this and he gave me a good economist's view. He said, 'Well, you know, one way of looking at it is that even if this money filters out, it goes into the economy and still helps the growth.' Now, I am sure, that is a good economic reason, but still it is not a reason which would be acceptable to hon. Members here in this context. Therefore, the point of trying to find some way out, to correct it, to control it, to supervise it, to punish, and to prevent it, is the issue.

First, I would deal with the Scheme itself Brinda Karatji said something. I also want to say something on that. Take any scheme. I have seen this in the Government of India for 40 years, in the Planning Commission, from Government to Government and from decade to decade. The Government of India makes a uniform scheme for the whole of India, whether it is Tripura, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Almora or Kerala. There is nothing common among them. People living there happens to be the citizens of one country. But, beyond that, everything is different — the climate, the language, the food and the attitudes. You know it. I do not have to spell it out. If that is so, how can you have straitjacketed schemes? And I have seen them for 40 years.

She talked of Uttarakhand and of those hilltops. I know about them personally very well. What I want to say, in short, here, is that since you are expanding it to the whole of India, I would request the Minister to give flexibility. Let a local committee decide what they would like to modify, what things they would like to bring in and say, 'Yes, that is good' and what they would not want to do which is being done in Punjab or in Kerala. I think that is very necessary. And, I think, there is a very easy way of doing it, because I have done these kinds of things in my earlier days.

Have a committee in the State of Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan or wherever it is. Send a Joint Secretary, or somebody else you want, with clear directions to sit in that committee and hear the people of the State. They know the ground reality better. And if they say, why don't

we give up this and let us do this way, he should be open to agree. This is the simple way. If in Uttarakhand, people say, "No, we would like to do fodder collection' or whatever you said, I would allow it. And I think it should be allowed. Don't tie them with one belt. It will not work.

Second thing, which, I think she and other Members talked about, is payment to women. I think even a question was raised that they must be paid equal to men. I was talking to a friend of mine and he educated me on it that in the industry, it is happening. In industry, the rule of equal work equal pay is there. Perhaps it is. But, in this case, certainly, I want to say that the whole Scheme in the villages is to try and give them a little bit of money, to have some food for their children and their family. I think, many women will come forward to take your small jobs whatever they are. I think they must get full facility, full support and full salary. आदमी आएँ न आएँ, औरतों का कर दें। They will come forward. And then try to guard their opportunity against the *Sarpanch*, the BDO and a few others; you know, 'the cuts' and things like that. This I want to say very strongly.

Next comes the question of leakage, which is worrying all of us. There has got to be a powerful monitoring mechanism. It includes checking it, controlling it, preventing it, and punishing those responsible for it.

I talked about standard monitoring by teams from the Government of India in which a few officials or others go. I am not sure that is enough. Yes, Members of Parliament and MLAs should be asked to go there. I am quite happy to agree with that. But, I am not sure, even that is enough. I was just thinking — not that I have any great ideas — all over India, you have universities, you have social schools, social sciences, political science, economics, there are plenty of educational set ups with very qualified people, and I don't see why, in any district, anywhere, any of that kind of group is not asked to do so. You can say, okay, have a few people from this university or this big social school or this big college. The Minister has said that four per cent allocation is meant for administrative expenditure. Well, that is not only for the States. You can also spend it. And you could say, "All right, here out of this university because of huge faculty of social sciences and economics, put together five people to go and check 10 districts." They will be very happy to do field work, and will have interesting and exciting visits out of the university, and you pay them their TA/DA and a bit more. That is worthwhile money. Similarly, any institution, you can pick up. I don't like that phrase which is being used, and of course, no less a person than our Prime Minister used it, 'thinking out of the box.' Somehow, I am not with it. But, please think out of the box since this is the view of everyone these days, and don't just leave it to a Joint Secretary or a little bit more. I think, try and get any groups. Be open to anyone to go and check. I go further. In Delhi, I find Residents Welfare Associations. I read about them only in the newspapers, and a lot of members of these associations are retired generals, colonels, civil servants, administrators and scientists. They are there because they want to make their colony better. They have got together. Even I noticed that they have fought with the Ministry of Urban Development and others. They have even gone to the court for their rights, and I think, from whatever I am able to gather, they are doing good work. Can't there be Resident Welfare Associations in districts in rural India? There are lots of brigadiers, colonels, majors, and professors sitting there. कोई भी आदमी आता है, वह कहता है कि हम पाँच आदमी काम करते हैं और आपकी चोरी पकड़ेंगे, तो मैं ऐसा ही कहूँगा, माननीय मंत्री जी हिन्दी में बोलते हैं। वे कहते हैं कि हम आप के लोगों की चोरी पकड़ना चाहते हैं, तो आप उनको उत्साहित करें और उनको कहोंकि जाओ, जाकर पकड़ो, शोर करो...।

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR). May I just take your permission for one minute? In Kerala, the entire issue of planning campaign involving the panchayats and local bodies has been an experience that is worth replicating for the entire country and the constitutional provisions on the District Planning Committee specifically provide for this to be taken into account, and therefore, it can be done.

DR. M.S. GILL: I am sure, the hon. Minister will take note of that But my point is, as once I said on my other job on elections, like the sunflower needs a lot of sunshine, and I apply democracy to development works also कोई भी इसको देखना चाहता है, मंत्री जी उनको टी.ए., डी. ए. दीजिए और सौ रुपये डेली खाने-पीने के लिए दीजिए और बोलिए कि जाओ, जाकर करो, वे जितना दुखी करेंगे, उतना ही आप लोगों के लिए अच्छा रहेगा, वे लोग दुखी हो जायेंगे, ऐसा मेरे दिमाग में आता है। But, monitoring has to be pushed. Of course, you have NGOs. I don't want to talk about that But, I don't want to continue on and on though Narayanasamyji gave me a lot of time because we have a little bit of time ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN(PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. You dont have much time.

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, I want to finish. But, the short point I want to make is that the Scheme is key to this Government. Its success or failure will have a major effect, and you are expanding the Scheme to the whole of India. That is to be welcomed. When you passed the Bill here two years ago, I read it and I got worried. But since the whole House wanted to do it, I went along with it. Otherwise, the mechanism of the B.D.Os, *sarpanches* and everybody, and the nature of these local works, which you may or may not do, is problematic. Now, you have brought in machines as people said. In one way, I sometimes think, when the Bill was passed, a lot of these people would have said, *W ^ 3ir ^!*(ft ij^ because the c^portunity is there. Now, you have got to prevent the opportunity and, I think, you should concentrate on monitoring by any means you can. Thank you.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे आपने बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए आपको धन्यवाद। महोदय, 'राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना' के संबंध में, मैं सर्वदा इस विषय को माननीय मंत्री महोदय के समझ रखता रहा हूँ। मैं आपके सामने पत्रों के माध्यम से भी अपने मंतव्य प्रकट करता रहा हूँ और इस बात के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि आपने उन पत्रों की पावती नहीं दी, किन्तु उन पत्रों में दिए हुए जो सुझाव हैं, उन सुझावों पर भी केन्द्रीय सरकार क्या कर रही है, आप क्या कर रहे हैं, आपने मुझे उसका उत्तर दिया है। इसके लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, मैं राजस्थान से आता हूँ और इसकी सफल क्रियान्वयन की चर्चा, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अपने प्रवास के समय भी सर्वदा की है। यह माननीय मंत्री महोदय जानते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान का 13 प्रतिशत व्यय, राजस्थान में इस योजना के तहत हुआ है। इससे 85 प्रतिशत लोगोंको रोजगार उपलब्ध हुआ है, इसकी भी जानकारी है। जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है, इस योजना का सर्वाधिक उपयोग राजस्थान में होता रहा है। मेरी भी घूमने की प्रवृत्ति है और मैं लगातार घूमता रहता हूँ। यह घूमना मेरे स्वभाव में है और इस नाते से, इस कार्यक्रम के पीछे जो कुछ और मंतव्य है, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय के समक्ष उनको रखना चाहता हूँ। मैं उनको सूत्रबद्ध रखूंगा, प्वाइंट वाइस रखूंगा, मुझे विस्तार से विश्लेषण करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। मेरा पहला कहना यह है कि प्रशासनिक दृष्टि से प्रत्येक कार्य की जो योजना बनती है और उसके कार्यान्वयन का जो विभिन्न चरणों में निर्धारण होता है, उसका इस योजना में नितांत अभाव है। उसमें प्राथमिकता तय नहीं की जाती है। मैं तो ऐसे प्रदेश से आता हूँ, जहां लगातार अकाल पड़ता रहता है और उस अकाल में लोगों को काम भी मिलता रहता है। अगर कार्य योजना नहीं बनेगी तो 60 और 40 का मजदूरी और सामान को जो अनुपात है, उसमें मिट्टी की खुदाई प्रारंभ हो जाती है। जल संग्रह के लिए छोटे-मोटे नाले और नालियां बन जाती हैं और बरसात आने पर तुरंत भी जाते हैं। उसके कारण muster roll में जो काम लिखा है, वह वास्तव में हुआ है या नहीं हुआ है, इसकी कोई मॉनिटरिंग नहीं की जा सकती।

माननीय मंत्री महोदय, पंचायत स्तर और पंचायत स्तर समूह पर जो सुपरवाइजर होते हैं, उनकी मिली-भगत होती है, और भेंट-पूजा के बिना काम नहीं चलता है। यह बात आपकी जानकारी में भी है। अगर माप ठीक तरह से नहीं हुआ और ऐसी कार्य योजना नहीं बनी, तो उसमें से कितना सीपेज होगा, यह निश्चित रूप से आपकी जानकारी में है। आप कृपया इसका उपचार करने की कृपा करें। आपने मेरे एक तारांकित प्रश्न के उत्तर में पांच सूत्री ऋण नीति का उल्लेख किया था, जिसमें आपने जल सहभागिता को भी प्रमुख रूप से लिखा था। ग्राम पंचायती और ग्राम सभा की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होती है, किन्तु मुझे कभी-कभी लगता है कि सरपंच, पंच और अन्य पंचायती राज्य संस्थाएं, सरकार और गैर-सरकारी लोग फर्जी muster-roll बना लेते हैं, काम की यात्रा को गलत लिखते हैं और कमीशन लेते हैं। इसकी चर्चा वेबसाइट पर भी है। अगर इमिडिएट एक्शन होकर, एक्युरेट रूप से लोगों के पास मैसेज चला जाए, इसकी मॉनिटरिंग की आवश्यकता है या नहीं है, मैं-यह प्रश्न आपके ऊपर छोड़ता हूँ। माननीय मंत्री महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय, मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस योजना का लाभ उठाने के लिए पंजीकरण और जॉब कार्ड बनवाना आवश्यक है। पंजीयन के समय कई बार आवेदन पत्र की रसीद भी नहीं दी जाती, तारीख नहीं लगाई जाती। जॉब कार्ड कब बने, कैसे बने, काम मिला है कि नहीं मिला है, यह बात नहीं होती है। इसीलिए कृपया इसे सुनिश्चित करने की कृपा करें कि निश्चित रूप से हय काम नहीं हुआ, तो इस ऋण नीति में जो भ्रष्टाचार आएगा, उसको रोकना सम्भव नहीं होगा।

इस योजना के अन्तर्गत मैं तीसरी बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें 100 दिन का रोजगार आरक्षित है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान में 70 से 72 प्रतिशत और अधिकतम 80 दिन रोजगार की व्यवस्था की जा सकती है, जहां व्यस्त काम है। राजस्थान में सोशल ऑडिट है, सूचना के अधिकार का प्रयोग है। मन की इच्छा है कि 100 दिन रोजगार उपलब्ध हो। कुछ राज्यों में तो आप देखेंगे कि रोजगार दिवसों का औसत 12 से 15 के बीच में रहा है। केवल 100 दिवस लिखने से काम नहीं चलेगा। 100 दिवस निश्चित रूप से रोजगार मिल जाए, मेरा निवेदन है कृपया इसकी व्यवस्था करने की भी कृपा करें।

माननीय मंत्री महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि 60 रुपए प्रति दिन मजदूरी दी जाए, यह उल्लेख किया गया है। 100 दिन काम हो गए, तो 6 हजार रुपया हो गया। 6 हजार रुपए में पूरे परिवार का पालन-पोषण कैसे होगा? क्या होगा? यह निश्चित से विचार करने की आवश्यकता है। मुझे तो कभी-कभी लगता है कि अगर 60 रुपए की बजाय 100 रुपए नहीं किए गए, क्योंकि इसको टास्क से जोड़ दिया गया है, टास्क से जोड़ने के बाद 50 से 52 रुपया हमारे राजस्थान में आता है, बाकी लोगों ने 20 और 25 की चर्चा की थी, हम न्यूनतम मजदूरी के साथ मजाक कर रहे हैं। हम कानून बना रहे हैं, राजस्थान में अकुशल श्रमिक का वेतन 73 रुपया है। 60 रुपया करने का मतलब क्या है कि हमने ही कानून बनाया, हमने ही उल्लंघन कर दिया और सरेआम कर रहे हैं। कृपया इसको देखने की कोशिश करें। मेरा कहना है कि अर्ध-कुशल, अकुशल और कुशल मजदूरों के लिए निर्धारित न्यूनतम मजदूरी का भुगतान ठीक रूप से किया जाए, मात्रा तय की जाए और उसको टास्क से नहीं जोड़ा जाए।

मैं आपसे एक और चर्चा करना चाहता हूँ — बेरोजगारी भत्ते की। जहां रोजगार उपलब्ध नहीं होता, वहां आपने बेरोजगारी भत्ता देने का प्रावधान किया है। किन्तु आपने इस बेरोजगारी भत्ते को राज्य सरकारों पर छोड़ दिया है। कहने को तो ठीक है। टोटल अमाउंट में 10 प्रतिशत ले लीजिए, मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना है, उसकी योजना बना लीजिए। किन्तु प्रत्यक्ष जमीन पर क्या रहा है? आप इसकी मॉनिटरिंग करके देखिए। जहां 100 दिन रोजगार उपलब्ध नहीं हो रहा है, वहां बेरोजगारी भत्ते का भुगतान नहीं किया जा रहा है। क्या कृपया माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस बात को भी करने की कृपा करेंगे? अभी दो दिन पहले मैंने विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से आपको एक बात कही थी, शायद इसका जवाब भी मेरे पास आ जाएगा कि जो अनुसूचित जनजाति के क्षेत्र हैं, मैं राजस्थान की चर्चा करना चाहता हूँ — उदयपुर, डुंगरपुर, बाँसवाड़ा, सिरोंही, हरोती, ये वे लोग हैं, जिनकी पास जमीन नहीं है, वन के साधन का उपयोग भी नहीं है। वे लगातार पलायत करते हैं। फसल की कटाई हो गई, वे गुजरात चले गए। वे मारे-मारे फिरते हैं। मंत्री महोदय, जब आप इसका विस्तार कर रहे हैं। और पैसे की कमी नहीं है, इसकी बात करते हैं, तो क्या कृपया इस सुझाव को माननी की कृपा करेंगे कि अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों के लिए 100 दिन के रोजगार के बजाय 200 दिन का रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया जाए?

आप इस मानवीय दृष्टिकोण को निश्चित रूपसे क्रियान्वित करने की कोशिश करें, ऐसा मेरा आपसे निवेदन है। यहां मैं सामग्री की चर्चा भी करना चाहता हूँ। सामग्री और लेबर का जो रेश्यो है, वह 60:40 का है। काम कभी स्थायी नहीं होते, इसलिए आपको भी यह जानकारी है कि इस संबंध में फर्जी मस्टर रोज बनते हैं और उसका पैसा डायवर्ट किया

जाता है। इस संबंध में पंचायत, पंचायत समिति व जिला स्तरीय प्रशासन के लोग भी मौन रहते हैं। 60 और 40 का रेश्यो, it is impractical. इसमें जिसका प्रावधान किया गया है, उसमें से कोई भी काम स्थायी नहीं होगा। आप इस पर क्रियाचरक विचार करिए और यह रेश्यों कम से कम 50:50 का होना चाहिए। यह बात सच है कि कहा जाएगा कि यह योजना तो रोजगार के बारे में है और आप यहां पर सामान की कीमत बढ़ाए जाने की चर्चा क्यों करते हैं? किन्तु व्यावहारिक रूप में जो स्थिति है, उसे मैंने आपके सामने रखा है।

यहां पर पर्यवेक्षण और अनुवीक्षणकी भी बहुत चर्चा हुई है। यह ठीक है कि केन्द्र की तरफ डंडा चलाने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। आप बड़े कृपालु भी हैं कि विभिन्न प्रदेशों में जा रहे हैं, किन्तु वहां पर उपयुक्त लोगों के साथ बैठ कर मीटिंग करके इस बात की चिंता करने की थी आवश्यकता है कि मोनिट्रिंग ठीक प्रकार से कैसे की जा सकती है। अगर मोनिट्रिंग ठीक प्रकार से नहीं हुई, तो मैं नहीं कह रहा, यह बात आपके नेता श्री राजीव गांधी जी की कह गए हैं कि यहां से एक रुपया भेजते हैं तो व्यक्ति के पास जा कर 10 पैसे पहुंचते हैं। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इस अनुवीक्षण को देखा जाए और मानिट्रिक की ठीक व्यवस्था की जाए। क्या शिकायत का रजिस्टर ठीक तरह से नहीं रखा जा सकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... साहब, मुझे बोलने के लिए 17 मिनट का समय दिया गया है। मैं अपनी समय सीमा में ही बोलूंगा और मुख्य बिन्दुओं पर ही बोलूंगा, उसके अलावा कोई और बात नहीं बोलूंगा। जब मैंने इनसे पूछा था, तब मुझे यह बताया गया कि आपको इतना समय मिला है।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर शिकायत के लिए एक रजिस्टर क्यों नहीं रखा जा सकता है? शिकायतें आएंगी, आपको स्टडी करने का मौका मिलेगा और उसके अनुसार इसमें उसी प्रकार का प्रावधान होगा। इस पर निश्चित रूप से विचार किया जाना चाहिए।

इसी प्रकार से पहले जो बच्चे कागजों में एंट्री कर ली जाती है, इस बात को बंद किया जाना चाहिए। यह भ्रष्टाचार के लिए बहुत बड़ा सीपेज होता है, इसलिए शिकायत को सीधे-सीधे रजिस्टर में करने का प्रावधान करें।

इन सब बातों को मैं सुझाव के रूप में रख रहा हूं कि जो सीपेज हो गया है, पैसा लगातार बाहर जा रहा है, वह उपयुक्त लोगों के पास पहुंचे, गरीब लोगों के पास पहुंचे, काम वाले लोगों के पास पहुंचे और उसका सही उपयोग हो सके। यही निवेदन करते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को एक सुझाव देना चाहती हूं, एक सर्वे रिपोर्ट के अनुसार ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I have not permitted you ...**(Interruptions)**...

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके : सर, मैं केवल एक मिनट के लिए बोलना चाहती हूं। एक सर्वे रिपोर्ट के आधार पर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Kindly listen to me. I will give you one minute after others have spoken. You cannot do like this, if you want, I will give you time. But, take the permission. Now Shri Nand Kishore Yadav. यादव जी, आपकी पार्टी के लिए एलॉटिड टाइम में केवल दो मिनट की बाकी है, लेकिन आप अपनी बात चार मिनट में खत्म कर दीजिए। मैं आपको 100% ज्यादा दे रहा हूं।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं अपनी बात दो मिनट में ही समाप्त करूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : नहीं नहीं, आप अपनी बात चार मिनट में खत्म कीजिए।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव : सर, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। माननीय मंत्री जी की यह 'राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना' निश्चित रूप से एक बहुत अच्छी योजना है। इसके पीछे माननीय मंत्री जी की जो भावना है और जिस उद्देश्य को लेकर इन्होंने इसे लागू करने का काम किया है, मैं उसकी सराहना करता हूं और उसके लिए माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद भी देना चाहता हूं।

सर, जहां तक इस योजना का सवाल है, इस समय यह पूरे देश के 330 जनपदों में चल रही हैं। जैसा समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से मालूम हुआ है, माननीय मंत्री जी इसे 1 अप्रैल, 2008 से देश के सभी हिस्सों में लागू करेंगे। निश्चित रूप से अब यह पूरे देश में लागू होगी। इसके पीछे मंत्रालय या मंत्री जी की जो सोच थी, वह यह थी कि इस समय कृषि में काम के अवसर कम होते जा रहे हैं और कृषि एक तरह से घाटे का सौदा होती जा रही है। जो नौजवान हैं, बेरोजगार हैं, उनका पलायन हो रहा है, इसलिए इसके पीछे जो मुख्य उद्देश्य था, वह यह था कि ऐसे लोगों को 100 दिन तक का रोजगार दिया जाए।

लेकिन जो सबसे बड़ी समस्या इस योजना की है कि केन्द्र सरकार, इस पर हजारों करोड़ रुपए खर्च कर रही है। इसमें 2006-07 में करीब 11 हजार 300 करोड़ रुपए का बजट था। इस योजना की सफलता और विफलता राज्यों के ऊपर निर्भर है। मंत्री जी सारे प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि इसका क्रियान्वयन कैसे हो। उनसे मेरा यह निवेदन और सुझाव है कि इस बात पर जोर लगाने का काम होना चाहिए कि जो पैसा राज्यों में जा रहा है और जिस काम के लिए जा रहा है, उसी काम पर ईमानदारी के साथ और सही ढंग से इस राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना का पैसा खर्च हो, लेकिन लाख प्रयासों के बावजूद-यद्यपि मंत्री जी अपने जवाब में कहेंगे कि केन्द्र सरकार की एक सतर्कता कमेटी बनी है, जिले में सतर्कता कमेटीज बनी हैं। तमाम माननीय सदस्य, जो इस सदन के हैं और दूसरे सदन के हैं, वे लोग उसके सदस्य हैं। इनका काम है कि वे स्पोर्ट पर जाएं और देखें कि जॉब कार्ड सही है कि नहीं, काम सही हो रहा है कि नहीं हो रहा है। लेकिन, जनपदों की जो स्थिति है, उसके बारे में बताता हूं। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश का रहने वाला हूं। जिले की जो सतर्कता कमेटी है, उसकी मीटिंग साल में एक बार ही हो पाती है। पिछली बार माननीय मंत्री जी ने इस सम्बन्ध में जो सलाहकार समिति है, उसकी बैठक बुलाई थी। मैंने उसमें कहा था कि हमारा जनपद में सतर्कता कमेटी की जो बैठक है, वह बैठक हो पाई। सतर्कता कमेटी के जो सदस्य हैं, अगर वे स्पोर्ट पर जाना चाहे, डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट को अगर सूचना दें कि हम वहां जाना चाहते हैं, तो अधिकारियों की तरफ से कोई सहयोग नहीं मिलता है।

दूसरी प्रमुख समस्या जॉब कार्ड की है। इसके पहले भी ग्रामीण विकास की बहुत-सी योजनाएं चली थी, मैं उस पर लम्बा विचार प्रकट करना नहीं चाहता हूं, लेकिन वे एक तरह से फेल हो गईं। ठीक वहीं स्थिति इस पर भी लागू करने का प्रयास लोग कर रहे हैं। चाहे इस क्षेत्र में जो माफिया किस्म के लोग हैं, दलंग किस्म के लोग हैं, वे इस योजना को भी हाई जैक करने का पूरा प्रयास कर रहे हैं। इसमें यह है कि जो अकुशल लोग हैं और जो लोग काम करना चाहते हैं, वे आवेदन देंगे। जब वे आवेदन देंगे, तो उसके बाद उनका जॉब कार्ड बनेगा। जॉब कार्ड ऐसे लोगों का बन जा रहा है - मैं एक ब्लॉक में गया था। वहां मैं एक गांव में गया। वहां जॉब कार्ड जिन लोगों का बना था, उनको इसका पता नहीं था। उनके नाम से जॉब कार्ड बन गया और उनके नाम से पेमेंट भी हो रही है। इस तरह के जो काम हो रहे हैं, वे इस योजना को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इसमें लीकेज की बात हो रही है। जैसा इस चर्चा में भाग लेते हुए कल हमारी पार्टी के आदरणीय श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी जी ने कहा था कि इस योजना पर नौकरशाही का कब्जा हो गया है, जिला स्तर की नौकरशाही का कब्जा हो गया है। जो डेवलपमेंट ऑफिस हैं, आप उसमें जाइए। उसमें माफिया किस्म के लोग लगे हुए हैं। वे चाहते हैं कि ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा पैसा एक निश्चित ग्राम में पहुंच जाए। वे येन-केन-प्रकारेण अन्य जो माध्यम हैं, उनको उसमें लागू कर के तथा अधिकारियों को प्रभाव में लाकर के, कुछ लेन-देन करके, ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा पैसा एक निश्चित गाँव में ले जाने का काम करते हैं।

इसके साथ ही काम में मशीनों का प्रयोग हो रहा है। फर्जी जॉब कार्ड हैं, मस्टर रोज फर्जी बन रहा है। मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि आपकी योजना सही है, ... (समय की घंटी)... आपका जो विभाग है, वह सही दिशा में काम कर रहा है। सारी बातें सही हैं। आप योजना को सफल करने के लिए, जितना हो सके, इसमें प्रयास करें कि इसका क्रियान्वयन सही ढंग से हो ... (व्यवधान)...

मेरा एक और निवेदन है कि आपके जिले में जो सतर्कता कमेटी बनाई है, उसको जब तक कुछ अधिकार नहीं देंगे, तब तक इस सतर्कता कमेटी को कोई मानने वाला नहीं है। इन्हीं बातों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

5.00 P.M.

कुमारी निर्मला देशपांडे (नाम-निर्देशित) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, रोजगार गारंटी योजना और राइट टु इनफॉर्मेशन—ये दोनों ऐसी क्रांतिकारी योजनाएं हैं, जिनका सही क्रियान्वयन हो तो देश की तस्वीर बदल सकती हैं। वह नहीं बदल सकती हैं। वह नहीं बदल रही हैं, उनमें क्या-क्या त्रुटियां हैं, इस बारे में बहुत सारे सदस्यों ने ध्यान दिलाया है। मैं केवल कुछ सुझाव देना चाहती हूँ। आप ने पंचायतों को इसे कार्य में शामिल किया, यह बहुत खुशी की बात है, लेकिन पंचायती राज की आत्मा ग्राम सभा हैं और ग्राम सभा की बैठक, ग्राम सभा के द्वारा निर्णय और ग्राम सभा की बैठक, ग्राम सभा के द्वारा निर्णय और ग्राम सभा के द्वारा मॉनिटरिंग अगर नहीं होती तो फिर कोई आशा नहीं बनती है। इसलिए इसे अनिवार्य बनाना चाहिए कि क्या काम हो, जॉब-कार्ड की सूची में और फिर मॉनिटरिंग-इन तीनों बातों में ग्राम सभा को हर तरह से शामिल किया जाना चाहिए। दूसरी बात, मैं यह निवेदन करनी चाहिए हूँ कि राजस्थान में कुछ स्वयं सेवी संस्थाओं ने बहुत अच्छा काम किया है। मैं श्रीमती अरुणा को, एन.जी. ओ. को इस कार्य में involve करना चाहिए। उस में कोई पैसे देने की बात नहीं है, सिर्फ वहां मॉनिटरिंग का उन्हें अधिकार हो। हम हमारी सभी संस्थाओं से कह रहे हैं कि आप जाइए और देखिए, उनका कहना है कि अधिकारी उन से पूछते हैं कि आप हैं कौन ? आप हम को क्यों पूछ रहे हैं कि किसे जॉब-कार्ड मिला है, कितनी मजदूरी मिली है ? आप कौन हैं यह पूछने वाले ? इसलिए केवल इतना अधिकार दिया जाए कि आप जाकर देख सकते हैं और रिपोर्ट कर सकते हैं। तब भी देश में ऐसे सैकड़ों कार्यकर्ता हैं जो बिना एक पैसा लिए यह काम कर सकते हैं। उन की सेवाएं आप ले सकते हैं, ओर जैस कि अभी माननीय डा. एस. एस. गिल साहब ने कहा कि यूनिवर्सिटीज हैं, स्कूल्स हैं, सीनियर सिटीजंस हैं और ऐसे बहुत से लोग हैं, जो इस काम में उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं, जो निःशुल्क सेवा दे सकते हैं, इनकी सेवाएं ली जाएं।

तीसरी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि हमारे माननीय सदस्य श्री अर्जुन कुमार सेनगुप्त जी ने 77 परसेंट लोगों का जिक्र किया, ये लोग कौन हैं ? अभी इसमें जिन को रोजगार नहीं मिल रहा है और जो आत्म-हत्या पर उतारू हैं, उन में बुनकर भी हैं। क्या हम बुनकर के काम को और दूसरे कारीगरों के काम को इसमें शामिल नहीं कर सकते हैं ? अगर नहीं तो क्यों नहीं कर सकते हैं ? उन से केवल मिट्टी काटने का काम ही क्यों लिया जाता है ? अगर हम यह कहें कि जो कल या परसों आत्म-हत्या पर उतारू होने वाले हैं, ऐसे कारीगर, चूंकि मैं बुनकरों के काम को बहुत देख चुकी हूँ, वे भी आत्म-हत्या में किसानों से होड़ कर रहे हैं, तो उन बुनकरों के काम को इस योजना में क्यों नहीं शामिल किया जा सकता है ? इसे जरूर किया जाए। इसी के साथ-साथ वे किसान जो आत्म-हत्या पर उतारू होते हैं, उन को उन्हीं के खेत में जैसे मेड़ बनाने का काम है, भले ही आधा एकड़ जमीन पास हो या दो-चार-पांच किसान मिलकर कोई तालाब बनाने चाहें या फिर जैविक खाद बनाने का उद्योग चलाना चाहें, इन सब कार्यों को इस स्कीम में क्यों नहीं शामिल किया जा सकता ? इन सारे कामों को जो उनको आत्म-हत्या से बचा सके, इस स्कीम में शामिल करना चाहिए। खासकर जो कारीगर हैं इस देश के और जो 77 परसेंट में शामिल लोग हैं, जिन को 20 रुपए पर किसी तरह जीवन-यापन करना पड़ता है, मैं मानती हूँ कि श्री सेनगुप्त के सुझावों और मेरे सुझावों-दोनों का मेल करके सभी कारीगरों के काम को इस रोजगार गारंटी योजना में शामिल करना चाहिए ताकि उस 77 परसेंट वाले मामले में उन लोगों के लिए भी कुछ ऊपर उठ पाना संभव हो सके। यह बहुत आवश्यक है और इसके लिए मैं श्री अर्जुन सेनगुप्त जी को बहुत-बहुत बधाई देना चाहती हूँ। लेकिन हमारे मंत्री जी जोकि इस काम के प्रति बहुत ही प्रतिबद्ध हैं, वे गांव-गांव जाकर इस के बारे में जानकारी हासिल कर रहे हैं, ऐसे जो हमारे डायनेमिक मंत्री हैं, इन को मेरा यही सुझाव है कि उन सब 77 प्रतिशत वाले लोगों को इस योजना में शामिल कर लीजिए ताकि हम इस रोजगार गारंटी योजना का सही लाभ देश को दिला सकें।

इसी के साथ, सही मॉनीटरिंग के लिए यह जो सूचना का अधिकार है जिस के तहत हर कोई पूछ सकता है। लेकिन मेरा अनुभव है कि हमारे कार्यकर्ता जहां पूछते हैं कि यहां कितने को जॉब-कार्ड मिले हैं, कितने लोगों को सही मजदूरी मिली है ? तो वे कहते हैं कि आप कौन होते हैं पूछने वाले ? और जिनसे पूछा जाता है, उनसे जवाब ही नहीं मिलता। इसलिए दोनों का समन्वय करके यह काम करेंगे, तो इससे देश में बहुत बड़ा कार्य हो सकेगा, जो मंशा है वह पूरी हो सकेगी और देश की तस्वीर बदल सकेगी। धन्यवाद। जय जगत।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you. Madam. Now. Mr. Harendra Singh Malik, not here; Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi, not here; Shri D. Raja, not here; Dr. Radhakant Nayak.

DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK (Orissa): Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for this opportunity to speak. Sir, this issue is one of the most outstanding programmes, since Independence, for the poor people of this country. This is also one of the flagship programmes of the UPA Government. Therefore, its importance cannot be diluted by any means and, much less, by both the Central Government and the State Governments. Sir, the points that I would raise, or the issues that I would like to raise, refer to the programme, as it is being implemented; in Orissa. Most of the issues, most of the experiences, that I have brought down to reflect before you and before this august House, come from Orissa. Therefore, unless otherwise mentioned, the reportage refers only to Orissa.

First of all, Sir, both misuse and abuse can be divided into two groups. One could be intentional and the other could be unintentional. Unintentional means, they are basically procedural. But, intentional, is very important and it actually should be taken very seriously by this House and by the Government of India. Very often, Sir, we find that misuse and abuse are very difficult to detect. In that context, I am very grateful to Mr. Narayanasamy that he has brought this issue to be raised here and it is time that we reflect, very seriously, on almost all the issues that have been raised by my other colleagues, in this House, since yesterday, because it is very difficult to detect since abuse and misuse are also inherent in the scheme itself. It is generic. And abuses are also institutionalised, very interestingly. They are very unnoticeably being detected also. But, they are detected with a lot of meticulousness and with a lot of scrutiny only and because of this institutionalised misuse, we need to take everything that is being said in this house, very seriously.

Sir, what are the levels, of misuse? Where does exactly misuse or abuse occur? First, at the State level and at the political or the administrative or the executive level. It is very, very interesting. After the release of funds from the Central Government, how does that process start and specially the utilisation process starts or the examination process starts at the State level is very important to note. First of all, there is a considerable delay between the release of funds and the utilisation or the release further down at the State level. Now, the release, sometimes, is very intentionally delayed because the State Government delays it just to overcome its ways-and-means position *vis-a-vis* the Central Governments. Therefore, it gets delayed to a point; though the money is available, the money is released to the State with a delay. It is very interesting, and, therefore, at the various levels, with the knowledge of the political executive, the process itself is delayed. Sometimes one has to study as to what exactly is the time when the money is released and received by the State Government and what is the time taken by the State Governments for releasing it to the States. That needs a very, very microscopic scrutiny and then only will it be possible to find how and why process has been delayed and when the district level authorities received the fund for its utilisation. Now, Sir, I have seen some of these files for release of funds from the State level to the District level. It takes a long time and files are being kicked like football from one table to another, from the Finance Secretary to the Planning Secretary and from the Planning Secretary to the Administrative Department. Like that, the file goes on and on and nobody can be held squarely responsible for the delay. This delay itself is sometimes intentionally managed. Then there is second aspect, that is, after the release what exactly happens. Even before the Central Government releases the funds to the State Government, whether the figures are properly scrutinised and whether mechanically the expenditure figures are taken into account and thereafter the funds are released and whether the performance is qualitatively examined so that the sanctioning authority from the State Government or releasing authority from the Central Government is satisfied on the basis of the report of the utilisation by the State

Government and then funds are released. Therefore, this aspect has to be very, very carefully examined. The same thing also should happen and some suggestions are also inbuilt into my analysis. The same kind of analysis should be made to see when the funds are released from the State Governments to the District level authorities. Until and unless the District level authorities give the correct picture of the performance of utilisation to the satisfaction of the authorities at the State level or the higher Executive level of the State Government, funds should not be released to the District level authorities at all. Otherwise, what happens is that funds are simply parked at the district level, they are not at all being utilised, and these funds do not go at the ground level and at the block level. Sir, the State Governments mostly when they release the funds are also doing in a very routine manner because the process itself takes such a long time and the routine itself takes such a long time that there is big time lag between the time targeted for the expenditure and the time target for its utilization. It is delaying further receipt of funds. Because of the delay by the State Governments, funds are not being released in time. (Time-bell) Sir, I have a lot of other points. Sir, there is one more point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN); Please conclude. Your time is over.
...(Interruptions)...

DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Sir, what the State Government has done in the meantime is that they have started some other subsidiary programme under this scheme. This is a flagship programme, as I have mentioned. But they have conceived another programme called Gopabandhu Anti-poverty Programme. The exact nomenclature I am not able to make out. But what happens is that this money is diverted to the other programmes and the State Government falsely takes the credit that this programme is initiated or being supported or funded by the State Government. To that extent, the role of the Central Government has been minimised or sometimes totally negated. It is because of this diversion and re-appropriation also which is being done under the political pressure groups at the highest level of the State Government. And, to that extent, it is definitely a thing to be taken very, very seriously by the Central Government. Sir, what happens at the district levels? Sir, at the district levels, we are supposed to have a proper, comprehensive, plan with regard to the self-help projects, with regard to the need on the basis of which the funds will have to be utilised or the programme has to be executed. There is a lot of problem in that because, in some districts, you will find that the planning has been done in a very lackadaisical manner and to that extent the money also goes into most of the programmes which are not at all need-based, most of the programmes which are not anti-poverty related, and by that, what happens is that, the entire programmes, up to the district level or even beyond, it fails. Now, Sir, the block level is very important, which is the cutting edge level, and, where the individual programmes will have to be implemented. There, at the implementation level, most of the individual projects are based on individual preferences of the party in power, which is also a very serious matter again, and, where the interference is maximum because where exactly the money will go, on which project the money will be spent, the decision is taken at the block level or at the Panchayat level. There again, it becomes extremely difficult for the project, to make it a success. Sir, the other aspect is beneficiary selection. In most cases, the beneficiaries are selected taking the political party affiliations into consideration. Now, I am talking in terms of Orissa. In many areas where the Opposition is there, the people who are supposed to be the beneficiaries, those who are really poor people, do not get any benefit at all. Otherwise, Sir, from Orissa, the labour will not go to Gujarat or Maharashtra or to Delhi, to be exploited. They would have stayed there. They would have stuck to the home ground. There, the migration of

labour from Orissa about a decade ago was hardly two per cent. Now it has gone up to six to seven per cent, despite this programme, which is a very laudable programme, which is a very comprehensively and meticulously planned programme, now, this programme is failing on the ground. It is one of the indicators of failure of the programme in the State of Orissa.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Kindly conclude.

DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Sir, I am concluding. What are the indicators of success that need to be seen? One is the time, the periodicity on which this programme is to be sanctioned and to be implemented. This programme will be implemented when harvest is on. But when people are really poor, when there is no harvest season, people have to work, it is rainy season, and at that time, work is not available. Naturally, when the figures come to the Central Government they are fudged. There is no doubt about it. Only in the season's of hunger, people are available for work, they need work. That is the time when people go away from the State of Orissa. There is difficulty because of that. So, one is the timing of the utilisation of money that goes from the Central Government. The second is the wage structure, the wage quantum. I think, all Members have said that proper wages are not paid and poor tribals, the *dalits* who are totally ignorant of the scheme are paid a pittance. Dr. Sengupta's report says Rs. 20 or less a day; even that wages they are not getting, that income is not available, because hardly Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 are being paid as wages. Therefore, wage structure is very important which is manipulatable and where the misuse of this fund goes into. The third aspect is the quality of work. Unless the quality of work, its durability, and sustainability is accounted for, the quality of work will also suffer. Therefore, the misuse of power is visible only when the quality of work is below standards and that needs to be also taken into account. The final thing, which is also very important, is about the publicity of this programme. If you go to a village in Koraput or if you go to hundred or five hundred villages, many people do not know what this is programme is all about. That means, the State Governments have totally failed in order to bring awareness about this programme. I remember, a few years ago, there was Employment Assurance Scheme. People knew about it. It was an assured employment. Now, this also gives an assured employment in a modified and in an improved manner. But, people are not aware about it. Therefore, the awareness level also goes down and, to that extent, cheating is very, very discernible and it is also ascertainable. Now, what can we do on this? It is not enough to say that the programme is bad or funds are being misused. It is not that way....(Time-Bell)...VJc have to say what is the monitoring mechanism that is available at the State level. Sir, monitoring has to be done from the above *i.e.*, from the Central Government. We have the Area Officers Scheme available. Under this, the Central Government send the group of officers under the Minister himself so that they will go down, they will verify on the spot, they will go down to the district level. That is being done. I am grateful to the Minister for that. But, the monitoring from below is also equally important which is called community monitoring or the social monitoring. Now, on this, there may be systematically or scientifically conceived format. But, even in that format, there are loopholes. Therefore, we need to have evaluation. Now, on this evaluation, I am yet to find out a very, very comprehensive evaluation report available to the House by the Ministry or by the State Governments. Now, the evaluation is done annually. That is not enough. There should be a concurrent evaluation programme. And, that evaluation should have certain specific indicators... (Time-Bill)...Sir, some of the programmes cannot be evaluated. There are non-evaluable programmes also. Therefore, new indicators have to be evolved as to how the programme can be evaluated to the satisfaction of the Central Minister and the Central Ministry so that the programme can be successful.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. No new point.

DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: It is not a new point.

I am on the evaluation point. Now, normally, we get satisfaction from the financial evaluation. We should take it on its face value. We have to have physical evaluation in terms of not only the number of projects but also the quality of projects, the type of projects, whether they are implemented by the people or by the contractor *per se* beyond the specifics that have been prescribed. All these will have to be taken into account. Therefore, would be very happy to see some of these comprehensively evaluated, scientifically evaluated programmes by the Central Government or the State Government which is not at all available now. In this case, I think. Dr. Gill, himself has mentioned that what action has been taken either by the Central Government or by the State Government wherever the programme has failed or wherever misuse has been found, it is very easy to find automatically. What is the response of the structure in the system that has been evolved by the Central Government or by the State Government? In order to ensure that wherever there is a failure, the responsibility has been fixed on the State Government or on a particular person may be due to delay, intentional or unintentional, either for execution or for wrong selection of beneficiaries or non-payment of wages, what action has been taken we need to find out...*(Time-bell)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Sir, there are a large number of issues which I thought I wish to raise. But, anyway, since you are insisting, I stop at this. I thank you again for giving me time and the hon. Minister and the Ministry who are taking a lot of interest.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. Sir, for having given me this opportunity to speak. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for this scheme, which is not only appreciated much, but also utilized much. May I, at this moment, recall the discussion that we had, a few days ago, in this House on the blasts in U.R, a discussion, which had taken place about two months ago, about the blasts in Hyderabad? We discussed at length, condemning the heinous acts, regretting for the victims, and also trying to find a device to curb all such activities. All the Members expressed their concern, and suggested, as the hon. Minister also told, that modernisation of weapons, strengthening of police force, and utilizing the assistance of the RAW and the IB will help that. I think, these are only secondary activities. We have to go into the activities of those people who are involved in that. '*Noy naadi nay mudal naadi*' is a quotation in Tamil, which means, if there is a disease, don't look at the disease, goes to the root of it. Some voluntary organizations, which have conducted some studies about this, have come out with an inference. The people, the youth, who are joining these anti-social elements, whether it is a terrorist force or hooligans, whether they are attracted by them or they are driven to that place, the inference is mere unemployment drives the youth, in this country, towards them, and their future is at stake. Having this mind, I hope, this Government, among many other activities, has introduced the NREG, providing employment to the youth, and, thereby, reducing the anti-social activities that are taking place in this country. I cannot be elaborate, discussing at length about what is happening across the country. But, as far as my State, Tamil Nadu, is concerned, when we assumed power, there was a ban on recruitment. But when we came to power, we lifted this ban. And, before giving job opportunities to the youngsters, we are giving monthly allowances to the youth. For 10th standard students, it is Rs. 150/- for plus two students, it is Rs. 200/- for graduates, it is Rs. 300/- ...*(Interruptions)*... I thank my

friend for reminding me. As I told earlier, there was a ban on recruitment. The NREG was enacted in September, 2005. Initially, it was inaugurated in six phase-I districts ~ Cuddalore, Villupuram, Nagapattinam, Tiruvannamalai, Sivaganga and Dindigul. After this inauguration, it had to be formally launched in February, 2006. Even after three months, I should say, only rupees three crores had been spent out of the allotted fund of Rs. 198 crores. Only the job cards were printed. But the Scheme had not taken off. We assumed power in May 2006. As soon as we assumed power we undertook various preliminary activities. We knew very well that this Scheme could not be implemented overnight. Some preliminary, preparatory activities were required, like, preparing project works, detailed estimation, and giving training to *Panchayat* Presidents and officers, creating awareness among the people to get job cards, recruitment of technical staff for online monitoring of the work, etc. etc. So, as soon as we assumed power, we undertook all these preparatory activities and also the rural schedule of rates between May 2006 and August 2006. Many of the Members are of the opinion that responsibility of implementation of this scheme totally vested in the State Government. We assumed power in May, 2006, under the leadership of Dr. Kalaiganar. I am proud to say that the expenditure under the NREG rose from just rupees three crores in May, 2006, to rupees fifty crores in November, 2006. Rs. 110 crores at the end of January 2007, Rs. 272 crore in May 2007, and Rs. 535 crores as on date. This is the development which has taken place within one year. I am very proud to say in this House that we are implementing this Scheme to the maximum level. The Government of India has also acknowledged Tamil Nadu as one of the top performing States in India of the NREG Scheme. I would also like to mention here that as recently as on 26th November 2007, Dr. Subhash Pani, Secretary, Government of India visited Cuddalore, which is one of the districts identified for implementing this Scheme, was full of appreciation for the implementation of NREGS. Tamil Nadu is the one State where the contractors and labour displacing machinery has been completely kept away. Sixty-three percent of the households in phase-I districts are registered, and they have got job cards. Statistical figures show that 82 per cent of them are women and 59 per cent are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, moreover, realising the constraint of time, I would like to say that since Tamil Nadu is one of the best performing States under NREGS, the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has been nominated as one of the core committee members at national level to give further suggestions on how to implement this NREGS.

The Collectors and Project Officers of the DRDA were also invited to the Lai Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussorie, on 3rd and 4th December of this year to give a presentation on the implementation of NREGS in Tamil Nadu to the officials of other States.

Sir, Phase-II comprises four districts; Thanjavur, Tirruvarur, Karur and Tirunelveli. In those districts, the administrative sanction by the collectors has already been completely done. Extensive training, that is, three rounds of training of all the village panchayat presidents, members, panchayat assistants, *Makkal Nala Paniyaargal*, DRDA, block staff and engineering staff, has already been done. In regard to recruitment, training, positioning of technical assistance, 105 computer assistance, the work is 95 per cent completed. Of the total 1602 villages, Sir, a total of 5.25 lakh households, representing 44 per cent of the total number of households in the four districts have so far been registered under the Scheme. The BPL percentage of these households is about 30 per cent. Printing of job cards has been done. Opening of NREGS bank accounts in each village panchayat has been done.

Sir, I hope Members from all other States would appreciate that the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing this Scheme to the maximum utility of the people. If at all anything has not been done earlier, as charged by some of my colleagues yesterday. Sir, it is only because of the reluctance, negligence and slackness on the part of the previous Government in power in Tamil Nadu. ...{Interruptions}... Now, Sir, we are doing it to the maximum extent, and I expect that, at least, hereafter, they will call a spade a spade. ...{Interruptions}...

SHRI C. PERUMAL: Sir, I want to mention one point one ...{Interruptions}... The hon. Member mentioned about Thanjavur and Trichy districts and about the irrigation canal also. ...{Interruptions}... If they did all those things earlier, then, ...{Interruptions}... why are they doing the same work again and again? The same works are being taken up again and again ...{Interruptions}...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. ...{Interruptions}... Please sit down ...{Interruptions}...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I should also be given time. ...{Interruptions}... Some Members here suggested that implementation of the Scheme rests with State Governments. ...{Interruptions}... I said that out of Rs. 198 crores only Rs. 3 crores had been spent. ...{Interruptions}... And, it is only because of the reluctance of the State Government. ...{Interruptions}...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please sit down...{Interruptions}... Now, Shri Ekanath K. Thakur.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR (Maharashtra): Thank you. Sir, for this opportunity to speak on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is, at once, a pleasure and a sorrow to speak on this. It is a pleasure because though I belong to the Opposition, I must, frankly, admit that this Scheme is given by the hon. Minister Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh with all the sincerity, all the commitment and all the tenacity at his command.

Those of us who are in the know of things about how things happen in India and how all good intentions are buried, also know that this Scheme could have been buried before it would be born, but for Dr. Singh. Dr. Singh happened to the Finance Ministry, but the Finance Ministry did not happen to him. So, he deserves all the accolades, all the kudos and all the appreciation of this House. Secondly, why I am pleased to speak on this Scheme is for the simple reason that it is not one-of-a-kind Scheme. This is a flagship Scheme. If this Scheme, eventually, succeeds, it will change the face of rural India. Sir, according to newspaper reports, the richest man in the world lives in India. They say Mukesh Ambani, and they are going ga-ga over it. I am surprised, but that is a claim, and that is one thing. I don't want to quote Karl Marx from Das Capital or, elsewhere and say all property is theft, but, here, *thugs* are celebrated. I am not making an allegation against any one. We say that we are going to be an economic super power. We say, we are going at one of the fastest rates of nine per cent. We say India can claim many millionaires. We say there is prosperity, happiness all around and people are dancing and singing in the name of economic growth. But what is the reality? The reality is not pointed out recently, but it has been pointed out over the last sixty years. But it has been very poignantly and painfully pointed out by no person other than Shri Arjun Sengupta, who is an esteemed Member of this House, and I bow, with all honour, before him for having brought out the reality. What is the reality? Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta's report on the unorganised sector is there, which I happened to read only today, because, this

House only will make available a Xerox copy of it. What is the statement in it? The statement is, 77 per cent of Indians live below Rs. 20/- a day, and 77 per cent means 82 crore people. That means, more than 60 per cent of the world's poor live this country. If you take the definition of poverty given by the Indian Government, you will find that 260 million, that is, 26 crore are not only bordering on abject poverty, but they are living a life of degeneration, dehumanisation, dearth and squalor. Sir, this is the condition in which this Scheme has come. This is the backdrop of this Scheme. Therefore, though we are the Opposition, I must go and say that this is one Scheme which has forward-looking vision. In any new scheme, there are going to be problems and inadequacies, because our society comprises good, bad and indifferent people. There are those who use a scheme and there are those who misuse a scheme. This Scheme has been misused in its early stages. Sir, the State from which I hail, Maharashtra, is a precursor in Employment Guarantee Scheme and we started much early, in late 70's. We were the first to start this Scheme in Maharashtra and we too had take musters, registers, attendance, all the inadequacies and all the charges with which this National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is today plagued. Our Scheme was also plagued with the same. But, over a period of time, certain improvements were brought about. I am sure under the stewardship of such a sincere Minister like Dr. Singh, further improvements will be brought about. Sir, I want to only bring to light why this Scheme has come about. Very few people understand it. There are two types of degradations which are taking place. And, that is where I invite the attention of the hon. Minister. There is one degradation which is bringing our future progeny in great distress and it is the degradation of our land, of our biomass and of our water resources. This is one degradation.

The second degradation is of our human resources. Sir, if able-bodied people are not given work which is gainful, if the able-bodied people do not earn, if their problems of nutrition are not solved, then the nation eventually is not going to have the kind of future which we are looking forward to. And right from young children to young men, they starve, as they are starving today, in my State Maharashtra, which is the most progressive State; there is a report by a social organisation that out of more than hundred million people, ten million people sleep every day with one meal a day. That is the condition of the most progressive, most advanced, most developed State in India. If people do not get proper nutrition, then the nation eventually is not going to have the kind of future which we are looking forward to.

Sir, in our system, there have been leakages. These leakages were first officially admitted by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Shri Rajiv Gandhi said that of every rupee that is spent, only seventeen paise reach the poor man, the person for whom it is targeted. And, that happened some twenty years ago. What is the situation today? Only last week, the Finance Minister, Mr. R Chidambaram, admitted that twenty-eight per cent of the subsidies—we today have a subsidy bill of one lakh crores, Rs. 100,000 crores, and food, fuel and fertiliser subsidy is twenty eight per cent—are not reaching those whom it is supposed to reach. Only yesterday, there was a statement in the newspapers that a responsible member of the Indian Statistical Institute says that sixty per cent of the kerosene, which is provided at the Public Distribution System at nine rupees a litre goes to the black market and sold at Rupees thirty per litre and much of it is used for adulteration of diesel. Sir, everyone publicly knows about this. Who is accountable for this? When will the Government of India and when will the State Governments of India be made accountable by this highest House? Are we going to hear stories that there are leakages here, there are seepages here? Who is going to make them accountable? Shri Rajiv Gandhi said it, R Chidambaram says it, and even the Statistical Organisation

Authority says it. Everybody openly admits it. Why is it that we have not been able to create a monitoring organisation, a vigilance organisation that can save the lives of our people? More than one lakh fifty thousand farmers have committed suicide. Several thousand other people have died of starvation. I demanded it in this House a number of times, I asked of the former Food Minister of the NDA Government and the present Food Minister, whether 'no starvation death' was your policy. Mrs. Brinda Karat supported me, at that time, and your colleagues and others also supported me. 'No starvation death' is not even our policy today in official documents! Now, if we have to have this Scheme successful, we have to have very strong monitoring; we have to have very strong vigilance, and that is what is not happening.

Sir, in order to make this Scheme successful, it is not enough that money reaches those for whom it is intended. But it should also subserve the purpose for which initially this Scheme was conceived. Sir, the greatest thing, as I mentioned to you, is that there is the degradation of land, degradation of biomass and the degradation of our water resources. India has sixteen per cent of world's population, but only four per cent of world's fresh water, and the paucity of fresh water is going to be a great problem for this nation.

The groundwater table is going down. There is a special report which has been published only last week by the Planning Commission on groundwater table. Groundwater provides for 56 per cent of India's irrigation. And, that is nowhere there. Therefore, if you want to create usable assets and durable assets by using labour force, you have to see to it that all this labour force is utilised according to a plan for conservation of water, watershed development programmes and for raising the level of groundwater. I think, such plans and schemes are not in place. I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, that since this is your first or second year, and you are going to ..(*Time bell*)...

Sir, how many minutes did you give to a member of the ruling party I have a Svatch here and there are several clocks here; everybody witnesses it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You have already taken ten minutes.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: I have taken ten minutes. But those ten minutes were granted to me because I was praising the Minister. If I had started opposing him, then I would have been given only two minutes! That is why ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. Please dont make such charges. That is not correct. Now you may start criticising him; I have no problem! You may wind up now, please.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Sir, Shrimati Nirmala Deshpande said that there should be some provision in this scheme for the farmer that if he wants to do some work in his fields, the should be allowed to do so. Nirmalaji, I have read the Act and there is a provision for this. A farmer can use this scheme for SCs/STs and use this money for that purpose. That provision is there. But, Sir, through you, to one of the most progressive Ministers of modem India, I would like to make a request. Today, farmers are committing suicide. In Maharashtra, when people came to know that there is a Rural Employment Scheme, thousands of them applied for employment. There were about 20 million people who applied for jobs but jobs were actually given only to two lakh people. That means looking at the nature of manual work and hard work involved, nobody is coming forward. Therefore, Sir, people will come forward if you ask them to work on their own farms. Today farming has become uneconomic. Inputs are very costly. Farmers are dying; they are committing suicides. My request to you is

this Sixty-one percent of the area in India is rainfed; there is no irrigation. Therefore, at least, IGO days of work on one's own farm should be treated as *rashtriya shram*, national labour, under this National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme to every farmer. Then, you will find that there would be no made-up muster and attendance; there will be nothing cooked up. A farmer working on his own farm is important...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Sir, I shall be concluding in a minute. Whenever economy progresses, the contribution of agriculture to GDP comes down. In USA, it came down, first to 15 per cent, then 10 per cent and now to 5 per cent. But along with that, the population dependent on agriculture has also come down in those countries. But, Sir, in India, the contribution of agriculture to the Gross National Product is 14.7 per cent. It has come down from 23 per cent to 14.7 per cent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please conclude.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: But, Sir, the population dependent on agriculture even today is 65 per cent. This is peculiar to India. In other countries where progress has taken place, the GDP portion of contribution by agriculture has come down and the population dependent on agriculture has come down. In India, the contribution of agricultural products has come down but the population dependent on agriculture has not come down. Therefore, doctor *saab*, you will be remembered by history, you will be remembered by the future of humankind, if you give IGO days' employment to the farmer on his own land and treat his labour as national labour, as *rashtriya shram*. Save the farmer; save the nation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Shri Tiruchi Siva took ten minutes and you took fifteen minutes. But you were casting aspersions on the Chair.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Sir, I withdraw it. I compliment the Chair, so that you always be kind to me.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभ्यक्ष जी, मैंने इस पर बहुत सारे लोगों का संवाद सुना। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि इन्होंने यह स्कीम लायी। इनकी पृष्ठभूमि भी समाजवादी रही है, इसलिए भी धन्यवाद देना जरूरी है। हम बचपन में सुनते थे कि बेकारों को काम दो, रोजगार दो, नहीं तो बेकारी भत्ता दो। लेकिन इस पर बहुत discussion हुआ। बेकारों को केवल भत्ता देने से काम नहीं चलेगा, बल्कि बेकार को कुछ काम भी मिलना चाहिए और केवल भत्ता दे देने से सरकार पर आर्थिक बोझ भी पड़ेगा और जिन लोगों को भत्ता दिया जाएगा, वे निष्क्रिय हो जाएंगे। इसलिए कानून के मुताबिक एक employment scheme under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme has been implemented by the hon. Minister and. Sir, I am really thankful to him.

सर, हमारे तिरुची शिवा साहब यहाँ पर बोल रहे थे कि तमिलनाडु में इसका 63 परसेंट implementation हुआ है। लेकिन मुझे कभी-कभी बहुत आश्चर्य होता है कि तमिलनाडु में इसलिए हुआ कि तमिलनाडु की सरकार ने अपने पॉलिटिकल फायदे के लिए कि इस स्कीम को करना है कि नहीं करना है, विचार नहीं रखा। गरीबों को मदद करना है, यह उनके विचार में, दिमाग में था। इसलिए उन्होंने 63 परसेंट implementation किया। लेकिन जिस सरकार के दिमाग में यह हो कि हमको पॉलिटिकल फायदा लेना है, तो फिर यहाँ लागू नहीं होगी। यह मेरा कहना है। मैं किसी सरकार का नाम व्यक्तिगत रूप से लेना नहीं चाहता, लेकिन मुझे कहने में ज़रा भी हिचकिचाहट नहीं होती कि कहीं-कहीं हमारे प्रधान मंत्री सड़क योजना का, हमारे और पैसे का, जो सरकार के यहाँ से जा रही है, लेकिन वहाँ की सरकारें, कुछ सरकारें उसके सूद से वहाँ के कर्मचारियों को पैसा देने का काम कर रही हैं। हमारा पैसा, करोड़ों रुपया, इस स्कीम के तहत करोड़ों रुपया सरकार की ट्रेजरी में रखा है, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य यह है कि वहाँ पर मजदूरों से काम नहीं लिया जा रहा

हैं, बल्कि मशीन काम करती हैं। ठेकेदार लोग मशीन से काम करते हैं और जो उनको 100 रुपया देने की बात हैं, उनको 50 रुपया और 25 रुपया दिया जाता है। मंत्री महोदय, आप इससे अवगत होंगे। मैंने कहा है कि मैं किसी सरकार विशेष का नाम नहीं लूंगा, लेकिन जब हम लोग राज्य सभा के मैम्बर हैं, किसी भी गांव में चले जाते हैं, बीडीओ से पूछते हैं कि बताइए कि रोजगार गारंटी योजना में आपने कितने लोगों को काम दिया, तो निर्मला जी या कोई माननीय सदस्य बताएंगे कि वे हमें यह नहीं कहते हैं कितने लोगों को दिया है। हमारा कहना है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, एक मिनट, आपको घंटी बजाने की जरूरत नहीं है। मैं एक मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा। मेरा यह कहना है कि आपने पैसा तो दिया, तो आप कैसे चुप रहेंगे? राज्य को पैसा दिया, आप कैसे चुप रहेंगे? पैसा हमारा है? सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का पैसा है। इस लोग टैक्स के रूप में पैसा लेते हैं, कैसे चुप रहेंगे? आपका मॉनिटरिंग विभाग क्या कर रहा है? आप मॉनिटरिंग करवाइए कि बीडीओ क्यों नहीं जॉब कार्ड बना रहे हैं, क्यों नहीं उन्हें काम दे रहे हैं, कहां मशीन से काम हो रहा है...। 100 रुपये की जगह 50 रुपये कहां पर दिए जा रहे हैं? आप यह क्यों नहीं करेंगे? क्यों नहीं इसे देखेंगे? आप हम लोगों की वॉलंटरी जगह 50 रुपये कहां पर दिए जा रहे हैं? आप यह क्यों नहीं करेंगे? क्यों नहीं इसे देखेंगे? आप हम लोगों की वॉलंटरी ऑर्गेनाइजेशन बना करके क्यों नहीं ऐसा काम करेंगे?

यह एक महान काम हुआ है, बहुत बड़ा काम हुआ है, लेकिन मुझे यह कहने में जरा भी दिक्कत नहीं हो रही है कि कुछ राज्य अपने पॉलिटिकल फायदे के लिए हम स्कीम को लागू नहीं करना चाहते हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मैं आधा मिनट और लूंगा।

सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि इसके बारे में कुछ करना चाहिए। इसकी मॉनिटरिंग का काम करना चाहिए। अगर आप यह काम नहीं करेंगे तो यह जो इतनी बढ़िया स्कीम है, एक फेल हो जाएगी। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूँ। आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए समय दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए दो मिनट का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देती हूँ। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का एक बात की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ। एक सर्वे रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कुछ राज्यों ने 'राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना' लागू कराने के लिए बहुत अच्छा कार्य किया है और उन राज्यों में सर्वप्रथम मध्य प्रदेश का नाम आता है। राजस्थान ने भी इसमें बहुत अच्छा कार्य किया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को एक सुझाव देना चाहती हूँ कि जिन राज्यों ने इस 'राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना' को लागू करवाने के लिए बहुत अच्छा कार्य किया है, ऐसे राज्यों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए उन प्रदेशों के माननीय मुख्य मंत्रियों का भी सम्मान किया जाना चाहिए ताकि दूसरे राज्यों को भी इस योजना को लागू करवाने के लिए इस तरह का प्रोत्साहन मिले।

एक बात मैं और कहना चाहती हूँ कि माननीय चतुर्वेदी जी ने जनजाति क्षेत्रों के लिए आपका ध्यान आकर्षित किया था। वास्तव में उनके इस सुझाव से मैं भी सहमत हूँ। चूंकि मध्य प्रदेश में भी कुछ आदिवासी जिले हैं जहां पर रोजगार के लिए हजारों की संख्या में आदिवासी लोग दूसरे राज्यों में पलायन कर जाते हैं। जैसा उन्होंने कहा कि आपने 100 दिन का रोजगार देने की जो बात कही है, लेकिन कम से कम जनजाति वर्ग के लिए 100 दिन का रोजगार पर्याप्त नहीं होता है। यदि उनके लिए 100 दिन के बदले में 200 दिन का रोजगार कर दिया जाए, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा, ताकि हमारे जनजाति वर्ग का व्यक्ति अगर रोजगार के चक्कर में दूसरे प्रदेशों या दूसरे जिलों में बाहर जाता है, इससे उन्हें कम से कम वहीं स्थानीय स्तर पर रोजगार उपलब्ध हो सकता है। यही मेरा आपसे निवेदन है और मैं इतना ही कहना चाहती हूँ। धन्यवाद, जयहिन्द।

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, because so many speakers have referred to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's, remark about 85 paise in a rupee, being absorbed on the way and not reaching, I seek your indulgence to offer the following clarification, which, I think, is important to place on the record despite the fact that I have, on more than one occasion, in the past, in both Houses, mentioned this.

It is the result of a study undertaken for the Planning Commission in 1989 about some implementation of some rural development schemes in one of the States of India. The expert concerned had pointed out that 85 paise were spent by the Administration on itself in

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Administering the scheme; not that the 85 paise went into corruption. Therefore, he argued that if we could reduce administrative expenses by giving these responsibilities more directly to the elected institutions, such as the Panchayats, then, the amount of money available to reach the people directly would proportionately increase. Therefore, the argument about 85 paise is not related to corruption in the system, but to the system of Administration itself. If we could depend less on the bureaucracy and more on the elected representatives at the grassroots level, then, according to the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, instead of only 15 paise reaching the beneficiaries, a larger proportion in every rupee would reach the beneficiaries.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Puducherry): Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that 85 per cent goes for the administrative part of it and 15 per cent goes to the people. We have been telling in this august House that there is corruption in the implementation of the Scheme. Will the hon. Minister tell us, in this 15 per cent what is the corruption component?

SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR: I will undertake a study of the matter.

SHRI AJAY MAROO (Jharkhand): Sir, it is a very important discussion. More than twenty Members took part in this discussion. But, now, only 16 Members are present here and there is no quorum also. We can take up this matter tomorrow. How can we do it now without quorum?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, what is the fate of the next item?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Since he has raised the issue and there is no quorum, I can't take it up. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : सर, मैं बड़े अदब के साथ प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि राज्य सभा में सामान्यतौर पर कोरम का इश्यू रेज नहीं किया जाता है। मैं यह नहीं कह रहा हूँ कि ये रेज नहीं किया जा सकता है, सामान्यतौर पर। अगर मैम्बर्स इन्सिस्टन न करें, तो हम चल सकते हैं।

श्री अजय मारू : नहीं, नहीं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... महोदय, यह कोरम का सवाल है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. I can't say that. If the question of quorum has been raised, I have to go by the rules. If there is no quorum, I can't proceed with the House. Mr. Secretary-General, please tell me how many Members are present.

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, many times discussion has taken place without quorum.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Rajniti Prasad, there would not have been any problem if he had not raised the issue. But, now, when he has raised it, I have to go by the rule. What can I do?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Puducherry): Sir, the hon. Minister has said that it is not raised normally.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, but if it is raised, I have to go by the rule.

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी (बिहार) : सर, इसका जवाब कल कितने बजे होगा ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is up to the Government to decide, not for me.

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी (बिहार) : सर, कल इकस जवाब हो जाना चाहिए। यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट इश्यू है।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): But, what is the fate of the next item in the agenda? I am also asking this ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will tell you now.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, I was going through 'Rajya' Sabha at Work'. At page 313, it says, "When it was ascertained that there was no quorum present, the House was adjourned for the rest of the day..."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That is the rule; I know that.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, you are right in this regard. But I am humbly requesting you, if you could kindly ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: If the Members do not insist ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No. I have to go by the rule. I cannot go by what you say. I have to go by the rule.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Okay, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is no quorum. So, the House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at five minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 7th December 2007.
