

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, January 22, 1963/Magha 2  
1884 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up questions. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur.

**Shri Hharish Chandra Mathur:**  
Question No. 400

**Shri Bhakt Darshan:**

इसके साथ ही प्रश्न संख्या ४१९ भी ले लिया जाये।

**Mr. Speaker:** If they are connected and can be conveniently answered, I have no objection in taking them together.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** We can take them together.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is Shri Rameshwar Tantia present in the House?

**An Hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then Question No. 419 cannot be taken up now. Only Question No. 400 need be answered.

Panchayati Raj Institutions

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\*400. { Shri Harish Chandra  
Mathur:  
Shri Bhakt Darshan:  
Shri Balmiki:

Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-2519(A1)LSD-1.

operation be pleased to state in what manner and to what extent the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been geared to meet emergency and to stimulate war efforts?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** For the total mobilisation of the both human and material resources in the rural areas, a scheme for the organisation of a Village Volunteer Force in every village through the countrywide network of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperative Organisations has been drawn up by the Ministry. The Village Volunteer Force, which will consist of all the able-bodied adults of the village, will have a three-fold programme covering production, mass education and village defence. The responsibility for planning, directing and coordinating the programme rests on the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The scheme is to be launched by the Prime Minister on the 26th January. Copies of the scheme are available in the Parliament Library.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Has the same programme been drawn up right from Assam to Kerala? Is the programme just the same and uniform right from Assam to Kerala or are there variations? If there are variations, may I know what are those variations and what preparations have been made to implement the programme?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The scheme has been accepted in every State in India, but here and there the emphasis might differ from State to State.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Sir, only half of my question has been

answered. I wanted to know what are the variations and what preparations have been made for the implementation of the programme. The latter half of my question has been ignored completely.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** What I mean by 'emphasis' is like this. In some States the village *sarpanch* is being taken as *Dalpati* whereas in other States the *Panchayat* nominates the *Dalpati*. This is rather a minor one. As far as the volunteer force is concerned, as regards implementation, every village is being prepared to have its own volunteer force. The scheme is to start on the 26th of this month when the Prime Minister will inaugurate the programme.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know what would be the estimated strength of the village volunteer force and the Defence Labour Bank and what positive work is expected of this?

**The Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri S. K. Dey):** The ultimate objective is the enrolment of every single rural adult, both men and women, in the village volunteer force. At the moment it is very difficult to estimate what percentage of it will be actually enrolled. As for the Defence Labour Bank, if the idle hands in the villages could be mobilised fully we should have a return to the extent of Rs. 300 crores. But this again depends entirely on the leadership in the country and the mobilisation we can bring about.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** क्या माननीय मंत्री और उनके मंत्रालय ने इस बात पर विचार किया है कि पंचायतों की आर्थिक स्थिति पहले से ही बहुत खराब है और वे किस प्रकार से यह युनिफ़ॉर्म वगैरह दे सकेंगी ? क्या इस बात पर भी विचार किया गया है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार या राज्य सरकारें पंचायतों को कुछ सहायता करें ?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** The only resource that is available which the panchayats

can really tap with impunity is the idle labour in the villages, and that is exactly what the new scheme is expected to achieve.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know how the village volunteer force is going to be trained. What are the duties of that force?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** As already explained in the answer to the question, it will have to be a three-fold task. The first task will be concentration on production, which will be on agriculture and other allied subjects. The second main function will be the impact of the national emergency on democracy and the issues involved in our conflict. The third task will be the village defence intended to provide ultimate national defence.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया गया ।

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know whether Government have worked out the cost of starting this scheme and its implementation and, if so, what is the financial estimate?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** The hon. Member would be very happy to learn that this is the only one scheme which has been evolved which involves practically no cost because the existing organisation is to be utilized to the fullest extent.

**Shri Jashvant Mehta:** May I know in how many States the scheme has come into actual operation?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** The scheme is expected to be inaugurated in all the States on the 26th January at 9 A.M.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** We are still in the air. We are not able to gather any information.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the whole question hour is spent on this then also the result would be the same.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Then I am satisfied.