

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

comparable to any country in the world. Recently, we have become totally transparent through an Environment Appellate Authority. We have as Chairman Mr. Justice Venkatachelliabh. He has kindly agreed to be the Chairman of the Committee. The Environment Appellate Authority is such that its procedure has been determined in a manner that it will not only stay in Delhi, but it will go to any part of India to offer comfort to the people who have any grievances . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Are we encouraging judicial activism ? . . . (Interruptions).

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Our Monitoring Unit is already in Bhubaneswar now. Their duty is to inform whether the conditions that have been stipulated are violated or not. I do not think that this concern should be carried quite a distance further because I have assured the hon. Member that no information was withheld from . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Assurance by the Minister is adequate safeguard.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, I am very satisfied with his assurance. He has said that precautions will be taken and will be enforced. But it is not correct to say that nothing was withheld. Only on the 8th May, this Report came to the Parliament. The Parliament Library has been trying from the month of November. Already five months have elapsed.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I will tell you what we have done according to norms. We have not withheld anything. Whatever I am saying is going on record. The whole Report will be sent to you. So, I have answered your question as per tradition. Since you wanted more information, we have supplied you with more information.

Now, I will come to the question raised by Prof. Rawat. He said that mining should not be stopped. I feel, sometimes, concerned about it. It is because mining is the livelihood of some people. Environment is important. So, I would like to tell that if we close down mines, then

somebody will lose his livelihood. Therefore, my Ministry has become alert on this. We shall very much consider the genuine suggestions from environmentalists. Environment is very important but at the same time we shall not stop development. It is because some of the agencies in foreign countries have started doling out advice to us. We are alert on this. We have land behind us. We have to have development. So, I am in the middle. Therefore, I would like to say that environment not at the cost of development, and development not at the cost of environment. This is the answer.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : When is the Government going to amend the Mining Act ? An assurance was given by the former Prime Minister to the State Ministers that they were going to amend the Mining Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rawat, you can meet the hon. Minister later.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I have heard his suggestion. But I cannot act on an *ad hoc* basis. I will have to consider it. I will invite him. Let him sit with me. I will certainly consider his suggestion.

18.11 hrs.

MOTION RE: APPROACH PAPER TO THE NINTH  
FIVE YEAR PLAN—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I would request Shri Shivraj V. Patil, hon. Member from Latur to speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is good that you have given me an opportunity to speak today and tomorrow also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on  
Tuesday, May 13, 1997/Vaisakha 23, 1919 (Saka)*