

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 4, 1996/Agrahayana 13.  
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM ARMENIA

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Babken Ararktsian, Chairman of the National Assembly of Armenia and Ms. Karine Avagian and other Members of the Armenian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the delegation are:

1. Hon. Ter-Husik Lazarian
2. Hon. Amalia Petrossian
3. Hon. Khoren Sarkissian
4. Hon. Gevorg Devtian
5. Hon. Ashot Sarkissian
6. Hon. Artashes Tumanian.

The delegation arrived Delhi today early morning. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of Armenia.

11.01 hrs.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### Subsidised Motor Pumpsets

\*  
\*181. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :  
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several irregularities have been reported in the distribution of subsidised motor pumpsets to the SCs and STs during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the norms followed by the District Rural Development Authorities to identify beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :  
(a) No such report of irregularities in the distribution of subsidised motor pumpsets to the SCs and STs under IRDP during 1995-96 has been received by this Ministry.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The District Rural Development Agencies have prepared a consolidated list of the below poverty line families (below Rs.11,000/-p.a. as per 1991-92 prices) based on the household survey for the plan period as per prescribed procedure. In order to make the procedure of identification and selection of beneficiaries more objective and transparent, the Ministry has issued instructions to all state Governments/UTs that the beneficiaries should be selected from out of this list in Gram Sabha meetings in the presence of block authorities, bank officials and representatives of the people.

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL\* : Hon. Speaker, Sir, 2176 motor pumpsets have been purchased for distribution among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries in Nizamabad and other districts. But these pumpsets were distributed to persons other than SCs and STs under benami transactions. The SCs and STs were thus deprived of the benefit. Nowhere, even in DRDA, were they chosen for any benefit though they happened to be the intended beneficiaries. Many such irregularities have taken place everywhere. Hence I would like to know whether the Government would inquire into these irregularities to identify and punish the persons who are responsible for it.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Ministry has not received any such complaint so far. Previously, the same question was admitted in the Rajya Sabha. For that, we got some information from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. In that letter, they had categorically mentioned that there was no misappropriation in Nizamabad or in the entire state of Andhra Pradesh. That is the information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

There is a big monitoring system to purchase these pump sets and other things. There is a Purchasing Committee in each and every district. We are releasing the amount of subsidy to the banks, SC Corporations and BC Corporations and in turn, they are purchasing the units and other things. At the block level, there is a Monitoring Committee; at district level, there is the District Level Monitoring Committee and at the State level also, there are Monitoring Committees. Hon.

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies and local representatives are all members of the DRDA Government bodies also. They can raise any point and get temperament there. If you have any particular point or complaint, you may give a representation and I will sent it to the State Government for inquiry.

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL\* : Sir, I want an inquiry to be conducted into these irregularities so that the persons who are responsible for these irregularities can be identified and punished. Sir, programmes like IRDP are intended for the benefit and upliftment of poor and hapless Scheduled Castes and Tribes. They are the real intended beneficiaries at yet, these very people are being deprived of all the benefits with the connivance of bank officials and other responsible authorities. Hence, I urge upon the Government to institute an inquiry into these irregularities and take action against the erring officials, so that they are not repeated in future. So, I would like to know wheher the Government would inquire into these irregularities and punish the guilty.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, if he writes to me, I will inquire into it.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : There was a news item on 23.9.96 that the DRDA officials, the bank officials and the NGOs should constitute a committee and select them. But as per his statement on this item, these people were not taken into confidence and only the MD, with the pressure of the local politicians, has prepared the list and some certificates are bogus. Only when an inquiry is conducted, will these things come out. Just by saying that he has not received any complaint will not help. So, I request the hon. Minister to institute an inquiry into the matter.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I will certainly inquire into this matter and I will send the representations to the State Government for inquiry.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far I know, complaints were made to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh about irregularity in the allotment of pump sets and subsidy. The hon. Minister said that no complaint was made. Will the hon. Minister please state the achievements made in the year 1995-96 against the financial and physical targets set for providing pumpsets and whether the full amount of the subsidy was given. He may also state whether an enquiry into the complaints made in Indore, Ujjain and Ratlam districts would be done.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, This question relates to irregularities in Andhra Pradesh. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, we are giving total subsidy to the districts under IRDP. The

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

entire subsidy includes minor irrigation also. We do not have separate accounts for pump sets and other things. We are supplying these pump sets under the head of minor irrigation and whichever bank is financing for these pump sets, we are giving subsidy to that financing bank. We have given subsidy to SC corporation as they are motor suppliers. Like that, we are monitoring the DRDA.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Subsidy is not being given and the target has not been achieved. There are irregularities and complaints are being made in this regard. This is what I have asked and this is the subject of dispute. Complaints have been in districts of Ratlam, Shajapur and Ratlam ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to the answer fully.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : This question related to the irregularities in purchasing pump sets in Andhra Pradesh in the year 1995-96. If there is any irregularity in your district or State, you may give a representation and I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, state-wise details have been called for. The hon. Minister should have information as to what was the achievement and what amount has been given as subsidy. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we seek you protection. My question is to the point but a to the point reply has not come.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know whether it relates to only Andhra Pradesh or not. It is for all the States.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister can collect the information and give it to you. The question relates to all the States.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has tried to twist the reply of the question and said that the question was about Andhra Pradesh and not of Madhya Pradesh. This paper contains state-wise information. The hon. Minister should go through it, understand it and then try to give the reply. When one does not comprehend the question, how can be give a reply.

The Government should name even one organisation where irregularities have been detected. Eighty per cent pumpsets are not at all purchased. All manipulation is done in paper all the country over. It is not the question of any particular state. All the Central

Schemes are abandoned midway. The benefits do not reach the real persons. Let him cite one case where irregularities were detected and causes ascertained.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : This is the question. Let him say if a single case has ever been detected.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker Sir, at our level, no target is fixed for pump sets.

We are giving subsidy to the State Governments in lump sum. In turn, they distribute the amount on the basis of poverty in a particular district.

We are not maintaining the details about subsidy given for pumpsets...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : This is not the answer.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : In each State, there are governing bodies at the State level, district level and block level, respectively. Under the District Rural Development Agency programme, a governing body at the district level consists of all MPs, MLAs and local representatives. They prepare the plan and have details about how many pumpsets can be allotted. Based on that, we can have a review in the DRDA meetings...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to answer it.

#### Drinking Water in Western Rajasthan

\*182. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been carried out and villages and habitations identified to provide safe drinking water within 1.6 K.M. in desert of Western Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the schemes/proposals formulated/ approved and amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. As a part of an all India exercise, the Government of Rajasthan had conducted a survey in 1993 to identify habitations for providing safe drinking water. The State Government is conducting yet another survey to include left over habitations. This survey is expected to be completed by 31.12.1996.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

According to the survey conducted during 1991-93 and validated in 1994, there were 16,988 No covered (NC), 18,942 Partially covered (PC) and 45,843 Fully

Covered (FC) habitations. Out of total of 30846 habitations in Western Rajasthan as on 30th September, 1996, 23438 habitations have been covered with safe drinking water facilities. an amount of Rs.5392 crore has been allocated to cover 2460 habitations in Western Rajasthan with safe drinking water facilities during 1996-97. It has been decided that all the NC/PC (0-10 lpcd) category habitations in the entire country including Rajasthan should be covered by 1997-98. The State Government of Rajasthan has been requested to prepare an action plan to cover all the NC and PC (1-10 lpcd) by 31.12.96.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has replied to the question and laid a statement on the Table of the House which is very wishy - washy. It does not deal with the requirement and the ground realities. Therefore, I request that he should correct the reply.

Now, I come to the problem of water supply in the desert area. My constituency consists of 70,000 sq. km. in area. It is not only the biggest constituency in India but also in the world. as on today, the people there are fetching water from a distance of more than 20 km. whereas the norm is 1.6 km.

The sources of underground water are also very limited. There is no surplus water. For most of the time, drought is there. Even this year, there is drought in this area. Most of the schemes that have been executed in the last 15-20 years have become defunct.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question. Your two minutes are getting over.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : As far as allocation of funds is concerned, there is no problem. But these are not being spent by them. So, what are steps being taken by your Ministry to ensure that the water sources are available within a distance of 1.6 km. from Villages and habitations by 1997 as per the Action Plan chalked out in the Conference of Chief Minister held on 4th and 5th July, 1996?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 4th July, the decision arrived at was to provide potable drinking water to all NC villages and partially covered villages up to 1-10 litres. You submit the action plan and everything. Based on that, we will release the funds.

The first priority out of the seven basic minimum priorities of our United Front Government is to provide drinking water throughout the country to all NC villages. Based on that, this year, under ARWSP for Rajasthan, we have allotted Rs.103 crore. The State of Rajasthan has also pooled Rs.144 crore under the MNP. When both the amounts are put together, Rs.250 crore will be available for Rajasthan during this year to cover all the NC villages.

Sir, the Central Government has released Rs. 1.3 crore. Out of Rs.250 crore, they have spent Rs.100