

On the one hand, I find that in this Government, the Minister of Industry, the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Investment Board project the whole thing relating to foreign investment policy from one angle and the departmental policy from another angle.

So, I want to be assured in the House whether in the interest of national security, for all investment purposes, the technology transfer can be allowed without participation of the multinationals in the strategic electronics sector. It is a genuine policy of the Government which should not be linked with the other compromises that are now being made in the name of liberalisation policy.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The Government is aware of strategic electronics. As the hon. Member has said or implied in his question, the technologies are closely held and access to them is a problem.

Now, let me clarify. Under the existing policy, we welcome technology transfer to our public sector. So, there is no inhibition on that. In fact, I think, what the Study Group is saying is that you should more aggressively look for critical technologies on a global plane. It is the correct approach.

We are now talking about investment by foreign companies. That is allowed in some sectors of electronics. However, as far as Defence electronics is concerned, it is in public sector. It is not Government's policy to change that. I can say that in a very categorical sense.

As far as other strategic sectors are concerned, if they are subject to licensing and if there are specific proposals made because strategic sectors can also mean things like radars for cyclone warning or whatever it is. Now, those will have to be looked at on a case-to-case basis.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am asking a simple question from the hon. Minister that whether we will have research work in our own country regarding latest technology or will go on importing it from other countries. Just now, it has been said about up-to-date technology whether we will go on importing it from abroad to will do research work in the country ?

SHRI YOGENDER K. ALAGH : I want to assume the Hon. Member that outlay is being provided for the technology, needed for the development of the country and essential for the strategical objectives. If you see the approach paper of 9th five year plan, priority has been given to the Mission oriented technology Research work.

[English]

#### Poverty Alleviation programmes

\*344. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the

Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Poverty Alleviation Programmes continue to suffer due to non allocation of sufficient funds;

(b) if so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Poverty Alleviation: continuity a casualty' appearing in the 'Hindu' dated February 21, 1997;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to provide sufficient funds to remove the poverty in the country; and

(d) if so, the total funds so far allocated and whether all the schemes of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. are likely to be fully implemented to improve the lot of poor people in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) No, Sir. The problem of rural poverty has been on the top of the development agenda of the Government since independence. The central allocation for poverty alleviation programmes has progressively increased from the 7th Plan to the 8th Plan.

In addition to the funds for poverty alleviation programmes, since 1996-97, the Government is providing additional central assistance to States and UTs for Basic Minimum Services.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Poverty alleviation continuity a casualty'.

(c) and (d) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty is one of the main objectives of the 9th Plan as per the Approach Paper. Government, therefore, proposes to provide adequate funds in the 9th Plan for poverty alleviation programmes.

The 8th Plan outlay and funds released/to be released for

- (i) wage employment and allied programmes.
  - (ii) self employment and allied programmes.
  - (iii) Area Development Programmes and
  - (iv) Social Assistance Programme.
- are given in Annexure.

All necessary steps are taken by the Government to fully implement these programmes to improve the lot of poor in the country.

**Annexure**

*Statement showing Central out lay and the funds released/to be released during Eighth Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)*

Programme	(Rs. in crores)	
	VIII Plan (Out lay)	Funds released/ to be released (1992-1997)
1. Wage Employment & Allied Programmes	18,750	21,569
2. Self Employment & Allied Programmes	3,800	3,223
3. Area Development Programme	1,000	820
4. New Schemes*	334	-
5. Social Assistance Programme	-	932
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,884</b>	<b>26,544</b>

New Schemes taken up in 8th Plan include EAS and IORY, supply of Tool Kits and NSAP which are included in Item No.1, 2 and 5 respectively.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Sir, it is ironical that in a country where poverty alleviation schemes have been running for decades under the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Indira Awas Yojna, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Employment Assurance Scheme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, and so on, the State Governments are at a loss to identify the poor beneficiaries in the social sector.

According to the Press reports, the Central Government provides assistance and every State has to certify about the utilisation of these funds. Till February 10, 1997, under JRY, the allocation was Rs. 1,790 crore but the utilisation was Rs. 1,342 crore and under IAY, the allocation was Rs. 1,140 crore and the utilisation was Rs. 806 crore, under IRDP the utilisation of 344 crores against 549 crores allocation, similarly under EAS Rs. 1328 crores utilisation against Rs. 1970 crores etc.

It can be seen from the figures that all the State Governments have failed to utilise the allocations fully. As a result, the approach to the implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes have continued to remain casual. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are proposed to be taken to implement these schemes effectively in the States.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of rural poverty has been on the top of the agenda of the United Front Government. That is why,

from the year 1996-97 onwards, other than allotting money for rural development, we are also providing money for the basic minimum services. About what the hon. Member has said, I would like to submit that there has been 100 per cent non-utilisation of the funds by the State Government's on account of the opening balances of the last year. The State Governments are not sending proper utilisation certificates and the audit reports in time and so, we are also not able to release the money to the State Governments. Normally, the works are entrusted mostly during the period from December to June. That is the period when most of the allotted money under these heads are spent. That is why, so far there has been a 70 per cent utilisation of the funds by the States. The remaining part would be spent by the 31st of March. They are sending the utilisation certificates and the audit reports and we would be examining them and releasing the remaining amount to the State Governments. Actually, out of the entire twelve months, this is the period when the money is spent by the State Governments and that is why there is a variation.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Sir, the Ninth Plan Paper Approach Document has shown that 37 per cent of the total population is under poverty line. That shows that even after 50 years of our Independence, more than one-fourth of the Indian population live below the poverty line.

Sir, under the new programme under the PDS, it has been proposed that out of a quantity of 20 Kg, per four members of a family per month, 10 Kgs would be provided and the remaining 10 kgs would have to be bought by the poor man by paying double the amount. How is this scheme going to benefit the poor man ? The hon. Prime Minister has been assuring that more and more funds would be allocated for the development of infrastructure which would benefit the poor man. But the allocations in the present Budget shows that funds have been provided to help the big industries and businessmen. In every place funds have been earmarked for the poverty alleviation programmes.

Sir, my question is: What steps are being proposed to reduce poverty in this country ? Why should a high-level Committee not be constituted to review these schemes regularly ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I have already stated that this aspect of poverty has been on the top of the agenda as per the Approach Paper. That is why it has been decided to allocate Rs. 60,000 crore in the Ninth Plan instead of Rs. 30,000 crore that was allocated in the Eighth Plan. There were many evaluation reports. Wherever there were any lapses, we gave timely instructions to the State Governments for their rectification. This Government is committed to the eradication of rural poverty in the villages. That is the reason why we have

provided Rs. 60,000 crore for this. In this year's Budget we have also provided Rs. 3,300 crore for the basic minimum services.

Sir, regarding foodgrains, I would like to submit, subject to coordination by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, that for the benefit of the rural poor living below the poverty line, this year, a subsidy amount of Rs. 8,000 crore has been earmarked by the Government. This Government is committed for the benefit of the rural poor living below the poverty line.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, PMRV is one of the laudable schemes under poverty alleviation programmes. The banks play a very important role in the implementation of this scheme. But unfortunately, we are getting a lot of complaints from the rural youths regarding corrupt practices which are being followed in the banks and also about the callous and indifferent attitude of the bank officials towards the rural youth in disbursement of loans. May I know from the hon. Minister whether such complaints have been brought to the notice of the Government or not, if so, whether Government proposes to take any action against those erring officers ?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, it is very important .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is going to be over. Let the Minister reply to it.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Whatever has been mentioned by the hon. Member is true. That is the reason why I held a Conference with the Bankers on the 31st of December to review the entire IRDP programme for the rural youth.

12.00 hrs.

Some lapses are there on the part of bankers. We have strict instructions to cooperate in order to implement all the rural programmes under IRDP. We have already given instructions for all the schemes. .(Interruptions). In that meeting we took the decision to inform all the field-level branches to implement our programmes hundred per cent without fail.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Fast Breeder Reactor

\*345. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Research Centre at Kalpakkam has designed a fast breeder reactor for commissioning during 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in commissioning the

Plant for producing electricity;

(c) whether the Planning commission has been approached to sanction be funds for construction of the said Plant by the end of Ninth Five Plan; and

(d) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The detailed design of a 500 MWe (megawatt electrical) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is in an advanced stage of completion and technology development is also in progress at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) has been proposed for inclusion in the IX Plan. An outlay of Rs. 721 crores has been proposed in the IX Plan starting with a provision of Rs. 82 crores in the year 1999-2000. The project, estimated to cost Rs. 2960 crores, is expected to take nine(9) years from the date of commencement of construction.

[Translation]

### Non-Allotment of DDA Flats

\*346. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of DDA flats which remained unallotted due to lack of basic amenities;

(b) the category of these flats, locations thereof and time since when these flats have been lying unoccupied;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to provide basic amenities there;

(d) the reasons for not providing basic amenities in these flats; and

(e) whether the responsibility has been fixed on any officer in this regard and if so, the action taken against him ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) D.D.A. has reported that 6209 flats are lying unallotted because of non-availability of electricity. In addition to these, there are 9835 flats which stand allotted but are not occupied. The category wise details of all unallotted and allotted flats with locations, the time since when they are lying vacant and the tentative time schedule of provision of electricity therein are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) External electrical services are to be