

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.