

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down all of you.
Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If hon. Minister of Railway is willing to say something about RPF, he is allowed.

12.31 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Harivansh Sahai went back to his seat.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Supplementary Demands related to the Ministry of Railways are likely to come up for discussion, in the House at that time, I will go into the details but as far as Ministry of Railways is concerned, we have taken keen interest on this and I also met the Home Minister in the capacity of Minister of Railways as this matter is not concerned with the Ministry of Railway only. The subject of RPF comes under the Armed Forces Act, therefore there are a few legalities in it. As it comes under Armed Forces, therefore whether they have the right to form an Association or not, we are looking into this aspect.

As hon. Member said that Welfare Association can be formed, I requested the Home Minister to get it examined. There is no objection from our side, but when we had a meeting with the Home Minister in which Mr. Basudev Acharya and Mr. Janeshwar Mishra were also present, this matter was referred to the Law Secretary. We have got an adverse report on the matter from Law Secretary in this regard. I told you that we do not have any objection but the matter is related to all the three i.e. Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs and Law Ministry. If hon. Member is interested, we will again discuss the matter. If they give clearance, we have no objection(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I said that the act would have to be amended or withdrawn, as all three Ministries namely the Railway Ministry, Home Ministry and Law Ministry are involved in this matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But please, also reveal that there is no need to repeal for constituting a Welfare Association..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The Railway Ministry is ready to constitute a Welfare Association if both the Home Ministry and the Law Ministry permitted.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to request the Government to implement the matter related to enlisting Dogri language in

the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as early as possible because this language is used by over one lakh people and it is fully developed from every angle.

Now, I would like to speak on the subject related to Jammu in the House. More than one lakh people of Bilwar and Basoli have been dislocated on account of construction of Ranjeet Dam that is being built on the river Ravi combining both Jammu and Punjab. Even though this dam will provide electricity to the State like Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana etc., but today there is no way out for the people who have been dislocated. Moreover, it was the plan of the State that both the Government of Punjab and the Government of Jammu would jointly build a dam on Ravi river. But though four years have already taken in the construction of the dam, it is still not complete and this has created a lot of problems for the locals for in using the way. The way which was 30 Km. for them in past, now has become a 150 Km. long way.

I would like to request the Government to resettle the people who have been dislocated and build a dam immediately on Ravi river with bridge combining both Punjab and Jammu.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter has been raised time and again. The Employment guarantee scheme is being implemented in backward States. One crore rupees have been released to one block by the Central Government. But neither the recommendations of the Members of Parliament are accepted nor their opinions are invited in all the matters. That is why today all the Members of the House are of the opinion that the recommendations and involvement of MPs. should be ensured in this regard. But when all the people are of the same opinion, why are we being ignored? We want protection from the Chair in this regard and request you to give direction to the Government to ensure the acceptance of recommendation and participation of MPs. We are the representative of the people and accountable to them and the country as a whole. We live in the villages so we are fully aware of the condition prevalent there. This is the fund of the Centre therefore all the people desire that the participation of the MPs should be ensured in this regard(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him finish.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him finish. Please allow him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the leader of the House Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is leaving his seat I request you to stop him and make us assured in this matter(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him complete his point....

[English]

Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the collector of the district has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee constituted under the scheme, how can Member of Parliament participate in the scheme?..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you not sit?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want your protection. You are requested to give direction to the Central Government in this regard. We are the representatives of the people. We are well aware of the problems of the villages. One crore rupees are being released by Central Government to backward block under the scheme and the amount is being looted in absence of the participation of Parliament who are the representatives of the people are not being accepted. Therefore we want your protection.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This issue has been raised many a times in the House. The Employment Assurance Scheme should be concerned with the Members of the Parliament. The plea of the Members of the Parliament is that since the collectors are the Chairman, they do not bother consulting farmers in any matter related to the scheme. It is therefore necessary that the association of the Members of the Parliament should be ensured in the Scheme. I would like to urge upon the Government to give some definite direction in ensuring Hon'ble MPs. and MLAs. associated with the scheme.

Mr. Jena, would you like to say something in this regard on behalf of the Government?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please listen to the Minister

.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, the Employment Assurance Scheme is concerning the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is already thinking about how to change the guidelines. While changing the guidelines, it is required that the State Governments are also consulted because this scheme is concerning both the State Government and the Central Government though

the Central Government's share is more than that of the State Government. The subject of how to change the guidelines was also discussed by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment with the concerned Chief Ministers.

I think, they are in the process of doing it. The Standing Committee on Rural Development has also recommended to change certain things in the guidelines. That is being considered at the Minister's level. So, I will be able to say something in this regard only after consulting the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please avail the time; do not waste the time.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak. But sit down now.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnia) : The Collector inflict too much insult(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let Shri Nitish speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : They are misusing the money under Employment Assurance Scheme(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Nitish Kumar, Everybody cannot speak at one time. Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : The Deputy Speaker, Sir, The members of Parliament are grossly ignored, while identifying the schemes under Employment Assurance Scheme. This matter was discussed during the Budget session and it was decided that due importance should be given to the opinion of Members of Parliament and the Finance Minister had given an assurance to consider the same following a direction from the Chair. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Srikanta Jena who does not seem to be having any interest in the things like Government etc....(Interruptions), previously he was deeply involved and after hearing the Members, he resorted to lobbying within the ruling party and helped in taking the decision as well. These days he seems to lack interest.

Today, all of a sudden he is vaguely deliberating upon the matter and telling that guidelines are under consideration. This is Assurance Employment Scheme. We are not demanding our share in Jawahar Rojgar Yojna--Share does not mean, we are not demanding share in money. Our opinion is that when our responsibilities have become functional and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme have already been implemented, then the people are expecting proper implementation of development schemes. In this situation and also to see as to where the money is not being properly utilized. It had been discussed separately, but, if the opinion of the Members of Parliament will be sought on Assurance Employment Scheme, and importance will be given to their opinions, only then some conclusion could be drawn out of it. The best solution to it is that for the selection of Employment Assurance Scheme, Committee may be constituted at the District level under the Chairmanship of the Member of Parliament or it may be clearly prescribed that the Member of Parliament will recommend the schemes of the 40 or 50 per cent amount of Employment Assurance Scheme.....(Interruptions) I do not want to say that the entire amount be utilised as per the recommendation of the Member of Parliament. It does not mean that the recommendations of Members of Parliament against the guidelines. But they must get the right to recommend the scheme and this practice should be followed, only then it has an authenticity, otherwise in every State Employment Assurance Scheme has become a Collector Centred Scheme. Collectors give importance only to the Members of Legislative Assembly of the ruling party, otherwise they do not listen to anybody. Most of the time, Employment Assurance Scheme, can be rather a 'collectors' Employment Scheme' contractors select the scheme in it. Everywhere contractor decides as to where which scheme should be adopted. I have a doubt that even people at Yojna Bhawan, are not aware of it. I am sorry even Shri Jaipal Reddy is not concerned about these things. Shri Srikanta Jena should be concerned about it but I think he has also lost interest in it. You, therefore, are not taking feed-back from your area.

I would like to say the third thing today itself, that Rajya Sabha is not needed to be included in Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha interferes in every matter. Rajya Sabha members have no constituency. Which-soever scheme is handed over to Rajya Sabha, these members play politics in it. Lok Sabha Members have a Constituency, where they implement the Developmental schemes. They are concerned about the elections, which are to be held year after year or 5 years. Uneven development is going on everywhere. Rajya Sabha members selects a district as their area of operation but I feel sorry. Often it is being noticed that they implement large number of schemes in a year at a particular place. As a result uneven development is going on. Therefore, whenever we demand, it becomes a problem of Lok Sabha members only. Being a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha interfered in all the matters(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will request that Rajya Sabha Member should not be criticised here.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am not talking about the criticism. It is not their responsibility.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : We are totally opposed to that approach. We have a Panchayati Raj system; we want that system to survive and not be demolished by other people. Our experience is that the Panchayati Raj system is functioning well. Why should an M.P. be given that power when there is a Panchayati Raj system? What is the meaning of decentralisation?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would like to say to Shri Nirmal Chatterjee that I do not have any obstinacy whatsoever towards anybody. But Rajya Sabha members are not having any public accountability, they are not answerable to anybody. They are the representative of a State(Interruptions)

I would like to make the last point. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not giving any statement against the Members of Rajya Sabha(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No side talks please. Please sit down.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : It is against spirit of the Panchayati Raj System.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will conclude just in a sentence. Shri Nirmal, my intention was not to give any statement against the Members of Rajya Sabha. I meant to say that Rajya Sabha members represent the States and State Governments themselves take care of their interests. Lok Sabha Members represent the people of a particular constituency. They have accountability to the people in their constituency. If once you have linked the functional responsibility with the Lok Sabha Members, then expand the same. Either do not assign any responsibility to the Lok Sabha Members, or once functional responsibilities entrusted upon them then it has to be expanded keeping in view the increasing demand and needs.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please listen. You are given one crore of rupees for your constituency. We all fought for the Panchayati Raj system. They have been given powers. Why should we usurp those powers? You talk in the name of Gandhiji and you talk in the name of decentralisation. Is it just because that we are at the

Centre that we want all the powers to be given to the MPs? This amount of one crore of rupees is at your disposal and no panchayat will enter into that. Why do you want to grab their powers?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nitish Ji, you have made your point. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am sorry to say that you are not behaving properly

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please maintain decorum in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : We are the Members of Lok Sabha(Interruptions) Telephone and Gas connections slips are being given to the Members of Rajya Sabha but these are not being given here(Interruptions)

12.50 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair]

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI (Shahbad) : Mr. Pappu Yadav, I request you to please sit down(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : I have also given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were absent when your name was called.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You please give the direction in the capacity of Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, the direction should come from the Chair(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, has already given this direction.

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, I as a Member fully agree with what you have said but I want to say to Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Illiyas Azami, please sit down for a minute.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman, through you I want to raise a very important issue pertaining to my constituency. The issue of Yakoobpur and Jewar dam which dome under my constituency has been raised

several times in the House during the last year. Every year the flood brings disastrous there and(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance after it. Please sit down. You can speak only one by one.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is all right. Let him speak now. You listen to him now, you will also get a chance.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : In my Parliamentary Constituency the Jewar and Yakoobpur area, the flood-brings heavy disaster with it every year and I have always been raising the matter in the House. Mr. Jena is sitting here. Last time he had assured me that it will not be repeated next time. There dams would be ready by the next time. But Shri Jena ji, who is present here, I want to draw his attention towards the fact that he had assured me last year also that your area would not be affected by the flood(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were absent, please take your seat.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : But the work has not been taken up on these dams in my Constituency and more than worse, the rainy season has also started and possibilities of flood there. I want to draw through you the attention of the Government towards it that if the work on these dams has not been completed in time and the dams of Jewar and Yakoobpur would not be constructed, then flood would surely hit. Therefore, I want to bring it to the notice of the Government that immediate action be taken and orders issued so as to complete the construction of dam. Jenaji, you please give assurance. Mr. Chairman, Jena Ji is present. Last time also he had given assurance(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is listening. What can I do? He is listening.

.....(Interruptions)

KUNWAR SARVRAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Five MP's have written in this regard.

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, the issue which was raised is an important issue.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : If the flood hit any area of Uttar Pradesh and it posses a risk to the embankment in that area, I, then, stated that elected Government was not here, the elected Government has now been formed there and I will certainly write in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have said your point.