

former Prime Minister. These areas comprised eight districts, 14 sub-divisions, 33 tehsils, 80 blocks, 1171 Gram Panchayats and 1201 revenue villages of KSK areas. Action plan was to be implemented with resources from the Central Government, State Government, Centrally sponsored schemes and Special Central Assistance.

According to Government's own admission, in reply to a recent question in Parliament, during this Session, the implementation is highly unsatisfactory and to say the least, is tardy.

I would, therefore, request the Government to see to it that the Action Plan be implemented as per a time bound scheme.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mishra, only approved text has to be read. That will come in the record. Whatever you have read beyond that, will not be recorded.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to expedite execution of Srisailem Left Bank canal in Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh.

DR B.N. REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Execution of Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) in Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh, proposed to use 30 tmc of Krishna River water to irrigate a few lakh acres in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, has been delayed for several years, though a portion of canal is excavated and left without any progress.

Incompletion of this project by the successive Governments in Andhra Pradesh led to people filing 480 nominations for Nalgonda Parliamentary Constituency which delayed the polling by one month. The polling was done on 27.5.96 instead of 27-4-96.

Sir, this was done by the people of Miryalguda and Nalgonda Parliamentary Constituency to bring the importance of the SLBC to the notice of the Central Government. Hence, I request the Government to take up this matter immediately and complete the project on war-footing.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to introduce Employment Assurance Scheme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in all the blocks of Sitamarhi District in Bihar.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, due to heavy floods in Sitamarhi district in Bihar, there has been destruction and loss on a big scale. Hundreds of persons have died and crops worth crores of rupees have been destroyed. All the major roads and bridges in the district have been badly damaged, as a result of which movement of people from a place to an

other place has come to a stand-still. Unemployment and starvation in rural areas are on a large scale, which has compelled poor peasants and labourers to leave and go to other places for earning livelihood. Main roads, bridges, culverts and rural roads are so much damaged that people find it very difficult to move from one place to another. The state Govt. has not got adequate funds to distribute adequate money to all districts for repairs works.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Govt. to ensure implementation of employment scheme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana immediately in all blocks of Sitamarhi district of Bihar with a view to improve the condition of people and remove unemployment there.

When Hon. Minister...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing beyond it.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI: He has said that Bihar cannot be covered. We have raised the matter with regard to Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bihar has been covered.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is alright. It is over now.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI: We have demanded Employment Assurance scheme for all blocks in Sitamarhi district....(*Interruptions*) . The Minister for Rural Development is also present....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you like to say something?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): It is correct that the condition of Sitamarhi district is very bad. I was there during the fury of floods. Whatever has been said by the Hon. member is correct. After coming from there National Relief Committee...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak. listen him first. Reply will be given first to the matters mentioned under Rule 377

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : He has raised the issue of Sitamarhi. I went there. The condition of other districts in Bihar is also bad. So, in the meeting of the National Relief Committee held, 21 crore rupees have been given for Bihar. Now, the floods have come in second round. We are awaiting a memorandum from the State Government. Thereafter, a meeting of the National Relief Committee will be convened...(*Interruptions*). You are Hon. member. If we say that you do not know how to read and write, will it be proper?...(*Interruptions*) You belong to Bihar.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): Not a single penny is being distributed properly in Bihar. The position there is that the money sent from here will not be distributed there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your point has been recorded.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I told that Rs. 21 crores have been given. We are awaiting a memorandum from there. So thereafter, a central team will go there and then we shall assess and give. Please ask the other minister whether communication has been received or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

(vi) Need to introduce STD facilities in important towns of Midnapur district, West Bengal.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI): Sir, Haria, Bajkul, Bhagwanpur, Manglamaro and Mugberia are the important towns under Contai Postal Division in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal. The people of these towns are deprived of the communication facilities through telecom-systems due to non-availability of STD connections. People, especially businessmen, have to travel about forty kilometres and more to avail of the STD facilities. In order to remove these inconveniences, the STD facilities should be introduced in the concerned telephone exchanges.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take urgent steps to introduce the STD facilities in the telephone exchanges right now thus helping the people, living in the remote rural areas, in enjoying the telecommunication facilities.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to connect the Birth Place of Sant Ravidas, a Social Reformer, with a metalled road.

SHRI RAMSAGAR (BARABANKI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the great social reformer Saint Ravidasji was born in village Seer Gowardhanpur in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh, where a magnificent temple has been constructed at a cost of crores of rupees. That holy place has been visited by the former President of India Shri Giani Zail Singh Ji, former Deputy Prime Minister of India Babu Jag Jiwani Ramji and many ministers and eminent politicians apart from lakhs of persons from our country and abroad visiting the place daily. The villagers have built a kaccha road by voluntary labour for coming from the southern side to the temple through the village. But the road being kaccha gets damaged and broken during

the rainy season, which causes great hardship to the people in reaching and coming from there. The previous state government had directed construction of this link road, but it has not been constructed as yet. At present, the state of U.P. is under President's rule and the Central Govt. is responsible for development works in U.P.

Inviting Central Govt.'s attention toward this work, I request that immediate orders may kindly be passed to the Administration of U.P. to construct this important link road immediately to facilitate passage of the people to the birth place of the great social reformer, Sant Ravidasji Maharaj.

(viii) Need to include Dhobi Community of Andhra Pradesh in the List of Scheduled Caste Category.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA (KAKINADA) : Sir, the Washermen Community in the country is being called by various names, namely, Dhobis, Rajakas, Chakali, Washermen, etc. The nomenclature differs from State to State. Most of these people are doing menial services next to scavengers. They wash clothes of people from different walks of life including hospitals, etc. They live in the outskirts of villages even today. In 15 States out of 25 States in the country, the Dhobi Community has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes. Though there is a demand from the Dhobis of Andhra Pradesh for inclusion of their caste in Scheduled Caste category and recommended by former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh during late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister, no action has been taken to fulfill the aspirations of this community from Andhra Pradesh. I feel that Dhobis from Andhra Pradesh are discriminated by not being included in Scheduled Caste category whereas their brethren of some of the Southern States have the benefit of SC status. I would, therefore, request the Government to take appropriate steps to include Dhobi/Rajakas community in Andhra Pradesh in the list of Scheduled category at the earliest.

14.38 hrs

GENERAL BUDGET 1996-97—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS*

**Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment
and
Ministry of Agriculture**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now the House may take up Item Nos. 14 and 15 together relating to Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Agriculture.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.