

17.41 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Welfare Scheme for Tribals

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, the day when this question was raised in the House, the Hon. Minister had tried to satisfy the House by giving a detailed reply which created a dispute and as a result many hon members become agitated and tried to seek reply to their questions. I, continuing the same discussion, with your permission, would like to ask certain questions from the hon. Minister. I am raising this point in regard to the welfare scheme for tribals and I hope that the hon. Minister would come forward with detailed reply and satisfy the House. He had admitted in the House that the amount released by the Ministry to the States, is at some places misutilised, at some places diverted and at some places embezzled totally. This point must not have struck your mind that day also. I can well imagine that the funds allocated by you for tribal development and big plans streamlined for their welfare by the Government of India is based on figures only and it is studied through satellite. May I know from the hon. Minister. Whether he can measure the hunger of a rural poor through satellite? You cannot know about it through satellite. It is the greatest shortcomings of the Government of India that all its information is based on figures, reports, satellite and surveys but it has neither any knowledge, criteria for the basic elements and conditions prevailing at certain places and the mode of expenditure nor it has any control over all these things.

At present, the population of tribals is 8 percent of the total population out of which 50 percent population is living below the poverty line. Right from the first Five Year Plan upto Eighth Five Year Plan, the funds allocated for the welfare of Tribals have been raised several times but no major changes has been made in their life style, standard of living, culture and their surroundings.

Before coming to the main question, I would like to say that whatever schemes the Government of India has formulated for the development of tribal people such are, hundred percent Government assistance for the students clearing Matric exam., book bank scheme for them with fifty percent contribution from Central Government and fifty percent from the State Government. Besides this, Tribal sub-plan is prepared and implemented by all the Departments of the State Government. State Governments and Union Government bear fifty-fifty percent expenditure of tribal sub-plan. Except these, there are many other national programmes like construction of hostels for tribal children which have been mentioned in annual report and with the help of National Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, agricultural development works, horticulture development, cattle-breeding, aquaculture and other

schemes are implemented which are prepared by the Central Government. For preparing tribal sub-plan, the Union Government provides funds, in some cases hundred percent assistance and in some fifty percent.

Sir, in 8th Five Year Plan, provision of Rs. 1250 crore Central assistance for tribal sub-plan and Rs. 330 crore were to be provided in 1996-97. I would like to draw your attention some of the States and I presume that the same situation must be prevailing in other States of the country also. I would like to draw your attention towards south Bihar comprising 20 districts dominated by tribals and the poor. I think that the same situation will be in other States also. I am specially mentioning this because everyone knows about the condition of Bihar and same is in the rest of the parts of India. You are also aware of the financial structure of Bihar. Last year a plan of Rs. 2600 crore was prepared out of which the State Government could spend only Rs. 750 crore. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has been providing funds to the State in the same manner for the last 18 years by preparing plans but when Bihar Government utilises only Rs. 750 crore out of the total allocation of Rs. 2600 crore made to it, then you can well imagine as to how much money must have been spent on Adivasis living in those 20 districts. Since the fund allocated under plan head does not reach these districts and they do not have their own internal resources, how can the Central Schemes can be implemented in these districts? I want a reply to this question. I would also like to know that the States who find themselves unable to meet the plan expenses, who cannot spend the funds allocated to them, then how would you spend the entire amount there, besides how would you include them in national data? How much amount of your Central Plan has been spent? You please tell me that in such circumstances, how your plan will implemented in that area? The States who do not use their plan expenditure fully, do not spend their prescribed allocations then how you would include the people of those area in your national figures and how you would say that so many Adivasis were benefitted with those funds and so much development really took place? This much I would like to know. It is the background of the main question and I am telling this much to you because I want to know your view point about that area.

Sir, the point which I raised in the House has always been raised that millions of rupees have been released by Centre for Bihar from the Central plan head under various schemes like tribal sub-plan, IRDP, for digging wells, for the development of fodder and cattle rearing, aquaculture, poultry, Farming for the purchase of buffalows, cows and fodder. My main question in the context of the entire country is related to Bihar because one thousand crore rupees have been withdrawn illegally in those 20 districts in the name of Adivasis. May I know as to whether the money, one thousand crore rupees withdrawn illegally, belong to the Central

Government? Such a scandal in which in the name of poultry farming, aquaculture, purchasing of hybrid buffalows, purchasing of fodder, medicines for animals so much money has been looted so much that 40 Kg feed has been shown to be fed by one hen in one day and Rs. 5000 have been shown as being spent on one hen in one day.

Sir, the Adivasis do undertake poultry farming, aquaculture in the rural areas but they do not produce fodder in their farms. Crores of rupees have been withdrawn illegally. What is the reaction of Union Government in this regard? This situation prevails in the entire country. The funds illegally misappropriated in the name of purchasing hybrid buffalows shows that the Government have no control over proper implementation of such schemes. Though that day, you had accepted that if you made your point, you had used a particular word and which I do not want to use here, that entire country would be taken aback. I am mentioning it here because we are discussing this point in the House with a determination. I would like to know the system to be adopted by the Government so that thousands crores of rupees may not be withdrawn illegally again? The money has been extracted in the name of I.R.D.P. development of Adivasis, of agricultural development and small loans, but no development of Adivasis has taken place and that money has been embezzled. I would like to draw your attention to three points. Firstly, how does the Union Government monitor the funds provided by it, to the State Government and what measures it adopt for proper expenditure of the funds provided to the States? Secondly, what action does the Government of India take in case of diversion of funds i.e. if the fund meant for tribal development is spent on other items, the fund allocated for the construction of road is spent on schools and the fund meant for the construction of school buildings, hostels and providing scholarships is misappropriated? That I would like to know because the contribution of the Government is also there. Thirdly, what the Central Government is doing in regard to such schemes if in case any such incidents have occurred, such a situation can take place in many States also. I do not have the accurate figure in this regard but I do know about Bihar. Thousands crores of rupees were released to Southern Bihar under Tribal sub-plan for Animal Husbandry and tribal development. That money have been embezzled. I would like to know about the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government for recovery of the same. With these three question, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, infact when this issue was being discussed in the House, Hon'ble Minister had put forth certain points which reveal quite a lot. So many have passed since Independence and still we have not been able to do what we wanted to do for Scheduled Tribes. It clearly reveals that whenever an attempt is made to promote talented youth from Scheduled tribe area, the

posts reserved for them remain vacant and it appears that whatever we have been doing to extend facilities and render assistance to these classes, these mostly remained on paper. Hon'ble Minister has used the words. This applies more on those persons who are in power. What I want is that Hon'ble Minister should do the same kind of work in the House as is presently being done by the court and he will surely be praised for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, without making a lengthy speech, I would like to request Hon'ble Minister to express his views on two-three points. Although my colleague Mr. Rudy has spoken at length, even then I would request him to give clear information. The first question is which states have not utilised the grant and what action has been taken by the Central Government when the cases of misutilisation of funds were brought to notice because the Government contributes fifty percent of the funds for four scheme and six schemes are fully aided by it. What are the arrangements made by the Central Government for monitoring the schemes. You simply take action on the direction of the states and then do nothing hoping that whatever is being done by the State Government is right. If the funds have been utilised, it is all right and if not, even then it is fine. This point should also be taken into consideration. Thirdly, I represent Uttar Pradesh. I believe that a large number of people belonging the Scheduled tribe live in Uttar Pradesh. The amount of fund allocated is very less. Does the Hon'ble Minister believe that Uttar Pradesh requires less funds for Scheduled Tribes? You should get clear picture about the position of utilisation of funds in Uttar Pradesh so that action is taken accordingly.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add to the points raised just now with regard to the main question. As the original questioner has asked, what monitoring arrangement has been made in regard to the funds for Tribal sub-plan. I would like to quote an example. He has spoken about Bihar and Shri Santosh Ji has spoken about Uttar Pradesh. If Tribal sub-plan funds which should have been spent for providing medical, educational or other facilities for tribals, are spent instead for Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal in the name of promoting art and culture, the tribals are never going to be benefited. Hence, I would strongly emphasize that some monitoring mechanism should definitely be provided. I am speaking about Madhya Pradesh. I would like to quote one more example in context of the original question. Recently I had undertaken tour of Madhya Pradesh. In District Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh where 95 percent of the people are tribals, the Central Government has contributed a certain percentage and even cent percent amount for certain schemes such as irrigational facilities and canals for the welfare of tribals. However, there are no canals at the proposed sites. Who knows whether any such work was ever undertaken there. In this way, if the funds meant for welfare of

tribals are not spent for them it would make things more difficult. This is why the 95 percent tribal population of Jhabua district is compelled to migrate to other places for six months to look out for employment opportunities even after fifty years of Independence. If this state of affairs continues it would not be good. In view of all this, whether you propose to formulate any such policy or plan to ensure that the funds allocated by Ministries such as Ministry of Human Resource Development Ministry of Rural Development etc. are properly utilised. Whether the Government would bother to find out as to whether the funds allocated by the Central to States have been properly utilised or not? The situation is very much the same in Bastar as well as in Jhabua. Where parallel Government is running. Even after spending millions of rupees, there is lack of medical facilities, roads and irrigational facilities. The funds allocated for providing shelters are being mismanaged.

Lastly, I would like to ask one more question ...*(Interruption)* What is the criteria for providing grants to the voluntary organisations. How much grant has been given to the voluntary organisations during 1994-95 and 1995-96? Whether all such organisations are registered? What is the basis of issuing grants to them? Thank you very much.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government provides funds for the development of tribals. However, whether the same is being utilised by the States for that particular objectives or not is enquired into by the Government through C.A.G. or C.B.I. or by constituting a commission. Whether the amount allocated by the Government by the Government under the tribal sub-plan or other schemes during the last five years, has been fully utilised for their upliftment or not? ...*(Interruption)* Rs. 79.85 crore were spent for the upliftment of tribals in the Fourth Five Year Plan and during the Eighth Five Year Plan, the same amount was enhanced to Rs. 18,119 crores. Even then why has the time bound programme for the social and economic upliftment of tribals remained unsuccessful. As Japaka Parthasarthy, the officer of Uttar Mandals of Tribals Research Centre Said that

[English]

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[Translation]

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[Translation]

What steps does the Central Government propose to take to ensure the effective implementation of all these programmes and whether the Government would formulate a fast time bound programme in order to review the situation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister, it has been stated in Annexure II 'E' that same voluntary organisations were given more than Rs. ten crores during 1994-95 and 1995-96. What are the names of those voluntary organisation and if you do not have the names of such organisations with you, kindly supply a list of their names later on. There are some organisations which are bogus and have nothing except a sign board of Office. Now you may please reply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Kindly allow me to speak for one minute. I would like to give clarification regarding a question put by Hon'ble Minister. CAG has given a Report regarding Bihar. Hon'ble Minister has asked me whether I have got any proof or not? The CAG has presented a complete Report regarding the Fodder Scam of Bihar which is concerned entirely with the tribal area. You have asked me very explicitly that's why I would like to tell you very clearly...*(Interruptions)* I am speaking about the Fodder Scam.

18.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : The views expressed by Hon'ble Members, Shri Rudy, Shri Gangwar, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey and Prof. Rawat reveal only one prime concern that the funds allocated by the Central Government for upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Tribes is not utilised properly and it is also diverted elsewhere. Shri Rudy has gone to the extent of using the term 'embezzlement' while speaking about a State. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to put forth two-three points. As a Minister and as an ordinary citizen, I admit that the attitude of society and Governments towards Scheduled Tribes is not satisfactory. For example, tall claims are made regarding the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. However, if one goes in depth, the reality is quite different. Ever since I have taken charge of this Ministry, I have met the representatives of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in both the House. It pains me to say that such hurdles are put everywhere which hamper to get justice to these people. Take the case of promotion. I would like to say in the House that I have received such complaints also that in case of foreign postings made by the Ministry of External Affairs, the eligible candidates belonging to these castes are ignored for year together. Similary in Banks and other financial Sectors, the representation of these castes of prime postings is negligible. Such cases have been brought to my notice. It is true and there is a need to pay attention towards these things. However I can not claim that everything can be set right in one stroke. However I would like to submit in this august House that there are still many shortcomings which have come to our notice and that the pace of development is also slow. Hence whatever you have stated is not very wrong.

Recently, we took a decision that if any State fails to utilise the entire amount then it would be given disincentives. For example, the Central Government

released an amount of Rs. 1748 lakh for the State of Bihar. However, the State Government utilised only Rs. 274 lakhs. This time we have allocated Rs. 274 lakhs for them. Now who is responsible for Rs. 15-16 crores which have not been released. Certainly only those are responsible who have not spent it. We have withheld that allocation. Now the Parliamentary Committee and the Government also thought that if a State does not utilise the funds and the Central Government also withholds the release of funds, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would suffer. So the issue was re-considered. Under the earlier scheme it was proposed that the funds not claimed by the States should be reduced and disbursed amongst other States during the next year. The Hon'ble Members and the Parliamentary Committee suggested that this too is unfair. We accepted the suggestion of the Parliamentary Committee that the Government won't impose any cuts but would fix responsibility instead. Through you, I would like to say that bureaucracy is not responsible for non-utilisation of funds. Political will is also a very important factor. This is what I want to say to you. The Hon'ble Members of various States are present here and they have to ponder over it. The Central Government is allocating funds in various forms for development. I would also like to inform you that during the last conference wherein all of you were invited, a suggestion had been put forth. Now a brochure containing information about the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been prepared, a copy of which will be circulated to the members.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We have not received it as yet.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I too have been shown a copy today. I had a look at it when I was about to leave for the House. A copy of it will be mailed to all the members within a week irrespective of whether any member asks for it or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, there is one more point. Only that much Central grant is given as is utilised by the State and that too is given as a matching grant which in fact is a double loss. The State spends the Central aid saves its own funds. So you should find a way out in this regard also.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The contribution of Centre is 49 percent. The States show the same as 100 percent and do not show their contribution. Such cases have come to our notice. All the Government level, there are two separate course of action about which I would like to tell the Hon'ble Members. We want development. One course of action is that if a mistake has been committed even if by us, an attempt is made to conceal the facts. I am sharing with the Members the aspect of concealment. Just now I told you about the position in Bihar. Regarding the Bihar issue, I would like to say that we have sought

specific information from the Government of Bihar with regard to several points but we have not got any reply so far.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : When did you ask for this information?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : We will put pressure on the Government of Bihar and whenever we get a reply, I will inform you.

The Second issue emphasized by the Hon'ble Members is that of monitoring. Sir, you too have emphasized this very point. I would like to say to Hon'ble Members that the Central Government does not have any effective measures for monitoring.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There should be some sort of mechanism.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : There is a provision and I will tell you about that also. I would like to tell you about N.G.Os also. The Government contributes 100 percent for certain schemes and contributes in the proportion of 50:50 for certain other schemes. The grants are given as constitutional provision as per Article 275 (ii). We agree that scheme should be formulated for tribal areas. Under the same, five percent should be there for infrastructure and 95 percent should be for the development of what we call the target group. During the last meeting which was attended by Hon'ble Members, it was stated that a road has been constructed. Then it was said that it is exclusively for tribals whereas the facility is being utilised by others also which is wrong.

Sir, we put emphasis on the expenditure of five percent incurred on infrastructure. That expenditure should be there for the development of target group. I would like to reiterate that as for the main issue raised by you and issue of Uttar Pradesh raised by Shri Gangwar and the issue of monitoring raised by Shri Pandey, the prominent issue before us is that of monitoring. After all we have a Republic. The Centre can not interfere in the state matters, but now we have started a system under which the senior officers would be sent to the state capitals after 20th. I shall personally visit a few of the States, in order to ensure about the utilisation or misutilisation of the funds released by the Union Government for the schemes, especially being implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I shall personally visit some of the places. As for the issue of misutilisation of funds raised by you, I do not wish to say anything, why should we mention anybody's name so we'd better leave it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, the reply given by the Minister is not correct. If a clear statement is given in this regard, only then the House and the country will know the actual position...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : If I have rejected your point or camouflaged the truth, then you

should complain. I spoke on these points also. You had mentioned Bihar and I never said that whatever you have said about Bihar is incorrect. I said that a report has been sent for and that report will be sent by the state...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : When the report will be submitted?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : It has been delayed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Hon'ble Minister is saying that it has been delayed...*(Interruptions)* The House would like to know about it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will tell you about it later on. Please let me talk to them personally because it has been delayed...*(Interruptions)* If I say today that they should reply within some period but they do not reply, then what would be my position...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may assure them that it will be done at the earliest.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : The matter pertains to the weaker sections. The Government should pay more attention and bring the report as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I seek your guidance regarding two-three points. People have apprehensions regarding promotions, hence we have made some arrangements. I will discuss it with the members outside the House and thereafter I will speak on the subject in House. The issue of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not a party matter and I consider it to be a very important national matter. You may have observed during the last six months that I do not do anything alone...*(Interruptions)* A number of people are aggrieved over the issue of promotion however there is no provision to punish these who obstruct promotion. I shall discuss with you in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may do this. The subject of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a very wide subject. There is not only the issue of promotion but there are several other issue as well.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may have a short duration discussion in the House on this subject.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I am ready to do so...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Business Advisory Committee will take care of it.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I also want that the country should know about the fact. People are talking about the appeasement and that a lot of facilities are being given to these people.

If this is done, the truth will be sifted from the falsehood. I am ready for it.

I would like to say some thing about monitoring. We are preparing a proforma for the utilisation service. There are many states to whom Rs. 17 crore were sanctioned and in the end, whereas they had showed the expenditure of Rs. 16,99,900. Now we are trying to bring a change by way of a new proforma. In case things still do not change, I will tell you.

You have spoken about N.G.Os and I would also like to speak on this issue. I would like to tell you that 90% N.G.Os are doing good work, but 10% NGOs are not functioning properly. I would like to tell you about a raid conducted by us. A NGO was supposed to be functioning for the welfare of Scheduled Caste however we were surprised to see that there was no building, no registers and a sign board was put up in a corner in a small factory.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : I beg to differ on that. When he said about 90 per cent, it is not satisfactory.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There may be a difference of opinion about the percentage.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : When we enquired, we came to know that salaries were being changed for 36 or 40 women, whereas only five girls belonging to upper castes were working there. There was no register. Those women too were relatives so we have to stop all such malpractices.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no member belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe is present in the House today. So it is futile to discuss it today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister has agreed to have a short duration discussion on it. Nothing more can be achieved in half an hour.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I would like to make two-three points about NGOs. I am constituting an eleven members or fifteen members supervisory group. Hon'ble Members, prominent people of the country, four or five prominent people from the field of journalism, Retired judges, I.A.S. officers who have served this Ministry, will be included in this group.

We will hand over a list of all the NGOs to the group. I would like to tell you that N.G.Os were paid Rs. five crores four years ago and now they are asking for one crore rupees more. We feel agonised at the thought of giving away public money of one crore rupees just like that. Hence we shall seek the opinion of the group we are going to constitute it. We shall follow whatever they support.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Would you like to set up a Commission or make an enquiry through C.B.I. or C.A.G. to find out the utilisation of funds sanctioned for tribal areas...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Would you tell us about the Fodder scam of Bihar which is related to the Tribal areas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is a separate issue.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the tribals, not us, have been affected by this scam.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a part of the whole thing.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH (Seoni) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the member from Madhya Pradesh has not been included in the Planning Committee set up for tribals scheme. The scheme is implemented with cent percent Central aid...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will reply to both the issues. I have full confidence in the power of the Parliament and the Government and I also have full faith in the enquiry proposed to be conducted by it. When I lose my faith, I will sit in the other side.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : No M.P. has been nominated in the Committee set up under Tribal sub plan in Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 16th December, 1996 at 11.00 A.M.

18.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 16, 1996/Agrahayana 25, 1918 (Saka).
