

12.45 hrs.

RE: MPs LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say.....(Interruptions) Please listen to me. I am speaking about the interests of all M.Ps. The funds earmarked for the MPs Local Area Development Scheme have not been released to Headquarters. It is a very unfortunate state of affairs. I would like to know when the funds for the MPs Local Area Development Scheme will be released. We may be apprised of the correct position in this regard. When we visit our constituency, the people of that area complain about the non-existence of bridge, school, roads etc. Besides this, we had also requested that the amount under this scheme may be raised to two crore rupees, whereas one crore has been earmarked at present under this scheme, out that too is not being released in time. I request that the funds earmarked under this scheme may be released and sent to Headquarters at an early date. The amount under this scheme may be raised from one crore to two crores .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Vilas, would you like to say something in this regard.....(Interruptions) Please state something.....(Interruptions) The whole House is agreed to this. Please listen to the reply first

.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : This matter was raised in this House a few days earlier also and I assure this House on behalf of the Government that an immediate action would be taken in this regard .....(Interruptions) An action will be taken to release the funds and not to prevent the release .....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add one thing more that there are a number of schemes under MPs Local Area Development Scheme which are being recommended by the MPs and continuously discussed in this House. A lot of bungling is being done in their construction work and MPs have been provided with any facility to raise their voice against the poor building material being used in construction an undue delay in construction work. No action is taken against any complaint lodged in this regard. Therefore I have requested this House repeatedly by that a committee may be constituted to look into this matter. At that time it was stated that Mr. Speaker would induct some people in that work and where there were complaints, the committee would visit the states turn by turn. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would appeal through you to expedite this work immediately as there are a number of states for which the MPs give their recommendations but the same are not being implemented. The guidelines have been amended number of times, but these guidelines are not followed strictly. According to new guidelines, if the work is not started even after the 45th day of recommendation, the

action will be taken against the defaulters. What action will be taken? It has been reiterated in this House that if any muddling is done in the execution of the MPs Local Area Development Scheme, it will become a matter of privilege. but these guidelines are not being followed deliberately more especially in my constituency and Patna district .....(Interruptions). Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request the Government on your behalf to constitute a committee who visit the different states for 2-3 days each, review the position and examine whether the guidelines issued in this regard are strictly followed in those states .....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, our problem is not like that of Members belonging to Bihar. But the funds are to be released. Four months have lapsed: Yet the funds have not been released. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, the guidelines have been issued many times. But they have not been followed by the State Governments. They have neglected the guidelines of the Central Government .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The whole House is agitated over this issue. The Government may please see that the things are improved.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are four points. The first point is that the amount for this scheme may be raised from one crore to two crore rupees. In this connection, I reserve my views for the time being. The second point is that the provision of one crore rupees earmarked for this scheme may be released immediately so that Members of Parliament could expedite the developmental work in their respective constituencies as March is approaching and if the work is not executed in time, the MPs will find themselves in difficulty.....(Interruptions)

I do agree with it and assure you that the funds will be released as early as possible .....(Interruptions)

I have not yet consulted any authority but the funds will be released immediately and sent to the concerned officer.....(Interruptions) you desire that I should mention the date by when the funds will be released. Since I was not aware that you will raise this issue here otherwise I would have told the exact date. But what I am mentioning here, is definitely being said on behalf of the Government .....(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : We are going to celebrate the Fiftieth year of independence. If the funds are released early, we can accomplish some work .....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You have said this today that the funds will be released as early as possible. Since, the Government has to release the money, it doesn't matter whether it is released today or tomorrow.....(Interruptions)

The third point is about the guidelines. The guidelines have already been issued.....(Interruptions)

Please listen to me first.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you impatient .....?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Today I am a Minister, yesterday I was an M.P., therefore, I am aware of everything. I used to submit a scheme on the basis of the guidelines that a particular scheme required Ten lakh rupees and the collector used to monitor that scheme. That scheme was also monitored by the Ministry.....(Interruptions) You have mentioned about the guidelines and their follow up.

If there is need to amend the guidelines, they would be carried out, you must be aware of this fact that the Government had taken such initiative at the instruction of Mr. Speaker.

The fourth point you have raised is about monitoring. We would monitor any ministry, either it is Ministry of Planning or Rural Development Ministry. We also realised that it should not be left out to bureaucrats and the fund should not be misused at any cost, rather it should be properly utilized at the recommendation of members of Parliament. If any complaint is received from Member of Parliament there are guidelines also. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is not your fault.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister completed his speech first.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am not talking about this rather I am talking about different point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has yet to made his fourth point.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Government has nothing to do with this matter, but something is to be done by the Chair Person. Though the Chair has decided that members of Parliament would go to every state for monitoring but they have not been sent. Nothing has been decided about it so far. Now the Government has nothing to do in this regard and I am not saying against the Government you had said everything categorically .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright, it would be brought to the notice of the hon'ble Speaker.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Please let me say one thing more.....(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the end, I would like to conclude with one sentence only. I would like to say when this scheme was being framed, no allegation was levelled on the members of Parliament at that time. It was categorically stated that this money would not be given to the members of Parliament. This money would be given to collector directly by the centre and the members would hand over the list of work to the collector. The collector would get the work done in accordance with the list and the members would monitor whether the work has been done or not. Therefore, the members have right to know whether the work is being done properly or not. So my submission is that the Government should accept the decision taken by the chair and be ready to obey the same .....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have been elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :- Now you are not new in the House.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I am the junior most among all M.P's.

[English]

I am too junior.

[Translation]

Sir, today I am feeling bad second time for the proceedings of this House. First time I felt so when the salary and allowances of the members were being discussed here and their reactions thereon. Now today for second time, I am feeling so by seeing the rights and facilities provided to the members for the development of their areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask Hon'ble members of the cabinet if they were not member of Parliament earlier or if now they are not members or if they will not be member tomorrow? I have seen such scenes in this House during discussion over salary and allowances of members. and not even me but the entire nation watched it on television

how the members were demanding to increase their salaries and allowances in pitiable situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the people who watch the proceeding of this House on television what would they think about us as to how we are raising our voice for our salaries and allowances despite of the fact that a committee has already been constituted in this regard and the Committee has submitted recommendations which are pending with the Government for consideration since long. The Cabinet is not looking into these recommendations. My submission is that the Members should not be presented in such a miserable condition before masses of the country, no matter if you reject or accept their recommendations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today it is not a question of salaries and allowance of the members, rather the members want to do something for the development of their areas. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan is the leader of this House. Can he not say that the fund will be released tomorrow or by the end of this month? Who is stopping for say so?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go in details but I would like to request the hon'ble leader of this House not to present such miserable condition of members.  
.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I move the the next item.  
Prof. Chandumajra.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Prof.  
Chandumajra.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMOHAN (New Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker,  
Sir, I will take only one minute.

13.00 hrs.

I would like to make a suggestion regarding delay in implementation of M.P.'s Local Area Development Programme which is baneficial for all .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will call you later on. You first listen to him

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGMOHAN : The reason for delay its implementation is that they ask for certificate regarding expenditure of earlier funds before releasing the fund. It takes times to get the certificate and therefore the fund is not released. Therefore they have already sent a letter that

second instalment of fund will be released only when the balanced is Rs..50 lakh. I would like to make a constructive suggestions if a scheme is sanctioned, and contract is awared, it takes time for authority to disburse amount. For example, if you work for the corporation, it takes time to one or two years for payment of the bill for sewer contract. So the certificate can not be issued immediately. You will want the date when the contract has been awarded.

[English]

It should be treated as having been spent.  
.....(Interruptions)

As it will be committed expenditure if you do this, all the money will be released .....(Interruptions)

13.01 hrs.

[SHRI CHITTA BASU in the Chair]

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as the hon. Members are concerned, there should not be any disparity between Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. All rights should be equal in both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. But what is happening now? The Members in Rajya Sabha have got coupons for LPG two times which they are issuing to the people. But it has been denied to the Members of the Lok Sabha. How is it possible? Is there any rule?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Actually, we are the representatives of the people.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : The Lok Sabha Members are elected by the public. We have got a responsibility towards them. The Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected only by the Members from the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures. You are giving gas coupons to them. But you are not allowing this facility to us. Is it as a result of an action by the Government? What is the announcement by the hon. Speaker? The Speaker, Lok Sabha must give a correct ruling on this subject. We want an immediate reply on this issue.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulberga) : The Member of Rajya Sabha are nice and that is why that they getting it .....(Interruptions) And the Members of this House, will not given these coupons. That's why it has been discontinued. Such type of misinformation has been spread .....(Interruptions)

For how long will this discrimination continue .....(Interruptions).

It is a question of our dignity ..... (Interruptions). You should assure us about it ..... (Interruptions). You should