

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 9, 1998/
Agrahayana 18, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri Dasaratha Deb.

Shri Dasaratha Deb was a Member of First to Third and Fifth Lok Sabhas representing Tripura-East parliamentary constituency of Tripura during 1952-67 and 1971-77.

An active social and political worker, Shri Dasaratha Deb was instrumental in establishing several primary schools in Tripura and had organised the Tripura Rajya Jana Siksha Samiti for the promotion of education in the State.

Shri Dasaratha Deb was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for rehabilitation of Jhumias and displaced persons in the State.

Shri Dasaratha Deb passed away on 14th October, 1998 at Agartala at the age of 78.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Kindly allow me to say a few words on this. He was an outstanding Chief Minister of Tripura but no mention is made about that. He is one of the most well-known peasant tribal leaders of this country. Sir, at least, let that be recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Whatever you have expressed will go on record.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Bihar

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*141. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Bihar and other States for implementing various Centrally sponsored schemes to increase the agricultural production during the Ninth Five Year Plan as on date;

(b) the number of farmers benefited through this scheme; and

(c) the financial assistance earmarked for the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Details indicating the amount released to Bihar and other States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan so far, are given in the Annexure enclosed.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes are production oriented programmes which aim at raising the agricultural production through enhanced use of latest techniques and inputs. Under these schemes, farmers are benefited both directly and indirectly. In view of the above the total number of farmers who have benefited from all the schemes is not readily available.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan is being finalised.

Annexure

State-wise Releases of funds for development of agriculture under Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	1997-98	1998-99	Total funds released
			as on 1.10.98	in 9th plan as on 1.10.98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7725.48	3513.50	11238.98
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	504.66	216.34	721.00
3.	Assam	397.48	256.90	654.38
4.	Bihar	1198.83	335.91	1534.74
5.	Goa	100.06	122.40	222.46
6.	Gujarat	4066.30	3105.54	7171.84
7.	Haryana	2913.54	1111.06	4024.60
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1152.47	451.43	1603.90
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1528.60	896.77	2425.37
10.	Karnataka	8122.59	5641.11	13763.70
11.	Kerala	3568.26	2413.33	5981.59
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6995.95	3238.15	10234.10
13.	Maharashtra	9947.47	8357.51	18304.98
14.	Manipur	1146.40	292.52	1438.92
15.	Meghalaya	256.28	180.05	436.33
16.	Mizoram	723.77	619.55	1343.32
17.	Nagaland	884.73	349.77	1234.50
18.	Orissa	4116.26	1943.76	6060.02
19.	Punjab	2538.78	1146.04	3684.82
20.	Rajasthan	9716.43	7341.39	17057.82
21.	Sikkim	340.76	260.82	601.58
22.	Tamil Nadu	5886.95	3864.15	9751.10
23.	Tripura	533.97	360.85	894.82
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10306.87	3557.51	13864.38
25.	West Bengal	1056.20	530.36	1586.56
	Total	85729.09	50106.72	135835.81

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of Hon. Minister is not satisfactory. My question was about the state-wise and scheme-wise financial assistance given to various Centrally Sponsored Schemes but the hon.

Minister has given State-wise details of total amount released. He has shown rupees 1534.74 lakh released to Bihar whereas much more amount has been released to other smaller States. Sir, Bihar is a big State, big in terms of area and

production also. Whether the Hon. Minister propose to release more amount to Bihar and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the statement of the amount released to Bihar in the first two years of the Ninth Five Years Plan i.e., 1997-98 and 1998-99. This amounts is earmarked only after a discussion between the Planning Commission and the state government. The amount has been fixed after discussions and in accordance with the requirements of the states. This has been fixed as per their area and requirement and is fixed only after having their consent. It is not correct to say that this amount is less as compared to other states.

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that Centrally Sponsored Schemes are production oriented programmes aiming to increase agricultural production by maximum usage of latest technology and equipments. In this regard I would like to know from Hon. Minister that the integrated foodgrains development programme for wheat is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and is being run only in six States. This scheme is not run in Bihar while Bihar produces a lot of wheat. Whether the Government propose to implement this programme especially for wheat in Bihar or not?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that in Centrally Sponsored Scheme wheat has not been included in Bihar. Rice has been included in it. I would like to reiterate that this is being done with the consent of the concerned states government. The States are allocated such Central and Centrally Sponsored schemes in a particular grain for which they are found suitable.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I challenge the reply of Hon. Minister. He should have taken more time for giving complete reply. But he has not done so. He has not replied part 'b' of the question. The reply laid on the table of the House states that the total number of farmers likely to be benefited from all these schemes is not readily available. This is an incomplete reply. He has said that the Ninth Five Year Plan is still being finalized. This is also an incomplete reply. He should have taken more time for it. On the basis of his reply, I would like to ask two questions. So far the Ninth Five Year Plan has not assumed a clear shape. Due to instability of Governments two years of the Ninth Five Years Plan has already lapsed after the completion of the Eighth Five Years Plan. Two years are very important for an agrobased country like India. During those two years the weather also went against farmers. Adverse conditions affected the agricultural production badly. Whether the Government during the last two years have spent money as per requirements to increase the agricultural production and the schemes related to it?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I have asked supplementary only. I have asked that two years have gone and the weather

remained bad. In view of that what arrangements you have made? This is my supplementary. My second question is that two years have gone and three years are remaining. Whether the Government will give by adding the money of two years in full plan to Bihar and other States or not?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that no data is maintained about the number of farmers benefited from the Central and Centrally sponsored schemes, being implemented for increasing agricultural production. There are some such schemes for which data is maintained in regard to the extent of profit earned by farmers. I would like to pass on the information available with me to the hon'ble Member. There is a scheme to take farmers from one state to another to increase their knowledge and to train them in the field of agriculture. Under this scheme 80 farmers of Bihar were trained during 1996-97. Secondly, under the scheme to provide information for better and high yielding farming 475 farmers have been benefited by having discussion among farmers and scientists. 12187 farmers have been benefited by the schemes of voluntary organizations for agriculture expansion. Some schools known as field schools are also run for farmers. 248 farmers have been trained in those schools. 1240 farmers have been benefited under the agriculture expansion service and Integrated Pest Management Scheme. Similarly 7440 farmers have been trained under I.P.M.S. and special grants for tractors have been given to 439 farmers. As far as the Ninth Five Year Plan is concerned, it is being finalized. It is true that due to two elections and repetition of other elections there is need to change its priorities. That is being finalized and when it is finalized only then we will be able to say whether the amount for it has been increased or not? I have already told you the latest position.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the reply that till date the Government have released 501 crore rupees in the entire country during 1998-99, in which the share of Bihar comes to 50 crore rupees but in this it has been stated to be 3 crore 35 lakh rupees. A total of 1358 crore rupees has been given in the country out of which the share of Bihar comes at 135 crore rupees, whereas 15 crore rupees have been given. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that where Bihar was to get 50 crore rupees, it received 3 crore rupees only and where the allocation for the country was 1300 crore rupees, only 135 crore rupees were given to Bihar. I would like to know whether the Union Government are not doing discrimination and injustice to Bihar. Whether the Government will formulate any special programme to remove injustice done to Bihar and for the development of agriculture and upliftment of farmers in the State? What steps will be taken by the Union Government to release the share of Bihar because Bihar must get 1/10 of the total amount but it is getting 1/9 of the due amount.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Who was the Minister in charge at that time?

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Is he asking question or creating scene?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is a relevant question. The Government have no answer to it.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said that less amount has been given to Bihar Government. He himself had been a Minister in the Union Government and also in Bihar. So he knows more than me about Bihar. Inspite of that I would like to tell him that 47.77% of the amount given to Bihar from the year 1992-93 to 1997-98 or upto this year has been utilized. I also want to request him that when any amount is given to State Government, the requirements of the state are also kept in mind. If we see its allocation then we will come to know that 52.17 percent amount in 1992-93, 35.26 percent in 1993-94, 38.17 percent in 1994-95, 39.27 percent in 1995-96 was utilized. But this position improved in 1996-97 and 77.6 percent amount was utilized. As such during Eighth Five Year Plan out of the total amount, 47.77 percent was utilized by the Bihar Government.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please tell about the other states too.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amount utilized by the Bihar Government is less than even half of the total amount. Therefore, when funds are given it is kept in mind that how much amount was utilized in previous year and prior to that year.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister may tell the number of such States, except Bihar where this amount remained unutilized although this question has not been asked. The question asked was why you have not given. This was not asked whether it was utilized or not. If funds remained unutilized then tell about other States too.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that hon'ble Members may encourage their Government that the amount given to them may be utilized and information in this regard may be sent to us on the basis of these two, the funds are released. Therefore, this is not a correct statement that they have been given less.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Hon'ble Minister has not told about other States....(Interruptions). The funds are given by the Union Government on such conditions that the State Government cannot utilize the fund. Is it not the responsibility of the Union Government to monitor the utilisation(Interruptions). Hon'ble Minister has not said even a single word about it. What is happening there to farmers?...(Interruptions). Three crore rupees were given instead of 50 crores and that too in the beginning of the year(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the next question and called Shri Pramothesh Mukherjee. Please sit down.

[English]

Payment of Licence Fee

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*142 SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR :

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the public representatives to give time relaxation to the cellular mobile telephone operators for the payment of licence fee and extension of the licence period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the metro cellular operators have refused to pay licence fee dues to the Government amounting to several crores as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 24, 1998;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the total amount outstanding against such metro cellular operator;

(e) the remedial steps contemplated by the Government to save the situation;

(f) whether Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has submitted its Report on the demand of cellular mobile telephone operators;

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating the main recommendations contained therein; and

(h) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received several representations from public representatives relating to the problems of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) operators. Some of the representations have highlighted the following points:

1. Need for grant of moratorium on payment of licence fee, and

2. Extension of the licence period.

(c) and (d) The metro cellular operators have raised an issue regarding the quantum of licence fee chargeable from them from fourth year onwards on the ground that the actual revenue per subscriber is far less than the amount based on which the licence fee stipulated in the licence agreement has been computed. The total outstanding dues for the first quarter of the 4th year work out to Rs. 62.75 crores as on 30th Nov., 1998.

(e) Government have constituted a Group on Telecommunications under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning commission to, inter-alia, make recommendations on the issues relating to the existing licensees of cellular services and suggest appropriate remedial measures.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The main recommendations made by BICP in its report are given in the statement enclosed.

(h) The Government will take a final view after receiving the recommendations of the Group on Telecommunications.