

12.17 hrs.

RE. ESTABLISHMENT OF STATUTORY DEVELOPMENT BOARDS FOR VIDARBHA, MARATHWADA AND KONKAN IN MAHARASHTRA

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous Government had announced last year on 15th August regarding Constitution of Statutory Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan regions of Maharashtra. It was followed by a resolution which was adopted in the Maharashtra Legislature on the subject. Thereafter a meeting was also convened by the Central Government under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, but no follow up action has been taken since then. There is a large backlog in Marathwada, Vidarbha and Konkan. The backlog is especially large in Vidarbha where it has crossed the staggering figure of 10 thousand crores. As a result of it, there is a widespread resentment among the people of that region and they have resorted to agitations. I demand that Statutory Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan regions should be constituted soon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government through you the policy of the Government in this regard. Day before yesterday also I raised this matter, but nothing has been done till today. Announcement to this effect should be made in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point Mr. Shiwankar. Please take your seat.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Sir, the Government is still adopting the policy of nepotism in Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Konkan. This should be stopped forthwith and the backlog relating to develop-

ment in those regions should be cleared to facilitate further development.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Mr. Shiwankar. You are repeating the same point. No, please sit down. (Interruptions)

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, another point which I want to make is that South Eastern Railway has also done great injustice to this region. (Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 30 years ago in 1961 when eight districts were merged in Maharashtra, an apprehension was expressed by the leaders of Vidarbha that these districts would not get justice. Shri G.B. Pant was the Union Home Minister at that time. He had assured the leaders that there was no cause of apprehension. The Constitution of India was amended and article 371 (2) was inserted with the provision that this region would not be discriminated in the matter of development. Article 371 (2) gave three assurances: First, provision guarantee on the basis of population; second, proportionate seats in technical education and third, proportionate representation in Government jobs on the basis of population. But injustice is continuously being done to the region for the last 30 years. Allocation of funds to the region should be 24 per cent but only 15-17 per cent is allocated. Recently interviews were conducted for the posts of Sub-Inspectors, but only 7 candidates from Vidarbha were appointed out of a total of 170 appointments whereas the population of the region is 23 per cent. Are the youth of that region not competent even for the post of Sub-Inspectors? So far as technical education is concerned, there are as many as 8 to 10 institutes in every district in Western Maharashtra, whereas in the case of Vidarbha region, their number is limited to one or two in each district. This discrimination has been going

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on for the last 30 years. Provision was made in the Constitution of India to remove this discrimination. When Shri V. P. Singh was the Prime Minister, he had given the assurance that there was no hindrance in the Constitution to constitute development Boards for Vidarbha and Marathwada and that one-line Presidential order would be enough for that. We are of the view that Konkan region too is backward and for that also constitution amendment is needed. The Congress Party and our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi is committed to support this demand. When he has said that we will support it, there should be no hindrance in it. But if that is not possible right now, one-line Presidential Order to constitute Development Boards for Vidarbha and Marathwada should be issued immediately. But the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sharad Pawar who belongs to Western Maharashtra and has been doing injustice to our backward areas will not let it be done. That is why I am raising this issue before the Central Government on behalf of the people of Vidarbha and Marathwada. I would like the present Government and the Prime Minister to clarify their stand on this issue. I would like the hon. Speaker to impress upon the Prime Minister that the situation in Vidarbha and Marathwada has been deteriorating day by day. The people have taken to agitations. I was detained for four days without any charges under as many as 12 sections. But four days later when they sensed the public sentiments, they admitted that false cases were instituted as there was no evidence. Thus, they are trying to crush the agitation through misuse of power. Since today is the last day of the session, I would request you kindly to take up the matter with the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vasant Sathe, I have permitted you to make a submission on this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): On this subject, I really would like to ...*(Interruptions)*.....

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? He is supporting you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I said, I am supporting you. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is supporting you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Let me say that on this subject, the matter is assuming very serious proportions. The people of Vidarbha have all these years been very peaceful. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sathe, why is it not being implemented? Please tell me, when everybody is interested, and when the House is agreed, why is it not being implemented.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I will tell you why; I do not want to create unpleasantness. I would only suggest...

MR. SPEAKER: Don't create unpleasantness; let us see how it can be implemented.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am suggesting it to you: Under Article 371...*(Interruptions)* Do you want the issue to be solved, or do you want to find out who is to blame? I want the issue to be solved. Sir, I am suggesting that under Article 371, the provision is for establishing statutory Development Boards for the regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra. We do not mind if a new amendment is made, and Konkan is also included. *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: We are supporting...

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Under the guide of supporting, if you are saying that a constitutional amend-

ment will be brought, and then we will have the boards, then this will only delay matters.

I don't think this is intention of any one. It was agreed even by the previous Government. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Sharad Pawar, had proposed a formula and a draft of the Presidential Order for implementing the provisions of Article 371 and establishing Statutory Development Boards. Now, this Government should immediately—the session will be over today—by a Presidential Order, establish Statutory Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada, and if they want for the rest of the Maharashtra without waiting for the amendment. I am uttering a note of warning, if this is not done by the Government, we will not be responsible. You will find an agitation in Vidarbha taking place for a separate State. (Interruptions) Then the entire House will be blamed for not supporting the cause of Vidarbha. At least for Statutory Development Boards, I would request the Government to do this immediately. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAV-INCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important issue as it concerns the dignity of Parliament, whether it is the question of holding examinations in Indian languages or development of Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan regions. No follow up action is taken even in respect of the Bills which are passed by this House. In such a situation, it is natural to hold the Government responsible for inaction. The previous Government constituted the National Women

Commission and unanimously passed a bill to this effect. But till today Chairman of this Commission has not been appointed. No tangible result is visible since we passed this Bill. Today is the last day of this session. Therefore, I would request that follow up action in respect of Statutory Bills passed in this House should be taken. The hon. Minister should give an assurance in this House that he would make efforts to implement the decision within a fixed time frame. I would also like the hon. Speaker to issue direction at his level in this regard.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a widespread resentment among the people of Vidarbha and Marathwada.....(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do?

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: The hon. Minister is present in the House. He should reply to it.....(Interruptions).....

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you blame the Government. It is just possible that the hon. Minister may reply to these points.

12.29½ Hrs.

RE. HOLDING OF U.P.S.C. EXAMINATIONS IN ALL INDIAN LANGUAGES—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Budaun): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue that Shri Malhotra raised a short while ago is a very serious one. Yesterday, a young man jumped from the Visitor's Gallery in your presence. Our friend, Shri Saifuddin Choudhury had got issued a pass for him. I am distressed to see Shri Devi Dal's cold reaction to the issue