

INDIAN CITIZENS ABROAD (VOTING
RIGHT AT ELECTIONS) BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

* That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of States."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION RE : MEASURES TO
ERADICATE POVERTY—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Prof. Madhu Dandavate on the 18th January, 1985 :—

"This House expresses its concern over the failure of the Government to lift vast sections of the masses above the poverty line and demands concrete measures to eradicate poverty from the country."

Shri Harish. Rawat to continue his speech. He has already taken 8 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already said so many things about it. Our hon. Minister, Shri Chandrakar is an 'experienced leader. He has been close to the masses and I feel he will agree with me that there are several bottlenecks in the implementation of our programmes like NREP and IRDP due to which the needy people are not being benefited by them. Government is spending huge amount of money on these programmes but the middlemen of Bank and Block agencies associated with the programmes demand their share. A major portion of the money is pocketed by these middlemen and the persons whom the money should reach or the areas on which the money should be spent are not really benefited to the desired extent. Our Development Ministry should, therefore, not only work as funding agency or reply to questions in Parliament but it should also ensure that there is proper monitoring of implementation of the programmes. The Ministry of Development should also see that State Government agencies responsible for spending the funds spent the funds properly and the genuine beneficiaries are really benefited.

The people of U.P., to which state I belong, have several complaints to make about the programme. Earlier, Food-for-Work Programme had been introduced. The people had grudge against that programme also. They did not get good quality wheat, they were not paid their wages in time. The position in regard to NREP is also not different. Vested interests have found place in Blocks and they are corrupting social and political workers in the rural areas.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, previously favour was shown in every Development Block due to political reasons but now the Area Development Officers and others appoint certain persons as *Gram Pradhans* and utilise them as their tools for accomplishing their self-interests. *Gram Pradhans*

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