

I would like to make one important point about secularism. Secularism means equality of all religions before the law. But here instead appeasement of minorities is going on. It is said that special protection is to minorities is given. What is the meaning of that? In Kashmir, whether the Governor should be kept or not is being decided by a religious head Imam Bukhari of India and Khomeini of Iran. It should only be decided by the Government by forming a council of political parties. Imam may talk about religion and not about politics.

Secularism does not deny justice to Shah Banu case. There was a collective demonstration against the decision of the Supreme Court, regarding Shahbano's case, under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Secularism does not tell us to give permission for putting loudspeakers in the temple of one community and deny others. Secularism does not tell us to protect the place of one religion and discard other places. Secularism does not tell us to give amenities to a particular community and deny amenities to other communities. If you adopt this practice of differentiating the communities, then it will be dangerous.

Then, I come to communal riots. They are going on in the country. Who are creating all these communal riots? There is a communal riot between Shias and Sunnies. But that is not accounted for. In Hyderabad there was a communal riot between the Hindus and the Muslims because of the competition between the two Chief Ministers. In Marat wada there was a riot between touchables and untouchables on the question of naming the University after Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

18.00 hrs.

Why should it be like that? In Karachi there were riots between local Muslims and Pathans? What was the cause of it? The only cause was that some riots took place here between two communities. There are also communities here which indulge in rioting. That is why, if the Government lacks in knowing the instrumentality of the riots, it is

the fault of the Government. That should not be put up as the cause of religion only.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now it is not correct. You have to take your seat.

SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Difference should not be there between two religions regarding divorce system, regarding family planning, regarding places of prayer, giving help to refugee camps like Bhagaipur and Jammu. If it is there, then there is heart-burning. The Government asked the Army to enter the Golden Temple. But it had never asked the army to enter any mosque or temple where such conditions were prevailing.

Now about Hindutav, because I preached it as a nationality, I am prosecuted for disqualification. When Muslim League is there, Hindu Mahasabha is there, Democratic Christian Party is there, how can I be disqualified for that? We must have the rule of law in the nation which must be loyal and congruent to nationality only. It should not in any way degrade nationality.

18.01 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seventh Report

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I beg to present the Seventh Report the Business Advisory Committee.

18.1 1/2 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Points arising out of answer to SQ No. 445 dated 12 April, 1990 representation from Gujarat to National Committee for appraisal of DPAP & DDP

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT (Baroda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am

[Sh. Prakash Koko Brahmhatt]

grateful to you for allowing me to raise a half-an-hour discussion in regard to the shortcomings in the reply of the Minister to Question number 445 dated April 12, 1990. The answer given to my first question is not complete. It has not been stated therein as to when had the Government of Gujarat sent its memorandum. Also the details of the proposal to which the reply refers have not been given. Thirdly, the reply also does not indicate as to when was the National committee constituted and when it is expected to submit its report.

Mr. deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has formulated two programmes namely DPAP & DDP. Under DPAP programme, 43 Taluks of Gujarat have been covered. Under this programmes, 50 per cent of the funds are provided by the Central Government and 50 per cent of it has to be borne by the State Government, whereas under DDP, 100 per cent funds are provided by the Central Government. My points is that when I was studying in class V, one of my subjects was Geography. One of the questions often asked was as to which were the two Ranns in the country. I was in class V and yet I knew it that there are two Ranns in the country, being the largest, one in Rajasthan and the other one, the Rann of Kutchch. I could write it down correctly and I would get full credit for it. However, today I regret to say that the Rann of Kutchch is not covered under the DDP. The Minister of Agriculture is not present today and some other Minister is going to reply in his place. It is a matter of regret that the people have given the mandate to our party with a view to ushering in a change. They had reason for it. They wanted a change in alongwith a change of the Government, they wanted a change in the setup as well. From the reply, I could find that there has been a change in the Government but not in the system. The reply given by the Minister has been prepared by the bureaucrats. The Government of Gujarat submitted a memorandum in 1989 seeking the coverage of the entire Kutchch district under DDP and the rest of the 28 districts under the

DPAP. Thereafter, the committee went to Kutchch on 15th May and a memorandum was presented to it there on 16th May, as well. One year has passed since then but there has been no settlement so far. The intention behind my asking this question is to see whether the present Government is committed to the masses and the farmers. In spite of that if we have a reply of this sort from the Government, it is surprising. I respect Shri Devi Lal very much and he is committed to the farmers but he has also given the same kind of response and another committee has been constituted and a year has passed since then and I do not know as to when the reply will come. It has been the misfortune of this country that the Ministers have always claimed to have hailed from a small village.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the question of the country. This relates to Gujarat. The scope of your discussion is limited. You should ask only the relevant question.

SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: The reply received in response to our memorandum is incomplete and I am not satisfied with that. Therefore, I would like to know whether the memorandum submitted by the Gujarat Government will be accepted in toto or not? Whether the Kutchch area will be covered under the DDP and whether the rest of the 28 districts would be covered under DPAP or when will the committee take a final decision on the proposal of the Government. One whole year has passed since the other committees had been constituted and they have not submitted any reports so far. Can you assure us that the Government will take a final decision in this regard by May 31, 1990. Has any memorandum been received from other parts of the country as well? You have stated in your reply that nothing has come from other parts of the country. Has anyone sent anything due to which it is getting delayed? Mr. Minister, I am confident that there will be no delay in this matter and the Central Government will start work on these two matters at

the earliest. I would like to thank you for given me time to speak.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): The hon. Minister has stated in his reply to an unstarred question dealing with the Gujarat Government's memorandum about the expansion of DPAP & DDP, that he has received the memorandum and that it has been referred to the National Committee of Planning Commission and the matter is still under their consideration. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether certain State Governments to one of which the hon. Minister belongs, had urged upon the Ministry of Agriculture and Planning Commission for the expansion of the Desert Development Programme and the Drought Prone Area Programme and that efforts should be made to include the maximum number of Taluks under them. This matter has been referred to the Planning Commission by the Ministry and perhaps Shri C.L. Jain was the chairman of it, but that is not my concern. I would like to know from you as to what attitude has been adopted by different State Governments in this respect? Whether under the 8th Plan, these programmes are going to be extended to only these special areas or blocks which were already covered under DPAP or the blocks which have been selected will be covered after a specified period or is the additional list submitted by the State Governments will be taken into consideration?

Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that under these programmes the Central Government has imposed many restrictions...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rawat, the scope of discussion is limited. It takes a lot of time.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: As it relates to topic it has become an Half-an-Hour discussion. In this connection, the hon. Minister has not only mentioned the memorandum sent to the Gujarat Government but the National Committee which has been formed by the planning Commission for this purpose

has also been mentioned. Therefore, the request which have come from different states have also been referred to the Planning Commission. The most important point is whether an extension of this Scheme will take place under the 8th Plan? There is a doubt regarding this question and I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is he going to do in this matter. Along with it, the Central Government has imposed many kinds of restrictions in regard to the selection of Schemes etc. under this programme. Different conditions have been imposed for different States. Different States may require different Schemes. For example, one state may want to put emphasis on minor irrigation and the Central Government should not specify any priorities as such. On the other hand, the states should fix the priorities themselves and the Central Government should provide its sanction, accordingly.

In U.P., we can see that the Central Government will fix its priorities and select the Schemes suo motto under DPAP and in this connection, I would like to know whether the recommendations of the States will be given priority while selecting such items or will it be the other way round?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I am grateful that you have been kind enough to call me. This matter is not really limited only to Gujarat in the sense that the reply that the hon. Minister gave on the 12th of April, 1990 to the Starred Question No. 445 opens the scope for discussion and questioning, especially with regard to the national Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri L.C. Jain, and the fact that they will consider memorandum received from the Government of Gujarat, alongwith similar memoranda received from the State Governments, hold discussions with the State Governments, if necessary, and thereafter finalise its recommendations. That has been the reply earlier and, therefore, I would like to know in categorical terms which are the State Governments which have given memoranda. If its is possible for

[Sh. P.R. Kumaramangalam]

him, now, or if not, later, he may communicate to me whether in my home State, that is, Tamil Nadu, he has received any memorandum at all and whether in the memorandum, per chance, there is a mention of my home district called Salem, which is a drought prone area, almost a desert today, where drinking water itself is not available in more than eighty per cent of the villages. There we have been requesting the Central Government to bring in the deep bore wells with the hope that maybe the sub-soil water or the ground water would help us to at least have drinking water. Irrigation is a very far off concept now because when there is no water to drink, irrigation becomes heavenly dream and not anything lesser than that. I speak with a little amount of pain because unfortunately due to certain circumstances, according to scientists due to disturbances in the ozone area, we find that there is a change in the normal, usual climatic conditions that we have known historically, specially, in the last decade we have seen vast changes on times of monsoons and also that the desert is increasing and spreading and drought, when it is continuous, is liable to hit the normal land to become desert. I know peasant today is in a situation where his land is unable even to grow the simplest dry crops and even ground-nut which was considered to be something, to be produced in the rain-fed land, is today not possible to grow in many an area in my district and in my constituency. It is my request to the hon. Minister that if it is possible he should take a look on his own and analyse on the basis of these reports and recommendations as well as all the possible Memoranda as to which are those districts, on a national level, which really shift to drought prone areas, requiring desert development programme, because the shift is taking place visibly on the ground. Now, the issue is: is this shift analysed and are we giving right subsidies to the right area? Today we have reached a stage that certain areas have become deserts but they are being considered as drought-prone areas. Of course, every desert is drought-prone in the sense that it is impossible that deserts have

no drought. It is going to be drought-prone but the special schemes meant for the two different types of situations in land and climatic conditions that provide for that land should be considered. And invariably both in drought-prone areas as well as in desert areas, you will find drinking water is the first victim and invariably that is what is the demand of the majority of population as the first and the foremost item for which attention should be paid. I would like to know what is the scheme that you have in mind at present, whether there is any change in the earlier schemes as to how you are going to meet drinking water requirement. Earlier there were short-term and long-term concepts. There was a mini-mission for drinking water. How are you planning to meet that? Whether it is in Gujarat or in Tamil Nadu or in Karnataka, which is very close to my constituency, it is irrelevant. The fact is that drinking water is becoming a major problem. How are you going to handle it? Have you any specific programme in mind? I would like to congratulate my friend who belongs to Treasury benches, who had the honesty to purpose to raise this question and give us an opportunity to request the hon. Minister to be more specific in his answer and if he cannot give it today, he can enlighten us by writing a letter later on, on specific details as to how exactly he plans to manage it and if he has the time we are willing to go to his Chamber and explain to him the situation and why we want the Government to solve this problem.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the question relates to Gujarat only. But it has a scope for putting some questions to the hon. Minister. I will not embarrass the Minister by putting odd questions. I want simply to know whether other State Governments have sent representations to the Government of India demanding specific claims of Central assistance for the development of their area. My second question is: what are the total areas of land in the country which are covered by the drought-prone programmes and desert development programmes?

Third question: At what point of time the

different State governments have sent their representations to the Central Government and whether the Government have reacted then and there?

My last question is whether the areas of desert are extending in the country. These are my simple questions.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I shall try to answer all the questions one by one. First of all, I shall reply to the questions raised by Members from Gujarat. I consider necessary to clarify the three points which have been raised. They wanted to know when the Gujarat Government first sent the representation. The Gujarat Government first sent its representation in April 1989. Then another question was asked from all sides as to when different State Governments sent their representations. Maharashtra has not replied so far. Representations were received from Andhra Pradesh in April 1989, from Bihar in March, 1989, from Haryana in September 1989, from Himachal Pradesh in April 1989, from Jammu and Kashmir in June, 1989, from Karnataka in April, 1989, from Madhya Pradesh in August, 1989, from Orissa in July, 1989, from Rajasthan in June, 1989, from Tamil Nadu in July, 1989 and from Uttar Pradesh in March, 1989

Sir, as I don't have information with me at the moment, I cannot reply to the question on areas in India under D.P.A.P.

When questions on the need to expand this programme and linking of D.A.D.P. programme to the T.D.P. programme arose, a committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Shri L.C. Jain of the Planning Commission and consisting of Secretaries of various Ministries and one or two others who can be called representatives from the public. This committee was formed in 1986. At that time the previous Government was in power and this committee remained non-functional for a number of years.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: All the good work was done when we were in power

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: I would have congratulated if it were so. But the fact is that this committee remained non-functional for several years. As this matter has been raised now, a solution to it, will also be found. There was query about the term of the new committee. Questions were put in regard to the terms of reference of the L.C. Jain committee, the areas to be covered such as Salem and Kutch and other such questions which the States have mentioned in their Memorandum. The terms of reference of the Committee are:-

[English]

The terms of reference of the Committee are:

- (i) Appraisal of impact of DPAP and DDP for drought proofing and control of desertification.
- (ii) Review of other on-going schemes in project areas and their impact.
- (iii) Identification of weaknesses in the programme and suggestions for improvement, in programme content, planning, scale and pattern of funding, structure of implementation etc.
- (iv) Spelling out the strategy for Development of Drought Prone and Desert areas with suitable linkages between DPAP/DPP and other on-going schemes.
- (v) Review of existing coverage under the two programmes and whether any new areas are to be included

These are the board terms of reference of this Committee. I think, all references which you say and the representation of the State Governments which we have said cover all

[Sh. Nathu Ram Mirdha]

these points. Therefore, the terms of reference are sufficiently wide. This committee of 13 people have to visit certain areas, consult the States and take some decision. The last and the very important point.

[Translation]

By when will this decision be later? This is a very crucial question as four years have already passed. In order to expedite matters we would like this committee to undertake tours, take the State Governments into confidence and submit a final report as soon as possible. The first meeting is scheduled for May 4. Prompt action is necessary as a lot of time has elapsed. The first meeting will be held in May and thereafter another meeting will be held after the tours have been conducted. After consultations with the State Governments the terms of reference...

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will more funds be allocated for this in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: No more funds can be allocated under the Eighth Five-year Plan. The question of increasing funds would be foremost in the recommendations of the Committee. Provisions will be made according to the need for funds. The National Commission on Agriculture under my Chairmanship has given an interim report on desert development. There are three types of deserts in our country:-

[English]

- (i) Cold Desert of Leh,
- (ii) Hard Deserts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana and
- (iii) Temperate Deserts of Rayalaseema and Tamil Nadu.

In all the three types of deserts, various types of programmes like, research programmes, crop pattern, tapping of the gourd

water etc. are there. If there is less water, it will be used for human and animal consumption. If there is more water, it will be used for irrigation purposes. Without water, there can be no desert development programme. Therefore, we will tap the water, wherever it is available.

[Translation]

A question was raised whether desert areas are increasing or decreasing. I think in the hot deserts where high velocity winds blow, the sand keeps shifting here and there. The sands shift from a desert area to a non-desert area. There is a very important programme of stabilisation. When it stabilises the sand does not move. There is no question of extension of area. But the changes taking place there affect the neighboring areas also.

There is no extension problem as far as cold deserts and desert in Rayalaseema are concerned. I have given a brief account of the Commission's views on area extension.

As for the question on area coverage, there are 615 blocks under the D.P.A.P. programme. These blocks are spread over 93 districts and 13 States.

[English]

Drought Prone Areas Programme is covering an area of 536 lakh hectares with a population of about 700 lakhs.

Desert Development Programme is covering 131 blocks, of 21 district in 5 states with an area of 362 lakh hectares, with a population of about 150 lakhs.

[Translation]

I think I have replied to all the questions raised.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): I want to ask the hon. Minister ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not

the procedure. You can ask your question later when you go outside. This disturbs the procedure.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House

stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.30 hours.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday. April 24, 1990/ Vaisakha 4, 1912 (Saka).