

names are notified, only then you will be allowed to ask questions.

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): Sir, one of our officer has talked to the Home Secretary of West Bengal and he has told that she is all right and she is recovering.

[Translation]

Despite this we shall once again confirm it. (Interruptions).

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Ratnaker Pandey has announced in Rajya Sabha. (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will not go by anything happened in the other House. We will rather like to come to the conclusion that somebody is surviving. So, let it be confirmed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Home Minister does not know anything. He will not speak unless he enquires about it.

(Interruptions)

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION— Contd.

*Establishment of separate Development Boards in Maharashtra—Contd.*

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a decision on the subject on which I want to speak today has recently

been announced by the administration. The administration has taken a decision on 15th August that Statutory Development Board shall be constituted in respect of backward areas of Vidharbha, Marathwada and Konkan in Maharashtra. I welcome this announcement but I feel that it would have been better had the announcement regarding the decision been made in the Parliament when the same is in session. Still, I welcome the decision. The decision for constituting a Statutory Board for MARATHWADA and VIDARBHA regions has been pending since 1956, as is evident from the course of events. Efforts for this have been made by several persons. Shri Vasant Sathe is sitting here, he also gave notice of a Bill relating to this subject. Though his Bill on it did not come in the ballot. But he continued his efforts in this regard. Now that our long cherished desire is being fulfilled by this decision, I welcome this. In July 1984, though it was very late, the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra after having considered this seriously had unanimously come to the conclusion that there was need for constituting such a Statutory Board. I would like to read clause 22 of the Report of Joint Select Committee, 1956 which states as under:

[English]

“It was urged before the Committee by its members from Vidarbha that the agreement entered into in September, 1953 known as Nagpur Agreement should, to the extent practicable, be given Constitutional recognition. The members from the other Maharashtra area gave the full support to this proposal. A new clause has accordingly been added to article 371 with the consent of the Members from Maharashtra.”

[Translation]

Nagpur Agreement was not implemented despite the mass support for its earliest possible implementation in the whole of Maharashtra.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): I think the hon. Members wanted some information. I have just spoken to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He has told me that she is hale and hearty. She is in the hospital. But a large number of people are going to visit her and it might lead to some infection and all that. But she is hale and hearty.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): We wish her a long life.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: We pray for her good health.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION—  
*Contd.*

*Establishment of separate Development Boards in Maharashtra—Contd.*

SHRI RAM GANESH KAPSE: Now I begin my speech. Shri Pataskar, the then Law Minister had stated in his reply to the discussion held in the Lok Sabha on 6 September:—

[English]

“I would like to make it clear at the very outset that this has been done not because there are any fissiparous tendencies or any interference from outside the State but because of the intention to remove any apprehensions which might have on account of historical causes, found some places in the minds of some people.”

[Translation]

Marathwada and Vidarbha were backward areas and the reasons for their backwardness lie in the History. We wanted a separate Statutory Board for VIDARBHA, KONKAN AND MARATHWADA in Maharashtra and no one wished to be sepa-

rated from Maharashtra. There is a lot of backlog and in view of this the proposal deserves to be considered. Till now nothing has been done in that direction. In the meantime backlog went on increasing constantly. Be it jobs, roads industry or technical education everywhere the backlog is increasing in each of the districts of these three areas despite recommendation of various Committees like Dandekar Committee, Pandey Committee and Chakravorty Committee in this regard. It means that the expectations with which the people of Vidarbha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra and Marathwada opted for merger with Maharashtra could not be fulfilled. Shri Yashwant Rao Chavan the then Chief Minister, had welcomed the formation of Maharashtra province and though he had promised that he would abide by the provisions providing for the constitution of the Statutory Board but nothing was done to implement that. Six years have already passed but nothing has been done in this regard. Anyway it is better to be late than never. Whether there would be President's Rule in these spheres due to the existence of the Statutory Board doubts like this will continue to plague the minds of the people. This apprehension can be removed by involving local people associated with developmental activities in this statutory board.

Today, in the Editorial of “The Hindu” it has been stated that this issue must be referred to the Supreme Court. But I think it is not necessary at all.

The Maharashtra Government want to form four Boards. Konkan is a very backward region. This region has power shortage and there are neither industries nor sources of employment. In every sphere it is backward. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know the condition of Marathwada better than I. The condition of Vidarbha is no better. Shri Vasant Sathe and Shri Banwari Lal Purohit who are sitting here can testify it. I belong to Konkan. The situation of this area differ from that

[Sh. Ram Ganesh Kapse]

of Poona and Bombay. There are many questions which merit consideration. However the solution does not lie in the constitution of the Board alone. But there should be a thorough discussion on it in which the Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister, the Finance Minister and the Members of Parliament representing those areas should participate. Besides them, the leaders of the different parties in the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra also should be consulted and a consensus should be evolved for early constitution of the Statutory Board. It can be constituted in the Current session if we wish. We have waited for long we cannot wait any longer. It is requested that the State's views must be ascertained in this regard. It should be constituted at the earliest in order to end the struggle there. I hope that the Government will make efforts to achieve it.

I would like to mention about the article I have read in the "Maharashtra Times". I have its Hindi translation which I would like to bring to your knowledge. It has referred the statement of the Home Minister to the effect that no proposal for the constitution of the Board by the Maharashtra Government has been submitted to him yet. Shri Ram Rao Adik, the Minister of Commerce claims that the proposal has been submitted to the Governor by them and the office of the Governor says that the same has been forwarded by them to Delhi. I would like to know from you whether or not such proposal for constitution of the Board has been submitted to you by the Maharashtra Government? If so, now will you decide it? While replying a question you had told that you will take a decision on it after consulting us. I hope that we will be invited by you in the next week and we will meet to take a decision unanimously. I finish my speech with the hope that Maharashtra Government will not create any hurdle on it.

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also interested in this subject because there is the same problem in my constituency also and the Board... (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

I will come to the point. I am interested in this subject.

[*Translation*]

There are many complaints against the ineffectiveness of the Board that was constituted in our area. I would like to say to the hon. Minister about the relevant points on this issue. Actually I was just discussing this thing with Shri Sathe Saheb. After all, you are going to constitute this Board by a Presidential order under Article 371 (2) in order to satisfy the people of Vidarbha and fulfil of their feelings and aspirations regarding the development of their area. In future many complications will arise if the public and their representative of the concerned areas are not taken into confidence by and large regarding each and every clause of the subject. There may be certain shortcomings in the provisions and details you propose to include which the people of Vidarbha might disapprove and feel that such and such thing should have been there. They might like to insert something or some new provisions. So I would like to say to the hon. Minister that he should circulate the draft order in the public and their representatives and thereby he should take them into confidence because it will be of no use if you present only the final draft in the legislative Assembly of Maharashtra. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take the public and their representatives into confidence regarding the details of the provisions? Now the question before us is as to why the public is making a demand for that in that region? This is only because their area is under-developed. Their complaint is that they have not been allotted sufficient funds needed for the development of

their area. Due to some or the other reason the funds ought to have been made available for the development of the area could not be made available as a result of which these areas have become backward in comparison to other areas and their development has not been balanced. The slackness on the part of the Government during the last 30-40 years contributed for the imbalance in the development. Government should take steps to look into that. The section B of article 371 (2) also directs you or the Government in this regard. It says :

[*English*]

“(b) the equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole; .....

[*Translation*]

This is not only related to the present but also to the future and the backlog. Hon. Sathe Saheb had mentioned all about this while presenting his Bill on it. Using his words I would like to ask as to what steps are you going to take for removing the backlog of the development and would you like to say something about the steps you propose to take after taking the Planning Commission, the Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra into confidence?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): There should be some beginning in every direction. You talk of the backlog and that too of 30-40 years.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You do not understand, everything will be done only on the basis of their drafts as they put in the Presidential order. Nothing can be done once the order is released. Please, consult us at least once, Sir.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have inter-

rupted me. I have practical experience about it. The steps taken in my area under this scheme gave rise to many grievances of different nature.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I read out the subject to you to tell you as to what is the actual subject under discussion.

[*English*]

(i) Delay in setting up the Statutory Boards in Maharashtra; and

(ii) Conflicting statements by Union Home Minister and the Finance Minister, Government of Maharashtra.

This is the subject.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Anyway, it is well-connected to that question.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Half-an-hour discussion is on Vidarbha.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I have almost finished. I was just requesting to the hon. Minister that if any lacuna is allowed to remain there today, it will affect the future. The people who are facing frustration for years together have pinned great hopes with this Board. It would be very difficult to rectify the fundamental lacunae and shortcomings which you might allow there in a hurry without taking the people's representatives of the area into confidence. Your Government is accustomed of such things. I, therefore, request that you should move very cautiously in that regard. It is not necessary that you should reply to it today itself, you may reply to it even tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we welcome the announcement of the Prime Minister which he made on the 15th August to constitute the Development Boards for the regions of

[Sh. Banwari Lal Purohit]

Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan. But even today some doubts persist in the minds of the people of Vidarbha and Marathwada. I would like that the persisting doubts in the minds of the people of these backward areas should be removed. Hon'ble Home Minister should look into it.

In 1956, there was a constitutional Amendment Under Article 371 for Vidarbha-Marathwada. As one of our hon. Member has stated that a Resolution passed unanimously by the both Houses of Maharashtra Legislature had been brought here. The problem was that the draft submitted by them carried certain defects and that draft in turn used to be returned to them for rectification of the defects. This happened on two or three occasions. This made the people of the concerned areas angry and they are in a mood to adopt the path of agitation. At last the Home Minister of Maharashtra on behalf of his Government stated that if the draft under the Article 371(2) submitted by them is going to be approved by the Union Government. We confer full rights on the Union Government for preparing the draft to its liking under the Article 371(2) in order to do justice to the people of our areas concerned and that they would accept the draft as it is. So the role of Maharashtra Government has been made clear. We say to you again that we welcome the announcement about the constitution of the Boards for the backward regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan. It is understood that some people wish to bring pressure on the Central Government to constitute a Board for the developed area of the Western Maharashtra also. However the root cause of the injustice lies in the fact that the entire funds including those meant for backward regions were spent on Western Maharashtra. I want to convey to you the feelings of the public. If you yield to the pressure the very purpose of constituting the Boards for those areas would be nullified. The people will not remain silent over this.

As far as backlog is concerned, it is above Rupees ten thousands crore for Vidarbha only according to a rough estimate. Justice demands that this backlog should be removed. These areas can be brought upto the level of the development only when the funds are made available to them. You should issue an order for making the provision for that. Article 371(2) provides for three things more. Firstly, equitable distribution of the funds, secondly, technical education i.e. engineering colleges and thirdly, the backlog in the Government services. Justice should be done at all levels. I would like to cite an example. In Maharashtra, 137 sub-inspectors were selected. Only six candidates out of 137 sub-inspectors belonged to Vidarbha, whereas the population of Vidarbha is 23.8 per cent of the total population of Maharashtra. You should keep cases of injustice of this type and the factual positions in this regard in your mind. Government should state whether it will incorporate it in the order or not? I want to say only by this much that you should look into it and see that no injustice is done to any region. Who is committing such injustice? The Maharashtra Government has been in the habit of doing it for years together. Such injustice has continued due to the dominance of the Western Maharashtra there as a result of which rest of the areas are neglected. I want to make it clear to you that we shall not accept the proposal that the Chief Minister will nominate the Members as has been proposed by the Maharashtra Government. Please elaborate it. What we want is that this should be placed in the hands of the elected representatives of the people of that region. Suppose you have to select three Members from Vidarbha region, you may do it among the M.L.As of different parties according to their respective strength. The strength of the public representatives in the Board should not be less than fifty per cent of the total membership of the Board. The rest of the Members should be nominated by the Government and the persons so nominated should be eminent scholars having

sufficient knowledge and experience in the field of development. It should be ensured that those who have committed injustice have no hand in constituting the Board. If you authorise the Chief Minister for nominating the Members of the Board, he will select every Tom-Dick and Harry among his own men. Can there be any justice in this way? Justice demands that you should not nullify it under any pressure. *(Interruptions)* I have given all the suggestions. *(Interruptions)* The Governor should nominate the eminent scholars who possess wide knowledge and are beyond any pressure. By doing this only you may do justice to the people there. You should nominate 50 to 60 per cent members from the elected representatives of the people including the M.Ps of the concerned areas and rest of the 40 per cent from the eminent scholars possessing wide knowledge and experience. I request you to do justice to the people of those areas by removing the backlogs.

I have confined myself to important points only. The people there are very hopeful now that justice will be done to them. So immediate steps should be taken in this regard. I would like to say that if there is any delay in respect of the Amendment regarding Konkan, it should be done soon. You should act in such a way that the Development Boards for Konkan, Vidarbha and Marathwada are constituted before the end of this Session. If you do this job before the end of this session it would be so nice a thing.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please give me two minutes to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would have allotted two minutes to you but others also will ask for the same.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have already said the Chief Minister of Maharashtra alongwith Shri Rama Rao Adik and other

senior officers had met me on 5th June and put forward a proposal. That proposal did not fulfill the provisions of the Constitution. According that proposal, the Chief Minister was proposed to become the Chairman of the Board and his senior cabinet Ministers its Members. I had told them that they could do it themselves.

*[English]*

This does not fulfil the provisions of Constitution.

*[Translation]*

Thereafter they as well as we agreed for taking the advice of the constitutional experts in this regard. I am happy that their present proposal is fully in accordance with the Constitution in which special powers have been given to the Governor.

*[English]*

To oversee equitable distribution of funds and other affairs.

*[Translation]*

On the very basis of their proposal, a proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet after fulfilling the provisions of the Constitution for constituting three Boards i.e. Vidarbha Development Board, Marathwada Development Board and Development Board for the rest of Maharashtra.

18.00 Hrs.

*[English]*

The area of the respective Development Boards shall be as specified hereunder:

(a) The Vidarbha Development Board shall cover the areas of Nagpur and Amravati Revenue Divisions.

(b) The Marathwada Development Board shall cover the area



[Sh. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed]

of Aurangabad Revenue Division.

(c) The Development Board for the rest of Maharashtra shall cover the area of Pune, Nasik and Konkan Division.

[*Translation*]

We propose to submit a proposal to the Cabinet and bring a Constitutional Amendment in this very session. Tomorrow or a day after, that is to say, within two days a proposal will be sent to the Cabinet and thereafter the constitutional Amendment will be brought which will include that very proposal. Our proposal will be based on the Maharashtra Government's proposal which is similar to Sathe Saheb's proposal. This time they have fixed certain number of the Members. It is correct that the Governor in consultation with the Chief Minister will appoint the Members of the Board. It is also mentioned there in that the members so selected would be experienced people, non-Public men, and men of integrity. According to the proposal number of the people's representatives has not been fixed in accordance with their numerical strength M.Ps. or others have not been taken into it.

(*Interruptions*)

What I am saying is that the matter needs consideration and for that we shall have to interact with them. We shall have to amend the constitution to make it a constitutional provision. I shall talk to the M.Ps of Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Chief Minister, if there is any suggestion from you on the question of amendment regarding the basic proposal as submitted by the State Government and it will be considered. But it appears to me that most of the powers will be with the Governor, so it would be very difficult for the representative Government to reconcile. The Chief Minister by diluting his powers and conceding to the proposal has certainly done a great job.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): What about the funds?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: There should be an equitable distribution of the funds. According to the potentials of each area guidelines have been formulated and the Governor has been empowered to look into the matters finally.

Shri Harish Rawat was pointing out about the backlogs of the last 40 years saying that it may be 10 thousands crores or 20 thousands crores. But I want to say that a beginning has to be made from somewhere, whether it is from today or from a later date. Even if the backlog is of 4000 crores or 5000 crores, it can be done on the basis of resources taking into account the backwardness of a particular region. We have included Konkan area in it. For that we shall bring a proposal after amending the constitution. In due course we shall talk to the Members of that region including the Chief Minister and thereafter there will be thorough review of the proposal.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do it in two to four days please.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: We are bringing it in the cabinet in two to four days. The hon. Members began to make queries about the statements given by different persons whereas we had already told them to bring this proposal very soon. Some delay has been there in submitting the proposal by them and the Governor but it will not make much difference. They have taken proper legal advice. Their Attorney General is of the opinion that in order to fulfill the constitutional provisions the Board should be constituted according to the Constitution only, otherwise the very provisions of the Constitution would be ignored. I would say that we shall finalise it within 4-5 days. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will it be brought in this session itself?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: We shall bring it in this very session. There is no controversy regarding bringing the amendment in this session. (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Please circulate the copy of the proposal. We would like to go through the copy of that. Before we discuss, we would like to see that. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I shall give you a copy also when we invite you for discussion. The Chief Minister will also be invited.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That is right. Call us and give us the copy too. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHHITUBHAI DEVJI-BHAI GAMIT (Mandvi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know .....(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go on record. (*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I have not given the permission to speak for other Members also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to reassemble on Monday, the 20th August 1990, at 11 a.m.

**18.05 Hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 20, 1990/Sravana 29, 1912 (Saka)*

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\*Not recorded.