

12.31 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

Fiftieth Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fiftieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th March, 1988"

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fiftieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th March, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

12.32 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

* [Translation]

- (i) **Need for FCI to open more purchase centres for wheat in different parts of the country**

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): The wheat crop is ready in various States of the country and the FCI will shortly start procuring them. In view of the experience of the previous years, there is a need to open more purchase centres for wheat and timely payments should be ensured to the farmers. Besides, the farmers should be protected from the middlemen. It has been observed that the employees of FCI return the wheat to the farmers on the plea that it is substandard and then purchase it through middlemen

to whom the farmer is forced to sell his produce. As a result, the farmers have to suffer and incur huge loss. My demand is that the Central Government should direct the concerned officials to ensure that wheat is purchased only from the farmers. Payments should be made in time and more purchase centres should be opened.

- (ii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the proposed scheme for purchase of motor boats for inland water transport in Kerala**

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, Kerala is the land of rivers and back waters. Water transport is a very important part of the transport system here. In the Western parts of Kerala, water transport is the chief means of transport. Water transport is comparatively cheap, but due to inadequate attention being paid to it, this mode of transport remains undeveloped.

The Water Transport Department, the Kerala Inland Navigation Corporation, K.S.R.T.C., etc., which are the agencies of the State Government, are operating motor boats on the waterways in the State. The Government of Kerala, I understand, has formulated certain schemes for developing water transport. A scheme for capital grant and subsidy for the purchase of motor boats has been placed before the Central Government.

I request the Union Government to give sanction to this scheme and provide financial assistance at the earliest.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to bring vaccines and sera under the Drug Prices Control Order**

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Sir, the drug prices control order was enforced with a view to having a control on the exorbitant prices charged by

*Translation of the statement originally made in Malayalam.

manufacturers and to make cheaper efficacious medicines available to the countrymen. To achieve this object, Government had appointed the Kelkar Committee to examine this issue and to suggest remedial measures. It appears that the Department of Chemicals, without resorting to any examination of the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee, had decontrolled the prices of vaccines. The Committee, in its Report, without giving any supporting details, have come to the conclusion that there is a shortage of vaccines, while, in fact, there is a surplus production of vaccines for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Triple Antigen, etc. The prices of these vaccines, including anti-snake serum, have gone up by more than 200 percent, and the public is being made to pay through the nose, on account of acceptance of the recommendations of Kelkar Committee.

Keeping in view the health and life of our people on one hand and the poor economic condition on the other, I request the hon. Minister of Industries, Government of India to put vaccines and sera under price control to give relief to the people of the country.

(iv) **Need to provide funds to States for drinking water schemes**

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar): Never in the history of our country has so much emphasis been laid and money spent on planned development of towns and cities as has been done after independence. Town Planning Departments are operating in every State including Rajasthan and development plans have been made for big cities and small towns. But planners have not been able to provide drinking water to the masses. This applies to almost all parts of the country. Non-availability of pure, hygienic drinking water has become a major problem and this is because of non-availability of adequate funds with State Governments.

In Rajasthan, almost all big cities including Kota, where water is available in plenty from river Chambal, scarcity is felt because of poor planning and non-avail-

ability of funds with the result that majority of population do not get drinking water regularly. Pipelines carrying water from main water works to various parts of the city are too small. Water does not reach even the first floor, let about second and third floors. In the absence of pipelines of proper capacity, alternative arrangements for supply of water have been made through old wells and 'bawris' causing stomach diseases.

I therefore urge upon the Union Government to provide sufficient funds for drinking water schemes to all States. Particularly to Rajasthan, which is always in the grip of famine and water scarcity so that people could get pure drinking water.

(v) **Need to install T.V. relay centre at Pusad, district Yavatmal (Maharashtra)**

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavatmal): T.V. Relay Centre at PUSAD in District Yavatmal has been sanctioned and so is included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. From the last six months, the local authority has constructed the necessary building as per prescription given by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry officials. The Disc antenna and some other material also reached the station before six months and lying unused. The area is not covered by any nearby TV relay centre. There is anxiety among the people about the commissioning of the Centre. The Ministry of I & B is, therefore, urged upon to take immediate action to instal the TV relay centre at Pusad, District Yavatmal (Maharashtra).

[Translation]

(vi) **Need to utilise the amount proposed to be spent on drought relief schemes on works of permanent nature**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government is spending lakhs of rupees on various schemes for fighting the drought situation and for providing employment in the drought affected areas, but all this money is