

[Shri Satyagopal Mishra]

all the recommendations made by them. But instead, the Government has picked up one general recommendation made by them and has brought forth this Bill to hand over the transport system to private operators gradually, jeopardising the interests of the people. They are not thinking of bringing a comprehensive Bill covering all aspects. I will mention one thing in this context. There are many workers and employees in the privately owned transport companies like drivers, helpers, cleaners etc. Now what guarantee of employment have they got? At the time of appointment one must be offered minimum service conditions. He must be given an appointment letter, guarantee of service, medical facilities, gratuity, pension and other retirement benefits etc. There is no law whereby these minimum service conditions of the workers employed in private transport companies or by private operators can be regulated or enforced. I will request the hon. Minister to bring forth such a legislation to regulate the service conditions of these workers in private road transport companies. I do not wish to go into the details of this Bill, because I am supporting it generally. With that I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We adjourn for lunch and reassemble at 14 00 hrs.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after
Lunch at six minutes past Four-
teen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up Private Members Business : Item No. 10.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEM-
BERS' BILLS AND RESO-
LUTIONS.

[English]

Eleventh Report

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Mora-
dabad) : I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th February, 1986.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The ques-
tion is :

“That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th February, 1986.”

The motion was adopted.

14.08 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. DEVELOPMENT OF
THE HILL AREAS—CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up further discussion on the following Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat on the 2nd August, 1985 :

“This House is of the opinion that in order to develop hill areas of the country, the Union Government should undertake to bear the entire expenditure for their development and

(a) set up hill area development cells in concerned Ministries ;

(b) set up electronics industries in such areas only ;

(c) enhance transport and investment subsidies for setting up of industries beyond a particular altitude ; and

(d) given grants-in-aid/loans for cultivation of forest land and start schemes for plantation, forestry, soil conservation, flood control, animal husbandry, etc. with the assistance of international organisations such as World Bank."

Before further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat regarding development of hill areas is resumed, I would like to mention that six hours and 40 minutes have already been taken on this Resolution, thus exhausting the time allotted for its discussion. On the last occasion, Shri A. K. Panja, Minister of State in the Ministry of planning, was intervening in the debate on Resolution. He has already taken 28 minutes. After the Minister finishes his speech, the mover of Resolution has the right to reply to the debate. Therefore, we may extend the time for discussion on this Resolution by another 30 minutes. I hope the House agrees to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (ALMORA) : I think it would be difficult to finish it within 30 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will see to it.

Shri A. K. Panja to continue his speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : On the last occasion, when I was about to conclude my speech, one of the hon. members of the opposition raised a point on Jammu and Kashmir asking for an assurance from me whether an electronic industry would be set up there or not. When no assurance could be given by me, Prof. Saifuddin raised a point on lack of quorum and the House had to be adjourned and the debate could not be concluded. Today, he himself is not present. In any event, I have prepared all the points raised by the hon. members.

First, as far as Mr. Harish Rawat is concerned, I am grateful to him for drawing the attention of the Government to very important points. In fact, he drew attention to four very important points which require

our concerted effort. So far as the development of the hill areas is concerned, point-wise I have noted from his speech and I have made my answer ready. As the time is short. I would like to place the answer straightway so that it could be short. So far as the first point raised by him is concerned, that is in order to develop the hill areas of the country, the Union Government should undertake to bear the entire expenditure for development. To this, an amendment has been brought by Shri Mool Chand Daga to the effect that instead of 100 per cent, it should be 25 per cent from the States and 75 per cent from the Union of India. The answers are : already the hill areas are within the special category. Not only the Seventh Five Year Plan, the overall development which will take place all over the country, should also be taken into consideration for development of these areas. Hill areas specific programmes have been taken up not only within the overall Plan, but also with a specific object. And therefore, it is taken as a special category. The advantages of special category are to draw special attention of the State Governments and the Union Territories, the administration there, about certain works which have to be done, on a time-bound manner so that hill areas develop at the expected level. For that, the allotment of funds has also increased gradually during all the Plans, from the Fifth Plan then the Sixth Plan, and the Seventh Plan. These are done with special central assistance. The increased figure is in the Fifth Plans Rs. 170 crores, in the Sixth Plan Rs. 560 crores, and when in the Seventh Plan it is Rs. 870 crores. Therefore, it is not necessary for creation of any special funds. There is no case for only the Central Government taking charge of it. There are two reasons for it. The administrative infrastructure remains now wherever the hill areas are situated with the States and Union Territories. Now when that administrative structures are also thrown out, States own duty is there to contribute their share for the purposes and also for this sub-plan and that has been envisaged and that is why specific grants are given for specific purposes but the matching grant should also come and the share of the States would also come from their own budget and that is the system which we find has given good results for the development of the hill areas.

Our whole idea now—and that is the

[Shri A. K. Panja]

recommendation of the Planning Commission as you know—is to decentralise these decision levels. If you keep everything in Delhi and try to command it from here, it may not be possible so that all the ideas which have been thought of and the money being spent to percolate down to that particular block of the hills, to those hill people who are working hard to meet their special needs and what they actually need for their development purposes should be decentralised. Therefore, the Planning Commission also generally directed all the States to carry on in a phased manner the planning process of decentralisation up to the district level.

Now, over and above the special assistance there is a North-Eastern Region where most of the hill areas are situated; there is a North-Eastern Council for that. Since 1974-75 it is functioning and for that also a special fund is given from the Centre so that the North-Eastern Council can perform in their own region with special assistance to those hill areas.

PROF. N.G.RANGA (Guntur): Will there be monitoring by the Centre ?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : So far as monitoring is concerned, primarily the task is of the States and the Union Territories, and from them we ask for various details and data, how they are carrying on, what are their physical targets, have they got their money value, and also whether they have achieved their physical targets, and so on. We are taking information from the States although it is not up to the expected levels.

With the emphasis given by our hon. Prime Minister this monitoring system has been improved and we have asked the States and the Union Territories so that when they get monitoring reports from their own units they must send these figures also to the Planning Commission and also to the Programme Implementation Department.

So far as this North-Eastern Council is concerned, it was only 90 crores of rupees in the Fifth Plan. In the Sixth Plan it was Rs. 340 crores and in the Seventh Plan it has

been raised with the approval of this House and the Rajya Sabha to Rs. 675 crores.

There is special assistance from the Centre. Then the North-Eastern Council is also getting special assistance and it is making its own schemes looking into priorities which are required for the hill areas. So far as development of hill areas is concerned within the Plan itself, there is a separate sub-plan made for the purpose of giving emphasis on a particular area. Along with that, most of our tribals who are within the hill areas, there is a special grant made for tribal sub-plan. Therefore, if an all round effect is considered, Mr. Rawat will be satisfied beyond any shadow of doubt that all things taken together, there is no reason for creating any central fund or giving the entire money from the Centre. That will prove to be counter-productive because the people who are actually administering there, will not feed the responsibility and accountability for the works to be done so far as their States and Union territories are concerned. Therefore, when the overall burden is on the State Governments, it does not mean that we should not look into it. As I have already submitted, monitoring is being done. If the funds are earmarked for a particular purpose under the tribal sub-plan or the hill sub-plan, we have issued instructions that unless it becomes extremely difficult for some reasons which are not within their control, they cannot divert any fund so made. Even if they want to do so, they have to write to the Planning Commission and get their prior approval.

So far as setting up of hill areas development cell in concerned Ministries is concerned, it may not be necessary because different Ministries have been given specific functions. But certainly it is necessary for the respective States and Union territories to do their duties. That is why, hon. Prime Minister has issued a letter to all the Chief Ministers and the heads of Union territories giving emphasis on the forests that so far as forest lands are concerned, certain parameters have to be observed by them. They cannot do random felling of trees. Only 13 States have observed specific directions upto now. Others have not. We are giving them reminder that this has to be done and also clearance has to be taken.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yesterday also some Members raised this point that to get some programme implemented in hill areas, it takes quite a long time to get permission from the Forest and Environment Departments for clearance of even bushes. In my constituency, an electrical line has to be drawn. And for that the correspondance has been going on for the last ten years. There is not a big forest but only bushes are there.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : We have also received some complaints in the Planning Commission. ..

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I have raised this matter at least ten times in this House.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : The hon. Members must keep one thing in mind that the percentage of forests is much below the required level. Even though we build huge dams for the people, if the ecological balance is disturbed, there will be danger and whatever dams we make and whatever money we spend, that will become useless. In Rajasthan there is hardly 5 per cent of forest when the all India figure is 22 per cent. This figure is also much below the required level. It should go upto 33 per cent. When you cross the border of Rajasthan and enter Gujarat, just 1 km from the border you find, because of the emphasis given by the Gujarat Government, that the entire ecological balance has changed. If you cross the border, just within one kilometre you will find that the entire atmosphere, entire climatic condition, entire standard of the people has changed. Therefore, I think the hon. Member will kindly take into consideration that this has to be done as an abundant caution because at random things were being done. As you know, it has started from the last year but if any specific complaint is coming to us, we are immediately writing it to the Forest Department. I am personally bringing it to the attention of the hon. Minister concerned, Ansari Ji. that here is a very small area of forest which is to be felled and kindly see that this is disposed of. But the Members would certainly appreciate that this is a danger so far as India is concerned. We are mainly an agricultural country. Our entire enterprise has been a success and we are now in a strong foothold because of the hard

labour put in by our farmers and cultivators. If you disturb the ecological balance, whatever canals are built up, they may be huge canals, but the catchment area will not get rain. We want to be able to feed the country. Therefore, this should be considered. Certainly, wherever the Members feel that something has to be done, as mentioned by you, Sir, if such things are brought to our notice, immediately we are sending special requests to two departments, the Water Resources Department and the Forest Department for their clearance. Immediately after the clearance comes from them, not a single such project is kept pending with the Planning Commission. I have looked into it and personally told the Deputy Chairman that nothing is pending so far as Planning Commission is concerned. If it is examined by them and sent to us quickly, it is being effected to. That is why I insisted on the forests so much.

So far as forests are concerned, we have taken certain steps which the hon. Members will certainly like to know. This question has been raised right now also. So far as forests are concerned, under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes can only be made with the prior approval of the Government of India. The complaints about this Act coming in the way of development works have been received in the past, and in each such case it was found that the State Governments had not taken due care in submitting complete proposals in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government of India. All complete proposals received from the State Governments are examined expeditiously and put before the Advisory Committee for their consideration. The State Governments have been repeatedly advised to prefer all proposals for diversion of forest area at the planning stage itself so that no delay occurs in the execution of the projects.

So, these are taken into consideration quite in right earnestness. So far as certain States are concerned, my appeal through the Members to the State Governments and to their own constituencies, wherever those may be situated, is that those States which have not yet complied with the requirements necessary for the felling of the trees, should comply with them. We must keep the forests,

[Shri A. K. Panja]

At some places felling may be taking place for development programmes but in other places random felling of the trees is taking place. Shri Anand Pathak raised a question whether there is a guideline. There is a guideline. Although West Bengal has come in category B and not in category A, but there are large tracts. Category A has totally complied with all the parameters and the results are quite encouraging. But West Bengal is in category B, that is, there is agency system. The work of felling of trees is given to the agents. That has to be stopped. The West Bengal Government has issued orders but the implementation is not ours. Therefore, through you, Sir, I do request all the States and Union Territories to comply with those parameters. If this is done, then certainly for development projects, small areas of forests could be immediately looked into and large areas of forests could be saved.

The other point about electronics was raised by a friend who is still absent, but it is an important point. Mr. Rawat has also rightly raised it. I have had it specifically examined and for the information of the House I am giving the details. Recognising the special advantages of the development of electronic industry in hill districts, Government has been laying emphasis for its development in these areas. The Minister of State for Electronics made an announcement in the Parliament on 21st March 1985 to this effect.

With a view to encourage more electronic industries in hill districts included in Category A—that means, no-industry districts, the Central Investment subsidy limit has been raised with effect from 1.4.1985 from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs at the rate of 25 per cent of investment in fixed capital. Further, recently 109 electronic products have been decentralised for dispersal and rapid growth of electronic industry by the State Government.

The North-Eastern States have taken a number of good measures for setting up of electronic industry. In Meghalaya, a project for manufacture of tantalum capacitors is being established. Manipur Government has been obtaining know-how for manufacture of coloured TV from KELTRON. Assam has set up a State Electronics Development

Corporation. Arunachal Pradesh also has set up an Electronics Technology and Trade Corporation. Nagaland Government is formulating a project for manufacture of electronics products. In U. P., hill areas also, certain units like watch assembly, TV assembly, have been set up. In Jammu & Kashmir, Department of Electronics is setting up a Centre for Electronics Design Technology at Srinagar. Besides, HMT has a watch factory and Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. has a telephone instrument assembly unit at Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.

I am thankful to Mr. Rawat that he has raised a question which has drawn the attention of the Government for speedy implementation of some of the projects. As I have said, 109 electronic projects have already been decentralised for the purpose of dispersal.

So far as transport is concerned, a question has been raised by Shri Rawat in paragraph 1 (c) of his Resolution. The enhancement of subsidy from 50 per cent to 75 per cent was decided by the Government of India in July, 1983. This 75 per cent enhancement is now under study. We are closely studying the effect of this enhancement and also whether any more enhancement is necessary or not. That is to be considered after we get all the feedback about how this enhancement has given benefit to those people. Besides that, the backward areas have been classified into three categories on and from 27th April, 1983 under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme.

The fourth point of Mr. Rawat is about grants-in-aid. I may tell the House that the U. P. Government has already availed of the assistance of international organisations, such as, World Bank, European Economic Community, Swiss Government for the programmes mentioned by Mr. Rawat. The European Economic Community aided South Bhagirathi project covering its catchment area of 90 sq. kms. with an assistance of 4.90 crores spread over a period of five years. Nayar Panar watershed project has been approved for a financial assistance of 4.62 crore dollars from the World Bank. In all, the project covers 83 micro water-sheds covering an area of 3,120 sq. kms.—74 in Garhwal hills area and 9 in Kumaon hills. In addition, Aglar river

project in under consideration for assistance by the Swiss Government and Benalgad project is under consideration for assistance from German aid. These are watershed management projects for soil and water conservation and scientific management of natural resources in critical micro watershed in order to arrest depletion of environment and ecological imbalance.

So, we are getting the know-how from those countries who have done well, along with our own engineers and our own experts. We are exchanging knowledge by taking the know-how. So, these points also are being looked into.

About the forest conservation Act I have already answered. Therefore, all the four points, that is, (a), (b), (c) and (d) are well under the consideration of the Government and we have to look into them. The main thing now facing us is to make the agencies, that is, the State Governments and the Union Territories, to do their work properly, and we are making them alert by asking them to give their reports.

Under these circumstances, I would appeal to Shri Mool Chand Daga to withdraw his amendment and to Shri Harish Rawat to withdraw his Resolution because full attention has been given to all these aspects as I have already pointed out.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to all the 32 Members and the Hon. Minister who participated in the discussion on the Resolution. Every Member of the House has highlighted the main points of the Resolution and has gone into its different aspects at length. They have expressed their support and opinions on it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very easy to extol the beauty of mountains but it is very difficult to formulate strategy for its development and to understand and analyse its different aspects. The reply of the Hon. Minister has substantiated this view point. The Hon. Planning Minister has referred to many aspects in his detailed reply but it

seems he has neither consulted his officers nor tried to understand the feelings latent in the speeches made by the Members in order to devise a strategy seriously to develop the hill areas and to remove their backwardness.

Sir, I had requested that because of scarcity of resources with the states, the Central Government should take up the development work of hill areas. The Hon. Minister has tried to sidetrack the issue by saying that there is already an administrative cell working for this purpose and by allocating more funds to this cell, the hill areas would be provided further assistance.

Sir, had the requirements for development of the hill areas been met and had the standard of living of the people of the hill areas improved since the First Five Year Plan, then there would not have been such widespread resentment in the North-Eastern region. The reason for the widespread resentment in Assam, Meghalaya and in other areas was that the basic needs for the people of the hill areas have not been met since the First Five Year Plan. No definite plan has been formulated to raise their standard of living. The condition of the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh is the same which is at present prevailing in the North-Eastern region.

Funds are, no doubt, allocated to the states, but for the execution of a job in the hill areas the expenditure may be two times, three times, four times or as much as ten times the expenditure on the same type of work in the plains. The states have limited resources. You provide limited assistance which is insufficient to meet the needs of those states. I would request you to review this aspect and the states should be asked about the requirements of their hill areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present the condition is that the works started in the Fourth Plan for the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh have not been completed to date. Let us take the case of the construction of a building of some Degree College started in the Fourth Plan? We find that its playground is still incomplete and no hostel could be constructed for the students to date, because the state is short of funds. The

[Shri Harish Rawat]

result is that the works are not completed. I would, therefore, urge you to call for estimates from the State governments about their requirement of funds for the development needs of their hill areas and the projects undertaken under the minimum needs programme and bear the responsibilities for the implementation of these schemes and provide the funds therefore. My first point is that you should give full amount for the development of the States.

Sir, my another point is that there should be a separate strategy for the development of hill areas in each Ministry. For this it is necessary that there should be a cell in every department which should be provided with special allocation for the development of hill areas.

Take the example of Information and Broadcasting Ministry. If I request them to instal television towers in our area for the benefit of the people, they would reply that they have already sanctioned two television towers for our district. But the two T. V. towers in our district cannot cover even 20 per cent population of that area. If I request them to make provision for 5 T. V. towers in our area they would reply that they are installing only one T. V. tower in other places and two towers have already been sanctioned to us. You will have to take note of the geographical situation of our district.

Similar is the case of communications. In case we demand S. T. D. facilities, an assurance is given that such and such city will be linked with such and such city. But even after two Five Year Plans this has not been done. Even today the facility of tele-communications is non-existent there or rather at an elementary stage.

The banking department has formulated a new licensing policy for opening bank branches during the Seventh Five Year Plan under which population and returns have been laid down as the criteria. They have not taken into consideration the geographical situation of the area. This would mean that not a single branch would be opened in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and North-Eastern region of the country. If

somehow sanction is given for opening a branch, the bank officers will submit such estimates under which it will not be possible to open even a single branch there.

In the agricultural sector, which is priority No. 1 for hill areas, attempt has never been made to know what type of cropping pattern will be suitable for those areas.

The development of tourism in hill areas can be attributed to their natural beauty. As regards the contribution of the Centre or the States is concerned, an analysis would reveal that tourist industry is confined to big cities or places of pilgrimage. You have not allocated any money for providing facilities in places of natural beauty so as to attract tourists there.

[English]

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Almora is a very good station.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : No doubt.

[Translation]

I have already stated.

[English]

It is very easy to appreciate the beauty of the hills, but it is very difficult to realise the problems of those who are living there.

[Translation]

There are so many beautiful places in Almora.

[English]

SHRI A. K. PANJA : If the first promise is complete, then the second is all right.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Regarding industry, the Hon. Minister has said that electronics projects have been decentralised for dispersal. At a number of places Corporations have been set up and some

licences have been issued. It was due to my efforts that two licences were issued to Hindustan Lever Ltd. for setting up a unit in my constituency to manufacture detergent powder.

The Department of Environment refused permission to this unit on the ground that it will pollute the environment. We agreed to this. We hoped that if an industry which causes pollution was not allowed to be set up there, then at least electronics industry may be set up there. Although it is true that the policy has been liberalised and the subsidy has been raised, nevertheless you will be surprised to know that out of thousands of licences issued by the Electronics department, the number of licences issued to Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and U. P. hills is only one per cent. The Government do not wish to set up industries causing pollution in these areas but I am sure that electronics industry will not cause pollution in the environment. I would like to ask that if even electronics industries are not set up, which industry can be more beneficial. Will Government think in this direction ?

You being the Planning Minister of the country, the entire responsibility of the economic development lies on your shoulders. We request you to communicate our sentiments to the Electronics department and allocate some funds for this purpose. If either you or the Ministry of Industry assure us that electronics industries would henceforth be set up only in hill areas, we would be satisfied. But even after liberalisation of the policy, all the licences have been issued to big cities and they are getting the benefit as a result thereof. The electronics units are coming up in Lucknow, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Delhi, Bombay, Poona but nobody is prepared to set up in the hill areas. Not only this, no industrialist is even ready to set up assembly units of parts of watches, telephones or teleprinters—though there is enough scope for that in these areas. After all who is to be blamed ? The planning Ministry should give a serious thought to it.

Similarly, much has been said about forests. It is true that instead of deforestation there should be more afforestation. It would help in the growth of healthy environ-

ment in the country. We want to save the forests because every person who lives in the hills has great love for forests. But if the Government expect us to forgo development in lieu of our love for forests, we will not tolerate it. Nobody will be able to tolerate it. Today, even if a shrub is to be removed for construction of a primary school building the file would move from State Government to the Centre and only then the approval would be given. I can cite tens of such instances wherein the construction of roads had started in 1978-79 or 1980 but they are still incomplete. The construction work is pending. People cite these cases as instances. Do you want to protect the environment in this way ? The State Government has issued orders on the Centre's directions that nobody can cut a tree even if it is on the field-ridge. I am a farmer and if I come to know that I shall have to take the permission of the District Magistrate or the Central Government for cutting a tree which is in my own field what will I do ? I would destroy the very sapling rather than nourish it. Who would be benefited as a result of this ? If such a feeling is generated in the mind of the local population, what will happen ? I would, therefore, request the Government to consider it.

Besides, if the Government is really interested in saving forests it should, at the outset, find alternative means to end our dependence on the forests, before asking us to save forests. Forests are the mainstay of many industries on which our livelihood depends. Efforts should, therefore, be made to provide employment. Assistance should be given to develop textile industries in the hill areas. Handloom units should be set up to provide employment opportunities to people of the area. Handicrafts can be developed. Forests are also a source of fuel. Therefore, provide us cheap electricity, cooking gas and coal in order to save forests, in the one hand the Government do not provide alternative sources of fuel on the other hand it forces us not to fell trees for fuel; so how can this be tolerated ? Nobody can tolerate this. Who will think about it ? I request the Hon. Planning Minister if it is not done it would be harmful. The work on rural electrification is in progress. In the hill areas the work of rural electrification has not come even to the level of 50 per cent of the national average. When there is no progress

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in the work of rural electrification, how can the people make use of it? How will they be able to cook their meals if they do not use electricity? They will certainly use forest wood as fuel. If that person is not allowed to fell trees for fuel, how will he manage? So, when you were preaching, I was comparing it with the reality and I felt that the purpose of this talk about environmental protection is now limited to white collar people, bureaucracy, intellectuals and the seminars. Nothing is being done seriously for the protection of environment in reality. I would, therefore, request the Government to ponder over it afresh and until separate cells are set up in the various departments and the Ministries of Central Government, whether it is Information and Broadcasting, Banking, Tourism Energy, Industry or Electronics, Alternative Sources of Energy etc. and adequate funds are not allocated they will never try to look into the problems of hills in accordance with their requirements. Therefore, I would request the Government to reconsider it.

This should not be superficially viewed or put off on the pretext that the old structure is good. It has been pointed out more than once here that there is lack of coordination in the programmes for hill areas. On the one hand the Department of Environment wishes to save forests but on the other hand no department is ready to provide any alternative to reduce the traditional dependence on forests. I would, therefore, request the State Governments and the concerned Central Ministries to formulate a long term perspective plan in this regard. So long as such a plan is not formulated, it will not serve the purpose. Let the state agencies be held responsible but this must be done immediately. Whatever the quantum of funds, a will to do work must be created among them so that they are fully involved. The situation today, whether it is Himachal or Jammu and Kashmir *(Interruptions)* I want some more time. It is necessary for me to reply to Hon. Minister's remarks. I want that my views must go on record and I also want to relate the plight of hill areas in Uttar Pradesh. I can name at least seven high schools, intermediate schools in my constituency which are without any teacher.

I went to a place in my Constituency and told the people that a hospital has been opened for them; but when I was about to depart, I saw that they had put a stool on my car and said that was the hospital and I should take it back. There was no doctor in that hospital.

[English]

SHRI A. K. PANJA : That is for the State Government to do.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Kindly ask them to do something. You can advise them. All the Governments including the West Bengal Government.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : There are some Governments who listen to us. There are some Governments who do not listen to us.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : What is your experience with the U. P. Government? Obviously, they have not been listening.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Harish Rawat, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I would request the Hon. Minister, through you, to formulate, as I said earlier, a long-term scheme which should meet the requirement of the area and should be related to improving the standard of living and raising their per capita income. More emphasis should be laid on extension of social services in hill areas. We have never paid attention to raise their per capita income. Physical monitoring of the existing scheme in hill areas is highly essential. Till this is not done cannot achieve success. The Government pleads that the Planning Ministry monitors these scheme but it is not doing it. You are not even in a position to conduct monitoring on a State Government level. That is why I want that there should be physical monitoring to find-out to what use the money is being put and what is its outcome. If you cannot do this work then the State Government should take up the monitoring work. Not much funds are being allocated for the development of

hill areas in Uttar Pradesh. Although an allocation of Rs. 1057 crores has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan yet there is no Planning Board at the local level. The hill areas have been linked with the Planning Board of the state whereas there should be a separate Planning Cell for the hill areas. Similarly, there should be separate Planning cell for Andhra Pradesh, Western Ghats of Maharashtra and some areas of Karnataka which are at present linked with the state Boards so that monitoring is ensured to see whether the funds released as special assistance are being utilised properly or not.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think, it is over.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Not over, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have already spent seven hours on this Resolution. There are other Resolutions also coming up. Please try to finish.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I will take five or six minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Address the Chair. Then only you can finish.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I am trying to convince the Hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You convince me.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I find it difficult to convince him through you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Then you have to go to his room and discuss.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I will try to finish in five or six minutes.

[Translation]

The Hon. Minister has rightly pointed out the problem of soil erosion in hill areas for which Catchment Area Programmes have

been formulated. I would like to suggest that these Catchment Area Programmes should not be linked with the Budget of the hill areas. This work should be undertaken by treating it as a work of national interest. The afforestation in hill areas should be undertaken as a national requirement. If the Himachal Pradesh Government has been provided funds for afforestation and it has utilised the funds for the development of forests, this work has been done not only for Himachal Pradesh but also for the whole country. If soil erosion is not checked in the hill areas, it gives rise to problems like floods. So the Central Government should provide funds to the States by treating it as a national problem. If there are floods in Punjab due to siltation in Himachal Pradesh, The Punjab Government should also share the burden of tackling this problem. Similarly, Bihar; Uttar Pradesh and some other States are also affected by floods. So, these states should also share the burden of solving the problem. Although there is a cell in the Planning Commission to deal with such work, but that is not enough. A Member should be nominated in the Planning Commission who should solely look after the work of hill development and guide the cell as well as the State Governments regarding the situation in the hill areas.

You have referred to the Tribal Sub-Plan and many other points but from where will the money come for it. The funds being released for it are too meagre to solve the problem. The funds provided under the Tribal Sub-Plan scheme for Dhatic and Munshiyari in Uttar Pradesh is not sufficient for the development of that Block. If you want development of that areas, you will have to formulate Plans keeping in view all the requirements of that place.

The Tribal Sub-Plan lays stress on improvement in the standard of living of the people. But this can be achieved only when the people are provided with jobs. Mere construction of roads will not improve their standard of living. Under the Tribal Sub-Plan they should be provided with raw material like wool, raw cotton etc. But there is no mention in the Tribal Sub-Plan either about supply of raw material or of marketing of the finished goods. I would like to request that the Tribal Sub-Plan should take care of all these things.

[Shri Harish Rawat]

The economy of our country is based on agriculture. A Group should, therefore, be constituted and sent to hill areas for making practical study in the field of agriculture. Even after so many years of independence, the implements, the cropping pattern or productivity etc. have not changed in the hill areas. There has also not been any consolidation of land holdings. How can there be development when the same condition prevails there as was prevalent in 1947. Nothing has been done to wean away people from agriculture. My grand-father and father had been doing farming and even today my family is dependent on agriculture. Nothing has been done to improve agriculture there. I would again say that while formulating plan for the hill areas the needs of the people should be taken note of and those areas should be treated as a special care areas.

Some policy decisions have since been taken. They may not be applicable to other hill areas but they are applicable to our hill areas but they are applicable to our hill areas. You have mentioned investment subsidy which includes transport subsidy also. You have selected 8 districts of the U. P. hills for transport subsidy but only those districts are getting its benefits which are situated near the rail-heads. The industrialists want to set up industries near the rail-heads and do not want to go to the interior or high altitude areas. Same is the case with Himachal Pradesh, where the industrialists want to set up industries in Paonta Sahib or Parwanoo and not in Mandi or the upper reaches. The reason for this situation is that under the policy of transport subsidy and investment subsidy, the benefit goes to the people living in the interior, the policy will have to be changed.

The transport policy pertaining to the hill areas should be formulated according to the requirements of the people of those areas. You have not been able to provide rail links to the hill areas. You have not been able to provide rail links to the hill areas in U.P. or air links to high altitude areas. As regards road transport, the fares are on the high side in hills in comparison with plains. This is affecting all round development of that area.

I would request you that until rail link and air link are provided there, the fares should be charged on subsidised rates.

Hill allowance is also being given to the employees working in the hill areas of U.P. which includes foot hills of Nainital and Dehradun. This payment is made out of the funds provided by you. The results is that no officer or employee is willing to go to the high altitude areas. Everyone wants to work in the foothills because they get the same benefits as available in high altitude. You should keep this in mind.

In the end I would like to repeat one thing. You have given reply to the debate on your own but it is not clear from it what is the policy of the Government in regard to the hill areas. The Prime Minister is much concerned about the development of hill areas. Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Nehruji had laid great stress on the development of hill areas During the time of Indiraji, a separate cell was created for the hill areas and separate planning was initiated for these areas and additional funds were earmarked for this purpose. But in spite of this there has been no change and the situation is the same as was prevalent in 1960, 1965 and in 1970. Some facilities have of course been provided. But if you want to avoid discontent among the people in hill areas and would like them to remain in the mainstream of the country then attention will have to be paid to that area. The people belonging to Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and any other hill areas say that in the time of war their men fight in the front. But now their is discontent and resentment among the educated youth because they are not getting jobs in the plains and there is lack of employment opportunities in the hill areas. The result is these has been no improvement in their economic condition. They hear about assurances for the development of hill areas but they find that actually nothing concrete has been done there. If you do not make effort to redress their grievances and extend facilities there then the time is not far off when Assam or Meghalaya like situation may develop in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh. Some elements in those areas are raising points that when the Government cannot bring about development in those areas, why are we not allowed to be annexed with Nepal and China. Who is responsible

for our development and providing jobs to us and who is responsible for giving direction to us. So far as we are concerned, we try to reason with them so as to pacify them and to mollify their feelings. But all our efforts and reasoning will not be successful till the Centre and the Planning Commission do not adopt special policy in regard to the development of hill areas so as to bring development there.

15.00 hrs.

With these words, I just thank the hon. Minister as a formality that he replied to my Resolution because I cannot thank him from heart.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mool Chand Daga, are you withdrawing your Amendment ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Yes, Sir. I want to withdraw my Amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the Hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment ?

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*Amendment No. 1 was, by leave,
withdrawn*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Harish Rawat, are you withdrawing your Resolution?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Yes, Sir. I want to withdraw my Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the Hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution ?

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*The Resolution was, by leave,
withdrawn*

RESOLUTION RE: ELECTORAL REFORMS

[English]

SHRI D. N. REDDY (Cuddapah) : I beg to move :

“This House is of the opinion that there is an urgent need for electoral reforms so as to cleanse public life, and ensure free and fair elections which are now vitiated by the corrupt and unhealthy influence of power, money, caste, religion and other forms of corrupt practices and, therefore, recommends to Government to initiate wide-ranging discussions with all political parties, so as to arrive at a consensus for immediate implementation of poll reforms, which may reflect the popular will of the People in a truly democratic manner.”

Before I speak on this Resolution, I would like to inform the House through you, Sir, regarding the malpractices that have been practiced in the elections. Sir, I have been a victim to all the malpractices adopted by other candidates in my own constituency. A candidate belonging to the other side of the Party spent nearly Rs. 1.5 crores in my own constituency for the purpose of election campaign, that too in the Rayalaseema District which is one of the backward regions. So, you may well imagine how much money would have been spent in other parts of country by adopting all sorts of malpractices. Not only that. Other activities like throwing of bombs, fire-arms, etc. were indulged in during the election. Money power, muscle power and booth-capturing had all become part of the election in my own constituency, by the candidate belonging to other side. So, Sir, having been a victim to these malpractices I thought it fit to bring forward a Resolution before this House to prevent such malpractices. I am certain that, as I happened to be the victim to these malpractices, there are many candidates here who have become the victims to these malpractices, in the elections in their constituencies. Therefore, I thought it fit to bring forward a Resolution regarding Electoral Reforms, as early as possible. Sir, about a week ago, a question was put to the Hon. Law Minister in this House and he informed