

that the farmers may be able to buy them at cheap rates and do intensive cultivation.

Next, what the farmer needs most are pesticides, insecticides and plant hormones which are extensively used by the farmers. There is need to reduce their prices and the Government should grant subsidy for it. The plant hormones are in great demand among farmers. For better growth of plants, we need good quality hormones whereby we can increase the yield.

Now I shall come to fertilisers. At present the farmers use two types of fertilisers. Previously, they used dung etc as manure but today it is the age of chemical fertilisers. Two type of fertilisers are used, *i.e.*, nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers.

Today the price of urea ranges from Rs. 114 to Rs. 120 in the market. I would request that keeping the present situation in view, the price of the fertilisers should not be more than Rs. 100. Similarly, reduction should be effected in the prices of other types of fertilisers also so that the average farmer is able to use them and earn maximum profit and thereby benefits the country also by way of better production.

I come from Champaran. Champaran had been the field of activity of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatmaji had led an agitation against the owners of the indigo plantations. Today, sugarcane is the most important crop in Champaran. Eastern U.P. and Champaran are both rich in the production of sugarcane. The Members belonging to Eastern U.P. know that we are lagging behind in the matter of cultivation of sugarcane due to increase in the cost of production. Even where the support price for sugarcane is Rs. 21.50, it is not remunerative to the farmers. There are nine sugar mills in our region but two mills out of them are lying closed for the last two years. Besides, several sugar mills situated at Gopalganj, Siwan, Chapra and other places have become sick. There has been a harmonious relationship between farmers and the sugar mills.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may continue tomorrow.

RESOLUTION RE : DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME-CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up the Private Members' Business Resolutions.

Further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri Virdhi Chander Jain on the 25th January, 1985 :—

“This House is of opinion that there should be parity between the Desert Development Programme and the Hill Areas Development Programme in the matter of provision of funds, facilities and concessions in the Seventh Five Year Plan.”

Shri Virdhi Chander Jain was on his legs. He may continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last time I had moved a Resolution regarding the Desert Development Programme. I want to repeat the Resolution :

“This House is of opinion that there should be parity between the Desert Development Programme and the Hill Areas Development Programme in the matter of provision of funds, facilities and concessions in the Seventh Five Year Plan.”

In my previous speech, I had emphasised the point that the condition of the desert areas was worse than that of hilly areas. I had also mentioned that there was not only acute shortage of drinking water in the desert areas but it also remained in the grip of famine for as many as three years and sometimes for four years continuously.

I had also given some information about the crisis of drinking water about which I would like to give some more information. The condition is still such in the desert areas that people have to traverse a distance of 10 to 15 kms to fetch water. Even in areas where regional pipeline scheme has been sanctioned and water points have been

[*Shri Virahi Chander Jain*]

installed, women have to go long distances for water because the population of villages is scattered in an area of 25 sq kms to 200 sq. kms and the people live in the fields. Eighty percent of the people live in huts. In spite of the fact that drinking water points have been provided in the villages. The villagers have still to cover a distance of 10 km to fetch water even in the same village. Under the present scheme in the Sixth Five Year Plan, the provision of drinking water is made in a village at one point only.

In the desert areas, the population of villages being scattered over an area of 25 sq. kms to 200 sq. km, it is not possible for the entire village to avail of the facility of drinking water from one point only. The demand is gaining momentum that if a population of 250 is scattered in a village with a large area, provision of drinking water should be made at two points or as many as five points. Now efforts have been made to provide drinking water. Under the Rural Area Water Supply Scheme, tube-wells have been installed and in some areas it has proved successful. As a result thereof potable water has been found in Barmer district and the water problem has been solved in Jaisalmer and Barmer area to some extent and water has become available in some villages also. Five hundred gallons to three thousand gallons of water per hour are drawn from a tube well installed in desert areas. The water is available at a depth ranges from five hundred feet to eight hundred feet. Therefore in desert areas the scheme regarding supply of water from tube wells is not sufficient, to meet the needs of the population. This cannot meet the needs of the people of the villages and of the cattle of the desert areas. Taking into consideration the population and the number of cattle there, this water is not at all sufficient to meet their needs.

I had raised this question earlier also and the Central Government had given some assistance. We had formulated a scheme under which water was to be made available on the basis of 40 litres per head in other parts of the country and 70 litres per head in the desert area so as to meet the requirement of cattle also. But due to the lesser quantum of water available from those tube-wells and its being saline that

scheme is not being implemented fully. Therefore, it is for the Rajasthan Government and the Central Government to make arrangements for the supply of water there.

It is, therefore, necessary to accelerate the pace of work on the Rajasthan canal. Our Rajasthan Government have decided to name the Rajasthan Canal after Indira Gandhi, which is a laudable steps. This Canal can solve our drinking water problem fully.

We have lift canal schemes. The Rajasthan Government have given sanction to Gajner, Kolayat, Saiba, Fallodi, Pokharan, Nachana, Mohangarh lift canal schemes. These are irrigation schemes. Permanent arrangement for drinking water can also made through these schemes. But these schemes will entail an expenditure of Rs. 3,000 crores which is beyond the capacity of the Rajasthan Government. So, it is my submission that the Central Government should provide this amount.

The condition of the desert areas is worse than that of the hill areas. The facilities available to the hill areas and the amount allocated therefore are not being provided for the desert areas. A Desert Development Programme was formulated for us in the Sixth Five Year Plan. This programme covers 11 districts of Rajasthan, four districts of Haryana, two districts of Gujarat and also two districts of Himachal Pradesh. Similarly, two districts of Kashmir are also covered under it. There is water crisis in these areas but the desert areas of Rajasthan are particularly affected by drinking water crisis. Lift canal schemes have been formulated to combat this crisis. This can help in solving the drinking water crisis. Unless the Central Government gives social assistance, this scheme cannot be completed. If special provision is made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for this scheme, arrangements for drinking water in our region can be made. So, I urge upon the Government that the desert areas may be treated at par with the hill areas in the Seventh Plan. The amount and the facilities being provided to the hill areas should be provided to the desert areas also. Then only can we bring about progress there.

It is said that in the desert areas there are sand dunes where nothing grows. The people who do not know the geographical condition say such things. I would like to

say that our Forest Department has taken in hand the work of sand dunes stabilisation. Under the Desert Development Programme, the Forest Department has taken in hand the work of growing good quality grass on sand dunes. 'Sewan' grass and 'Dhaman' grass and useful trees also grow there. It is a man-made desert and not a natural one. Nature is not so cruel. If efforts are made, changes can be brought about in the desert areas and changes have been brought about. Ganganagar areas was a desert area; Bikaner too was a desert area but with the commissioning of the Rajasthan Canal in that area and the Jaisalmer area, very good crops are being grown there. Good variety of trees also grow there. Now-a-days, under the afforestation programmes, the Territorial Army has succeeded in growing trees and grass in the areas on the left of the Rajasthan Canal and there is lot of greenery in that areas. What I want to say is that the work of stabilisation of sand dunes is quite enormous and it has been taken in hand under the Desert Development Programme and Rs. 100 crores have been allocated therefor. Out of this amount, Rs. 50 crores will be contributed by the State Government and the remaining Rs. 50 crores will be borne by the Centre but this amount is not sufficient for such a vast areas. The area involved is 2,36,000 sq. kms but the amount provided is not sufficient for this purpose.

Therefore, my submission is that these sand dunes should be stabilised and drinking water made available through the Canal, arrangement for irrigation should be made, trees should be planted and where grass is needed, it should be grown in the areas covered by the Rajasthan Canal. In our deserts, whereas on the one hand we have the problems of sand dunes and drinking water, on the other hand nature has been bountiful in the matter of cattle. The cattle of this area are of very good breed. The camel is a very useful animal which can live without water for three days at a stretch. If it gets water for one day, it does not require water for another three days. The cows are also of very good breed. 'Tharparkar' breed and 'Rathi' breed cows are found here and in the entire country cows of this breed are not available. They yield milk up to ten litres whereas in U.P. and Bengal areas, the

cows yield milk between one to two litres only. This is the situation. But the question is how to save such cattle when there is famine. Famine time is the most difficult time. Even now, in Barmer, famine conditions are prevailing and the problem is how to save the cattle. In such conditions, usually cattle die in large number. I am giving certain suggestions to cope with such a situation. A vast pasture can be created on the left bank of the Rajasthan Canal. There is a large stretch of land lying uninhabited. If that is converted into pasture, the cattle can be saved at times of famine. Therefore, if money is allocated for this purpose, our cattle can be saved. The cows, oxen and camels of good breed can be sent to other areas also. Our camel is already famous, the breed of the horses too can be improved and we can make progress in that field also. In the border areas, roads were constructed during the Indo-Pak war in 1965 and 1971 and development has taken place in the areas where these roads were constructed. With the construction of the roads, people have made progress and the population there has increased. Roads have been constructed in border areas; but other areas do not have roads. Due to lack of roads, transport facilities, trains and medical facilities, no doctor, nurse, A.N.M. or compounder wants to go there. This is the situation. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister is trying to take the country into the 21st century but we are still living in the 17th or the 18th century. What I mean to say is that it is necessary to develop this area. The National Agriculture Commission had considered this issue and had formulated the Desert Development Scheme in 1977-78 after due consideration. According to the scheme, hundred percent assistance was to be provided by the Centre, but, unfortunately, during the rule of the Janata Party, the entire pattern of the scheme was changed from 1st April 1979, according to which 50 percent of the contribution was made by the Centre and the remaining 50 percent was to be contributed by the State. That resulted in hampering of developmental work. While studying chapter 25 of the Sixth Five Year Plan, I found that two schemes had been formulated for hill areas. The first scheme is the Rs. 360 crore scheme for North Eastern Council for which cent percent assistance is being provided by the Centre; the second one is the Rs. 560 crore

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

scheme for the development of hill areas. Under the second scheme, Dehradun, Garhwal, Uttar Kashi, Nainital, the Almora areas of U.P., North Cachar in Assam, the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, Darjeeling in West Bengal, the Western Ghat areas of Maharashtra, the hill areas of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa are covered. I had asked a starred Question and got the information. I should read out from a copy thereof to the House. That Starred Question was asked on 27.7.83. In the reply to that Question detailed information regarding hill areas has been given.

[English]

“Rs. 560 crores have been set apart for providing Special Central Assistance to identified hill areas under the Hill Area Development Programme during the Sixth Plan. 90 per cent of the Special Central Assistance provided under the programme is treated as grant and the remaining 10 per cent, as loan from the financial year 1981-82. Prior to 1981-82, the pattern of assistance was 50 per cent grant and 50 percent loan except for the Hill Areas of Assam where it was 90 percent grant and 10 percent loan.”

[Translation]

In 1981-82, this pattern was changed and it was decided that Rs. 560 crores will be given as Special Central Assistance for hill areas, out of which 90 percents will be in the form of grant and the remaining 10 percent will be as loan. I will submit a copy of the reply just now. On the other hand, for the Desert Development Programme, for which an allocation of Rs. 100 crores was made in the Sixth Five Year Plan, Rs. 50 crores was given as Central Assistance and the remaining Rs. 50 crores had to be contributed by the State. If you take into consideration the average rain-fall, the position of hill areas is better than that of our area which is always affected by famine. The position of the Western Ghat areas is still better. Along with the information about rainfall in Darjeeling in West Bengal and Uttarkashi in U.P., I also gathered information about the population and the area of the desert region *vis-a-vis* the hilly region. The area of the desert region is 2,36,000 sq. kms whereas the area of the hilly region is

2,31,047 sq. kms. So far as population is concerned, I have with me the 1971 figures because 1981 figures have not been compiled so far. According to those figures, the population in the desert areas is 1.82 crores whereas the population of hill areas is 4.02 crores. Our area is larger than their area but our population is not even half of their population. You can very well imagine from this the extent to which our area is under-developed; the population and area figures make it amply clear. I raised this point when a discussion was held on the Mid-term Appraisal of the Plan. I had raised this point on December 13, 1983 in Lok Sabha. At that time, Shri S.B. Chavan was the Planning Minister and he replied to my question, considering it an important one. I am reading his reply and I shall lay a copy of it on the Table of the House :

[English]

“Disparity in assistance between hill areas and desert was one of the points mentioned by Shri Virdhi Chander Jain. I don't think it is possible in the midst of the Sixth Plan to review the entire thing. But I am aware of the fact. Repeatedly he has been raising that only Rs. 50 crores have been provided for the development of desert areas whereas Rs. 500 crores have been provided for the development of hill areas. He has also quoted the population, areas and all that. I think the hon. Member will be able to appreciate my difficulty that at the fag end of the Sixth Plan, if I have to change the norms it will create all kinds of distortions in the situation. When the Seventh Plan is prepared this aspect of the matter which the hon. Member has raised will be kept in view and I will try to see how best we shall be able to help him out.”

[Translation]

He had also given this assurance. In this connection I made further queries and undertook correspondence also. If you look at para 8 on page 5 of “The Approach To the Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90”, you will find that it is stated in column 38 that :

[English]

“In the case of the Desert Development Programme, the need to give

greater thrust to it, if necessary, by remodelling it on the lines of other special area programmes like the Hill Area and Tribal Programmes will have to be examined."

[*Translation*]

In this connection I again wrote and found out through that correspondence that our Central Government had taken certain steps in that direction. During the correspondence, the Planning Minister made it clear that :

[*English*]

Kindly refer to your letter of January 17, 1985 regarding the disparities in the pattern of assistance to Hill and Desert areas.

In this connection, I would like to inform you that the Report of the Working Group on Special Programmes for Rural Development is being examined in the Planning Commission. In the process, the suggestions made by you and the observations regarding the Desert Development Programme contained in the Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan (Page 5, Para 38) will be kept in view.

[*Translation*]

I met the Hon'ble Minister personally and submitted to him that I wanted to draw his attention towards the acute problems relating to the desert areas and requested that those problems should be removed. During the wars of 1965 and 1971, our areas were bombarded and our people faced the enemy courageously. So, when the question of defending our frontiers comes, we come forward to protect the country and face the dangers but when the question of distributing the money comes, we are kept backward and our areas are neglected. Such a position can in no way be tolerated.

[*English*]

1. The provision for the desert areas under Desert Development Programme or any other special programme for deserts should be comparable to that of hill areas because the conditions in the desert

areas are as bad if not worse, than in the hill areas.

2. The Central assistance for desert areas lying on the border should be 100% as is being given to the special hill areas. For other desert areas, Central assistance should be 90% as is given to other hill areas.
3. For water, a special programme should be drawn up for desert areas so that at least after about 40 years of independence people in this part of the country have potable water.
4. To ensure proper emphasis and adequate monitoring of the special schemes for desert areas, a separate chapter on desert development programme should be incorporated in the Seventh Five Year Plan document on the pattern of a similar chapter for the hill areas. A special monitoring Committee for desert areas should be set up.
5. All other agencies like banks, financial institutions, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Railways, Health Ministry, Education Ministry, etc. should provide the same consideration for desert areas as they are given to the hill areas.

[*Translation*]

I, therefore, submit that this development programme be treated at par with the Hill Areas Development Programme and all those facilities, which are being given to hill areas may be given to desert areas also. Funds may be allocated in such a way that the border desert areas can be developed so that they can contribute to the progress and development of the country.

I am sure the Minister would give a reply to my Resolution and would include it in the Seventh Five Year Plan so that the deplorable conditions prevailing there can be improved.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"This House is of opinion that there should be parity between the Desert Development Programme and the Hill

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Areas Development Programme in the matter of provision of funds, facilities and concessions in the Seventh Five Year Plan."

Now, there is an amendment in the name of Shri M.C. Daga.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): I beg to move :

1. That in the resolution,—

(i) after "that" insert—

"keeping in view the varying geographical locations of different States, their most urgent priorities and the capacity of the States to bear financial burden,"

(ii) after "parity" insert, "as far as possible,"

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Both the Motion moved and the Amendment are before the House.

Now, Shri Ananda Pathak.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Sir, I support the spirit of the Resolution moved by my hon. friend Shri V.C. Jain.

Sir, I do sympathise with the problems of the people who are living in the Desert areas.

I know that there are some Desert areas in the country which have not been adequately developed. These Desert areas are in need of more rapid development, compared to some of our other developed cities and towns.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, the topographical and geographical positions of our country are such that there are hills, there are deserts, and there are other types of regions, but they are not evenly developed. There is no even development of these areas. In comparison with certain developed towns and cities, these areas are really backward. Unless all these areas are developed evenly on par with the developed cities and towns, the people living in these areas would feel neglected and a sense of deprivation and isolation would be

nurtured in their minds and this would lead them somewhere else. It is therefore in the interest of national integration which is the first and the foremost aim of the leaders that the present state of uneven development should be put an end to immediately.

Sir, all of us know, there was turmoil in the North-Eastern region and the main reason for this turmoil is mainly due to negligence of this region in the matter of economic development. Sir, like deserts, there are isolated Hill areas also in different parts of our country. They are economically backward. There are hill areas in Assam, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and there are also some hill areas in the Southern States. These hill areas are not developed on par with the developed cities and towns when we go to the socialist countries, we do not find the difference between the cities and villages there. There is no difference between one area and another in those socialist countries. Whatever their topographical and geographical position may be, there is absolutely no difference between the cities and villages in those countries. Therefore, unless this kind of position obtains in our country, we cannot go forward.

Sir, I come from a far flung hill area of Darjeeling. Darjeeling is a backward hilly region situated on the border of Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and other countries. There, there is no industry worth the name, excepting tea industry. But tea industry has provided employment hardly to 5 to 6% of people in that area. That is why unemployment is increasing rapidly. The unemployment problem is very acute there. But there is potentiality for developing Tourism, Animal Husbandry, sericulture, small-scale industries, etc. Darjeeling is called the Queen of Hills and it is the pride of our country. Therefore, development of hill areas of this region or Darjeeling depends on the development of triple 'T', that is, Tea, Timber and Tourism. But due to paucity of funds, no proper development has taken place in that area. There is the Hill Development Council. An integrated development programme is drawn up on five-year basis as well as on annual basis. The Central Government also provides some fund from the Special Assistance Programme for the Hill areas and the State Government

also provides some fund. But the dimension of the problem and backwardness of that area are such that the fund so allocated is quite inadequate to meet the developmental needs. In the pre-Independence years the British tried to impose their own policy and they tried to create enmity between the people living in the plains and those in the hill areas.

In this way, these people were kept isolated from the mainstream of our national movement deliberately. That is why, Sir, even now they are feeling isolated from the mainstream. I therefore, ask the Central Government to provide more funds in the Seventh Five Year for these hilly regions of Darjeeling and other areas and see that these areas also come up. I also feel that there should be higher allocation of funds for the development of other hilly areas as well as desert areas, so that they may also come up like other developed areas. This is my main contention. We should not have any complaint if there is higher allocation for a desert or hilly area. We should try and work for the even development of our country. All Indians should come together and build up our country. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Virdhi Chander has moved the following Resolution :

[*English*]

"This House is of opinion that there should be parity between the Desert Development Programme and the Hill Areas Development Programme in the matter of provision of funds, facilities and concessions in the Seventh Five Year Plan."

[*Translation*]

I support it wholeheartedly. Everybody is aware of the difficulties being faced by the people in desert areas. In Rajasthan desert, which is called Thar Desert also, all types of difficulties are experienced. It rains once in ten years and the people have

to face drought conditions there for years together. People have to trudge a distance of as much as ten miles to fetch water and in certain areas saline water is available consumption of which causes even death. Similarly, there is acute shortage of water for cattle also. Such conditions exist in that area. The first and the most essential thing in that area is drinking water. We cannot say that satisfactory arrangements have been made for providing drinking water there under the programmes launched during the last 37 years. Some tube-wells have, of course, been installed to supply water to the people. People from distant areas come there on vehicles to fetch water. Each family has to depute one person with one camel and a vehicle to bring water daily. Unless adequate arrangements are made, it will not be possible to solve the drinking water problem there. The need to provide agricultural and other equipments apart, the first and the foremost necessity is that of providing potable water there. If this is need is met, people will definitely get a great relief. I request the Minister of Planning to pay special attention towards it. Something, no doubt, has been done during the past few years in this regard, but measures on a large scale will have to be adopted in the coming years to solve this problem of the desert area.

Secondly, I submit that there is shortage of everything during famine. As Shri Virdhi Chander Jain stated just now, cattle of good breed are found there and the quantity of milk yielded by cows is quite good. People along with their cattle have to migrate hundreds of miles away and 50 percent cattle die during migration. A very heavy loss of cattle is suffered due to famine every year. The basic problem of water and fodder is linked with cattle. If we do not solve this problem, we shall not be able to bring about the white revolution in this country. Cattle are useful in the areas where fodder is available because they yield more milk where fodder is available. Unless we make available water and fodder there, we shall not be able to save cattle-wealth and as a result we shall have to suffer a great loss.

Similarly, the population problem is also there. According to Shri Virdhi Chander Jain, the population of the desert area is 1,82,00,000. The production of food grains

[*Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas*]

is not possible in the absence of rains there. All the essential goods are made available from outside. People have to face great difficulty due to non-availability of essential goods and they have to pay high prices for the items which are available there. There is no electricity at many places due to which it becomes difficult to pump water even from a depth of five to six feet. Unless funds are made available for electrification, the development of desert areas is not possible. There are rich deposits of lignite in Barmer. If we harness these deposits for power generation, we shall definitely be able to solve the power problem of the people there. The Government of Rajasthan have sent such a scheme to the Planning Commission for its approval which has been pending with it for about one year. If this scheme gets clearance, the power problem of the people can be solved.

You might have seen that during the war between India and Pakistan in the years 1965 and 1971, some incidents used to occur almost daily in the border areas. The development of Rajasthan desert is quite important from the security point of view also. The Rajasthan Canal is being extended up to Jaisalmer and security arrangements are being made. When completed, it will be useful from the defence point of view, and drinking water will also be available to the people there. Similarly, the expansion of the railway network there is also necessary to facilitate the movement of the army. There are some border roads but these are inadequate from the security point of view. Hence, the development of roads is also necessary.

I would like to say one thing particularly to Shri Gadgil, who is present here. In our border areas, the people hear the news broadcast from Pakistan and not from India as there is neither any Radio Station nor any T.V. Centre in that area. The people of the area are misguided when they listen to Radio Pakistan or watch their T.V. programmes. Therefore, we should extend our radio and television service to ensure that the news reaches them and they can benefit by it. Thus we can make our borders more secure and tighten the security there. We can also instruct the people there as to how they should face the enemy. We have given suggestions to this effect in this House and

Shri Viridhi Chander Jain too has drawn the attention of the Government towards it many a time. There has been some effort on your part in this direction. A small television centre has been set up at Jaisalmer which has a range of 25 kilometres. The area proposed to be covered by it extends to 200 kilometres. The benefit of this television service will not reach even a single village because the first village is 25 kilometres away. I would, therefore, request that the coverage of this centre may be extended so that the whole area gets the benefit.

There is shortage of schools and hospitals in the area. During summer the area has to face scorching heat and dust storms which results in epidemics. Medical facilities are not available there to meet such a situation.....

[*English*]

PROF N.G. RANGA : What is your local Government—Rajasthan Government—doing?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : The Rajasthan Government do not have sufficient resources for all this. Till the Government of India provides funds for it, nothing can be done.

Now I would like to draw your attention to the disparity between the allocations for hill areas and that for desert areas. You had allocated Rs. 100 crores in the Sixth Plan for desert areas on the condition that 50 percent of the total amount shall be contributed by the Rajasthan Government. The Rajasthan Government do not have funds. Therefore, I would like to request that just as you have done for hill areas—North Eastern Area has been given cent percent aid; they have been allocated Rs. 200 Crore, it is a very good thing. I am not protesting against it—I would like that aid should be given to the desert areas too on that very pattern. You made a provision of Rs. 900 crores for the development of hill areas under the special plan on 100 percent basis. In other plans, the ratio has been fixed at 90 percent and ten percent. If the same could be done for Rajasthan too, it would help us in developing the desert area.

Rs. 100 crores allocated by you have not been fully utilised and until you help us, these funds will not be utilised.

Due to lack of adequate efforts to check the spread of the desert, it is engulfing more areas. Many new districts are being engulfed and it is quite essential to put a check on it. This is possible only when you encourage afforestation and thereby stall the onward march of the desert. My district is in its grip. The dust and sand travels from Pali, Shri Daga's constituency, to my district. The Government of India should formulate a comprehensive scheme to check this. I would like to request the Minister of Planning to allocate more funds in the coming years for the desert area development than those allocated for hill area development under the Five Year Plans.

You have abandoned the DPAP programme. The employment opportunities that the local people used to get as a result of this programme are no more available now. There are no industries, no factories and no facility of roads and electricity in that area. Therefore, I would request you to re-introduce this programme with more vigour and provide more funds therefor so that the local people could get employment opportunities. The economic condition of these people should improve and just as the country is progressing, the desert area should also progress. I hope you would do something to stall the onward march of the desert, and would provide all possible help for the economic development of the area.

[English]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Till 1981-82 there was parity between the allocation of funds in the Five Year Plans for the hill areas and the desert areas. But it was for the first time in the year 1981 that a disparity was created in the Sixth Five Year Plan. The disparity was that hill areas were categorised into two—special schemes and normal hill areas. For special scheme hill areas, hundred per cent central assistance was given and other hill areas were given 90 per cent central assistance and 10 per cent of the funds were to be provided by the State Government. So, it was in the allocation in the Sixth Five Year Plan that the desert development programme was

given a step-motherly treatment because under this scheme 50 per cent was to be given by the Centre and 50 per cent was to be provided by the State from its own resources. It is to be seen that the Rajasthan Government, which is always under overdraft, cannot provide State assistance to the tune of 50 per cent. Therefore, this disparity which was created in the implementation of the Sixth Plan, has caused unrest. As a matter of fact, it has adversely affected the pastoral economy of the people of that area. It is only 3 1/2 per cent of the people of this country who are still living on the pastoral economy. In the desert areas they cannot depend upon agricultural income. They depend upon the income from the cattle by way of wool, milk, milk products or selling of cattles to other areas. I think, the planners should have given a second thought to this aspect of the matter. Not only this. The DPAP was given up. As a matter of fact, DPAP was a special programme for the development of desert areas. But that was given up in the Sixth Plan. The special reason given for this is that this programme is given up because there will be overlapping as they have introduced IRDP and Desert Development Programme. I think, there was no logic in it. It has been mentioned in the Sixth Five Year Plan :

“An inter-disciplinary task force has been set up to review the scope and coverage of this programme. Individual beneficiary content of these programmes will be supported through the IRDP. The DPAP has a large potential for generating avenues of employment. This will be optimally utilised in conjunction with the National Rural Employment Programme. Overlap of areas under this programme with those under the Desert Development Programme will be eliminated.”

So, it is the elimination of this DPAP that has caused injustice to the people, who are residing in desert areas.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Has your Government written to the Government of India?

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Yes, we wrote at the time of the formulation of the Plan. We also raised questions and we

[Shri Ram Singh Yadav]

said that this sort of disparity should not be there, that the programmes and schemes which are already being taken up by the Government of India to develop desert areas, those schemes should not be given up, they should be continued. But they were not continued.

So far as the geo-political condition or situation of the desert area is concerned, it is located on the border of the country. Our post-independence history indicates that all the important wars were fought in that area, be it in 1965 or 1975, between Pakistan and India. So, the underlying principle of the approach of the Government should be that the people living in the border areas should be made to feel contented, they should be provided with the basic necessities of life, the infrastructural facilities so that they will settle down there. This was not kept in view. The result is that both in 1965 and 1971 there was large scale exodus of population from that particular area. The reason was that they were exposed to bombing and, in addition, they had to fight the vagaries of the weather. So, they had to fight on two fronts. Special care has to be taken to rehabilitate and settle people who are living in the border areas. This was not done in the past.

Therefore, the resolution which has been moved by Shri V C Jain is very relevant, not only in the interest of the people who are residing in the Thar desert of Rajasthan, Gujarat or Jammu and Kashmir, but it is also in the interest of the nation. From that point of view, we have to assure the people living there facilities of drinking water, food, medical care, educational facilities, marketing, road and other infrastructural facilities.

Rajasthan is a State where the *per capita* income is the lowest in the country, excluding Jammu and Kashmir and one or two other States. Though a larger area of the desert is located within the boundary of Rajasthan, since that State is not financially viable, 100 per cent Central assistance should be given to the special schemes for desert, as is being done in the case of special schemes for the hill areas.

In Rajasthan the only amount which was earmarked for the development of the desert areas is Rs. 100 crores, while the amount which is earmarked for the hilly

areas is Rs. 900 crores—special schemes Rs. 560 crores and the normal schemes Rs. 340 crores. So, the ratio is 1 : 9. Naturally, it causes heartburning among the people living in the desert.

There is one peculiar feature about the people living in the desert areas. They cannot permanently stay in a particular village. They have to lead a nomadic life, because of the vagaries of the weather. They need water and fodder for their cattle. When they are not available at a particular village, they have to go to a place where they are available. So, some of them go to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. Therefore, for at least 6 to 7 months of the year they are away from their home land and lead a nomadic life, living in one place one day and another place the next day.

In these circumstances, those people who are as a matter of fact leading such a hard life and are facing such hardships, should have been given special treatment and there should not have been disparity between the development of the hilly regions and the desert regions.

Not only that, the regions which have been included in the drought-prone area programme, will continue to be financed at the rate of Rs. 15 lakhs per block per year with a total outlay of Rs. 175 crores from the Central sector which will be matched on an equal basis by the State. So, the nature of the drought-prone area programme was changed with 100 per cent assistance coming from the Centre. But in the Sixth Five Year Plan it was absolutely changed and the provision was made that the State contribution will be to the tune of 50 per cent even for this area. In the circumstances I request that the special schemes for the hilly areas should be given parity with the development of the desert area also.

There is one problem that is being faced by some people living in the Rajasthan State. Some of the refugees migrated to India because they were living in Pakistan in the border area and they helped the Indian Army to go into the Pakistan territory. Mr. Virdhi Chander Jain knows it well. During the war these people migrated

to India under compulsion. Now they are refugees living in Rajasthan. They have not been given any relief. So, I request the Government of India that those people who had migrated to India and who helped the Indian Army during war should be treated as Indian citizens and should be given permanent settlement and should be given rehabilitation on the same parity as was given by the Government of India to other refugees who came from Bangladesh or who had come from West Pakistan in 1947. So, special attention should be given to these people. They are as a matter of fact, going from pillar to post for their rehabilitation.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. ANNA NAMBI (Pollachi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my hon. friend, Shri Vridhi Chandra Jain, has through this Resolution under discussion drawn the attention of the House about the need for equal allocation of funds in Seventh Five Year Plan for desert development as also for hill areas development. I am privileged to express my views on this Resolution.

Sir, I hail from Tamil Nadu where we have no desert. We have hill regions and greenery. Though there are hilly tracts in Salem District, in Dharmapuri District and in other places, yet in Coimbatore District we have Western Ghats about which the hon. Minister of Planning, who hails from my neighbouring State, Kerala, is fully aware of. While we in urban and semi-urban centres live in all comforts and conveniences, the people living in hill areas are leading primitive life. Irulars, Thodars, Malasars and such other tribes in Hill areas are leading animal life in these areas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Anna Nambi, Prof. Ranga is wanting to know why are you not referring to Nilgiris where the Thodars are living.

SHRI R. ANNA NAMBI : Sir, the Nilgiris is a part of western ghats. I am giving this as an illustration. The position elsewhere in the hilly tracts of the country is no different. These tribal people do not have clothes to wear. They do not get two square meals a day. They live in dingy

hovels. They eat raw mutton; they shoot birds and eat them. They take millet-gruel. Their standard of living is abysmal. In order to uplift them, the Government of Tamil Nadu have formulated scheme for the development of Western Ghats and sent them to the Central Government. The Central Government has not given its approval. No financial assistance is also forthcoming for effective implementation of this scheme. If this scheme is approved, the economy of most of the districts at the foot hills, like Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Salem etc. will become active. Our venerable Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R. has been stressing for expeditious approval of this scheme for the development of Western Ghats. I would once again reiterate that the Central Government should give its approval for this scheme forthwith and also extend financial assistance required for this.

Sir, I represent Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency in which falls the Moonar Hills, the connecting hills with the neighbouring Kerala State. In Udumalaipettai we have hilly tracts. In Moonar Hills, we have coffee estates and tea estates, where thousands of workers are earning their livelihood. Though water is available in abundance here, it has not yet been harnessed for irrigation purposes. The people of the area have been demanding an irrigation dam here so that they can cultivate their lands. This has been the long-standing demand. If the waters of west-flowing river is diverted eastwards with the construction of a dam, then it will be an everlasting boon for the people living here. That will transform their life. The Coimbatore District, the Periyar District and the other areas will get water in abundance. Thousands of acres will be brought under irrigation. Besides irrigation, electricity, which is in chronic short supply in Tamil Nadu, can also be generated.

The Central Government also constituted two committees to study the feasibility of utilising the waters of west-flowing rivers, which go waste into the Arabian sea presently. Kerala State does not require that water. I would like to know what has happened to these Committees, whether they have submitted their Reports and if so what action has been taken on the recom-

* The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[*Shri R. Anna Nambi*]

mendations contained in these reports. If only the waters of west-flowing rivers are diverted eastwards, then Tamil Nadu will become surplus State in foodgrains. That will generate employment everywhere. The Hill regions will blossom in full glory. The tribals will join the mainstream of national life. Electricity can be generated in abundance, which will lead to industrial resurgence. Before taking action on this gigantic scheme, I request the Central Government to give immediate approval for the Moonar Dam project and also the scheme of development of Western Ghat submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

We owe a duty to the tribes living in Hill areas. They are the torch-bearers of our ancient Indian culture. They deserve all the attention from both the State and the Central Governments. They have to be helped to live well in their own environments. Irulars, Thodars and Malasars are to be brought to the mainstream of national life with the approval of Western Ghats Development scheme.

With these words I support this Resolution for the approval of the House.

SHRI MOHAR SINGH RATHORE (Churu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the proposals made by Shri Virdhi Chander Jain in this House. His proposal is timely because injustice has been done to desert areas on account of the disparity without rhyme or reason between hill areas and desert areas. This disparity has added to the backwardness of the area. Though the Government of India believe in balanced progress of each part of the country yet, as a result of this policy of discrimination; the situation in Rajasthan, which is already backward, has worsened. The Rajasthan desert has given the country the best soldiers, the best breed of cows and bulls since times immemorial and whenever there have been invasions on this country it was the bravemen of the desert who faced them. This situation would cause resentment among the bravemen, who defend the country and also their families who are already facing a lot of inconveniences. Whereas it is the policy of our Government that each and every citizen should feel satisfied, how sad it would be if our soldiers remain dissatisfied. The result of

this policy is that in the desert area where there is already scarcity of water and people have to bring water from a distance of as many as ten miles, the situation has deteriorated to such an extent that due to lack of rainfall even the available water becomes saline. Sometimes the salt content in water increases beyond the tolerable limit of 35000 per million. Cattle die in thousands when they drink this saline water. It also causes death among men. Infants die of dysentery. Similarly, there is excessive fluoride content in water. In some villages the content of fluoride is 23.5 percent per million. Its effect is that if this water gets mixed with milk or tea it gets sour, and if anybody drinks it, he falls sick. So, the Government should take care of the interests of the people who live in difficult conditions, who defend the country and are its well-wishers.

The Rajasthan Canal, which has been named the Indira Canal, passes through that area. Five lift-canal schemes were approved for that area. They were to be at Churu, Kaloyat, Gajner, Phalodi and Pokharan. But all these five lift-canal schemes were dropped by the Janata Government. The result was that the backward people became more backward. If these schemes are not taken up again, we will slide back 20 years, though we are lagging by 10 years now. After struggling for about 30 years, these lift-schemes were approved, but the cabinet of Janata Government of Rajasthan decided to discard them, though it is well known that these irrigation schemes were the cheapest. The canal passes through areas where the density of population is high and no expenditure will be required to be incurred on their rehabilitation. The land rights are settled there. Therefore, as soon as water is made available for irrigation, it will be possible to raise a crop within six months and the country will also be benefited indirectly,

Similarly, the discrimination between the hill and desert areas is the legacy of the Janata Party. We had contested the 1980 elections with the promise that we would undo the injustice meted out by the Janata Government. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the people of the desert are in dire need of drinking water. All those drinking water schemes which have been commissioned do not meet the

needs of even fifty percent of the villages. Half the villages remain without water and electricity. Many villages are deserted sometimes due to the fear of attack from Pakistan and sometimes due to scarcity of water. For thousands of years, our plight has remained unchanged. My colleague, Shri Virdhi Chander Jain has rightly said that we are living in the 15th or the 16th century. I would rather say that we are still living in the tenth century.

Even today, we collect rain water in the wells and for the rest of the year we have to keep a watch on it to use it as drinking water. It is kept under lock and key. Our planners will not believe it because they do not have the time to go there and see. I am prepared to stake my membership of Lok Sabha, if a member drinks that water and remains alive. The situation is so difficult there. You will not come across a single tree for 100 kilometres at a stretch, there no post office within a range of 50 to 60 kilometres and the question of any school does not arise at all. The dak is carried on camel-back in Rajasthan. Postal facilities are negligible there.

Some of our B.S.F. jawans died on account of thirst. Our doctors have not carried out any research to find out the cause of the death. So, we live in such dangerous conditions. We have not been able to provide water to the people who defend our borders and help the country. We sometimes ponder as to what is special in Hill areas which is not there in the desert areas.

People from this desert area have migrated to Africa and the Gulf countries and other parts of India. It results in brain drain. The people who are not able to migrate, remain there and suffer. On humanitarian grounds also you should consider their needs. Sometimes you say that Doordarshan Kendras will be set up for every one lakh population. This cannot continue. It will not be possible at this rate to have Doordarshan Kendras there even after thousands of years. It is not good to drop such schemes without giving them due consideration. What can be more discriminatory? Keeping in view their position, discrimination should be removed at least on humanitarian grounds. You say that a

Doordarshan Kendra will be opened when the population reaches one lakh. How can any Kendra then be set up in our area, because the population can never reach one lakh in our area?

There is constant infiltration of Pakistani nationals into India, and smuggling goes on unchecked. For a hungry man there is no other option except to commit crime. Who can stop such things there? Where there is not even drinking water available, who is going to stop these things? There does not exist any Government worth the name in those areas. Shri Virdhi Chander Jain has not said so out of fear. But I can surely say that if you send a thousand persons with me, I can smuggle them into Pakistan to day itself. People from Pakistan enter our territory without any difficulty, bring articles from Pakistan and take back Indian articles....(Interruptions) The Question is not of opium or any particular item. The fact is that non-permissible things are brought here and prohibited items are taken to Pakistan. There does not exist any such thing as Government on that border. How can a Government exist at a place where even drinking water is not available?

Whatever I have said is quite true. These people have been discriminated against and injustice has been done to them. My submission is that justice should be meted out to them. Stressing the point further will not make any impact. Truth will have its impact. I have announced in my constituency that if discrimination is not removed, I will resign. I can say only this much. Beyond this I cannot do anything.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali); Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, science has proved that now mass poverty cannot remain the decreed fate of the multitude. Our Planning Minister today talks of science and technology and thinks that there has been a lot of development in this field..... (Interruptions)The question is that when you claim that science and technology have made great progress, then how is it that not only the position in Rajasthan is not good, but the position in hill areas is equally bad where forests have been denuded? Big people went there and swallowed the forests and became rich. Let the hon. Minister know how these schemes are formulated. The schemes are

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

formulated by the Government Officers and we have to implement them. The people who have neither been to villages nor have seen deserts formulate these schemes. The entire system is faulty. I would mention one incident. There was one Minister who came from Bihar. He said that if in Rajasthan water was not available, hand pumps should be installed. He was not aware that it was not the on banks of the Ganga and the Yamuna where sinking of hand pumps would make drinking water available.

Secondly, Government formulate schemes and invest public money in them but the intended beneficiaries do not get relief and it is the intermediaries who misappropriate the funds. That is why the targets fixed by the Government have not been achieved. I would request the Government that in order to solve the desert problem a people's programme should be formulated, a Desert Development Board should be set up and people should be given a chance to participate in it. I will myself work in that and show how the country can progress. Is real has converted its desert area into greenland. In this country also 300 big laboratories are functioning, you ask them what they have done in this direction. You plant lakhs of trees but the desert is expanding. The reason is that all the forest have been denuded. This is large scale exploitation of the country. The Intelligentsia of our country go to hill resorts for recreation. People from all over Bombay go to hill stations but today all the hill stations have been denuded; there is no beauty left in those places. Now there is no greenery in the Botanical Gardens of the Nilgiri hills. People construct their houses and manufacture other items with wood and all the wood of those places has been taken away. If this goes on, the country will be ruined. Now, a new Minister for Environment has been appointed and a new Department has also been set up. I caution that if ecological balance is not maintained the country will not be saved. Presently, instead of being checked, the desert is expanding. Landslides are occurring in the hills. This will lead the country into ruins. First of all you should check industrial pollution. The Ganga should be diverted towards Rajasthan, and the Narmada Project should be started. If water is made available there, the land will become fertile. Any work proposed to be

done should be undertaken in the form of a project. You have demarcated arid zones. The Agriculture Minister, to whom this subject concerns, is not present here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is your duty to ask the concerned Minister to remain present to hear the views of the Members.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Planning Minister will give the reply.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA ; He is not directly concerned. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Crores of rupees are allocated by the Government for projects and if they are completed the country will make progress. The Rajasthan Canal, which we now call Indira Gandhi Canal with pride, was inaugurated in 1958 by Shri Govind Vallabh Pant. At that time expenditure on it was estimated to be Rs. 60 crores. Rs. 1,000 crores have been spent thereon till today but still the project is incomplete. A period of 30 years has elapsed but this project still remains incomplete. If the water problem of Rajasthan is solved, we can produce more for the country. Attempt should be made to tap the under-ground water resources so as to usher in green revolution in the entire country. We want that this work should be done on a massive scale. A question has been raised why the hill areas are given funds? The funds are given so that the big people may go there and have enjoyments. There is one hill station in Rajasthan, i.e., Mt. Abu. No one goes there now because all the forests have been denuded and the wood has been used for constructing bungalows for S.P., D.S.P. and the Commissioner.

The Government employees have misappropriated all the funds. That is why the country is not progressing. If you read 'Yojna' a magazine of your Department, you will find how the funds are utilised. The Desert Development Programme was launched in 1977 and now it is 1985. During the period of these eight years, you will find how much amount has been spent and what the result has been. Institutes have been set up everywhere. People get salaries without doing any work.

AN HON. MEMBER : The achievements are on paper only.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You have rightly said that the achievements are on paper only. You say that the country belongs to everybody. It is a question of the whole country. If no attention is paid towards the problem of ecology the future generations will curse us and will say that they were born in a country which had been polluted. And for this state of affairs the present day Ministers, Members of Parliament and other functionaries will be responsible. You have replied to a serious point in a humorous way by saying 'Please wait, you are in the queue.' Our Minister is very intelligent. He has said, "Dagaji, you are in the queue, please wait. Your scheme will be completed."

[English]

You are now a new Minister. You please read your Planning Report of each year. What does it say? The very first sentence says—'We will take up this issue of removal of deserts on a war-footing.' These are the very words used, namely, 'War-footing'. Sir, 37 years have passed, Even the drinking water problem has not been solved as yet.

[Translation]

When will the work on war-footing start? Please read it. Only then you will come to know of it. Please pay a visit to the villages of my area which have become problem villages. They are facing the drinking water problem. More attention should be paid towards improving environment. A scheme or a programme should be formulated for it and it should be a people's programme. Only then the problem can be solved.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I support this Resolution. In this Resolution the question of development of Rajasthan has been raised. In Rajasthan, development is not taking place to the desired extent. I would like to submit that this question does not relate only to Rajasthan, but also to many other States in the country, which are still backward. Bihar is another such State which has rich deposits of minerals and

gives you maximum revenue but still it is backward in the matter of roads, education and in other respects. Its development is not taking place in a balanced manner causing unrest among the people there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I belong to an agriculturist family. Our country is predominantly an agricultural country where 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture. Agriculture contributes 42 percent of the national income. Yours is a deficit Budget. Had you not ignored agriculture, you would have met this deficit by increased agricultural production. But you have ignored agriculture as a result of which the situation in this field is deteriorating. What does a farmer expect of you? ...

[English]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : He is not speaking in support of or against my Resolution. He is supporting the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him support.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : I am speaking on your Resolution. There is shortage of water in your area, it is backward and you keep water under lock and key. I am submitting that such a situation exists not in your area only but in other areas also in varying degrees. That is why I would like to say that development should take place in a proper manner whether it is water or agriculture. If development does not take place there, it would cause resentment among the people and as a result they are likely to go astray. It has rightly been pointed out that if the development of the area does not take place, one adopts wrong means for the sustenance of life and thus inhibits the growth of the country. I would, therefore, request the Minister to pay attention towards this matter. The hon. Member has described the conditions there as appalling and has claimed that in case his statement proves to be untrue, he is prepared to resign his seat in Lok Sabha. Certain points have been raised here in respect of certain areas in the country and they are correct. It is a slur on the Government that after so many years of independence these areas could not be developed.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Roberts-ganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I on my own behalf and on behalf of the one crore 84 lakhs of people living in desert areas thank Shri Virdhi Chander Jain for bringing forward this Resolution and providing an opportunity to discuss their difficult problem in this House. In fact it is a human problem.

The extent of the desert area is larger than that of the hill area. The people there are facing drinking water problem. They have to walk for miles to bring water. They are leading a nomadic life. Even after 37 years of independence, Government have not been able to provide them with adequate facilities on a permanent basis. They are not able to provide education to their children. They are not getting any benefit of Independence.

It is a fact that the Planning Commission had identified six special problem areas in the country for development, which are the hill areas, the desert areas, the coastal areas, tribal areas, drought-prone areas and flood-prone areas. These six areas were to be developed by providing special funds but it is unfortunate that so far these areas have not been fully developed. There are eight hill districts in U.P. and there are certain other districts such as Mirzapur, etc. which have not been treated as hill districts. But it is true that the problems of desert areas are more difficult than those of hill areas. For hill areas, 90 percent of funds are given as grant and the remaining ten percent is borne by the State Governments. I would like to submit that just as the Himalayan Ranges lie on the border areas, barring a small stretch, the entire desert area lies on the border. The entire desert area of Rajasthan is situated along the border, it is a sensitive area and infrastructure should have been developed there. At present there is no possibility of either industry or agriculture or of cottage industry in that desert area. The people of that area rear sheep and supply wool to other places. The life in this area is very hard. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Planning that the Planning Commission should develop that area by giving 100 percent grants to Rajasthan irrespective of whether the State Government can make provision for this purpose or not. Only then,

the way can be paved for the development of that area. I agree with what Shri Mool Chand Daga has said. What is needed is that we should go in for afforestation in that area but the difficulty is that a provision of Rs. 54 crores only has been made in the budget for this purpose. Therefore, I want that Rs. 50 crores should be provided to Rajasthan for afforestation in the Seventh Five Year Plan so as to develop the arid zone and to check pollution. I would also like to ask for how long we can keep the construction of the Rajasthan Canal going on. It has already cost us Rs. 1000 crores. I want that adequate funds should be mobilised from some source to complete this canal so that it may convert the entire area into greenery and thereby bring prosperity. I once again stress that at least Rs. 50 crores should be given for afforestation. Sir, a provision of Rs. 100 crores was made in the Sixth Five Year Plan for desert development, but that allocation could not be utilized because the State Government could not arrange for the matching grant and, as a result of it, even the central grant was not made use of. In view of the step-motherly treatment meted out to this area for the last few years from the development point of view and also to clearing with a view this backlog, it is necessary to provide more funds for this purpose. I am glad that the hon. Minister of Planning, Shri S.B. Chavan, has replied to the letter sent by Shri Virdhi Chander Jain, Shri Virdhi Chander Ji has been bringing the problems of the people of that area to the notice of the Government from time to time. I want to read out the letter sent by the hon. Minister to him on 20.12.83. It has given me great hopes. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of State for Planning to fulfil the assurance given in that letter. An assurance has been given in this letter that the Government would see to all these problems during the Seventh Plan and the treatment meted out earlier to Rajasthan would not be repeated. Special attention should be given to the development of that area. He had written that letter on 20.12.83 and the Planning Commission must be in the know of it. Therefore, you should assure us as also Shri Virdhi Chander Jain and the one crore 84 lakh people living in desert areas that that area would not remain backward but Programmes would be launched for their

development similar to those started for other backward areas. Similarly, the programmes were initiated in 48 'special problem districts,' but the work on these programmes has also been abandoned midway. The schemes taken up by the State Government have also not been completed. The Central Government and the Planning Commission have abandoned these schemes at many places. In our Mirzapur district, a number of Blocks were covered under this scheme, but four Blocks have been dropped right now. The schemes of irrigation in coastal areas, the schemes of embankments, the schemes of roads and the schemes of canals which were in progress, are still lying as they were. The land was acquired at 36 places and construction work on embankments was started but they were not able to create a Command Area, owing to which the work did not materialize. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Planning to the fact that no scheme worth the name has been implemented in the special problem areas, which have been divided into six categories, such as, drought-prone area, coastal area, etc. Whenever, natural calamities strike these six categories of areas, crores of rupees have to be provided provisionally. Therefore, the Minister of Planning should constitute a separate committee for this purpose to suggest allocations in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the development of these six categories of areas, where mostly poor people live, who are educationally and economically backward. You should set up a Working Group for the development of these six categories of areas; *i.e.*, hill areas, desert areas, coastal areas, drought-prone areas, flood-prone areas and problem areas, and if need be, a Member of Parliament from each of the respective areas may also be associated with it and a scheme formulated accordingly.

I do not want to take much time of the House. I hope, the hon. Minister of Planning will give us an assurance in this regard. I once again express my thanks to Shri Virdhi Chander Jain who has raised his voice not only for the development of his own constituency, but also for the one crore 84 lakhs of people who were neglected hitherto. I was very glad to read the letter from the hon. Minister of Planning because he has dealt with the problem in a very

effective manner. I hope, you would prove the way for the development of all these six areas by constituting a Working Group, as per the spirit of the letter. I also hope that the desert areas would be given first priority and cent per cent grants would be given to facilitate their development.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the time allocated for this Resolution was two hours. That time is now over. But we have got still 8 members on the list to speak. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this Resolution by one hour more ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, we have extended the time for this Resolution by one hour more.

Shri Sultanpuri.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Virdhi Chander Jain regarding hilly and desert areas. Shri Daga rightly said that the denudation of forests had resulted in the forming of the deserts. The way denudation of forests is taking place in Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Nagaland and some islands, such as, Lakshdweep and Car-Nicobar, etc., the possibilities of formation of deserts there have increased. The biggest problem is faced in the tribal areas where there is no provision of gas and the people have to depend totally on trees for fuel. The scale on which trees are felled mercilessly leads to formation of deserts. The desert area extends up to the Pakistan border. The number of people living in desert areas has been officially put at one crore and 82 lakhs, whereas the number of people living in hill areas is more than four crores. Felling of trees is leading to soil erosion which results in formation of deserts. Felling of trees in Nagaland, Sikkim and other hilly areas has resulted in the widening of all rivers leading to submersion of fertile land. A prestigious scheme has been formulated for the Ganga and the Jamuna. I feel, schemes on similar lines will have to be drawn up for hill areas also and then only the spread of deserts can be

[*Shri K.D. Sultanpuri*]

checked in our areas. Shri Jain has mentioned the names of Lahaul and Kinnaur of Himachal Pradesh just now. Ownership of land and trees has been shown in land records there. Previously there were plenty of forests there but that area is gradually turning into a desert. The areas of Tibet border, Dehradun, Pithoragarh and Nagaland are also becoming deserts, because the entire land in the hills is turning into desert due to soil erosion. If steps are not taken to check it, the entire area would turn into a desert.

So far as the case of Rajasthan is concerned, which my colleagues have just now mentioned, I want to refresh their memory that hill people have made great sacrifices for the development of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh has provided water to Rajasthan and still our people are not being rehabilitated there. I would request the hon. Members of Parliament from Rajasthan that they may be allowed to settle there. They should not be forcibly driven away from there. At the same time, I would also like to request the Central Government to take initiative to rehabilitate those people in Rajasthan who have been rendered homeless in the wake of the construction of the Pong Dam and impress upon the government of Rajasthan to Cooperate in re-habilitating the Pong Dam oustees who are living there in appalling conditions. I would also request that more funds may be provided to Rajasthan so that more and more plantation could be done in the desert area, but this would be possible only if water reaches there. If plantation is done there in dry land, the entire expenditure that Government incur on it would go waste. Therefore, I request the hon. Planning Minister to arrange to provide water to Rajasthan. I think more and more lift irrigation schemes and drinking water schemes should be formulated in hill areas, because such schemes would facilitate the development of hill areas bringing prosperity to the people.

There was a reference here to the development of hilly areas, but their development would be possible only when a uniform policy is adopted in this regard. You declare a particular area as 'tribal area' whereas you do not do so in regard to other hill areas. It gives an impression of discrimination between the two. I would like to quote an

example. The areas of Uttar Kashi, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh, adjacent to the borders of Himachal Pradesh and a number of tehsils of District Sirmaur such as, Shilace, Renuka, Champal, Rohru, Rampur Bushehr, etc. on our side have not yet been declared as tribal areas whereas the areas lying on the other side have been declared as tribal areas. I would like to demand of the government that this area of our state should be declared as tribal area so that the people of that area could also get similar facilities for development as are being given to the people on the other side. Only then, our people would be actually benefited.

The question of soil erosion was raised yesterday also, and today again I would like to submit that whenever soil erosion takes place in the hills, the plains also cannot remain safe. Take the case of Punjab, the floods cause destruction to the crops to the tune of Rs. 10 crores every year in that State. The same is also true of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The only way to check this loss is to provide more funds to the hill areas for development. With more plantations and afforestation, soil erosion in these areas will be checked and at the same time the plains will also be safe. It will also lead to increase in first production. In this context also, I would like to make, a submission to the government that there are no marketing facilities for the fruits produced in our state. It also causes hindrance in the development of our area. Its development would be possible only if facilities are provided for marketing their fruits, so that they can get remunerative price for their produce or the government may procure their produce at reasonable price and supply it to the other markets in the country. In the absence of such facilities, the brokers at Azadpur market rob the hill people, whether they are from Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir or Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, the basic need for the development of hill areas is to provide marketing facilities for their fruit produce.

Besides, more and more hydro-electric projects should be set-up in hill areas. There is a potential of generating 12,500 Mega-Watt electricity in Himachal Pradesh. I request that more funds may be allocated for this purpose, so that the entire northern zone could benefit from the power generated.

Frequent mentions are made here about non-existence of railway lines. If you have a look at Himachal Pradesh, you will find that railway line there is almost negligible. Rajasthan is a desert area and, perhaps, camels, horses and mules are used there. If you compare Rajasthan with our hill areas, you will find that the population per square kilometer in our areas is far too low. Therefore, schemes formulated for Rajasthan should be such as could bring water there to raise good crops and as could also result in maximum benefit to the people. Our Government should pay attention to this aspect.

If you extend the railway network, the freight charged is heavy. The hill people, who are backward from the point of view of development, have to pay heavy transportation charges bringing potatoes and apples to the market. The hon. Minister may please see to it that the additional requirement of funds for the development of hilly areas is met. The concession given by the hon. Railway Minister to the sugarcane growers should also be extended to the potato, apple and vegetable growers of hill areas.

Then, there is acute scarcity of drinking water in our State. The drinking water facilities are inadequate because the rivers and rivulets are located at a very low level and the villages are on the hill tops. Therefore, more lift irrigation and lift drinking water schemes should be formulated to provide drinking water to the people.

Our hilly areas are also deprived of gas agencies. This facility is being given to those where fire wood and stoves are already available. If you want to save wood in the hills, you should give gas agencies in all the hilly areas. You allot these gas agencies to big people whereas the poor, the tribals and the backward are ignored. Therefore, I request that attention should be paid to this also.

With these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI G.L. DOGRA (Udhampur) :

This is a very important Resolution. Most of the people should know that Rajasthan is a man-made desert; it is not a natural desert. The scientists, particularly the late Dr. Kaul, husband of Shrimati Shiela Kaul, told me once that all the world scientists agreed on the point that Rajasthan desert was a man-made desert. Earlier it was a fertile land. But the people there cut all the trees. And because of this, the climatic conditions had changed and the whole area turned into a desert. From this we have to learn. We only pass laws but do not see whether those laws are implemented or not. There are many parts of India which were very green, which were full of valuable trees, which were full of species trees but which have been cut down. Only a few days ago I had an occasion to go to Himachal Pradesh. I was shocked to see that most of the mountains and hills have become absolutely naked. Only stones are there, not even grass. You go to the eastern side of Solan, you will find shrubs, and if you go to the western side of the same town in some plateau you may find some crop, otherwise you will find absolutely stones there and you cannot see even the blades of grass. These types of conditions are affecting not only Himachal Pradesh but also the plains down below, it may be Punjab, it may be Haryana or it may be Rajasthan. Have we ever taken note of all these things? Has the Planning Commission gone into it? Has the attention been diverted from the fertile lands to the development of these neglected parts of the country? I think we are ignoring all those parts of the country which are cut off, which are backward, which are hilly, which are not open even by way of communications. We have promised free education to girls up to twelfth standard but there are places where there are absolutely no schools. Girls cannot get education even up to fifth standard. So, all these things are to be taken note of.

As far as deserts are concerned, you are trying to contain the existing deserts, to fight them and to develop them into greenery but what about those places which are now developing as deserts? How are we going to fight those unless we take it as a national problem? But then come the provisions of our Constitution. You pass laws with respect to forests, but the Central

[*Shri G.L. Dogra*]

Government cannot intervene with the management of the forests because it is a State subject. There are Members belonging to various parties who will blame the Central Government for not taking any action but as soon as the Government takes some effective steps, they will call it interference. If there is a good forest, you can imagine how much part it plays. In South you have got rivers which are not fed by the snowy mountains. These are only the forests in Madhya Pradesh or in the Vindhya which are providing them water because those are very thick forests. Whatever rainfall is there, they conserve the water and then they regulate its flow. By way of percolation, it comes gradually into the river. All the same, with the increase of population, with the increase in the greed of the people, those forests are also being cut now. If we really want that there should be no deserts and the old deserts should be fought, we cannot fight them unless we provide them water. Wherever you have provided water, you can see that those deserts are turning into green fields. But that is not possible unless we are able to conserve our forests. As has been suggested by Shri Sultanpuri, we have to conserve the forests, we have to develop them, we have to see that they turn into thick forests and we have to see that the water oozing from snow, the water coming from the rains, is properly regulated by those forests and there is no fast flow of water from the mountains. We have to see that water comes gradually into the rivers and there is a regular flow of water into the rivers and canals. Rajasthan must get a proper share of the canal water or the river water from Punjab. If Himachal Pradesh says that all these rivers flow from their territory, therefore nobody down below has any right over them. Rajasthan is facing this problem because all the other States say that the water is passing through them and so it is their property. It is untenable. For the sake of a quarrel you can propound such a theory, but it is not tenable. Now Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh are quarrelling over this problem, totally ignoring Rajasthan.

Unless Rajasthan gets sufficient water, it cannot convert the deserts into green fields. Wherever they have been able to get water, they have reduced considerably the size of

the desert; they have also been able to turn it into green field and produce good crops. But that is possible only when they are able to get water. Without water, it is not possible to change the shape of the land.

In order to change the shape of the desert areas, they require water and water can be preserved only when you maintain the forests. In Jammu and Kashmir, also special care has to be taken to protect the forests. But some people are over-felling the trees. The private resin extractors are drying up our forests Pine forests by over-working them and cutting down trees indiscriminately, which is affecting our natural balance. The state Government must be told to stop this—unless it is put down with iron hand, these will be complete devastation. Central Government and the Planning Commission cannot ignore this.

So far as the desert problem is concerned, in my opinion it is of two types. One is the deserts, which are already there, which have got to be controlled, which have to be changed into green fields. We can provide water but it is only the experts in agriculture who can say what type of crops can be grown when water is provided. There are various types of trees which suit particular climates. For instance, a person who was in charge of BSF base in my State, who was from Rajasthan, told me that when he was a child there was hardly any rain for years together, sometimes for ten years, in his village; but now, since people have started growing thorny bushes and trees, which have a regular growth there, the climate has changed and there is regular rainfall.

As a member of a Committee, I had occasion to visit various parts of India and I have seen how forests are being devastated, without little realising how it is going to change even the climate. When there are heavy rains, you cannot stop erosion unless you have sufficient number of trees. When there are torrential rains, the trees, the shrubs and the grass hold on to the earth and prevent erosion.

This is a problem which has to be studied on an urgent basis, before it goes out of control. I have seen it as a Minister that if neglect to tackle a river or a small

nullah in one season, by the time the rainy season is over, its whole dimension changes absolutely, and we will have to spend twice the amount to tackle it. So, I request the Planning Minister to look into it on an emergency basis and tackle it soon, because the people who are suffering on account of this are very poor people. The people living in the fertile areas, the big and rich agriculturists can put political pressure agitational as well as parliamentary for the solution of their problems. But these people who are suffering from the problems that I have enumerated, they can put very little pressure on the Government, either in the States or in the Centre, which the other people have got in plenty.

So have the industrialists. The Industrialists also can manage the pressure. But the people who are suffering because of the mal-practices of those people, who are cutting and spoiling forests and selling the timber in the market, are not as powerful and they continue to suffer. Yesterday, we were talking of remunerative prices. In that case also we are not taking into account the people who are living in rural and far flung areas and those who have no economic strength. Their income does not increase, but the prices go on rising. That poor man cannot fight price rise and we cannot generate purchasing power for him or give subsidised ration. Planning has to take notice of these anomalies in the system. Unless we are able to solve these anomalies, I am afraid we are trying to let loose a sort of thinking which will be very difficult to control.

With these words I support the Resolution moved by Shri Viridhi Chander Jain.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief and I will not take much of the time of the House.

I fully support the spirit of the Resolution and moved by Shri Jain. At the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan and when the Seventh Five-Year Plan is about to commence, I think this debate is very useful. It will provide a guidance to the Planning Commission in which I have got full faith. It is not correct always to accuse the Planning Commission Officials that they do not know enough and that they have not tra-

velled the villages. I have seen a number of officials going to the districts and the States and ultimately coming back to the Planning Commission with their study. On many occasions I came across the suggestions made by them which I found to be very fruitful.

Now, I would like to stress in this debate only four points.

The first one is that we must widen the scope of the whole debate on this resolution and not confine it strictly to desert and hill areas. For that we have to understand the situation under which these areas have been converted into deserts. I would like to highlight two simple reasons.

When you talk of the development in the desert area and the hilly area, you know that the development agencies are the State Governments. It is not wise always that the State Governments should carry the huge burden because of its financial strains. In the Seventh Plan my suggestion is that the Planning Minister should kindly see that the percentage of resource mobilisation in the total plan allocation for the desert and hill areas development should not be more on the States. It must be taken care of from the national exchequer. The State Governments have got many other programmes which are also of specialised nature. They cannot take care of the development programmes which are of specialised nature like the Hill area desert development programme because many of the funds are diverted. This is my first request to the Planning Minister that such specialised programmes should not be a burden on the State Governments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you also hail from Tamil Nadu and you must have watched these things. I referred to this matter the other day also that the Planning Commission should take note of the fact why the growth and development of these desert areas or hill areas is slow in spite of the fact that the funds are allotted for this purpose. Here I would say that it is not always correct to say that the officials are thieves. They are also patriots like us. If you don't have that feeling, it is no use accusing them because you have to depend on them. Now, what I feel is, the basic reason is, which I

[*Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi*]

have referred to, development programme. I hail from West Bengal. I know from my own experience that so long as the existing administrative arrangements are there that the collector is the head of the whole district and nothing should be done without the concurrence of the collector and all his subordinate should cooperate with him, it is neither possible for the collector to regulate development programme nor for the SDOs or even for the panchayat authorities, whatever power you may give to the authorities. There are some provisions where they cannot operate fully, engage fully without the higher authorities. My submission therefore is, we have the Indian Forest Service. We have the Indian Railway Service. We have the Indian Administrative Service. I personally feel after seeing the experiment of the last Sixth Five Year Plan, we must have a regular development agency in every State from the national cadre who will not be disturbed for any other activity other than the development programme. You can call them Indian Development Service. You can motivate the new youngsters who are coming up completely for the dedication of the country. I tell you why. If you take the diary and programme schedule of most of the development officers, you will find that the administrative officers who are concerned with the development programme would be spending 50% of their time for meeting the people, listening to the grievances of the people and the administrative affairs of the law and order problem. 25% of their time is spent for election activities in the country. I have seen that when the election is due in June, the entire machinery will be engaged eight months before to take care of elections. They cannot concentrate at that time on the development aspects. Files would be kept pending. The progress becomes slow and once it becomes slow, it will be slow for ever.

The second aspect is, if the people in the administration are also involved in the development works and the political pressures and many other pressures do operate in our democracy as usual, full dedication and full commitment will be there. A District Magistrate or an SDO in a particular area coordinating the development programme always thinks of where he is going—either to the Secretariat or coming to the Central Secretariat—or whe-

ther he is getting a promotion here and there. But if there is an Indian Development Service type cadre whose job is only to look after the development programmes of the country and no other job, with the positive motivation from Gandhiji's ideas up to Indiraji's, this will create a new infrastructure for the development programme both in the desert area and in the hill area. I request the Minister to take this matter up with the Minister-in-charge of the Department of Administrative Reforms which has been recently set up in our Government and to see that this kind of thing is also developed as far as the development aspects are concerned.

My third point, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, is, "Please don't exclude the desert-prone areas". There are certain areas in the country where for years together—I do not know why—drought is there seriously. I will refer to a district in West Bengal where if you, Mr. Planning Minister visit the district—it is known as a district densely populated—you will find that it is worse than the desert. I mean, Purulia. I have travelled there in the villages. There are areas where drinking water is not available for seven months in a year. For five months only, drinking water is available. There are some villages called Rola, Chitm etc. I have been there during the Lok Sabha elections. I am not abusing any Government. I am talking of the problem.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The problem was there but not now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : It is still there now. You are talking like that? If the problem is not there, the credit goes to you, I will make a state for you.

Now, what I am saying is that there are some villages in the country, for example Tapan in West Dinajpur district, where the problem is still there. About his area Tapan in West Dinajpur district it is mentioned in the Mahabharata and the Ramayana that Valmiki went there for prayers and all these things. It is a tourist spot. I have been there. In that part of the area in West Dinajpur, Tapan village, for six months in a year, there is no drinking water. Women have to walk 10 miles to the other village and bring the water from the pond because

the water level is low. There is no afforestation or any other programme. I have been watching closely for the last few years. All the seeds that you plant for afforestation in a drought-prone area are removed. There are some gangsters active now-a-days. Whenever it is grown, they go and cut down the root and sell it.

This is what is happening in the country, not only in West Bengal. There is a close connivance with the PWD authorities to do all these things, one after another. The forest areas are becoming once again desert areas.

What I request the hon. Minister is to give the highest priority to the massive afforestation programme in the Seventh Plan and also to lay stress on the drought prone areas. If afforestation is there, I can tell you that there will be a total change in the environment and the people will feel to do some work and there will be more activity there. This will also save the budgetary process for the next Plan, when the Eighth Plan comes, if the programme is taken up now. Don't go throughout the country; you select a few areas. The Planning Commission does it on a nation-wide scale. It is good. But the time has come that for every programme, you pin point a few areas, for example, the Rajasthan desert, the hilly areas of Sikkim and Darjeeling, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the like. You select a few areas, you plan the whole thing there and see that your independent development agencies take up the programme and operate it, involving other voluntary agencies also. I do not know what is "CARE". The people say, there is foreign money and all that. There are a number of voluntary organisations in the country. If the Planning Commission take some interest and involve them effectively in the programme, they can also contribute a lot to the various development programmes.

So far as the North Eastern region is concerned, though the money is there, the speedy progress of the development in that area is not visible. I had been there recently. I will cite an example. The Planning Minister may take note of it. For any North Eastern Council development programme, the officers—I do not blame them—first

give priority to the infrastructure of their offices. Those are built for six months they will open them for another six months and then they will furnish them for still another six months. They will say, this sofa is not acceptable; that chair is not acceptable and things like that. I have seen that happening. I have gone through in detail in one of the areas in Meghalaya. After 1—1/2 years, the actual work will begin. This is not fair. I personally feel and I repeat that you have got to see the motivation of a particular person who will be in the field.

There are professional and technical jobs to be done. Unless you put your heart and soul into it, you cannot do it. I think, under a regular administration service, you cannot get it done. If you want to achieve the targets, you have to bring about motivation of the persons concerned to do the job and get it done.

Lastly, I would ask the Planning Minister to take note of one thing and, that is, in the Seventh Plan, you bring a legislation, after consulting the Cabinet, to the effect that the States which are deliberately encouraging deforestation...*(Interruptions)* I do not blame any party. I know, encouragement is given for deforestation simply because, for a few votes, somebody can manipulate the people who will cut forests and sell the produce in the market. I know of a few areas in my State of West Bengal. Ayodhya was a beautiful forest spot in Purulia district. You now go and see it today. It is not more a forest. It is an open desert. Every day trees are being cut; they are encouraging it. *(Interruptions)* I have not referred to any party.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You are saying that the State Government of West Bengal is encouraging it. It is your party which is doing it...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : You are encouraging it. Every day you are asking them to cut trees. It is your State Government which is doing it...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. I have not referred to any party. I am talking in general.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He is saying that West Bengal Government is en-

[*Shri Basudeb Acharia*]

couraging deforestation. It is your party which is encouraging it. I can give you several examples. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: If my party does it and your State Government do not protect it, it is better, you resign. Don't show your incompetence. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No interruptions please. You please conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am concluding.

I would, therefore, suggest to the Planning Minister to kindly note that in the next National Development Council meeting, you give a positive guideline. If any State is found to be encouraging deforestation and it does not apply any checks and balances, you should see that funds are immediately stopped to such State. You should send an officer to see that such a course is adopted. Otherwise, I am afraid there will be no improvement in any field in this country.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, March 23, 1985/ Chaitra 2, 1907 (Saka).