

this clause of secrecy must be avoided. I wish that this be taken into consideration to see that no scope is given to unscrupulous industrialists in this regard. I wish the Bank to concentrate on some of the aspects like continuous monitoring by the officers of SIDI and also marketing support to the SSIs. If these are not provided by the Bank, then the sickness will continue and this Bank will not become a solution for that.

Time and again, we have been receiving complaints from various quarters that the delay in providing committed loan or giving it not in time is the major reason for the sickness of the units in the country. It was estimated, on a survey, that 32.5 per cent of the units have become sick only because of this reason. So this must be ensured by the Bank that sanctions are given in not more than one month from the date of application, and if not found feasible, rejection is to be informed. Similarly, disbursal of loans must be made in the time committed without any delay. The other important aspect is abnormal delay in giving subsidy. Instead of disbursing subsidy through State Governments and other agencies, it should be given through this Bank only. If the subsidy is given through this Bank, then the loan amount given by this Bank will be more secured because subsidy happens to be 15 per cent in many cases, which constitutes a substantial investment.

Similarly, this Bank should concentrate in plugging all the loopholes in lending to the small industry sector and ensure that small scale industry plays a vital role particularly because of its high employment potential. Then you will be sorting out this sickness in a very big way. You should enthuse confidence among the youth, unemployed and particularly technocrats whether retired or in service.

16.00 hrs.

The confidence will also lead to many of the officials who are working in various departments or industries or in public sector, to leave their jobs and take up the industry, if we were to infuse confidence in them that we

will give them the money in time and we will give the support of marketing, etc. So, I am sure, the Minister and the officials of the Ministry will take note of these points and feel proud tomorrow not only in introducing this Bill but also in the effective implementation of this Bill which will bring a change in the minds of the people in the entire nation, particularly the small-scale entrepreneurs.

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#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

#### Statement made by the Prime Minister in the House on 28th April, 1989 regarding Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up further discussion on the statement made by the Prime Minister in the House on the 28th April, 1989 regarding Jawahar Rozgar Yojana raised by Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao on 8th May, 1989. Shrimati Phulrenu Guha.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): Sir, I congratulate the Prime Minister for starting this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The people living below poverty line in every panchayat be involved in the Yojana in order to make it effective. We shall be able to solve the unemployment problem to some extent through this Yojana. This Yojana will provide employment to one member of each family living below poverty line. People in rural areas have welcomed this step. Just after this Yojana was presented in this House, I went to my constituency and a number of people asked me when will this programme come up and when will they get an opportunity to implement it. So, that is the position in the interior rural areas. People living in the towns may not know with how much enthusiasm people of the villages are looking towards this Yojana.

By this project, I think 474 lakh families will be benefited. Some people are opposed to this programme, according to the reports in the newspapers. It is difficult to under-

[Smt Phulrenu Guha]

stand their mentality. Are they afraid that if these people are economically better, they will not be able to take advantage of their poverty?

16.03 hrs

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

It is really surprising that some of them thought that they are friends of the down-trodden, but when this Yojana came up before this House, instead of welcoming this Yojana, they were very much against it. I think their feeling for these people is only by lips and not by heart.

If this programme is executed properly, the objection of some people will not last long. Whatever they may say now, the local people, the village people will accept this Yojana, and when they see that it is helping them, they will not listen to those who are opposed to this programme.

It is most gratifying that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will get preference and women will get thirty per cent share. As you know, Sir, and as all the people who are working in the villages also know very well, women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are the worst sufferers in this country. I would like to state that the Union Government should issue some clear guidelines for this programme. Some people have doubts as to what type of work will be created in the villages and whether the villagers can get any employment. Where is the opportunity for the people in the villages to get employment? I think, they do not know the condition of the living standards of the villagers. They may talk of many things but they have no idea about the sufferings undergone by millions and millions of the people in the villages, every now and then. I wonder why this type of talk is taking place. I hope that our people would know the conditions prevailing in the villages. Many of these village are without roads, without any irrigation facili-

ties, without drinking water facility, without any ponds, etc. So, the people in the villages should be employed in the construction work, in the execution of various schemes, in building primary schools which are mostly in dilapidated condition. These people should be engaged in re-building these primary schools and also high-schools. Small and medium irrigation schemes can be taken up. Small bridges can be built by engaging the villagers. This programme should be extended in implementing other projects also in different forms, in small industries, etc. We have just discussed about the Small Industries Development Bank Bill. This Bank can help in implementation of this programme. Small industries can be started. For example, the cultivation of betel leaves can be undertaken in a big way. In my constituency the small cultivators have suffered a lot because of the recent storm and floods. The people who were depending on this small business can be given employment in small industries which should be started under this Programme. Wherever the scarcity of drinking water is felt, necessary immediate arrangement should be made for provision of drinking water facilities.

Then, Sir, there are barren lands in villages. Small ponds can be dug for fisheries with the help of the technical people. Another point is that forestry should be developed. Women may be entrusted to protect the trees and plants grown under the Forestry scheme. The most unfortunate thing is that when the plants and sapplings are put up, quite often they are destroyed by goats, cows and other animals. But if women are given the responsibility of taking care of them and protecting them in their areas, certainly they can undertake this work. I have seen the women taking care of this work in two or three villages. This is a very good scheme. Sir, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is a boon to the people and if it is implemented properly, people in the rural areas will get employment and they will benefit from various schemes also. In fact, we have so many other good schemes but they are not properly implemented. People are not able to take advantage of these schemes.

So, Sir, I again say that proper care should be taken to implement these schemes. There should not be any harassment of people because only poor people are harassed in the villages or even in the cities by the rich. So it should be seen that the people are not harassed. I would request the Government to see that every family below the poverty line in a village is identified and enlisted first—I emphasise on the words enlisted first. One member each from that list of families needs to be provided with employment. The work should be given area wise. Unless and until all the members of that enlisted list of one area are employed the second area should not be touched because otherwise the people who are the favourites of the panchayat will only get employment but not all the people from one area. The system should be followed vigorously. There must be one Committee with equal number of representatives of all political parties of that area. This Committee from time to time should take note of the proper identification and see that one member from each family below the poverty line gets employment. In this Committee women and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people should be included.

Sir, I once again congratulate the Prime Minister for starting the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKARLAL (Pali) Mr Chairman Sir, in fact Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has brought a new awakening, new enthusiasm and new hope in the rural areas of our country. When Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was discussed in the House and our Prime Minister introduced this scheme, nobody expected that it would be implemented so quickly in the villages. When we went to the villages after the session of Parliament and visited Gram Panchayats, we found that the Gram Panchayats not only knew that how much amount they would get under this 'Yojana' but they had already received the funds also. The Gram Panchayats were under the impression that like other Schemes,

perhaps Jawahar Rozgar Yojana would also be implemented very slowly but I think that the speedy implementation of the scheme and release of money to the Gram Panchayats has made the scheme a great success.

Mr Speaker Sir, under this scheme, the provision of providing employment to the weaker sections, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people and 30 per cent women, will go a long way in removing the problem of unemployment from our villages. I would like to say that when we observed the implementation of this scheme, we felt very much that whereas our Prime Minister wants that at least one member of each family living below the poverty line in the villages should be provided employment under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, it has not been done so far. Such provision should be made. Mr Chairman, Sir, I regret to say that the sufficient number of labourers are not engaged in various construction works such as schools, hospitals, etc. undertaken in villages by the authorities, be it a Government machinery or the district and block levels machinery or for that matter it is by the persons belonging to Panchayat Samitees themselves. If you visit to a construction site of a school, you will find that not more than 8 to 10 labourers are employed there, rest of the work constitutes material component which is to be accomplished by masons. So I would like to submit that the Government of India should issue clear cut instructions to the effect that the work undertaken by Gram Panchayats should be labour-oriented. It has been provided in the scheme that not more than 50 per cent of the total amount should be spent on material component. I would like to submit that if we want to remove rural unemployment, raise the living standard of the people above poverty line and provide employment to one member of each family, it has to be ensured that not more than 25 per cent for the total amount is spent on material component for the work undertaken under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. As much as 75% of the total amount should be spent on providing employment to the rural people. Spending of 50% of the amount on material component alone would

[Sh. Shankarlal]

curtail the employment avenues for labourers.

A mention has been made about the withdrawal of money, by the Sarpanches but at the same time the Gram Panchayat should have discretionary power to select the work for execution under this scheme—whether it relates to digging of ponds or construction of roads. I would like to draw the attention to a lacuna. The wages of the labourers employed in the work is determined by the Panchayat Samiti after the assessment of work is made by the overseers who is supposed to be a technical man. Wages are not paid to the labourers in the villages till he reaches the village. It is the policy of our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi that the wages are to be paid to the labourers as soon as possible, but in the present set up payment is delayed because there is only one overseer in one block and he is unable to reach all the Gram Panchayats of the block in time. So, I would like to urge you to increase the number of overseers in each block to ensure speedy work assessment and payment of wages for the work done in the Gram Panchayats.

Secondly, I would like to submit that a labourer should be paid wages as per rates prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act. When the wages are paid as per the assessment of work made by the overseer, labourers get lesser amount than what is prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act. The Central Government should issue directions to the effect that the work to be undertaken should be labour oriented and no labourer should be paid lesser amount than what is prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act.

Gram Sabhas attached to the Gram Panchayats should constantly undertake review of the scheme. A provision has been made for review of schemes twice a year by the Gram Sabha. But my submission is that instead of twice a year, it should be done after every 2-3 months as the Gram Sabha and the villagers should have no difficulty in

doing so. Similarly, as I was submitting that only such schemes should be undertaken which could provide employment to at least one person in each family as envisaged under the scheme and the policy made by Shri Rajiv Gandhi and if the maximum amount is spent on material component, we won't be able to achieve our objective.

SHRIGIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 193, a discussion has been raised on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and I would like to submit that the introduction of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana by the Hon. Prime Minister for the villages to provide them with employment is a commendable step. For years, we have been saying that 38 per cent of our population lives below the poverty line. There are 4.40 crores of families which need to be given employment. It has been laid down that employment would be provided to at least one member each of these 4.40 crore families under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and efforts would be made to remove unemployment. This is a very ambitious scheme which has been formulated exclusively for the villages and it has been decided that payment of full minimum wages would be ensured under this scheme, which has not been done hitherto.

Many schemes were launched earlier also, which provided employment to crores of people every year. Under the N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P. and I.R.D.P., crores of people have been provided employment and many programmes were started under I.R.D.P. to supplement the income of such families. This helped in uplifting the people living below the poverty line. The Central Government envisaged that efforts would be made to uplift 10 per cent people out of these 38 per cent through these programmes by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan. The work to be undertaken under this programme is colossal and therefore, it is very necessary to expand these programmes further. Considerable importance has been given to these programmes and the people have certainly been benefited from these poverty alleviation programmes. In the rural areas, the

people have neither proper shelter nor clothes to put on. Education and health facilities are also inadequate. In order to provide these facilities to the poorest of poor, it is very necessary to make arrangements to provide all these facilities. With this objective, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been started for which the Central Government has earmarked Rs. 2600 crores. The total expenditure on the scheme would be shared by the Central and State Government in the ratio of 80:20. This is how the scheme will be implemented. The DRDA or the Zila Parishad Rural Committee of the district which work as rural development agencies of the district will get the money directly from the State Government and the quantum of money to be allocated will be decided on the basis of degree of backwardness of the farmers and the size of their population in a particular district. For instance, desert and hill areas have been given large amounts. Attention has been paid to industries and other sectors also. Funds have been given to those areas also, where employment opportunities already exist and arrangements have been made to provide larger amount to those areas where employment opportunities are non-existent. We can say that this programme has been taken up after due deliberations. The Hon. Prime Minister has time and again stressed the need for making all these arrangements and he is determined to implement this programme. This scheme has been evolved by merging all other programmes such as N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P. and TRYSEM. Similarly, other programmes such as minimum needs programme and programmes concerning irrigation, drinking water, roads etc. which were being carried in the rural areas under the 20 Point Programme have also been merged in this scheme. The panchayats are being given the powers to decide suo moto that which of the works are to be undertaken by them. They should see that necessary priority is given to irrigation roads, schools and health centres. They have been given full authority to accomplish these works. Fifty percent of the amount given by the Central Government for N.R.E.P. and other programmes was to be paid by the States and it used to fall short and conse-

quently large amount of money used to be blocked. Now onwards, the Central Government will bear 80 per cent and the rest 20 per cent will be borne by the State Government. The State Government will certainly provide their share of funds in order to see that schemes are implemented. It has also been decided to give priority to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the people living below the poverty line. Similarly, a minimum percentage has been fixed in the matter of giving employment to women also. Earlier, the Sarpanch used to provide employment to his relatives only under N.R.E.P. and other programmes and the deserving poor people used to be ignored. Villages Sarpanch and other influential people used to show favouritism. Now it will be possible to ensure that the money is utilised properly. It is for the panchayats to decide whom to provide employment. The poor people who used to be deprived of employment earlier will now get work under this scheme. The funds which have been given so far are inadequate. There is need to increase the allocation further. The Government has made a provision of Rs. 2600 crores, of which the State Government will bear 500 crores and the rest will be borne by the Central Government. The programme in itself is very good, but the allocation is inadequate. It is expected that fifty to hundred people from every Panchayat will be provided employment.

There are at least 500 families under each Panchayat and out of which 38 per cent are going to benefit under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. On an average, small Panchayats will receive Rs. 80,000 and the Panchayats with the bigger population will receive Rs. 1 lakh. If out of this amount you intend to provide 100 to 200 mandays of work, you can well imagine as to how difficult it will be to do so. Attention should be paid in this direction. The scheme is commendable but it requires strict and effective implementation. It is only by granting sufficient funds to meet the requirements of the scheme that proper arrangements can be made. Even not if there is still scope of mobilising funds,

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Vyas]

the allocations for the current year should be increased. More funds should be granted for the generation of additional employment. We are very grateful to Shri Rajiv Gandhi for this programme under which crores of people will get employment.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is being discussed under Rule 193. I would like to make a few suggestions in this respect. The problem of unemployment is assuming horrible dimensions in the rural areas. Whenever, we have made efforts for the rapid implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes, the role of the opposition has never been praiseworthy as they always stood up to oppose such a move. Even in 1969, when the initiative was taken under the leadership of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi for the nationalisation of banks and alleviation of poverty, the opposition parties had hatched a well-organised conspiracy in order to sabotage such sincere efforts of the Government. Today, when the Government has come out with the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and a special drive for the recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Government Departments, the opposition displayed its incompetence and instead of presenting their point of views on such important schemes, then resigned. Whether the Government made efforts to remove unemployment through the Jawaharlal Rozgar Yojana or launched a special drive for the recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, all the opposition parties be it C.P.I. or CPI (M) or the B.J.P. opposed the Government. This proves the point that their approach is anti-harijan. They do not want that poverty is eradicated from the country and that the unemployed people should get employment. We are very grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for granting powers to the Panchayats under the Panchayati Raj System for the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Under this scheme the Government intends to do planning at the Panchayat and the Block levels. It is being emphasised from the very begin-

ning that programmes for the upliftment of the poor should not be formulated in the air-conditioned offices in New Delhi. When it came to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister that the central funds are not being properly utilised by the States and as he said that in case Rs. 6 are given to a State by the Centre for the implementation of a particular scheme, the inter medieries would swindle away Rs. 5 out of that amount and only Re. 1 would actually reach the beneficiaries, he came to the conclusion that programmes meant for the benefit of the poor should be formulated at the local level. The intermedieries who swindle away the funds which rightfully belong to the poor people of the country are traitors. They are anti-national elements and it is because of these people that all our programmes do not make any headway. The opposition should extend their cooperation in this work but their stand in this regard is not clear.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been decided to devolve powers at the Panchayat level and a Bill in this respect will soon be introduced in the House. However, I would like to say that along with the harijans and adivasis, the minorities should also be given the benefit of reservation. The term 'people's participation' is very vague. It can be observed today that there are people in the rural areas who swindle away the money meant for the upliftment of the poor people and divert such funds for other purposes and furnish bogus data for its submission to the Central and State Governments. This is why inspite of the Centre granting crores of rupees, there has been little improvement in the position of the rural poor and the labourers. Until programmes are formulated at the local level, the women or the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or any body else for that matter shall not be able to participate in these programmes, their position will remain the same. If the provision of reservation is made for the minorities at the grassroot level, they will be able to take care of themselves. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is being welcomed in all corners of the country. In the rural areas there is a general feeling that with the decentralisation of power

envisaged under this scheme, the people will be benefited uniformly. They think that self employment opportunities will be available for them in their own villages and they can become self reliant. The Hon. Prime Minister is being appreciated all over the country today and he has gained immense popularity. In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a particular point. In this country there are still 4.48 crores people who live below the poverty line. This would mean that these families cannot afford two square meals a day, they have little to wear and are without any shelter. They are compelled to lead a nomadic life because they do not have a permanent place where they can reside. Number of such people is 4.48 crores and these are the figures are based on Government statistics. Apart from them there are certain nomadic tribes such as the Banaras, the Gajarhats and the Gulbulias who have no fixed place of residence and have not been registered as well. A provision of Rs. 2100 crores has been made under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana but I think that the amount is not adequate for undertaking such a massive struggle. Therefore, in order to implement the programme rapidly and to carry out this work on war footing, it is essential to double the amount. Today these 4.48 crore people do not have any shelter, drinking water facilities and schools for the education of their children. There are schools in large villages but none of them in the smaller ones. That is why children of the poor do not receive proper education and remain illiterates. Therefore, I think that amount of Rs. 2100 crores allocated under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana should be doubled. We have observed, that in the Congress ruled States, the effects of decentralisation of power have been felt in the villages and the farmers and the agricultural labourers are enjoying its benefits but in the non-Congress ruled States the position is quite different. Those State Governments do not want that things of the basic necessities should be made available to the poor people and that power is placed in their hands. The position in Andhra Pradesh may be observed in this connection. In Karnataka some work say 2 per cent of it is being

undertaken in this direction. In the CPI(M) rules States, the Panchayats are being denied their due. I have visited these States and see things personally. These anti-democratic people do not want that there should be people's participation in planning at the grass root level so that they too may contribute in the nation building process. I would like to request that these Governments which have been opposing the Panchayats Raj system and the concept of people's participation in the planning at lower level and in undertaking various works with the active participation of the people, should be dismissed. This was what Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had cherished and what we want at present is that the power should go into the hands of the poor people. As the Government of Andhra Pradesh is not in its favour, it should be dismissed. That Government is working against the interests of the people. Therefore, it does not have the right to stay in power. Whenever some welfare measure is initiated they make a issue of it and oppose the efforts of the Central Government. Sometimes, the Fairfax is made an issue and sometimes the CAG report becomes an issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main issue before the country today is as to how to bring the harijans, the adivasis and the minorities into the national mainstream and take steps for their welfare. The challenge before the country and its Prime Minister today is as to how to alleviate the misery of the poor people. Upliftment of the people living below the poverty line is the basic concern of our Government today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, history will stand testimony to the deplorable attitude adopted by the Opposition. Today the masses of India are prepared to face the situation. The Opposition will not be in a position to secure even 15-20 seats in the coming elections.

With these words, I support the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and request that the Governments which oppose the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the Panchayati Raj Scheme, the Minimum Wages Act, the People's Partici-

[Sh. Ramswaroop Ram]

pation in Planning and People's Participation in Works, deserve to be dismissed. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K.D SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely glad that the hon. Prime Minister has taken a concrete step to strengthen democracy in villages by launching Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. So far as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the steps taken by the hon. Prime Minister to strengthen the Panchayati Raj are concerned, it assures of giving employment to at least one member of each family. Besides, 30 per cent jobs will be reserved for the women. An estimate of the funds required for implementation of the scheme throughout the country has been prepared. According to this estimate, the gram panchayats in the desert areas will be allocated funds ranging between Rs. 80 thousand and Rs. 1 lakh, and the panchayats in hilly areas will be granted Rs. 80 thousand each. This provision has been made recently.

Sir, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been named after our great leader Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. This is an indicative of very good beginning. In this connection, I would like to submit to the Government that the funds which are being allocated for the hilly areas, the desert areas, the advasi and the tribal areas are inadequate. Therefore more funds should be allocated for such areas. With the payment of first instalment, the people have started thinking that this is a very small amount. If more funds are allocated to these areas, this will allay their fear.

Sir, I may submit that the funds which used to be given through the District Magistrate, should be stopped. The hon. Prime Minister said it in his speech from the Red Fort that out of an amount of Rs. 6 released by the Centre, a sum of Rs. 5 is swindled by the officials and the people get only Rs. 1 out of it. In a bid to strengthen the gram panchayat which is the basic unit of the democratic set up, the Government has brought forward a Bill to this effect in this House on

15th May. Besides, a provision already exists for Panchayati Raj system under Article of the Constitution which directs the State Government to set up gram panchayat in every village. However, this system is not functioning the entire country. That is why our panchayati raj system failed and in order to strengthen it, it is essential to implement it in the right earnest. This was debated in the whole country and hon. Prime Minister held discussions with all the I.A.S. officer to know their views. It was discussed at our party level also and the ultimate views that emerged from these discussions was that village should be delegated more powers. However, I regret to say that the people raising the slogan of socialism which was propagated by Dr. Ram Manohar Lahia and other great leaders, who had dreamt of socialism and had submitted memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister for the nationalisation of banks, have crossed the floor and have become leaders of the Opposition. They have hatched a conspiracy to root out socialism from the country. I feel that this is quite unfortunate that such elements are raising their ugly heads to weaken the nation. Our Government will have to take a serious note of it. Our hon. Prime Minister is making all out efforts to strengthen the country and the whole country is with him. People feel that the nation can be built in the real sense of the term only from the village-level. More and more powers should be given to the village panchayats. I would like to submit that Opposition has always been opposing and pooh-poohing of our various welfare measures taken by us whether it was Bank Nationalisation Bill or the Bill lowering the voting age or for that matter measures with regard to giving powers to the women. They are opposing even the extension of reservation for the SC/ST announced by the Government. I have served as the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and I would like to ask as to how they want to rule the country. We have to bear the consequences of their deeds. Our Government has been obstructed by them in implementing the reservation policy. Today we should congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for taking



a decision and formulating a time-bound programme for filling up the reserved posts. He has stated that the reserved quota meant for the harijans and adivasis in our country will be filled. This is a step in the direction of Socialism and I feel that this is a great achievement in the favour of the minorities. Our Hon. Prime Minister bears all these things in mind and wants to implement them. It is our responsibility to follow the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This can be done in our country with the help of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

So far as poverty alleviation in our country is concerned, my submission is that the landless people who have been allotted land on lease by the State Government have not yet been given actual possession of the land. I would like to urge the Government to arrange issue of base documents at an early date and also ensure early possession of land by those people. If something wrong is being practised, it should be rectified within a scheduled time to enable the poor to earn their livelihood and contribute their bit in nation building. So far as filling up the posts in different Government departments is concerned, the Hon. Prime Minister has taken a commendable step to fill the higher technical posts. But so far as lower posts are concerned, e.g. peon, clerk or bank officer, their quota should be filled in all the departments of the Government of India. Besides, instructions should be issued to the State Governments to implement this so that the poor may be benefited.

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is named after a great leader of our country who made tremendous efforts for the progress of our country through Five Year Plan. Our leader has left no stone unturned in implementing these schemes. We hope that our country will be able to make progress through these schemes. The Opposition should learn a lesson from the steps taken by the Hon. Prime Minister in this direction. They should not feel desperated, rather co-operate with him. But I regret to say that those who call themselves to be progressive and socialist

and pretend to be the champion of the cause of the poor, have today disappointed the poor. I feel that the people of our country will understand their game.

With these words, I submit that the sum of financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh for the hilly areas and desert areas as provided under the schemes should be increased to the extent possible. My submission is that the Panchayati Raj should function efficiently.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am coming from the State of Maharashtra where we have started employment guarantee scheme, called Marathi Rozgar Yojana. I remember that the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, mentioned about this from the ramparts of Red Fort. She desired that such employment guarantee could be given to the rural people all over India and that she would think over it. Her desire is being put into practice by our young and dynamic Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, combined with more powers to Gram Panchayats, is a very forward and progressive step in this democratic country. I also remember that Shri V.P. Singh made some statement in a paper that he would come out with very much improved version of the Panchayati Raj Bill or the Panchayati Raj. But I am yet to see his improved version. On the contrary, he has run away from the discussion itself in the Parliament.

The powers we are going to give to Sarpanches, I think, are not being relished by the bureaucracy at the village level. I have seen in Maharashtra some Gram Sevaks talking against this and saying: Why should so many powers to give to the Sarpanches? These are not old days when the Sarpanches were illiterate not knowing how the administration was to be run and what should be done in the Gram Panchayats.

[Sh. Vijay N. Patil]

There are so many schemes in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which can benefit especially the scheduled tribes, the weaker sections and the women. I share the views of the other hon. Members that the wage component should be more instead of the material component. Alongwith this, I would like to suggest one more scheme which can be included in this Yojana at the village level apart from the tree plantations which can generate employment opportunities. This scheme is regarding the removal of silt from the banks which are in large number in villages in small rivers. If the silt which is accumulated there can be removed, the village folk can take advantage of the water stored in those banks which were constructed by the Britishers. Because of the silt there, no water can be stored. So, if this silt can be removed by this Yojana by giving work to the people, the water level can be brought up which is now going down day by day. We understand that in Tamil Nadu the water level has gone very much low. Now it is 30 meters lower than the level which was existing ten years ago. Also we see that small farmers do not get the agricultural implements and their repairs are not possible because the carpenters and other craftsmen are leaving the villages for the cities. So, it will be good if these implements are manufactured and got at the level of panchayats for the use of the small farmers. We are providing Rs. 2500 crores for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. My view point is that some more provision should be made in the Eighth Plan. By this amount, about 9300 lakhs mandays will be generated and a lot of work will be given to people at the village level and their flow towards the cities in search of work will be reduced. It will not be completely stopped but will be reduced. The result will be that the slums in the cities will be reduced. So many people go to the cities and thus we see that more than 40 per cent of the population in the cities are in slums. We have again to improve those slums by constructing houses. Thus residential and other problems arise. We have to spend hundreds of crores of rupees to remove those slums

along the railway lines. To remove the encroachment on the railway lines, the Central Government has to come into the picture, to provide money, etc. But if more amount is given at the village level itself, through this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, this problem can be reduced. I would also like to suggest that there should be some monitoring committees at the district level involving non-officials also so that the implementation of this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana can be done properly and can be monitored closely.

One more suggestion is regarding giving subsidy to the fertiliser companies. The amount of subsidy is about Rs. 3000 crores so that the fertilisers will not be sold at a high cost to the farmers. If this subsidy can be directly given to the farmers through the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, it will be a good scheme. For example, some organic manure or some gas plants or things like that can produce substitutes for the fertilisers. If encouragement is given by way of diverting the subsidy given to the fertiliser companies, towards production of substitutes, at the village level through gram panchayats, there will be more employment generation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is to reduce poverty at the village level. It has nothing to do with the Congress Party or the Opposition parties. It is not a party affair, it is an affair dealing with the removal of poverty. But unfortunately, our opposition friends have run away under the pretext of the CAG's report. They give more importance to CAG's report than to such programmes. This is the unfortunate part of it. That is why, we are not seeing them here.

I would once again like to support this scheme and thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while expressing our views on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, a complete picture of the period of Prime Ministership of

our lead Shri Rajiv Gandhi is recapitulated. He has started such programmes, which could not be even imagined at this juncture. I would like to make a mention of this thing so that we may realise that we must co-operate with him to march forward. No one had ever thought it that he would introduce the Anti-Defection Bill whereas all the political parties have been making use of defection for the benefit of their our party. Only he can think of such things who has a moral sense and considers the act of defection a wrong proposition on of the grounds of morality, only he could do it and it is a wonderful step taken by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in this direction.

If we look forward, I would strongly say from the core of my heart that after Mahatma Gandhi it is Rajiv Gandhi who is determined to remove corruption from our society. Government and our country. Shri Rajiv Gandhi is determined to fact this challenge and none else. I have a great regard for all the great leaders but people treat it just a courtesy. Corruption is so deep rooted and wide spread that we can bring about a change in this situation only after bringing a change in the society. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has resolved to give challenge and has moved ahead but the people who were making capital out of corruptions are now trying to build up an atmosphere against him and are telling fabricated stories to the people. But I can say that the reason of present propanganda about the corruption is that Shri Rajiv Gandhi is moving forward as a commander who is struggling against corruption. They are entrapping him to brand him as a corrupt man but they have not been able to prove it. It is easy to talk in the air because there is nothing to substantiate it.

Now, I again want to come back to Panchayati Raj which was the concept of Mahatma Gandhi. When the people of other countries could not think of such thing, Mahatma Gandhi had said at that time that India would be independent only when rural autonomy would usher in or when there would be 'gram swaraj' in our villages. As the maximum number of the largest population of this world lives in the villages, our country

and rest of the world will make progress with the development of villages. Today we are make efforts to realise those dreams. Today Shri Rajiv Gandhi is making effort to realise the vision Mahatma Gandhi. But unfortunately the opposition party, for which I still believe that they have some sense but they are unable to understand this, should co-operate in this gigantic task. Today they have missed the opportunity. They have always been committing mistakes. I would like to remind them, specially the leftists who are not present here at the moment, of the pre-independence days, when they committed a number of mistakes and later on how did they accept the formation of Pakistan and became supporters of the partition of the country. They may recalled that after partition they lamented over it and repented for it with the worlds they they had committed a mistake and now again they are going to commit a mistake. Again you will repent for it and say that you could not contribute in the great work of Panchayati Raj System which will push our country ahead on the path of progress. You will realise this mistake also. It is the opportune moment to be a little honest to yourself. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is meant for strengthening the villages and it is a challenge to the corruption prevailing in the administration of this country which will be removed by this Yojana. Because, unless there is a change in the system, corruption will not be removed. If the system is changed, then the Panchayat, Samitis in the villages, which are the elected bodies of people's representatives in villages, will utilise the amount provided to them according to the needs of their respective villages. In this connection, you might be recalling Mahatma Gandhi who had said it that we have to uplift the poorest of the poor. He said that you think yourself about the benefit of the scheme that whether the same is benefit the poorest of the poor or not? If your scheme is not for the benefit the poorest people then you should accept this thing that your scheme is misconceived. Mahatma Gandhi had asked the people to adopt this criteria and see whether the poorest people are being benefited by this employment scheme or not and if the money is reaching

[Sh. Keyur Bhushan]

the poorest, then only our country will make progress and vision of Mahatma Gandhi will be realised. All these things are going to be achieved under this Rozgar Yojana.

I would like to submit one thing more. We are trying our best for the progress of our villages under this scheme. This scheme will improve the lot of 80 per cent population of our country. So we should take care that this scheme may not remain only on paper. The Government have allocated Rs. 2600 crore for this scheme. They should increase the amount further. All the schemes of the Government aim at the upliftment of the poor, removal of poverty and raising their standard of living. As all of them have been merged into one, it will now take a concrete shape. The capacity of generating employment has increased and we should pay more attention to the generation of such employment opportunities in the villages. But I would like to suggest that processing industrial units shall be set up in the villages itself to process the agricultural products which are produced in those very village. For example cotton, tomato, potato etc. are grown in different soils and they are produced depending the condition of the soil for example bricks can be prepared where sand and clay are available. Similarly butter can be prepared only where cans, buffaloes and milk is available. The Government should also ensure that rice bran oil extracting unit are set up in those villages where rice bran is abundantly available. Similarly tomato jelly producing plants may be set up in the tomato producing areas. With that provision in the villages, small scale industries should be set in the villages, which will solve the problem of unemployment in the rural areas. It will improve the overall condition of the villages.

In the end, I would like to submit that the main source of employment in the villages is the rearing cows. Our ancestors used to say that whenever there is shortage of money, one would recourse to rearing of cows. There is also a very popular saying in the villages which reads as under:-

"Jan Dhan Ho Thori To Gaaye Lo Ya Ghori.

The development of our villages is possible only through the promotion of view wealth. With the development of villages, we will be able to check the present phenomenon of migration of rural population from the villages to the cities.

I hope that our country will march forward progress with the successful implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana launched by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Shri Bairagi is not here. He recites his poems in the House. I would also like to read out a few lines from a poem:-

"Gandhi ji lki raj chal rahen hain Rajiv Gandhi,  
Chalo hum bhi chalen, desh nirman karen".

[English]

SHRISHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 28th April, 1989 a statement was made by our beloved Prime Minister regarding Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. We have been discussing this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana since the last Session. I heartily welcome this Yojana and I must say that it has been launched by the Prime Minister in the Birth Centenary Year of Jawaharlal Nehru. It is significant that steps are taken to take employment to the doorstep of the poorest of the poor.

In the Budget Speech of our Finance Minister, he had indicated provision for employment programme of Rs. 1711 crores which included Rs. 500 crores for Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the NREP, RLEGP which cost Rs. 1211 crores were to be merged in this. But according to that scheme, only 120 selected districts which suffer acute unemployment were to be looked after. But, it is gratifying to note that the Prime Minister has extended this scheme and now has increased the employment coverage to make it available to all the poor in all the Panchayats. So, we recognise that it is not only the people in

55 per cent of the villages which require this scheme, but all the people who are under poverty line are to be benefited by this scheme.

According to the Planning Commission, the family having an annual income of Rs. 6400 or less at 1984-85 prices is to be considered below the poverty line.

Now, Sir, my first submission and suggestion would be that proper identification of such persons and families below the poverty line will have to be undertaken because that is crucial for the effective implementation of this scheme. Therefore, identification cards will have to be given to such families which fall under the poverty line.

Then, Sir, merely providing employment to these persons living below the poverty line will not be sufficient but we shall also have to provide other benefits, such as, essential and subsidised commodities and other services like health service etc. also at their door step so that whatever employment we are giving and whatever small income that will be generated by this would be more useful to them by taking advantage of all these schemes. This would also require, gradually, greater provision of funds, because today the minimum wage varies from Rs. 9.80 a day in Karnataka, to Rs. 25 per day in the Punjab. The average is roundabout Rs. 15 per day. If that is to be given, it would be difficult to provide employment even for 50 days. Our target is 50 to 100 days a year; but unless we provide further funds, it would not be satisfactorily implemented. Therefore, I urge upon the government to think also of providing further funds from time to time.

It would also be necessary, in course of time, to think not only of providing employment to 30% of the women; I would go a step further and say that in every family which is below the poverty line, we shall have to provide employment at least to one man and one woman, so that that family can survive.

My further suggestion is that while we provide this employment, we should see that

permanent assets are created as a result. By permanent assets I mean school buildings, essential village roads, metalling them etc., small irrigation works and damson, reservoirs for storing water for village use and for cattle, soil conservation works, buildings—their construction, repairs and maintenance; for example, of school buildings.

17.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

I will not take much time of the House, but I will again urge upon the Government that in order to make this scheme a success, even though we have now provided Rs. 2100 crores from the Centre—and the total, along with the provision from the States, will be Rs. 2650 crores—in course of time we shall have to think of providing further funds.

It is also a gratifying feature of this scheme that we are relying, for the implementation of it, on the Panchayati Raj, so that the middlemen viz. the contractors, are eliminated. So, along with the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, we shall have to hurry up and get our Panchayati Raj Bill passed not only in this House but in the Upper House also, so that it will become a law, and help in implementing this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

With these words, I welcome this scheme.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which has been named after the great architect of modern India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in the year of his birth centenary, has indeed many positive features, which I welcome.

The allocation, within the district, among various blocks and panchayats is to be based on the population of the panchayats. The priorities of various schemes are to be decided by the Gram Sabha, by the people of the villages themselves. The responsibility for the implementation of these schemes has been vested in the Gram Panchayats, though they may not be fully equipped to

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

undertake this task.

But it will indeed provide a training ground for realising the vision that we have of giving power to the people. I also welcome the fact that the primary target of the scheme, the objective of the scheme, is the creation of — *gainful employment for at least one person in every family living below the poverty line.* But when I examine the scheme in detail, I found that there are certain presumptions which we have to set aside straightaway. The entire outlay is not going to be used for labour wages. There are administrative costs at District, Block and Panchayats levels. There are special programmes. There is a material component which is likely to eat up at least 50 per cent of the allocation; and of course there is the ever present phenomenon of leakage, leakage through corruption. The best possible scenario is—on that I had already presented my views before the House—that at least 50 per cent of the allocation and outlay shall be available for labour wages for providing gain-full employment to the families which are living below the poverty line for fulfilling the primary objective of the Yojana. I must say at the outset that—I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this—the criterion of allocation is weighted against area of sparse population because rural development does consist in building roads, culverts and minor irrigation works; and these are spread over a certain space and area. Therefore, unless you take the element of the area also into consideration, the disadvantaged regions such as desert area and the hilly area, which have a very sparse population, are likely to fare badly in this scheme of distribution.

First, I would like to present the macro-picture for the whole country. The best estimate for the population on 1.4.1989 is of the order of 820 millions. The total allocation is Rs. 2623 crores. Now this amounts to a per capita allocation of just about Rs. 32 per year roughly 8 paise per day. If we consider that the proportion of people living below the poverty line in the country as a whole, is of

the order of 37.5 per cent and then make a calculations, the per capita outlay will rise from 8 paise per day to 23 paise for each person belonging to a family below the poverty line. For a poor family consisting of about five persons, it will amount to the magnificent sum of Rs. 1.15 per day. If the minimum wages are to be taken as Rs. 20 on an average, this amount of allocation will give only 21 mandays of work per poor family in the country; and in the best possible scenario, that is to say, 50 per cent being available for the wages, it amounts to 10.5 mandays work for the poor per family in the country. I do not know what great impact this expenditure is going to make on our rural country-side. if the target is to be met, let us look at the problem conversely. At least one hand in every poor family should be provided sustenance for at least 200 days in a year. Then what is the amount required? I just calculated it at the rate of 37.5 per cent of the total population being below the poverty line and Rs. 20 minimum wages per day. We require, just to make these people live, just to make every poor family sustain its existence, to keep its body and soul together, an investment of Rs. 24,600 crores per year. I know, perhaps the hon. Finance Minister is not in a position to provide this amount. But at least, what I would like to point out is, let us not raise false expectations, let us not paint a false picture, let us not claim that tomorrow, at day break, there is going to be a new dawn on our countryside and Gandhiji's dreams are going to be fulfilled. and Jawaharlal Nehru's dreams are going to be realised and that every tear from every tearful eye is going to be wiped out. (Interruptions)

You will have your say. Why do you disturb me? Now, let us take the picture of Bihar, which is my State.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): I am humbly requesting the hon. member to be present when I am going to reply to this debate tomorrow. This message if it goes to the nation, that this is the amount available it

will not be correct. It will be answering that question tomorrow and what the hon member said is not correct.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I will be listening very attentively and I am looking forward to it. (*Interruptions*) Now, Sir, poverty is not a theory for this country, poverty is a stark reality. (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, Order.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Let us take the picture of Bihar. The total outlay this year is Rs 387 crores. I am grateful to the Finance Minister that he has given a fair share to the State out of the total outlay. The best estimate of the population this year is 84 million, that is, 8.4 crores. In this case, the per capita outlay of the total population comes to a little higher than the national average, 12 paise per head. And the per capita for every poor family considering that 50 per cent of the population of Bihar is living below the poverty line—much more than 50 per cent of the rural areas are below the poverty line but for purposes of calculation I take only 50 per cent—comes to 25 paise per day per poor family in Bihar. For a whole family of five it is not Rs 1.15 but it is Rs 1.25. The number of mandays that will be generated in Bihar is 23 mandays per year for each poor family. And on the best possible scenario this amounts to not 10.5 mandays but 11.5 mandays for each poor family in Bihar.

And, what is the picture at the Panchayat level? In Bihar, I take my district of Purnia which has a population of 34.2 lakhs. There are 542 Panchayats. Roughly, the population comes to 6300 persons per Panchayat. I take it, that for purposes of calculation for the whole country, there are 5,000 persons in a Panchayat. Then, if there is 50 per cent utilisation for wages, this entire sum will amount to, for each Panchayat the average amount to Rs 1,60,000 per year for a Panchayat of an average population of 5,000. In Rs 1,60,000 how many poor families can you look after, if each poor family can get only 10 days per year of gainful employ-

ment in a Panchayat?

Now, what is the utilisation factor? The inadequacy of resources we have seen already. The average expenditure, as I said, for each Panchayat of roughly a population of 5,000 is say Rs 1,50,000. How many kilometres of roads, how many culverts, how many minor irrigation works, and how many little earthen dams can be constructed in each Panchayat within this magnificent amount? This is what I want the country to ponder, upon this is what I want the Parliament to consider.

There is the agency. I shall not go into the question. There is the Mukhiya, there is Gram Panchayat Sevak. To my mind, if you take the country as a whole an average Gram Panchayat is not yet technically equipped. We have got to do something more, to train the people, to educate on people, but as a good beginning, let them make their mistakes. That is what Jawaharlal Nehru said: "Let them make their mistakes." Then there is the ever present phenomenon of corruption. The leakage today was on account of the district officials, the block officials, the technical staff, the gram panchayat sevak getting a cut and he was the great sahib of the village whom Mukhias used to *ji-huzur*. Of course now we have an additional element. And of course the contractor is never out of sight. As I explained to other day every person with whom finally the Mukhia signs the agreement, technically he becomes the contractor. What have we done finally? We have simply added up the existing allocations for the NREP and RLEGP, put in a little more and called it by a new name. Mr Deputy-speaker, Sir, 2 + 2 will always make 4 and they will never make 5 howsoever the number of times that you may try to make this addition. And pouring water from two tumblers into one shall not increase the volume of water or turn it into sweet sharbat, and it will remain exactly the same what it was.

We have only added a new factor, a new factor, which I hope, may turn it into something, the realisation of the vision of swaraj.

Sh. Shahabuddin

But it is a very very small beginning without due preparation. And as it is, the Yojana is not likely to make any substantial impact upon the poverty in the rural areas. But what is important is that the timing is rather suspicious. A new power structure is being sought to be created, a new focus of loyalty, a new vested interest, so in that in the next few months when the elections are upon us, the ruling party can depend upon their loyalty. This is the factor that has created the suspicion in our minds. Political calculation is there behind it. And there are so many Makhias who are honest, men of integrity, who are refusing to accept the responsibility under the present condition. There are so many of them who are openly apprehensive; they spoke to me, "Sir, we face the prospect of prosecution after a few months. And we face, of course, the prospect of facing public outrage when the people start questioning us." Of course, I welcome that. I want a situation where people begin questioning you, begin asking you, what have you done with our money, why is it that the structure is not pacca, why is it that roads are full of dirt, why is it that the school buildings is leaking. I welcome that. And therefore, I told them we have to live with that if you are in public service. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that many people in our country are therefore suspicious about this Yojana, as being nothing more than an election gimmick. We have publicised it. But publicity cannot hide the fact that we spend Rs. 1500 crores per year on our misadventure next door in Sri Lanka. And I do not know how many hundreds of crores we have spent on providing comforts and security to our rulers. But seventy five per cent of the people of India, who live in the villages, do they deserve only five per cent of our development outlay? This is what I want the Government to explain. On what basis have you calculated that Rs. 2623 crores shall fulfil that great objective that you have set before yourselves. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to tell us, did this figure come to dawn them from the heavens? Was it revealed by some scripture? On what basis

has he made this calculation? This is precisely what I want to know.

I appeal to the government with all sincerity at my command, with all the emphasis that I am capable of giving. For Gods sake, if you want to do something for the people, do it earnestly, seriously, make it a serious business of rural development, do not throw dust into people's eyes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir our Prime Minister has made an important statement in this House on 28th April, 1989, regarding Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which was welcomed in the entire country including rural areas. Just now, my hon'ble colleague who spoke before me, has tried to prove on the basis of some statistical data that advantage of this Yojana would be limited.

Sir, I would like to make it clear that in rural areas all people do not ask for employment. In Rajasthan, there are persons who are already employed and they feel great satisfaction if they get Rs. 14/- per day. The most heartening factor is that we find *pucca* buildings of schools, dispensaries in rural areas. Even the office buildings for Gram Sewaks and Patwaris are *pucca* ones which was not the case in the past. What I mean to say that such assets have been created in the rural areas which shows a definite trend of development in areas besides providing means of livelihood to the people.

Sir, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is aimed at providing protection to the society through social forestry. I have seen in my own constituency that many trees have been planted in rural areas. A number of trees have been planted all around the school buildings. Students have been taking keen interest in this work and thus an effective programme has been launched in desert areas. With the onset of monsoon, farmers have started raising narrow elevation of land in their fields. It increases the yield and the farmers are benefited by it. Thus, a social change



has taken place. It has opened new avenues for the development. That is why the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been welcomed in all the rural areas. Among NREP and RLEGP which were in operation previously, construction work of roads used to be undertaken under RLEGP. But now funds have been allocated to Gram Panchayats for the construction of roads also. However, they are not in a position to undertake the construction work of major roads. Instructions have been issued to the effect that two Panchayats can jointly undertake the construction work of roads. What happens is that the construction work whether it relates to buildings, or roads, is of course started, but it is left incomplete for want of funds. Similarly, proper planning is required when metal roads are to be constructed. We cannot afford to construct roads under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. In the same manner most of the work relating to digging of wells for irrigation under this scheme remains incomplete for lack of funds. The work relating to construction of tanks for drinking water also remain incomplete for the same reason. It is a major obstacle. In short, the funds are inadequate and, as such, the amount should be enhanced. My submission is that if the project has been included under the Eighth Plan, the scheme should be modified and suggestions should be sought from various sections. Suggestions regarding construction of tanks, supply of river water, construction of roads, sinking of tube-wells should be sought from all concerned fields, because besides development we have to create employment opportunities also. Hence we should give a serious thought to this matter. My submission is that beside other districts in Rajasthan, Barmer, in particular, is the worst flood affected district because it is a part of Thar desert and the funds allocated to it are inadequate. According to the criteria adopted for allotment of funds, the amount allocated for this district is quite inadequate. 20% of the total labour force constitute the farm labourers in the country. Actually, the number of farm labourers in our State is negligible. There is no cultivation because the land is barren. Thus we do not get any benefit of this 20% share of the allocation. 60% of the total rural popu-

lation constitutes scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Obviously, the slogan that 60% of the benefits are being given to the scheduled castes and the State also gets the benefits of low agricultural productivity sounds attractive. However, if the Government is really interested in enhancing the allocation of funds to the State, the total area also needs to be taken into consideration. The area of Parliamentary Constituency is spread over 70,000 sq kms. The situation at present is, that due to geographical factors, it is very difficult to cover such a vast area even by jeep. What I want to say is that the whole area is almost inaccessible, it is very difficult to go to rural and remote areas. The cost of water supply in rural areas in our State is ten times higher than what it is in Uttar Pradesh. Power is five times costlier. Transportation too is more expensive as compared to other states. All schemes irrespective of whether they relate to forestation or water supply are very expensive. In view of the vast area and geographical factors, more funds should be allocated to desert areas. Arrangement should also be made to generate employment for the people. I have come to know that the allocation per capita in our district is Rs 30, whereas it is Rs 56 in Banaskantha. The conditions in our district are much more pitiable than those in Banaskantha. Attention should be paid towards this. There is need to change the existing norms. The number of labourers in Banaskantha is more whereas we do not have any labourers in our district. In view of the special conditions prevailing in our area, the Government should find out a way to provide financial assistance. Earlier, 50% of the villages got the benefit but now the scheme has been extended to all the villages. Originally, the scheme was meant to be implemented in 120 districts. Had some special schemes been formulated exclusively for these districts, they would have been considerably benefited. They were the backward areas and they would have made notable progress. But now the Government have covered all the districts including those which are comparatively in better position, under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. In the earlier schemes, two of our districts were also in-

[Sh. Viridhi Chander Jain]

cluded in it. All these 120 districts which were under the scheme earlier, were backward. There is a need to provide more funds for them. The Government should pay attention to this matter.

Administrative expenditure is 5 per cent, but the expenditure on maintenance is 10 per cent. Indira Awas Yojana is extremely popular. Instead of bringing all the villages under this scheme, only 10% villages should be included. A provision should be made of provide facilities to Scheduled Castes etc. under the Indira Awas Yojana. The limit of financial aid for the construction of school buildings should not be restricted to 25%, because sometimes the expenditure exceeds 30, 35 and even 40 percent, If there is any restriction on expenditure to be incurred on productive work, construction of school buildings should be exempted from such a restriction

The new scheme provides employment only for 50 to 100 days to the farmer. We shall have to formulate a scheme which can provide employment of a permanent nature of self-employment at least to one member of each family, otherwise no scheme will prove successful. The purpose of employment is to provide permanent means of livelihood to at least one unemployed member of every poor family, and such family would be actually benefited only when he is self-employed, otherwise the family would not be benefited at all.

Besides Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, reservation facilities should be extended to other sections of the people who live below the poverty line irrespective of whether they belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or not. Priority will have to be given to them in service, only then poverty can be removed. We shall have to take a concrete decision in this respect.

The Government wants to keep the reservation facilities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes intact under the Eighth

Five Year Plan. But at the same time the Government will have to accord priority in giving jobs to those families in which not even a single member is employed and who are living below poverty line, irrespective of caste consideration and irrespective of the fact that they are living in rural areas or urban areas. Only then we would be able to create good conditions.

In the end, I would like to quote Nehru's words:-

The Yardstick of the success of all the schemes we formulate, will be, to see to what extent our countrymen who afford to make only their both ends meet, are benefited. That is to say to what extent these schemes are beneficial to the majority of the countrymen. All other benefits should be secondary to this.

With this end in view, we should make efforts to see that there should not be even a single family in the country of which not even one member is employed. At least one member of each family should be provided with permanent employment so that he could stand on his own feet in order to support his family. If we succeed in achieving this objective, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana would also succeed.

With these words, I appreciate the views expressed in regard to the development of the country. I want that even if we have to make basic changes in the Eighth Five Year Plan, we must go ahead with these changes and modify the plan in such a way that at least one member of each family is provided with permanent employment.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the discussion of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which is now debated in this House. Sir, I welcome this Yojana introduced by the Government of India. The initiative was taken by our hon. Prime Minister in launching this

programme and it was a much sought for programme. As you know, Sir, nothing can be nobler than a scheme which is intended to provide succour to the needy people the poor people. The purpose underlined in this scheme is that it will provide employment at least to one member in every family living below the poverty line in the country-side.

Sir, there cannot be a greater and better tribute to the memory of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India, than this. As you know, it was he who advocated the concept of democratic socialism and it was he who was all out to achieve this democratic socialism in the country and there cannot be socialism without poverty eradication—not only socialism, in fact, in the real sense of the term, there cannot be any freedom enjoyed by the people without poverty elimination, unless every one is assured of food and minimum requirements. Although you may call the country free, real freedom is not there and will not be there without this.

Sir, I wonder how there has been some criticism from friends opposite, although the Opposition by and large is not present in this House, but this discussion was in fact initiated in the last Budget Session itself and there was an attack from the Opposition side on this very laudable scheme. Some Members from West Bengal and even Shri Sahabuddin a little earlier, wanted to see politics through it, he wanted to politicise this debate. He said that this is a scheme launched by the Ruling Party headed by the Prime Minister at a time when the election is round the corner just to find some workers for the party. He says so as if the Congress Party has no agents to fight for it. It is a Party of more than 100 years history and its organisation spread over the whole country and there are people coming in great enthusiasm to join this Party. He gave the impression as if the Party is in dearth of workers and to fall back upon some supporters and workers at the time of election a scheme is launched and this is the scheme. I really pity him. He is not present here right now and he is not at all practical in his approach. He being a man

from foreign Service, is not practical in respect of the situation obtaining in rural India.

Sir, it is our experience also that whatever money we can provide for taking up the work in rural areas, it is always the case that all people are not coming to work. Ours being an agricultural economy, in our country when agricultural operations go on in full swing during the harvesting period, if we start any Government project work, we do not find the work force. Sometimes the contractors, under the compelling situation, have to suspend the work and for the entire population crores and crores of rupees are being spent on different heads and on different developmental programmes of the country. Shri Sahabuddin has conveniently forgotten about it and makes allegation as if there is no other programme going on, as if there is no other economic activity going on and the entire work force of the country will have to depend on this money, i.e. Rs 2,613 crores. That way he has viewed and made the analysis. The analysis primarily is on a wrong premise and it has to be dismissed. His argument is unfounded. In an agricultural economy, in a country like ours when agricultural operations go on, even during this period, the agricultural operations get delayed because agricultural workers do not turn up for transplantation and for different jobs and labour from other areas are brought. So, what is required is, we have to ensure proper implementation of the scheme so that it becomes a success ultimately serving the purpose hundred per cent. Now, it is facing a challenge in the rural areas from bureaucracy. The bureaucracy, by and large, in many places, is not happy in the programme being directly implemented by the Gram Panchayats. The beauty and one significant feature of this programme is that money is directly sent from the Centre to the Gram Panchayats. The amount is fixed and nobody can play in between. Earlier there was a lot of pilferage. My friends opposite belonging to different political parties have interpreted it differently, but all political parties unanimously have observed that there are lot of pilferages in the money that was being released by the Government of India for

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

such anti-poverty schemes and the Government has taken a note of it. In a democracy, it is significant to involve as many people as possible directly and they have been involved now. It is important when we are thinking of giving more power to the people directly through the Panchayati Raj Bill which was introduced in the last Session and may be debated at any time now. We are also thinking of giving more economic power to the people at the grass root level. We are emphasising grass-root planning at the micro level, and at the village level. We are decentralising planning, we are decentralising implementation and we are decentralising the administration. So, when we think of all that and when we ourselves have demanded that it should be monitored from the Centre, some political parties are saying that it is prompted by politics, at the time of implementation. Where is the question of politics here? So, it is not that Congress is ruling all over the country. It is ruling at the Centre, but there are many States in which non-Congress Parties are at the helm of affairs. Therefore, the question of politics in it is ruled out. What I wanted to say was that the schemes, by and large, were prepared very nicely by the Gram Sabhas, but because necessary technical assistance was not given in some places, the schemes were not technically sound. So, it should be looked into. As far as possible, permanent assets should be created and this has to be ensured. Now, we have reports that they have just got the money distributed among the villages. As Panditji used to say, this is people's democracy; this is people's show. Some people may commit mistakes initially, but they will be corrected in the course of time. What is more important is to see that it is implemented properly, because it is for the first time, people are directly involved and the bureaucracy, the block machinery, is somewhat by-passed. There is some amount of apprehension that the required cooperation is not forthcoming from them, particularly from the engineering staff. If they do not turn up in the field and take measurements etc. will in time, there will be problem. If the Gram

Sabha Mukhiyas and Sarpanches are harassed, naturally the scheme will be disrupted and they will not take interest. Then this will fall flat. This is something which needs greater vigilance. There is the question of confusion at the district level administration, which I have seen in one meeting at the district level. There is no clear picture at all. The Minister may take note of it.

18.00 hrs.

The hon. Minister should take pains to clarify it. When there is a question of minimum wage, it has to be ensured. At many places, some people turn up in the field but do not work the whole time. The work only for two or three hours and go away. In that case, are they entitled to minimum wage? If so, that leads to discrepancy between the work done and the payment made on the basis of measurement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak when other Bill come up.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: In Sambalpur district, then newly created gram panchayats were left out initially when allotment under the Scheme was made on the basis of 1981 census. But when it was discovered, they were subsequently included without additional allotment. The district allotment was only redistributed bringing down the share of many gram panchayats which is causing resentment among the people of such gram panchayats.

I would request the hon. Minister to look into it and provide fresh allotment to the new gram panchayats. Some new gram panchayats have been constituted comprising resettlement colonies established due to the construction of Rengali Dam Project submerging vast areas. This should be taken into consideration.

With these words, I conclude giving full support to the laudable Scheme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and wish the Scheme all the best.