

16.50 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

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

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR (Sriperumbudur): I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

In our country, there are about 44 million rural people who are below the poverty line. This is due to the non-availability of employment to the rural people. So our Government thought of various means of providing employment to the rural poor who are below the poverty line. First it was considered to give certain poverty alleviation programmes. One of them was Food for Work Programme. After that it was followed by programme like NREP, RLEGP, self-employment programme and also IRDP. The objective of the Seventh Five Year Plan was to reduce rural unemployment and to do away with the rural poverty. This was done by the provision of certain programmes, providing food for them increase the work and also increase the productivity. But all the benefits were not reaching the poor people who are under the poverty line. It was siphoned off by various other agencies and also there was misuse of funds.

The primary objective of this Yojana is to generate additional gainful employment. Hitherto only men were getting the jobs and women were not taken into consideration and a very few of them were getting employment in rural areas. But now it is assured that women will get 30 per cent of the employment in rural areas to get over the rural unemployment. Apart from that, it is not only to give them employment but also to create capital assets which in turn will be used for productive purposes. Apart from providing work, it will go a long way in the rapid growth of the rural economy.

There were certain shortcomings in the implementation of the NREP and other programmes. The expenditure on non-productive work was more. Secondly, the schemes like NREP, RLEGP were identical but had separate administration. Very little of the public involvement was there. To remove the defects that had crept in the mal-functioning of the NREP and RLEGP; that were merged with the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. Under this scheme 80 per cent of the financial assistance is borne by the Centre and 20 per cent by the States or the Union territories wherever the scheme is going to function. The weightage is now totally on the removal of poverty incidence in the States and the Union territories. Funds will be released directly to the districts avoiding delay. This will enable the implementing agencies to get financial assistance in time without further delay. The districts will distribute eighty per cent of the resources to the Panchayats and Mandals, taking care that larger share will go to the economically productive work. It will not only just provide them money but will also create assets and take care of the productive work.

For the monitoring of this Scheme, it has been thought of appointing Regional Officers. We hope and also pray that they will not impede the scheme or misuse the Scheme, as was done earlier, and they should also be able to guide and inform the poor and the ignorant people in the rural areas about the existing Scheme and also help them to get the benefit of the programmes and see that no misuse takes place.

Most of the BDOs under the existing schemes in the rural areas could not be justice. Political influence on them did not permit them to do justice to the poor people, the needy people. The fear of transfer from one place to another and other influences prevented them from doing the right things. Now I think with these Regional Officers, such things shall be taken care of. This type of interference was preventing the deserving beneficiaries from getting the fruits of the schemes.

It is encouraging to note that unlike the earlier poverty alleviation schemes, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana will give preference to women to the extent of thirty per cent and to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Nomadic Tribes and agricultural labourers according to their population. The total amount that will be spent on these is Rs. 26.33 crores. This will be distributed on the basis of population below poverty line. I make a special appeal because there are certain areas with no industry at all, which are classified as 'No Industry Area'. In such areas, little more care, little more funds will have to be given and some schemes will have to be taken up to take care of the backward areas.

In my constituency, Sriperumbudur Taluk is a very backward area. No rail connections are there. It would help the people of this area if it is declared as 'No Industry Area'.

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana will provide at least 100 days work for at least one member of a family below poverty line. People with influence used to get work for two or even more members of the family under the earlier programmes. The work was not distributed in such a manner that at least one person in each family got the job. Under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, it will be possible for all the 44 million families to get at least one person in the family employed.

16.59 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHEER *in the Chair*]

I would like to mention that there are periodic floods and drought facing our country. In one area there may be drought and in another area there may be flood. Lot of lives are destroyed both by floods and by drought. To do away with this, I would make an appeal to the Central Government to bring forward a Bill for all the rivers in the country to be under the domain so that the Centre can have control over them and help those people who suffer from drought and also from floods. Lot of crops and lot of lives are wasted in the floods. We should store the water, we should

prevent the water from being wasted, we should prevent the lives from being destroyed. Only the Centres can do it by bringing a Bill for bringing the rivers under the control of one authority. If this is done, we will be able to save the resources and also avoid the sufferings of the people as well as prevent the water from being wasted. Sir, this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has come as a boon to the poor people of the country, particularly to those living in the rural areas. The poor people at the grass-root level do not have any say in the matter of village administration and now with the implementation of this Yojana, they will take part in the administration.

Sir, I was listening to the reply made by the hon. Finance Minister. He mentioned about the various programmes that are going to be taken up under the rural development schemes including opening of hospitals and Medical Health Centres in the rural areas. Sir, there are a number of Health Centres in the country. But they are not provided with doctors and medicines. Unless, these facilities are provided in these Health Centres, how can the scheme be successful?

Sir, in conclusion, I would like to submit that we are very grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi for having launched this Scheme in order to help the poor and the weaker sections of the society in the rural areas of the country and also set right the lop-sided development taking place in the country. Thank you very much.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): Sir, I do not want to make a long speech and I do not want to repeat those points which have already been mentioned by the hon. Members here. I would only like to raise two or three points for clarification from the hon. Minister. Sir, before I raise those points, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for launching this programme, that is, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Sir, unemployment is a very serious problem in this country. If this situation continues, there will be a lot of agitation and the situation will explode ultimately. So, Sir, the

[Sh. T. Basheer]

step which is being taken now is a very important step. This programme is a historical programme.

Sir, in our planning, since its inception, employment generation had a little effect. But even then in the last many years, rural employment programmes have reached only 55% of the villages in this country. Now, with the implementation of this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, it will reach every Panchayat. At least one member of each poor family will be provided with employment for 50 to 100 days a year. This will be a great achievement. The hon. Prime Minister and the Government deserve congratulations and we are very much grateful to the Government and to the Prime Minister. Sir, 30% of total employment will be reserved for women. The Yojana will reach out all over the country. 440 lakh families below the poverty line will be benefited. I do not want to repeat those points raised here already. But I take this opportunity to bring forward one or two points because the non-Congress Governments are opposing this Programme. Now, when we discuss this programme here, the Opposition Members both inside this House and outside have criticised this Programme. I do not know why they are criticising, I do not understand their logic. In Kerala when the Kerala Government criticised this, they said that the allotment for this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is less than what is allotted last year for the NREP and RLEGP programmes. I would like to know the position regarding this. The Chief Minister and the Government of Kerala made an attack on this programme and the allotment made by the Central Government for this new scheme. So, I would like to know from the Minister what is the real picture. They said that this happened because of the methodology accepted by the Government for finding the instance of poverty. That is why this wrong allocation is there. I think the Minister will clarify the position.

The second point which I would like to make is that to my knowledge, about the

fund allotted to the panchayats, these panchayats have the right to deposit those amounts in any of the nationalised banks or to deposit in the Postal Accounts or the service cooperative banks of that area. But the State Government, the Government of Kerala, insists that this money should be deposited in the Government Treasury. This has become a problem in the State because the Kerala Government is undergoing serious financial crisis or serious financial difficulties because of their financial mismanagement and for withdrawing the money from the Government Treasury, in most cases the sanction from the Government is required. So, if these panchayats are going to deposit the amount in the Treasury, then afterwards they have to go to the Government for sanction to withdraw from the Treasury. That will be a problem for the panchayats. So, they are intervening in this way, they are curtailing the freedom of panchayats for using this money according to their decision. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to inquire into it and give necessary direction to the State Government not to insist on those panchayats to deposit the money in the Treasury. This is the position as it stands today.

I would like to bring these two points to the notice of the hon. Minister and I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Minister on these points.

With these words I once again congratulate the hon. Minister for this historic and very important programme which is going to change the picture of this country. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the subject under discussion in the House today.

Even in those days when Shrimati Indira Gandhi gave the slogan of 'garibi hatao', the Opposition resorted with the slogan "Indira hatao." Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is

really a commendable step taken by our leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, and we feel obliged to him for his concern for the welfare of the poor and the weaker sections of the society. The poor been provided some relief through this scheme.

In these demands the amount of allocation for the Yojana has been increased by Rs. 500 crores. This goes to show the concern and the commitment of our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi towards the poor people of the country.

With the implementation of this Yojana, new assets will be created in the villages since it provides for the construction of ponds, school buildings and planting of trees, which will add to the assets of the country, resulting in creation of employment opportunities for the poor. This will improve the present miserable condition of the rural poor and protect them from exploitation by providing them employment opportunities. My submission is that the scheme provides work for 100 days for a family in a year. This period also should be increased at least to six months in a year. There should also be a provision of job guarantee in this scheme, on the lines of Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme, so that the labourers may get job for at least six months in a year and they may not migrate to the towns. Since the wages paid in the towns are more attractive, the rate of wages should be increased in villages too in order to see that the labourers are not lured towards towns and may feel contented in the village itself.

There is no provision for the middlemen or the contractors in this scheme and this is a good step. Now the people will work themselves and this the money which used to go to the contractor will be saved. However, proper monitoring of the work should be done and honest people should be deputed on monitoring work so that this scheme may function properly and people may not be exploited.

It is good that this scheme has been named after Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

was the builder of the modern India and he took steps for the development of country and for the welfare of the labourers as he endeavoured for a socialistic pattern of society in India. I thank the Government for having named the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana after him.

The provision of providing jobs to the women is also a good step. The rural poor women will be able to earn something and thus their condition will improve. Providing daily bread is a sacred task and efforts in this regard deserve full appreciation.

If a programme of plantation of more and more trees is included in this scheme, it will help in checking environmental pollution and make available wood as well. The main objective of this scheme is to protect people from exploitation I have full regard for the feeling behind such a laudable objective and thank Shri Rajiv Gandhi before I conclude.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. I congratulate Shri Rajiv Gandhi for this thinking that formulation of a plan for the welfare of the poor and the unemployed will be perhaps the best tribute to the architect of modern India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. We feel that such a scheme is very much needed because while reviewing our planning process we feel proud of our achievements in the field of industry, science and technology we can not sideline the fact that a major section of our population is still living below the poverty line. As a party in power it is our duty to pay attention to this problem, but our friends in the Opposition are terming every step taken by the Government as an election gimmick. They are calling this programme also an election stunt although such a programme is badly needed at present.

17.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would like to tell my Opposition col-

[Sh. Mohd. Ayub Khan]

leagues that we took it to be our duty to introduce such a programme. Now that a section of the people in our country, which had no say in the affairs of the nation and which could never get the funds meant for them will now be able to receive those funds through this scheme and will have equal participation in the affairs of the nation. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has worked out a way through which some share of Plan allocation will reach the grassroot level. Major portion of the allocation was pocketed by the middlemen but now this practise has been stopped. Now funds will reach the right hands. These funds will be utilised for creating public assets like roads, panchayatghar, school buildings etc. and thus people will be immensely benefited through this scheme.

I would like to submit 2-3 more points. The panchayat elections have been yet been held in Jammu and Kashmir. The Government has introduced this scheme under which the funds are proposed to be spent through the office bearers of panchayats and the elected representatives. But what will be the position at those places where there are no representatives, where election to Panchayats have not been held. This is the eighth month of the financial year and the Government has to spend the funds. Under the present circumstances there is a danger that the funds may go unutilised. I would submit to the hon. Minister, Shri Bhajan Lai that at places where panchayat elections have not been held, where there are no institutions at the grassroot level and no representatives at panchayat level, the village level workers and the sarpanch will try to misuse this money. The Government, therefore, should take step to meet this eventuality. In Jammu and Kashmir, neither the panchayat elections have been held nor any advisory committee has been appointed at the panchayat level till now. Another point I would like to submit is that according to the provision made by the Government, more funds will be allocated to the remote districts where poverty is acute. But when we go through the statistics of Jammu & Kashmir,

we are surprised to note the allocation made for the remote districts. Like Udhampur, Poonch and other remote hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir. I fail to understand the criterion adopted for allocation of funds. More funds have been allocated for plains where the population is comparatively on the lower side. These districts have been ignored. I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention to this.

I will conclude after making one more point. As regards, Indra Awas Yojana, share of the State Government is received but it takes a long time for the Central Government to release its contribution. Due to this, poor people have to face problems. My submission is that funds should be released in time of the Indra Awas Yojana. The centre's share is not sufficient, it should be increased and funds should also be released in time so as to facilitate matters for the people.

I would like to add that more representatives of the people should be involved in the implementation and proper monitoring of this scheme. The State Governments should consult the M.L.As and M.P.s in the matter. The Opposition criticises us that the Centre has started this scheme to curb the autonomy of the States. But I may tell my friends that the Centre is contributing 80 per cent of the total expenditure and the States, share is only 20 percent. It is, therefore, the joint responsibility of the Centre and the States. If the Government has taken a step to alleviate poverty, please do not call it an election stunt rather we should appreciate it. Those who call it an election stunt, I think, they have no programme worthwhile to offer. We feel that it has been and is still the responsibility of the Congress party to alleviate poverty from the country, because no other political party has yet come forward to shoulder this responsibility.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY (Hazaribagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is under discussion in the House. I heartily welcome it. The entire public

of this country expresses its gratitude to their leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi who has launched this well conceived scheme after the name of a great leader of this country. I am fully confident that we would achieve great heights in this endeavour, which is apparent from the fact that all those who oppose us, are worried on account of its implementation and are now busy in fault-finding some way or the other. This very thing is indicative of the fact that we are moving in the right direction. And it is only due to this fact that people are being drawn towards us. They have also admitted it. That is why they have been fretting and fuming with the fear that they may not be vanquished on that account. They are giving absurd statements about the scheme, just in order to create confusion among the masses.

People of the country voted us to power and we are also committed to them. The most important commitment is the evolution of a socialistic pattern of society so as to provide equal opportunities of progress to all. In order to accomplish this task, any Government which is committed to the people, will grant equal rights to the lowest rung of the society and ensure them benefits of freedom and their share in production and wealth of the country. It is the first and the foremost duty of a Government to evolve scheme to achieve that end. We made several proposals but it was of no avail. There was a time when more than 50% of the total population lived below the poverty line. But gradually with the effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes our country has made substantial progress in this regard. As a result thereof the number of people living below poverty line has been reduced to a considerable extent. At present the total number of such people does not exceed 30% of our total population. However, they are also the citizens of this country and the Government is always concerned about them. The Government has equal responsibility in respect of all sections of the society—whether those who live below poverty line or those who live above poverty line. An unemployed youth, whether he is educated or uneducated, becomes a matter of great concern in the family. To-day all the

persons who are employed by the Government, are paid for their work. But when such a person finds his highly qualified son holding a graduate or a post-graduate degree with a technical qualification unemployed, he feels worried and curses the Government and its economy for it. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide him a job. We would have waited for it for sometime. The Government have been taking effective measures for the educated unemployed which was a special category in the past. Even at present they are being provided loans through banks so that they can manage to set up their own small scale industries for self employment. But as a matter of fact, still there are people, in spite of being educated are not capable of standing on their own. Though they are moving ahead yet majority of them is still leading a miserable life. What Government is going to do for such persons.

However, one thing is certain, that despite all its achievements in the economic field, unless and until the Government achieves the target of providing employment to at least one member of each and every family as a source of income, all the efforts of the Government will be of no avail.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi has taken a bold step to assure the downtrodden sections that now at least one person of their family is sure to get employment which will improve their financial position. Hence this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is a welcome step in this direction. I heartily congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for launching this scheme and I feel that it is a positive step he has taken in this direction.

I would like to mention a few things more. Some of my friends have pointed out that there are certain villages where Panchayat elections have not been held and if at all they were held at some places, it was some 10-15 years back. Even in those elections 'panchayat samities' were constituted at a few places only. How will the things go on in such places? Will it be done through BDOs or social-workers or has some other arrangement been made? Similarly if suit-

[Sh. Damodar Pandey]

able people in a particular area are not there to attend to this work, will any arrangement be worked out to involve the local MP. It is essential to make it clear as to what criteria will be adopted to involve them in this work and how the work will be done. Besides we are Members of Parliament and sanction grants from the Central Exchequer. Will the MPs go to the rural areas to decide matters. Their consultation is quite important in implementing the scheme, but if they are not able to express their views it may give an opportunity to the people in the opposition to try to create confusion among the people. Unless we find out a political solution, we would be able to tackle this problem. I would suggest involvement of all the people and it is essential that the members should express their views in this regard in the House so that people may feel and realise that it is entirely the commitment of their Government which is not an insignificant one. We want to stand up to this commitment with full dedication and confidence. I hope the hon. Minister would pay attention to it.

The Payment of Minimum wages Act does not apply to this sector although it is applicable in industrial as well as agricultural sector. Every State Government have its own rules and regulations. Will it be possible in these circumstances for the Central Government to give minimum wages in every state under this scheme. I would be very happy if more than the minimum wages are paid for the work done under this scheme but in any case minimum wages should be paid. Those, who do some constructive work and prepare schemes for the country or work to bring about an improvement in the society, should not be just paid minimum wages only. The Government should see to it that he is paid suitable remuneration for the work done by him, so that his family may feel satisfied that a member of the family is getting his due and that he is receiving any alms. He should feel that he is getting due return for his hard work. We should uphold the dignity of labour and a workers' family should be assured of rightful return for his labour. Arrangements

should be made to pay a person according to his capacity of work which may be of a varied nature requiring a different type of skill, labour intelligence, etc. All these factors should be taken into consideration while deciding it. Minimum wages should not be paid for all types of work irrespective of the hard labour involved in it—be it the work of a mason or earth work or ordinary tree plantation. It creates a distrust in the minds of the people. Hence, there should a provision of payment to an individual on the basis of his performance. The Government should not confine to its policy decision of providing employment to only one person in each family. It won't do. Another member in a family may come up as more intelligent, more hard working, wiser and having more capacity to work than others, he should not be ignored. In view of all these things I would like to suggest that the hon. Minister should give it a second thought and decide how to take effective measures to implement the scheme. We all know that he has a deep sense of dedication and he intends to accomplish the task with all sincerity. That is why the general idea he has given about it is clear. But there are certain things which require clarification. I am sure that keeping all these points in view and to counter the move of the opposition, the scheme would be implemented successfully under his leadership and further improvements wherever required would be made in it to which the other hon. Members have already drawn the attention of the Government. I hope that in view of all these things, with his concrete steps and proper directions, he would present a new picture of the country which would be a befitting reply to the opposition. All our schemes are providing relief to the people in the right direction because we have taken a big step for poverty alleviation and we will succeed in our attempts. That is the only hope we cherish.

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the moment Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is under discussion in the House. It has been welcomed at every where, in the remote villages and by all the sections of the society. Even the name of the scheme has the history of the Congress behind it. All

our former Prime Ministers and the Constitution of Congress had envisaged the evolution of a socialistic pattern of society which was also the vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. That is why the scheme has been named after that great leader. It is a laudable and welcome step. If we go through the history of the Congress we find that from time to time effective measures such as the abolition of princely states and privy-purses, poverty alleviation, introduction of land ceiling, abolition of bonded labour system and the fixation of minimum wages, have been taken and now the Congress Government have implemented the scheme for the alleviation of poverty. The Government have taken a number of measures and launched innumerable schemes to improve the economic condition of the backward classes and to infuse in them a new vigour of life. But Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has given it a new impetus and direction. Its significance lies in the fact that it has been implemented in the remote and rural areas and it has not been left to the discretion of any particular office-bearer or officer or institution.

The importance of this programme has increased further with its handing it over to the Panchayats. We hope and the people of India are also hopeful that this programme would result in development at Block and District level. Our hon. Prime Minister and all his colleagues who have been associated with this programme deserve to be congratulated. Training Programme has been started at District and Block level and accounts have been opened in the name of Gram Pradhans so that everything could go on smoothly. First, I would like to say that resources should be mobilised. I think that the funds provided for this scheme are not adequate. Rs. one lakh has been provided to a Gram Panchayat comprising four-five villages. With this amount not even a canal can be constructed. This is inadequate even, for installing tubewells.

In fact, for the development of village and society more resource mobilisation is required. The progress of the work has been hampered because of fixing percentage in

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. We participated in the meetings held at the district and block level and we found that there was some difficulty in the implementation of this programme. It has been provided that certain percentage will be spent on certain work. For example, twenty percent on roads, twenty percent on something else etc. This restriction of percentage should be removed and the concerned panchayat should be taken into confidence regarding the development work to be undertaken in that area and that work should be done by the panchayat itself. If construction of a canal is necessary they should construct a canal, if tubewell is necessary, they should install a tubewell, and if construction of a dam is necessary then a dam should be constructed by the panchayat. The percentage should be made flexible and it should be left to the discretion of panchayat to utilise that amount.

With these words, I thank the Prime Minister and the Government for taking this socialistic step.

[English]

PROF. M.R. HALDER (Mathurapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must congratulate the Prime Minister for having introduced Jawahar Rozgar Yojana throughout the country thus doing something for the down-trodden people in rural areas especially the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and bonded labour of our country. It is a fact that those who have left this august House after submitting their resignations have already started a campaign against this historical programme introduced by Government of India. The political leaders of the Opposition parties are describing this scheme as an election gimmick of the Congress party. Sir, in October 1980 in our country a developmental programme called 'Food for Work' was introduced. In October 1980, a scheme called National Rural Employment Programme was introduced under the leadership of our honourable leader, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. It became a part and parcel of the Sixth Five Year Plan with effect from 1st April 1981. She again introduced

[Prof. M.R. Halder]

RLEGP. This programme was mainly meant for giving employment to the rural landless people for 100 mandays per year. Now, our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi has introduced Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the name of Pandit Nehru. The leaders belonging to the Opposition parties shouting outside should know who Pandit Nehru was. They are criticising Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government that it is a political and election gimmick of the Congress party. Not only the people of our country but also crores of people all over the world know who was Pandit Nehru and what were his achievements. In fact, he was an architect of modern India. We are, more or less, following the policies adopted by the first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru.

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has mainly two objectives. The first is for generation of gainful employment for the employment and under-employed persons both men and women, especially for those who are living below the poverty line and belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and bonded labour class. Its second objective is for creating productive community assets for direct and continuing benefits for poverty stricken groups and for strengthening the rural economic and social infrastructure.

We may say that this is a historic decision. Prior to 1980, there were rural development schemes but this scheme is for giving employment. On the one hand, it would generate employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons and the backward people. On the other hand, there will be the creation of community assets. Previously, the panchayats were functioning on directions from the State Government concerned. Now, the panchayats would get money directly from the Central Government on the basis of its population. There will now be direct instructions from the Government of India that at least 50 percent of the allotted money should be utilised for giving employment. As far as this Yojana is concerned, 4.40 crores of people will be bene-

fited but I think with this allocation the purpose of this scheme will not be satisfied. For this, an extra allocation is needed. So, I urge the Government of India to look into this problem so as to provide for employment in the rural areas and to benefit the people who are living below the poverty line. Normally, some contractors will be appointed and they will earn profit. But there is a ban on the appointment of contractors in this scheme. Therefore, the profits will go towards the wages of the people who are now employed. That is why, this scheme is historic. Lastly, I will submit one thing. Sir, you know very well about Bengal. What is going on in Bengal? There is a lot of criticism outside that it is an election gimmick and a political gimmick. The gram panchayat pradhans have taken money already from the Government of India directly, by way of Yojana funds, and they are misusing it. If there are 15 members out of which five are from Congress party and the rest ten are from CPI (M), these five Congress members are not invited to the meetings and their submissions are not included in the proceedings of the meetings. What I would like to tell is that the gram panchayats should be advised in such a way that the suggestions or submissions made by the Congress members will also be taken into consideration. This scheme is honestly depending on the goodwill and the broader outlook of the gram panchayat pradhans. They will have to come out from the narrow party politics. Only then, this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana will become successful.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the launching of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the entire country, by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the rural people are confident now that the petty works of the villages would now be handled at the village level itself. Earlier it took months for these petty works to be completed. First, an estimate of that work was submitted and it was approved after a long time. That is why the Gram Panchayats and the rural populace all over the country is

thanking the Prime Minister today for this scheme. Now, with the launching of this Yojana, the rural people hope that they will get employment. You know, that there are five blocks and 5 BDO offices in Delhi. Now the panchayats of the five blocks will not have to go to any higher officer, but funds have been distributed to them in panchayats itself and they have been told that this amount has to be spent on such and such work. The villagers will get adequate wages, more earth work will be undertaken, more and more trees will be planted and drains will be repaired. I think that the status of panchayats would go up as compared to the past and the rural people will get many facilities besides the development work the pace of which would also be accelerated. Today, we find some people criticising this Yojana and saying a lot against it. Never before, was such a wave of happiness felt among the rural masses as with the implementation of this Yojana. Previously, the Gram Panchayat Pradhans had the power to spend Rs. 100 only but now with the launching of this Yojana, Gram Pradhans of all the villages and *sarpanches* of panchayats will have the power to spend upto Rs. 1000 on petty works. More and more trees will be planted in the villages and drainage facilities would also be provided. Every possible effort will be made to generate more employment for the poor. Playgrounds would be developed for the youth and facilities for swimming, playing kabaddi and other exercises would also be provided.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may be aware that there are 195 or 198 panchayats in Delhi. Funds have been provided to most of these panchayats. But there are 20-25 panchayats in five blocks which have not been provided money due to some reason. I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, that these remaining panchayats should also be provided funds. My suggestion is that the poor in these villages should also be provided employment. Some work should also be given to the poor living in slum areas and other such colonies. Drinking water should be provided to these people and water drains should be cleared. I have a

few more suggestions like this and if you approve them, the rural masses of Delhi would be happy. The people of Delhi are still happy and this is the cause of worry for opposition. The public opinion is in your favour. So we want that such small works should be executed through Gram Panchayats. Previously, all the pradhans of Gram Panchayats had to come to the cities, but now it is not so. The officers in the cities themselves go to the blocks, panchayats and villages. Drainage arrangements and provision of drinking water should be made in such colonies. Provision should be made to enable the Gram Pradhans to install tubewells in the villages. You know that the population of Delhi has increased manifolds and we get little water from Yamuna river. Many new colonies have come up in different areas. Drinking water is supplied from Yamuna river to far flung colonies like Vikaspuri, but the water does not reach these Colonies. If the people of these colonies do not get the Yamuna water, the Sarpanch and Pradhan should install tubewells to ensure water to these areas. Similarly, there are some other small works in the villages such as repair of primary school buildings and other petty works which can be done by them. The rural masses will be benefited by the funds given to these panchayats directly. The earlier practice of contractors swindling half the funds will also come to an end. Development of villages can take place only when panchayats are given the entire funds.

Sir, I have one more suggestion. You have fixed the daily wages of a mason at Rs. 30/- and the same wages have been fixed for a labourer. You know that one cannot find a mason at this rate. A mason is not available for less than Rs. 50/-. I would like to request that you should fix different wages for mason and labourer and inform the Gram Pradhans accordingly. It should be made very clear I am sure that our villages, poor people and labourers will make progress and benefit from this scheme. Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak and request the hon. Minister to pay attention to my suggestions.

18.00 hrs.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the dream of Mahatma Gandhi self-reliant village and *Gram Swaraj* has been realised through the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. It has been implemented as a result of Hon. Prime Minister's nation wide tour of the rural areas during which he was apprised of the problems of the villages. He not only heard their difficulties but also felt them. While supporting this Yojana, I would like to say that Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is a concrete programme which will definitely benefit the landless workers and rural masses. 80 percent of the assistance is to be granted by the Central Government and 20 percent would be released by the State Government. The Gram Pradhan will come in direct contact with the Centre because the funds will be directly released to the Gram Panchayats. There would be no middlemen to create problems. Therefore, we hope that maximum funds will be released to the Gram Panchayats.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Misra, you can continue your speech next time.

16.01 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBERS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I want to make an announcement. The Speaker has received today letters from the following members resigning their seats in Lok Sabha.

1. Dr. Datta Samant
2. Shri S.M. Guraddi
3. Rao Birendra Singh

The Speaker has accepted their resignations with immediate effect.

The House now stands adjourned.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven o'clock on Tuesday, August 1, 1989/ Sravana 10, 1911 (Saka)