

13.17 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are taking up further discussion under Rule 193. Dr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra can continue.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Shall I start my speech from the beginning or shall I speak in continuation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I had said in the House that the Gram Rajya and the dreams of Gandhiji's Ram Rajya were going to be realised through the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. A large number of people are availing of the benefits and facilities accruing from the laws enacted by the Central Government. It is for the first time that people living below the poverty line will receive the benefits direct from the Centre. The scheme has been formulated in such a way that there will be no middlemen in it. It is also a matter of pleasure that it is the villagers who will fix the priority. The schemes will be undertaken for the villagers and executed by the villagers themselves. It is a very good thing indeed. The funds will reach the Panchayat level direct from the Centre. One of the benefits of this scheme is that it will provide employment to 440 lakh families. The livelihood of agricultural labourers is linked with rain whether it is drought or flood. But the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana will guarantee employment to agricultural labourers. It will also check migration of people from villages to cities and also check the growth of jhuggis in the cities. In this connection, I would like to

urge the Government to raise the period of guaranteed employment from 100 days to some more days, so that they are not forced to migrate to cities from their native places. If the number of days is increased beyond 100, the poor people will get employment. It will also help in decentralisation of power. When Central schemes will be implemented at the Panchayat level, the villagers will feel a sense of responsibility. With that sense of responsibility, they will also feel responsible to the nation and will work in the direction of joining the national mainstream. They will feel that they are also responsible citizens. The Bill provides to grant Rs. 1 lakh to each Panchayat. I want that in view of the state of unemployment in the villages and keeping in view the need of the agricultural labourers, this amount may please be increased further as other programmes like the social forestry, Jaldhara and Indira Awas Yojana have also been amalgamated in this scheme. That is also one of the reasons why this amount falls short. Whatever figures we present here about unemployment, they are not correct, because these figures do not include the number of child labourers. Their number is also very large and we are not able to make a proper assessment of it. I, therefore, want you to raise this amount further so that these people could be provided maximum benefits. I would like to make yet another submission in regard to Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The workers at the lower level working on daily wage basis, whether in rural banks or elsewhere, get employment only for 8 months in a year. They remain idle for the remaining 4 months. I request that they may please be made permanent so that they could work through out the year. Social forestry is our major programme which covers matters related to environment. The Indian farmers are linked with it. I request you to pay special attention to it. With the nationalisation of forests, the people in the villages are finding it difficult to construct their houses. Earlier, the practice was that the agricultural labourers used to cut timber from the forests and construct their houses in the villages. But this practice has since been stopped. I want the Government to reconsider the matter and merge this scheme with Indira Awas

Yojana. All these schemes speak of all-round development. I may tell you that digging of a well costs Rs. 15,000. As such the amount provided under the 'Jaldhara' scheme should also be increased besides increasing the number of beneficiaries, so that people could get drinking water as well as water for irrigation purposes. I would like to make a point in respect of my home state Madhya Pradesh with particular reference to Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The Government has proposed to provide wheat for under the scheme Food for Works in this State. But in Madhya Pradesh, the number of rice eaters is more. Therefore, arrangements should be made to supply rice in place of wheat. The increase in the price effected recently should also be withdrawn. The provision of Rs. 62,000 for a village under a Panchayat is too meagre and therefore, it needs to be enhanced. The provisions made in respect of wasteland is very essential for the agricultural labourers. This work should be given priority. I would also like to add that the Government has taken a right step by proposing reservation of 30 per cent jobs for women. It should be ensured that the reserved jobs are made available to them. Special attention should also be paid to Adivasis and people living in remote areas. Proper monitoring should be done in order to find out whether the benefits reach these people or not. People should be imparted education under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Awareness should be created among these people about their responsibilities. They should be made to understand that these schemes are meant for their welfare and these will be useful for their future generations also. I would also like to point out that the 5 per cent provision for administrative expenses is too meagre. As such, a separate provision should be made for this head and this amount should be increased.

Finally, I would like to say that the programmes under the Khadi and Village Industries should also be included in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana so that a large number of weavers and agricultural labourers associated with Khadi and Village Industries could

also avail of the benefits of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

With these words I express my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Sa-lem): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is taking into consideration the fact that both the IRDP and the RLEGP programmes fundamentally intended for development and employment were not really delivering the results to the extent we expected and also keeping in mind that rural unemployment has reached to levels of even 40-50 millions, that the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been announced by the hon. Prime Minister.

Without doubt, this programme is revolutionary. We have heard over and over again in this House for the last four decades people voicing sympathy for unemployment and condemning the economic situation creating unemployment. But when it came to the actual action, there was hesitancy because the very physical size of the problem was such that most did not want to tackle it.

Obviously any economic problem would have economic consequences; one cannot deny it. But the courage, tenacity and commitment of the Prime Minister is very much visible in this programme, especially since this was one of the fundamental ideas that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru himself had not only written about, but pointed out also.

Our country can never really claim to be a developed country in the real sense of the term unless it uses its most valuable asset or resource—that is the human being himself. We have often said population is a problem. Yes. When it is galloping and growing at the rate at which it has been, it is a problem. But at the same time the human being is one of the most wonderful creations that God has made on the surface of the earth. The talent and skill that the Indian has, has been praised world over. It is a universally known fact. The ability to use and use effectively for develop-

[Sh. P.R. Kumaramangalam]

ment and growth is a talent which unfortunately I think we have not shown here. We have not exploited the human talent in India.

I have often said on the floor of this House as many others also have said that manpower planning is a necessity. We must plan as to how we are going to use our manpower, what are we going to do with our manpower and until our planned growth is not linked to manpower planning, we would not be able to achieve the heights which we want to achieve.

All of us are aware that today among the third world nations we are really one of the developed nations, undoubtedly. Everybody is aware that we are on the launching pad, both economically as well as socially. But unfortunately I think our launching engines are slipping like the SLV did in its first attempt. What is necessary is, we must become an Agni. We have to move out like a ballistic missile and have a quantum jump. Undoubtedly the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is a step. Whether it will suffice, is another question. Originally, it was for Rs. 2,300 crores. Since that was the allocation between TRDP and NREP, it was Rs. 700 crores on the account of IRDP and Rs. 1,600 crores on the account of NREP. But fortunately, for all of us, the Prime Minister has increased it. If I am right, it must be Rs. 2,750 crores. Am I right Mr. Minister? What has it been increased to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): It is not the merger of IRDP and NREP

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No. What is it now?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Rs. 2,650 crores. For the hon. Member's information, I may say that it is not the merger of IRDP and NREP. It is the merger of NREP, RLEGP and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: So, it is the merger of NREP, RLEGP and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. I stand corrected, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am grateful to the hon. Minister. So, Rs. 700 crores in IRDP will stand, additionally.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: That is self-employment. This is wage employment.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: That shows that even though the accounting originally shown to us was that the IRDP, where a number of people are being provided employment, would be merged, it would not be right. That would still stand because it stands on the self-employment programme. It is only the wage employment that has been increased. The increase in the budget also shows that this time the attempt is not to white-wash or re-name, but the attempt is definitely to attack the problem and solve it.

Further, at this particular stage, what is relevant to point out is that the guidelines have been made out that references have been set out. What is happening in certain States is highly questionable. Because of the effectiveness of the implementation and our experience with regard to NREP and RLEGP programmes, we said 80% of the allocation should go directly to the Gram Panchayat. I think, approximately a lakh of rupees per Gram Panchayat would be going, if not a little more with the additional allocation that we have given. But, I am sorry to state that in my home State, that is Tamilnadu, with the earlier programmes, the Poverty Alleviation Programme, the development programmes that we put forward—in order to sideline the efforts of the Central Government, to decentralise people's power, to bring the power to people, and to make the Panchayats stronger, what has been done is that they have created Advisory Committees to Panchayats. These Committees consist of the local executive officer, the BDO, the Tehsildar, the Panchayat President and five other nominees of the State Government. They make sure that this Committee decides on the beneficiaries of the IRDP and decides

on the schemes that are going to be implemented under NREP and RLEGP. By this method, they ensure that the elected representatives at the Panchayat level do not have a say in deciding either the beneficiaries or the schemes because the Panchayat President becomes a minority. Even if one takes the officials out of the picture, it is 1:5. The Panchayat President does not end up nominating one person who was with him, if he is not politically in tune with the State Government. That is the situation in Tamilnadu. After doing this, they have drawn up beneficiaries. We, on enquiry, have found that more than 80% of the beneficiaries are very well above the poverty line and not classified as below the poverty line. They are only the members of the ruling party, who are becoming beneficiaries, at the present moment. We have represented this to the hon. Prime Minister. We have also represented to the hon. Minister of State for Rural Development and we have also represented to the hon. Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal, himself. But I do not know what is the action that has been taken. I am quite confident that the bureaucrats would have given some reasonable explanation to confuse the hon. Ministers, but ultimately the reality at the grass-root is that the Panchayat Union Presidents have gone to the Court. Finding that there is no way in which they will get their voice heard they had to go to court. We are talking of bringing a Constitutional amendment to strengthen the Panchayat Raj. We are talking of bringing a Constitutional amendment to bring Peoples' power but ultimately the power that exists is not being exercised. The truth is that unless Central Government takes firm steps to intervene to ensure that fundamental democracy is protected whatever be the law you bring if a State Government wants to undo the powers of the Panchayat President they can do it and they have done it. What is necessary is to ensure that all our developmental projects whether IRDP or Jawahar Rozgar Yojana the decision on the scheme and the beneficiary must be made only by the elected representatives and not by nominated persons. We are reserving 30% quota for women and also for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the

elected representatives then what is the need to have this advisory committee and task force? There is no such necessity of having nay such thing. By doing this we are only undoing the democratic structure. This must be understood.

Unfortunately in the same of giving representation to the women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, knowing very well that the elected Panchayat Samiti has got this representation a Government Order has been passed in Tamil Nadu. I want to inform the Minister that in my constituency, that is Salem three of the Panchayat union namely Panmarathupatti, Ayodhapattinam and Veerapandi have gone to the High Court of Madras and have obtained stay orders against the IRDP list of beneficiaries and the distribution of amounts. I understand quite reliably that as yet in Tamil Nadu no amount has been distributed and that all the beneficiaries directly and indirectly are linked to the ruling party in Tamil Nadu and more than 80 per cent of them do not deserve to be beneficiaries. I would plead with the Minister that he should intervene immediately and issue directions that the money should not be distributed to these beneficiaries and on the contrary elected representatives should decide who should be the beneficiaries. Even if you do not involve the MPs and MLAs it does not matter but the nominated persons or officers.

It is my personal opinion that unemployment has become a major problem which needs to be tackled. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana tackles rural unemployment and IRDP also tackles in terms of self-employment. But will it suffice? I did a small calculation and found that if one looks at, let us say, a minimum wages of Rs. 13 per day and sees the number of man-hours and sees how many people are going to get relief under the schemes it is not a small number. Over a crore of people are going to get work for a full year. But the second question which arises in my mind is that there is still gap of two to three crore left of unemployed which we have to solve. It is not impossible. It can be met and it can be solved. This is a beginning

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and right step in the right direction. It is a major leap from the earlier effort but it is my plea that one must no longer have it as a mere scheme. You have introduced into Parliament a constitutional amendment to strengthen the very fundamental forum of democracy—the Panchayat Raj. You plan to introduce a constitutional amendment for the local bodies in urban areas. Why is it that we cannot amend the Constitution to provide a guarantee for employment? It is not necessary. I do not say a guarantee to work. I distinguish. It does not mean the State has to provide always. But if a person is not able to get employment, not able to earn minimum wage when he reaches the age to 25 years, why should he not be guaranteed by the State that, yes, he will be given an employment? It may not be an employment of his choice. It could be some other.

I would like to congratulate the Government and the Prime Minister. At the same time, I also make a plea that while revolutionary changes are being brought with regard to democratic forum, let us also have a revolution with regard to unemployment and have a fundamental right of guarantee to employment included in our Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonapat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I support the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The hon. Prime Minister has launched an extremely important scheme. However, I would like to submit a few points in regard to it. So that the hon. Minister may assess the situation and take necessary steps in the States where some people are trying to frustrate the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. I hail from Haryana, where the funds to each gram panchayat have been released directly by the Centre. The gram panchayat's are happy that the middlemen have been eliminated. They have got the funds on which their panchayat had a right. With the help of that money the people living below poverty line will be able to earn their livelihood. But the

Deputy Commissioners in Haryana have received orders from the Chief Minister that they should issue guidelines to each gram panchayat so that the scheme is not properly implemented and the centers scheme to provide livelihood to the unemployed in the villages is frustrated. My submission is that the hon. Minister may note this point and should not allow the non-Congress ruled States to succeed in getting such guidelines implemented. For example, the Deputy Commissioners have sent guidelines to each gram panchayat that out of this fund, 15 per cent should be kept for pavements, 5 per cent for street, 15 per cent for scavenging and 7 per cent for education. When the total amount is only Rs. five thousand, how many street, pavements and small bridges be constructed? Their intention is that the people should not be benefited through this scheme. I would also like to submit that it has been mentioned in the guidelines that if Rs. 10 thousand have been allocated to a village, Rs. 5 thousand should be spent on the purchase of bricks and construction of street and the rest of the amount should be spent as wages. I recently toured 150-200 villages and the Sarpanch of each village told me that same story. Rs. 5 thousand is not spent on wages but this has been done so that the funds may not be utilised properly and may go waste and later on it may be alleged that the Government is deliberately not doing anything.

The Central Government should issue guidelines that the State Government and its employees should not interfere in the funds allocated in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The funds should directly reach the panchayats since every panchayat is aware as to which task should be given priority. Should keep the funds allocated under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana should be left with the panchayats and they should decide the manner in which it is to be spent. Otherwise this funds will again so misused and the officers who misused it earlier will continue to so.

Now, I turn to Haryana. The basic principle of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is that the Government should provide means of

livelihood to the poor but in 50 per cent factories of Haryana there is lock-out. This is because the Chief Minister is Haryana and his son openly take bribes to the tune of Rs. 50 lakh from the factory owners there. They factory owners say that they are unable to give jobs to the employees and have declared lock-out. The B.S.T., Bharat Steel Tube Factory is situated Gannaur town in my Constituency. Lock out in this factory has been continuing for the last 2 months and two thousand employees are on hunger-strike since then. They have even staged a *dharna* but the State Government has not provided them any protection. The police beats them up and it is the Chief Minister there who is responsible for all this. It is a question of livelihood of 2 thousand families who have been starving there for the last 10 months. A number of points have been submitted to and I have myself met them but that they say that they can either pay to the employees or to the Chief Minister. Since they can not pay to both of them. They will continue with the lock out and they have permanently closed the factory. In this way, 50 per cent factories have been closed.

The Government is committed to provide employment to the people but in Haryana a sum of Rs. 15 thousand was taken as bribe a year ago for the recruitment to the post of constable. Today Rs. 30 thousand is charged for this post. Now if a person has to pay Rs. 30 thousand as bribe for becoming a constable, can't he invest that amount and start his own shop or establish some other business. No where in the world is corruption so deep-rooted as in Haryana. There is no law and only the law of jungle prevails there.

In such circumstances, we should pay attention to those States which are ruled by non-Congress parties and where we have no control. The Centre should formulate laws in such a way that they may not exploit and maltreat the poor people in this manner. They should rather take steps to provide them means of livelihood.

According to the Employment Exchange

Act, the factories employing more than 30 workers have to recruit employees through the Employment Exchange. But this provision of the Act is openly violated because names of job-seekers are not asked from any Employment Exchange. This needs to be looked into.

I would like to make another request. During the 1987 Assembly elections in Haryana, the election-manifesto of the Lok Dal mentioned that either employment or unemployment allowance will be provided to all the unemployed in Haryana. However, the youth are just being mocked and neither employment nor any unemployment allowance has been paid to them till date. On the contrary, they have been announcing throughout the country that they have fulfilled all their promises and have given employment to all. However, this is far from reality.

In the end I would like to make a request. Nearly 3 thousand D.T.C. employees of this State were dismissed during the D.T.C. strike. They are many such employees who neither participated in the strike nor in any other unlawful activity. Today, the families of those three thousand D.T.C. employees are starving. Their families as well as they themselves are leading a miserable life. My submission is that the Government should reinstate them so that they may lead a happy family life. With these words I conclude.

**SHRI ASLAM-SHER KHAN (Betul):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for having introduced the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana because this is a revolutionary step which was long awaited. Whenever the schemes related to employment or development were formulated by the Centre for the rural areas, they are always twisted and misrepresented at the State and the district level. Consequently, the poor were exploited. The demands of the poor in our country are not gigantic. They are related only to the villages, and include construction of roads, wells, school buildings etc. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana will prove extremely beneficial for them now.

[Sh. Aslam Sher Khan]

Shrimati Indira Gandhi had taken a revolutionary step by nationalising the banks and the poor were benefited. They got loans as well as employment with the help of the banks. But the need to provide employment at the village level remained. What has been happening till now is that the educated youth kept on migrating to towns due to lack of employment avenues in the villages. Consequently, towns are under pressure. Now with this scheme, the villagers feel that they will get employment.

It is a matter of happiness that the funds under this scheme have already reached the panchayats and projects have started there. However, the Government will have to pay attention to two-three points. The people who are responsible for the implementation of these schemes are not familiar with all the rules and regulations. We should see that the administration or the B.D.Os. know all the rules and regulations. Otherwise they should be educated about these rules.

At some places it has been seen that even the 'Sarpanches' are not aware of the guidelines of this programme. These guidelines should be specific and clear. In Madhya Pradesh the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, which has been implemented there through the Panchayats, had a tremendous impact. With funds in hand they have been able to start some very good works. The Government has to take steps to get the plan works also executed as these works are causing problems for the 'Sarpanches'. Most of the works are complete but certain works are lying incomplete because problems have arisen after evaluating the cost of these works. Since it is a matter concerning this Ministry I hope the pending works will be taken up and completed thus giving relief to the farmers.

This confirms what hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been saying all along that if Rs. 6/- are sanctioned from the Centre, only Rs. 1/- ultimately reaches the village level. With the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana he has tried to realize the dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

in his centenary year. It was in this august House that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said that he would not consider the country independent until the poor in this country were uplifted. It is this ideal that inspired the Government to launch the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the Nehru Centenary year. For this the Government deserves to be congratulated.

With these words I thank you.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support Jawahar Rozgar Yojana on which discussion is being held here in this House under Rule 193.

Every great person has a tale to tell and this is a tale of his deep association with the nation. Mahatma Gandhi wanted our villages to develop. The people of every village should realise they stand to benefit from the steps being taken or schemes being introduced by the Government. In the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana the hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has certainly removed the middlemen from the system. Previously the Panchayats used to act on the directives of the State Government but this is perhaps for the first time that the rights of the panchayats are being restored to them.

14.00 hrs.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister and I have raised this point with the hon. Finance Minister also, that though this scheme is being appreciated by every villager but the money allocated to the Panchayats is insufficient for the proper implementation of the Jawahar rozgar Yojana. I have noticed that the Yojana consists of 5-6 schemes. If we take up just one scheme all the funds get exhausted in that. On a recent visit of my constituency I saw that 50% of the money would be spent. It is true that the unemployed will get employment but as hon. Shri Kumaramanagalam rightly said the nominated members will have to be excluded.

An analysis of Bihar and other States will show that Panchayat elections were held there 12 years ago. According to the old provision elections to the panchayat are to be held every three years. Steps should be taken to ensue that these elections are always held on time so that every office-bearer is able to fulfill his responsibilities. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is meant for the development of villages. The Government should conduct a survey of the Gram Panchayats. There are many Gram Panchayats where nothing has been done worth the name of development. A study team should be sent to every State to ascertain the number of Panchayats which have not developed in any way and allot more funds to them. In this way Panchayat in every State will be able to develop and then implement this scheme from a common stand point. Yesterday also hon. Members said that

14.02 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

the M.P. or M.L.A. residing in that Panchayat area should be asked to participate when a public meeting is held. Sarpanches Pradhans and the members of the Panchayats who are ignorant of the rules and regulations should be gathered together and explained the rules and regulations relating the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The hon. Prime Minister announced that every Panchayat shall be linked with a telephone. I hope this facility is made available to the Panchayats at the earliest. Along with this I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. This scheme will certainly provide employment to the unemployed in villages.

With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur): Madam Chairman, various hon. Members have expressed their views in the discussion on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. I too want to express my views on this subject.

There have been many Prime Ministers since Independence. But this is the first time that a Prime Minister has not only granted constitutional powers to the Panchayats but has also given them economic assistance. Till now, Panchayats were under the State Governments, elections to them were not held on time and they could not even function properly. This is the first time that a Prime Minister has taken steps towards providing economic assistance to these Panchayats. For this, our Hon. Prime Minister deserves to be complemented. Along with this the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has announced that the State would make 20% contribution. Besides, amount realised from land revenue, will also be given to Panchayats. Therefore, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh also deserves to be congratulated because he was the first Chief Minister to make such an announcement in any State.

I would like to submit that some changes are required to be brought about in the programmes to be taken up under 'Jawahar Rozgar Yojana'. You have included some labour oriented works in this Yojana. But there are some such work in which labourers get lesser amount as wages as compared to the magnitude of their work. I would like that it should be ensured that in the villages the Gram Panchayats should first undertake such work which are very essential and such works should not allowed to be held up for want of funds. Generally it has been seen that in the villages, especially in Uttar Pradesh, roads are in bad shape, pavements are broken and drains are choked, as a result of which health hazards arise. This work should be accorded top priority by the Gram Panchayats. If this work could be done under this very Yojana, it is well and good, otherwise it should be done on priority basis by releasing separate grants or loans to the Gram Panchayats.

Besides, the works lying incomplete, should be completed on priority basis. I would like that such works should be completed even if the Central Government is required to give additional grants to the State Governments.



[Sh. Jagdish Awasthi]

I would also like to submit that Review Committees have not been constituted. My suggestion is that you should constitute a Review Committee consisting of Block Pramuks, the local M.L.A. and the M.P. in each block to review the works undertaken in the villages. This committee should also monitor the speed with which the work is being done. This Committee may provide guidance to the Gram Pradhans as to what kind of work is suitable for a particular area and how the said work is to be undertaken. I would like that this type of Committee should be set up in each block. In this way, these committees could also contribute to the implementation of this Yojana and in fact the work could be done properly in the villages and the people would be made aware of it.

It is also imperative to impart training to the village Pradhans as to how best they could discharge their duties. It has been explained in detail in the guidelines issued recently by the Uttar Pradesh Government. I would like to submit that brief guidelines are required to be issued by the Central Government also detailing therein the methods to be adopted in executing the work so that it could be ensured that the schemes formulated by the Central Government are not left incomplete by the State Governments. The hon. Minister should himself oversee the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Importance of this scheme lies not just in its formulation, but it lies in as to how best it is implemented. It has been our experience that most often schemes are formulated but they are not implemented properly. Therefore, I would like to submit that you should ensure that the work under this scheme is done properly in the States. Some people in some of the States would certainly try to sabotage the scheme. So you should ensure that this yojana is not allowed to fail. Our Prime Minister has launched this yojana with the noble goal, to uplift the poor people and give employment to them. So you should keep this in mind while implementing it. This should be implemented with the same, spirit

with which it has been launched, only then this yojana will be a success.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore):  
Madam Chairman: I am very grateful to your goodself that you have kindly allowed me to participate in this very useful and essential discussion. Very often in Parliamentary debates as well as outside, we express grave concern about mounting unemployment in our country. It was in this background that the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given a clarion call for growth with social justice. She went on to emphasise the importance of creating adequate employment opportunities. From that time onwards, in the Fourth Five Year Plan, a chapter has been added regarding elimination of poverty from the country.

You know 77 per cent of our population live in the rural areas and millions of such agricultural labourers are staying in villages having no employment guaranteed either for the whole year or for some months in every year. So, more jobs are to be created in the rural areas. The allocations of NREP, RLEGP, etc. are not adequate to face such a gigantic problem in the rural areas. A study carried out by the National Survey on Unemployment and Employment shows that the employment opportunities in the rural areas both for males and females are declining day by day. It is due to population growth and many other factors, which I do not want to mention because of less time at my disposal. Besides, results of the Rural Labour Inquiry carried out in the sixties, the Seventies and also the eighties, show that the labour force in the rural areas has substantially increased over the last three decades. All the evidences clearly indicate that the situation in the rural areas has been rapidly deteriorating despite modern methods applied for growth in the agricultural sector.

If we go in for more industries to provide employment, it needs massive investment

for which we are crippled. Besides, the problem of sickness of industries is there which are making millions of our workers jobless. There are many other factors also. Then we have to reverse the trend of over congestion in the urban areas. Then there is a problem of environment pollution; then there are problems of accommodation and law and order. Taking all these aspects into account, our respected Prime Minister has brought this revolutionary scheme and placed it before the nation for its implementation. So, it is our sacred duty to implement it with all sincerity and earnestness. It is unique because the Sarpanches or the Gram Pradhan in the Panchayat will get fund directly from the Centre within a week or even less than that, which was never done before Independence and also after Independence. Then they will spend it in the programmes and schemes which they decide in that Gram Panchayat. So, this is historic and also revolutionary. This will also cut red-tapism, because, as you know, after a project has been passed in the Assembly, it will go to the Finance Department, then Head of the Department, then District level, then block level, then Panchayat level and then Gram Panchayat; for all this, it was taking months or in some cases even years together. Now it would not be there under the present set up. So, now the whole problem would be solved if we strengthen the Panchayat Raj institutions. I am grateful to our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi as well as the concerned Ministers who are now present here, that they have brought this Panchayat Raj Amendment Bill and for which I congratulate them also. But unfortunately some of our friends in the Opposition are making lot of noise about Panchayat Raj. I must urge upon them and also all sections of the people that they must come forward to strengthen the Panchayat Raj system so that this unemployment problem which is a gigantic problem before the country, can be solved to a great extent.

I have only two more submissions to make to the hon. Minister. I also want that instructions should be issued to the concerned States as also to the Panchayats that

these funds should be utilised in such a manner that it would change the economic condition of the rural masses and the beneficiaries, besides the Panchayats.

Madam Chairperson, as you know very well, the income of the Gram Panchayats is very limited. So, if the funds given under the scheme are utilised properly, directly or indirectly, it will generate some income to the Gram Panchayats.

Another problem in our State is there which I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister and that is, that in Orissa the Gram Panchayat Act says that the Gram Funds will be deposited in Postal Savings Bank Account. But in some villages where the Gram Panchayat are there only some Branch Post Offices are there and they cannot provide the funds required for execution of such programmes as the Branch Post Offices cannot keep more than four hundred rupees with them. When this was brought to my notice, I talked to the Superintendent of Post Offices concerned. He agreed to issue some instructions to the Branch Post Offices that whenever the Panchayats require the money in a day or two the money should be made available. I request that this matter may be taken up with the Communications Ministry to ensure that there are no problems in drawing the money when the Gram Panchayats like to draw.

With these words I wholeheartedly support the Scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Janardhana Poojary.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Is he intervening or is he replying?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is only intervening.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): I am, with your permission, intervening, My

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senior colleague, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Bhajan Lal will be replying. The final reply will be given by the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

I heard with rapt attention the criticism as well as the appreciation from both the sides. The hon. member from the opposite side had criticised. I want to particularly mention the name of hon. member Shri Shahabuddin. The appreciation that has come from the Treasury Benches along with the suggestion, is also noted.

This Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has got two objectives.

One is to give gainful employment to the unemployed and also the under-employed poor people of the rural area. The second objective is to create productive assets which will give benefits to the rural masses in rural India. With these two objectives, the hon. Prime Minister has come up before the nation with massive investment of Rs. 2623 crores, which include twenty per cent share of the State Government.

The hon. Member Shri Shahabuddinji has mentioned that this is not sufficient and Rs. 24600 crores are required. He has also stated that two hundred man-days per individual are required. And other statistics given by him also are not correct. I, on behalf of the Government, on that day itself mentioned that Mr. Shahabuddin was not correct and that he might be present at the time of my reply. Yesterday he was not present and today also he is not present. Madam, as per the latest statistics submitted to us, we have got a population of 82 crores. Out of that, about 600 millions are living in the rural India. Out of 600 millions, thirty per cent of that population is living below the poverty line, namely 180 million people. It appears that Shri Shahabuddin's calculations were based on the figures for 1983 and 1984, i.e. 37 per cent of the population is living below the poverty line. According to the latest information, the up-to-date information is that thirty

per cent of the population is living below the poverty line. That means, out of six hundred million, 180 millions are living below the poverty line. If you calculate at the rate of five persons in a family, then we have got 35 million families, which live below the poverty line. Now we have got Rs. 2623 crores for this programme. We are going to generate about 1000 million man-days. Last year for NREP and RLEGP, which are the wage employment programmes, we have provided Rs. 1600 crores. This year we are providing Rs. 2623 crores. There is a difference between wage employment and self-employment. IRDP, SEPUP and other self-employment programmes are not the wage employment programmes. NREP and RLEGP are the wage employment programmes. The wages are paid and economic assets are created for the benefit of the community in the rural areas. This is not the only programme to tackle the poverty in the country. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is not the only programme. There are other programmes costing thousands of crores of rupees. For example, IRDP which is a self-employment programme, is meant for tackling the unemployment problem in rural areas. Apart from Rozgar Yojana, we have got other works in rural areas. What are they? Dams are being constructed. Agricultural labourers are working in the fields. Irrigation projects are being constructed. Railway projects are there. Public works under State Governments like construction of roads, irrigation projects and so many other projects are there. In all these fields, people from rural areas are employed. Then in the private sector people are employed. Then there are cottage industries in the villages. That way, there are so many programmes involving thousands of crores.

The purpose of this Programme is to create productive economic assets and also to provide gainful employment to the people. The hon. Prime Minister has come out with such a good programme. But unfortunately, there is a criticism both inside and outside Parliament by opposition parties that by this programme the State's autonomy is being eroded and the Central Government is bypassing the State Governments and that the

funds are being given directly to the districts. We are not eroding the State's autonomy. We are not by-passing the State Governments nor do we want to sabotage their authority. What is the intention then? As the hon. Members know, in the year 1985 after the general elections, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister, he did not live in ivory towers, in air-conditioned rooms but he had gone to the villages to see the plight of the people. We had seen on the TV and read in the newspapers that the hon. Prime Minister went to every nook and corner of the country. He did not go to the houses of rich people but he had gone to the houses of the poorest of the poor. It is not that he had gone to their courtyards but he had gone to their kitchen in order to see the plight of the people. The Prime Minister asked those people whether they were receiving the benefits of the programmes launched by the Government. The answer from those weaker sections, down-trodden people in the rural areas was no. The Prime Minister called the meetings of the Collectors. Panchayat Raj Sammelens were held to find out how local administration could be improved. The recommendation of the Sammelens was that the administration should be changed and that it should be done at the grassroot level. He had consultations with his colleagues in the Cabinet. Deliberations took place. Ultimately he came up with the Panchayat Raj Bill which was introduced in this House. It will come up for discussion in a day or two. Apart from this, as stated by me earlier, there should be decentralisation and money should go to the grassroot level. What has he stated? Why has done it? He is giving the funds directly to the grass-root level, to the district level and from the district level, the funds will go to these Panchayats. The hon. Member may kindly note that out of the total amount of Rs. 2623 crores, about Rs. 120 crores will be earmarked for Indira Awas Yojana, that is, for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This amount will be earmarked for the construction of houses for these people.

On what basis this particular amount will be spent? Out of this particular amount

will be spent? Out of this amount of Rs. 130 crores, after deducting 20% of this amount which will remain at the district level, 80% of the amount will go to the Panchayats. Now, at the Panchayat level, there is no sectoral allocation. The hon. Member was pleased to say—and some hon. Members on this side made some suggestions—that there should not be sectoral allocation. Freedom of spending the allocated funds and freedom of selecting the projects for execution should be left to the Panchayats themselves and they should be at their liberty to go in for their own projects. These are the guidelines that have been given by the hon. Prime Minister. One point that has been made is that there is no fund given for the spill-over work. That was undertaken last year itself under the NREP and RLEGP. For the information of the hon. Members, I may state that the unspent amount was to the extent of Rs. 446 crores which has been left with the State Governments. In addition to that, 20% of the total allocation of about Rs. 525 crores which are left at the district level could be used for the spill-over work, for the on-going work. So, about Rs. 1000 crores would be available for the spill-over work.

Now, at the Panchayat level, how should the amount be spent? As soon as the amount comes to districts authorities, it should be deposited in any commercial bank or any scheduled commercial bank or any cooperative bank. Now, there are complaints saying that these guidelines are not followed and they are flouted. The hon. Minister for Agriculture has received some complaints. When I visited some parts of the country, I also received some complaints, particularly from those States which are ruled by the Oppositions. They don't follow the guidelines and on the contrary, they have gone to the extent of saying that they cannot follow the guidelines given for implementing the programme. So far as Tamil Nadu is concerned I categorically state that if they are going to flout the guidelines, for that matter any other State is going to flout the guidelines, definitely we will not release the amount. The second instalment will not be released unless they follow the guidelines. Now, you may ask why we

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are doing that, why this new change in the administration has taken place, and what the Government's thinking is in regard to the performance of the State Governments. What is the performance of the West Bengal Government, the so-called progressive State? They say that they are implementing the programmes effectively. That is their claim. In the year 1985-86, for the RLEGP programme, an amount of Rs. 54.19 crores was made available to them. What all is the expenditure? How much they spent? Rs. 21.37 crores. Percentage of utilization was 39. In the year 1988-89 we had provided Rs. 62.12 crores. What was the expenditure? It was Rs. 27.80 crores. The percentage of utilization was 44.91. So far as Karnataka is concerned—it is another Opposition ruled State—what is their performance? There, the amount of allocation is the year 1985-86 in respect of RLEGP was Rs. 30.97 crores. What was the expenditure? They were in a position to spend Rs. 21.33 crores. The percentage of utilization was 68.1. In the year 1988-89 in respect of Karnataka, Rs. 41.20 crores was the allocation, the expenditure was Rs. 21.41 crores. The utilization percentage was only 51.58. Why is it happening like that? Why are they not in a position to spend? What is the reason? On the first day of financial year what commences from 1st April every year, we give the amount, we send the cheques to the State Governments. At the Headquarters they receive. For example, in the case of Karnataka they receive the money at Bangalore, they give it to their Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry instead of sending it immediately to the districts, they misuse it they divert that amount, the money will not be sent to districts for 3 to 6 months. If the money is spent in the month of April, May or June, then the money could be spent in the summer season for the work. At least if it is not spent during the rainy seasons, they will not be in a position to do any work. The matters get delayed, they are not in a position to spend. The amount is utilised for what? For ways and means position. Then what is to be done? How the improvements

will be brought in? What the Prime Minister has to do as a responsible Prime Minister? The Prime Minister thought that there should be an improvement, delay should be curtailed, there should not be any intermediary, directly we can send the money to be districts; instead of sending to Bangalore, they can straightaway send it to the district and the districts should immediately send it to the panchayats, immediately the work should be started and efficiency should be brought in. Unfortunately, it is being criticised. It is said that the Prime Minister is doing injustice to the nation. I am just putting a question; For example, a district of a particular State or a particular village of the State, if they are getting the money directly, are they under the supervision or administrative control of Pakistan or China? They are under the supervision and administrative control of that particular State only. The district or the Village is not under the supervision or administrative control of the Central Government, it continues to be under the administrative control of the State Government only. Then why the Prime Minister should delay the execution of work? He should not delay it for the purpose of bringing efficiency. Here is a dynamic Prime Minister in order to see that the work is executed efficiently and this is the criticism hurled against him!

Now, the hon. Members may think whether we are bypassing them by giving the money directly to the district or the panchayat. For the sake of argument, I may say, we are not bypassing as such what they are contemplating, but for better functioning bypass surgeries are also sometimes necessary, nobody can avoid them. Now, here we have brought in this change, this involvement of the people at the grass-root level. People are involved at the panchayat level. Earlier it was not so. For example, if some roads are required under RLEGP in Rawatji's constituency, the matter has to go through the district level, State level and then it has to come to Rural Development Department of our Ministry. The State Government wants decentralisation upto the State level only and not beyond that. They want decentralisation from Delhi to Bangalore or Cal-

cutta. They do not want to do the decentralisation upto the panchayat level. But the Prime Minister has stated that there should be decentralisation and the projects should be implemented at the panchayat level. This is the decentralisation. This is what has been done by the hon. Prime Minister. This complete decentralisation had never happened. We should congratulate the Prime Minister for this. On the contrary, the Opposition people are condemning it. This is very unfortunate. Now, people are involved at the grass-root level. It was not happening earlier. If Rawatji or somebody from his constituency in the village requires any road, he has to go to BDO and tell him. Then the bureaucrat officer will say, "I will say either 'Yes' or 'No'." If he given any road, then he thinks that it is a favour done to those village people and it is a reward given by the bureaucrat. That was the approach.

**SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri):** Now, what will happen to RLEGP?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** I will come to that afterwards. Now, there is a change introduced by the Prime Minister, i.e. the involvement of the people. The choice of the projects would be decided by the panchayats. They are at liberty to select the project and it will be technically approved at the block level. It need not come to Delhi at all. This change from bureaucratic nature of development to people oriented development has been brought by the Prime Minister to the country. There is a structural change in the approach. The panchayat people are selecting the projects now. The priority will be given by the panchayats. Earlier, if the panchayat did not want a project, then the bureaucrat would say that it was the project for them. Hereafter, nothing of that sort will happen and I may say that this Panchayati Raj system is not a minor change brought by the Prime Minister. This is a new concept. It is a change in the administration which has not been done earlier. I can tell this august House that it is a shift from dependence to self-reliance. That is what the hon. Prime Minister has brought to the nation. This is not a small job. I toured the country and heard

the representatives of the people from the panchayat level and not at the national level or from the leaders of the Opposition parties. I want to the villages and the panchayat people wanted more funds. They wanted more power. When the Prime Minister said, "I am giving this power to you and I am giving you more funds", they are very happy, whether it is Janata Dal or BJP or Communist; they are very happy at the grass-root level but unfortunately they feel that Congress is becoming popular and the Prime Minister is becoming popular by this move and that has to be stopped. That is why they are thinking of objecting to the passing of the Panchayati Raj Bill. That is their deliberate intention. That is why they do not want to Amendment of the Constitution to be passed. Now what is our responsibility? We, the Congress, have to go to the villages and tell the people, to give a proper reply, that if the Opposition parties, as they have done it, oppose this Panchayati Raj Bill, the people will oppose the move of the Opposition parties. Hence, I am requesting that we need not be bothered about the attempt of the Opposition parties to scuttle it. On the contrary, we will get the support of the people.

Now, coming to Kerala, hon. Member Shri T. Basheerji raised one point. He asserted that is is the claim of the State Government that the amount which they received under this Rozgar Programme is less than what they received during the previous year. I am sorry to say that this is a wrong statement made by them. Last year, their allocation was Rs. 57 crores. They made representation. The Central Government gave Rs. 6 crores more last year even though it is an Opposition-rule State. That was the gesture of the Prime Minister and of the Central Government. So, they have got Rs. 6 crores more. This year they are getting Rs. 66 crores. Is it a less amount? Instead of thanking the Prime Minister, they are cursing him. It is the most unfortunate point. Now only that. They are saying that they are going to deposit the amount in the treasury. It will not be allowed. We will not release the amount if they do like that. Why are we doing it? It is because we do not want an interfer-

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ence in the functioning of the panchayats by the State Government. It is the people's implementation and if they go on preventing them, tomorrow the fund will not be available to them and the very purpose of sending the money direct to the district and through the district to the panchayat will be defeated. That means their intention is to defeat the implementation of the programme. That means they do not want the money to go to the weaker sections. They do not want to have rural development. That is why, they do not want to give the money in the banks and that intention will not be tolerated by the Central Government.

Coming to the performance of the Central Government in respect of wage employment, for the Seventh Five Year Plan we have provided Rs. 2,944 crores as assistance from the Central Government. For the wage employment in rural areas, we have given in the first four years, more than Rs. 5,444/- crores. We have given this year Rs. 2,100 crores as assistance from the Central Government. The amount will be more than Rs. 7,444/- crores. This is the commitment to the nation that "we will improve the rural India". Unfortunately, he has become an ex-Member of Parliament. He was my senior colleague in the Finance Ministry—I mean V.P. Singh. Yesterday, he stated that if he came to power he would give more than 50 percent to rural India's development. He further stated that this Congress Government is doing nothing. I was also in the Finance Ministry for six years and one month. We know what had happened. We know as to what is the position. We have crossed the 60 percent mark of the Budget and this amount is spent for the rural India's development. Rural India's development does not mean having the Rozgar Programme or the IRDP programme only. Rural India's development includes the development of railway-lines, opening of the post-offices, constructing dams, having facilities like irrigation, education and so many programmes are built up in the rural areas for the development of the rural India. I think, this amount

should also be included and no Finance Minister, even in future, can give more than 50 percent of the Budget for one programme or two programmes only. I don't think it so. Of course, it can be done for one programme, if I am going to give 50 percent for the Rozgar programme or for IRDP alone. But I don't think in those terms. It is impossible. The entire economy will be destroyed. There are various programmes, various provisions in the Budget. With these provisions of the Budget under the various sectors, the village life is improved and the economy of the village is improved. Allocations are made for the village improvement. Mr. V.P. Singh should know this fact also. Unfortunately, they are misleading. How far can they do it? Everywhere they are misleading. I congratulate Shri Shahabuddin. Why? Because, he did not run away from the responsibility as a Member of Parliament. In electing a Member, about 8-10 lakh people vote. He might have been voted by four lakh people. The point is that it is not only the CAG Report which is an important issue in the country today. There is the Rozgar Yojana. The hon. Agriculture Minister will answer in details and he will highlight the various problems like natural calamities, flood etc. which are facing the nation. There are issues like to the security of the country. There are so many burning problems. It is the duty of the Opposition Member to highlight those problems. Are they present here today? They are not here. We congratulate these Opposition Members who are present, who are attending the Parliament. They have not run away from their responsibility. They are facing the Parliament. They are facing the Government. They are highlighting the deficiency of the Government. They are meant for that purpose. They are here not merely for the sake of opposing the Government. It is an alternative. It is the Shadow Cabinet. That is what the Opposition means. As I said earlier, the Opposition is not here for opposing the Government alone. What has happened today? Don't we have responsibility? Yes, we have got the responsibility. Gimmick is not going to help any person. This is not a gimmick. This is a programme. Some people say that it is an election stunt. It is not an

election stunt. For the last five years, this process regarding Panchayat Raj has been there. There have been long studies and deliberations. It is not done in a hurry. A change in the Administration has been brought in within a short span of five years by the hon. Prime Minister. Never before it had happened so. It is happening now before our own eyes. There is a change in outlook. But they are not complimenting it; they are not congratulating it. They do not want that. Since I am having an opportunity here, I would like to take only two minutes to mention on one point. Sir, they did not join the Joint Parliamentary Committee. At their own request, it was constituted. They ran away. They could have said some thing. Shri Shahabuddin is here. Shri Vajpayee is there. Prof. Dandavate was there. All these people could have said something about it. They could have found out something. They could have summoned the documents. They did not do that. Why? There is nothing in that Bofors that they need. Had they done it, they would have done it as they did in the case of Indiraji. Between 1977-79, I was in the opposition, the Congress was in the opposition. We faced the Parliament. We did not run away. Indiraji was expelled. We faced the Parliament boldly. What did they do about the Capsule? They wanted to dig out the Capsule. They had done their job. But nothing was found. They made allegations that Indiraji was corrupt. They raided her house. Everything was done. Nothing was found. The House may keep one thing in mind that the people of this nation will not tolerate if anybody in this country says that the Nehru family is corrupt. It will not be tolerated by anyone. What was the punishment given? Indiraji was arrested. She was expelled from the Parliament. People saw the harassment. And the very same Indiraji was brought back here. She was made to sit here as the Prime Minister of the nation. That is the verdict. I warn the opposition parties that even if they go on harassing Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the country knows that Shri Rajiv Gandhi cannot be a corrupt man and the Nehru family cannot be a corrupt family. Everybody knows it. If anyone wants to make it, he should know

the sacrifice made by this family. In Allahabad, the Anand Bhavan was sacrificed for the nation. People know it. People know about the sacrifice of Shri Motilal Nehru, Kamala Nehru Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and even the sacrifice of the family today. What have these opposition parties done? The Grand Mother of the children, the Prime Minister was murdered in front of her house. For the same of security, even those children cannot go to the school. The danger of being killed is there. They cannot go to market, they cannot even play with other children; they cannot talk to anyone. There is a danger that they will be killed. for what? For the security of the nation.

Somebody wanted to divide India. They said that Punjab should be divided and it should be named as Khalistan. But the Nehru family did not agree to that. A great sacrifice was done in the death of Indiraji, the Prime Minister of the country. And here, we cannot even given one seat in the college to the grand son of that Indiraji. Is it the heart? Is it our culture? Indian culture is not like that. And the people will answer to that. People will give their verdict. You can be dead sure that people of this country do not like this sort of gimmicks. They are very serious. And the answer will come. And the country is in a position to give a seat to the child of the Prime Minister. This is what they are doing. Hence, whether it is Shri Shahabuddin or anybody else, people know what we are doing here. They cannot shut their eyes. There will be punishment. I am dead sure that they will give punishment.

I have touched some of the main points. I thank the hon. Members for drawing my kind attention to the points raised by them. If the hon. Members have got any doubt, they can speak to me or they can meet me in my chamber, I will clear the doubts. With these words, Madam, I have made my submission on some of the points raised by the hon. Members. Thank you.



15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): Madam Chairman, I thank you for providing me time to speak. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has launched Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, it is a very laudable scheme, I would like to congratulate him for this. Besides, I would like to submit that Government is required to ensure that the responsibility for utilisation of funds to be given to Panchayats under this scheme should not be that of B.D.Os, Sarpanches and for that matter of any other officers but the District Magistrate should be made responsible for their utilisation because have that the funds given by the Central Government have been mis-used, construction work remains incomplete and they are not completed even in 5 to 10 years. Therefore, my request is that the amount given by the Central Government for construction work should be under the Control of District Magistrate.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Besides, I would like to submit that a large number of educated youths are unemployed, they should be provided facilities to set up agro-based industries. For setting up industries based on agriculture produce such as tomato 'musambi' and carrot funds are required to be provided to them immediately, and instead of Rs. 25,000, being provided at present, they should be given an amount of Rs. one lakh so that they may be able to set up their own industry and be come self-employed.

A large number of educated unemployed youths are in search of jobs in the country. Though work involving physical labour is available in the country and an unskilled labourer gets Rs. 20 as daily wages and a skilled labourer like manson gets Rs. 50 per day but there are still some such educated youths belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the villages who are not

interested in doing the job of a labourer. Some sort of schemes should be prepared for them immediately so that they get regular employment.

Similarly, Government should raise a 'Bhoomi Sena' to provide employment to the educated unemployed youths and educated unemployed boys should be recruited in this 'Bhoomi Sena'. Today the various works, which are being done through contractors, should be entrusted to this 'Bhoomi Sena'. All these construction works whether it is construction of bridges or roads or any other construction work, should be entrusted to this 'Bhoomi Sena' then it will be done properly.

My yet another suggestion is with regard to my own constituency in which stone used in production of cement is available in abundance. Mostly Harijan-advansi people are living in this area and this stone is found in five segments of my constituency. Government should set up a cement factory in this region so that the poor and educated unemployed youth in the area could get employment.

With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak and congratulate the Government for launching this Yojana.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a few points with regard to 'Jawahar Rozgar Yojana'. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has launched a very good scheme. In order to realise the dreams of Mahatama Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi introduced Panchayati Raj System to benefit the people. At the instance of our Prime Minister funds have been provided to the Gram Sabhas under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as per their population given in the census of 1981 in order to solve their various problems such as construction of school buildings or an other problems. Previously, they had to approach block and district level office to get the work done. Out of the total amount given to District, 80 percent of it is given to the Gram Sabhas and the rest 20% is kept with

the District Magistrate. They undertake works as per their needs. Work relating to construction of link roads and school buildings or afforestation, and need be, is being done by them. Today a lot of development work is being done. Our leader Smt. Indira Gandhi had nationalised the banks and prior to it, Zamindari system was abolished. Similarly, now our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi wants to introduce Panchayati Raj System. Today our people are convinced that with the devolution of power to them, they will be relieved of all sorts of difficulties. One person from each family is being provided employment to remove poverty and unemployment. People living below the poverty line are also being helped under this scheme. Effects are being made to develop the country through Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Panchayati Raj System. The people of India will certainly get much benefit from the proposed Panchayati Raj Bill to be introduced in the House very shortly. A lot of development would take place with the work to be undertaken under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Now I come to some of the problems faced by my constituency of Jaunpur. The roads constructed under D.R.D.A. have been damaged by rains. We are not able to repair these roads because our work can not be completed with this amount of 20 percent. Separate funds are required for this purpose. I would like to request that for the maintenance of roads and other developmental works, which have not been completed, allocation of separate funds is necessary. M.P.s and M.L.As put forth problems of their regions in the meetings of D.R.D.A. Similarly under this Jawahar Rozgar Yojana of course I am not advocating for any active participation they should be associated to oversee the implementation of the scheme in their respective areas.

The Chief Minister of our State has taken a historical step by deciding that the collections received as land revenue would be allocated to Gram Panchayats under this scheme. I think that this is a great achievement. It would enable them to get additional funds for accomplishing the work. Our district is facing many problems. One of them is

that our district Jaunpur is often hit by floods due to which the urban and rural areas are submerged under waters; roads are washed away and crops are destroyed. There was a proposal to construct a dam of a cost of about Rs. 22 crores and the project was approved. I had given notice of a question about it in this very House and the reply was given that the project in question was Gangapur Project and work on the said project could not start due to certain reasons. I do not know till today what were these reasons. Flood situation in Jaunpur district becomes horrible and in view of this, a scheme was chalked out to construct a dam to check floods. There was also a proposal to concrete wall on bridge over Sahibi river with one Km. long concrete wall on both sides of the river. There is an urgent need to start work on these schemes. A bridge was constructed over Gomti river which is flooded very often. A drain also flows parallel to it. A bridge with a concrete wall should also be constructed over it so as to ensure unimpeded movement of traffic since the path used to be blocked due to flood. I am sure that you will certainly pay attention to it. Today the people all over the country pay attention to it. Today the people all over the country are praising Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Panchayati Raj. When the Members belonging to the Opposition visited their respective constituencies after resigning their Lok Sabha seats, people expressed their displeasure saying that during their five year term, they paid no attention to solve the problems of the people except engaging themselves in petty quarrels and indulging in indiscipline. They had been trying to waste money worth crores of rupees belonging to the Government and the public. The people are asking them why they have resigned their seats. I would like to assure Shri Rajiv Gandhi that the people have full faith in his leadership and they would extend their support and give him the Congress party a sweeping majority in the coming elections.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI (Faizabad):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

[Sh. Nirmal Khattri]

During the struggle for independence and even in the post independence period, our leaders had considered the prospects of adopting Panchayati Raj under the constitutional framework and also made efforts to implement it....

But no attention was paid to the economic aspects which play a significant role in strengthening those provisions. Today it is a matter of great pleasure not only for us but for the farmers living in rural areas, agricultural labourers and the rural people, in general that beside utilising their labour, the Central Government and the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi have given them the right to take decisions for the works required for the development of the villages, to implement the schemes themselves and to strengthen the economic aspects of those schemes through the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

Sir, in the past, the head of the village used to be elected as 'Mukhia' and through he carried great responsibilities, yet he was unable to fulfil them. He was dependent on the administration and the public representatives, i.e. the MPs and MLAs etc. for undertaking construction work of roads, digging of wells and construction of water channels and drains for irrigation purposes. He used to waste his times in approaching these people. Sometimes, he was able to convince them on the basis of political factors while on other occasions he could not succeed in his attempt to do so. Due to this reason, we still find that there are a number of areas in every district or division which have marched for ahead of others. There are many villages where pucca roads have been laid, pavement have been provided and all other essential requirements have been fulfilled, but at the same time there are still some villages which do not have even approach roads. Such a situation developed only due to political reasons. Whether it was due to selection of works by the elected representatives under the DRDA and RLEGP or some other factors, it was not an all round development. In

fact it was a lop sides development. By providing direct funds to every village according to the population under the Rozgar Yojana, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has proved that he wants every village to develop equally irrespective of region, caste and religion the people belong to or the political ideology they subscribe to. He is of the view that it is our foremost duty to fulfil their requirements for development purposes and it is with this determination that the Government has presented this scheme before the people. On behalf of millions of my countrymen including the people of my own constituency, I express my gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and thank him for strengthening the infrastructure of the country on the one hand and giving importance to the participation of rural people in the development of the villages through this scheme. They themselves have to plan as to how do they want to manage the affairs of their village, instead of leaving it to the State Government or the Central Government.

Sir, I would like to mention a few more things in the House. Though an impressive scheme has been launched and good ideas have been put forward, yet we have to give adequate consideration to the technical works, such as construction of culverts. The people of the village, 'Pradhan' of the village and the 'panchas' are free to make the best use of these funds. It has been generally observed that junior engineers or the other concerned officials who carry the responsibility to provide technical assistance are not showing that much interest as they used to show earlier. What is needed is to see that the scheme which has been launched for the welfare of the people and which has been welcomed by the people whole-heartedly is not effected in any way due to the non-cooperation of the employees at the lower level because those powers have not been transferred to 'panchas'. Hence its functioning should be reviewed from time to time by the Government in order to see that the people at lower level donot face any problems. I would like to thank the Government for relaxing the norms fixed for undertaking various works and authorising the 'Pradhan'

and the 'Panchas' to accomplish the work the way they think it to be right.

[English]

**SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK** (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman Sir, at the outset, I congratulate our hon. Prime Minister. Despite the overall growth of our country in all sectors, the basic concept to give justice to the poorest of the poor, the ideal dream of 'Ram Rajya' of Mahatma Gandhi and the basic philosophy of socialist planning has not been lost. While Mrs. Indira Gandhi tried to achieve this goal by poverty eradicated programme, 20s Point Programme, etc., our Prime Minister has come forward to strengthen it further with this new new scheme, namely, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Out of the 82 crores of people in our nation, 600 million people live in rural India. That means 30 percent of the population is below the poverty line. This figure is as per the new census and survey. This means that 180 million people are below the poverty line. As per the definition, a family earning less than Rs. 6400 per annum will be regarded as living below the poverty line. However, many scientists and economists have given an idea that some more basic amenities and economists have given an idea that some more basic amenities should be included to identify as to who are living below the poverty line. But taking the present figures and strategy into consideration, 180 million people are still remaining below the poverty line. The basic objectives of this Yojana are to generate additional gainful employment, to create capital assets and growth in rural economy. Keeping all these points in view we are spending Rs. 2650 crores towards wages after employment. Apart from this, we are spending Rs. 1000 crores for IRDP. There are other programmes to create employment especially in the field of irrigation, social forestry and other developmental works. Apart from the amount, we are spending crores of rupees in all these programmes. While distributing the money, the geographical features of the country also should be taken into consideration. At present, distribution is made only on the basis of

population. There are areas like hilly and scattered areas. For example, I can name the blocks where in 54 revenue villages, hardly 32000 people live. The development work in that area relating to irrigation and other projects is concentrated only in a particular area. In order to give justice to those people living in the hilly and scattered areas, the geographical conditions should also be taken into consideration while allocating funds.

Secondly, for depositing these funds in the post offices, there are some problems as pointed out already by my hon. colleagues. I would urge upon the Minister that he should take up the issue with the Communication Minister so that the Gram Panchayats are not put to any difficulties.

Then, one of the aspect to which the Prime Minister has given more emphasis while inaugurating the Panchayati Raj Seminar in Vigyan Bhavan is with regard to the administrative costs. We should give proper attention to this aspect so that the administrative costs are not very high, otherwise, the basis purpose for which the funds are being allotted will be defeated.

Although I am of the view that most of the works should be of permanent nature, there was an Evaluation committee of the Planning Commission and they have rightly remarked that many a time the temptation of providing permanent nature of work defeats the basic purpose of providing employment to the rural people. No doubt, the work should always be of a permanent nature, because it will be an asset for the villagers and the village, but simultaneously we should see that the basic idea of providing employment to the rural people is not defeated. We should be careful with regard to that.

As you are aware, Sir, there are some areas in which the number of people below the poverty line is more than in other areas. And, then there are areas which are drought-prone areas and there are no industries. The rural unemployment is always very high in such areas. In such areas apart from a

[Sh. Jagannath Pattnaik]

period of about three months, there is no scope for employment unless some Government or Panchayat work is going on. Therefore, there is need for setting up major industries or irrigation projects in such areas in order to give employment to the people there. For that, if necessary, more funds should be allocated because the basic thrust of the 8th Plan, as envisaged by the Prime Minister and the basic concept of the social planning is to look after the poorest of the poor. It is high time that after overall achievement and progress in all sectors, we should look after these people who are below the poverty line. They should be brought into the mainstream. At least one male person and one female person in every family should be provided with employment and for that whatever funds are necessary, those should be allocated, otherwise we will not do justice to them.

Lastly, I would urge upon the Government that the right to employment should be made a fundamental right in our Constitution.

This is a very progressive and revolutionary programme. This programme is of such a nature that we will achieve our goal of socialism. It is, however, most unfortunate that the leaders and the members of the opposition, who should have participated in this debate, have chosen to resign for their political ends. I am sorry for that.

With these words, I conclude and thank you.

[Translation]

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly support the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana announced by our Prime Minister. It is a revolutionary scheme and should be supported by all. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for initiating such a programme. The late lamented Smt. Indira Gandhi brought a socio-economic revolu-

tion through her 20 Point Programme. While implementing it some lapses came to be noticed at the level of the implementing agencies. By the time it got down to the state district and Panchayat level, a lot of delay had occurred and in many cases the intended beneficiaries did not get the benefits. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has realised it and that is why he wanted to provide the assistance and take the programmes directly to the Panchayats. By launching this Yojana Shri Rajiv Gandhi has launched a great offensive against poverty and unemployment.

During the past 40 years of independence the Government has taken all steps necessary to bring about economic development in the country through the process of planning. Nevertheless unemployment could not be eradicated. We have made progress in the agricultural and industrial sectors still the unemployment remains. One of the main factors for this state of affairs is the growing population. The other factors are the faulty system of education and the prevailing regional imbalance in the country. We have on the one side educated unemployed and on the other uneducated unemployed. Although agricultural development has taken place there is poverty in the rural sector. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been formulated to tackle rural poverty and unemployment. If this programme succeeds it will change the very complexion of rural India.

Under this programme villages which have a population of 3000 to 5000 will get Rs. 1,00,000/- for generating employment. The total allocation has been raised to Rs. 2600 crores. One notable feature about this scheme is that the money will be given to the Panchayats directly so that it does not get eaten away somewhere in the middle. In this context I want to make a suggestion. The Central Government should set up an effective monitoring machinery to oversee the implementation of this programmes. In many parts of our country, particularly in the North the Sarpanches or the village heads are very powerful and influential people, who may misuse the money allotted for this programme. The beneficiaries are mostly Har-

ijans who live below poverty line. They may not have the guts to go before the Sarpanches and demand their rights. Therefore, there is a chance of misuse of this programme. We must guard against such an eventuality. Kerala is a state where there is acute unemployment. About 30 lacs of people are estimated to be without employment in that State. Therefore, Kerala needs special attention. Shri E.K. Nayanar, the Chief Minister of Kerala has openly criticised this scheme. He has adopted a very negative attitude in this regard which does not help the State. The fact of the matter is that this Government is not interested in solving the unemployment problems. His party looks at every programme from narrow partisan angle. Their main complaint is that the allocation under the Nehru Rozgar Yojana for Kerala is less than what it was getting under RLEGP and NREP programmes. As a matter of fact Kerala was getting rupees 38.74 crores under NREP and RLEGP programmes whereas it is getting about rupees 53 crores under the Rozgar Yojana. Of course if the criteria followed under RLEGP and NREP were adopted for the Rozgar Yojana, Kerala would have got a little more money. This is so because the criteria adopted for Rozgar Yojana is only rural poverty and the incidence of rural poverty is comparatively less in Kerala. If rural unemployment also were given some weightage Kerala's share of allocation would have gone up. In this context I want to say that we the representatives of people from Kerala met the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister and pleaded for more allocation for Kerala. I am thankful to the Hon. Prime Minister for allotting more money to the State under this programme. The incidence of rural poverty is less in Kerala because the U.D.F. Government under the leadership of Congress Party implemented various welfare measures for the agricultural workers. Because of this is State not suffer. Therefore I would request the Government that Kerala's case should be given special consideration in the matter of allotment of money for the Rozgar Yojana. As I said in the beginning the left front government in Kerala is not interested in implementing this programme. During the Assem-

bly election they had promised employment for 10 lacs people every year. 2 1/2 years have passed since they came to power. Not even one person has been given employment. As a matter of fact they are not interested in generating employment, because they want to make political capital out of unrest caused by unemployment. Under the guidelines issued by the Centre the money that is allotted by the centre for the Rozgar Yojana should be deposited in a nationalised bank, Post Offices or Service Co-operative Banks. But the Government of Kerala is insisting that the money should be put in the State treasury. I may point out that the Government of Kerala has become almost a pauper and they have no money even to pay the salary of their employees. So if the money is put in the treasury, they will be able to divert it for other purposes. I would, therefore, request the Government not to allow the State Government to deposit the money in the State treasury.

There should be strict monitoring of spending of money. Under the Central guidelines the money should be handled by the President of the Panchayat and a representative of the Panchayat Board. But the Government of Kerala wants to give this responsibility to the Executive Officers and a B.D.O. and thus entrust the whole thing to the bureaucrats who are under the control of the State Government. This should be stopped and the State Govt. should be directed to adhere to the Central guidelines and allow the elected representatives of the people of Kerala to handle the money and implement the programmes.

When Shri Rajiv Gandhi has initiated such a revolutionary programme for the poorest of the poor in the country the Opposition has criticised it and stayed away from the House. A revolution is sweeping across the countryside and the people of India are beholden to the Prime Minister for bringing about this revolution. When it succeeds the Opposition will have no face to show to the people. That is why they have run away from Parliament. I once again wholeheartedly support the programme and wish the Government all success.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH (Pilibhit): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is being discussed in the House. Several hon. Members have expressed their views on it. If one goes by the opinion in the rural areas or the speeches delivered by various leaders, and those carried by the newspapers, the impression which the general public get is that Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is nothing but election stunt and it is merely a dream which cannot be realised. But it is a truth and to shy away from truth is a sign of cowardice.

I had expected that when it will be taken up for discussion in the House, the hon. Members who have since left the House, will participate in the discussion and allow us as well as the Government to take note of their wise and constructive thinking. I had also expected that they will co-operate with us to make an all round development of the villages to uplift the poor the are living below the poverty line, and those 80 percent people of this country who live in small villages, towns and in hill areas and also let us know during the course of discussion as to how the Government could ensure development of these people within a limited time with limited resources. But they took a totally opposite stand. This is the last session of the present Lok Sabha. I find here that these people have no constructive and healthy approach towards life and by resigning from the membership of the House, the have betrayed their electorate. Had they not betrayed people in this way, they would have participated in the discussion on the issues pertaining to the work of development till the last day of the session and would have displayed their constructive approach in this regard. Has not this Government done any good work during these 5 years? It is very often seen that these people have always opposed every good work of the Government in the House. There was not a single motion or a Bill which was not opposed by these people, everytime asking the Prime Minister to resign and lay down his office.

I had sent some suggestions to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Just now one of our

hon. friends has stated that Members of Parliament should be given some powers. I would like to make a point, against this proposal. People, who have come here, have been given powers by the people. When they have been given powers by the people themselves, what is the need of obtaining powers again from others. They should go to the people and attend the meetings of block development committees to listen to the views of people and see how people put up their grievances. The only work they have to do is to co-ordinate their activities and work as a link between the bureaucrats and the Government so that the Government schemes could be implemented properly.

I feel that the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana should be viewed from a different angle. It should be made employment oriented. Under this scheme funds are being provided on the basis of our census figures of 1981. However, in every village of our district, we have provided a booklet to every Gram Pradhan containing guide lines for him. Now they are to collect information regarding the number of people living below the poverty line, number of the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with male and female wise break up of them and also the number of the unemployed and the landless in their respective village. It is also necessary that the Gram Sabha should enforce the Land Ceiling Acts effectively. Mr. hon. friend, Shri Rawat is sitting here. There are also other members from Uttar Pradesh. I saw in 1980-81 that there were people who owned big farms and the land of those farms come under Gram Sabha. But hundreds of acres of land belonging to these Gram Sabhas were benami land and under the possession of some big and influential people. The farms were in possession of such people. If Land Ceiling Act is implemented properly, the people, who are unemployed and trying to have a small piece of land, could have a share in the hundreds of acres of surplus land in these villages. The opposition parties have not so far asked the Government to make indepth study of this law and speedily implement the same as it is

for the welfare of one and all and it is a matter of concern for all of us. In this connection, I would like to make a few submissions. Firstly, every Gram Pradhan should be provided with a property register and a map of the village and the expenses on this account should be borne by the Revenue Department of the respective State. Until and unless the Gram Pradhans know as to what are the estates of their village, how can they undertake the development of these estates. It has been observed that though the details and detailed maps of the village land holdings and other properties are available with the Patwari but these are very old and contain the maps of the houses which were built 100 years ago, and also the maps of the roads and hospitals etc. which were constructed 50 years ago. The Gram Pradhan does not know all these details. As such the village estates register should be updated and provided to Gram Pradhans along with the maps of the villages.

We, the elected representatives of the people, had made a request to the District Collector of Pilibhit to provide an Estate Register and maps of the villages to the Gram Pradhans. We had also requested him that a meeting of the three prominent persons at the lowest level, i.e. the Patwari, the Gram Sewak and the Lokhpal should be held every month. Then only the employment scheme could be successful.

This scheme is being termed as an election stunt. It is not an election stunt. On one thing, I do agree that had the Government introduced this scheme in 1985, when we came here after having been elected by the people, these people would have been exposed and they would not have opposed this welfare scheme. At that time, the people would have identified them as the very people who engineer riots in the villages and do not allow the development plans to be executed. Billions of rupees released by the Central Government for the development of the villages do not reach them. It is, therefore, necessary that the Central Government should closely monitor the activities of the State Governments and eliminate the inter-

mediaries. Out of the total money released by the Centre, 3/4 of it is being swindled away by these people and nothing goes in the hands of the Gram Pradhans. As such suitable directions should be issued by the Centre and monitoring should be done properly.

I would like to express my thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister for introducing the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. At the same time I would like to tell those people who have resigned their membership from the House that the next elections will teach them a lesson, and our Hon. Prime Minister will be returned this august House and he will bring in far better welfare schemes than the present ones.

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for taking a right step at the right time and in the right direction. When this nation is paying homage to the builder of the modern India, Jawaharlal Nehru, this nation owes to him that we dedicate ourselves to his ideals, to his commitments and to his ideology. Therefore, our hon. Prime Minister has rightly named this—I would not call it ambitious but a very necessary scheme for the rural landless—as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, for the first time, realised that the concept of community development had not really filtered down to the rural poor. Although it was the Maharashtra Government which essentially started the employment guarantee scheme, still it was Mrs. Gandhi, who first realised its importance here in New Delhi. She started national Rural Employment Programme, but still it was realised that the implementation was not very effective. The programme itself was improved upon the Rural Landless Employment Guaranteed Programme was initiated.

Now, the two programmes have been merged into one and an additional amount of Rs. 500 crores, that means a total of Rs.



[Sh. Digvijaya Singh]

2600 crores has been provided for the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

Our Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has always been concerned for the rural landless. He has amply shown that by constituting the Commission for Rural Landless, which has yet to give its report. This section of the rural landless is one of the most exploited sections of the country today and it deserves the topmost priority.

If you see the total programme in the right perspective, we find that about 4.4 crore families which are living below the poverty line have to be helped under this programme. If we say that 20 percent of these families are to be helped under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana Programme, still we have almost a crore of families which have to be brought under the purview of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. If you see the guidelines fixed by the Government of India we would find that only 70 to 80 percent would be there to be paid as wages and that too provided the Panchayat takes up labour intensive works. So, I would plead with the hon. Prime Minister that there is a very strong case for enhancing the total provision for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, if we have to provide at least a minimum of 100 days of employment which is necessary to bring them some satisfaction out of the scheme. The devolution of funds has been done on the right lines. Productivity of the land, the number of people living below the poverty line, the population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc., have been the criteria for fixing the amount to be handed over to the States, and to the districts. But the devolution of this pattern on these lines, stops at the district level. There is a disparity in the productivity of the land in districts, in blocks and even in Panchayats. Wherever there is an irrigation scheme there is higher productivity and therefore consequently more work.

By distributing the funds equally to all the Panchayats we have given money to

these Panchayats also where there is no labour available. For example, in a Panchayat there are about four villages. Out of the four villages, two are irrigated. Naturally, there will be more work for the labour in those villages, but the other two villages will be starved of funds. Therefore, the funds have to be distributed in a more concentrated manner so that specific labour intensive programmes and schemes can be taken up for providing more useful work to the rural landless.

I feel that the funds should be given to the blocks, as per the standards of productivity, number of rural landless, and the number of people living under the poverty line and then there should be a committee at the block level which should decide what productive work can be taken up. If you spread your resources too thin, there will not be any useful work which you can take up at that level.

For example, in my State of Madhya Pradesh we have constituted Panchayats for a minimum of a thousand population. The funds provided under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana vary from Rs. 27,000 for a Panchayat to Rs. 1,10,000 or Rs. 1,20,000 for another Panchayat. And that too, the amount of Rs. 27,000 has to be spent, first for a plantation programme, then for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, that is an individual programme and then for productive work. By spreading our resources too thin, we are not taking up useful productive work. Therefore, I plead that the block should get the funds in totality and it should be left to the Block, which work should be taken up and where.

Sir, I would suggest to the Rural Development Department, which is regulating this programme, that there should be no strict guidelines brought by them. There should be ample provision and ample scope for the elected Panchayat representatives to make their own programmes and schemes.

Sir, I feel that instead of taking this scheme to every Panchayat, you should concentrate on certain blocks or in certain

*Jawahar Rozgar Yojana**Flood Situation*

areas, where you have migratory labour. Ultimately you want to provide useful work to the section of people, which is migrating from one part of the country to other in search of labour. Sir, by concentrating in these areas, you will be able to provide more employment.

We have already identified the families which are living below the poverty line. I would suggested that each family should be given an identity card and only on the basis of that, the families which have got the identity cards should be given employment under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Otherwise you will find it very difficult to monitor at that level the families which are influential and which are not living below the poverty line will be getting employment, and the families which are living below the poverty line will be ignored.

Sir, implementation itself needs a very effective Panchayat system. Our hon. Prime Minister has rightly decided to bring the Panchayati Raj Bill in this Session itself. It is unfortunate that our esteemed colleagues of the opposition have not considered it necessary and important to be present in the House and they left at a time when this country was looking forward this august House to give them a direction, to give them a line or to give them an Act by which an effective Panchayat system could be brought in this country. Sir, we are there to get it through and I am sure that with the right guidelines and with the right leadership of our Prime Minister, we would be able to give this country an effective Panchayati Raj, by which all these schemes could be implemented in the rural areas.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasargod): Mr. Chairman, I feel that Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is a product of the vast experience gained by the hon. Prime Minister, who has toured not only big cities but also every nook and corner, where the poorest of the poor are living, especially the Harijans and Girijans.

This Yojana is to provide employment to one member in a family which is living below

the poverty line. During the last four decades, the great architect Nehru and Indiraji have done many revolutionary programmes especially land reforms, bank nationalisation, privy purse abolition. There were some people at that time also who opposed these schemes.

This Yojana has been created just for the benefit of the poorest of the poor people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue next time.

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DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Statement made by the Minister of Agriculture in the House on 26th July, 1989 regarding current flood situation in the country and the relief measures undertaken by the Government**

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while expressing my grief and sympathy for all those people who have lost their lives and whose houses have collapsed and who suffered loss of their property in the recent floods, I would like to express many many thanks to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who, in his statement, made clear his intentions of the Government of India in the express words that it would take prompt action to provide succour to such people. He also deserves our congratulations. So far, about 1000 people have lost their lives in the recent floods including 24 persons from a small State like Arunachal Pradesh who were washed away by the flood waters. Maximum number of people had died in Andhra Pradesh and maximum loss has also been suffered in this very State as also in some parts of Maharashtra. It would have been much better had the hon. Minister of Water Resources and the Minister of Agriculture also been present here to listen to this discussion. Because, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is directly