

16.40 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE : GROWTH OF
RURAL ECONOMY**

[*English*]

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

"In view of the growing disparity between rural and urban incomes, resulting in overcrowding of suburbs of towns and cities, and lack of incentives and opportunities for growth of self-generating rural economy through rural industries, crafts and arts, this House urges upon the Government to allocate rupees ten thousand crores for the growth of rural economy during the Seventh Five Year Plan "

Sir, the intention why I chose this subject was even after nearly four decades of independence, the scene in the rural areas has not changed much, anyway not much relatively, and comparatively. Despite the amount that has been spent, and the number of Five Year Plans that have been gone through, the conditions in the rural areas have not changed much. Though rapid development has taken place in the urban areas. Very slow and negligible advancement has taken place in the rural areas. This disparity if not checked, will naturally corrode upon the nation's welfare because India lives in the villages. That was once said my Mahatmaji. It is my contention that our elders even in the pre-independence era were fully conversant with the conditions of the villagers and their foremost idea was first to improve the rural economy and raise the standard of living of the Indian citizens in the rural areas.

16.43 hrs.

[**SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM** *in the Chair*]

And abiding concern for equality and social justice was a distinctive feature of the national movement in India's freedom struggle. Later Sir, when India declared herself as a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic, the chief aim was removal of poverty. That was the number one priority in the list. Secondly to provide

minimum level of income which will ensure a tolerable standard of living for all people so that the person has enough to eat, has shelter for cover and cloth to wear. These are the minimum needs. That was the first priority after becoming Sovereign Socialist Democratic Republic. Number two : a progressive reduction of all inequalities in income and wealth. That was the second priority. More than 35 years have passed since then, but these two principles which the Sovereign, Socialist, Democratic Republic of India envisaged, have not been fulfilled, as intended by our forefathers. The Father of the Nation wanted to build India from the village level, from the weakest and the poorest upwards, and make the village self-sufficient and self-productive, and enunciated the following principles, *i. e.* to improve the villages, he gave an indication that the following principles must be followed, in order of priority for

- (1) improving agricultural production;
- (2) creating a self-propelling and self-sustaining production in the village;
- (3) decentralization of the production system and economic power; and
- (4) providing work for the agriculturist in the off-season through cottage industries, khadi etc.

He emphasized that apart from agriculture, a village should be provided some work in the off-seasons, as most of the year he is idle, especially in the dry areas where he should be given some work through cottage industries, khadi etc.

Before Independence, every village in every nook and corner of India used to have a *charkha*. Seventyfive per cent of our people live in the rural areas. The percentage of the poorest among the total population is estimated to be nearly 40, and they live below the poverty line, out of whom two-thirds are earning their livelihood by agricultural methods. When such a large population in rural areas is unhappy, it is beyond anybody's imagination how Indian can progress, as we want it to.

Gandhiji said that all that is good in Indian culture is based on rural life. This way, maybe the economic growth might

have been a little slowed down *i.e.* if we had followed Gandhiji's advice to the letter. But the benefits and fruits of all the five year Plans, and the amount of money we have spent, would have reached all, and not only a few, as it is at present. The advice of the Mahatma unfortunately was not taken seriously by our rulers, who only paid lip sympathy to the Gandhian principles. Probably there was a wish to urgently raise our standards along the level of the West; and so, for Gandhiji's principles and for rural areas, priority was the second in their list. As a result, some sectors have now undergone quick transformation, whereas other areas have had slow and tardy progress, due to inadequate attention. Thus, there is a lopsided development: a quick economic growth in the urban areas, and a much slower, negligible progress in the rural areas. The society cannot tolerate two degrees of development, one very quick, and the other very poor. Wherever development took place, it was generally not sustained, because of lack of a long-term perspective. Political independence cannot have any meaning without economic independence. In spite of six five year Plans, and so many crores of rupees having been spent on the welfare of our people, the benefits have not really reached the rural masses. Development in the urban areas has resulted in concentration of wealth in a few sections, at the cost of the rural poor sections. As a result, the rich have become richer, and the poor have become poorer. One of the unhappy experiences of planning in India has been that the economically backward regions have gained little, and the benefits have gone to a few in the urban areas. When we compare the position in the urban areas with that in the rural areas in different fields, *e.g.* health, we see that the death rate is twice in rural areas; infant mortality much more common, and diseases due to malnutrition rampant, causing maximum number of deaths in the rural areas. This is because of the poor conditions; they are not able to sufficiently get enough to eat, and lack of protein has been causing any number of diseases due to mal-nutrition; and life expectancy on an average is about ten years less for an individual when compared to the urban areas. Probably, most of the members would be surprised when I say that milk which is so readily available in the urban areas has now become scarce in the rural

areas; that is because most of it has perished; especially in the drought areas, the production of milk has gone down very much. Not only here, in all the cities and urban areas we are having, as a matter of fact, white flood where milk is abundant and easily available, whereas in the rural areas a stage has reached where even milk is not available in plenty. So, because of these reasons, life expectancy is less in the rural areas. Sanitation is most primitive in most of the rural areas. Drainage system is absolutely not known. There is no protective drinking water supply; there is even scarcity of drinking water also in most of the rural areas in the recent drought areas, and there is no drainage worth the name.

Education—The technological institutions and post-graduate institutions have come up only in the urban areas. In the last few years, probably elementary education centres or the school education centres, are here and there, but in the rural areas, they are not having any education centre at all. Even in taluka centres, and district centres, maybe there are a few educational institutions, but not really in the rural areas, where a common man can ill afford to send his child for education to a long way off, and as a result, only one-fourth of the rural population are literate.

For agricultural marketing facilities, nothing is provided or negligible is provided in the rural areas, because agricultural inputs are so very costly when compared to the outputs. The middle man dictates the agricultural market price; it is less in the harvest season; they capture the whole market, and at other time, they increase the price; as a result, the agriculturist does not get the price he deserves.

For cottage industry about which Mahatma was writing so often have been neglected in the rural areas where there are many artisans who can really shine if there is any sort of encouragement. As a result, there has been an exodus from rural areas to urban areas in search of employment and better living throughout the country; from the rural areas they have been coming to towns, from the towns to the cities, migrating to Hyderabad, Madras and Bombay; and as a result, there is a lot of overcrowding and increase of slums and pollution of air

[Shri D.N. Reddy]

and water even in the urban areas. In the rural areas, the value of property, because there is no buyer, has gone down very much whereas in the urban areas, all the hon. members must be knowing. the prices of property have been skyrocketing especially the house sites; and in Delhi, Bombay and Hyderabad, I am told, it requires a fortune to buy a site for a house.

All the major industries are also in the urban areas; may be we may argue that there is no infrastructure in the rural areas, so, major industries cannot be established there. But it is our fault; we ought to have developed infrastructure in different areas so that it might not have been converged only in the urban areas. As a result of all this, the rural citizens, the rural masses have become second-class citizens. The burden is on the poor and the benefits are for rich. After all, the urban areas are built with the sweat of rural people. We are all acquiring wealth in urban areas and the rich are able to lead a luxurious life.

The so called benefits now envisaged by the Government are not reaching those for whom they are intended. For example, the Government has introduced some reforms to improve the village economy. But it is really not percolating to those for whom it is meant because of so many difficulties. Out of ignorance the villager is not able to get his due from the Government. IRDP is a good scheme. But it is my experience that the villager gets only half of the amount. NREP and RLEGP are only on paper. I am sure that every one of the hon. Members will share my anxiety that it is not really reaching the common man and it is just only on paper or a very negligible percentage of our rural population is really getting the benefit from those schemes.

Seeing the magnitude of rural poverty, there is a general agreement in the country that large scale employment schemes and self-employment programmes have to be accepted as an integral factor of our long term development strategy. People must be self-sustained and self-employed in rural areas.

The right to work is a constitutional guarantee. It is the duty of the State to

provide work. It should be one of the principles of our Constitution. A citizen has got a right to ask for work.

Lastly, they have got ceiling on everything—land, wealth and income. But I personally feel that there should be a floor level income below which a citizen should not get. That means, every citizen should have some sort of an income to sustain himself.

Exploitation of the poor and farmers should cease. The middlemen have been exploiting the farmers for so many years. As a result the agriculture has not become a paying proposition for many years.

I may be permitted to state that a few welfare schemes have been introduced in my State for rural areas to eradicate poverty. One of them has been, every one of the hon. Members knows it, Rs. 2 per kg. rice. Though it was scoffed in the beginning by some of the political leaders, it has been appreciated later on and copies in some other States also. This welfare scheme should be instituted in every State.

There is a scheme, for old-age pension, agriculture labour pension, and helpless widow pension. In all these cases, pension is given only in those cases where there is nobody to depend upon or to sustain them.

17.00 hrs.

I may be permitted to inform the hon. Members that we have introduced a *Grameen Kranti Pathakam*, that is everybody who wants to work in the village should collect half of the amount in the village and the other half will be borne by the state Government. The idea is to help the poor labourers who have no work and in the process they will be doing some good to the village also. That scheme has been introduced in almost all the villages and it is still going on. This has proved to be a very successful scheme.

Another scheme which has been introduced is known as Aid to Houseless—for construction of houses on a big scale. Of course, in other States also it is being done but in Andhra Pradesh it is being done on a very big scale. All the houseless people

especially in the low income group, are having the benefit of this scheme. Very recently they have introduced Self-Employment Motivation Centres in all the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh to help the unemployed educated youth to select the industry of their choice, and the State Government will give every assistance to them. I think this is a very good scheme, because there are so many unemployed youth in the rural areas who are very eager to work, who are very eager to earn, but they are just lingering for want of capital or assistance. In those cases, the Government should come to their help by giving them technical help as well as financial assistance.

Having described the rural scene as well as the urban scene, the differences are so vast that it is time to ask ourselves, whether we have stood by them and done justice to them even after so many years of independence and after so many five-year plans. We have to ask ourselves whether we have taken steps to change the exploitative and dysfunctional relationship between urban and rural areas and have we adopted decentralisation in the real sense of the term in the planning process. Have we made any attempt to make an assault on the problem of distribution of assets and income? I am afraid, the answer to all these questions is no.

Regional inequalities cannot be accepted in any society. Moreover, most of us have come from the rural areas. Our roots are in the rural areas. As a matter of fact, most of us are here with their help. So, naturally, it is the duty of everyone of us to think first of the rural areas, as was the path shown to us by Mahatma Gandhi. So, I propose that the House should accept the Resolution and provide a lump sum of Rs. ten thousand crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

I may also add that this should be above politics and above groupism. There cannot be a second opinion about it. Unfortunately, I had a very sad experience recently when another Resolution was moved by me about Electoral Reforms, in the last session. Every Member, whether on this side or on that side, had agreed

they were for it, but unfortunately, their loyalty to the party came in the way and they could not express their views openly here though...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : that is not correct.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : That may be your opinion but I am telling my opinion.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : You are imposing your opinion on us. That is why I am saying.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : I am expressing my opinion. I am not imposing my opinion on you. That was my impression here. They had agreed in private but they refused to accept the Resolution. I only urge that they should be bold enough to express opinion irrespective of their loyalty in their party and they must be free to express their own honest opinion on such general issues.

I may be permitted to add that a politician looks forward to the next election, a statesman looks forward to the next generation. Unfortunately, we are surrounded only by politicians. Gandhi Ji was a *mahatma*, Sardar Patel was a statesman.

The great Nehru was a democrat. Probably, he was a great democrat in the whole world. Unfortunately, we are surrounded by only politicians, and some of them very small minded politicians. So, may I ask—it may be too much to ask that we should have a statesmen at this stage to take cover or at least, we may ask for politicians to give us clean politics led by Mr. Clean.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

“In view of the growing disparity between rural and urban incomes, resulting in overcrowding of suburbs of towns and cities, and lack of incentives and opportunities for rural areas

[Mr. Chairman]

generating rural economy through rural industries, crafts and arts, this House urges upon the Government to allocate rupees ten thousand crores for the growth of rural economy during the Seventh Five Year Plan."

S/Shri Mool Chand Daga and D.B. Patil are absent. Hence no amendment is moved.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the mover, Shri D.N. Reddy has presented his Resolution in regard to the development of rural economy. I want to submit my views on this subject.

About 38 years have passed since India became independent. Mahatma Gandhi, who got independence for the country had started his movement from rural areas. According to our Indian culture, the man in the rural areas who grows foodgrains has always been called 'Anndata, i.e., the giver of the food. There are no two opinions on this that 70 per cent of the population lives in villages.

When we look at our rural areas, we feel sad. Even after so many years of getting freedom, there are rural areas where people live in the same conditions as were prevailing during the time of slavery.

We do not find roads in rural areas. There is no arrangement for electricity for them. The drinking water schemes have not reached there. Even now women folk in those areas have to fetch water from a distance of 5 to 6 kms.

If we put a glance on our health services, we find them missing there. The rural people have to die without medical facilities. If someone falls sick in these areas during rainy season, he remains deprived of the services of any doctor, because there are no means of transportation available to them. The patient dies, because he cannot reach the city.

In rural areas, education is also not

has made some progress in these areas. It has been encouraged there. But even today children in rural areas study under the trees. During rains and winter, children are unable to study. The school buildings fall down.

In so far as industry in the rural areas is concerned, it is almost negligible. The rural people have to come to cities in search of employment. In the absence of industry in the rural areas, they have no alternative but to come to the cities and they are migrating to cities. This problem is before us. Every person in the rural areas is coming to cities to get those facilities which are available to urban people. The villages are getting deserted. Regarding security aspect, we will find that in the rural areas dacoities are committed very often and looting and arsoning continues for hours, but no one comes to protect them. The police banjobast is not adequate there. In this regard I want to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister that he has taken up certain schemes in the Seventh Five Year Plan. It has further strengthened the 20 Point Programme of the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, because programmes like NERP, RLEGP, IRD, IRDP included in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the rural areas are very appreciable ones, but it is a matter of regret that not even 50 per cent of what is provided for rural development in the districts is spent on them. The officers, touts and agencies working there are openly misusing those funds. You should pay attention to this aspect also. In this connection, strict orders should be given to the State Government to take stringent action against such people. These people should be arrested under MISA and enquiries should be held against them. Without this, rural areas are not going to be developed.

There was once a programme of the village Pradhans being broadcast about the population. One Pradhan was asked in that programme as to why there was so much population in his village. He replied that there were no means of entertainment there, but then one train passes from that area at 4 O'clock in the morning. Through you I would like to submit before the House that means of entertainment

We are not progressing due to burgeoning population. It is working as a sort of hurdle in the path of our progress. Our country has seen alround development; we have got Five Year Plans which are formulated in the Parliament, but everything seems negligible before this population.

I want to give certain suggestions for the rural development. I appeal to this House that work on rural housing schemes and rural electrification should be accelerated. The schemes are being framed on paper at present, they are yet to be given a shape. Drinking water schemes should be completed soon. The roads in the rural areas are negligible at present. During Seventh Five year Plan, these should be constructed in a large number. A scheme has been prepared under which provision for 16 houses for Harijans and Adivasis in every block has been made. I appeal to this House that as urban housing development schemes have been prepared in cities, similarly, housing development schemes should be prepared for rural areas also. This way the Government will be able to make houses available in rural areas. Alongwith this I also suggest that village complex should be constructed in rural areas in which markets, cinema halls, schools and colleges and health centres should be provided so that people have not to go to cities as also they may not have to migrate to the cities. Technical education should be provided in the rural areas so that the rural children get technical education there itself. Industries should be set up there. But what we see today is that there is a shortage of electricians and carpenters in those areas. In the rural areas the trade of handicrafts is facing the threat of extinction. The number of tractors has increased in the villages and there has also been augmentation of irrigation facilities like tubewells. But there is a shortage of mechanics who may be required to rectify the defects whenever these are developed in the tubewells etc. Such institutions should be opened at the block level in which provision of technical education may be made and the rural youths may start their own job after receiving training there and they may not have to go towards the cities. We are shocked when we see the unsatisfactory

condition of the means of irrigation. Even now the farmer cannot grow crops without water. He has to depend on the vagaries of the nature. If there is good rains, he hopes for good crops. If there is no rains, his production declines. Therefore, the irrigation facilities should be made available to the maximum extent. Some funds were allotted under R.L.E G.P. programme for the provision of irrigation facilities, cleanliness and repair work of the canals, but this year the Government have directed that funds will not be provided for repairs etc. under this programme. I would like to make demand in this House that while making allotment, funds should also be provided for irrigation which is also a part of our 20 Point Programme, because the State Governments are not taking adequate interest in it. For cleaning the canals, a sum of Rs. 150 per kilometre has been fixed. In this time of high prices such a little amount is not sufficient to carry out this work. The farmer is always affected by the natural calamities. The State Governments should be directed to help the farmers. There is a provision of insurance in case his standing crops are affected by hailstorms or are destroyed in fire. But this has not been implemented properly. In this respect a clear cut order should be issued that the Government should provide compensation to the farmer whose crops have been damaged, so that he may offset his loss. The farmers should be exempted from paying the land revenue and irrigation charges, because the farmer is affected very adversely by the floods and drought. With these words, I express my gratitude that you have given me an opportunity to speak.

17.18 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 25TH JULY, 1986 IN DISTRICT FARIDKOT (PUNJAB)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, it is with a great sense of sorrow and anguish I have to inform this House that today at about 6