

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT
(Barabanki) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 30th August, 1988."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 30th August, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

18.26 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE : IMPLEMENTATION
OF NEW 20-POINT PROGRAMME**

—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the following Resolution moved by **SHRI SOMNATH RATH** on the 19th August, 1988 :

"This House while expressing its appreciation of the New 20 Point Programme initiated by the Government notes that implementation of the poverty alleviation programme has not been fully satisfactory and urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for effective implementation thereof."

Shri Aziz Qureshi was to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last time, while referring to my constituency, Satna, I had

submitted that one of the objectives of the 20-Point Programme was to achieve all round development of the backward regions. I had also submitted that the Vayudoot service had started from Satna. Our Hon. Minister, **Shri Moti Lal Vora** and Hon. **Shri Madhavrao Scindia** were present during its inauguration. However, there were no other flight after the opening flight because this service was discontinued as soon as Hon. **Shri Vora** left. This was an extreme injustice to these backward areas. Such an injustice should not be committed and the service between Satna and Rewa, which had been commenced on the initiative of the Hon. Minister, **Vora** and the Prime Minister, should be restored.

Similarly, I had referred to the television network. Government has been making constant promises for the past 4 years to provide television facilities. It is also claimed that every town with more than a lakh of population has been covered under the television network. I want to know as to what are the reasons behind depriving the people of such a backward and tribal area like Satna of Television service which is the most powerful medium for propagation of Government programmes? Why inspite of our constant demands, television facilities have not been provided in Satna so far? I want that Government should pay attention towards this matter and provide television facilities at the earliest. Satna should be connected with the television network without delay.

Similarly, Government should take effective steps towards implementing the programmes for the alleviation of poverty and for providing employment opportunities. As I had stated earlier, whenever any factory or an industry is sanctioned, the owner of such an industry or a factory should be asked to ensure that labour force is drawn to the maximum extent from the local population so that unemployment is removed. Government has expressed its inability for want of necessary powers to force any factory owner to recruit local people This cannot satisfy the deprived and the hungry masses. If all the constitutional methods for removal of poverty and unemployment are a failure then we should note that the educated unemployed will not remain silent. They will resort to unconstitutional methods

by which the entire social system may collapse. Government should ensure against the creation of such a situation. It is unfortunate that in spite of the poverty alleviation programmes of the Government and all our socialistic policies, the rich are getting richer even today. However, it is also true that the poor are not getting poorer. It is also a fact that the standard of living of the poor has definitely improved. But the concentration of wealth in a few hands is unnatural and step should be taken to rectify this state of affairs, as otherwise a dangerous situation may develop which may go out of our control. Therefore, I will request the Hon. Minister to pay attention towards this matter. Along with it, in order to remove the backwardness of the Parliamentary Constituency of Satna, anti-poverty programmes should be implemented effectively and more funds should be allocated and schemes sanctioned for the welfare and upliftment of the people of the area.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : At the outset, I would like to appreciate and thank you for the indulgence you have shown throughout the proceedings of the day. I would not like to go into the history of the 20-point programme. This was conceived and introduced by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Again it was revised in 1982. And the latest revision was in 1986. Here I would not like to go into all the points because out of 20 points I would like to emphasise upon point number 1 i.e. attack on rural poverty. There are certain identities in the country. We are a country of variegated culture and variegated tradition. Of all the identities what we would not like to retain is the identity of poverty. So we have to remove poverty. In this context, my region does exist on the small scale and cottage industry of the handloom and handicrafts. So far we have not been able to do much on the development of handlooms. Handloom in our part of the country is not a profession of lower class. From the highest in the society to the lowest it is a must. It is a rural profession. Handloom in

Manipur and also in adjoining hill areas is a profession which every family has. They call it lower loom because it is not much developed in hill areas. So handloom and lower loom in that area is the profession of big and small, high or low, rich or poor.

In spite of the 20 point programme, what we have seen in the last decade is that still weavers are not getting any benefit at all. Whatever benefit or profit is there, it is reaped by the middlemen. I would like to draw the attention of the Textile Ministry to this so that through the North-eastern council the handloom industry of the north-east can be revamped again and some significant steps can be taken in order to bring further relief to the handloom industry in that region.

Another point which is most important is the last point i.e. responsive administration. In the absence of a responsive administration, the implementation of the 20-point programme or any programme for that matter, is meaningless. Experience so far is that the State Governments have now developed a habit—they call it experience—of just building up good records which are mostly paper records. I am not criticising all the State Governments. There are good governments and in certain programmes there is good performance. But by and large, the responsive administration which is emphasised in the 20-point programme is still to be achieved. I have had the privilege of associating myself with the Implementation Committee of my State for many years. My experience is that the officers in charge of different departments, in charge of different programmes come with paper records and these paper records are recommended to the Programme Implementation Ministry and the Programme Implementation Ministry here just makes their assessment and give their Report on the floor of the House and in other forums, so far this is the record. As we see today, there is no linking between the theoretical aspect, the ideal aspect of the implementation of 20-point Programme and the achievement of the Programme. In some other session before this, I remember I had asked a question from the Programme Implementation Ministry, whether the Government of India has introduced a mechanism through

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

which we can see the field experience, because unless we have a total supervision, a very comprehensive supervision on the field side of the implementation, things are not coming up to the satisfaction. This is how I would like to emphasise this last point, namely, the responsive administration, and here what we need is a total sense of commitment on the part of the officers, Ministers, Panchyats and other public men: At every level a sense of commitment, a sense of dedication is required. Everyone at every level has to work with that courage of conviction in order to achieve the very good objectives of this 20-point Programme. Only then this Programme will be meaningful. With these words, I conclude and thank you very much for the time given to me.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Sir, I want to make a submission that every Member should be allowed four or five minutes so that every Member can get a chance to speak.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a good suggestion, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : O.K. In the absence of the Speaker and also of the members of the Panel of Chairmen, I suggest that Shri N. Tombi Singh may act as a Chairman today. I hope the House will agree.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Shri N. Tombi Singh to take charge.

18.37 hrs.

[SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH *in the Chair*]

✓ KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to take part on this important Resolution. Though I thought I will speak in detail about this 20-Point Programme but everybody is hurrying and the House has already settled that every Member will speak only for five minutes. That is why I am not going into

details. But, Sir, I must congratulate our Prime Minister and the Government for this 20-Point Programme.

The 20-Point Programme is the Magna Carta of the poor people of our country and it is our economic Constitution also. It is the economic Constitution of the poor people. But the thing is that due to certain lack of monitoring at some level or due to some sort of percolation, the people are not getting the benefits of the 20-Point Programme. I know that particularly the Programme Implementation Minister is a very efficient Minister. I have a great regard for him. But I do not know whether he will be able to reply to our questions or not because the Programme Implementation Ministry is a poor implementation Ministry. While we are discussing this important matter, only two or three officers are sitting in the Official Gallery. But, Sir, this Ministry is related to other Ministries. This Ministry is related to Water Resources Ministry, this Ministry is related to Banking Department, this Ministry is related to Industry Ministry. The work of this Ministry is related to Agriculture Ministry, the work of this Ministry is related to many other Departments in the Ministries. I do not know how the Programme Implementation Minister will be able to clarify many points raised by the Hon. Members of this House. Of course, I know that the Hon. Minister will try to reply to the various points raised by us in this House on the basis of the data prepared by the bureaucrats showing the achievements made in different fields. I do not want to take the time of the House at this late hours by seeking clarifications on many points. I only want to request the Hon. Minister to tell us what he can do, whether he can create a monitoring Cell immediately so that implementation of the 20-Point programmes can best be done in the States. You can ask the State Governments what they have achieved and whether they have achieved the targets as per the time fixed for implementation of various schemes and also make them accountable for the money spent for the implementation of various schemes and find out whether they have done good work. I know of a particular State Government which has not done good job in the State, but some State Governments are doing good job. If you

set up a monitoring Cell, you will come to know which State Government is misusing the funds. Therefore, I would request you to please set up monitoring cell immediately in different States

Sir, I would also like to request that these Schemes should be sponsored directly by the Central Government and execute them under their control and supervision. The State Governments are executing so many other schemes. But most of these schemes are totally sponsored by the Central Government. If you want to achieve results, I would request that the Central Government should directly control and implement these schemes.

AN HON. MEMBER : Are you referring to West Bengal ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE

Not only West Bengal, but in other States also these schemes should be controlled and implemented by the Centre. Another suggestion is that you should involve the MPs in the implementation of various schemes in the States. It is not that the MPs will come and speak only in the Parliament and take part in the discussions and debates on various Bills and other matters. In the States, the MLAs, Municipal and Panchayat Commissioners are more powerful and influential. The common people in the constituency come to us for help and guidance. But we are not able to do much for them because of the powerful MLAs and other party workers. We really want to do something for the poor and weaker sections through the 20-Point Programme. It is the Magna Carta for the poor. It is our duty to eradicate poverty and unemployment and help these poor and weaker sections through implementation of the 20-Point Programme. You have many other programmes like IRDP, RLEGP, S.U.P.W. etc. The banking sector has been nationalised for the development of the country and also to help the needy and poor people, particularly in the rural areas. But the bank officials and the heads of many nationalised banks have been claiming that the banking sector is doing well. But, Sir, I would like to know what they are doing to the common people. They are harassing the poor people. They do not help them in disbursing loan.

Will you therefore enquire as to how many banks have achieved their targets through these 20-Point Programmes ? How many banks are really playing their role in helping the poor and needy people ? If you enquire into this matter, then you will come to know the fact. I condemn the attitude of the banking sector towards the poor people, particularly in the rural areas. They are helping certain political party people in the State. That is why I request you to enquire into this matter. I would also request that some criteria should be fixed for the distribution of loans to the poor and weaker sections of society. The present cumbersome procedure should be withdrawn. The process of getting loan should be made easy. Then only the benefit will really go to the people whom it is intended for. But the State Government is the executing agency and they are not executing these programmes fully. That is why I would like to request you one thing. You are an efficient Minister, but you should inform other Ministers also to take some responsibility to implement this 20-Point Programme. Otherwise you will only give some specific replies to our points, but there will be no fruitful results.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Rath. I hope that the Central as well as the State Governments are working in conformity with the spirit of the new 20 point programme initially launched by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and thereafter followed by our present Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But in practice, it is quite the opposite. Every Ministry and Minister makes a mention of the 20 point programme every time and makes a commitment to pursue the programme. But when the question of implementation comes everything is left up to the bureaucracy. As far as the bureaucracy is concerned, it can never work in conformity with the spirit of the 20 point programme. It may do some justice to one or two points. No bureaucrat, however good he may be, will ever want that loans should be made available to the poor or the distressed people. The blocks recommend loans under the I.R.D.P. But when

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it comes to sanctioning the loan, the bank managers do not make payment easily. The loanee has to come to the bank 10 to 12 times to draw the loan. This phenomenon is prevalent everywhere in India. There are hardly any fortunate persons who get full payment under the I.R.D.P. Due to this shortcoming, the whole scheme of I.R.D.P. is becoming sick. The poor man is becoming poorer. I am astonished to find in my constituency that people who were given loans are being issued court summons to repay the loans. They can repay the loan only when they have resources. Otherwise, it is difficult for them to make the repayment. Buffalo of quality breed costs considerably high amount and, therefore, people purchase sick buffaloes which do not yield milk. Hence they cannot repay their loans. They are running from door to door. If the Government intends to do a little justice to the 20 point programme it should think of writing off the loans granted under the I.R.D.P. to people living below the poverty line. There is no other way out left. The same is the position with regard to our land reform programmes. Due to prevalence of rampant corruption in the scheme of providing foodgrains at cheaper rates in the rural areas, a common man cannot get its benefits. It urge the Government to implement this programme properly. In order to implement this programme properly, the District Level Implementation Committee at the Ministry level and State Level should be involved in the real sense instead of making them decorative pieces. The Ministers of State Governments do not come to districts. Even if they come, they conclude the meetings on 20 point programme within two hours. What will be the outcome of those two hours? It is not possible to hold a discussion on one point even. In fact, the office bearers of the District Congress Committees have been made its Vice Chairmen, but they have no powers. If they want to conduct a physical verification, there is no provision for it. When the 20 point programme committees report about any lapse on the part of any officer, the State Governments do not take any action against these defaulting officials. It becomes very surprising when we find that the State Governments do not do good work at the district level, but at the national level they secure number one or two position. It is only the Jugglery of figures. The

State Governments post very clever officers at such points and they prepare the figures so meticulously that anybody who goes through the figures will accept that actual welfare measures have been taken. But in actual sense, even its spirit does not reach the lower level. We could have made a lot of progress and brought about large scale improvement in the economic condition of the people had even 25 per cent of the total amount meant for these programme been spent actually. I, therefore, urge the Government to make the monitoring committees more effective not only at the Central Government level but also at the State Governments level if at all it really wants to do something for the people. It should exercise proper control over the bureaucracy. It should ensure direct participation of people in these programmes. The Government should make every effort to provide adequate funds for the 20 point programme if it feels that the programme is suffering for want of funds. All possible help should be extended to the poorest of the poor. Then only they can rise above they poverty line. Then only the objectives of the 20 point programme could be fulfilled. With these words. I support this resolution.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) :
 Hon. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for asking me to participate in this very important resolution moved by Mr. Somnath Rath. I would like to speak in my mother-tongue, for which intimation has been given.

*Hon. Member Shri Somnath Rath has moved this Resolution. Unfortunately, he is not present in the House. But he has given as an opportunity to express our views on this Resolution. He has expressed his concern for the fact that the 20-point programme is not being implemented effectively. But he should know that the Central Government is taking great interest in the implementation of the 20 point programme revised by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

* Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Oriya.

[English]

As you know, the 20-point programme was announced in Parliament on 20th August, 1986 keeping in view the gains and experience of earlier years: after the application and execution of the programmes. It was implemented from the 1st of April, 1987. The programmes include eradication of poverty, improving the financial conditions and quality of life and also reducing the disparity between rich and poor,

The programme focussed attention on certain high priority areas and professions which are meant for gains to national development for which the Union Government as well as the States have made provisions in their Budgets. We should know that the entire implementation is depending upon the State Government. If the State Government does not implement it properly, what can the Centre do ?

In this connection, I should say, the desire of the Planning Commission and also our beloved Prime Minister is to monitor the execution of the 20 point programme. Unfortunately the programme is not being implemented properly. Therefore, our Prime Minister has set up seven member committee which headed by Shri Hanumantha Rao. They have also monitored the implementation of this 20 point programme. From their report, we notice that, IRDP is an important scheme intended to eradicate poverty and to create income generated assets to the poorest of the poor in the society and to enable them to cross the poverty line. The evaluation report pointed out that it has not been fully implemented either at the block level or at the village level.

The target of RLEGP in 1986-87 was to provide 236 million mandays whereas the achievement was 173 million mandays. So, it has not been properly implemented.

The schemes for the rehabilitation of bonded labour and for irrigation as well as for the provision of drinking water, have not been implemented properly.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister to look to the implementation of the minimum wages. In this connection, I would like to point out that even in railway which is the biggest public undertaking in our country, they are not implementing minimum wages programme. In our State of Orissa, the CPC gangmen are getting Rs. 7.50 per day though the State Government has fixed minimum wages of Rs 11 per day. In West Bengal CPC gangmen are getting Rs. 14 per day. This is the disparity and it should be looked into.

Regarding the strategy for agricultural area, I would like to point out that minor irrigation is mainly meant to irrigate the fields of farmers. But minor irrigation is implemented by the State Governments from which that cannot provide funds. How can it be implemented ? In medium and major irrigation, the Union Government is providing funds. We are spending thousands of crores of rupees for execution and for giving water to the farmers through medium and big irrigation Projects. But it is being badly delayed and the escalation of the cost is increasing and it is taking much time also for completion. So, we are not getting the expected results. Minor irrigation should also be looked after by the Union Government and a monitoring Committee should be set up so that minor irrigation is properly implemented.

Regarding better use of irrigation water, I submit to the Hon. Minister that various scheme have been submitted by the State Government of Orissa for drainage in the river basins. But the Union Government is not providing funds for it. So, it could not be executed because of which people of Orissa are suffering.

Regarding enforcement of land reforms, it is only in pen and paper. The land owners are going to the court of law and bringing stay orders due to which the beneficiaries are not getting possession of the lands which are distributed to them.

With these words, I thank you very much.

19.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The allotted time for this item has been exhausted. It is up to the House to decide as to whether we should extend the time or not. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : By how many hours ?

KUMARI MAMATA BENERJEE : Sir, I wish to make one submission. The Members who are present today in the House can speak...

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not the point. The point is that we have to extend the time for this item.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Let us extend the time may be by two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we extend by two hours ? Is it the pleasure of the House ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We extend the time for this item by two hours. Now Mamataji, you can say what you want.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : 20 Point Programme is a very important Programme. Members are interested to speak. That is why I request that those who want to speak today, they may speak today. But the Minister should not give reply today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only the time has been allotted and extended.

I have taken note of your point.

Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to

support the resolution moved by the Hon. Member, Our former Prime Minister. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had presented this 20-Point Programme with a view to eradicating poverty from the country and lifting crores of poor people above the poverty line. The programme envisaged at providing employment to poor people, land to landless, houses to the shelterless and electricity to every house. Our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi wants to strengthen the economic and social condition of the country through expeditious implementation of this programme. I want to deal with all the points but would like to take up the main point which is linked with poverty. I would like to touch upon the policy of the Government in this regard, the objectives of this programme, the attitude of the bureaucracy towards it and would like to suggest some do's for our Government.

Sir, one of the points of this programme deals with allotment of land to the poor and landless people. But it is unfortunate that these people have been allotted wasteland which was taken from rich landlords. This fact needs to be thoroughly probed. The land taken from the landlords is not cultivable. These landless people have been allotted barren and wasteland. When these poor people converted this barren land into fertile one by dint of their hard labour, the landlords filed cases against them in the High Court and re-captured the land from them. You can get this fact ascertained from Bihar. Not a single verdict in the Board of Revenue or High Court has gone in favour of the poor. It is because these people occupy as high positions as those of judges and are very rich. They connive with the police and the police helps them. The decisions taken by police also never go in favour of these poor people. All concerned, the people, the police and the court know that the land was allotted by the Government. I would, therefore, like to urge you to provide protection to these poor people who have been allotted land by the Government. It should also be ensured that people given possession should, in no case, be dispossessed of their land. I would also like to suggest that the land so allotted should be kept beyond judicial purview so that no case could be made out over this land. When the land is being allotted by the Government itself and every-

body knows that the land so allotted was taken from the landlords, there should be no dispute over this land and nobody should be dispossessed of his land.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government should also look into the question of minimum wages. Had the people of Bihar been getting minimum wages at the rate fixed by the Government, they would not have gone to Punjab to die or taken refuge in other States for their livelihood. Minimum wages are not being paid anywhere, whether at the block level or district level in Bihar, I, therefore, urge the Government to make the officers responsible for ensuring payment of minimum wages accountable for the implementation of the minimum wages properly. If they do not implement them, legal action should be taken against them. They should be awarded exemplary punishment so that the concerned officers could become vigilant. The Government has launched various programmes at the block, district and State level as a result of which the 20 point programme is not achieving the desired success. The officers dealing with various departments like electricity, communication, irrigation, revenue or health should be compulsorily involved in this programme. They abstain from the meetings openly and fearlessly. They maintain one figure and present the same in every meeting. In this way the officers concerned are very careless about the programme. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had launched this programme with a view to alleviating poverty from the country. Our Government aims at providing water to every field, employment to every person, house to every poor person and thus strengthen the economy of the country. But these officers are posing obstacles in the Government's efforts. The bureaucracy is disturbing the programme. Stiffer punishment should be awarded to these officers and action should also be taken against the judges. Action should be taken against those officers who take arbitrary decision without understanding the programme and policy of the Government, who are not aware of the country's situation, who are callous about the circumstances prevailing in the country, who are conventionalists and run after their self interest.

A lot of money is being spent on N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., and TRYSEM

schemes for lifting the people above the poverty line. Let us take the instance of banks. The banks give only Rs. 25,000. This is what is given in Bihar. A number of people have been dragged into litigation for these Rs. 25,000. In certain cases rebate is being cut in lieu of payment of this amount. It is a very small amount and is of no use. The amount is being spent without serving any major purpose. It is, therefore, necessary that an un-employed youth is given at least Rs. one lakh for self employment purposes so that he could start a small industry. This facility should be made available to every house. A large number of women in the rural areas are uneducated but there are some who are educated. However, they do not have any employment. Each educated woman in the rural areas should be advanced Rs. 1 lakh as loan so that she could set up a cottage industry in her house. We made schemes to check floods and drought. Since Independence, the Government has been spending crores of rupees on these schemes. But the losses caused due to damage after these schemes came into being are much higher than the loss suffered earlier. Earlier, crops on hundreds of acres of land were being destroyed, but now crops on thousands of acres of land are being destroyed even after spending crores of rupees. Earlier only 200 to 400 houses were being washed away, but now thousands of houses are being washed away. Earlier the flood waters used to recede after 10 to 15 days. But now a days, even after construction of dams, the area remains water-logged for months together. Crops on thousands of acres of land get destroyed as they remain submerged under water. Large heads of cattle perish and large number of people die of various diseases. It is, therefore, necessary to exercise some control over the bureaucracy who has been entrusted with the work of implementing this programme.

With these words I urge the Government to ensure that the targets of the 20 point programme through which Shrimati Indira Gandhi had dreamt of alleviating poverty, lifting the poor people above the poverty line, providing food and employment to Adivasis, the weaker sections and women, are fulfilled. Shri Rajiv Gandhi wants to implement the programme expeditiously and

we should extend our full co-operation so that the targets set by the Government in this regard are fulfilled. I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much to have given me time to speak regarding this 20-Point Programme. I support the Resolution moved by Shri Somnath Rath and in saying that I submit that this 20-Point Programme was started by our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gardhi on the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. Most of the programmes mentioned here in this 20-Point Programme are related to these four subjects, that is poverty alleviation development of agriculture, health, drinking water etc. The last one is regarding the responsive administration. I think, the first and the last points are the most important items in this programme.

Regarding No. 1, I would like to say that we have undertaken IRDP, RLEGP, NREP and so many other poverty alleviation programmes. On all these programmes, we have so far spent more money than what was allotted during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Regarding NREP, I would like to submit that an amount of Rs. 1,250.81 crores was allotted during the Seventh Plan and up to January this year, we have spent Rs. 1,492.27 crores. Regarding RLEGP, the target was Rs. 1,743.78 crores for the Seventh Plan and money which has been spent so far is Rs. 2,121.8 crores. What I mean to say is that though we have spent more money than what was allotted, yet the fact is that the economic development of the poor people has not come up to the mark we expected. They have not crossed the poverty line limit which we wanted them to cross through these programmes. So, the main idea is that there are some lacunae in the policy regarding the rural development programme.

The interest rates are very high. The poor people are unable to pay them. Some-

times the subsidy is not released on time. The poor people sometimes have to sell away their landed property and assets to repay the loans.

In the State of Orissa, there is a money-lending Act which says that the interest on the loan should not exceed the principal. Even after 30 years, the amount will not exceed two times the money advanced to any person. I wish that a money-lending Act should be passed at the Central level to cover the whole country so that the poor people are not harassed by the cooperatives or the banks by charging more money from them. In this way, they will not be forced to sell their landed property, assets or whatever they have to repay the loans.

Then, I come to serial No. 8—Health to all people. Government of India is kind enough to grant money to the tribal areas for the administration of health, drinking water, roads and what not. At the time of the Eighth Finance Commission, Rs. 9,70,00,000 were awarded for the 194 model villages at the rate of Rs. 5 lakhs for one village. For that, they have now selected certain villages in our State. At a distance of 2-3 kilometres from other hospitals they have established hospitals. Normally, people do not have hospitals at a distance of 20-30 kilometres to get some medicine for fever, headache or something like that. But they have established the hospitals at very close distances wasting money, allotted by the Government of India, without consulting the Medical Department or the local representatives. I raised this question in the Tribal Advisory Council. The Chief Minister also wanted that this should be revised. The wrong places should be dropped and new places should be taken up. But no attention was paid. I wrote to the Welfare Ministry, Government of India.

I would request through you to the Welfare Ministry to direct the State Government not to use this money in such a manner without giving proper privileges to the people for whom the money has been allotted.

Now, I would like to say something regarding the last point—responsive Govern-

ment. Our Prime Minister is very anxious to decentralise powers, to give more powers to the districts. Sarkaria Commission has given its report to give more powers to the States. But there is no mention of anything by any Commission for the districts. Now our beloved Prime Minister held several conferences of Collectors, Secretaries and all that simply to know the problems at the district level and to give more powers to the district authorities, and other local peoples' representatives to solve them.

But regarding the tribal people, my last and most important request is that unless you give them autonomous councils or district council at their places, it will not be of any use of these Zila Parishads because Zila Parishads are only nominal and it may be useful for general districts and not for the tribal people. So, my request is that Sixth Schedule should be applied because Fifth Schedule is not working properly in the States. They do not sit down for discussions and they do not take action for the tribal development.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the debate on the resolution moved by the veteran Member of Parliament Shri Somnath Rath, regarding the implementation of the 20-Point Programme became necessary, because of the apprehension expressed by him for the programme which is the symbol of the hopes and the aspirations of the millions of the poverty stricken people of India. The 20 Point Programme envisages to give priority and implement the schemes formulated for the alleviation of poverty.

In 1975, at the behest of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, 20 Point Programme was formulated for the social and economic upliftment of the people of the poor sections of the society living in the rural areas. The 20 Point Programme is aimed to emancipate the lot of the landless families and poor below the poverty line, by making them economically independent, through the implementation of land improvement pro-

grammes and arrangement of loans from Banks. On January 14, 1982 review of 20 Point Programme was done afresh and new priorities were decided to make it more effective. In August 1986, the young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi took concrete steps for the implementation of new 20 Point Programme with new priorities and schemes, all over the country. The new 20 Point Programme 1986, envisages special programmes for the rural labourers, supply of safe drinking water, medical facilities for all, two child norm, strong nation, justice to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, equality to women, greater opportunities for youths, housing for all, improvement of slums and environment protection etc. etc. Many important schemes with new priorities have been brought under the new 20 Point Programme 1986, but for the last two years the State Governments are not paying the required attention towards the implementation of these schemes.

The 20 Point Programme is a national programme and it should be implemented in that very spirit. However, the State Governments undermine its importance by amalgamating their own scheme with it or by not paying due attention towards their implementation. In Madhya Pradesh meetings of the 20 Point Programme Implementation Committees are not convened for months together. The Ministers do not visit their assigned districts for as long a period as 3 to 4 months. There is no use talking of the Block Committees, the most important unit entrusted with the task of efficient implementation at the Block level. The Central Government should direct the State Governments to arrange atleast once in three months the meetings of the State level 20 Point Programme, Implementation Committees. For the quick implementation of 20 Point Programme, the meetings of the District level Committees in which the people's representatives, social workers and District Officials participate and the meetings at the Block level to review the progress at the village level, should be held at least twice or thrice every month respectively.

The pamphlet brought out by the Ministry of Programme Implementation lays special emphasis on its monitoring. While

[Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

further dwelling on the subject, the pamphlet states, monthly review and statistical evaluation and critical appraisal would be done once in three months of the progress made in the implementation of the programme within a year in a particular state. I do not think the Ministry of Programme Implementation has gone into the intricacies and has undertaken field surveys, to review the progress of these programmes. But wherever this has happened and the State Governments, officials or the Hon. Members have tried to give cooked up facts and to figures, they have been exposed. Therefore, monitor the progress of the programme, it would be better to set up a High Power Committee to visit the states every month by rotation for proper appraisal of the 20 Point Programme instead of doing it from Delhi. We can do effective monitoring of the programme if we try to know the views of the workers and meet the people for whom the programme has been formulated at their doorsteps.

I would also like to give another suggestion to the Hon. Minister regarding the 20 Point Programme, which covers all the sections of the society and tries to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people living in both the rural and urban areas. If the Central Government wants to implement the programme as a national programme, then it should bring forward a comprehensive Bill in the Parliament in this regard. The Central Government should make it mandatory for the State Governments to effectively implement the 20 Point Programme and not to undermine the importance of the priorities of the programme. My suggestion to the Central Government is to bring forward a Bill in the next session of the Parliament to make the 20 Point Programme 1986, more effective and through decentralisation make the District Administration responsible as a unit. The last point of the programme is about the responsible administration, but what is the criterion of fixing this responsibility. The Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi wants decentralisation of power and effective implementation of various programme. For this, there is the need to establish proper coordination between the district level administrative, unit, the Zila Panchayat Parishad which comprises peoples representatives, Zila Yojna

Mandal and 20 Point Programme Implementation Committees, and this should be monitored by the Central Government directly. For giving proper direction to the implementation of the programme, the Centre should send its teams to various places for on the spot studies.

In the end, I would like to suggest that only those officials and people's representatives should be nominated to the implementation committees who are men of integrity and have full confidence in these programmes. Only those people should be nominated who can tour the rural areas for 7 to 10 days in a month listen to the grievances of the poor and participate in the meetings. The critical appraisal of the implementation and the decisions taken by the 20 Point Programme Implementation Committee must be regularly done at the district and the national level. I hope in the next session of Parliament when the Hon. Minister replies to the resolution under consideration and comes up with new proposals and schemes before the House the Hon. Members will also get an opportunity to cooperate in those schemes.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhuna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on the resolution moved by the Hon. Member, Shri, Somnath Rath, in the House.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I may again suggest let us adjourn now and continue the discussion in the next Session. The Hon. Member can continue his speech in the next Session. I hope, Sir, you will agree to my suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is up to the House. I have no objection to this. I hope the House agree to the proposal made by the Hon. Member.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, you may continue in the next Session.

19.26 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday
September 5, 1988 Bhadra
14, 1910 (Saka).*