

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA ; Then I can continue my speech on the next day. I will take two minutes to conclude my speech on Monday. Thank you.

15.04 hrs.

MOTION RE : FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh):
Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th August, 1985.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th August, 1985”.

The motion was adopted.

15.05 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : DEVELOPMENT OF HILL AREAS *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat on the 2nd August, 1985. Shri Harish Rawat to continue.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :
The Minister for Planning is not here Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Don't worry, you carry on. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here, he will look after.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this age of science and technology, the importance of Himalayas as a sentinel might have diminished to some extent, but so far as the question of its effect on the climate of the entire North India and fertility of Ganga-Yamuna plains is concerned, the importance of the Himalayas cannot be underestimated. Today, the Himalayan ranges are becoming sick. We are not paying requisite attention to them. A multi-purpose project needs to be formulated to keep the Himalayas healthy in the interest of not only hills but of the entire North India and the country's economy. I would not like to say that the planners in the country did not do anything or did not think about the development of hills after independence. Such a comment would amount to negating the efforts made by the planners. They thought about it and allocated funds for it also, but the required benefit is not reaching them. What are the reasons for it? In my opinion following are the reasons :

[English]

1. Shortage of resources for the States.
2. Inadequate linkage among various programmes.
3. Lack of perspective planning by the States.
4. Absence of physical monitoring at the field level.

15.06 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN *in the chair*]

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to portray two situations before the House. The first is about a common woman of hill areas who represents the life of 95 per cent women. This woman gets up at 4 O'clock in the morning. She arranges fodder for the

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buffaloes, milches them and prepare meals for herself and the members of her family. She fetches water for the entire family from a distance of 2 kms. After arranging fodder for the cattle she takes the manure on her head to fields which are 3 to 3½ kms. away. She works in the fields also and then returns home carrying grass on her head. She prepares meal for the entire family on smoking *chullahs*. After cleaning utensils she walks a distance of 5 kms in order to bring firewood. After that she pounds paddy in the mortar. After making proper arrangements for the cattle she brings water. After preparing meal for the night she grinds wheat at home for at least one hour.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is not the situation in hill areas only but in all the villages.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Sir, if it is so in all the villages then the hon. Minister and his government should take steps to remedy the situation. This is what I want to submit.

The second illustration is about an average man. After getting up early in the morning he works in the fields, which are scattered over a considerable distance, and completes repair work. Thereafter he walks a distance of 5 kms, to work as a labourer. While returning home in the evening he brings firewood. After that he brings water and helps the woman in the household chores. He is the same person whose 10 years old son has left his school to work in the city. This was the way of life of an average family living in hill areas before independence and it is still the same.

There has been some change both in the positive sides as well as negative side. If roads, schools and hospitals have been brought near, the forests near the village have started receding or almost vanishing. There has been a decline in the average rainfall in the areas which depend on rains for irrigation. Now, he has to trek more distance to bring firewood, fodder, etc. That is why the annual income of a

family living in hill areas and working for 15 to 16 hours a day has increased by merely 10 per cent despite planned development during the last 35 years.

Sir, the hon. Minister is not present here. I request the officers concerned to submit the record of the proceedings to him so that he may be able to know what I have said. I shall feel satisfied. We have not been able to effect an increase of 10 per cent in the average income of a family living in hill areas and working for 15 hours on an average during the last 35 years. Death rate among women has also not come down. A person there gets 25 per cent less calories against the minimum-number of calories required for his survival.

The Planning Commission has divided the persons living below the poverty line into three categories. In hill areas, 35 per cent to 38 per cent people come under the third category, i.e. the lowest category.

The economy of hill areas is based on two sources, i.e. agro based industries and remittances. As regards agriculture and agro-industries, even today terraced fields depend on rain, fields are scattered, conventional agricultural implements are used in cultivation, old variety of seeds and old method of sowing are used. No change has taken place in this regard. No concrete efforts have been made to bring any change in it.

I would like to cite an example about the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh. An Agriculture University is functioning there. Two laboratories one belonging to the State Government and the other to the Defence agriculture—are also functioning there. Despite all these things if you ask them whether they have done something to improve the mode of cultivation or to improve the agricultural implements, their reply will be in the negative. If you ask them whether they have made any change in crop rotation, their reply will be in the negative again. So far as increase in per acre production is concerned, I would like to say that in none of the 6 hill districts of Uttar Pradesh per acre production has

increased even by one per cent despite there being three institutions.

Animal husbandry is also linked with agriculture. Even today the cows are very weak and they yield very small quantity of milk. A buffalo there does not give more than 1 kg. milk. Nothing has been done to divert the farmer's aptitude towards poultry, fishing and allied subjects.

So far as horticulture sector is concerned, the condition of orchards raised during the British regime is appalling. The amount of loans advanced to farmers for raising orchards is being recovered from them by selling their lands. If someone has raised orchards, there is no market for his produce like apples and oranges. No government agency is taking any interest. No local industry manufacturing apple jam or orange juice has been developed there for utilising their produce.

Cold storages do not have adequate capacity to store potatoes. As rail heads are at a considerable distance, it is not possible to transport them to market. If he takes them to the market he does not get reasonable price for them. My friend made a mention about the Ramgarh Factory. This factory functions for hardly 10 days in a year and perhaps he knows better than me about the huge losses being suffered by it. If he does not know it, he can ask for the information from the Agriculture Minister of the State Government about the functioning of this factory.

The progress made in Silviculture and Sericulture in the beginning has slowed down.

The conventional tea gardens are also vanishing gradually. Nothing has been done to take care of them.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Planning that a campus of Pantnagar Agricultural University should be set up in Garhwal and Kumaon separately which may study the climatic condition and terrain of these areas and carry out research and development extension work and help in strengthening their agronomy.

Consolidation of any holdings is necessary there. The fields there are scattered so widely that a farmer, howsoever capable he might be, cannot get the requisite yield from that field to meet his needs. Government should make arrangements for houses, diesel, agricultural implements and long term loans to families affected by consolidation of holdings. Government should formulate a comprehensive scheme to promote raising of orchards and tea estates and sericulture and herbs cultivation and arrangements should also be made for their marketing also. There is great scope for cultivating temperate fruit in hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. They can produce fruit in abundance there and there is no dearth of market for them. A very big market can be found in Arab countries and foreign exchange can be earned thereby. But no research arrangements exist in our country to ensure good temperate fruit. I would like to submit that a research institute should be set up for temperate fruit development during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Fruit crop is not covered by the Crop Insurance Scheme. I fail to understand this. Oilseeds have been covered whereas fruits have not been covered by the Scheme. It appears that this has been done because of the absence of a lobby in favour of fruit crop in the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance and due to non realisation of its importance.

In the field of animal husbandry, I.R.D.P., Flood Programme and various Banks have started credit schemes so as to provide facilities to people for poultry farming, sheep breeding, fisheries and maintaining milch cattle of good breed. Besides, marketing facility should also be developed properly. The agronomy of hill areas is linked with forests and forests policy. Poverty is also one of the causes of increase in population.

Our forest policy is not balanced at present. The mountains are gradually denuded of forests and the people believe that Government does not want to protect the ecology of the area, rather it wants the people to preserve it. I would request the hon. Minister to give a thought in this

[Shri Harish Rawat]

direction. The funds that have been allocated for construction of roads in the hill areas have not been properly utilised. The roads that have been constructed are of poor quality and wherever a tree comes in the midst of a road that portion is left. It is almost a patch work. These roads are of no use. No positive steps have taken to protect ecology. As a result, there is great resentment among the people. I have myself seen a bridge of which one of the abutments has been constructed but the other abutment has not been constructed because that land is marked forest land and the prior approval of Central Government is essential. I would like to tell you for your kind information that 75 per cent of hill areas in the country are reserved forests and it has become obligatory for the people to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before starting any construction work in the area. So much so, that people have to obtain the permission of Government of India even for chopping a single branch of the tree which is part of the 'Panchayat forests', raised by them on their own land. I have observed that many times people leave their dead half-burnt in the cremation ground. On the one hand it is said that forests should be protected but we cannot do that at the cost of antagonising the people. Restriction are being imposed in the name of scientific exploitation and as a result thereof the State Government is not accepting timber for commercial use and this practice is not being checked. Afforestation is being done under civil forestry and the pine trees are being planted there. The ratio of other trees *vis-a-vis* pine trees is 1:100. It seems that the objective of afforestation is not meeting the requirements of the local people. The social forestry is being undertaken not to meet the requirements of fuel, fodder, implements or the local industry, but for commercial use and filling the coffers of the States. Instead of mass participation, it is Government participation which is being encouraged. The people are not being involved in this movement. If effective steps are not taken to change the prevailing situation, neither ecology would be preserved nor the interests of local people would be served.

I would request that Forest Conservation Act should not affect in any way the roads, power, irrigation or drinking water schemes that are being run under the Minimum Needs Programme. A long term scheme of social forestry should be undertaken and a law conferring ownership rights of such forests to the people should be enacted and they should be told that forests would remain under their control. If it is done, I can assure you that you will be able to fulfil the target of afforestation.

If I had time, I would have related to you how the history of forests is closely associated with the Independence struggle of the country since 1918. Whenever the Britishers tried to interfere with the rights of the local people regarding forests, the local people opposed the British Government and fought them. Today a feeling has been created among them that the forests will be snatched away from them and it will become Government property. You believe me that Government property is not at all safe; only that property is safe in which the people are interested and which they want to preserve.

Afforestation should be on a scientific basis and the people should be educated about it. The media is not being fully utilised for this purpose at present. Agricultural Research Institutes and Forest Research Institutes should have been opened where the local people could have been educated. They are not being educated so far. This education could be imparted through unofficial centres but it is not being done. While paying attention to this aspect, environmental task forces comprising women and Harijans should be constituted. If this is done, the people will come forward for receiving necessary education and will co-operate in implementing the policies of Government.

I would like to draw your attention to one more point regarding the forests which were till now a source of income for the States in spite of their being in the Concurrent List. Till the loss to the States on account of income from the forests is not made good, you cannot stop the States from felling the forests. I would request you to compensate the loss of revenue

which the State Government would suffer in proportion to the area under forest.

The afforestation and soil conservation programmes should be coordinated with other programmes like the NREP, DPAP and soil conservation catchment area Programme.

The available water and land resources should be utilised in a scientific manner and it should be linked with the social forestry and should be exclusively left in the hands of villagers.

There are various agencies which give funds for river valley projects. Assistance can be sought from the World Bank and other agencies.

Till the alternative sources of energy are not popularised in the hill areas, it will be of no use asking the people not to fell the trees, because no one will agree to it. The people take the plea that if they do not fell the trees how can they light their kitchen fire. So, from this point of view at least, till we do not fully meet the fuel and fodder requirements under social forestry, we shall have to provide alternative sources of energy to them when we are already spending so much money on it. Day before yesterday I had drawn the attention of Minister of Science and Technology and once again I would like to say that a separate agency should be constituted for the Himalayan Region to develop alternative sources of energy.

Until the forests in hill areas are associated with tourism, the people will not appreciate that the forests enhance the beauty of the area and increase their income. They would not be attracted towards afforestation. I would request you to open new tourist promotion Centres in the hill areas in view of the trekking routes and glaciers there. To start with, there is need to identify them.

Besides, I would also request you to maintain coordination between the environment and exploitation of natural resources. There is no dearth of natural resources in the hill areas. There are abundant hydel

resources but they have not been exploited. The three districts of Uttar Pradesh viz., Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttar Kashi can generate enough hydel-power to meet the requirements of the entire State but the hydel capacity has not been fully harnessed so far. Micro hydel projects can be set up at very low cost in the State but during the past five years I have been able to get only one micro-hydel project sanctioned and the work on this project is still in the initial stage... (*Interruptions*)

I had submitted that besides agronomy there is money-order economy in the hill areas which is consumption-oriented and not investment-oriented. And if it has to be made investment-oriented economy, it is essential to develop industries suitable to the ecology in the hill areas. There is need to introduce intensive handloom development schemes. Electronics industry, particularly the assembly units, should be reserved for the hill areas. The KVIC should initiate programmes to encourage local handicrafts. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the existing concessions should be made more practical and rational so that the benefits are not confined to the rail-heads only. The plan for Uttar Pradesh is going to be finalised soon. There are 8 hill districts in the State and certain concessions have been granted for their industrial development. The concessions are—investment subsidy, transport subsidy, 24 hour power supply at low rates. It is of course a good step, but as a result of this the districts like Nainital and Dehradun which are situated at Rail-heads, have developed so much that there is a tussle between Industrial development and agricultural development. If the same concessions and investment subsidy is given to Rail-head districts and to Chamoli or districts which are say 300 kilometres away from the Rail head, no entrepreneur will like to set up any industry there. They will like to set them up at Nainital or Dehradun. Therefore, I request that now as you are finalising the plan for Uttar Pradesh, you should urge the Uttar Pradesh Government that if they want to industrialise all the six hill districts and thus remove the internal regional imbalance, the State Government should raise investment subsidy by 10 to 15 per

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cent for the six hill districts. By doing so the money-order economy can be changed.

There is need to pay more attention to the development of education, rural health, drinking water supply, construction of power houses and cottage industries under the Minimum Needs Programme. The yardstick has been fixed on the basis of the population and the geographical difficulties have not been kept in view. If population-cum-terrain is made the basis, the plains linked with the hill areas are benefited more. This is the reason why there are ten S.A.D.s in every block of Dehradun district while in other hill districts of Uttar Pradesh like, Pithoragarh, the people have to cover a distance of 25 to 30 kms. to get medicines from hospitals. There are no schools. The schools have reached a saturation point. In the district of Nainital roads have also reached a saturation point. One has to walk 30 to 35 kms. on foot to reach his destination. The Ministry should pay attention towards the railway and road development of the hill areas. You have introduced Vayudoot service only in the developed sector and its expansion is taking place there only. It was announced earlier that the far flung hill areas will be linked but nothing is being done in that direction. The hill areas should be provided with helicopter service. Nepal has introduced helicopter service but there is no helicopter service in our area as a result of which the people and the entrepreneurs have to face great hardships there.

I would like to say something about communications. There is need to relax the norms fixed in the field of postal and telecommunication services. There is need to pay attention to the T.V. coverage and radio. In the hill areas it is the area and not the population which should be taken as a base for establishing these facilities. There is need to set up banks and administrative institutions on the same basis.

Sir, with a view to studying and solving the problems of these areas, it is necessary that an autonomous Mountain Research Institute should be established

where scientific study of these problems is undertaken in depth. A comprehensive network of this Institute should be established in the whole region so as to make the use of technology, medicine, engineering, veterinary and agricultural sciences according to the circumstances existing there. A comprehensive plant and resource survey should be undertaken of the entire region through it. Study should be carried out on the needs like energy, food, clothes, houses, cattle and education etc. of the people living there. Similarly, the climatic conditions and the medical requirement of the people should be studied. This Institute should conduct studies about the need to protect and develop the art and culture of the region and work for its promotion in the light of modern technology and science. It should work for the exchange of statistics data collection.

Sir, the States lack resources to undertake the task of solving the tremendous problems of the Himalayan region and meeting its needs. It is, therefore, submitted that the Central Government should shoulder the entire burden of the development of the hills. There should be a Department of Mountain Development in every concerned Central Ministry which will have a separate fund reserved for the developmental work in proportion to the area of mountains. The Planning Commission will have to formulate a separate scheme for the hill areas which are part of some State. A member should be nominated in the Planning Commission who may take up the following subjects pertaining to the hill areas like;

[English]

- (a) Micro Level Catchment Oriented Scientific Planning.
- (b) Develop the local resources, proper man-power planning and use of local talent.
- (c) Plan implementation.
- (d) Monitoring and evaluation.
- (e) Benefiting the people as a whole not a status group.

- (f) Changing of society from consumption to investment.
- (g) Inter region disparities.

[Translation]

And make available resources to fill the gap.

With these words I would request the hon. Members not to view the problems of hill areas in isolation. As I have said earlier the ecological balance and the economy of the whole country is linked with the hill areas. The Planning Commission should, therefore, be urged to make available the money for the hilly areas as per their requirement. With the development of hill areas and preservation of their ecology, the country will march forward.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I beg move.

That in the resolution,—

- (i) for "should undertake to bear the entire expenditure" substitute "and the State Government concerned should bear 75 per cent and 25 per cent expenditure respectively"
- (ii) in part (a), add at the end—

"particularly in the Prime Minister's Office"

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Resolution moved by Shri Rawat. He has rightly said that since independence, no attention has been paid towards the development of the hill areas till now. That is why our hill areas have remained backward. They have their own distinct problems which are quite different from the problems of the plains. Unless there is integrated development of all the areas simultaneously, the problem cannot be solved. The British

imperialists neither developed nor allowed to be developed the hill and the border areas deliberately to serve their interests. They treated these innocent hill people living in the hill areas as their "mercenaries". They used them to maintain their colonial rule and to crush the independence struggle of other countries.

They kept those people segregated from the mainstream of the country and deprived them of the education facilities and the developmental works as well. They did not allow them to make progress. The hill areas, particularly the border hill areas were declared "excluded" or "partially excluded" and were kept segregated. The people of those areas were not allowed to participate in the independence struggle. They were not given chance to make progress and develop.

This is my bitter experience which can never be forgotten. The condition in my constituency Darjeeling and in the neighbouring hill areas is illustrative of the same. The backwardness, illiteracy, shortage of foodgrains, unemployment, non-existence of factories and industries are common feature in the entire north eastern region and the adjacent hill areas. The result is that the people have become frustrated and the reactionary and the secessionist powers are misleading them by taking advantage of the prevailing situation and are posing a danger to the integrity and sovereignty of the country. We have its glaring example before us.

I have already said in the beginning that even after the Britishers left India, Government followed the same policy in regard to the hill and border areas. No special attention has been paid towards their problems. Therefore, if the country is to be made strong and if balanced development in all the areas is to be ensured, it is the need of the hour that you initiate some positive steps. Hon. Rawatji has correctly pointed out that if the Himalayan problems of the hill areas are to be solved then the Central Government will have to come forward and bear the whole expenditure for the development of the hill areas because no State Govern-

[Shri Ananda Pathak]

ment can bear such a huge expenditure. The Central Government provide some amount as grant to the Development Councils of the hill areas but that is not solving the problems. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the Planning Commission of the Central Government to take decision in regard to the quantum of expenditure and in which sector it is to be incurred. But in fact the Planning Commission does not pay attention in which sector and how much amount is to be incurred. In such a way, it becomes difficult to formulate plans for the development in accordance with the geographical circumstances. For example, you take the Darjeeling area. There the grant given for agriculture is much more than the amount provided to the Hill Development Council. But there are hill areas where it is not possible to develop agriculture because the soil there is quite different from that of plains. Laying all the stress on agriculture only will, therefore, be of no use. But you will have to pay attention to the specific problems of that area. The geographical structure of the hill areas is such that extensive cultivation cannot be undertaken. In many areas there are no roads for the movement of vehicles and the people always remain cut off from the rest of the world. The means of development cannot be made available to them. Unless there are roads the people cannot go to the far flung areas. Even if some agricultural development takes place in these regions, the agricultural produce would not reach market in the absence of transport facilities and in this way the farmers will not get reasonable prices for their produce. Facilities like Post and Telegraph, medicines and water are not available in these regions. These areas are inaccessible to outsiders such as engineers, doctors etc. Unless proper arrangement of roads and communications is made, it will not be possible to solve the problem. For the overall development it is the pre condition that roads are constructed and transport system is developed. Our Government will have to pay attention towards it.

The problem of unemployment is assuming serious proportion in the hill areas.

It is necessary that a number of small and cottage industries are established there. Heavy industries cannot be established there because special grant will have to be given for it. With a view to eradicating backwardness of the hill areas, the Central Government should make arrangements for special capital investment for the all round development of those areas so that employment opportunities could increase the unemployment could get the jobs and education could spread.

I would also like to submit that the climate of the hill areas is most suitable for setting up Electronics, watch, Television and Radio assembly units. Special attention should be paid towards this.

Cow and animal husbandry, bee keeping Sericulture and yarn reeling can be done in a very good manner there. Attention should also be paid towards this.

Water is available perennially in fast flowing rivers and springs in those areas. With the help of their water, many Micro and Mini Hydel Projects can be established there which can generate electricity. In this way, people would be able to get electricity and many small and cottage industries could be operated and many other works could also be done.

There is huge potential for development of tea plantations forests, tourism and many other such development works. Attention should also be paid towards this. The upper layer of the soil is being washed away and fertility of the land is being lost. Arrangements should be made to check it.

I hope the Central Government would take note of all these problems of hill areas and would take appropriate steps to solve them.

With these words, I conclude my speech and I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, the mover of the Resolution

deserves a word of praise for selecting a subject, which is not only important for the people of the hilly regions but it has got great importance for the people of the rest of the country. The whole House is aware that the Himalayas remained neglected for centuries. It was for the first time that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the lover of nature, could know the potential available in the Himalayas. All these potentialities attracted his attention and the development process started after independence. Smt. Indira Gandhi late P.M. also contributed a lot for development of Himalayan States. Before independence the Himalayan were known as the sentinels for the country but there was hardly any development of the Himalayas. Even today lakhs of people living in the interior of the Himalayas do not know about automobiles because those regions they remained inaccessible.

We have been imploring with the Planning Commission that the standards applicable to the plains do not apply to the hill areas. It is a matter of great regret that in spite of our repeated requests the Planning Commission, did not appreciate the problems of the hill areas, with the result that the hill areas still remained backward and they have not been exposed to the modernisation which the other parts of the country are experiencing. That is the reason why agricultural practices in those areas are still primitive and the Planning Commission, on the intervention of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, created a cell for the hill areas. But the approach remains the same. No doubt, a cell has been created but they have not changed their approach. I would invite the attention of the Planning Commission to appreciate our problems, because, we people of the hill areas have got different problems, and the planning had to be done and should be done according to the needs of the hill areas.

Sir, agriculture is not the first priority in hilly areas and Planning Commission should also keep it as Priority No. I, as far as the plain areas are concerned.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Mr. Chairman, there is not even a single hon. Member on the Opposition side !

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :
Has there been a hijack ?

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : They have no interest in hill areas.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I reiterate that agriculture should be priority No. 1 for the plain areas. Most of our areas are not open due to transport problems and that is why these areas remained very backward. The planners should bear this fact in mind and the other hon. Members also should keep this in mind that there is an organic linkage between the Himalayas and the rest of the country and the financial outlays for the development of the Himalayan States should not be determined on the requirements of those States, but they should be made on the basis of the requirements of the whole nation. Because there are certain problems which are not being experienced only by the hill people but they are being experienced by the rest of the country.

For instance, there has been lot of soil erosion. This problem of soil erosion is not the problem of the hill areas, alone but it is a problem of the rest of the country.

There has been premature siltation in big dams constructed for hydel generation as a result of which there is a decline in the generation of power. It is not only a loss of the hill people but it is a loss to the entire country. I would suggest to the Planning Commission that a comprehensive plan should be prepared for soil conservation in hilly regions. And this expenditure should be borne by the Government of India and by other States which are to be benefited by it.

There have been communication problems in the hilly regions. Due to the absence of roads there, the developmental work could not be taken up with required speed. Moreover, the standards applicable for the plains cannot be applied to the hilly areas. Take, for instance, road construction. It costs Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh for one km of road construction in rocky areas whereas Rs. 1 lakh is sufficient

[Shri Sukh Ram]

for the plains. So plan allocation has to be made according to the physical targets. Physical targets should be determined first and thereafter plan allocation should be made.

As regards agriculture, it is not a priority for the hilly areas. Hardly 5 per cent of the total land of hilly areas, particularly, the Himalayan region, is under agriculture. The climatic conditions of the Himalayan region are congenial for cash crops, like seed potato, off-season vegetables, mushrooms, vegetable seeds and so many other cash crops. So preference should be given to the production of cash crops. This will not only benefit the people of the hilly areas but the entire country.

There are natural resources. Not only the people of the hilly region but the rest of the country also can be prosperous if natural resources are exploited properly. The Himalayan States have got a very big potential for generating hydel power. But it is very unfortunate that out of the total power generated so far, the share of the hydel power is hardly one-fourth and the rest is thermal. The hydel power could not be exploited because of two reasons mainly. One is that it is capital intensive and the second is that its gestation period is longer. But the modern technology provides answer to these two problems. In 1980 I attended one international seminar in France. I saw the machinery being used for construction of tunnel which is the major component of a hydel project gets expeditious results as compared to conventional methods. If the period is reduced, then definitely the expenditure can also be reduced. So, there is a big resource which has to be exploited. I will request the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Energy to give more attention towards the exploitation of hydel power which is the cheapest in the world, pollution free and which has got a resource which is inexhaustible. Thermal power, on the other hand, brings pollution and its source is exhaustible. I would say that particularly as far as North India is concerned, we should not think of thermal power, we should exploit the hydel power. I must congratulate our Prime Minister for including the project known

as Nathpa-Jhakhri, in Himachal Pradesh in the Seventh Five Year Plan. This project had been hanging in the balance for about 6-7 years. In answer to one of my questions, I have come to know that it has been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. I realise the problem of the Government of India, particularly the Energy Ministry, that finance is the biggest constraint. But I think this is such an energy that even if we resort to the internal borrowings, we can get the finances for it. The generation cost of hydel power is very cheap. It ranges between 25 paise to 40 paise a unit and loan we get from whatever agency, we can return that loan plus interest thereon within ten years. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should now think more about the hydel power.

The main problem which has to be understood is that out of ignorance and greed the forests of Himalayas are shrinking at a great speed. A good monsoon which used to be the symbol of prosperity for the entire nation, now brings havoc to the plain areas. According to the experts, the estimated value of the damage caused by the floods to the standing crops, animals, roads, buildings, agricultural land, etc. is about Rs, 1,000 crores a year. This amount does not include the damage inflicted to the other sectors of the economy, such as, pre-mature siltation of the hydel reservoirs. So, my submission is that more area has to be brought under green cover in the Himalayas. The Plan allocation should be made not only according to requirement of the respective States in the Himalayas but it has to be made according to the requirement of the entire nation.

It is heartening to note that in the Seventh Five Year Plan Document, stress has been laid on bringing more area under tree cover. About 33 per cent of the area is to be brought under tree cover, from the present level of 25 per cent.

16.00 hrs.

But it is not stated in that policy document as to how much period it will take. By the end of the century it is proposed that about 100 million hectares have to be brought under tree cover and according to the estimates available it is only 30.7 million hectares which is under good forests

and the rest of about 70 million hectare is to be brought under the tree cover. So, if we take the previous figure i.e. between 1950 and 1980, only 3.7 million hectares of land could be brought under the tree cover, if we presume whatever trees were plant had survived. So, I would suggest the Government of India and the Planning Commission to prepare a fifteen-year action plan for bringing more land under the tree cover. According to the estimates of the experts, if the shrinkage of the forests continues with the speed with which it is continuing at present, then within 60 years the entire Northern India will be desert. Even God will not be able to save Northern India from becoming desert. So, if the entire India or the northern States have to be saved from the havoc, then lot of finances have to provided for this purpose for Himalayan States.

In the last four or five years, the Government of India and the States in the Himalayan region have become alive of this danger. Some legislative measures have been taken and some policy decisions have also been taken. As far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, we have nationalised all the forests, but now the commercial exploitation is being done by the Government undertaking i.e. the Forest Corporation. This exploitation is to the tune of seven lakh forty thousand cubic metres. If we take the full requirement of fuel wood of Himachal Pradesh alone, then it comes to four to five million tonnes every year. If we calculate the exploitation and consumption of the wood in a year for commercial fuel wood purpose then we can imagine how much can be the shrinkage of these forests. In the interest of the entire nation as far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, we are prepared to impose moratorium on the felling of the trees for the next fifteen to twenty years. Though we will be losing about twenty to twentyfive crores of rupees yet in the national interest of our request to the Government of India is that they should meet the cost of the establishment of forest department that comes to about Rs. 14 crores a year. I would suggest that this moratorium has to be imposed in rest of the Himalayan States if we have to save the Northern India. We are prepared to do it provided there is re-imbusement of the expenditure we incur on the establishment.

16.04 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

I would suggest if it is not possible for the Government of India and particularly the Planning Commission to create a cell for the hilly region in every department, they should at least activate the cell created in the Planning Commission. I would suggest that a person, who is well-conversent with the problems of the hills should head the Cell.

With these few words I support the resolution moved by my learned friend and I hope that whatever views the hill people express here, the Planning Commission will take them into consideration while finalising the Seventh Five Year Plan. I would also request the other hon. Members of this House that they should also support this Resolution so that we achieve the desired results.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat, regarding the development of the country and especially the development of backward and hill areas.

We have achieved political independence, but until we achieve economic and social independence, our political independence is incomplete. There is regional imbalance in our country and there are economic and social disparities. Under the present circumstances, one section of the society is very rich and the other section of the society is very poor and there is very wide gap between them. There are many states which are very backward, whereas other states are developing or marching towards development. We would have to do away with these regional economic and social imbalances and with this view I support the Resolution moved by Shri Rawat.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has taken very concrete steps for cleansing the river

[Shri Virldhi Chander Jain)

Ganga. The Himalayas play a very important role in the defence of our country and all the major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Kaveri and Sindhu etc. emanate from the Himalayas. These rivers help us to increase our agricultural production. Our country makes progress thereby and pace of development in the country is increased. If the Himalayas is deprived of its forest wealth and forests are demanded, our progress and development would come to a halt. There we must pay our attention towards the Himalayas,

Special attention needs to be paid towards the people living in hill areas. Our central government has paid its attention towards them. Shri Sukhramji has said that the central government has not paid its attention towards hill areas. This is wrong. The central government has paid its attention towards the hill areas in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Of course, the central government had not paid its attention towards hill areas during the first Four Five Year Plans, but the central government formulated two schemes for the hill areas during the Fifth Plan and the Sixth Plan. North Eastern Scheme was formulated for the North Eastern region, for which the entire amount of Rs. 340 crores was provided by the central government as special assistance.

The second scheme was formulated for the 8 districts of U.P., for which member of Lok Sabha, Shri Harish Rawat has also moved the Resolution. Under the second scheme, alongwith U.P, areas of Assam and Darjeeling of West Bengal were also covered. Not only that, Nilgiri areas of the West were also covered under it. In this way, this scheme was formulated for 2,30,000 square kilometers. This scheme was aimed at the development of the areas covering a population of 4 crores.

In this scheme of Rs. 560 crores, the subsidy component was 90 per cent and the loan component was 10 per cent. The central government and the Planning Commission have paid their attention towards this issue. But I would like to submit that even this provision of Rs. 560

crores by the planning Commission is inadequate, as a lot of work has to be done for the development of forests in the Himalayas. If forests are not developed, you would not be able to check the recurrence of floods. These floods are caused due to non-development of forests. It is therefore, essential that forests are developed and plantation of trees in the hill areas is undertaken on a massive scale, for which Shri Sunder Lal Bahuguna has also launched the *chipko* movement. The provision of Rs. 560 crores for development of hill areas which has been made during the Seventh Five Year Plan may be raised to Rs. 1000 crores. By making such a provision, topmost priority should be accorded to the development of social forestry. Thereafter, attention should be paid to the apple plantations and the cultivation of tomatoes.

Sir, you are already aware that everything cannot be produced in the hill areas. Wheat cannot be produced there. A certain amount of rice can be produced there. Therefore, whatever is possible there, must be produced. An hon. Member has rightly said that if an amount of Rs. 1,25,000 is spent for the construction of roads in the plains, for the construction of same length of roads in the hill areas an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs or even more would be required and if the mountain range is inaccessible, even Rs. 8 lakhs may be required. Therefore, special provision should be made for the development of hill areas.

Railway lines have been constructed only in Simla or Dehradun etc. in the hill areas. During the British rule, the Britishers had laid railway lines for their own convenience and entertainment. Therefore, you will have to lay railway lines in more places in the hill areas. Just as railway, lines are being laid in the North Eastern areas, similarly you would have to expand the railway network in other hill areas. There is Aravali range of mountains in Rajasthan also. Our Hon. Prime Minister had visited Doongarpur, Banswara and Udaipur and many other areas. Aravali range of mountains should be included in the development programme of hill areas and special interest should be taken in the implementation of this programme.

Similarly, attention would have to be paid towards development of desert areas also. Our hon. Prime Minister visited desert areas in Rajasthan. He deserves our congratulations for this. Government has to spend a lot of money for the development of desert areas also and sufficient resources are not available. Hill areas and desert areas should be developed by declared "no industry district" and providing subsidy to them. The Electronics Industrial units could be established there. By doing so, these areas would be brought at par with other areas. When these areas are developed more than the plains, our country would also march forward. There is a vast scope for setting up of industries in these areas but, Government must have the will to do it. The Planning Commission should pay special attention towards these areas and only then these areas could be developed. Along with this, I would also submit to you that the desert areas should also be provided the same facilities which are provided to the hill areas and only then the regional imbalance could be removed.

[English]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Sir, I am very happy that the House has found time to discuss a very important resolution sponsored by one of our colleagues, Shri Harish Rawat.

Sir, about three years back, one of my resolutions on this topic was also discussed for a pretty long time and then the Minister for Planning, Shri N. D. Tiwari gave a solemn assurance to this House that, he would do his best for the development of hill areas since he was the Minister for Planning also. I think, the approach has been accepted but in concrete measures, it is not materialised. It is very good to praise the hill area. It is very easy to praise the beauty of hills—pine trees, snow-clad mountains and the innocent people and the crimeless situation. But what is required is not spiced words. What is required is, actual allocation in each Ministry for the development of hill areas and for the projects which are coming up, which are sanctioned and approved. There, they should give some priority.

The Northeastern Hill Council was

constituted for the development of North-eastern States and we welcome this idea of separate Plan outlay. But I am sorry to say that whereas the Northeast has been given some consideration, the North-western hill of the country, comprising Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh have not got their due so far. We are in the Seventh Five Year Plan. But the projects which were started in the Sixth Five Year Plan have not been given adequate allocation. What is the reason for this? The reason is, no finances, no money and the financial constraint. As long as you base your parameters on the aspect of remunerative, no justice can be done to the hill areas. Let this House know and let the Government also know that the commercial activity in the plains is more attractive to the bureaucrats and the businessmen alike. I am sorry to say that it is for the Planning Commission also and with the result that the projects in the Plains get the cream of funds. If it is the Ministry of Communication, there is a golden triangle—Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. They have the big chunk. If it comes to STD, golden triangle is there. If it comes to Railways, it is a quadrangle—Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi. They get the chunk.

We want to know how long will the situation continue? Are the backward areas including the desert areas, the tribal areas, the hill areas not part of the nation? They are. They are integral part of our country. The people live in extremities of weather, extremities of climate and yet they catch a little attention when it comes to the planner in the Yojana Bhavan.

Sir, I would request the Minister for Planning who is here to consider as to what has been the allotment by individual Ministries to the projects in the hill areas. If it comes to the construction of railway-line like Nangal-Talwara, or Kathgodam or even Jammu-Udhampur line, the allocation is mere trickle so that the project does not die. We do not want the project to die. We want the projects to be completed. We want them to be constructive and the Planning Commission has, therefore, to come to our rescue.

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

The hon. Member has asked for cells in each one of the Ministries. The fact whether there are cells or not is not very much important. But the Planning Commission, as the cardinal of the national economy, as the custodian of the development of the nation and as a sentinel for national integration, has to ensure that these areas get the requisite funds—whether you pipe them through the cells that you create in the Ministries or you ask for the individual figures for each project in each hill areas of our State. That would be the beginning of your concern for the development of hill areas.

The hill areas of the country constitute a big chunk of area but a small chunk of population. It is not our fault that Himachal Pradesh has a population of less than 5 millions. It is not the fault of Jammu & Kashmir. It is not the fault of the hill areas of Garhwal and Kumaon. It is rather a good thing that the population is small and you have such a big chunk of area. But what are you doing for its development? So, this natural wealth has to be taken into account. The natural resources of the hills are being denuded by the commercial dams on the plains. The factories come up in the plains and flourish. Big cities develop and the hills suffer because the transport infrastructure is not there. The railway lines are not there. The roads are not there. The bridges are not there and the worst of it all, we are the victims of your planning since the First Five Year Plan. You have created these dams on our soil, the Bhakra, the Pong, this and that, and thousands of families have been evacuated. They have settled in Haryana and in Rajasthan. But in some cases, land has not been transferred to them. They do not own the land which was allotted to them in lieu of the sacrifices that they made coming from the plains of Bilaspur or some other areas and the result is dams come up, the projects come up, electricity comes, the irrigation comes but the people cry for justice.

A petition was made to the Petition Committee of this august House in the 6th Lok Sabha by people of Himachal

Pradesh who did not get their land in Hissar and other areas of Haryana because they could not get benefit from the IRDP and other programmes. They do not have any land in their name there. The local pressure is very high there.

I would request you to see what has happened. On the one hand, the people from the hills leave their hearth and homes. Their fertile valley gets submerged in the rising of the lake. They work on the water dams, electricity projects, irrigation projects and, on the other, they run from pillar to post. They are citizens of this beautiful hilly area which you create and spin poetry around them and you fail to take note of their misery.

So I would suggest that there should be an appraisal of the Planning Commission. Is the Planning Commission earnest about the fate of the hill areas?

The hon Minister should come and inform this House as to what is the actual allocation made to each one of the projects, may be railways, may be roads, may be bridges, may be hydro-generation and may be tele communications, may be postal activities or promotion of tourism or other activities. What is the actual allocation which has been given to them in each Budget and in each year of the Five Year Plan?

Very pious words flow and sweet lies honey.

We are told that hill areas is the concern of the State Government. But the Constitution-makers, in their wisdom, created three Lists, the Concurrent List, the Central List and the State List. All right. Development of agriculture is the concern of States because that is in the State List. What about the subjects in the Central List? Who is responsible for the development of hill areas so far as the railways, tele-communication, tourism and civil aviation and other things are concerned?

We are crying for an aerodrome at Simla and, time and again, files are tossed about and we are asked to give up the work, Simla is the one capital of the

State which is not linked by air. Similarly, there are other things which we require. We require aerodrome & we require special attention for tourism. We have been crying for a direct train from Pathankot to Delhi but the trains are extended to Jammu and Kashmir. That is a good thing. That is also a part of the country. But the people of Himachal have to suffer because they would not stop at Pathankot. The Ministry of Railways would turn a deaf ear.

Our Chief Minister has proposed Napta Jakhri project and other pipeline projects are coming along the Sutlej Basin. We have railway line from Nangal-Rampur to Mandi. That would be a very good project and up to Bilaspur it is a remunerative line. But the Planning Commission would refuse to consider it because there is constraint of resources.

When the question of development of hills comes up, there is constraint of resources. If the doubling and trebling of railway line in Bombay comes up, there is no constraint of resources. If you want a project in Calcutta, you move along for electrification of the entire line from Calcutta to Delhi and there is no constraint of resources. Because they are departmental concerns, they are recurring-expenditure projects. But when it comes to a new thing for Himachal Pradesh or Jammu & Kashmir or north-eastern region, then the board of constraint of resources is planted across our faces to tell us that we in the hills are second class citizens of the this country. We are not. In Himachal Pradesh alone more than 1,000 people have sacrificed their lives in the defence of their motherland since independence in the wars against Pakistan and China. And what have these people in Himachal Pradesh got? A branch of a bank cannot be sanctioned because the population is small. A bridge cannot be sanctioned because somebody earlier had got one bridge constructed. I must praise the hon. Minister Shri Chandrashekhar Singh who gave us one bridge at Dehar when he was Minister of Energy; he found that it was the genuine difficulty of the people and therefore, he gave it. But the bridge over Alhikhad near Bilaspur is still pending because the Bhakra-Beas Management Board which earns a lot of money from the canals and

electricity projects of Bhakra and Nangal refuses to acknowledge this fact that Himachal also has a due claim on this. We have a claim on the greenery of the Punjab, we have a claim on the electrified townships of the other areas. If they can prosper at our cost, the hills have no reason to be neglected. The people will not bear this for long. I want to place this on record that the people of our State, whether in the army or in the civil services, are crying for justice, and the Planning Commission has to ensure justice.

Similarly, our Chief Minister and the State Government have been suggesting various projects. For example, my friend Mr. Sukh Ram spoke of the areas which are snow-bound. The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi went to Lahul-Spiti and said that there should be a tunnel under the Rothang Pass to connect the Lahul-Spiti area. Those people stood loyally with the country. The Chinese attack was repulsed because every person in this area thought of his motherland; they said, "We are with our motherland, we are with India." For almost nine months in a year, they remain frozen, they remain isolated. The country does not bother about them. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi went there, there was a feeling that something would be done. But where is the mention of this tunnel in the Seventh Plan? Where is the mention of this Behrampur-Bilaspur-Mandi/Rampur proposed railway line? Where is the mention of Nangal-Talwara line? Nothing. And it is said, 'constraint of resources'. I would, therefore, plead here in all humility. Afforestation for stopping of floods is very good. But unless the people of the hill areas are given justice, unless the projects for afforestation, for creation of infrastructure, for connecting various areas with bridges, railway lines, roads and telecommunication facilities and other facilities are given, people of hill areas will have a feeling of unrest which is not good for the country. National integration demands, the dreams of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the firm steps of Shri Rajiv Gandhi demand that the hill areas should be given their due in the Seventh Plan and each year of the Plan should have sufficient funds for the completion of these projects; these must be accepted on a priority basis for the success

[Prof Narain Chand Parashar]

of our plans not only for the hill areas but for the entire country because these areas constitute a vital link in the national economy, they constitute a vital factor for the future of our country.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for the opportunity you are giving to me to take part in this very valuable debate. I am really thankful to my hon. colleague Shri Harish Rawat for bringing forward this Resolution and also to the new hon. Member from Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukh Ram, who has made his maiden speech, for his contribution.

I represent the north-eastern area, the hill area, the eastern-most part of the Himalayas; and our problems are peculiar. Our region is a very angry region of the hill areas. History has shown, after independence, that in Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland are now jointed by a part of Tripura, there has been a long spell of insurgency. The character of the development, the progress of the development, in these hill areas in the north-east, even after 38 years of independence, is that, most of these small States and union territories have now rail heads in their areas. There are no major industries. There is the massive problem of educated unemployment. The prices are abnormally high because of the transport bottlenecks. For instance, a brick costs two rupees now. One thousand first class bricks cost two thousand rupees. People are used to it. In this angry State, particularly of the youth the attention given to the development of hilly areas has not been adequate. It has been pointed out time and again that sufficient funds have been allotted and proper care has been taken for the development of north eastern areas. Sir, on the other day only I took advantage of a debate and mentioned that there is nothing like a generalised term "North-Eastern Area".

These small States and union territories have got their own problems. These small problems are now magnified because there has been no solution. Now the basic problem is unemployment. The only way to solve this problem is to start industries

based on agriculture, based on forest products. But indiscriminate destruction of forests in these areas will lead to practically non-availability of forest materials.

The western parts of Manipur State has plenty of bamboo resource. There has been a prolonged demand for a paper and pulp industry in Manipur. This has not been considered. There might be reasons for the Central Government, but the fact remains that bamboo resource of Manipur is being utilised for other areas.

Railway should be a good solution for those who are craving for employment. But there is no possibility of having any extension of railway in these areas. What is the way out ?

The only progress we have made there is in the field of education. Education had created a problem, but we have solved the problem of lack of schools and colleges. But along with the development in the field of education, we have created the problem of educated unemployment also. In Manipur we have as many as 60 First Grade colleges-including, of course, some private colleges which are not yet permanently affiliated to the universities. This means that every year we are producing graduates—a vast number of them. People who could have stopped at the stage of matriculation and opted for some kind of employment here and there, are now taking to education, because there is a way out. The parents want to keep their children engaged somewhere and these colleges are for the time being, good areas where the children can be kept satisfied. After graduation, to some extent, these boys and girls go for post graduation studies also. After getting MA, M.SC. and getting technical education, they have no way to go out.

Every State has got their own problems. Even the nearest big State of Assam has its own problems. They cannot help the neighbouring small States. Our suggestion from the very beginning has been that we should improve the forest area. Particularly referring to my own State which has an area of 22,000 sq miles, one-tenth is the valley and this bears all the burden of industries, agriculture, vegetable production and has nine-tenths of

the population and the rest are hilly areas, which are now being indiscriminately wiped out. This has affected us in so many ways. No. 1 this deforestation has affected the agricultural programme of the valley because floods come and as soon as floods go, there is the drought. Floods and drought follow on each other's heels and the topography of the valley is such that the sloping is so acute that water is not retained and from the catchment area to the end of the river water comes and goes so quickly. Naturally, the indiscriminate destruction of the forests in the hill areas is affecting the environment and it is affecting the climate. It may be true of Nagaland and it may be true of Mizoram also. Now if this is not checked, the entire area, its economy and agriculture will be affected.

So, our suggestion is : (1) this indiscriminate destruction of forests should be checked. Here the ICAR could play an important role. Because some of the hill areas are given to terrace cultivation, a programme could be handled in such a way that the jhumming cultivation, that is, the shifting cultivation indulged in by most of our tribals in these areas could be stopped. This can be done not merely by giving slogans but by training them and also giving them alternative arrangements. For instance, for fuel we have to depend upon the hill areas to provide us fire-wood. We have no coal supply. Then for our house building, furniture and other requirements of construction we have to depend upon the forest areas. Therefore, first we must go in for an intensive afforestation programme. Secondly, whatever resources are now available, we can utilise them. For instance, the bamboo resources in the western sector of Manipur should be utilised for starting a paper industry which can be established in the public sector.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : That would destroy the very same forests. Think of something else.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : About other resources in the hill areas, we have a lot of lime-stone deposits in our areas. There has been no proper survey and where there has been a survey and a project was sanctioned, it has not been properly

implemented for reasons best known to the authorities. We would like to invite the special attention of the Home Ministry and the Ministries concerned in this regard so that we receive not only routine sanctions and routine instructions but we also receive sanctions of major projects which bring a stable economy to the State. I think if this is done, it will help in the development of our State and save the people from the deteriorating political climate.

One point I would like to mention is about the Tusser silk scheme. This has been a very successful scheme but somehow this was stopped while progressing midway. The oak trees are favourable to the rearing of silk worm, particularly tusser worm. So, I would request the Textile Minister to give it a further boost.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on the private Members' Resolution moved by Shri. Harish Rawat. I congratulate him for bringing forward this Resolution for discussion in the House. I fully agree with the spirit of the Resolution.

Sir, it is good that of late the Government has taken up the hill area development programme because the fruits of planned development had not reached the people living in the hill areas as compared to the people living in the plains and other parts of the country. So, it is very good that the Government has taken up this programme. It has also evolved certain methods through which the allotments made to different States are systematised.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that unfortunately in these areas which are identified for receiving the benefits, the Eastern Ghats are omitted. I don't say it is a discrimination. It might be an unwitting omission. If we view from the point of view of certain criteria by which these areas are identified, even if we take the criteria of the height or the slope, the Eastern Ghats are fully justified to be included in these areas and are eligible for special Central assistance.

In our State in East Godavari, Vishak-

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts the Eastern Ghats are there and the people are very very backward. I only remind the hon. Minister that the Naxalbari movement had raised its ugly head in the Srikakulam hill area where most of the people are tribals and illiterate. They do not have any knowledge of modern agricultural practices. They are very far away from the economic development taking place in other parts of the country. So, it is for that reason these naxalites influenced these poor tribal people and brought them into their fold and continued the movement for a long period, resulting in great loss to the people, to the State as well as the economy. The movement which started there has got reduced in its intensity due to some efforts on the part of the State Government by taking A.P. Tribal Development Corporation in those areas where those tribals who gathered the forest wealth available in those hills were being exploited by the middlemen and the traders. They used to take away all the profits thereby keeping those people always poor. They remain always poor. Now, after coming into being of this Tribal Development Corporation, it has helped to some extent. But even today I am only sorry to state that the situation has not improved much. A survey conducted by the Government of India has clearly indicated that Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Srikakulam districts which form part of Eastern Ghats, are fit for coffee plantations, pepper and other species of plants. A very valuable forest wealth can be obtained from these areas. So, I request the Government to include the Eastern Ghats also in those identified areas so that they also become eligible for getting special component Central assistance and those people get help for taking up these crops as well as develop social forestry and sericulture. There is ample opportunity for rearing cows there. We are spending a lot of money on operation Flood II and in our State, a lot of efforts are put in that aspect. But unfortunately, in the plains due to very poor social economic conditions, the farmer is not very much interested in rearing the cows. So, the farmers are selling their cows. But in the hilly

areas, cows can be reared with very low cost and when they are grown up, they can be sold to the people in the plains. In this way, the poor people living in the hills can earn some money. I would therefore request the Government to take up all these programmes as well as establishing electronic and some small scale industries in these areas for the betterment of these people. I would also request the Government to take up social forestry programme through which the environment can also be improved. I appeal to the Government to include the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh particularly the districts of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Srikakulam so that they may become eligible for Central Assistance Programme.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very glad indeed that this question has come up for important discussion in this House. Various Members have already given many details as to how the forest wealth is being destroyed, denuded and the hill areas have been eroded because of the destruction of forests. Therefore, the Government itself has recognised the need to develop these areas and they have constituted these Committees. In doing so, they have tried to map out certain areas as deserving consideration and Central assistance. I agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Sobhanadreeswara Rao in his suggestion that hilly areas on the Eastern Ghats right from Orissa area coming down from Bailadila and right down to Nallamalla and then coming from Mahendragiri and Shevara hills and then meeting the Western Ghats at Nilgiris, should be included in the list of areas which deserve special consideration.

My hon. friend from Manipur, a North-Eastern State, has stated their case very ably. I endorse almost all the points and suggestions that he made except in regard to his suggestion for a paper mill. That has got to be examined very carefully in the light of the need for preserving and developing forest wealth. On the first appearance, that area appears to be so full of bamboos, so is the case with Malabar, some of the areas in Konkan, and so is the case with Vindhya Pradesh. But when it

comes to the case of a factory, and its terrific hunger for so many tonnes and tonnes of bamboos and the need for destroying all these bamboo clusters, we would have to be extremely careful, how far it is likely to add to the growing destruction of the forest in those areas. In this way, every other suggestion also for the development of industries in these area has got to be studied in a comprehensive manner with a view to see that the general ecology of these areas is properly maintained and sustained.

Apart from all this, if we accept all these suggestions, and we wish to implement them, there is the question of money, the financial resources. It is true that our Government since independence has been sparing more and more money when compared to what was happening when the Britishers were here. But what has been set apart for the development of these areas is really very small when compared to their needs. Wherefrom has this money to come? We are making so many special efforts in order to develop under-developed areas, like no industry areas, under-developed district areas and so on. In the same way, with greater emphasis we should think of the needs of the hilly areas and more especially of the tribal people. It is easy for us to say that the people of hilly areas should be protected, but what do we mean by people of hilly areas? Is it the people from the plains who go over there as merchants, industrialists and others, who are interested in exploiting the tribal people, or people who have been forced to live there for ages and ages and ages because of the pressure of population in the plains and, therefore, they had to withdraw themselves to the innermost recesses of these hills? It is these people, the tribal people, who should be given the first preference. That is one of the reasons why the other day, I posed a question to one of the Ministers here that when we are thinking of giving special facilities for people to organise and develop small and medium scale industries in these areas, Government should remember, the planners should remember, that first preference should be given to these people, in fact, the whole preference should be given to these tribal people to develop these industries, but are we in a position to do that? Have they got the knowhow,

have they got the managerial capacity and have they got the finances and so on? Therefore, would it not be necessary for the Government to think in terms of organizing cooperative enterprises there and play the role of protective mother, in so far as the cooperative enterprises and other smaller enterprises which may be organised by the tribal people themselves are concerned.

In addition to that, would it not be advisable for the Government itself with the cooperation of the local people to take the initiative to organise those industries and welcome the tribal people into cooperation in developing these industries, and working first as workers, then as managers and then as Directors.

Therefore, in all these directions, a new thought has got to be given carefully with the sole aim of helping these tribal people to come into their own. How are we to protect them from the ravages of the people who would be coming from the plains? The cooperation of the plains people is needed and can be made use of, but only subject to the overall responsibility of subordinating their claims to the overall needs and demands of the rights of the tribal people. That is the most important thing.

Supposing, we have all these things, where is the money to come from? Soon after the Second World War, all over Europe in the Western World, they imposed, what was known as 'Reconstruction Tax' in order to help those areas which had been destroyed. Similar effort has got to be made in this country. A particular cess of 5 per cent or 2 per cent, whatever it may be, on import duty as well as excise duty has got to be imposed over the whole of India and a special sum of money has got to be collected and pooled together every year and from out of it, you make grants to various areas for their development. Unless we make the rest of India, rest of the people of India to make their conscious contribution through this kind of a cess for the development of these areas and these tribal people, I do not think that it would be possible for the Planning Commission to devise some way by which they can possibly set apart sufficient funds for

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

the development of these areas, and these people.

There is handloom weaving industry in these areas. It is a domestic industry, but at the same time it can also be developed into a commercial enterprise. Then there is sericulture industry. So many other industries also can be thought of, in line with the overall need for the preservation and development of forest wealth. All these industries can be developed on a very large scale, but with the cooperation and combination of a large number of small units which would be within the industrial ken of those people.

Therefore, I mentioned this matter to our Prime Minister and he, himself, is seized of the importance of this particular problem. He is thinking about it and I think the Planning Commission is now giving some thought to it. I sincerely hope that it would be possible for the Prime Minister to think of such plans and such manner of helping these people and take over hundred per cent of responsibility and relieve the financial burden from the shoulders of the local governments which are already over-burdened and see to it that adequate funds are provided.

In that direction, I make this constructive suggestion that there should be a special cess or special tax. It is for the Planning Commission as well as the Finance Minister and the concerned development Ministries is the Government of India to think of some such special means by which the whole of India, which is better developed and which is being developed more and more, can be expected to make their specific contribution for the special development of these areas and thus for the development of their mother earth also.

So, in passing, let me say a word about the Chambal area. As you go by road or by train, you see thousands and thousands of acres of land, all broken up, as if the mother earth has been broken up into so many gashing wounds. All that areas has got to be developed. So is the case with Rajasthan and so is the case with large

areas of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. All these areas are crying for development and more so, their people. Therefore, their claim on the generosity, on the capacity to sacrifice and suffering and the contribution of the other people, becomes insistent if only we give some thought to it. Mahatma Gandhi used to think about these people day and night and so was Thakkar Baba. Therefore, I hope Government would give serious thought to this.

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this Resolution is over. Shall we extend the time ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS ; Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise on a point of order. If you are extending the time, when would you take up my Resolution?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we extend the time ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : By one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : In such a case. The other Resolution of Bill does not lapse Permission may be given to move it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House agrees to extend the time for Resolution by one hour more.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Should I move my Resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for the House to decide. Shri K.D. Sultanpuri.

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me time to express my views.

If one looks towards the development of all the hill areas in the Himalayas, whether it is U.P., Kashmir, Himachal or Nagaland, whatever roads have been constructed in the hill areas are Kachcha roads, the rains wash away these roads in one year only. In this way all the money spent on them is wasted. The State Governments do not have funds for their maintenance. The State Governments are incapable of maintaining them. If taxes are levied in hill areas, people do not have the capacity to pay the taxes.

I would like to submit that if hill areas are to be developed and the villages in the hill areas are to be linked by roads, it is essential that more funds are allocated for this purpose.

Many things have been said by Prof. Rangaji that felling of trees is leading to the soil erosion in the hill areas. It is causing great damage to our country. If the soil is carried to the plains during rains, our agriculture would suffer a huge loss.

I would like to submit that recently the hill areas have faced the drought and the people of hill areas have suffered a lot. In many villages, the women have to walk a long distance to fetch drinking water. The men in the village go outside for work, but the condition of the women is very pitiable. The women have to cover long distances to fetch water for themselves and the cattle. In this way the people of the backward classes are facing great difficulty.

I would like to submit that lift irrigation schemes should be formulated for Himachal Pradesh and other hill areas.

I would like to submit that the estimates for a high school in hill areas should not be prepared on the basis of the estimates for a high school in plains. A member from Mainpur had said that the cost of a brick in their area comes to about Rs. 2. How can schools and colleges be constructed this way ?

The education in the hill areas is in a very bad state. The arrangement for it is such that there are middle schools in far flung areas high schools are in other areas and colleges are at a distance of as much as 10 to 12 miles.

Although we want to remove unemployment among them and ask them to compete in the examination yet they are unable to get employment and that is why they remain backward. Bank Officers are sent from here but they do not work properly because they want to get away from there. There are very few people whom the climate of that area suits. Therefore, you will have to provide better amenities for them, like education for their children etc. and develop it in such a way so that they do not face any difficulty there. Our hon. Prime Minister has personally visited many of these places and he deserves congratulation for that. For the removal of poverty in the hill areas good programmes have also been drawn up.

We often observe these days that the children of poor people of hill areas do not get admissions in public schools or the Central Schools, but on the other hand the children of baristers and other elites get admission in those schools. This inequality will have to be removed.

The benefits of I.R.D.P. and other such programmes are also not reaching the poor hill people. They are not educated and they do not know how to get a loan and therefore they are deprived of this facility.

The hill areas are being denuded of the trees. Steps should be taken to check this.

[K. D. Sultanpuri]

In this regard the Resolution of Shri Harish Rawat contains good points and he deserves congratulation for that. This Resolution will help in checking denudation of forests in hill States like Himachal Pradesh, U.P., Nagaland, Mizoram, Kashmir, etc. I would suggest that a cell should be set up in every Ministry which may monitor the development of hill areas. Since Independence i.e. since the Britishers left this country, no new railway line has been laid in the hill areas. The condition of roads is deplorable. All the Kachcha roads should be metalled. The people are leading a difficult life.

All the new industries are being set up in the plains. The hill areas have been left far behind. There is need to set up factories in the hill areas and to issue licences for setting up new industries but that is not being done because the hill people are generally poor. They do not know what sort of industry would be feasible in that area. The people who get subsidy are very clever. They get the licences issued from the Ministry of Industries, but they do not set up any industry therefor as long as 8 to 10 years after that, and the people do not get any employment whatsoever. So, what is the use of such factories ?

Himachal Pradesh had also to face the law and order problem on account of disturbances on the Punjab border. The same is true of Uttar Pradesh. If you happen to go from Kotdwar towards Pithoragarh, you would see that there is no industry around. No one is ready to set up an industry either in Chamoli district or in the higher reaches of Garhwal or Rishikesh. Who would go there ?

The dams on the hydel projects in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are becoming silted on account of soil erosion. Enough funds will have to be allocated so that afforestation and plantation of trees could be taken up so as to check soil erosion. Special attention should be paid towards it.

It has been rightly said that an electronics complex should be set up in hill

areas. There is wide scope for electronics in the hill areas. In the plains there is need for air-conditioners in the electronics factories but in the hills there is no such need. So, in future more licences should be issued for electronics factories in the hill areas.

The condition of telecommunications in the hills is deplorable. There are no telephones at many places. When the telephone department is asked to provide that, the Ambala or the Lucknow office clarifies that the necessary requirements are not being met. The criterion can be met only when there are no hill areas. More funds should be allocated for the effective functioning of the telecommunications there.

Apples and potatoes are cultivated in our State and both these crops are infested with a number of diseases. I would request the hon. Minister to allow the farmers to cultivate opium so that they get more money for their produce and the crops are not affected by any disease. We distribute insecticides.....(Interruptions) Dagaji, you are laughing, because you are not aware of the problem. These things should be done on priority basis.

Hon. Brahm Dutt is present and he has been the Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh. His constituency extends from Rishikesh right up to Himachal Pradesh. It has been declared as a tribal area. I demand that Renuka, Shilai, Chaupal and Rodu Assembly segments should also be declared as tribal areas and they should get the same facilities as are available to the people of Uttar Pradesh so that they can make progress.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to Shri Harish Rawat who has moved this Resolution and also to you for giving me this opportunity to speak for the poor people who live in hill areas. When one moves from Punjab into Jammu and Kashmir State one finds the Pakistan border on one side all along and on the other side it is all mountainous. This is an area where, as Shri Sultanpuri also pointed out, one has to cover a distance of ten

kilometres to fetch water. So far agriculture is concerned, in the first instance nothing can be cultivated and if per chance the maize crop is cultivated either there is no rain or if there are rains the bear or other wild animals destroy the crop. In the Bhadarwah and Kishtwar areas raw material is to be found in abundance and mines can be exploited but there are no means of communications in these places. The most famous sapphire mine is in this area, but even if ration is to be carried to that place it will have to be carried on the sheep or goat back. There is no other means of transport. Therefore, I would request, as Harish Rawat has already suggested, that a cell should be set up in every Ministry which may look to the welfare of hill areas and give priority to their development. There are no two opinions that there are many natural resources in hill areas which can still be exploited. The Government has made considerable efforts in this direction but they are still inadequate. There is wide scope for hydro-electric power project in our State. It is true that two projects have been launched—one is at Kishtwar and the other is at Salal—but it is not enough. Tourism should be encouraged and necessary arrangements should be made to develop the area so that the plight of poor people may improve. First priority should be given to the construction of roads so as to make these places accessible to the tourists. The people wish to travel to these places but they are unable to do so in the prevailing conditions. The people there depend on tourism for their means of livelihood but how can the tourists reach these places if there are no roads? If the tourists do not go there the plight of the people will remain unchanged because there is no other work at these places and there is continuous felling of trees.

It is true that a railway line between Jammu and Udhampur is being laid and it is a matter of only 60 kilometres but the pace of work on this line is so slow that I feel it would take another ten years and then it will be of no use. Besides, labour engaged in this work has also been hired from outside the State, I, therefore, emphasize the need to encourage tourism,

The rearing of sheep and goats has also great scope in the State. People should be provided loans for it. You would be surprised to know that if mutton is to be supplied in that area, the goats are brought from Rajasthan. The milk consumed in Kashmir comes from Amritsar, Government has allocated considerable funds for the schemes formulated by it.

The common man and the poor man does not get the benefit of these allocations. It was being discussed in the morning in this House that one is not able to get subsidy in the plains till one bribes the concerned person who sanctions the subsidy. You can yourself imagine the condition in hill areas regarding the subsidy. There is no doubt that Government has made a lot of efforts in this direction. This is an important place and during the times of the Mughals when the Emperor happened to pass by, he used to stay at least for two to four days here. But gone are those days and now, if the plight of the poor has to be improved then the means of communications will have to be provided and tourism will have to be promoted.

Another most important thing is that people from other parts of the country have gone to the hill areas and have earned crores of rupees by selling its precious forest wood and resin, but the poor man of that area did not get even a single paisa as his share. I would, therefore, request the Government to pay immediate attention to the plight of the poor in the State and help in improving it and making it more strong. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for the manner in which he has been working for the development of the country. Some people were apprehensive and others floated rumours to the effect that the country would face internal and external problems and the condition of the country would deteriorate and it is not going to improve. There were problems in the country such as Punjab problem; Assam problem and Gujarat problem, but the manner in which the Hon. Prime Minister solved all these problems shows that he came like an angel and curbed the people who wanted to create chaos in the country,

[Shri Janak Kumar Gupta]

He said that he wanted to work for the progress of the country. He made possible the task which appeared impossible. He obtained first hand information by visiting the huts of the Adivasis and he is making all efforts to remove their poverty. He has anxiety towards the problems of the people of the country, similarly he has love for these people as well. I am fully confident that he would provide more funds for solving their problems and for their upliftment.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, only he can enjoy the scenic beauty of the hills, who does not cause damage to them. Rawat Sahib has moved the Resolution for the development of hill areas; we would like to live in the deep woods and it would be better if the city dwellers do not cause any damage to the hills. But the people living in the cities have destroyed the forests. The hon. Planning Minister should give serious thought to their problems and apply his cool mind. The people living in cities have played with the lives of the people living in the hill areas. Rawatji, all the mountains are the abode of gods. Badrinath temple is in the mountains. Dehradun, Nainital all these places are abode of gods, but ever since the people of cities started visiting these places, they constructed roads there and destroyed the forests. The people living in the hill areas used to be very strong, but Rawatji, you are no longer that much strong. After moving in motors and cars on Delhi roads, you have lost your vigour and vitality. The people of cities cannot be so strong as the people of desert areas who walk on foot in the deserts. What is the condition of our hill stations today? What sort of hill stations—Mahabaleshwar and Ootacamund are there these days? You can have a look at Darjeeling near Calcutta. You can see Mount Abu in Rajasthan, what has happened there? The rich people have constructed their bungalows there. They have denuded the forests of all their vegetation. Forests have been destroyed by them... (Interruptions)... These people living in the cities have not done any good to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should address the chair.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, All these members, speak collectively. I therefore, seek your protection. I am speaking under your protection. This thing has come to my mind. If nobody had caused any damage to the mountains or the forests, this condition would not have developed there. Paper mills have been set up there and thousands of areas of land has been denuded of the trees and vegetation. Such a scheme has been formulated by you. What sort of plans do you want for these areas? Fortunately, our Minister for Science and Technology is sitting here. All of us should give serious thought to this problem. The people of our Rajasthan, who live in the desert areas, are so strong and sturdy that nobody can compete with them. Even the football players cannot beat them in any competition. If we have to defend the Himalayas against China, only the people living in the mountains can do that. Only they can face them and not Rawatji. Therefore, new methods and new techniques should be adopted there. Industries should be set up there. Projects of Science and Technology should be undertaken there. I have been observing your planning for the last 38 years. Many plans have been implemented and despite spending a huge amount during First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Plans, desired development in the hill areas has not taken place...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for Private Members Resolution is over. This discussion will continue next time. Mr. Daga will continue.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Price of colour T.V. sets

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Triupati) : At the time of the ASIAD in November 1982, we had imported 90,000 television kits. At that time we had given 400 licences out of which 50 manufacturers are at present manufacturing colour TV