

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

[Translation]

“That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th November, 1986”.

*The motion was adopted.*

RESOLUTION REGARDING GROWTH OF RURAL ECONOMY-(Contd.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Dr. D.N. Reddy. The Hon. Minister may intervene.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Madam Chairperson, several hon. Members have participated and have put forth several suggestions on the Resolution moved by the hon. Member Shri D.N. Reddy.

[English]

DR. D.N. REDDY (Cuddpah) : May I request the Minister to speak in English ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot insist the Minister. There is a translation you can go through it.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I can speak in English also. But many members have spoken in Hindi, so I want to speak in Hindi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may speak in whatever language he would like to speak. There is a translation going on already.

DR. D.N. REDDY : I am not questioning the right of the Minister. I am only requesting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot insist on him to speak in a particular language.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandaur) : Mr. Minister, you may speak the language of your heart.

SHRI SUKH RAM : India lives in the villages and there is no doubt that the strength of villages is the strength of India. The Planners have always kept and will always keep this thing in mind. When India became independent and we started the system of planning, attention was paid in this direction. At that time our great institution under the leadership of Pandit Jawhar Lal Nehru framed land reform laws and many other laws were passed in the country to give ownership right to the farmers and the tillers. During those days about 169 laws were passed in the country under which lakhs of tillers who were not the owners of land, were given the ownership rights. By including all these laws in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, these were kept outside the purview of the courts of law and in this way a revolutionary step was taken by the Government of the Independent India. For whom all these things were done ? These were done for the welfare of the farmers living in the rural areas. Under those laws, 7.7 million tillers were given the rights of ownership for 5.6 million hectares of land. I concede that till now some of the States have not implemented the land reforms in the desired manner but the Government of India is continuously making efforts to get these laws implemented. We want that the man who tills the land should be the owner of the land so that he is able to do farming independently, use modern means properly and produce more. Under the ceiling law, 7.45 million acres of land has been declared surplus. In this way, you will find that by giving possession of 5.76 million acres of land to the landless farmers, our Government has taken a revolutionary step. This helped in improving the condition of the rural people, particularly that of the farmers. In addition, there are people in our society who were called landless. Under the 20 Points Programme of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, these people were also distributed land. I agree that land is inadequate for them to make both ends meet, but earlier they were considered inferiors and how they have got a status in the society.

Alongwith this, the planners formulated a scheme for the small and marginal farmers so that they could be helped. We helped them so that they could take the maximum advantage of their land. For that a sum of Rs 500 crores has been earmarked in the Seventh Five Year Plan as Centre's contribution. It is true that the agriculture contributes 36.6 per cent in our net income and I am of the view that it is time now when we should modernise and mechanise our agriculture sector. I feel that a big change has been witnessed in the farming. We have become self-reliant in the matter of agriculture. We produce 150 million tonnes of foodgrains at present and are no more dependent on foreign countries for foodgrains.

Our land is capable of producing much more and we need mechanisation for exploiting it. I, therefore, want that this august House and the hon. Members may discuss it and express their views so that during the Eighth Five Year Plan period, we are able to increase our GNP or NNP by producing the maximum in agriculture sector.

Madam Chairperson, I have heard the discussion and views expressed by both the sides on this Resolution and I have noted down the suggestions made, but certain things have been said due to ignorance, which I think have been said in the absence of full knowledge of all the facts. Had Shri D N. Reddy been aware of the facts, he would not have demanded Rs. 10,000 crores through this Resolution, because the Government of India and the State Government are spending more than that and are trying to improve the lot of the rural people.

When our planners observed that the Plans are helping in improving the economic conditions of the people and bringing them above poverty line, they included more programmes in the Plans so that the evil of poverty could be eradicated from India. For this purpose they undertook ambitious programmes in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

At the initial stages of IRDP and NREP all the Blocks of the country were not covered under them and they were included on a selective basis. In the Sixth Five Year Plan all the Development Blocks were covered. We have achieved more than the tar-

gets. For example, under IRDP it was decided to bring 150 lakh families above the poverty line, but instead, 165.62 lakh families were brought above the poverty line, which means that we have surpassed our target. Similarly under NREP a target of 15,000 lakh mandays was fixed. Against that we were able to create 17752 lakh mandays of work. In RLEGP also, against a target of 3600 lakh mandays, the number of mandays created was 2627 lakhs? During the Sixth Five Year Plan Rs. 3880.16 crores were spent on these programmes. In the Seventh Five Year Plan which is in its second year now, through these programmes not only have we achieved our fixed targets, but have also crossed them. For example, in IRDP, our achievements are 123 per cent, in NREP these are 137 per cent and in RLEGP the achievements are 128 per cent. Whereas in the Sixth Plan, the amount spent was Rs. 3880 crores, in the Seventh Five Year Plan we are going to spend Rs. 6590.06 crores. In addition, we are spending Rs. 1685 crores for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Had the hon. Member glanced at these programmes, he would have come to know that around Rs. 8,000 crores is going to be spent only on these three items in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Alongwith these, there are schemes which relate to amelioration of the lot of the rural people, removal of regional disparities, improvement of the living standard of the people. There are certain basic needs which should be provided to every person in the country and these have been included in the minimum needs programme. In such a programme, schemes for adult education, primary education, rural health, rural water supply, roads in the rural areas, electrification, housing for rural people domestic cooking fuel and such other schemes have been included. In this way, 10 components have been incorporated in these programmes. Rs. 6547 crores were spent on basic services during the Sixth Five Year Plan and in the Seventh Five Year Plan Rs. 11545.94 crores have been earmarked for these services. This is 80 per cent more than what was provided in the earlier Five Year Plan. There is no doubt about it that all these programmes are being run for improving the economic condition of the people. These programmes are in addition to our

normal services.

If you look at the figures, you will find that these normal services benefit the farmers and the rural people. During the Sixth Five Year Plan Rs. 14490.95 crores were spent on programmes relating to crop protection, animal husbandry, fisheries, irrigation etc., but in the Seventh Five Year Plan, allocation for these items has been increased to Rs. 22319.51 crores. You can very well see that such a huge amount is going to be spent for the people living in villages to improve their living conditions.

A point was raised during the discussion that money is being provided, but programmes are not being implemented properly and the funds made available by the Centre or by the State Governments do not reach the intended beneficiaries. When this complaint reached the hon. Prime Minister, he took the requisite steps and made arrangements for concurrent evaluation of the programmes. The State Governments also evaluate the programmes. The nodal departments of the Centre running the programmes also review the position. But in addition to that, one more concurrent evaluation was started in October 1985. 29 research and educational institutions were entrusted this work so that they may make independent evaluation. In addition, they were to find out from the beneficiaries, whose number is about 20 in each Block, what is the difference between the assistance provided to them and the assets created by them with that amount. If the difference is more than Rs. 500, then the District Collectors were made responsible and they were required to report to the State Government where that money was spent?

Simultaneously, a grievance cell has also been opened. The State Governments were directed to open grievance cells in which the beneficiaries could lodge their complaints. They should take proper action on them.

Similarly, there is a proposal to form a flying squad also to detect the bungling. The most important thing is that these programmes are to be run by the State Governments. So far as the function of the Planning Commission is concerned, we have repeatedly been writing to it that they should follow the policies and rules which the centre has formulated.

As you are aware, there is a separate Ministry for the 20 Point Programme. The Ministry finds the shortcomings. In addition, the Planning Commission also reviews the position. Recently, the review made in July 1986 about the minimum needs programme revealed that we have almost achieved the targets and the implementation of the programme has been quite satisfactory. Wherever any shortcoming was seen, that was noted and the State Governments were informed about that asking them to take proper action to avoid recurrence of such shortcoming.

The issue which is being discussed is very important. Every hon. Member is concerned with it. The implementation of drinking water programme in the villages should be accelerated. 2.31 lakh problem villages were identified as on 1.4.80 and out of them 1.92 lakh villages were provided drinking water facilities during the Sixth Five Year Plan. In addition, 47 thousand ordinary villages were also provided water. In this way till 31.3.1985, people of 56 per cent villages had been provided drinking water facilities. In the Sixth Five Year Plan, Rs. 2485.3 crores were spent out of which Rs. 1566.62 crores were spent in State Sector and Rs. 918.65 crores were spent in the Central Sector. This amount was spent during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that in my region, Mathura a survey for drinking water has been made. I want to say something about that. Those villages where water was found to be saline have even now been left out and the people have to go 4 to 6 kms. away to fetch drinking water. I, therefore, request that orders for a fresh survey of the area should be given, because the survey so far made is not correct.

SHRI SUKH RAM : If you listen to me patiently, you will agree with me. When such complaints were received, another survey was made and as I have been informed, there are 1.92 lakh villages where drinking water facilities have been made available, but due to sources of water going dry or sources of water being on the sea coast, became saline. Several reports of this nature have been received that in the villages where water was shown to have been provi-

ded are facing water shortage. We shall think over this problem also.

There is a programme called International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981—90. It is a Central Government Programme and we feel that in this decade, those villages should be provided drinking water where it has not been provided.

Just now the hon. Member talked about his region. For me, it will be difficult to give region-wise details, but I shall find out what is the State Government programme. I shall definitely look into the problem, but just now I was referring to the position at national level.

[English]

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : I would like to know from the Minister what is the arrangement for supplying sweet water, where they only have saline water, because there are lots of villages in our country where only saline water is available for the people. But upto now we do not find that it has been changed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the Minister has already spoken about the problem villages ; probably the hon. Member did not listen to it.

SHRI SUKH RAM : We will look into that problem, and see what can be done by us and what the State Governments can do.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : It is not about one village. Every village is a problem village. That is why this resolution was moved.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Whereas in the Sixth Five Year Plan, Rs. 2485.33 crores were spent, in the Seventh Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 3454.47 crores has been allocated. In the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan i.e. in 1985-86, 45,000 villages against a target of 30663 villages, have been provided with drinking water. In this connection the Planning Commission has

taken one more decision also that 10 per cent of the Plan allocation will be spent on such schemes where no expenditure is made on maintenance and repairs. We have taken a decision that 10 per cent of the Plan allocation may be set aside for the proper maintenance of water schemes and other works that we have carried out. However, the funds for maintenance come under non-plan expenditure. As I have just now said that the number of those villages which have been provided drinking water facility is 1.89 lakhs and not 1.92 lakhs.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) : Madam Chairman, the problem of water is getting acute due to drought. When facilities are available in the villages, then why are the people migrating to cities. When everything is going on so smoothly. (Interruptions)

Even after providing so much drinking water facilities, why do the schemes of drinking water or tubewells are not working. It is because there is a situation of drought and famine in that area. Sitting in the office you can furnish figures that water has been provided to two lakh villages, put how will you solve the problem of water caused by the drought and famine ; as 90 per cent of water sources have gone dry.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please listen to me.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : The mechanics are not available in most of the villages for doing repairs of the tubewells. What are you doing for that ?

SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL : His speech should be realistic one only on the basis of field work, not paper. Paper may speak anything.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Madam Chairman, as I have just said the Planning Commission gathers information and chalks out programme on that basis. It allocates funds to the State Governments according to the pro-

gramme by taking into account the funds available with the State Government and the Centre. So far as the question of the Centre is concerned, it has no office in the field to run those programmes. Only the State Governments can run these programmes. The State Governments have Assemblies and M.L.As. Through them the State Governments can be informed as to where the loopholes lie and how these can be removed. In our opinion the consumer must get the benefit of the money that we spend. That is why we have furnished these figures. We have allotted this amount for this purpose and so much of amount has been spent. If it has not been spent properly, you can lodge a complaint. You can make complaint to the State Governments as well as to the centre. It becomes your duty to ask the State Governments to implement the programmes properly. So it is not proper to say that these figures do not reflect the actual work done in the field. If there is any difference, we would like to have your suggestions in this respect.

So far as the question of planning is concerned, if you point out lacunae in our policies we shall try to remove them. If it is not being implemented properly, you can raise this matter in the proper forum like the State Assembly and the administration of that State or can also write to us. We will also write to them to implement these policies properly.

A point has been raised about marketing. It is our view that the farmers have been exploited for centuries, and to some extent the same thing is there even today. Taking this into consideration, a scheme has been devised under which it is aimed to make available the produce of the farmers to the consumers through co-operatives and remove the intermediaries. We have launched a big programme in this direction. I do not say that this programme is hundred per cent according to the requirement, It is not yet according to the requirement. When the First Five Year Plan was launched, there were 286 regulated markets before the plan and now their number has gone up to 5663. This number is likely to increase further. But there are still some States which have not passed this legislation. We repeatedly remind them that they have to provide regulated

marketing facilities so as to safeguard the interest of the farmers. At present there are 22,000 such markets which are run either through local bodies or private agencies. Besides, agricultural produce is also marketed through co-operatives and by the end of Sixth Five Year Plan agricultural produce worth Rs. 3,032 crores was marketed through them. We tried our level best to know about the total agricultural marketable surplus, but we could not get details of the agricultural produce sold through private marketing agencies and there seems to be nothing wrong in it. because why will the dealers in the private market tell us the factual position. But we have details of the agricultural produce sold through regulated markets. Our aim is to market agricultural produce worth Rs. 5,000 crores through co-operatives by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. For this we have made a provision of Rs. 149.44 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Our efforts will be to market agricultural produce through co-operatives. The co-operatives should be free from any bungling and there should be only farmers in it and not the middlemen. But this is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to see that the policies formulated by the Centre are implemented properly.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : In this context an important issue pertains to the farmers also. The Government should see to it that whatever the farmer produces in the country, he gets reasonable price for it. The Government should increase the prices of agricultural produce of the farmers. The prices of all the items are increasing. The cost of fertilizers, agricultural implements, pesticides and labour has shot up, The Government should increase the prices of agricultural produce in that position, but they are not paying any attention towards it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. After he completes his reply, then you can ask him.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Everyone knows

that we have set up a Commission for this purpose. It determines prices of agricultural produce every year and the Government approves them. This has benefited the farmers to a great extent.

Besides, discussion on rural industries has also taken place here. Earlier there were 26 such industries which could be set up only in the rural areas. At present the Ministry of Industries is preparing a draft under which about 43 industries or even more would be set up only in the villages and the Government will give assistance for it. But it is the responsibility of the State Governments that they run those industries in a proper way. A sum of Rs. 1160.20 crores had been earmarked for this purpose in the Sixth Five Year Plan for the Centre and the States taken together and now a sum of Rs. 1626.46 crores has been earmarked in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the same, so that more and more industries are set up in the villages. We have to encourage the traditional industries in the villages like agriculture, handloom, sericulture, handicraft etc. The marketing of the products of these industries which took place in 1973-74 was to the tune of Rs. 2183 crores. In 1984-85 it was Rs. 7725.63 crores. In 1973-74, whereas 101.21 lakh people were employed in this sector, their number rose to 164.95 lakh. There is even now much scope for work and expansion of rural industries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we are discussing matters related to farmers, it becomes necessary to deal with the subject of irrigation. Probably it is not possible to increase agricultural production without irrigation. Much progress has taken place under the programme which we have formulated for the whole country. I would like to inform you that in 1950-51 about 22.6 million hectares of land was under irrigation and at present it is 68 million hectares and in the Seventh Five Year Plan 13 million hectares of additional land will be brought under irrigation. We shall also achieve the aim set in this plan. Although I agree that there may be some difference in the area under irrigation as has been mentioned and the area that is actually irrigated. We are getting it examined so that we may be able to

use the potential we had created we had spent Rs. 10258.66 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan for that purpose. In comparison a provision for Rs. 16060.55 crores has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKENKARTIL :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to tell us about the total amount that has been spent.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** If you ask me to calculate and if indulge in calculations, it will waste your time. I would, therefore, request you to calculate it yourself.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) :** Madam, Chairman, I would request the hon. Minister through you to State the total area of the land that will be brought under irrigation in the entire country by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** The figures which the hon. Member wants to know are not available with me at present. In the Seventh Five Year Plan we have set a target to bring 13 million hectares of additional land under irrigation and I have also told as to what will be the expenditure on it.

Madam Chairperson, in the course of discussion on the administrative expenditure, it has been said that there has been increase in this expenditure. I would like to tell the hon. Members that the administrative expenditure on IRDP is 10 per cent, it is 5 per cent in the NREP and 5 per cent in the RLEGP.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi) :** Hon. Minister, Sir, what about the funds that are bungled.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** It is not enough to say it. We cannot take any action unless it is proved. It is not possible for us to change our policy on the basis of someone's statement only. I have already requested you to help us by pointing out the shortcoming. For that if we need be we shall further study.

Presently, through this Resolution a point

has been raised that the cities are improving a lot whereas the condition of villages is deteriorating. Though cities and villages are both part of India, yet as a major part of the population lives in villages, more attention should be paid to the villages.

[English]

SHRI D.N. REDDY : That is the main theme of the Resolution—disparity between rural economy and the urban economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, if you want to reply, you can reply after he has finished.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM : I am telling you that in urban areas the main aim of the Plan is removal of poverty. The removal of disparities is its aim and all programmes aim at that. At the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan, 37 per cent people have been left below the poverty line and it is our endeavour to bring down this percentage to 26 by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. It is also our plan to bring down the percentage of people living below the poverty line to about 5 by the end of this century. We are trying to achieve this and it will be done with our cooperation.

If you look at the ratio you have mentioned in case of urban areas and rural areas, you will find that in urban areas there has been reduction to the tune of 14.3 per cent, whereas in rural areas this has been 15.6 per cent. We also feel that large scale programmes cannot merely be implemented fully by official machinery. This thing we have been repeatedly saying and writing and impressing upon all the State Governments that people's representatives should be involved in these programmes. In several States, this has been done; but in certain States complaints have been received.

I am pleased with one thing that none of the hon. Members, who have taken part in this discussion, has complained that the State Government does not have the national approach. Only one complaint has been received from West Bengal. I feel that too should

not have come, because our programmes are not based on any particular region, religion or a particular section of the community. These are based on human considerations. If any political party, it may be in any State, functions on political basis, then we shall have to think over it.

We want that right from Panchayat members to the Members of Parliament, all should be involved in these programmes and unless they are included, even if our target is achieved, there will be no one to monitor the programmes. It is the Panchayat members, Members of the Assembly or the Members of the Parliament who can oversee the implementation at the field level, because they keep on touring the villages. They have direct liaison with the people. They have to be included in the programme implementation committees and about this the Prime Minister has written a letter recently.

I have just now submitted that the Prime Minister has written to the Chief Minister of all the States that Panchayat elections should be held, because Panchayat laws have been passed in all the States. It has been observed that at certain places Panchayat elections have not been held for years together. About District Boards also, we have received suggestions that these should be set up. Two things require consideration in this respect. In case of small States and the Union Territories it may not be possible at the district level to find out as to what will be the expenditure, but it is necessary to see that the work at the lower level should be good. Along with it, we should associate Panchayats at the formulation stage.

As I have submitted, elections for Panchayats should be held. For this all the Members of the State Legislatures and MPs, to whichever party they belong, should know what is happening in their constituencies. At the implementation stage they should also be involved. In this connection, as the Prime Minister has said, if we can consider such a legislation we should do that and if some suggestion in this regard comes to us, we shall consider it.

In the end, I would like to say that we should bring about maximum possible progress in the country through these Plans.

But population growth is a big hurdle in it with a view to control it, several programmes have been going on for the last many years. We had speeded up the pace of this programme in 1974-75. In a programme which involves crores of people, mistakes are bound to be committed. But those mistakes were so much exaggerated that not only we but those also had to face its consequences who made it an issue. Presently, there is no political party in this country which may control the population through dis-incentives.

China whose population is the largest in the world has marched ahead in controlling it, through incentives, and greater disincentives. That country gave overriding priority to this problem. If we do not take proper steps to control the population, the country will have to suffer heavily. We are already suffering the damage that has been done. Therefore, all the political parties have to ponder over this issue, because the question relates to the whole of the country. Due to our Plans, our economic growth has been 3.5 per cent, whereas the population has grown by 2.1 percent. We are proud of the fact that the most ambitious programmes were included in the Sixth Five Year Plan and we succeeded in fulfilling the target of 5.2 percent economic growth in that period. In the Seventh Five Year Plan also which has completed its first year and is going to complete the second year very soon, we have fixed the target at 5 per cent. In this plan also, we are moving towards the right direction and we shall be able to achieve this target also.

I would like to say to the hon. Members whether they belong to this side or that side that I agree that there complaints should come before this House, but unless they present balanced views, our knowledge will remain incomplete and we shall not be able to draw proper conclusions. We have undertaken ambitious programmes in the country and a big movement has been launched by our organisation through which we will be reaching every village. There can be difficulties like non-availability of drinking water, but I would like to know from the older people—not the younger ones—who have seen the conditions prevailing in the villages some 25 to 30 years back whether even today the

same conditions prevail in the villages? Have not the radio, transistor, television, electricity and roads reached there? It is not that we have achieved everything. Much is to be done yet. As regards the infrastructure to be provided in the Seventh Plan, electricity has been given priority.

I am thankful to the hon. Member who moved this Resolution as he has given an opportunity to the hon. Members of this House to draw the attention of the Government to the shortcomings. I too belong to the rural areas and my political life has been linked with the implementation of the schemes and plans. I, therefore, know that there are several difficulties which will have to be removed and for that we have taken steps. If you find any shortcomings in our policies, please do tell us about them. But we shall have to manage within our resources optimum use of our resources and though we require large sum of money What must make must ensure that they are utilised properly and reach the people. It seems you have not gone through all the statistics. If you go through all the figure you will find that we are spending much more on the rural development than what you have demanded. You have demanded Rs. 10,000 crores, but we are spending three to four times more than that. Therefore, I appreciate the intention to draw the attention of the Government, but your version that nothing has been done for the villages and urban people have marched much forward is not true.

With these words, I would request that he may withdraw his Resolution and the suggestions put forward by the hon. Members will be fully taken care of at the time of implementation of the policies.

[English]

SHRI D.N. REDDY (Cuddapah) : This is not the first time this subject has cropped up in this House. I am sure it must have been discussed quite a number of times and quite a number of times the concerned Minister would have come out with figures supplied by his officials. But the village have been the same in the last so many years in the post-independence era,



At the outset, I would like to submit to the House that the resolution is meant for Rs. 10,000/- crores in addition to the amount allotted in the Seventh Five Year Plan. I hope the hon. Minister will take that into account.

Rarely a subject crops up in this House on which the hon. Members irrespective of their party affiliations speak in one voice. This is the one such occasion when Member after Member on both sides of the House agreed that there is a great disparity in the development between the urban and rural areas.

In his concluding speech, the hon. Minister said that the cities have not grown. That is not true. It is there for everybody to see. Population has almost doubled in the cities. Villages are getting desolated and no less a person than the hon. Prime Minister himself expressed that the exodus from the rural areas to urban areas should be stopped as there is brain-drain also from the villages. That should stop. So, the hon. Minister must correct himself when he says that the cities have not developed and the villages are not desolated. No. It is not true. The cities are developing at the cost of the villages. My anguish is, there is lot of disparity and it has been increasing after each Five Year Plan between rural economy and urban economy. In both the Houses, the Members agreed that disparity has developed in the economy between rural and urban sectors. Vigorous steps have not been taken to bridge this gap. In spite of the Five Year Plans in the post-independence era, in spite of pious pretensions by the Government and slogans doled out now and then like the Garibi Hatao and the 20 Point Programme and all that, it has not achieved the real result. The main reason is the intentions are good but political will is not there. They are not sincere and they are not pursuing their plans properly and there has been topsy turvy planning in all the Five Year Plans. Due emphasis is not given to the really urgent problems and the plan programme has been topsy turvy.

Even Jawaharlal Nehru, in the later years of his rule admitted that there was some faulty planning and that emphasis was not placed on agriculture in the First and Second

Five Year Plans. But unfortunately for the whole country and for us by the time he realised his mistake, he was no more.

In one of his.....speeches as India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad reminded the Government and his partymen, that the fruits of freedom should reach all the countrymen, rich or poor and especially those in remote areas.

The Father of the Nation also has been stressing equally throughout his life time that India really lives in the villages and the villages should first be looked after. Three-fourth of the population of our country lives in the villages. More than half of them are farmers and nearly 40% or more are living below poverty line. In his anxiety, our first Prime Minister to bring our country on a par with other countries, emphasis was laid on the major industries. So, agriculture got the second position. The production targets set in the first second Five Year Plans were not achieved. In the later years of his stewardship, Pandit Nehru realised that priorities have been distorted in the Five Year Plans. Later the country discovered that without rigorous policies, it will be difficult to improve the conditions of the rural masses. There has been a widening gap between the promises and the performances. The hon. Minister has rightly emphasised that the great Pandit Nehru really started the land reforms. As a matter of fact, even in the pre-Independence days, the first slogan was about the land reforms. But let us be clear in our conscience. Let the hon. Minister himself reply why land reforms have not been implemented with a clear conscience. It took 40 years to find out the importance of land reforms. Whenever we raised an uncomfortable question, they said that the problem is with the States. This has been the reply given by the Minister day-in and day-out. Land reforms have not been implemented even till today. It requires a lot of political will in the implementation of land reforms in the rural areas.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) :  
Specially in the Congress (I)—ruled States

SHRI D.N. REDDY : In spite of the various programmes formulated for the

welfare of the rural masses and the statistics given, the conditions of the rural people have not improved due to the lack of political will to achieve results at any cost. I would like to emphasise here that the expenditure is more in the urban areas than that of the rural areas. I would like to cite an example. In this city itself, about a few years back, during Asian Games, we were told that we have spent Rs. 800 crores. I am sure, the hon. Members would have read in the papers that a block was constructed at a cost of Rs. 20 crores. For a period of three years, it was kept vacant. First, it was meant for an hospital. Later it was considered for a hotel and till now no decision has been taken. Now they want to turn it into a guest house. So, a sum of Rs. 20 crores have been spent on that block and that was vacant for the last three years.

Another point I would like to say, with shame is, about the Apna Utsav which has been celebrated at a cost of about Rs. 8 crores. Second-hand, third-class artisans were invited from all over the country. There were 4,000 such artisans who look part in the Utsav. I would like to say here that absolutely second-rate performance were given at a cost of Rs. 8 crores. We could have got any number of useful projects out of that. We see such kind of unproductive expenditure in the cities. What is the condition in the rural areas? Still, the percentage of literacy is very low. The death rate is much more—almost double the amount when compared to the cities. That is the case prevailing now. An honourable member himself has objected to your statement that 60 per cent of the villages are without pure drinking water. It is perfectly true. Protected supply of drinking water to the villages is not at all available. We are having protected drinking water facilities in the villages to the extent of one per cent or two per cent. That is all. Whenever we raised this issue, the reply is that the infrastructure has not been there. Infrastructure for any project—education or health or any other institution—cannot be built in a day. We have to make a beginning. My point is that we have not made a beginning for the last 40 years. At least it should be done now.

I am very glad that the hon. Minister has

mentioned that politics has no place. I fully agree with him that politics should not have any place in this. For God's sake, let us forget about politics atleast in issues like this. Also, I hope the Minister would have noted that every member who spoke on this subject supported my Resolution. So, to ask me to withdraw this is rather very unfair. Even, you please ask them to vote according to their conscience. Conscience vote did create a history in this very House and in this country a few years back. Let it create another kind of history now in voting on my Resolution.

*(Interruptions)*

I plead with all the members to ask their conscience whether my demand is right or wrong.

SHRI ANIL BASU : It is very right...

SHRI D.N. REDDY : The Minister is much complacent that much more than what I have asked for is spent in our country. I have asked for an additional sum of Rs. 10,000 crores—Rs. 10,000 crores of additional amount of what you have allotted in the Five Year Plan. So, I do not want to repeat all these things. I have already mentioned all these things. I only say that politicians look for votes. But a statesman looks forward to the next generation. At least in matters like this, let us be statesmen and not politicians....

AN HON. MEMBER : You are a politician.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : I do not deny it. At least on some occasions let us be statesmen. We cannot forget that we are all politicians. But in a project like this, the politicians should act like statesmen, including the hon. Minister. I request the whole House to support my Resolution. The Government should sincerely make a beginning to develop the rural areas. The expenditure in the urban areas must be cut down. It is three times or four times more now. I do not agree with the hon. Minister when he says that the cities are not expanding, they are not spending more money on towns and cities. As a matter of fact, the stage has come when matrimonial alliance with any

villager is considered a taboo. Nobody wants to give his daughter in marriage to a villager and nobody likes to marry in a village. That stage has come in our country where 80 per cent of the population lives in villages. You can really imagine, what a sad state of affairs our villages are in. It is no use saying all sorts of things and giving out all sorts of statistics every now and then. That does not serve any purpose. It is no use saying that so much money is spent. I agree with you that money is not the only point. We must see—it is your responsibility and it is our responsibility—that the money spent reaches the deserving poor. It was not so all these years. The middlemen should be eliminated. The farmer should get his dues, Hon. Speaker himself admitted the other day that the farmer was not getting the fair price that he ought to get, the farmer is suffering and he must get a fair price; he also assured that a further discussion would take place on this subject. It is not my only voice; the whole House is of the opinion that the rural areas are neglected and the urban areas are getting richer and richer at the cost of the rural areas. This should cease. Let us make a beginning now at least. I appeal again to the conscience of the Members and request them to support my Resolution. Let politics not come into this.

SHRI SUKH RAM : The hon. Member has just now said...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He cannot speak again...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants to clarify.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : The hon. Minister mentioned about family planning. I fully support him. It is better that we pass a legislation that the population should be controlled.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He only wants to clarify. You do not want him to give any clarification ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : On a point of clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be very brief.

SHRI SUKH RAM : The hon. Member has said that land reforms laws are not properly implemented by certain States. I simply want to draw the attention of the hon. Member to Andhra Pradesh. According to this brief, Andhra Pradesh is one of the States which have not implemented the land reforms laws ..

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijaywada) : Andhra Pradesh is one State which has implemented the land reforms in letter and in spirit. It is Bihar and U.P., which are under the control of the Congress Government, which have failed to implement the land reforms. 'Our State is the first' in the country which has distributed millions of acres to the landless poor and the other weaker sections of the society...

SHRI D.N. REDDY : We all object to what the hon. Minister has said (Interruptions)

16.14. hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The Minister was speaking again. The reply is already over. The Resolution has to be put to the vote of the House. There is no scope now for saying anything now. The Resolution has to be put. That is all. Nothing else.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

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

nomy during the Seventh Five Year Plan."

*The motion was negatived.*

16.15 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : ECONOMIC POLICIES

[English]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move :

"Having regard to the planned development of the country and the realisation of the constitutional obligations, this House takes serious note of the wrong economic policies being followed by the Government and the distortions introduced in the earlier policies which are leading to increased concentration of economic power, widening the gulf between rich and the poor and threatening the economic independence of the country by increasingly relying on foreign sources, and calls upon the Central Government to take immediate steps to—

- (i) correct the distortions introduced into the Industrial Policy since 1980 ;
- (ii) give public sector its due place as envisaged in the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956 ;
- (iii) curb monopolistic trend and reduce concentration of economic power ;
- (iv) protect the small scale sector from the onslaught of the big business and the multinationals ; and
- (v) stop the avoidable dependence on foreign technology and capital and support the indigenous R & D efforts and technological capabilities".

Sir, before I proceed with further discussion on the matter, I would like to know from the Chair whether the Minister in charge who is going to reply to this is present here at all.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have to reply. The Minister will only intervene.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY ; The Minister has to respond, to react to this. The concerned Minister should be present in any case. Because it mostly deals with the industrial policy, licencing policy and distortions introduced in the licencing policy. The Minister is conspicuous by his absence.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister present will take care.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : I don't think that this is the correct procedure Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKHRAM) : Your Resolution does not cover only industrial policy, it covers something else also, that is why it has come to the Planning Ministry.

SHRI BHATTM SRIRAMA MURTY : I know that it covers something else also. That something else is already covered by Dr. D.N. Reddy's Resolution.

Sir, we have before us the Constitution which embodies the Directive Principles. It says, the Directive Principles clearly direct :

"That the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment".

So, concentration of wealth should be avoided. The policy of the Government should be such that it should not result in the concentration of economic wealth in a few hands. Secondly it says :

"That the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good".

So, the distribution aspect also is very clearly brought out here. Any resolution undertaken by the Government, any policy pursued by them, any programme which is undertaken should not be in contravention with the ultimate goal we have in mind. The Constitution prescription cannot be