

MOTION RE : "SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN 1985-90"—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we resume our discussion on the Seventh Five-Year Plan. I would request the Members to be brief so that everybody can get an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

***SHRI R. JBEVARATHINAM (Arakonam) :** Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Seventh Five Year Plan. I would like to recall what the patriot-poet of Tamil Nadu Subramaniya Bharathi sang.

Ilaiya Bharadhathinai Vaa Vaa
Urudhi Konda Nenjinai Vaa Vaa

He called for young and stout-hearted India to come on. Our young and dynamic Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who represents the stout-hearted India, has really become the symbol of Subramania Bharathi's song. I am sure that he will ensure successful implementation of the Seventh Five Year Plan, which will herald a new India without oppressing poverty and distressing unemployment.

It is mainly due to the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister that in the Seventh Five Year Plan Tamil Nadu has got the plan outlay of Rs. 5750 crores, which is 60% higher than the Sixth Plan outlay for Tamil Nadu. Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran has openly accepted and acclaimed the rule of our hon. Prime Minister in getting this increased outlay. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu I wish to convey to our hon. Prime Minister our grateful indebtedness for having increased the outlay in the Seventh Plan to Rs. 5750 crores. I am sure that the people of Tamil Nadu will reap the benefits from this increased outlay.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

Sir, it is gratifying to note that the World Bank, IMF and other international monetary organisations have in no uncertain terms Commended the economic progress that India has made on account of effective implementation of six Five Year Plans. We could have completely eradicated the problem of poverty and unemployment during the Six Five Year Plan periods. But the population explosion has hindered our constructive approach to these twin problems. We should strenuously endeavour to implement family welfare measures during the Seventh Plan period, so that the objective of eliminating poverty and unemployment can be achieved by the end of the Seventh Plan.

Here I would like to point out that under the revised Gadgil formula 20% of central assistance is earmarked to States which are reckoned as backward by virtue of their per capita income falling below the all States' average. It must be borne in mind that the per capita income falls in such States due to half-hearted implementation of Family Welfare schemes. Those States which vigorously implement the Family Welfare schemes become the victim due to no fault of theirs because the per capita income in these States is higher than those so called backward States. It should be the other way. Those States which have higher per capita income on account of effective and energetic implementation of Family Welfare programmes must be given extra 20% assistance from the Centre as an incentive. Then only throughout the country the family welfare measures will be implemented uniformly for the good of the entire country. I want the hon. Minister of Planning to ponder over the suggestion I have made and do something so that some incentive is given for effective implementation of family welfare measures.

In reply to a Calling Attention Motion in this House, our former Defence Minister and presently the Vice President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman had conceded the strategic importance of Sethusamudram project. Our former Chief of Indian Navy had also accepted this contention of the Government while giving evidence before the Lakshminarayan Committee

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

constituted by the Transport Minister to examine the feasibility of Sethusamudram Project. In reply to a Starred Question only the other day Shri Bansilal, our Transport Minister stated that this issue is under the consideration of the Government. This project was taken up for per-Third Five Year Plan scrutiny, under the instructions from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But it was not somehow included in the Third Plan. Since 1901 this Sethusamudram project had been recommended by the British experts and after Independence Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar had recommended this. Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar Committee had recommended the execution of Sethusamudram project in national interest. Dr. Nagendra Singh, who was Secretary to the Shipping Ministry and who is presently a Judge in the International Court at The Hague had also stressed the importance of this project. The Government of Tamil Nadu had also repeatedly sought the Centre's approval for this scheme. In his speech to the meeting of National Development Council held on November 8th and 9th, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Ramachandran did refer to this project. I demand that this should be taken up for implementation in the Seventh Plan. If that is not possible, in the interest of the defence of the country, the Sethusamudram project should be implemented as a Defence Project without further delay.

I demand that a Petro-Chemical complex should be set up in Madras: Similarly the expansion project of Madras Fertilisers should be included in the Seventh Plan. The expansion project of Hindustan Photo Films at Udhagamandalam should also become a 7th Plan scheme. Only the other day, on 16th our hon. Prime Minister dedicated to the nation the Kalpakkam Atomic Unit in Tamil Nadu. A Panel of the Atomic Energy Commission had chosen Koodankulam in Tirunelveli District for the second Atomic Power Plant in Tamil Nadu. Nearby Koodankulam there is Tuticorin Heavy Water Plant. The Heavy Water produced here can be utilised for the atomic plant in Koodankulam. I suggest that the

second atomic plant in Koodankulam must be included in the 7th Plan. We have the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi which cater to the medical research needs of Northern States. We have no such medical research institute for Southern States. I demand that such a premier medical research Institute should be set up in Vellore where we have the world-renowned Christian Medical Hospital. The climate of Vellore is also suitable for such a medical research Institute. Vellore is also ideally located and it is approachable by the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. I suggest that a Medical Research Institute of the type of All India Institute of Medical Sciences should be set up at Vellore during the 7th Plan period.

We had a discussion now for more than two hours about the Telugu Ganga project. There are divergent views about this Project. Instead of planning for a disputed project, I suggest that the long standing Ganga-Cauvery link up scheme should be taken up in stages. Dr. K.L. Rao, the former Irrigation Minister had recommended the implementation of this project by first linking up Yamuna and Narmada, then Narmada, and Godavari, then Godavari and Krishna and finally Krishna and Cauvery. We can try to get World Bank loan for this project. This will give the opportunity for our young technically qualified unemployed engineers to do something worthwhile. This will also prove the best medium for national integration. As a beginning of our earnestness for implementing this project, during the Seventh Plan we should begin at least the preliminary survey work for this gigantic project.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that the recommendations of the President required under article 117 of the Constitution of India for introduction and consideration of five Bills which are to be taken now, have been received.