

MOTION RE : SEVENTH FIVE YEAR
PLAN, 1985-90

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K.
PANJA) : I beg to move :

“That this House do consider the
‘Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90; laid
on the Table of the House on the 4th
December, 1985.”

17.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the chair.*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I am on
point of order...

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
What is the point in discussing this document
now ?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This
Plan has already been finalised.

Now what will we discuss ? We want
to know from the hon. Minister whether our
suggestions will be incorporated in the
document or not...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : What is the
use of discussing this ?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Already
this point has been discussed. You can also
express your views on it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This
House did not get any opportunity to discuss
this Plan before the finalisation of this
document.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has been
decided by the Business Advisory Committee
that it will be taken up at 5 O'clock today...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How is
Parliament being by passed by this Govern-
ment ? The plan has already been finalised..
(*Interruptions*) He is not replaying whether
our suggestions will be incorporated in the
Plan document. This has never happened.
How is the Government by passing Parliam-
ent ?..

..(*Interruptions*)

We want to know whether our suggestions
will be incorporated or not.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minis-
ter is there, he will explain. The Minister
is on his legs. Please take your seats

.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What is
the use of discussing now at this stage in the
House after finalisation of the document ?..

.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How can
I hear all of you .

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You can
call one of us..

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Mr.
Reddy wants to say something. Please take
your seats, all of you..

..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We
want a categorical reply from the Minister..

..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : We
want an open discussion, not only on the
document..

..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Only one
point, Sir. It never happened in the history
of Indian planning that a plan document
was first adopted and then brought before
the House for discussion. The tradition has
been to discuss the Approach Plan in the
House first and then have it adopted later
on. For the first time, this time all the
tradition the sound precedents have been
raucously violated..

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why are
you interrupting ?

..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have mentioned your point now..

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is a vital point, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I am allowing the Minister..

..(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Why do you allow him to make a speech, Sir?..

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : First we want a categorical answer from the Government..

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Let the Minister assure that after discussion in this House, the Government will prepare another document taking these views into consideration .

..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All of you please sit down because already you have told your point. The Minister is going to reply now..

..(Interruptions)

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Is he going to give answer to that ? .

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This has never happened Even during Janata rule, the draft plan was circulated among the people to elicit public opinion..

.. (Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : If all of them speak, how can I answer?..

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want the Minister's reply for clarification, then please take your seats..

..(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir if all of them ask questions, I cannot answer. One point has been raised about the procedure as to when it is laid before the House. In fact, this was placed before the Business Advisory Committee and knowing the back history, all of them agreed unanimously that it should be laid today. But for the information of the Members, those who are not Members of the Business Advisory Committee, may I say what is the procedure ? I was not here before but I am told the procedure is that the Approach Plan was discussed in the National Development Council in the month of July, 1984 and the then Prime Minister, our beloved Indira ji, presided over. In that National Development Council, with all the States, it was discussed threadbare. After that, the whole year was taken for the purpose of examining the various suggestions that were put forth on the Approach Plan at the National Development Council. The procedure is that after the Approach Plan is made ready, the book is prepared, and the book is circulated to the States again, i. e. to the Members of the National Development Council. It was circulated .

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about the Parliament ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Let me answer, please, (Interruptions) If the Members do not listen, what can I do ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why should we not get opportunity ? That is our question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : After it is placed before the National Development Council..

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : My question is after the Government has finalised the Plan Document, whether our suggestions will be taken into consideration.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : What will happen to our suggestions ? In the discussion we will make so many suggestions, will the incorporate them ?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I cannot change the procedure. After it is discussed in the National Development Council.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : It was decided at the Business Advisory Committee. The leaders were also represented there. Even there we had discussed the procedure.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : In the National Development Council held on 8th and 9th November.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Our question is even the Draft Plan was not discussed in the House. Now the final Document has come. Why was the Approach paper not discussed, draft Document not discussed and after the final Document was adopted by the National Development Council.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Why they did not place the Approach paper before hand ? Why are you ignoring Parliament ?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I think the hon. Members are unnecessarily agitated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I have heard you. Now please hear me. The Approach Paper when it was discussed in the National Development Council, it was placed in both the Houses.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : But it was not discussed.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : It was discussed in Rajya Sabha. Thereafter the draft Plan was made and after the Draft Plan was made, on 8th and 9th November the National Development Council had a final sitting.

During these two days for long hours they exercised over it and various suggestions were made. Then the opinion that emerged was taken as consensus. The consensus opinion was that the Draft Plan

may be approved. It was approved with a note of dissent given by the Hon. Chief Minister of Tripura and the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal. Then it was passed. After that the procedure is that it has to be discussed again in the House and again in the Rajya Sabha. That is the procedure and that is the last stage I am in. *(Interruptions)* One moment please.

After it is discussed, points come up. Now, what is the use of a discussion if we say something and it is not considered ? Here I would submit that after a Plan is made, it is an overall structural framework. Annual Plans are discussed every year. Now, if any suggestion comes in we are not saying we never committed any error or our predecessors have discussed it and we have not there may be error in priorities of time those valuable points raised by any hon. Member, will immediately be taken into consideration and if any correction is required to be made anything important which we forgot or did not look into, certainly in the Annual Plan discussion we will decided on it. Otherwise what is the use of a discussion ? I may assure the hon. Members that each Member's suggestions are taken note of when an hon. Member is speaking. Even the corrected speech is taken up and analysed by me. After that the points have been analysed, it is given to the Deputy-Chairman. He with his expert Members looks into it and if there is any valuable suggestion, we do try to dovetail it with the Annual Plan. This is the practice we are following over the years. Therefore, the hon. Members may not be agitated.

Seven hours have been fixed for this in consultation with the Members of the Business Advisory Committee who are all experienced Members. They knew this procedure. They are fully aware of the background, history, etc. If no one was aware, it is really a misfortune, Sir. Everybody was aware of the background and that is why unanimously it was decided that before it is placed before Rajya Sabha tomorrow it should be placed in this House, So, kindly hear me. I am sure that it will be a fruitful discussion. Let me place this before this august House. Sir, I have to read the written speech. That is the procedure.

[Shri A. K. Panja]

Sir, I have the privilege of moving the following Motion for the consideration of the House :

I beg to move :

“That this House do consider the ‘Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90’, laid on the Table of the House on the 4th December, 1985.”

Hon. Members to whom the document was made available when it was laid on the Table of the House on 4th December, 1985 would no doubt have had the chance to go through it. I would, therefore, confine myself to highlighting some of the major thrusts and policy directions outlined in the Seventh Plan document.

I can make no better beginning to this presentation before the House than to call to mind the Prime Minister’s Address to the National Development Council when it met on 8th and 9th November, 1985 to consider the draft Seventh Plan. The Prime Minister had said, and I quote :

“The adoption of the national plan is a significant event in a planned economy. The Plan sets the pace and direction of development in a long-term perspective. It defines socio-economic objectives and priorities. It lays down concrete goals for Government, both at the Centre and in the States. Perhaps, most important of all, it embodies the national consensus on how to eradicate poverty and to build a strong, self-reliant society. Each Plan takes us nearer to our cherished goal of socialism.”

In formulating the Plan, we have carried out the wishes of our beloved Indiraji when she gave the call at the National Development Council meeting in July, 1984 to build the Seventh Five Year Plan around the basic priorities of Food, Work and Productivity. It was she, who, with her firm grasp of the essentials that are the underpinning of the entire Plan economy, had given a clear call for seeing to it that these priorities inform every sector of our planning effort. In formulating the Plan we have, therefore, kept in view the mandate given by the National Development Council under her lead when

it approved the Approach Paper last year. The imperatives of providing for food and an expended system of food security, for creating employment opportunities, and for raising the productivity of our agriculture and industry, have guided us in the preparation of the plan, and these have found acceptance and endorsement by the National Development Council at its recent meeting when it approved the Plan. Furthermore, particular attention has been paid to development of human resources, and of raising the capability of the infrastructure, since these are of critical importance for sustaining the growth process. Substantial increases in the provision of outlays have been made for both human resource development and for the infrastructure.

Hon. Members are no doubt aware that, as was mentioned by the Prime Minister to the National Development Council, the Seventh Five Year Plan builds on the strong growth performance of the Sixth Plan. As the Prime Minister said—I quote :

“The Sixth Plan growth target of about 5% has been achieved. The performance of the agricultural sector was particularly impressive, specially in food production. Substantial progress was made in key industrial sectors, including coal, oil, power, cement, fertilisers. The Plan laid special emphasis on reducing poverty.

The percentage of population below the poverty line has declined significantly. However, we have still a long way to go. We shall fight the battle against poverty with determination, and with all our strength.

All this has been achieved while bringing inflation firmly under control and managing the balance of payments successfully.”

I would now like to give some statistics which will, I hope, serve to underline what the Prime Minister had said, and how we propose to carry out the mandate of the National Development Council in the implementation of the Plan. As Members will know from the Plan document, the total public sector outlay is placed at Rs. 180,000

crores over the Seventh Plan, and of this amount, Rs. 95,534 crores is the Centre's outlay, while the outlays of the States and Union Territories are expected to be Rs. 80,698 crores and Rs. 3768 crores respectively. The gross domestic product is projected to increase at 5 per cent per annum, with the value of gross output of agriculture increasing at 4 per cent per annum while that of mining and manufacturing is slated to grow at 8.3 per cent. If the contribution of electricity, gas and water supply to gross output would be at about 12 per cent per annum, while that of transport would be around 8 per cent per annum.

Members would be happy to know that as much as 30.45 per cent of the total outlay of the Centre, the States and the Union Territories is devoted to Energy, with Agricultural and Rural Development, Irrigation and allied sectors accounting for 22 per cent of the total outlays. The next highest percentage going to Social Services is 16.31 per cent. In rupee terms these outlays come to Rs. 54,821 crores for Energy, Rs. 39,772 crores for Agricultural and Rural Development, Irrigation and allied sectors and Rs. 29,350 crores for Social Services. The next highest slice of outlay is for Transport, which with an outlay of Rs. 22,971 crores accounts for 12.76 per cent of the total public sector outlays. Members will, I hope, note that the public sector outlays, therefore, provide for the major thrust areas of the Plan in adequate measure.

Sir, this brings us to the structure of the Plan, and how through the pattern of resource allocation, it is hoped to achieve the Plan objectives. As the Prime Minister had said in his address to the National Development Council :

"Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. It is here that sustained growth generates productive employment for the largest number of people. Rising employment means less poverty. Expanding agricultural production is also essential for industrial growth and for advances in other sectors of the economy. The task before us now is to bring about faster and more even agricultural growth. We have to extend the green revolution to the eastern region and to dryland areas where a large part of our population is

concentrated, and it is here that the problem of poverty is most acute. This will help to remove regional imbalance and it is the key to a successful attack on poverty."

The agricultural strategy has its objective the building of an expanded system of food security at rising levels of per capita consumption. I would invite the attention of Members to table 2.11 in Vol. I of the Plan document where the socio-economic indicators of change have been set out in brief. It will be noticed that per capita consumption of foodgrains, would go up from 178 kg. per capita per annum in 1984-85 to 193 kg. by the end of the Seventh Plan, and further to 215 kg. per capita per annum by the year 2,000. We have to develop our water resources strengthen and expand the extension effort by which the research results in our agricultural research institutions are carried down to the field, and to bring about basic institutional changes in agrarian relations that can no longer be evaded. The consolidation of holdings, and land reforms are important not only for social justice but are equally important for agricultural growth. We have to develop and expand the system of infrastructure for providing to the farmer, the inputs that he requires for sustaining his effort, which is central to the growth process in India in the shape of seeds, fertilisers, credits besides extending the infrastructure after the harvest, that is for marketing of his produce in such a way that he is able to raise his income levels without being subjected to adverse fluctuations. 13 millions hectares of irrigation potential will be created as part of the on-going development of essential input like water for our agriculture.

The gross cropped area will, we hope, go up from 180 million hectares in 1984-85 to 190 million hectares in 1989-90. Special programmes are to be formulated and implemented for effecting a break-through in rice output, especially in the Eastern region and some of the Southern States; for dry-land farming; and for production of oilseeds and pulses.

Programmes for raising small and marginal farmers' productivity will figure prominently in the strategy for raising the

[Shri A. K. Panja]

incomes of the poor. Finally, afforestation will receive special emphasis during the Seventh Plan. In this context special mention ought to be made of the role of the newly established National Weasteland Development Board, which has been charged with the responsibility of drawing up a plan for the development of wastelands through a massive programme of afforestation and tree planting.

Hand in hand with agricultural growth and thrust, there will be taken in hand an attack on poverty and unemployment. In keeping with this approach, not only does the Seventh Plan propose that a substantial part of additional production should arise from small and marginal farmers and from rain-fed and dry-land areas and particularly those in Eastern India but there is also envisaged a special efforts at raising the agricultural productivity in the rice growing areas in Eastern India. Besides the beneficial effects of agricultural production and on the income accruing to small and marginal farmers, there will also be undertaken the employment oriented programmes, such as National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, which would contribute significantly to the generations of additional employment opportunities in the rural areas.

The third element of our strategy for tackling unemployment in the economy is by having a faster rate of growth for industry and a considerable expanded housing programme in the private sector for which attempts would be made to provide finance through institutional sources.

Thus, these three elements taken together, i.e. rise in agricultural production and productivity, employment generation programme and income generation programmes like NREF and IRDP and faster industrial growth would, all taken together, generate a larger volume of employment both in the agricultural and in the non-agricultural sectors than in the past. I would, particularly, like to stress for the benefit of the hon. Members what we envisage on the employment front and in respect of poverty levels :

We hope to generate 40 million standard person years in the Seventh Plan, as

against a net addition to the labour force of about 39 million persons over the same period. That is to say that employment opportunities will grow at 4% per annum as against a growth of 2.5 or 2.6% of the labour force in this plan period. Nearly 18 million standard person years out of the 40 million standard person years of additional employment will come from agriculture, while the service sector will contribute nearly 10 million standard person years. "Manufacturing", "Construction" and "Other transport" will contribute 6.7 million, 2.2 million and 2.4 million standard person years respectively. The Seventh Plan is, thus, an employment oriented Plan and by means of the strategy we have adopted in resource allocation and in the generation of value added in the economy, we will be carrying out the second directive, which our late beloved Indiraji had given us i.e., that our people must be found productive employment in order to be able to make their contribution not only to the national development effort, but also because it adds to one's sense of personal achievement and human dignity to be productively employed in doing useful work. Hon. Members would be further interested to know that the overall strategy in the Seventh Plan is aimed at reducing the poverty levels from around 37% of the total population in 1984-85 to around 26% in 1989-90 in absolute numbers the number of people crossing the poverty line would be about 62 million, of which the rural/urban break-up is 53.6 million and 8.3 respectively. Inherent in our entire planning strategy is the underlying concern for reducing poverty and making India a more equitable, socially just, and less economically disparate society. These are some of the most important features of the strategy of the Seventh Plan.

10. This brings me to another aspect of social justice, and on which our Prime Minister has laid great stress ever since he took charge of the new Government with a massive mandate from our people. As he told the National Development Council and I quote :

"Development is not about factories, dams, and roads. Development is about people, the goal is material, cultural and spiritual fulfilment for the people. The human factor the human context is of supreme value in development."

It is for this reason that we have provided proportionately larger allocations for human resource development. Policies and programmes in the fields of education, culture, health, welfare of women and youth, uplift of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections, aim at creating a stronger and more cohesive national community. All must have access to the benefits of modern knowledge. At the same time, we must preserve our heritage, the poise and strength of our inner spirit. We shall strive for quality and excellence in the life of the community and in that of individuals. Our every effort must aim at fuller development of man as an integrated personality synthesising science and spirituality.

“This conception of a harmonious society rests on balances—balance between resources and population, between material growth and intellectual, moral and spiritual development, between nature and man.”

11. Corresponding to this vision, we have provided for a massive increase in the resources, which have been allocated for human resource development : these have been stepped up from Rs. 14035 crores proposed when we framed the Sixth Plan, to Rs. 29,350 crores in the Seventh Plan. We have, thus, more than doubled the proposed outlay from the Sixth Plan to the Seventh Plan and these, taken together in the fields of education, health, integrated children's development programmes, programmes for the socio-economic development of women and for upliftment of disadvantaged classes, for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes and through the minimum needs programme, would deliver some of the basic essentials of social overhead consumption needs of our people.

The immunisation programme to protect young children and women from the diseases to which they are particularly prone and the programme to ensure safe drinking water supply to all our population are two of the major welfare measures to be undertaken in the Seventh Plan. We propose an increase in enrolment at the elementary education stage, that is, covering Classes I to VIII by 25 million, so as to cover 92

per cent of the population of children in the age group 6-14 years. These are all parts of the entire package for delivering the essentials of human resources development in the Seventh Plan.

We also propose to undertake major initiatives to reduce the rate of population growth. The family welfare target is an effective couple protection rate of 42 per cent of all eligible couples by 1990 and a reduction in the infant mortality rate to 90 per thousand of population. Programmes for housing for rural families and for improving the lot of urban slum dwellers and for the development of medium and small towns are also part of the general programme for improving social services in our country.

This brings me to the programmes for industry where the rate of growth is expected to be around 8 per cent in the manufacturing sector by removing infrastructural constraints like power shortages and transport shortages, by facilitating better utilisation of existing industrial capacity through a rapid increase in the demand for mass consumption goods that will be required to satisfy the needs of those who are to be provided higher incomes and increased employment, whether in the rural areas or in the urban areas. We expect to sustain an overall improvement in the rate of growth of industry better than in the past. Hon. Members will be glad to know that energy sector has been accorded the highest ever allocation in a Plan period, accounting for as much as 30.5 per cent of the total public sector outlay. There are massive increases slated for the production of power, coal and of petroleum details of which could be found in the appropriate chapters of the Plan document. Cement and fertiliser production is also expected to go up over the Plan period, with cement production reaching the level of 49 million tonnes of production by the end of the Plan, while domestic fertilisers production is slated to go up from just over five million tonnes at the beginning of the plan to 8.75 million tonnes in 1989-90. Aluminium imports will be eliminated completely when our production touches 499,000 tonnes in 1989-90, though some imports of copper, lead and zinc will still be required.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, it is already past 5.30 p. The House should take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Half-an-Hour Discussion will be taken up. I will allow you.

Shri A. K. PANJA : Dagaji, I will not take more than two or three minutes.

This brings me to the last aspect of the Plan, i.e., its financing. All sectors of the community have to recognise that the financing of the massive outlay of the Seventh Plan require determined and more intense effort for the resource mobilisation. The Plan is crucially dependent upon the achievement of the target of tax-ratio to GDP improving by two per cent, that is, from 16.3 per cent to 18.3 per cent over the Plan period. Subsidies and other non-Plan expenditure will have to be firmly contained if excessive recourse to deficit financing is to be avoided. This will no doubt entail some sacrifice by those who have been getting the benefit of the subsidies, but unless this is done, the resources cannot be found. The public sector enterprises of the Central and the State Governments also will have to subject themselves to a rigorous discipline so as to reduce their cost of production and to increase their margins so as to generate larger internal resources of their own for financing additional investment. All these measures would be essential for generating resources in a non-inflationary manner. Where the losses of public sector undertakings are arising from low productivity, or from managerial deficiencies, these will require to be rectified without any loss of time, as the community at large cannot be expected to bear the results of inefficiency arising from these reasons. Such inefficiencies got reflected either in rising prices, whether in the market or through administered prices, or in losses incurred, which have to be made good from tax revenues.

To maintain the viability of external payments, it will be necessary to pay greater attention to exports by an inefficiently working industry, and to contain the growth of imports. Our export performance still displays major structural weaknesses and in the interest of an orderly management of our balance of payment, as mentioned in the Plan

document, there will have to be substantial improvement in the competitiveness and quality of our exports

I would like to conclude this presentation to the House by making a brief reference to some of the major problem areas which are crucial to the success of the Plan.

Firstly, rehabilitation and revitalisation of the agricultural credit system is essential for achieving the agricultural targets of the Plan. For financing adequately the input requirements of agriculture, the mounting overdues in the agricultural credit system must be firmly controlled. Agricultural credit cannot continue to be one-way out-flow only.

Secondly, the quality of our agricultural and rural development administration must show substantial improvement and the planning capability at the district level has to be made effective so that planning from below takes firms coasts. The large flows of money to various anti-poverty programmes will be able to make a true impact in reducing poverty at the ground level only if this improvement in the delivery system comes about.

Thirdly, the basic strategy and the programme content of the family welfare programme has to be looked at afresh, so as to bring about a faster reduction in the rate of population growth.

Fourthly, there must be a major improvement in the productivity, the efficiency, and the internal resource generation of the public sector enterprises both of the Central and of the States. Only by raising their performance levels, can there be delivered the infrastructural requirements for attaining the rate of growth envisaged in the Plan and for delivering the fruits of development of our people.

I have outlined above the basic strategies and the broad aims and objectives and the rationale underlying the structure of resource allocation of the Plan. With these words, I commend the Seventh Plan 1985-90 to the House for its consideration.

I cannot help but recall Shri Rabindranath Tagore's lines in Bengali.

"Balo Balo Sabe Shato Bida Benu Rabe Bharat Aabar Jagat Sabhai Shresh-thaasan Labe".

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : The poetry is not of Shri Rabindranath Tagore, it is of Shri Atul Prasad.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I am always reminded of Tagore whenever I think of Atul Prasad.

17.42 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seventeenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report of Business Advisory Committee.

17.44 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Medical Scheme for DTC Employees

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had asked a question (No. 155) which reads as under :-

[English]

The total expenditure on medical facilities of DTC during the last six months and the number of employees registered thereof.

Whether the scheme for the welfare of the Employees is likely to be discontinued. The answer was :

The total expenditure Rs. 7,72,86,318 for six months.

[Translation]

The Delhi Transport Corporation has suffered loss to the tune of Rs. 113 crores during the period of one year and the Delhi Transport Corporation spent

an amount of Rs. 7 crores under a medical scheme during the period of 6 months. I would like to tell you as to how this money was given in the past. In the reply to an earlier question in this regard it was stated as under :

[English]

"About 36,000 employees and their families are getting medical facilities. In 1982-83 the amount given was Rs. 55,03,316/- In 1983-84 it became Rs. 73 lakhs. In 1984-85 it jumped to Rs. 9.15 crores'. It increased by about fifteen times in one year

[Translation]

An amount of Rs. 7,15,00,000 was paid to them under the medical scheme alone. I am happy to note that one of our Ministers has achieved a great success in the Department of Railways. I am not saying this, but the work done by him speaks of him. The same Minister is also Minister of Transport, but the manner in which this money has been paid is a matter of regret. Had this money been paid their welfare, I would have welcomed this step. The Delhi Transport Corporation has paid an amount of Rs. 7 crores during the period of 6 months i.e. this amount will come to Rs. 14 crores in one year. They are very clever and they know the art. I am saying this because it is happening during the regime of a Minister, who is fearless and who takes very quick decisions. Sir, I would like to know as to what this scheme is after all. You are fully aware of the state of affairs prevailing in the Delhi Transport Corporation. I wish that nobody should travel by DTC buses. The Delhi Transport Corporation has a fleet of 5,000 buses which include 900 private buses which are under its operation. Still it has suffered heavy losses during the period of one year. One will feel surprised over this huge loss. The D. T. C. has suffered a loss of Rs. 176 crores. It has played with the people of the country. It has suffered successive losses from 1958 to 1980. It has suffered loss to the tune of Rs. 113 crores during the period of one year alone. Who took this money? You should look into this scheme. It is a very wonderful scheme! Even an M. P. does