

[Sh. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

of certain persons; measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for population control through compulsory sterilisation of certain persons; measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith."

[Translation]

SHRIBHAGAWANSHANKARAWAT:
I introduce the Bill

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR: I introduce the Bill.

16.51. hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)BILL*

(Amendment of Article 292)

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHABABUDDIN: I intro-

duce the Bill.

16.52 hrs.

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER
(CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)BILL*

[English]

by Shri Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move leave to withdraw the Bill to regulate certain conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to regulate certain condition of service of the Chief Election Commissioner."

SOME HON MINISTER: Yes, Yes.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I withdraw the Bill

16.53 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

(*Insertion of New Part XI A*):
by Shri Chitta Basu

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Chitta Basu on the 13th March, 1992. Time allowed for this Bill was two hours. Shri Chitta Basu to continue his speech.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I rise to move the Motion that the Bill further to

amend the constitution of India be taken into consideration.

I move this Bill with the hope and belief that all sections of the House will consider it without any partisan attitude. This Bill contemplates to achieve two very important objectives. One objective is to give constitutional basis of the planning Commission of our country.

The second objective of the bill is to give constitutional basis to the National Development Council. These are the objectives of the Bill.

Sir, I want your indulgence to inform this august House that the very perception of our planning Commission is planned economic growth of our nation. I thank the House might be aware of the fact that the very perception and conception of planning was planned economic growth and it has taken shape along the course of national freedom movement of our country. The perception of planning is not the gift of any particular individual, however great he might be. The perception of the planned economy, has been the result, the outcome and product of a long freedom struggle of our country. Please allow me to quote what Shri Subash Chandra Bose has said and that is about the planning itself.

History has it that the Congress was in Ministry, during the British time in 1938, in several provinces at that time. And in course of Address to the Indian Science Association, held on August 21, 1938, Subash Chandra Bose concluded by saying and I quote:

I have no doubt that when we have a National Government for the whole country, one of the first things we shall have to do is to appoint a National Planning Commission for the entire country. Our Ministries - our Ministries the Congress Ministries then working in the Seven Provinces at that time - in the Seven Provinces have already been feeling the need for a uniform industrial policy and programme."

Therefore, Sir, the very concept of plan-

ning, the very perception of planning, as I have already referred to earlier, is the product of the nationalist movement, freedom movement of our country.

16.58 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the chair*]

Sir, history has it that Subash Chandra Bose, as the President of the Indian National Congress, had set up a National Planning Commission, under the Chairmanship of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1938; only after a few months when he addressed that Association - the Indian Science Association. It was not only the Indian National Congress and its president but the capitalists of our country have also come out with some perception or conception or framework of plan. I refer to the plan which is known as the 'Bombay Plan', it was prepared by the Tatas and Birlas and it emerged in the year 1942. Therefore, capitalists of our country have also felt the need for having a planned economy or an economy for the Poland development of capitalism in India. Sir, it is also a fact that Indian Trade Union movement, the Indian artisans have also fought in favour of planned economy, and a people's plan was made. It was, of course, made under the leadership of Shri Manavendra Nath Roy.

As I have mentioned earlier, the perception of planning is the product, is the outcome, is the result of the freedom movement of our country. We have attained freedom and after the attainment of freedom, the significance, the importance of planned economy, has become all the more important and all the more significant.

If you count the number of the private Members' Bills for the amendment of the Constitution, then I think the chairman also will agree with me that the overhauling of the Constitution is the demand of the majority of the Members who belong to this side of the House. Therefore, I made a joke that let Shri Shababuddin and myself be made the Co-Chairmen of a new Constitution of our country, to recreate and to rewrite the Constitu-

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

tion of our country, having in view the interests of the common people, the down-trodden and the teeming millions of our country. Anyway that is not going to happen and rest assured that that is not going to happen. But we shall have to fight and we shall continue to fight and we shall continue to fight: both here and outside.

17.00 hrs.

The Constitution, when it was formed and when it was accepted, it has some definite provision which I do not want to read out because that will amount to a mere wastage of time. But I would refer to the particular provision enshrined in the Constitution of our country, that is in the directive Principles.

Articles 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and from Articles 43 (a) to Articles 45 and Articles 46, 47, 48, (a), all these provisions under the Constitution, reflect the views of the members of the Constituent Assembly, the creator of our constitution, the very spirit, the very idea that they had developed, because they were soldiers of the freedom movement of our country. As soldiers of freedom movement of our country, they inculcated the idea of having a planned growth and planned economy for the prosperity and progress. I will not read those provisions but I just mentioned it, in order to prove that the concept and the perception of planning is the outcome and product of the national freedom movement of this great country of ours.

Therefore, the concept of independence and the concept of economic growth is coterminous. If the country is not independent, there cannot be economic progress. That was the last lesson that we have learnt as Indians. This lesson is not only for the Indians alone but this lesson is for the entire colonial countries of the world. Therefore, independence and planned economic growth is coterminous and one cannot happen without the other; one supplements another; one

Sir, with great and heavy heart and anguish I say and I think the hon. Minister will understand me in proper perspective that dilution of planning ultimately is the dilution of independence of our country. This I narrate not with any sense of anger, nor with any sense of frustration and also not with any sense of acrimony. We are the inheritors of the struggle which our leaders have fought to make this country the independent country and to make this parliament a sovereign body of the people of India. Let us rise equally to safeguard the sovereignty of the House and in that process renew our fight against the forces which seek to dilute the economic sovereignty of the country and seek to dilute the independence of our country.

With a heavy heart, with anguish, I speak. Today at least I have got no sense of anger and acrimony. I feel that the august House should rise equally to the occasion and think in terms of protecting, preserving, safeguarding and if possible enriching the sovereignty of this great nation by not allowing those who are trying to compromise the economic sovereignty our country.

In this background, I am sorry to say that the process of dilution of planning has already started. It is already on. We have got a package of new economic policies which comprise; devaluation of rupee, import liberalisation, exit policy-not entry policy, but exit policy- new industrial policy, virtual negation of the Act and FERA Act, the so called globalisation of the Indian economy and lastly the very timid- my words today are very soft because I do not want to hurt the feeling of any section of this House- to the Dunkel draft. These are all soft terms. Usually we use very harsh words and phrases. Since I want the support and sympathy from all quarters of the House, I have used very soft words. I want that you should also understand the basic premise of the essence of the planned economy. When I say planned economy, I am opposed to the capital based economy.

With your permission I will have to quote

country because it is the essence of the Constitution of our country:

"We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens;

Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and opportunity and to promote among them all Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual.."

I have to remind you of what we have adopted for ourselves. Now, we come to the ground reality. (*Interruptions*) I come to your domain directly now. The preliminary document of the Eighth plan prepared by the planning Commission now, states it very candidly. There is not even a pretxyzention to have some value. The role of the planning Commission would be indicative. It will only indicate. It has got no role to play.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): They are prepared to commit suicide.

SHRI CHITTA BASU; They are prepared to commit suicide, in your voice. I borrow from him, sir. I think it is not a sin to borrow from him, but it is a sin to borrow from Washington.

As a matter of fact, I had the opportunity of attending a meeting convened by the Deputy chairman of planning Commission; and he is the former Finance Minister of our country. Of course, he is a good friend of mine. After talking to him, I felt, do we need a Planning Commission at all? That indication he was giving. The hint that he was giving, lead us to that. The Members of parliament will know something of planning. Ultimately he was presiding over the liquidation of the planning Commission; This is the position, we have landed ourselves to.

Secondly, - this is much more grievous- the present policy of the Governments-of-

indicating Indian economy and launching new economic policies is in the direction of 'market-friendly economy'. Market friendly economy is nothing but the death blow to the concept, to the perception of planning as a whole. Again I remind you, the perception of planning is the product of the national freedom movement of our country. Again and again, I have to remind you these things because it hurts me. Therefore, this very concept of the famous Eighth plan is not a plan— for India's future, but it is a plan for the liquidation of the planning Commission and also the liquidation of whatever we have achieved so far through planned economy. Planned economy does not merely mean some building, some structures, etc. Planned economy means development of the social justice. Social justice has been banned; and the perception of social justice and planned economy is again co- terminus. As I have mentioned, Tatas have also planned in 1942 and that plan was 'Bombay plan', which was to build up a capitalist society in our country. But, our perception of planning is different. It is basically to implement, to give effect to and to translate into action, the pledges that we have taken in this holy book, that is the Constitution of India.

Therefore, the planning Commission has been made irrelevant and inconsequential. This is not a charge and do not take it that way. It is my frustration. It is the expression of my frustration and disappointment, about the performance of the Government.

Now, let us see the constitutional provision regarding planning itself. I am not speaking in vacuum. I am speaking entirely under the framework of this Constitution. Planning is in entry 20 of the Concurrent List. The entry 'economic and social planning' therefore, economic planning, social planning and planning. Although this is very much there in the Constitution, the constitution unfortunately and unhappily for me does not specify any mechanism like Planning Commission in the body of the Constitution itself. Even speaking of entry 20 of the Concurrent List, the economic and social planning is very much a part of the Constitution. But this Constitution does not pro-

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

vide 'a' mechanism or 'b' mechanism or 'a+b' mechanisms to implement entry 20 of the Constitution of our country in the Concurrent List.

We have got the provision for Finance Commission. I have been inspired. The idea started with me to move an amendment of this nature by studying the role of the Finance Commission. My immediate reaction was if there can be a Finance Commission - a constitutional body. It is known to you. I do not like to quote it intensively. Why should there not be a provision for planning Commission which ultimately decides the fate of the country, fate of the Finance Commission? If there is no social justice, the nation ceases to exist.

If Finance Commission is a part of constitutional instruments, the planning Commission should be a part of Constitution, a link of Constitution inseparable from the Constitution. That is the main idea which I want to serve by this amendment of the Constitution.

It will not be irrelevant if we go back to the history of the formation of the planning Commission as we see it today. Planning Commission is not a constitutional creature. It is not created by the Constitution. The planning Commission was set up in March, 1950 with the Prime Minister as its Chairman by an executive order. Its role was designed to be an advisory body, to make recommendations to the Central Cabinet. Let me have the privilege of quoting some paragraphs from the executive order. I will be doing injustice if I do not quote certain portions. This is text of the resolution, dated 15th March, 1950 constituting the planning Commission:

"3. The Constitution of India has guaranteed certain Fundamental Rights to the citizens of India and enunciates certain Directive principles of State policy, in particular, that the state shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as

effectively as it may a social order, in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life, and shall direct its policy towards securing, among other things.

The planning Commission will:

(1) make an assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country, including technical personnel, personnel, and investigate the possibilities of augmenting such of these resources as are found to be deficient in relation to the nation's requirements."

Therefore, this was merely by an executive order to perform a role which is of constitutional nature and whose foundation is based on the Constitution of our country.

Sir, the National Development Council is also necessary because one of the objectives is to give constitutional basis and foundation to the planning Commission and another objective is to give the National Development Council the Constitutional foundation by this amending Bill. The NDC was set up in August, 1952 on the suggestion of the planning Commission. It was assigned the following functions. I want to give a hint of the functions which the NDC is to discharge. It has to review the working of the national plan from time to time to consider important questions of social and economic policies affecting the national development and to recommend measures for the achievement of the aims and targets of the national plan. Therefore, it is quite clear that this NDC has been given the responsibility of charting the way for the economic development of our country through planned economic growth, with social justice as the objective. This Council initially comprised of the prime Minister as its Chairman, the Chief Ministers of all States and Members of the planning Commission. But some recommendations were made by the Administrative Reforms Commission. In 1967, in the implementation of the recommendations of the AFC, the NDC's membership was enlarged which included all the Cabinet Ministers of the Union Government, all the Chief Ministers of the States and those

of the Union Territories ... (Interruptions) ... It is your right to be there. It is your right to advise the Government. This is what the House expects of you, that is, you should speak out. Sir, the Governor of Delhi, the chief Executive Councilor of Delhi and big men are there. But it produces very insignificant results. Sir, that would not be my charge, that would be the charge made by the Chief Ministers of the country about the functioning of the National Development Council. Over and above this an important function was also added, namely, prescribe guidelines for the formation of the national plan including the assessment of resources of the plan. But unfortunately Sir, it is not the NDC, it is not the Chief Ministers, it is not the Union Ministers, it is not the Lt. Governors or anybody else who are in the NDC today, who formulate our national plan or made assessment of the resources of the plan. Please don't, think that I am generating heat. It is Washington, it is the International Monetary fund and the World Bank which is monitoring the Planning Commission and the National Development Council. Since they have the audacity to monitor these institutions one day they will have the audacity to take over even this sovereign House also, as it had happened in certain countries. This is my worry and this is my charge.

Sir, NDC and Planning Commission are two important instruments insofar as national economic and social development are concerned. But none of them is a statutory body. As I have mentioned already, they are assigned the functions prescribed by the Constitution of the country.

I do not want to use harsh words. But I have got facts in my possession with regard to the vulnerability of Planning Commission and with regard to certain deeds or partisan activities on the part of the Government as also the prime Minister and some other persons who matter in the administration of the country. Sir, today I do not want to mention any of those names or those events which go directly against the very basic principle of planning.

Sir, Planning Commission is not to be

made a limb of the Government. Planning Commission should not be left at the mercy of certain bureaucrats; Planning Commission should not be left at the mercy of some chosen discredited politicians with political ambition and who are not interested in serving the cause of our country and its progress and prosperity. I do have a list of instances as also names of those, including even the Prime Minister of this country, who one after the other utilise Planning Commission to further their political ambitions, to deprive the States of their rightful share just to garner the electoral harvests. Since I do not want to enter into any argument or any kind of misunderstanding I will not refer to it. But I have prepared a long list of instances and names after some kind of a study. I do not want to read it out but I do say that the planning Commission has been used for political purposes. I should say, not even political purposes, but for some very petty, narrow, selfish partisan and vested interests of certain individuals belonging to a particular political party to subserve their electoral purposes. This is not the object of the Planning Commission! I am bound to remind you that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had great ideas on Planning Commission. But the most unfortunate thing that today we have to witness is that the grandson of Pandit Nehru had described the Planning Commission as a pack of jokers. I say this not with anger. I only want to point how an organization which is given the job of chartering planned economy with distributive justice is devalued consistently and systematically.

This is a charge against the Government who have been using it as their own limb. The Planning Commission has been treated merely as a Government routine department.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): It has been treated as a subordinate attached office.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Anyway, if it is a better phrase, I borrow it from you. Therefore, I want that the Government must revise its policies.

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

These two instruments are directly related to the centre-State relations. Just to save time I will quote from the Sarkaria Commission Report since if I do not quote, I will take longer time to explain. I will mention only two things. The particular section refers to the criticism by the State Governments about the State plans. The State Government says :

"Most of the State Governments have maintained that they are not given a due opportunity to participate in the national planning. The present process of consultation involving the States commences after the broad features of the Five Year Plan are already cast "

This is a statement made by Certain chief Minister of the State before the Sarkaria Commission .

"While most of the State Governments agree that the planning Commission should lay down broad national priorities and targets they have asked that the states should have greater freedom and flexibility in formulating the details of the schemes concerning their sphere. The complaint that their initiative in this regard is restricted by a procedure of the detailed scrutiny and finalisation of the State plans. The mechanism of Central assistance and earmarking of outlays had been the controlled exercise by the Union Ministers through the centrally sponsored schemes."

Sir, I am witness to the difficulty a State Government is to face for getting one simple project cleared. Sir, for a simple Rs. 6 crores worth of drainage project in my constituency where I have been working for the last 25 years, the finance will be provided by the State Government, that is by the Ganga Flood Commission whose headquarters is at Patna and this will be guided by the Central water Commission . They will dictate each and every thing of that plan. One day I had been to Patna to meet the concerned Officer. He said that we have asked the State

Government to give us the revised financial estimate, since there has been inflation of the order of 10 or 11 per cent. I said you have got a clerk, you have got a calculator, instead of sending it to the State Government you could have very well calculated it and added to the earlier amount. Instead of adding and getting it calculated, you are asking the State Governments to update their calculation.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : For a good Centre-State relations.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : So, it is for a good Center-State relations. But it produces bad impact on the State.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: It should be implemented in Andamans.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Therefore,, I am going to cite an example . If a Member of Parliament has to run from pillar to post just to get a project in his Constituency- from Delhi to Farakka, from Farakka to Delhi, Delhi to Patna and this and that -even then, today, it is not being done. You will not give the money . You will not give the technical assistance. But, you shall give the advice so that the energy, enthusiasm of the State Governments are kept alive.

Anyway, I do not want to take much of your time. Let us also, in this connection, remind the hon. Minister, about the recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission in this regard.

The National Reforms Commission observed and I quote that: "The national plan will assuredly be executed with greater enthusiasm and energy if those who are charged with greater enthusiasm and energy, if those who are charged with the task of implementing them also participate in their formulation." the State Governments should formulate and participate in the formulation of the plan. Because, it is the State Governments which have to execute the plan.

Sir, if there is a question regarding this, he will stand up and say that: "These are to be executed and implemented by the State Governments. The State Governments are not doing that. Bihar government is too green. West Bengal Government is too red. M.P. government is saffron. Red, saffron, green and all these considerations will come and they will say that they are all incapable Governments. We are the only people who can deliver the goods. You shall not consult them in the matter of formulation of the Plan but you wanted to work under your command and show enthusiasm and show energy. This is impossible. This is impracticable. This is subverting the concept of the Plan." Therefore, I have given two quotations.

Now, let me turn towards the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. You, please look at page 582 of the Commission's Report.

Sir, before that, I also want to refer to certain inefficiencies of the working of the National Development Council. This is summary of the comments made by different State Government before the Sarkaria Commission.

"There has not been any marked improvement in the National Development Council's functioning even after its reconstitution in 1967. Some of the functions which have been highlighted are enumerated below.

The NDC meets only at the initiative of the Planning Commission which determines its Agenda. The Planning Commission does not always put before the Council alternative sets of perspectives, strategies and targets along with the assumption made to enable it to decide among the choice available."

When Shri E. M. S. Namboodripad was the Chief Minister of Kerala, his Government produced an alternative strategy of Planning. The Kerala government submitted it to the Planning Commission. Oflate, the Government of West Bengal also formulated an alternative Plan, an alternative strategy for

the planned economy.

The Planning Commission do not even study those things not to speak of circulating them to the Members.

This only *fait accompli* is there. They produce something and the Chief Ministers are required to come here; and they read out lengthy speeches. The Conference procedure consists of set of speeches made by the Chief Ministers with very little or mutual discussion.

The summing up of the deliberation open do not reflect a variety of views. The time given to the States for crystalizing their view is insufficient. These are not mine; these comments are of the Chief Ministers of the country representing different shades of political opinions, including the Congress (I) party. And this should not be taken as my views; this is their criticism; this also gives rise to such complaints as made by a chief Minister that strategy and policy are not being put to sufficient national debate and informed consideration; they have been rather hurriedly pushed through.

Now I would like to quote from "Federal finance in India" book by Achal Kumar Gaur. He has dealt in depth and very precisely with fiscal relation. On page 68, it reads as follows:

"The Planning Commission has emerged as an important channel of resource transfer to the States. Since inception of planned economic development in India, realisation of 'economic growth with someal justice' has been the supreme target. Reckoning of the facts indicate that Plan transfers were not much conducive towards realization of the said objective. The scheme of Plan transfers to the States has been designed in such a manner that it has resulted in rever flow of resources from the States to the Centre in from of repayment of interest as well as principal."

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

This is the complaint of the Bihar Government. This is also the complaint of Assam Government. This is also the complaint of the West Bengal Government.

I have got figures to show that what you give from the Centre you take away by way of repayment of interest and repayment of principal. In West Bengal, if I am speaking from memory, these years, they have to pay more than what they will get from them, although Shri Manmohan Singh says that States are getting more by way of mutual assistance; there is a greater amount of money transferred to the States from the Union Pool. I have got enough facts to suggest that this is one kind of colonialism, if not new. You want to rule from Delhi; you want to rule through the Planning Commission; you want to befool the National Development Council. Whom are you befooling?? Whom are you deceiving? You are deceiving yourself.

Sir, let us come to the main point. The Sarkaria Commission has finally come to a conclusion and recommended some things.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deoragh): They have said clearly that it should be a constitutional body.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You listen to me. You say whatever you want to say when your turn comes. For your information, they have said that;

"We, therefore, are of the view that being the supreme inter-governmental body on all matters relating to the socio-economic development, it is necessary that the National Development Council should be re-named and re-constituted as National Economic and Development Council by a Presidential Order under the provisions of Article 263 of the Constitution. The provisions of clauses (b) and (c) of Article 263 are wide enough to encompass the functions of the National Development Council. The NEDC, thus constituted will, while re-

taining adequate flexibility, have a measure of authority and formalised status having the constitutional sanction of article 263."

My friend has raised the question. I admit. They have suggested that the planning Commission or the NDC should be given a constitutional status. But in principle, they have said that it should be brought under Article 263 of the Constitution. They must have also felt the need of having a constitutional basis beign given to these important limbs of the economic and social development of our country.

Again, the planning Commission should also, equally they have said, should be formed by some other constitutional considerations.

Sir, while concluding, I would say, I will again appeal to all the Members of this august body not to treat this first proposal for amending the Constitution as a move from a single party or a private Member belonging to the Opposition. But this amending Bill will enable this great country of ours to rid itself of the bureaucratic control for economic and social development.

This amending bill would, if accepted, rid this country of the disgrace of relying upon borrowings, from within and outside, with conditionalities which injure and harm the nation's prestige, honour, economic Sovereignty and ultimately political independence. The Members of this great House should have this perspective while giving their views on this amending Bill

With these words, I appeal to all the Members to consider in depth this proposal and express their views to uphold the honour of this great country, to preserve the pledges we have made under the Constitution and see that the country makes strident progress in future.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deoragh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to congratulate our senior friend, Chitta Basuji, for having presented this Bill,

which has facilitated this august House to deliberate on an important matter like the status that is enjoyed at present and what should be enjoyed coveted organisations, institutions, like planning commission, National Development Council, of our country.

It is an academic exercise, a sort of academic exercise. that we are engaged in. This is not the first time this Bill or this topic is being debated In this august House earlier also, discussion of this nature took place. And outside the House also, there had been deliberations and discussions on this matter.

Chitta Basuji himself, as I was going through the records, had come forward with a Bill of this nature earlier when the National Front Government was here probably. Those who were cheering him, for their knowledge I would like to...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barsat) : Sir, the consideration of the Bill depends on the ballot lot. During the time of the National Front Government, this would have been taken up for discussion provided the ballot lot favoured me at that time. He should also know the process that is being observed here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, anyway during our time the ballot is favouring him. He should thank himself and our Government because during this time only, fortune smiled on him and otherwise not....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Please come to the subject.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I am coming to the subject. You are going to be here till 70' Clock. Do not be impatient, Nitishji....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I will give you a patient hearing.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Anyway the National Front Government, like many other lofty things, attractive populist

things, had included this in their manifesto. To give constitutional status to planning Commission was in the manifesto of the then Janata Dal. What had happened? Could anything concrete come about?

From the beginning I would like to go on record that I am myself and not happy hundred per cent with the planning process of our country. In the formulation of planning, there is a lot of scope for improvement. I do not subscribe or contribute to the view that there is no need for improvement or no scope for improvement in the planning process. I say that there should be much more improvement both in the process of plan formulation as well as in the process of its implementation after proper formulation of plan. On these two counts, much more needs to be done.

Sir, our friend Chitta Basuji had quoted from some reports, some books and some authors, There are many authors, and of different school of thoughts, and one can community note them. It is a good question that he raised about the constitutional status to be given to the planning body. He said that these two bodies—the National Development Council and the National Development Commission—should have constitutional authority.

In 1950 we adopted the Constitution. The great Constituent Assembly used to meet in the Central Hall — which is now a recreation place for Members of parliament— and there the most sacred document of our country was deliberated, drafted and adopted. In 1950 we adopted it. Within a month after the adoption of the Constitution, the Government— with Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru as the Head of the Cabinet — decided to have a planning body. I want to say here that there were stalwarts and veteran freedom fighters who were adorning the Constituent Assembly who are our founding fathers of the Constitution. All of them, in their wisdom, thought it fit that it should not be a constitutional forum or institution. Had they any difficulty at that point of time to directly put it in the Constitution? Just after one month of the adoption of the Constitu-

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

tion, they had gone for this. That clearly shows that the founding fathers deliberately wanted these bodies to be kept out of the purview of the Constitution and not in it. Had they had the tinkling to do it, they could have put it in the Constitution.

I want to know why every thing is to be brought within the purview of the constitution. The Mother of democracy, the Great Britain is running in entirety on the basis of conventions. Can we not also have some such convention? On so many occasions we profess that conventions will have to be developed. Why cannot certain things be left out to be governed and managed on the basis of convention?

I agree with Shri Chitta Basu that planning Commission is not a new phenomenon for India— after independence. We had the legacy of planning from british days. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited Soviet Union along with his illustrious father in the late twenties and he was inspired by the planning process there. He was impressed by the planning that was there at that point of time. They had made their mark and impression in the mind of Pandit Nehru. On his return to India, he also started deliberations in 1938 when Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was the Congress president. The planning committee was headed by Pandit Nehru himself in 1938.

16.00 hrs.

And Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a great socialist, as all of us know, and the Land Reforms Committee was there at that time, the planning committee was there, and it was 10 Years prior to the achievement of independence our aim and objects were very clear that we would go in for planned development, planned economic development, we would go in for democracy and we would go in for planning and that is why democratic socialism was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's brain-child. He was, as you know, a great thinker, a great doer and a great dreamer. He was not only a dreamer of dreams but also a doer of deeds and he was

one of the greatest intellectuals of that time, of this century. So, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru put the planning Commission on a very high pedestal and he also used to call it the 'brain— trust of the country'. The planning Commission is also rightly called so, the brain-trust of the country, and with esteem he used to view it and treat it. Again, Sir, when the planning commission was constituted, not that it was having a smooth sail. The Finance Minister of that time, John Mathai, put up a great resistance, he opposed it tooth and nail inasmuch as he resigned, he quit the Cabinet on the charges that another extra—constitution was going to be set up which would infringe, and would encroach upon the power and authority of the Union Cabinet to a large extent. Dr. John Mathai, making such observation in protest chose to quit the Cabinet. But Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was very firm in his position, was very firm in his views and he went ahead giving much respect and credibility to the planning Commission, and as we all know, the era of planning in India in 1951— 52 ushered in. The First plan was in 1952. Sir, the planning Commission in very clear terms— assigned to prepare the plan and formulate its function was advisory nature. It is an advisory body any I feel that to make it just an advisory body is the correct position in a country of vast dimension and vast population, where material conditions differ largely from place to place climatic conditions other things also differ.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : Sir, if the House agrees, we can take up this business next time because it is not going to conclude today. I suggest this because of social commitments. There is a Dinner of the President of Afghanistan. So, we are all invited there. This can be carried to the next week. *(Interruption)*

SHRI SUDHER GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Private Members' Business started at 4.45 p.m. and it is required to continue upto 7.15 p.m. *(Interruption)*

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad) : Sir, it is not the question of concluding this bill, but it is the question of giving two—and—half hours to the private Members' Business.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since it is Friday, most of the members want to get back to their houses away from Delhi and so, I think we can take up the Private Members' Business at 6.00 p.m. on Monday and give the remaining time to the Members. So, I think, if the House agrees, we can adjourn now. (Interruption)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria); Mr. Chairman, Sir, two and half a hours are allocated for it. But it is better if you allocate us time on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What will happen if the debate will not complete on that day.

SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: Then it will be debated on next Friday... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: We Want two and half an hours more for the discussion on it.

[English]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, with the consent of the House, on Monday, after 6.00 p.m. the extended time would be used for this very Bill.

Now, the House Stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 30 th March, 1992, at 11.00 a. m.

18.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, March 30, 1992/ Chaitra 10, 1914 (Saka)