

MR SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the deceased person, the House will now stand in silence for a short while.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while)

MR SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Ayyangar, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p. m. The Call Attention listed for today will be taken up tomorrow, and in the afternoon we are taking up legislative work.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Why should we not adjourn for the whole day ?

MR SPEAKER : There is very important work

11-30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT RE. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement adopted by the National Development Council at the end of its meeting held on March 18 and 19, 1978.

Statement

The National Development Council met on March 18-19, 1978 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister to discuss the document *Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83*, prepared by the Planning Commission.

The Council approved the objectives of removal of unemployment, reduction in poverty and inequalities and continued progress towards self-reliance and generally welcomes the proposals in the Draft Plan in furtherance of these objectives. The Council approved the corresponding increased allocations for agriculture, rural development, irrigation, flood control and power and village and small-scale industries. The Council emphasised that these larger allocations alone would not benefit poorer sections of the people unless necessary institutional and administrative changes are made to ensure that benefits do indeed reach those for whom they are intended. Attention was especially drawn in this connection to the importance of speeding

up the implementation of land reforms and of mobilising peasant organisations for this purpose.

While commending the emphasis in the document on the Minimum Needs Programme, the Council recognised that the public distribution system covering essential articles of mass consumption needs to be expanded and strengthened without any delay.

The projections of employment opportunities indicated in the Plan were discussed and it was agreed that these should be reviewed in detail in consultation with the State Governments.

The NDC drew pointed attention to the need for making effective changes in administrative and other systems to ensure the success of plan objectives, especially the employment objective and the objective of narrowing down inequalities. The reasons why targets set in the past could not be fulfilled should be fully analysed and corrective actions taken.

The importance of ensuring that the private sector conforms to the national objectives was also emphasised.

It was agreed that the Planning Commission would hold discussions with the States in regard to the details of the Draft Plan, especially the State Plans.

The NDC welcomed the larger role the Draft Plan assigns to the State Governments in development planning and execution. Fiscal arrangements, which would reflect this development, need to be further discussed having regard to the constitutional provisions. A Committee of the NDC would be formed for this purpose. The Committee would, *inter alia*, review the Gadgil formula and the scope of Centrally sponsored schemes in the Plan.

After further discussions with the State Governments, the Plan for 1978-83 would be presented for approval to the NDC at a subsequent meeting. Before this meeting the Report of the Seventh Finance Commission would have been received and taken into consideration.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil) : The Prime Minister has laid a copy of the statement adopted by the National Development Council on the Table of the House. We find in the newspapers that there was a lot of controversy about it and that the Chief Ministers are going to meet separately. I would request you, Sir, to kindly allow us also to have a discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall try to find some time.