

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, May 2, 1990/Vaisakha 12,
1912 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
four minutes past
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Employment and Training to Mentally Retarded and Disabled Persons

[English]

*657. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation during the current session of Parliament to provide employment and training to mentally retarded and disabled persons;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal;

(c) whether a National Job Development Centre (JDC) was recently inaugurated in Bombay to provide employment and

training facilities to the mentally retarded and disabled;

(d) if so, which are the other States where similar centres would be set up; and

(e) how is this JDC to be funded and what is the role proposed to be assigned to voluntary organisations to make this programme a success?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b). Government is contemplating introduction of a legislation for the welfare of the disabled during the current session of the Parliament to cover the sectors of education, vocational training, employment and placement services, access of the physically disabled into public buildings, creation of a Trust for the Mentally Retarded and for spastics.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The National Job Development Centre at Bombay has been taken up as a pilot project in the area of vocational rehabilitation of both urban and rural disabled and was inaugurated on 31st March, 1990. Starting of such Centres in other States would be considered only after the project is evaluated, properly based on the experiences of the Job Development Centre, Bombay.

(e) Funds would be provided by the US-India Rupee Fund, the Ministry of Welfare (MOW) and the Spastics Society of India to the extent of:

US-India Rupee Fund	—	Rs. 36.711 million
Ministry of Welfare	—	Rs. 8.652 million
Spastics Society of India	—	Rs. 1.567 million

The voluntary Organisation, Spastics Society of India will be the implementing agency under the supervision of the Ministry of Welfare.

[English]

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Since the Government is bringing forward a comprehensive legislation for the disabled, I would like to ask a specific question. The Institute of Social Sciences estimates that more than four per cent of our country's population is either physically disabled or mentally retarded. The number comes to about 30 million. It is growing by a million each year. The basic problem of the disabled is not about their outer self which we see either in a deformed body, blindness, deafness and dumb.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask two questions. Please put the question.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Their basic problem is about their inner self which will be often mutilated by the cruel society by way of ridiculing them etc. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are eliciting information from the Minister. Please come to the question.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Even till today, the Welfare Ministry thinks that by doling out certain packets of mercy in the form of their hearing aids, artificial limbs or starting some rehabilitation centres, problems would be solved. But certainly not, Sir. It is only when you allow the disabled persons to involve themselves and participate in the mainstream of society as a matter of right that their problem could be successfully

tackled. Even the U.N. Report also says that, they will be greatly, psychologically, physically and also socially helped by their involvement in the society through integrated system of education. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister a specific question whether in the proposed legislation the necessary care has been taken to see that the required quota of reservation in seats for the disabled is provided (a) in all the normal schools, specially, those schools which are privately run, public schools and also in the existing technical and vocational institutions because to open the required number of technical and vocational institutions for all the disabled in the country is not possible; (b) whether the provision of reservation in employment for the disabled in all the private sector enterprises is also provided....

MR. SPEAKER: You must have pointed question.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: The pointed question is, whether the Government is taking care to see that the legislation provides for reservation in all the normal schools and the existing vocational technical institutions and also the reservation for employment in all the private sector enterprises for the disabled.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Government is considering to include the points suggested by the hon. Member.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: The problem of this nature could be solved not by simple promises. The basic problem of the millions of the voiceless and the powerless in the country can never be solved unless we give them the voice and the power

only through their legitimate and due representation to them in Parliament and also in the legislatures. Their problems can be taken care of only if we involve their genuine representatives both in policy making bodies and also in implementing agencies. When we have a large number of disabled persons in our society, it is absolutely necessary to provide them due representation constitutionally. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether in the proposed legislation, necessary care has been taken to see that the constitutional guarantee is given to these millions of disabled persons order to provide due representation both in Parliament and legislatures soon?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: So far as the question of providing representation in Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies is concerned, there is no such proposal before the Government, at present. Now coming to her second question i.e. regarding the disabled or handicapped persons, I would like to state that it is a very serious matter and the Government is seriously thinking over it. I have already replied that a Bill to this effect will be brought forward during the current session and though it is the Parliament which will pass the Bill, we, on our part, will try our best to see it through and we have proposed a reservation of 3 per cent in all the four class of posts, viz. A, B, C and D. In addition to the above percentage, 1 per cent class D Posts will be reserved for mentally retarded persons. These provisions will be equally applicable to public as well as private sector D. We have made a statutory provision so that it could be enforced effectively.

[*English*]

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: I would like to know from the Welfare Minister whether he will take concrete steps to talk to the various Departments of the Central Government and also the various State Governments so as to allow free travel of the mentally and physically retarded persons in private as well as Government buses and

also in the Railways.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: When a bill is brought forward, this point will also be taken into consideration.

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that he inaugurated the National Job Development Centre on 31 March in Bombay as an experimental project in the field of Vocational rehabilitation of the physically handicapped persons. I would like to request to give a brief account of the activities of the centre which he inaugurated in Bombay. I would like to know from him as to what programmes have since been started in the above centre.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have already covered the above two points in my reply and also given the figures of estimated expenditure on this project.

MR. SPEAKER: He is saying that he has already replied your point.

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: What has he replied? (*Interruptions*) He only said that inauguration was made and he gave the figures of estimated expenditure on this project. But my question is as to what work is in progress in the project.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was inaugurated on 31 March 1990. The hon. Member belongs to that area. Let him go there and see for himself as to what work has been done there. I will also, on my part, assess progress made in the work.

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the way of giving reply. My question was very simple as to what work has been done in the above centre after it was inaugurated by the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The work

usually carried out offer the inauguration of a Project is being carried out there also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving you protection. Please put a specific question.

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: I was giving to point out that after the inauguration, generally there are 3-4 dimensions on which one has to at. The hon. Minister said that he inaugurated the building which had been constructed for this purpose. I would like to know as to whether any programme for the disabled persons was started or was any programme started there inviting the disabled persons there.

MR. SPEAKER: What were the works that were started there. Please tell about that.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question reads as follows:

[*English*]

"Whether a National Job Development Centre (JDC) was recently inaugurated in Bombay to provide employment and training facilities to the mentally retarded and disabled;"

[*Translation*]

I said that it was inaugurated. The training work cannot be completed in a day. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell the House as to what training programmes are being run thereafter the inauguration of the building. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Please say something as to what training Programmes are being run there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, if you allow me. I can sit with him for an hour and

explain every things to him. The simple thing is that this programme is meant for both urban and rural development. It is a training centre to which facilities for imparting vocational training is available. All equipments are available there. It has just been started. All the work cannot be done in a day.

[*English*]

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Sir, there are so many private institutions run by nuns/sisters which are meant for the improvement of the welfare of mentally retarded people. I would like to know whether any type of financial assistance is given for these people. If so, I would like to know the details, State-wise..

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: She desires to know as to whether the Government will also provide financial assistance to institutions run by some missionaries?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: So far as the Voluntary Organisations are concerned, they are being paid grant-in-aid every year. The Government had sanctioned Rs. 10 crores last year and a provision of Rs. 16 crores has been made for the current year.

[*English*]

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: There are a number of social and voluntary organisations which are doing commendable work in the settlement of mentally retarded and disabled persons. A large number of them are recognised by the Government of India. They usually receive donations from individuals as well as from institutions. Some of them have got income tax exemptions also. And a large number of them have applied for income tax exemptions, and they have not got it. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will use his influence with the Finance Ministry to see that all the recognised and registered social organisations receive income tax exemption.

[*Translation*]

SHRIRAM VILAS PASWAN: When we bring the legislation, we will examine this point also.

[*English*]

Funds for Improvement in Major Cities

*658. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union government have in the recent past sanctioned additional funds for bringing about improvements in the major cities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)(i) An amount of Rs. 100.00 crores has been sanctioned as Special Grant to the Government of Maharashtra to meet the acute problems of Housing and Slums in Bombay.

(ii) On the recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission a one-time Grant of Rs. 50.00 crores each has been sanctioned to the Governments of Maharashtra and West Bengal for slum clearance, environmental improvement of slums and provision of basic amenities in the cities of Bombay and Calcutta respectively with the condition that the State Governments would also make a matching provision of the same amount for this purpose.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the fast development of

the country, the condition of urban areas is also fast deteriorating. For example, take the case of Nagpur, the heartland of this country, which is situated exactly in the centre of the country. At the time of independence, the population of this city was about 3 1/2 - 4 lakh which has now gone up to over 20 lakh. The conditions have become so miserable in that city that today seven lakh people are living there in jhuggi jhonpris bading a life of moths and insects. One can see their plight. No roads, drainage or any other facility have been provided there. Therefore, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that no financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to improve the living condition of the common man living in urban areas. There are only one or two nominal schemes for slum development which will hardly benefit the people. In this regard, I would like to say that with the funds allocated by the Centre, not even a proper lavatory can be provided what to say of providing electricity, water and other facilities to these people. There must be some clear policy in this regard. Will the Central Government provide financial assistance to the cities having a population of more than 10 lakh because the Municipalities in these cities do not have adequate source of income? Your industrial policy has ruined..... (*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked two questions. But after asking the question, you are coming to the same point.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: The municipal corporations do not get money from it and in case they do not have sufficient income, does the Central Government propose to provide some financial assistance to them?

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. Urbanisation is taking place in a very fast pace. In the sense that— if I could be permitted to quote, I would— over the past four decades, the total population is more than doubled.