

[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.

MR. SPEAKER: His question is whether you are going to financially assist them.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, probably in the year 2001, 35 per cent of the total population will be living in urban areas. But what is needed is a very consistent, logical and systematic policy which can be sustained over a period of years. Sir, we have represented to the Planning Commission about the urgency of this matter.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Is the Government representing to the Planning Commission?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: No. My Ministry. My Ministry has to represent. The Working Group of the Planning Commission has also recommended a total of Rs. 6,829 crore for this purpose, for example, in the integrated development scheme of medium and small towns—Rs. 293 crore; water supply and sanitation Rs. 1,736 crore; urban transport—Rs. 4,800 crores. It is a joint effort, a participatory effort of civic bodies, State Governments and the Central Government. These are the recommendations of the Working Group. Let us hopefully expect for the best.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the hon. Members are with the Minister for rendering any support or to exert pressure on any one. My question is that Nagpur has been declared the second capital of Maharashtra and since then, its condition is deteriorating day by day. Nagpur is the second capital of Maharashtra and a Central place of the country. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would provide financial assistance to Nagpur also as it has allocated Rs. 100 crores to help the development of Bombay?

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, my Ministry or the Union Government cannot give special grant in assistance except under

extraordinary circumstances. A planned scheme has to come from the State Government. For example, the Mayor of Nagpur has given a memorandum that the city needs about Rs. 100 crore for the development. Naturally, it is not in the form of a scheme. So, we have sent it back to the State Government. We are expecting the reply. And hopefully, we will do something.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while on one hand, there are sky scrapers and palatial buildings of Chanakyapuri in New Delhi, on the other, there are slums, jhuggi-jhonpris and unauthorised colonies of Delhi where the people have not been provided even the basic civic amenities. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether additional funds have been granted to provide civic amenities in these areas? If not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the Delhi Administration has been asked to prepare a plan to attack the situation of slums and congestion there. They have evolved a plan in which the sites will be divided into three parts. Certain areas, which are immediately need for the Government projects, will be cleared and those people will be re-located.

Other areas, which are not needed for the next ten years, will be given assistance in the form of institute improvement.

The third category will be given tenurial ownership of land. HUDCO will lend them assistance in building their own houses. The special plan has been prepared by the Delhi Administration and it is being implemented.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am talking of additional funds. Have the Central Government provided additional funds for improving the living conditions of

lakhs of people who are leading a miserable life?

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The Planning Commission have tentatively agreed to a provision of Rs. 23 crore for the year 1990-91 for this item.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, I know that.

[*English*]

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Sir, the hon. Minister says that Calcutta and Bombay have been provided for certain to a extent and in extraordinary circumstances, he will think about it.

Now Pune is a case of extraordinary circumstances. It is the fastest growing city next to Bangalore. And one suburb, Kothrud, has entered in the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest growing suburb in Asia. There are a number of traffic problems and 90 deaths on an average are due to traffic. Under those circumstances, I would like to know from the Minister whether he would consider Pune under extraordinary circumstances. I would assure him that anybody who does anything for Pune prospers in life.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have given blessings too.

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The Ninth Finance Commission was headed by a Maharashtrian. Unfortunately he did not bother about Pune. He mentioned only about Calcutta and Bombay and the former Prime Minister granted Rs. 100 crore only to Bombay and not to Pune. Naturally, if the

hon. Member wants some special grant and assistance, I think he has to take our Prime Minister there and ask him to make a declaration.

SHRIMATISUBHASHINIALI: Sir, I have got a specific question to ask. If any Municipal Corporation, like Kanpur, approaches the Central Government agencies like HUDCO for loans for improving their civic amenities, or working out schemes to generate funds to pay back the loans, will the Central Government give some assistance in the form of grants to pay for the interest on these loans so that those Municipal Corporations could be helped to solve their problems.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: First, HUDCO is a company and no grant is made available by it. However, there is no programme to subsidise the interest rate for the loans taken from the HUDCO company, but HUDCO will be willing to support the needs of the local Boards etc. Very recently, they have opened an urban infrastructure window. We have also recently stepped up the target to Rs. 300 crores in this year and HUDCO will also be too happy to help.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The hon. Minister comes from Tamil Nadu and I hope he has not forgotten his home town, because in his answer he has spoken only of Bombay and Calcutta. Madras, Salem, Trichy and Madurai have major problems, which all urban cities have, especially with regard to development. For example, in my own constituency, the town of Salem lies and we have a major problem with regard to its proper development. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether any additional funds are to be allotted for all these major towns in Tamil Nadu starting from Salem, Madurai, Trichy as also Madras.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I have not forgotten Tamil Nadu, but the previous 9th Finance Commission had forgotten it, because they had taken into account only Calcutta and Bombay. But in one way it is good that a new channel has been opened

for the first time to help cities. But regarding Salem, the programme has to come from the State Government. I cannot simply choose Salem. I think, the hon. Member will approach the State Government.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: The metropolitan city of Madras is celebrating its tricentenary. This year when our Prime Minister visited Madras city for the first time, our Chief Minister requested for a special grant of Rs. 100 crores. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will also help to grant that amount to improve the city of Madras.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: It is true that the Madras city is celebrating its tricentenary, but there is no provision to give money to whichever city celebrates its tricentenary or bicentenary. The Chief Minister has sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister asking for Rs. 300 crores or, if not, at least Rs. one hundred crores. As in the case of Calcutta and Nagpur, it has been sent back to the State Government so that they should send it in the form of a proposed programme for the perusal of the Planning Commission.

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE: Sir, an effort is being made to convert the slums into habitable ones. But in spite of this conversion, the slums are increasing everyday. There is thus a very heavy backlog. Would the Minister tell us as to how long will be take to clear all these backlogs so that the people may have a feeling that this is a country where poor people also have a say in the Government and they could be relieved in that way also.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, it is a very difficult question to answer, because on the one side we are clearing slums and on the other side slums are coming into being. For example 40 per cent of the increase in the urban population is by natural increase. Even if you sit quiet, next year the population will increase by about 40 per cent. Another 40 per cent is by migration. So, to the best extent possible, we have to prevent the migration and give protection to the people.

Regarding backlog, I have no information. I require a notice for that.

SHRI A. K. PANJA: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that Rs. 100 crores has been given to the State of Maharashtra as a Special Grant. And the Ninth Finance Commission has given another Rs. 50 crores to the State of Maharashtra and West Bengal. So, West Bengal is getting only Rs. 50 crores. As the hon. Minister knows, area-wise, population-wise and also slum-dwellers wise. Calcutta is much bigger than Maharashtra. I would like to have answer on two points. We understand from the newspaper reports that because very short time was given-out of Rs. 50 crores, the Government of West Bengal could spend only Rs. 30 crores and Rs. 20 crores still remain to be spent. Would the Minister immediately order for the extension of time so that before the rainy season Rs. 20 crores worth of work may be carried on. Also to prevent this ad hoc money from being wasted, would the Minister immediately declare the city of Calcutta as a national city so that there is a straight flow of fund and the real work for the development of Calcutta city, as intended by the Minister, may be carried on?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked as to why Calcutta was left out. I would put the blame on him also. Why did not be he raise it earlier when he was a Minister here?

Secondly, he wants that Calcutta may be declared as a national city. By mere declaration, it will not get preference from the Centre. For example the National Commission on Urbanisation wanted Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras be declared as national cities and a fund of Rs. 500 crores may be created for their development. But the then Planning Commission rejected it.

SHRI A. K. PANJA: He has not answered the first part of my question.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Regarding the time lapse, I have no idea. The West Bengal Government had given all the pro-

grammes in time. If there is any time lapse, naturally we will not allow it to lapse.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it was an interim recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission to pay an amount of Rs. 50 crores to Bombay during the year 1989-90. Now, the period is over. The Maharashtra State Government has sent all its proposals but the Central Government has not paid the amount so far. I would like to know why the amount has not been paid so far and also whether the amount will be paid in a time bound programme.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, according to the information available to me, the money was paid in time. If there is anything in balance, naturally we will sent it.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, the National Commission on Urbanisation, had made two major recommendations in its interim report. (1) the proportion of money allocated to urban development should be raised. (2) four major cities should be declared as national cities.

Now, the answer which the Minister gave to Mr. Panja is somewhat unsatisfactory. In the final report, because of the machinations of the Congress politicians the declaration of national city was dropped. Mr. Panja did not raise his voice at that time in protest against that. He colluded with them. What I would like to know is, are you going to implement the recommendation of the Interim Commission or not? The is the question on which I would like to have a clarification. It is because according to the recommendation, a fund was also to be created. I would like to know whether the fund is going to be created. I would also like to know whether the Central Government is going to take the responsibility for financing all the major cities. It is because, that was the major recommendation of the National Commission of Urbanisation, The funding cannot be done for the major cities by the State Governments. The responsibility has to be taken up by the Central Government and that was also the recommendation of the National

Commission. I would like to know whether you are going to support the recommendation or not.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the hon. Member do not know the facts, because he is a new Member. He pointed out by saying that myself and my party—that because of our machinations the national city was not created. That is not correct. When I was in the Planning Commission to serve the people as a Minister, Mr. Charles Correa was appointed to make a Report on various cities, including Calcutta. Mr. Charles Correa went there and found that there has been siphoning of money of Rs. 283 crores from the Urban Development. Therefore, this was given. That is why I took the responsibility regarding the creation of national cities. They only wanted to write it on the wall. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I could not complete my question because of the interference of Mr. Panja.

My question is this. The National Commission of Urbanisation in its Interim Report, made three specific recommendations.

- (1) That the four major cities—in view of the importance—should be recognised as national cities;
- (2) They said that a fund should be created for Rs. 1000 crores. This fund should be allocated for the development of the four cities; and
- (3) They said categorically that it is not possible for the State Governments to carry out development activities in the major cities because the influence of these cities extends beyond the boundaries of the States. These were the three main recommendations.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether or not, any of these recommendations is going to be implemented.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The hon. Member is very much right when he said this: "That the Interim Report said that all the four major cities should be declared as national cities. They also wanted to create a fund for Rs. 500 crores or so for the development of these four cities. They also said about the upgradation of the services, the civic bodies should also be undertaken and all that." But in the Final Report, they have changed their mind.

In the meanwhile, the Finance Commission had rejected the creation of Rs. 500 crore fund. Instead, they had identified 329 urban centres, i.e. Generators of Economic Momentum (G.E.M.). Then, 49 Urbanisation Regions were identified as Special Priority Urbanisation Regions S.P.U.R.).

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: That is for West Bengal and not for Calcutta.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Now, the hon. Member wants to know whether the Government will consider the Interim Report. When there is a final Report, I would like to know from the hon. Member, whether it is essential to go back to the Interim Report.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: An injustice was done to a Metropolitan City by the previous Government.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Mr. Gupta, there should be no running commentary.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: As I understand from the hon. Member I respect him—the idea is that more fund should flow to Calcutta and other very big cities. But by declaring it as a national city alone will not create money. What is necessary is that we should have a participatory effort between the civic bodies, State Governments and the Centre to find out ways and means for developing these super metropolitan cities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has pointed out that

financial assistance can be given to the cities under special circumstances. Amritsar which is known as the Gateway of India and has been ruined for the second time by the Congress Government after Ahmed Shah Abdali, so what can more special circumstances can be there for any city of the country than these. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what does the Government purpose to do for the development of Amritsar city?

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Neither this Ministry nor the Finance Ministry nor the Planning Commission has any discretionary fund to sanction special central assistance for such purposes. There is no such programme at present.

Schemes to Control Floods and Drainages in Bihar

*659. **SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA:**
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods have been continuously affecting north Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Union Government proposed to take in this regard;

(d) whether some schemes for controlling floods and the construction of drainages in north Bihar are pending with Union Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). North Bihar is frequently affected by floods. On the basis of information supplied by the State government, the area affected in Bihar, mostly