

has now been raised to 40 per cent under this programme.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the basic question is regarding the evaluation of the I.R.D.P. May I know from the hon. Minister, taking the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans, during which period the total assistance had been given through the IRDP, whether the Government has any proposal to evaluate the assistance given during the past or whether any evaluation has been done during the past and whether the Government is proposing to continue this programme in the 8th Plan? If they are going to continue this programme, I want to know whether any evaluation is going to be done and if any evaluation has been conducted, please state the result of the evaluation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: As I have said earlier, I am repeating it again that so far as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are concerned..... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member want's to know if you are reviewing it.

SHRI DEVI LAL: What I am stating is that we do review but is to see to how can we assist them.

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government certainly gives assistance to the rural poor, farmers and workers but that does not reach them. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government whether it has started any special drive to ensure that assistance sanctioned for the poor reaches them? In the Congress regime, 15 paise out of rupee one reached the poor, so I would like to know whether the Government would start a drive to ensure that the entire amount sanctioned for them reaches them.

SHRI DEVI LAL: In 1980-81, assistance of Rs. 250 crores was given as loan

which has now risen to Rs. 1250 crores in 1989-90.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

[*English*]

**U.S. State Department Spokesman
Statement on Kashmir**

*253. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. State Department Spokesman has reportedly made a statement asking the Indian Government to restrain its security forces from using deadly force against unarmed people in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has conveyed to the US Ambassador in New Delhi its concern about this obviously inaccurate statement.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this Government has taken charge, of course due to mismanagement, they could convince nobody of their actions in Kashmir. The people in Kashmir whether they are Hindus or Muslims or even civil servants, are not convinced of their actions. Sir, nobody is convinced of their actions in Kashmir, not even the Minister-in-Charge of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri George Fernandes. I think the only person who is convinced is Mr. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, our Home Minister. That is about Kashmir. But internationally in world capitals we were told that a high profile diplomatic initiative is being taken, our Ambassadors were sent to various Capitals and this Government is saying that our diplomatic initiative was a success. But what is the position? Look at the statement of the U.S. State Department spokesman. That Statement shows that the well-trained, high

profile diplomatic initiative of this Government was a failure. They could not convince the U.S. State Department or even other State capitals of our stand on Kashmir. I would like to know whether this Government thinks that it is a diplomatic failure. Is it a diplomatic failure and if so, what action you take in this regard?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: My hon. friend need not do undue chest beating. The main point is that India's case has been well represented and well received and even President Bush has appreciated in his letter to the Prime Minister that we are on the right track.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, your second question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: What about the Statement? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You come to the second question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Then what about the Statement of the State Department? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You put your second question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. This is the basic question.

MR. SPEAKER: You put your second question now.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is clear in his reply to your question.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: This question is about the Statement of the U.S. State Department spokesman. If President Bush has said like that, what about this statement, what is the Congress' reaction? He should

say that. There is something wrong somewhere.

MR. SPEAKER: You come to the second question.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: He has not answered it. It is not based on this statement, it is based on something else. I have not asked about Bush's reaction, I have asked about the statement of the U.S. State Department spokesman. That statement has condemned our action. My question is about that. So, he should answer on that.

MR. SPEAKER: You put the second question.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am regulating the procedure. Please come to the second question.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I am sorry, he answered something else.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: This is how they are running the Government.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Yes. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the Kashmir Assembly was dissolved. The democratic process in the State has been put a stop to and yesterday there was a statement by the Minister that they are going to revive the Kashmir Assembly and they are going to allow to start the democratic process.

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough. Prof. Kurien, this is about....

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Yes, Sir, about Kashmir. You should know that this curtailing or stopping of the democratic functioning in Kashmir has given a wrong perception of

our policy on Kashmir in world capitals. It is a wrong perception. Therefore, since the Government has said that they are going to revive the Assembly and start the process, I would like to know by what time the Government is going to correct this wrong and also since the Government felt that dissolution of the Assembly was a wrong step, what action does it take against the Governor who has taken the unconstitutional and illegal action?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not necessarily follow from the main question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I think by now the hon. Member himself has realised that his question is irrelevant.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hari Kishore Singh.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Why it is irrelevant? Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I called Mr. Hari Kishoreji.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: How is my question irrelevant? How can you say that my question is irrelevant? *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I seek your protection. How can my question be irrelevant? *(Interruptions)* They have bungled in Kashmir.... *(Interruptions)* How is it irrelevant? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you Mr. Kurien. I have called Mr. Hari Kishore Singh.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It does not necessarily follow the main question. If the Minister wants to say something, I have no objection; but I cannot compel the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I want to hear Mr. Kurien.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, my only submission is that the Minister can opt not to answer my question. I have no objection; that is his prerogative, but whether my question is irrelevant or not, it is the Chair to decide and not the Minister. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: My ruling is that the second question which was put by Mr. Kurien does not necessarily follow the main question. I think the Minister wanted to say that, as it does not follow the main question.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I am an elected Member here. Let him withdraw that word.

(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, what I had submitted, I think, was right. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given the ruling that it does not follow the main question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, he can kindly see that record. I again quote:

"The hon. Member himself has realised that his question is not related to the main question" *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, I think, the Government should take notice of the reaction of the State Department, whether it is from the spokesman or from the White House and should make suitable protest to them. The diplomatic initiative taken by the Government in regard to Kashmir issue has been a success and Pakistan stands isolated in the comity of nations. We are not to

seek certificate from any foreign Government whether super-power or sub-super powers on the Kashmir issue or any other issue. The House may agree that we need not be exercised over it

My submission is suitable reaction should be conveyed and if necessary, openly. Will the Government convey its definite and firm reaction to the State Government of U.S.A. so that other Governments may not follow the same?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: As I said in reply to the main question, the Government has conveyed to the U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi, New Delhi's concern about the obviously inaccurate statement. After that, we notice that various State officers in various committees have tried to correct that impression.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I fully support the view of my colleague, Prof. Kurien that the National Front Government has totally failed in placing the Kashmir problem in its true perspective before the U.S. Government and U.S. opinion-makers. This is clearly evident from the fact, to which the Minister's attention must have been drawn about the strongly worded report of 22nd March from Washington.

A very strongly worded resolution is proposed to be tabled in the U.S. Senate mirroring Pakistan's stand and supporting plebiscite in Kashmir. I suppose again, the Government would merely dismiss this as they termed it earlier, as obviously inaccurate opinion or inaccurate statement. It is because, this Government under the guise of consensus seems to be more of Government of inaction than Government of action.

I would like to know categorically what steps you propose to take to meet this anti-Indian move on the part of some of the U.S. Senators involving the territorial integrity of the nation. Do you propose to launch a diplomatic offensive to ensure that these sort of resolutions are not tabled and place the Kashmir problem in proper perspective

before U.S. public opinion and U.S. Government. In other words, would you make sure that it is properly understood by them that Kashmir is an integral and inviolable part of India?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: My hon. friend who is a very learned and knowledgeable person would know for himself that lobby is functioning in the U.S. State system. Every society that functions there tries to create lobbies there. There are certain lobbies which are operating at the behest of Pakistan also. But that does not mean that our case is going by default.

One thing I must say that we are not placing our case in the court of anybody. We have our self-respect. I think, our case is well taken and well placed. Even President Bush in his letter to the Prime Minister has recognised that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view these statements and resolution, I would like to urge the hon. Minister and the Government to convey to the U.S. Government that we take these developments as unfriendly acts and interference in our internal affairs. Such unfriendly acts should be stopped because they are not linked by the Indian people. Will the hon. Minister try to tell them categorically?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure my friend that the Government is seized of the matter and we will safeguard the interests of the country with all our might.

[*English*]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has informed the U.S. Government of the recent pronouncement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, that they will aid Rs. 10 crores to the terrorists in Kashmir and also that they will aid Rs. 5 crores to terrorists in Occupied Kashmir.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: We have given to the concerned authorities full evidence of Pakistan's interference in our internal affairs. We are also now bringing to the notice of all Governments of the world the type of utterances which have been made by responsible people in Pakistan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Savour Committee Report

*249. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the recommendations of the Saviour Committee in the respect of extra departmental employees in post offices:

(b) whether Government propose to grant various advances to extra departmental employees at par with regular employees: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c). The Committee of Enquiry on Extra Departmental System (Savour Committee) had made 171 recommendations out of which 120 recommendations including 32 with certain modifications have been accepted and implemented.

Certain types of advances such as Cycle Advance of Rs. 400/- are admissible to certain categories of Extra Departmental Agents. Flood Advance of Rs. 100/- is also sanctioned to Extra Departmental Agents in flood

affected areas.

After assumption of office, the Government have started reviewing the position of Extra Departmental Agents of different categories. Preliminary discussions have also been held with Unions representing the Extra Departmental employees. The Department intends to discuss the matter further with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and thereafter to formulate appropriate proposals in respect of Extra Departmental employees.

[Translation]

Concession to Handicapped (Blind) Persons in Payment of Telephone Bills

*250. SHRI RAMLAL RAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rebate or relaxation of time in payment of telephone bills is given to handicapped (blind) persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether any such proposal is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. No rebate or relaxation of time for payment of telephone bills are given to handicapped persons.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, some rebate in rental has been announced in the Parliament for institutions for handicapped persons.