

he has done it for me instead. I too wanted.....

MR. SPEAKER : All right, then you may ditto him. Say 'As you wish'.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : All right, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri C. Madhav Reddi.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not allowed even the reply to come.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Let me give him the sample, you.....

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, now we have already taken up the next question.

Funds for National Capital Region

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*829. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of only Rs. 35 crores has been allocated under the Seventh Five Year Plan for the development of the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the actual amount demanded for the said purpose;

(c) whether the Government have asked the concerned departments to reconsider the matter; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the concerned Departments thereto ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir. A sum of Rs. 35 crores has been allocated in the Central Sector for Urban Development under the National Capital Region schemes in the Seventh Plan;

(b) The National Capital Region Planning Board has prepared an integrated investment plan involving an expenditure of Rs. 867 crores;

(c) and (d). The question of providing additional funds for implementing the National Capital Region scheme is under process in consultation with Planning Commission and Finance Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Sir, just now, the Hon. Minister has stated that development of Delhi will take time. We have heard that the creation or construction of a thing takes time, but it could be destroyed in no time. Ever since this legislation was enacted and this project was propagated, my information is that the price of land in the Capital region has risen sharply. It has given rise to speculation and many people have started buying land incessantly. Government just announces a project and leaves it at that and does not implement it, as a result of which the price of land goes on increasing. I want to know whether the Government have given it a consideration and if so, do they propose to take some steps to check its further deterioration ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : There are many items in the market, the prices of which are rising, which are beyond our or your control. For example. I tell you that we got a survey conducted in respect of metropolitan and other big cities of the country to find out by how much the cost of construction has risen during the last five years. From the results of the survey we came to know that the increase was about 15 or 16 per cent. For instance, a bag of cement which earlier cost you Rs. 15 or 16 now cost you Rs. 50 or 60. Earlier the wages of a labourer were Rs. 7 or 8 per day. Now he charges Rs. 40 per day. Similarly, the wages of the carpenter have increased. The increase is also attributed to the increased price of wood. As and when these developments take place, we also do research so as to bring the cost down.

It is a fact that unfortunately a large number of refugees thronged the capital

following the partition of the country. They had to be resettled here. Generally we see that the tendency today is to go to the city from the village. This is human psychology. These migrants include beggars as well as well-to-do persons. This influx has surely resulted in pushing up the land prices. This rise in price has to be borne by all. Government too will have to spend accordingly. What else can you do ?

The only way to increase the land is that one country should capture the other country. That we do not want. You know the policy of India. Since we have to manage within this land, there is no other way out.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : The Hon. Minister did not get time to deliver a lecture on that question. That is why he is doing it now.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Just now, the Hon. Minister has stated that the Board has formulated a plan involving an expenditure of Rs. 860 crores. This plan has been referred to the Planning Commission and is receiving their consideration or should I take it that a small scheme under a bigger plan involving Rs. 860 crores has been conceived and placed before the Planning Commission ? Is there any proposal to obtain money from the World Bank, L.I.C. or other organisations ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The Planning Committee of the Board has submitted a plan with an outlay of Rs. 867 crores. If you want to know the details, let me tell you that the construction of Railway Line Phase I between Khurja, Palwal, Rewari, Rohtak, Panipat, is included in it. If it gets through it would greatly reduce our transport congestion. It involves an expenditure of Rs. 90 crores.

As regards the tele-communications, there is a provision of Rs. 70 crores for the satellite towns that, would come in this region although my demand in this respect is for Rs. 280 crores.

Similarly, the Planning Committee had conceived a scheme of Rs. 97 crores for the

national highways. All these taken together, it comes to Rs. 867 crores. Out of this Rs. 35 crores have been sanctioned recently in the Seventh Five Year Plan. But in view of its importance and also in view of the restlessness on the part of the Hon. Member, we have told the Prime Minister and have also written to the Planning Commission to have mercy on us and further increase the allocation. So this is the position with regard to the work. If our request is acceded to, the tempo of work will pick up.

MR. SPEAKER : Vyas ji, would you like to ask anything further on this ?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ghafoor Saheb is not able to understand the matters involving accounts. He has just now stated that earlier, a bag used to cost Rs. 15 or 16 but now it costs Rs. 57, thereby registering an increase of 15 per cent. But, in fact, the price increase comes to more than 300 per cent. Today, if we go by the rise in the price of land, it has risen thousand times. Keeping all these factors in view, if he has demand Rs. 280 crores, it would not be adequate. What will be the use of having Rs. 280 crores out of Rs. 850 crores ? Therefore, I would say that the amount should be worked out properly and the Planning Commission and the Prime Minister should be requested to sanction funds as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

[English]

Security arrangements for Journalists

*830. **SHRI MEWA SINGH GILL :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Federation of Working Journalists has requested for strengthening the security arrangements for journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND