

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

BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Indian Federation of Working Journalists has written to the Minister of State for Internal Security in the Ministry of Home Affairs suggesting creation of a Special Cell in the Ministry to provide protection to the journalists, particularly, those living in the mofussil and interior areas.

(c) The Government is of the view that existing arrangements are quite adequate and effective to protect the lives and property of journalists to enable them to discharge their professional obligations effectively. Specific cases of harassment or assault, if any, brought to the notice of the Government are looked into.

SHRI M. S. GILL : Sir, it is quite clear from the answer that the Government is satisfied with the security arrangements. Yet, they are looking into some cases of assault or harassment. May I know from the Hon. Minister how many cases of assault from the working journalists have been registered, in which State and, if so, with what result? Was there also any conspiracy behind it?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I have got all the figures. But it will take a lot of time of the House. Since law and order situation is the State subject, we get the figures from them. Most of the States, I must state, have reported nil. Some States have indicated there are 4 cases, 5 cases and one case. But it cannot be said from these figures supplied by State Governments that the assaults are on the increase.

SHRI M. S. GILL : May I know whether the origin of these letters of threat or harassment to the working journalists has been traced and if so, with what result?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : As I said, this is a subject which is dealt with by the State Government. Whatever information I get, I am prepared to pass on, about the letters, threat etc.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Sir, the assault or harassment of journalists is an extremely serious matter and it should be condemned.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, whether the cases of harassment and assault on them are on the increase. He says, they are not on the increase. But from newspaper reports, it appears that the occurrence of violence against journalists is on the increase.

Is the Minister aware that the extremists now in control of the Golden Temple in Amritsar have issued a long list of journalists who are on their hit list? If so, what arrangements have been made for their protection?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : As I said, the figures that I have got from the State Governments, I am prepared to furnish. The whole list does not indicate *prima facie* at least that the attacks are on the increase.

Secondly some individual cases by name were pointed out by certain Hon. Members of this House as well as of the other House. When the information was called for from the State Governments, all the States have reported that most of those specific cases do not relate to his writing or his performance in the profession. They are result of some private feud or some such other motive.

As far as the third part of the question is concerned, I submit that is the question which can be properly answered by the Minister for Internal Security.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : It must have been brought to your notice that the list has been published by them of the journalists' names.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : He further asked, what action is proposed to be taken.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Are you aware?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Yes, I am aware. The Home Ministry deals with it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, this is not a question of ordinary law and order. In some sensitive areas, many journalists who express their view points, without fear or favour, have to pay dearly even with their

lives. There have been recent occurrences where journalists who tried to expose corruption in high office and public office have been subjected not only to threat but to harassment, intimidation and assault. Therefore, may I know whether the Ministry has made any study of these trends because if the journalists cannot express their views without fear or favour, that would be a very sad day for our democracy?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : The Government believes in a free and fearless press. That has been stated many times. Like you, I salute any journalist who fearlessly performs his duty in public interest. That is why, if any particular case is brought to our notice, we write to the State Government and ask for information. One recent case is there in which—I would not like to mention the State because the matter is under investigation—it was pointed out to me that because of certain things he wrote that he was assaulted. The State Government has reported to me that the matter is under investigation. As soon as the investigation is complete, I will get the report.

Assistance for deep sea fishing

*831. **SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount given as assistance to the States for deep-sea fishing in 1985-86;

(b) whether any assistance has been given to Kerala during this period; and

(c) if so, the amount given to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) An amount of Rs. 136.56 lakhs was released to the maritime States during 1985-86 as Central share of expenditure for the Development of Minor Fishing Harbours designed to accommodate deep sea fishing vessels under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Apart from this, an amount of Rs. 62.60 lakhs was released to the Port Trusts for the Development of Major Fishing Harbours under the Central Scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Kerala has a long sea shore extending more than 500 KM which is suitable for fishing. By the end of the Sixth Plan when the total production of fish in the country was only 29.5 lakh tonnes, Kerala had produced 4.5 lakh tonnes. Even though Kerala is a small State—area-wise it is only 1 per cent of this big country—but still we do not have much facility for deep sea fishing. There is much scope in Kerala for tapping deep sea resources with improved crafts and gear technology. Will the Government be kind enough to give assistance to the Kerala Government for developing the deep sea fishing?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Yes. The Government of India is giving assistance for the deep sea fishing and so far we have given to Kerala also, Rs. 733.48 lakhs for the development of Cochin and Vizhinjam Fishing harbour.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : In his reply, the Hon. Minister has said that nothing has been given to Kerala Government in 1985-86. This Vizhinjam harbour in Kerala is planned as a harbour for the operation of this deep sea fishing vessels. The first stage of the project is now complete. According to the revised project report, for the completion of the second and third stages of the project, the total cost of the harbour and shore facilities is Rs. 9.12 crores. But in order to accelerate the execution of the schemes, will the Government be kind enough to expedite the sanction of this amount?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I will examine this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Throughout the country wherever there is coastal belt, it has been found that a large number of fishermen do not have any security at the time of fishing either for getting trawlers or for getting the help of mechanised boats. They do have to depend on certain cooperative societies and that too, with the assistance of the State Government, and sup-