

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 4, 1985/Agrahayana 13,
1907 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Maintenance provision in plan outlays

*222. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Development Council meeting was held in New Delhi on 8 November, 1985 to call upon the State Governments to agree to a proposal to make the maintenance provision of certain sectors part of plan outlays as recommended by NDC to the Planning Commission also; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) The National Development Council considered the report of an Expert Committee which recommended that maintenance provision should be made part of plan outlays.

(b) It was generally agreed that a beginning could be made by the Planning Com-

mission monitoring maintenance expenditure, on an informal basis, on power, irrigation and roads. This would be not as Plan activity, but as activity outside the Plan.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, the reply of the Hon. Minister is quite irrelevant to the question that I have put. I wanted to know whether the National Development Council met on 8th November, 1985 to call upon the State Governments to agree to certain proposals regarding the maintenance provision and if so, the reactions of the State Governments. But the Hon. Minister wantonly omitted to answer about the reaction of the State Governments. Actually, every year we are having droughts, floods and cyclones. But no mention is made in the Report of the Planning Commission in this regard. Every State has requested the Government of India to provide some sort of revolving fund to meet the immediate expenditure. Whenever any State Government find themselves in such a situation, they do report to the Government of India but the Government of India are taking months together to submit a report to know the facts. After the entire season is over, they are giving something or the other. I do not know the method that they are following. I requested the Hon. Minister to inform us whether any provision is proposed to be made to meet such situations like droughts and floods in future or whether any other provision is made for the maintenance of roads, irrigation projects, power projects, other thermal power projects, etc.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as the first portion of his question regarding droughts and floods is concerned, it does not come up here in relation to the question involved. As regards the second portion of the question about projects, etc. In section (b) I have answered that when the discussions took place with the State Chief Ministers, and others it was generally agreed that maintenance should be provided as part of the expenditure. But the

point is whether it would be plan expenditure or non-plan expenditure. The difficulty is, whether it is plan or non-plan expenditure, the resource does not improve. If it is non-plan, it comes from the Finance Commission and if it is plan expenditure, plan outlay is given to various States. Regarding each of the sectors, the main point and emphasis that we are giving is on the monitoring of the expenditure so far as maintenance is concerned.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Even then, the Minister has not replied about the reaction of the States and I feel that he is wantonly omitting this. Some of the States have vehemently protested about these things, but he has not mentioned about it. At least now, I want an answer from the Hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I think I have answered that question. There was no protest from any State. Some States stated that it should be included in the Plan expenditure. But the general agreement is as I answered in answer to question No. 222(b).

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Sir, the Planning Commission has mentioned in the plan document that the additional tax effort by the Centre and the States will be of the order of Rs. 44,702 crores, that is Rs. 2490 crores for the Centre and Rs. 22,212 crores for the States. So, I want to know how the Government think to raise the resources of this order and whether the Government will propose to tax farm incomes also?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as answering this question is concerned, I require a notice.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : We are not proposing to tax farm incomes.

MR. SPEAKER : No proposal to tax farm incomes.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Sir, the maintenance expenditure should be treated as a part of plan expenditure. How is it that the Planning Commission says that it is out-

side the plan expenditure and that they would like to monitor it? It is all right that monitoring by the Planning Commission is necessary. But it should be treated as part of plan expenditure. To determine whether a particular item is plan expenditure or non-plan expenditure, the question of resources position does not arise. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether maintenance is also an essential part of the project, and, if so, whether it should be treated as essential part of plan expenditure.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, I have already answered that many of the States gave their opinion while discussing in the NDC meeting that it should be part of the plan expenditure. A Committee was formed in the 37th Meeting of the National Development Council on 13th July, 1984. That Committee was headed by Mr. V. Karthikeyan. That Committee recommended that it should be part of the plan expenditure. But thereafter, the Committee stated, whether it is part of the plan expenditure or non-plan expenditure, that the real question is of identifying more resources for doing this. Therefore, so far as the Planning Commission is concerned, they are doing it on that basis. But the real point is resources. There are constraints of resources. So let us first monitor, whatever expense is made on maintenance, what is the outcome of it and how it is being done:

Strategy for combating dacoity in Dacoit-Infested Areas

*223. **SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations of the working group of Secretaries to the Government of India, appointed at the instance of the late Prime Minister, to decide on a long-term strategy for combating dacoity in dacoits infested areas in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the steps taken by Union Government;

(c) number of dacoits who had surrendered and who are awaiting rehabilitation;