

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, January 23, 1985/
Magha 3, 1906 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Re-Structuring of Administrative Set up

*57. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to re-structure the existing administrative set up so as to speed up the implementation of the plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) : A review of administrative organisation, procedures and practices has been initiated with a view to improve efficiency, cut out delays, decentralise decision-making processes, enforce accountability and simplify the rules and procedures.

PROF P. J. KURIEN : The entire country is thankful to our Prime Minister for announcing that there will be administrative reforms for speeding up and getting better results and for giving a clean administration. There is a lot of talk of corruption amongst

2

politicians. But corruption is equally there with the bureaucracy also.

Santhanam Committee has reported that delay in implementation and delay in taking decisions are one of the potent causes for corruption and delay in taking decisions is also one of the reasons for not getting better results in the implementation of the Plans. We have a bureaucratic administrative system which is a legacy of the British colonial administration. Procedural objections can be raised and any action can be stalled. We always give precedence to procedures instead of results and action. Therefore, our entire system requires a thorough overhauling. Laws, rules and regulations are to be thoroughly changed. That requires amendment of the law and even constitutional changes.

In the light of this vast responsibility, I would like to ask the Minister whether he is prepared to have a thorough look into the entire matter for an entire overhauling of the administrative system and if so desired, whether he would appoint an experts' committee including public men to look into and give recommendations for this.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : The Hon. Member may kindly look at the answer in which to cut delays is one of the main things which is being looked into. There are in-built systems where there is a continuous review being taken. This suggestion to have eminent men associated will definitely be gone into and if necessary, we shall act on it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : People's

Involvement in the implementation of Plans and Programmes is most important for the success and in fact, now our plans and programmes are implemented through the bureaucracy only. We should devise some method by which people's participation in the implementation and review of the plan is ensured. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister whether he would consider constituting Grievances Cells and Evaluation Committees at all levels of administration—from State level going upto Block level in order to receive public grievances and also to assess and evaluate the success of the Plan. These Committees should include public men also and they should be responsible to assess and evaluate and report to the Government about the success of the plan.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : The Hon. Member is right. The point which he said about the evaluation and assessment and also grievances cell are the things on which the Government is laying stress and are looking into it. With regard to involvement of the people, this is what we would like to do.

SHRI SAIFFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : A good intention is expressed in the reply of the Minister. I would like to know whether he will consider this proposal to set up an inter-State Council and make the Planning Commission act as Secretary of that Council in order to ensure a healthy Centre-State relationship in decision-making processes.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : It is a suggestion for action.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the block level officers have neither the power nor the means to carry out development works at block level. I want to know the scheme formulated by the Government to speed up development works at

block level and to complete them within the period prescribed for them under a time-bound programme.

[*English*]

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : This is exactly the intention of the Government. We are looking into it.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : I would like to know this from the Hon. Minister regarding administrative reforms. After all, most of these officers, whether it is IAS or IPS, come from certain States' Cadres. Now, it is the usual practice of the State Governments that officers whom they do not find working well in the States—whether from the Police or from the IAS cadres—are being sent to Delhi. This is the normal practice of the States about which the public is also aware of. May I know from the hon. Minister whether they want to change this system of taking these discarded officers from the States, whether it is the Police or the IAS cadres? Will they have a selection system of choosing these officers directly from Delhi? to choose whomsoever they want? I ask this question because especially in Police we see and hear so many things and looking to what we read in the newspapers daily, it is the general belief in the public mind that all these discarded officers are being sent to Delhi and all the good officers are being retained in the States. What is the Government thinking about it?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : There is a system of selection. This is also done in consultation with the State Governments. What the Hon. Member has said is correct that in certain cases sometime is being spent in getting officers who are wanted here in Delhi, Due to certain situations they are unable to be made available. This is also something which we have got to do in consultation with the States.