

their payment—if I remember rightly now because I got the note very long ago—in three months. That means, harassment to thousands of people has been avoided. The Rs. 7 lakhs that he was talking about and which has been saved is not saved in terms of money; it is saved in terms of the interest gained by getting the payment made in three months instead of over five or ten years. This is the people's money which has been saved—which could have been lost. This is the way it actually help the people, it helps development; and it is not a waste of money. The employment potential is changed. Employment for a lot of people doing manual work is changed to service areas and other areas in the production and servicing. We can also go through the other route. We can say we need lots of employment. We can get rid of typewriters today. We will have thousands of scribes who will write everything Government does. We will increase employment. We can get rid of sewing machines, we will have tailors who will only sew by hands. We can do all sorts of things we want. But the point is will that be beneficial to this country or not? Is this country going to move ahead or are we going to move backward? This is the basic question.

We feel the country should move ahead. I believe most of this House feels that the country should move ahead. But if certain people have doubts about that, they are most welcome to put them forward.

(Interruptions)

DR. V. VENKATESH: How about introducing computers in the Parliamentary work?

Quarterly performance report to the Centre
by States re. Physical progress of Plan
Programmes

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*350. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD
SETHI:

SHRI B.V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States and Union Territories have been asked to send quarterly performance report in terms of concrete physical progress of plan programme;

(b) if so, whether stress has been laid particularly on anti-poverty schemes;

(c) if so, how many States have so far reported their performance to the Centre; and

(d) whether calling for such report will also ensure proper utilisation of plan funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) Planning Commission has issued instructions to all the States and Union Territories to furnish quarterly progress reports regarding expenditure as against approved plan outlays for each head/sub-head of development. As regards monitoring of achievements in physical terms as against the physical targets fixed, necessary instructions to the States and the Union Territories are being issued.

(b) and (c) The major anti-poverty schemes, namely, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RIEGP) are being monitored intensively by the Department of Rural Development. All these anti-poverty programmes are also being monitored as part of the monitoring of the '20-Point Programme' by the Ministry of Programme Implementation. All the States and the Union Territories have been reporting the progress of implementation of these anti-poverty programmes.

(d) Yes, Sir.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Sir, the Hon. Minister in his reply mentioned that the State Governments have been reporting to the Centre; but there is no mention about the performance of the States. However, I would like to know as to whether there has been a serious shortfall in the target set in some of the major components of the 20 point programme and also the Poverty Alleviation Programme in 1985-86 financial year. I would also like to know whether it is a fact that some Governments have transferred the funds allocated for the purpose to some other purpose or allowed them to lapse because they are not committed to it. If so, what steps you have taken against

them and the name of those States and also whether the Government of India has conducted any survey to know about the implementation of these programmes.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, the question has three parts. So far as the first part is concerned, i.e., shortfall in physical target, it is for the departments concerned which are in charge of each of the particular development work, to report.

Secondly, so far as diversion of funds is concerned, it cannot be stated right now immediately. On receiving specific directions from the hon. Prime Minister on 5th August 1985, a letter was issued by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to all the Chief Ministers and the Heads of the Union Territories suggesting them to monitor the plans. Thereafter on 31st October 1985 a letter was followed by the Secretary, Planning Commission as a follow up measure. The difficulties which we found were that in various manners, they were sending report not according to a particular proforma. That is why on 13th March 1986, the Planning Commission did prepare a proforma. This has been despatched to all the States and Union Territories to the Chief Secretaries. This proforma gives the required heads of development.

Thirdly, as I answered last time, if the entire plan amount is spent, then it is possible to locate whether there has been diversion. If the entire amount is not spent, it becomes a grey area, a twilight zone. We grope to find out whether actual diversion took place.

Now, Sir, with this method of prepared proforma, the Planning Commission find will be able even to find out quarterly whether there has been any diversion. Sir it is primarily the duty of the State Government and the Union Territories to do the monitoring. However, with this survey report coming to us, namely, monitoring, the Planning Commission will be able to have a check on the Plan activities of the States and Union territories.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : What is the percentage of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes benefited out of this programme in the Sixth Five Year Plan and what steps are you going to take in the Seve-

nth Five Year Plan to see that the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes get the maximum benefit out of this programme?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as the first portion is concerned, I do require a notice. As regards the second portion, we have indentified the areas which need our emphasis, and one of those is scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The tribal sub-plans have been made so that the money allotted to them is specifically spent for that particular purpose.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : May I know from the hon Minister whether during monitoring of these anti-poverty programmes it has come to the notice of the monitoring agency that the Central Government which is allotting large quantities of wheat as a component of these programmes this wheat is not being delivered to the work force which is engaged in this programme but being delivered to the wholesalers by the District Rural Development Agency and the wholesalers are giving it to the retailers, and the contractor will get this wheat from the retailers? In this procedure six to eight months pass and the labour force engaged in these programmes are not getting wheat and this is being adjusted in the accounting procedure only of the contractors. This has created a great hurdle. It never reaches the people. I would like to know whether the monitoring agency will monitor it so that measures are taken to see that the wheat allotted to the work force reaches the work force itself?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The distribution of wheat for the upliftment of the poor and needy classes is being done by the Department of Rural Development along with the monitoring of Programme Implementation Committee by the Ministry. So, whether actual diversion of wheat has taken place or the people for whom it is meant are getting it or not this question may be directed to that department.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Why? The Central Government is allocating the wheat. Why should we ask the District Rural Development Agency? The monitoring agency is here.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The wheat and other things being distributed for various programmes is not done directly. It is either done by integrated rural development or national rural development or food for work. We have been given the monitoring plan projects only as I have already answered.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I have pointed out these difficulties, Why should not the monitoring cell consider these difficulties and find a solution to this?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The hon. Member need not be agitated. I have looked into the matter. One department will not be able to do it. That is why it is being done by various other agencies. One of this is Department of Rural Development. They will be able to say. Planning Commission certainly will be able to say after all these are taken together and our Advisers assess and find out the performance but the diversion of wheat or money can be told by Department of Rural Development and others dealing with food for work.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : When I am pointing out the difficulties it is the duty of the Minister to look to this and report back.

MR. SPEAKER : You better talk to him and try to understand his point of view.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Yes, Sir. I bow down to your ruling.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, the anti-poverty programmes have done a tremendous amount of good to the rural poor in this country. Anybody who is acquainted with the rural areas of this country would know that. I have visited every single village in my constituency and I have verified the amount of good that this programme has done..... (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : In fact, their complaint is that they are getting more food.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : However, the Planning Commission itself, over which the Minister presides, on an evaluation report on Integrated Rural Develop-

ment Programme, last year admitted and said:

"Information collected in the present evaluation study indicates that in spite of the detailed guidelines, none of the State Governments have followed them with any uniformity."

That means, that this programme would have been much more effective if the State Governments had taken this work more seriously. The hon. Prime Minister himself has gone to the rural areas in this country and verified that the guidelines and the programmes are not being implemented with the seriousness they deserve. A lot of more good would have come to the rural poor in this country, if the State Governments had acted more seriously.

But after this evaluation study by the Planning Commission, with which the Minister is associated, what further has been done? How far its recommendations after the study and the observations of the Prime Minister after his visit to the rural areas have been implemented? What have you done in this regard?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I am grateful to the hon Member that he has brought out a very relevant point. In fact, Planning Commission did say that many of the States and Union Territories are not conforming to the various letters and instructions issued by Planning Commission from time to time. When they send the reports, are also not according to the points involved, but at random. That is why, as I have said earlier in answer to another question, the Planning Commission have now made a proforma and so far as earmarked provisions are concerned, it is mandatory for them to send the report, and regarding non-earmarked provisions the Planning Commissions are also insisting that they comply with the proforma and send us the reports.

Regional Imbalance in Development

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*351 **SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:**

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :