

should be no objection. It is good that the public sector undertakings have been excluded from the purview and mischief of this Bill because the two, private monopolies and State monopoly, cannot be equated.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA: The equation of the two exhibits a total ignorance of the purpose for which the public sector undertakings function and a total ignorance of the basic elementary economic laws.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will continue on the next occasion.

—

17-59 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FORTY-THIRD REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHURAMAIAH): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

For the information of the House I may say that this report contains two important recommendations. One is that there will be a sitting on Saturday, the 20th December. The other is that Lunch Hour will be dispensed with from tomorrow. Members need not dispense with their lunch.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna): Is it a unanimous recommendation?

—

18 Hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

DEVELOPMENT OF CALCUTTA

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): I am raising in this House to-day the most tragic story of the biggest city of India, the historic city of our country. Recently a foreign journalist visited Calcutta. He was so much horrified by the dismal spectre of the dehumanising chaos prevailing in Calcutta to-day that he alarmingly observed; "Calcutta is a dying city." Although Calcutta has become a concern for international anxiety, our leaders in Delhi are showing a callous apathy, abject indifference and neglect towards the problems of Calcutta. Recently, the World Health Organization called "Calcutta as an international health hazard." The World Bank observed that "the problems of Calcutta are a national economic problem of the whole of India." Recently, a team of British and American experts on urban development visited Calcutta and commented:

"We have not seen human degradation on a comparable scale in any other city of the world".

Let us not forget that this City of Calcutta till 1912 was the capital of India. Let us also recollect that this historic city radiated the message of national renaissance of India, created a saga of self immolation for the cause of national freedom.

Let us remember what this great city of Calcutta has contributed to India and to the world. This historic city gave to our country and to the mankind great sons of India like Raja

[Shri Samar Guha]

Ram Mohan Roy and Ramakrishna the spiritual prophets of modern age Vivekananda and Arobindo, the messengers of universal humanism, and Bankimchandra and Rabindranath Tagore, the visionaries of new horizon of cultural values. This great city produced the pioneer scientists like Acharya Jagadish Chandra and Prafulla Chandra. It gave the whole nation the indomitable revolutionaries like Deshbandhu and Netaji, the indomitable revolutionaries of our time and glories of innumerable martyrs for the cause of national freedom. But this historic city is now really dying. Yet this city is not dead completely.

This city is the most vital key-stone for the whole of national economy of our country. Let me cite in this House its contributions to the national economy today.

Calcutta is the biggest metropolis of India and in its demographic dimension it is next to New York, London and Tokyo. Calcutta with a radius of 250 miles constitutes the most vital industrial complex of our country. It produces biggest quantum of coal, steel, iron, light and heavy engineering goods, railway wagons, jute products, textiles, chemicals, paper, machine tools, arms and ammunition for the whole nation. It is the most important centre of trade, business and industry for the whole of eastern India dealing directly with the economy of 150 million of our people of eastern region.

Greater Calcutta produces 79% of iron and steel, 78% of railway wagons and 76% of mining and quarrying goods of all the companies of India. Over 4000 factories are situated in this industrial complex. Calcutta produces 15% manufactures of India.

Calcutta port handles 45% of India's export and 25% of import by tonnage. 30% of India's total banking clearance is made by Calcutta and 37% of all foreign banking deposits is accounted in Calcutta banks.

Calcutta controls 9100 joint stock companies with a paid up capital of Rs. 634 crores which is, according to 1958-59 figure, 43 % of total companies in India. It provides jobs for 9 lakhs workers of which 8 lakhs come from outside the state of West Bengal.

Calcutta's contribution to the national finance are no less significant. Greater Calcutta generates Rs. 641 crores annually for the whole nation. Calcutta pays over one-fifth of the total Central tax and earns more than one-third of foreign exchange for the country. Calcutta collects Rs. 96 crores by way of export and import duties annually and Rs. 45 crores by way of Central excise taxes. Calcutta customs zone deals with Rs. 640 crores worth of merchandise export and Rs. 961 crores worth of import merchandise. In 1959 Calcutta port exported Rs. 100 crores worth of tea and Rs. 66.2 crores worth of jute products.

Greater Calcutta produces Rs. 332 crores worth of mineral wealth annually. Calcutta contributes to the country as a whole the highest quantum of Small Savings and insurance business. Transferred capital from Calcutta, huge in amount, provides funds for the trade and industry in other parts of the country.

Calcutta generates 58% of income of the whole of West Bengal. If Calcutta dies, what will happen to our national economy? Let the Government ponder over it. What is the present position of this State. This major city and most vital city

and the key-stone for the national economy of India is virtually dying today. I will give you a grim picture of the harrowing condition of this dying city.

Calcutta to-day represents chaos, crisis, dislocation, disintegration, filth, slums, squalors and break-down in every sphere. These are the certain harrowing statistics of the city of Calcutta that I will present to the House to-day. The present population of Calcutta is 78 lakhs and in 1986 it will be 10 million. Calcutta is the densest city in the world, having almost double the density of Bombay and nearly three times than the skyscraper city of New York. 55% of Calcutta's population consists of frustrated, demoralised and desperate refugees from East Pakistan. 9 lakhs of Indian citizens from outside West Bengal are employed in Greater Calcutta.

15 lakhs of Calcuttans live in hell-hole like slums and most of the middle class East Pakistan refugees are huddled into 142 bustees euphemistically called squatters' colonies. 50% of the people of Calcutta live in one-room houses with four persons on an average in each room. 30,000 persons in this city are homeless, 18,000 beggars swarm its streets and 50,000 vendors and hawkers overcrowd its foot-paths.

12% Calcuttans have no lavatory, 4% share one lavatory for 100 persons and 1% have one lavatory for 10 families. You will be astonished to know that 1,26,000 open privies are spread over the city, creating disease, germs, filth and what not. That is why once Kipling described Calcutta as the 'Cholera capital of the world'. On an average, every year, 5,000 fall victims of cholera

attacks of which 1,800 cases prove fatal. From 1931 to 1963 the per capita supply of filtered water has reduced from 52.3 gallons to only 28 gallons. Corresponding figures for unfiltered water are 44.1 and 30 gallons per head. Calcutta has .29 acres of park, less than half of Bombay and Madras and one-seventh of Bangalore.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is up.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : At least 15 minutes should be given to me. Please don't disturb me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are four other members.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : This is my right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am only seeking your co-operation.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : 54% of Calcutta streets are not covered by sewerage system and Howrah has no sewerage at all. As such 10 minutes rainfall is sufficient to flood the city and dislocate its whole traffic.

In Calcutta city, the registered number of motor vehicles are 1,10,000 with 10,000 hand-driven carts and 20,000 bicycles added to it. City suburban railways carry 2 lakhs of people daily to and from Calcutta. Calcutta trams carry 1.5 lakhs passengers daily. During busy hours 75 seater trams carry 200 and 65 seater double-deckers carry 150 passengers. Between 1956-64 passenger vehicles increased by 43% but during this time only 8 km. of new roads have been built. During the last 10 years street accidents increased by 24%.

[Shri Samar Guha]

In, 1965, 17,504 street accidents occurred, of which 1,347 victims died and 22,251 persons got injured. 5 lakhs of pedestrians cross Howrah bridge daily and the number of vehicles crossing it is 44,000. Due to abnormal congestion in the city, cramping of streets and traffic dislocations are so frequent that on the average vehicular mobility in the busy parts of the city is on the average only 10.5 miles per hour. This is an every day phenomenon. 32 per cent of the children and 56 per cent of adults have no scope for primary or junior education and Calcutta's illiteracy is 61 per cent. 5 lakhs educated youths are jobless in Greater Calcutta. Mounds of stinky garbage abounding Calcutta streets is a health hazard for all. What will be the interpretation of these grim statistics in terms of socio-economic problems of Calcutta? Let the Government take urgent steps to tackle this problem. The following steps must be undertaken immediately to tackle this problem without any loss of time. They are :

- (1) Slum clearance and housing for homeless.
- (2) Supplying adequate quantities of filtered and unfiltered water to the citizens.
- (3) Construction, repair and expansion of roads and streets.
- (4) Providing additional transportation by setting up circular, underground and mono-rail and trolley buses.
- (5) Regular clearance of garbage.
- (6) Expansion of sewerage system to cover the whole city.
- (7) Construction of at least two more bridges over the Hooghly river.

- (8) Expansion of scope for primary and junior education.
- (9) Providing jobs for educated youths.
- (10) Expanding parks and recreational grounds.

These are the immediate steps which should be taken up for the survival of Calcutta.

Regarding the funds required for the purpose, the Metropolitan Organisation for Calcutta has drawn up a blueprint for development of the city on a long term basis. For the long term projects the OMPO requires Rs. 1,000 crores and for short term planning it requires a fund of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 crores. Funds for development of Calcutta can be mobilised in the following manner:

- (1) By diverting a major part of the PL-480 funds which are now accounted as Rs. 739 crores.
- (2) Asking aids from International Organisations like World Bank, International Development Loan Fund, UNO Special Fund, Ford Foundation, World Health Organisation and others.
- (3) Providing assistance by the Central Government to the extent of at least Rs. 80 crores as demanded by the West Bengal Government.

Some economic pundits of the Central Government objected to such fund finding measures on the plea that such move will lead to inflation as if collapse of economic potential and productive capacity of the industrial complex of Greater Calcutta will not increase inflation and spell disaster for the national economy of the country.

Regarding Urban development Problem of Calcutta Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru observed in 1961 :—

“Calcutta is the biggest city of the country. Its problems are national problems, quite apart from the problems of West Bengal, and it is necessary that something special should be done. If the whole city went to pieces it would be a tremendous tragedy.”

The Prime Minister followed by the President visiting Calcutta a month before, expressed the same concern for Calcutta. If they are sincere in their concern, they should take all out steps to provide necessary fund for the development of the city of Calcutta. Recently the *New York Times* warned the leaders about the dismaying fate of Calcutta, when it said :

“Calcutta is the economic and political key-stone of modern India. Calcutta is now wretched, the most desperate choking into death as a result of over crowding and neglect Calcutta's demise either by slow strangulation or sudden convulsion could doom India's 20 years experiment in democratic development”.

I have already presented a grim picture of the tragedy facing Calcutta. Will the Government realise the import of the red signal, its socio-political consequences, blazing in the heart of the dying city of Calcutta ? If Calcutta dies due to callous neglect and indifference of the Central Government the Political Nemesis, appearing as anti-national eruptions, will overtake the fate of India in no time. Therefore, wish that the Government should

give us assurance in this behalf. I want that “Prime Minister” should have replied. But this matter has been left to a junior minister, the Minister for Finance, who cannot deliver the goods, neither can he commit the Government, nor can he have understating of the immensity of the tremendous problems facing the city of Calcutta. I am sorry to point out the step-motherly treatment meted out to the city of Calcutta. The Prime Minister tried to get enthusiastic clappings of millions of Calcuttans during the recent meeting in the city but I am sorry to say that she has no sincerity in dealing with the problems of Calcutta.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कलकत्ता मेट्रोपोलिटन प्लान किस रूप में है, वह कभी कार्यान्वित होगा या नहीं होगा ? यदि नहीं होगा तो क्यों ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि मेट्रोपोलिटन प्लान ही है या किसी दूसरे प्लान के मातहत ट्यूब या ग्रन्डर ग्राउन्ड ट्रेन की व्यवस्था है कलकत्ता के विकास के लिए ? यदि है तो किस रूप में है ? यदि नहीं तो क्या ?

तीसरी बात यह है कि कलकत्ते में खाने की दिक्कतें हैं, होटल अच्छे नहीं हैं, खाना माफ नहीं मिलता है तो क्या जैम बम्बई में कारपोरेशन की तरफ से स्ववेयर मीन्स की व्यवस्था है, उसी तरह की व्यवस्था कलकत्ता में भी करने का विचार है जिसमें कि लोगों का सस्ता और साफ खाना उपलब्ध हो सके ?

चौथी बात यह है कि वहाँ पर लोगों का कुटपाथ पर मोना पड़ता है उसके लिए क्या वहाँ पर तीन-चार, पाँच जंगलों पर कामन्-हाल के रूप में व्यवस्था करने का विचार है या नहीं ?

आखिरी बात यह है कि बन्द बैंक में या बाहर से खासकर कलकत्ता के लिए कितनी कितनी मरद

[श्री शिव चन्द्र झा]

अब तक मिली है और कितनी और मदद की आपको उम्मीद है ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : कलकत्ता शहर के विकास के लिए भारत सरकार ने प्रथम, द्वितीय, तृतीय तथा चतुर्थ पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत क्रमशः कितनी धनराशि की मदद की है या करने का विचार रखती है ?

प्रत्येक योजना की अधि में विभिन्न मदों में भारत सरकार ने कलकत्ता शहर से जो धन राशि प्राय के रूप में प्राप्त की है उसका अलग अलग ब्यौरा क्या है ?

अभी हाल में कलकत्ता नगर निगम के मेयर ने दिल्ली में आकर प्रधान मंत्री तथा सरकार के दूसरे अधिकारियों से कलकत्ता नगर के विकास के सम्बन्ध में क्या कोई बातें की थीं ? यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ? कितने सवालों पर वार्ता हुई, सरकार ने उसका क्या जवाब दिया और सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी (कानपुर) : मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूँ ।

SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA (Banka) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Late Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru once said that Calcutta was a city of processions. But if he were now alive he would have changed the word 'procession' to problems. In fact Calcutta now is a city of so many problems. There are problems to which Mr. Samar Guha has drawn your pointed attention. I would not dilate on that; I would simply like to bring the attention of the House to two very important problems facing this city. In Calcutta there is no good stadium as yet. We saw in the papers to-day that in the Cricket test match there, there was a scramble for tickets,

and in the *melee* six valuable lives were lost. I want to know from the Minister by what time a stadium will be built in Calcutta which would be able to house at least two lakhs of people.

There is the other Problem of traffic. I raised a Half-an-Hour discussion in this House last year about the problems of Calcutta traffic. The then Railway Minister had given an assurance that Calcutta will have very soon a circular railway to ease the traffic situation. I would like to know what is the present position of the construction of the circular railway. By what time it will be completed ? Because, Sir, so far as the traffic in Calcutta is concerned, one would like to go to hell than travel in Calcutta in a tram or bus. These are a few specific questions to which I would like the hon'ble Minister to reply

SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar) : The whole picture of the difficulties faced by Calcutta has been presented to the House by my hon. friend Shri Samar Guha and I support him. I would like to make it more clear that out of the total income generated in West Bengal, 58 per cent comes from the Calcutta city alone. In money terms in 1960-61 it comes to Rs. 640 crores annually. According to recent statistics in 1966-67 it is about 1,000 crores annually coming from this city of Calcutta alone. You can imagine it comes to roughly Rs. 3 crores a day. That is the income generated in Calcutta. But what is the fate of Calcutta ? How is this money being taken by the Centre ? The Corporation tax accrues entirely to the Centre. Only a small fraction is given to the State Government from excise duties, income-tax, etc. by way of divisible pool.

This is also a device under certain conditions. But whether those conditions are applicable to Calcutta is the question. From Calcutta goes about Rs. 280 million by small denomination money orders sent by poor workers to their people in other States, annually. This was the figure in 1960-61. According to the statistics of 1967, this figure rose to Rs. 450 million annually. In spite of this, the appalling condition of Calcutta continues unremedied. Business and industry are languishing. The port is suffering; its navigability is being choked. Here I would like to quote an important observation by the World Bank team which visited Calcutta; this is as regards the special needs of the Greater Calcutta area.

“There is hardly any aspect of community development that is keeping pace with the growth of Calcutta’s population or with the requirements of its hinterland. The conditions likewise nurture feelings of unrest and malaise in the population which are likely to boil over from time to time in ways that are both destructive and inimical to orderly economic development”.

At the 17th NDC meeting, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru referred to one city in India, that is, Calcutta in these terms:

“Calcutta is the Biggest city in the country. Its problems are no doubt national problems, quite apart from the problems of West Bengal and it is necessary that something special should be done.”

Recently, when the President visited West Bengal and Calcutta, he said, I quote from the newspaper report:

“The President assured the Calcutta Corporation Mayor that he would do everything possible for the development of West Bengal, particularly Calcutta. He further said, on returning to Delhi he would meet the Prime Minister and request her to give financial assistance whatever is required for the development of Calcutta.”

In view of these observations and facts placed before the House, I would ask only one question whether it would really be difficult for Government, which has an annual budget of nearly Rs. 4,000 crores and more to spare at least Rs. 150—200 crores for the development of Calcutta. In the alternative, will it be really difficult for them to consider having certain financial assistance from international agencies, while it was very easy for the Bombay Municipal administration to get sanction from international agencies to the extent of Rs. 60 crores for its water supply scheme? To this City which gives so much of money to the country, which gives 15—20 per cent of the total income to the country, which gives scopes for one-fifth of the Indian people to earn their livelihood this Government should do something to ameliorate the conditions of Calcutta. Further, this Government should know that if Calcutta dies today, India cannot live.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: If Calcutta dies, who lives.

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI P. C. SETHI): It was very unkind on the part of Shri Samar Guha to have referred

[Shri S. M. Rauerjee]

in the manner he did saying that the Prime Minister is only paying lip-sympathy to Calcutta and she is not present here to reply to the debate. It is the Prime Minister's pleasure to delegate the authority of replying to the debate to any of the Ministers who she thinks proper.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Who cannot deliver the goods.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : In that capacity, I am speaking, not as an individual Junior Minister, but on behalf of the Government of India. Therefore, this type of remarks are not going to help in the solution of the problem.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The Prime Minister made the declaration of a package deal to Assam.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : I am declaring on behalf of the Prime Minister what I have to say.

We are not trying to waterdown or scaledown the problems of Calcutta, whatever they are. what Prime Minister Nehru said about Calcutta in 1961. The present Prime Minister more or less, in a different set of words, also repeated the same sentiments and said that the problems of Calcutta require special attention. It is from this point of view that we look at the problem. We want not only Calcutta but the whole of India to live and that is why while considering the special problems of Calcutta the Government of India thought it proper to maintain the Hooghly as the life line of Calcutta. If Hooghly silts and does not flush out properly, Calcutta cannot live. Therefore, the charge that Calcutta has not been treated properly by the Central Government is not true. It was only on this consideration that Government

have undertaken the Farrakka Barrage project at a total cost of Rs. 153·6 crores, out of which Rs. 77 crores have already been spent and there is a provision made in the Fourth Plan of Rs. 70 crores. Farrakka particularly is meant to maintain the lifeline of Hooghly which is very very important for Calcutta.

Then I would like to enumerate what the Central Government have done during the Third Plan and are going to do in the Fourth Plan period and also deal with the various points raised by hon. members. After all, there are different divisions according to which there are respective responsibilities and duties cast on the Corporations, the State Governments and the Central Government. From this point of view, we have to see how much effort has been made.

Shri Samar Guha has detailed the good points about Calcutta as also narrated the harrowing conditions about it. Nobody can deny, with minor variations here and there, the broad facts he has stated, the good and the bad points. But the fact remains that in spite of the fact that the Planning Commission has from time to time been urging that local resources have to be augmented, it is our very sorry experience that the per capita income of the Calcutta Corporation instead of going up has come down from Rs. 21·26 to Rs. 20·77 while in the case of Bombay it has risen from Rs. 56·63 to Rs. 65·91 and in the case of Delhi has increased from Rs. 28·70 to Rs. 31·64 from 1965-66 to 1966-67.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : They did not have to bear the burden of 40 lakh refugees that Calcutta has had to bear. He cannot equate the problems of Calcutta with those of other metropolitan cities. The trouble is that

Government do not treat Calcutta's problem as a special national problem.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : He has had his say.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : He does not want to say anything. He wants to whitewash the whole thing. It is an eye-wash.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : It is he who wants to whitewash his responsibility.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : We have been having this kind of treatment, lip-sympathies and stepmotherly treatment while Calcutta is suffering. Government are draining away funds from our economy. They have not cared for Calcutta. They talk of Calcutta as a 'city of professions', a 'nightmarish city' — all abusive words flung by national leaders.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : That is not correct. As far as the Calcutta Corporation is concerned, the Planning Commission has pointed out in the Fourth Plan document that the existing resources need to be augmented by the State Government and the local authorities through various measures such as improvement of assessment and collection of tax, new or enhanced tax, and borrowing programmes of local authorities, improvement of valuation and assessments in relation to urban property taxes and imposition of service charges at an appropriate level and so on. I would not like to go into all the details now. But I want to emphasise that the per capita income of the Corporation has to be raised. To that extent the maintenance of roads and various other measures which are the primary responsibility of the Corporation could be attended to.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Raise it from the bowl of hunger ?

SHRI P.C. SETHI : As far as the Central Government are concerned, the present Prime Minister did take a special interest in the problems of Calcutta.

During the Presidential rule, she called the attention of the Governor there. The Governor came here. In 1968-69, although the initial allocation for Calcutta was Rs. 3.06 crores, it was increased by Rs. 2.3 crores, but I am sorry to inform the House that out of this total of Rs. 5.36 crores, the actual utilization in that year was only Rs. 4.75 crores. Therefore, it should not be said that there was shortage of money.

Then, as far as the other things are concerned, for the Fourth Plan period the State Government came forward with a proposal that for the Calcutta Metropolitan City there should be a provision of Rs. 32.5 crores. A team went into the whole aspect of this problem and ultimately came to the conclusion that the allocation should be increased to Rs. 42 crores.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The West Bengal Government wanted Rs. 80 crores, not your Government represented by Shri Dharam Vira.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : It has to be fitted in the over-all plan.

Besides this, I would like to point out that the second Hooghly bridge has been accepted and according to the revised estimates Rs. 16 crores will have to be spent as against the earlier figure of about Rs. 13.25 crores. Therefore, to this extent the Central Government has taken up an additional burden.

[Shri P.C. Sethi]

Shri Beni Shanker Sharma mentioned about the circular railway and the suburban railway. As far as the suburban railway is concerned, Rs. 34.4 crores has been accepted for the line from Dum Dum to Prince Ghat area and this has been included in the Fourth Plan. As far as the circular railway is concerned, a techno-economic survey for the selection of the rapid tramway system of Calcutta has been set up and this is under the active consideration of the Government. Apart from this, mechanical disposal of garbage as a Central scheme has been accepted.

SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : What about the sports stadium? Yesterday six people died. There was a stampede for tickets.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : I do not have the details.

SHRI B.K. DAS CHOWDHURY : You can inform the House later.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : Certainly.

Therefore, it is not correct to say that Calcutta as such has been neglected by the Centre. All possible ways and means are being provided.

As far as the Ford Foundation is concerned, they did give assistance of Rs. 4.45 million dollars for the planning organisation of Calcutta. They have also assisted in a survey of water supply to the Greater Calcutta region at a Cost of 600,000 dollars between 1963 and 1967.

As far as the PL 480 funds are concerned, I would like to point out that any big withdrawal from the PL 480 funds is certainly going to create inflation because that has been already accounted for in the budget programme, and therefore it is not correct to assume that this is extra money, but certainly by mutual agreement for rural electri-

fication and other purposes this sum can be spent gradually from year to year, not in one block in one year.

SHRIMATI ILA PAL CHOU DHURI : (Krishnagar) : Has not Mr. Mc-Namara said that you can use PL 480 funds because they are not there for any specific purpose?

SHRI P.C. SETHI : For example, Rs. 105 crores out of PL 480 funds have been drawn from the rural electrification programme.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Would you set up an expert committee to see whether diversion of money from the PL 480 funds will lead to inflation?

SHRI P.C. SETHI : It has been examined.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : There are so many economists who say that it is absolutely wrong. Even the President of the World Bank himself said so.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : As far as Calcutta's special problems are concerned, in spite of the fact that they have got this organisation which does some central planning, they do require a unified agency for all types of work because the constitution of the Calcutta Corporation and the various Municipalities is like this. It has got three corporations—Sealdah, Howrah and Calcutta—and about 31 Municipalities and 450 villages and therefore in order to have a coordinated programme and a coordinated approach for raising resources, programmes to be undertaken, there is need for a coordinated statutory authority for the development of Calcutta and I hope the hon. Members and the concerned authorities will take note of this and take measures so that this could be done in times to come.

I would also point out that the LIC and other bodies advance loans for water supply schemes, etc. Certainly the Calcutta Corporation can approach the LIC and other such institutions for this purpose.

Therefore, I would only like to say that the problems of Calcutta, or for the matter of that the problems of any of the States are not problems related only to that State, they are problems common to all of us.

SHRI B.K. DAS CHOWDHURY : May I know to what extent the Delhi Development Authority and the Delhi Municipal Corporation are raising their own funds for the development of Delhi? We find that the Government of India lose no time in giving huge amounts to the Delhi Development Authority but not to Calcutta. In the case of, Calcutta you say that the local authorities should raise funds.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Delhi happens to be a Union Territory. The per capita income of the Delhi Corporation which was Rs. 28·70 in 1965-66 has risen to Rs. 31·64. Therefore, local efforts are also being made. But in the case of Calcutta, the per capita income has gone down from Rs. 21·26 to Rs. 20·77.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Calcutta's problems are different from the problems of other cities because of the influx of 40 lakhs of refugees.

18·42 Hrs.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : Lastly, as far as the devolution of funds derived from various incomes is concerned, the Finance Commission has certainly gone into all these aspects and the devolution of funds is on the basis of the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission which we have taken as an award. They have given weightage to the population and the income portion is also there.

Therefore, it is not correct to say that whatever is drawn from a particular State in the form of the income-tax or excise duty is not being repatriated again to the State Government. It is being repatriated to the respective State according to the Finance Commission's recommendations. Therefore, I would request hon. Members not to be agitated about.

SHRI B.K. DAS CHOWDHURY : The result is, at the expense of the West Bengal State and of Calcutta, the other States are being benefited. *(Interruption)*

SHRI P.C. SETHI : Let us have discussion and come to certain solutions which are beneficial to the country and the city of Calcutta.

As far as the Mayor is concerned, the Mayor did come here and meet the Prime Minister. I do not have the details but he raised certain problems about the Calcutta Corporation, and the Prime Minister has been looking at it with sympathy.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 18, 1969/Agrahayana 27, 1891 (Saka)