

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:—

"and with that end in view—

- (i) the salaries of Government servants should not be less than Rs. 100 and more than Rs. 1000 per month;
- (ii) all the banks and private industries in the country should be nationalised; and
- (iii) a definite price policy should be adopted."

The motion was negated.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: I would like to withdraw my amendment by the leave of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member have the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad, have the leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. REGIONAL DISPARITY

Shri P. K. Deo: (Kalahandi): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House calls upon the Government to appoint a Committee consisting of Members of both Houses of Parliament to go into the question of disparity in the development of various re-

gions in the country and to suggest ways and means to lessen such growing disparity."

This is such a simple resolution that no persuasion will be necessary on my part for the Government to accept it, because it is one of their precepts that all the regional disparities should go.

Shri Nanda: Sir, I have to attend to an important meeting. May I just go?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, he may go. The hon. Deputy Minister is here.

Shri P. K. Deo: The entire basis of this motion is on the very concept of building up a society to dispel all forms of disparity including regional disparity. If you will study the history of development in this country, you will be convinced that these are accidents of history. The British developed India as a colony and when they first came here, they had their foothold at Fort Williams, Fort St. George and Fort St. David. They started their industrial and imperialist expansion at these three points. Naturally, those three areas formed the focus of industrial gravity and they fully utilised the hinterland. That is how Calcutta, Bombay and Madras developed at the cost of the other areas.

Now, even though the entire concept has changed, we are still following the legacy of the British Government and we are following the same pattern, though we have been saying time and again that there should be uniform development of the entire country. The first and second Plans have been formulated on the basis of the capacity of the various States to bear the stresses and strains of planned economy and those resourceful States which had the resources could carry on with the development programmes. Those States like Orissa, Assam and Rajasthan, which had limited resources and which could barely meet their day to day administration naturally lagged behind. Our entire purpose of nar-

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rowing the gulf of disparity has been defeated. The same story has been repeated in the third Plan also.

We have paid enough lip sympathy to this proposal in Chapter IX of the third Five Year Plan. But if you examine the various achievements in this regard, you will be completely disillusioned. I would like to place certain statistics before you. Take the case of irrigation. In 1960-61, Punjab had 10.4 million acres of irrigated land. In 1965-66, Punjab will have 12.7 million acres. In Rajasthan, the increase would be from 4.6 to 6.2 million acres; in Madhya Pradesh, from 2.6 to 4.2 million acres; in Uttar Pradesh, from 17.2 to 21.2 million acres; in Assam, from 2.6 to 3.1 million acres and in the case of Orissa from 3.5 to 4.7 million acres.

Ultimately, if you will work it out, you will see that per 100 square miles Punjab would have 27,021 acres of irrigated land, Rajasthan will have 4,621 acres, Madhya Pradesh will have 2,456 acres, Uttar Pradesh will have 18,161 acres, Assam will have 6,596 acres and, so far as my State is concerned, Orissa will have only 783 acres of irrigated land per 100 square miles.

Take the case of installed generating capacity. In 1960-61 Punjab had 271 million watts and by the end of the Third Plan Punjab will have 649 million watts. That means Punjab will have 0.32 watts per 10,000 persons. In the case of West Bengal it will have 1,608 million watts in 1965-66 whereas in 1960-61 it had 986 million watts—that gives an average of 0.40 watts per 10,000 persons. In the case of Orissa, in 1960-61, Orissa had 264 million watts which will be increased after the end of the Third Plan to 0.31 watts for every 10,000 persons.

Similarly, take the case of communication. So far as roads are concerned, Uttar Pradesh with a total mile-

age of 12,036 is having 10.61 miles of roads per 100 square miles, Bihar is having 10.62 miles for every 100 square miles, Madras is having 33.37 miles of road communication for every 100 square miles, Kerala is having 34.58 miles of road for every 100 square miles and, so far as my State is concerned, for every 100 square miles Orissa is having 6.32 miles.

In the case of facilities for primary education, if you will calculate the percentage in the age group of 6 to 11, you will find that facilities available in Kerala in 1960-61 was 108 per cent—that is, more capacity than the available number of students—and in 1965-66 it will remain the same. In Madras the facilities are going to be increased from 78.9 per cent. to 100 per cent., in Maharashtra from 73.3 per cent. to 90.5 per cent. and in West Bengal from 65.6 per cent. to 73.4 per cent. But in the case of Orissa, it was 47.8 per cent. in 1960-61 and it would be increased to 64.6 per cent. After the completion of the Third Plan Orissa would be the lowest in the ladder so far as facilities for primary education are concerned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: One hour is the time allotted. The hon. Member must give some time for the other speakers also.

Shri P. K. Deo: The time should be extended, Sir; it is a very important subject. In your discretion, Sir, you can easily extend the time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has taken ten minutes. In another five minutes he should be able to conclude.

Shri P. K. Deo: In five minutes it is impossible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Others also have to say something on this. If he takes more time, others will not be able to speak on this.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): It can be carried over to the next non-official day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It will go to the next non-official day.

Shri P. K. Deo: So far as hospital beds are concerned, after the Third Plan period West Bengal would be having 779 hospital beds per million of population, Madras would have 816 and Punjab would have 737; but in the case of Orissa it would be 271 only per million of population.

Similarly, in the case of industries, even though so much has been stressed in the previous Resolution that the public sector is to play an important part, how step-motherly treatment is being given by the public sector to the various backward States. That also is conspicuous. The industrial picture has steadily changed in various directions and spectacular reflections have been increased production. In the general index of industrial production with the base 1951 at 100, by 1961 the rise is 80 per cent, that is, from 100 it has gone up to 180. Another 70 per cent. increase is anticipated by the end of the Third Plan. So, by the end of the Third Plan there would be more than three times rise in industrial production.

But in this regard I would like to draw your attention to a very interesting article on the changing geography of Indian industry which has been dealt with in the Quarterly of the Economic Report of the Indian Institute of Public Opinion. There it is shown that from the point of location of factories, employment potential in the various factories, total capital employed and salaries and wages available to the various regions, my State in some cases stands last and in some cases is placed just over Assam and Rajasthan. In most cases it is last.

As I have limited time I cannot go into the various details. But I

would like to stress that it is not always the backwardness of the area which is being considered in the matter of allocation of funds or for deciding the location of the various industries, but it is always some pull at the Centre which is the deciding factor regarding the location of the various projects. It applies to the various irrigation and power projects. It applies to the various industries also. If my remark would not have been correct, my State would not have been neglected by the public sector undertakings. Of the entire public sector undertakings you will find that the Rourkela steel plant and the Rourkela fertiliser plant are the only two plants which have been located in my State whereas the various other States have the benefit of several public sector undertakings. In the case of West Bengal there are as many as seven; in the case of Bihar there are as many as seven and in the case of Maharashtra there are as many as five. So, so far as location of industries also is concerned, my State has very badly been neglected.

Even though the Third Five Year Plan has said on more than one occasion that in every State there are areas which are more under-developed than others and special attention should have been paid for the development of those regions. In Uttar Pradesh, as you all know, the western districts are more advanced than the eastern districts. The eastern districts are a very backward region. So, also in my State, the western districts which are hilly areas, which form part of the Dandakarnaya project, are very backward and are far behind economically than those districts on the coastal region. Instead of paying our special attention to the development of those areas, all our activities are being concentrated mostly on the coastal region. Even though the First and Second Plans have been completed and the Third one is also going to be completed, there has been no impact felt in my own district. Even though there was

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a provision in the Second Plan for extending the Machkund power line upto the Hirakud grid, to form continuous grid, nothing has been done in this regard. The entire scheme has lapsed. So also the construction of a thermal station at Kesinga which found a place in the Second Five Year Plan of the State has not been implemented so far. It is because of the shortage of power that the paper mill which was coming up at Kesinga had to be shifted to Rayagadda and various other medium irrigation projects also have been put in the cold storage. So, also the Sagada irrigation projects and so many others.

My remarks in this regard would not be complete without making a reference to the Paradip port. Even though Orissa has a sea-coast of nearly 250 miles, it is a pity that a port has not been developed there. The Japanese experts and the Central Irrigation and Power experimental station at Poona have given very favourable reports for the construction of a major port at paradip. It has not been implemented so far and many a time we have spoken on that. If that port could be developed as a major port, all the iron ore deposits in the Orissa State could be exported to Japan which would earn a much needed foreign exchange.

Taking into consideration all these aspects, I wanted to focus the attention of the Government to the fact that even though we had been paying lip sympathy for the development of backward regions, we are not paying adequate attention to their development and the disparity, instead of shrinkig in the Third Plan, is becoming much bigger.

With these remarks, I beg to submit that the attention of the Government should be drawn to this important aspect.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Resolution moved:

"This House calls upon the Government to appoint a Committee consisting of Members of both Houses of Parliament to go into the question of disparity in the development of various regions in the country and to suggest ways and means to lessen such growing disparity."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is one amendment by Shri Koya. Does the hon. Member want to move it?

Shri Koya: Yes.

Sir, while supporting the resolution moved by the deputy leader of the Swatantra party, I am moving my amendment to it. I beg to move:

for "to lessen such growing disparity" substitute—

"to assess the growing disparity to bring the weak and backward regions upto the level of the advanced regions and to ensure the uniform economic development all over the country in future."

I would like to make a few observations about the backwardness of certain States and the necessity of appointing a committee consisting of Members of both Houses of Parliament to go into the question of disparity in the development of various regions in the country.

In this age, when we are talking about national integration, economic imbalances in the country should disappear so that all the people of all the regions may feel that they are given an equal consideration and status in the national development. This will help to remove the fissiparous tendencies and regionalism that has become a menace to our country. As the hon. Member Shri P. K. Deo has pointed out, certain States are forward in certain matters. He was correct when he said that in the matter of education, my State is very forward. In the matter of standards of literacy, Kerala stands high, thanks to the work

of the former Maharaja of Travancore and the Christian missionaries. Literacy proportion is 46.2 whereas the all-India figure is 23.7. But, even in that, while the infra structure as a whole is well developed in the State, it is not uniformly so all over the State. Because, in some areas, like the Malabar area which was under the Madras State, they are still in a backward condition. So, it is necessary that efforts should be made to make all the backward States come to the level of the educationally forward States and at the same time, efforts should also be made to see that the backward areas of the forward States also come to the level of the other areas of those States.

Kerala is contributing a very good amount to the foreign exchange earnings of this country; Rs. 55 crores worth of goods are sent to foreign countries from Kerala. It is about 10 per cent of the total foreign exchange earnings of India, even though in area, we are only 1.2 per cent. We are producing such things as tea, cashew, coir, pepper, prawns, ilmenite cardamoms, etc. Even though our State is earning 10 per cent of the total foreign exchange earnings of this country, we are not getting substantial public sector industries. We are not considered when new industries are allotted. Except the D. D. T. factory, what is it that Kerala has got in the public sector industries? But for the few industries started by the great Dewan of Travancore, Shri C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, we have no industries at all. The oil refinery which we heard would come to Cochin, is still hanging fire. As I pointed out yesterday when I was speaking about the Budget, Phyto chemicals, we are not getting; heavy electricals, we are not getting. Even though Kerala is the most thickly populated State, a State which has got the largest number of educated unemployed, we fail to understand how our voice is not heard at all. Is it because Delhi is too far away from Trivandrum?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: No, no, it is very much in our hearts.

Shri Koya: Unemployment has become a problem for us. In the matter of Railways, the railway mileage per lakh of the population in the State is 3.4, slightly above a third of the all India average of 9.5 miles.

The corresponding figures for the Madras and Mysore States are 5.6 and 6.2 miles.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: One a point of information. How much time is given to each speaker?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: About seven minutes each.

Shri Koya: Even the statistics are misleading. Take the case of industrial labour. When you calculate the number engaged in this category, you take into account also those people who are employed in the coir industry or the cashew industry. These are industries in which no power is used. The cashew industries and the coir industries are on the verge of collapse. Cashew is imported from Africa and is processed here. If the people of Africa themselves begin to process this—it is not a very complicated thing, and no machinery is involved, and the processing can be done easily—then thousands of people will be unemployed in our country. Almost 50 per cent of our industrial labour are employed in non-power cashew factories in Kerala, there is scope.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Koya: Am I to conclude now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, he should conclude now.

Shri Koya: With these few words, I support the resolution moved by the Maharajah and hope that the voice of my problem-State will be heard by the Central Government.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Today, we discussed in the first resolution the disparities in wealth and disparities among individuals. Now, in another resolution we are discus-

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sing regional disparities. This should indicate to Government how exercised hon. Members are about the basic policy and principle and how these basis policies and principles which have already been accepted by Government are implemented. But my outlook on this subject is a little bit different.

Sir, I come from Rajasthan. Please do not think, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that I have risen in my seat to say something about Rajasthan's backwardness and imbalances. I am not prepared to call Rajasthan as a backward State. We in Rajasthan are very forward-looking people and those who are forward-looking cannot be considered as backward.

When we are thinking of developmental schemes, I wish we bring about a fresher outlook on the entire problem. It is my considered view that while drawing up the map of our great country India, so far as the development programmes and schemes are concerned, I wish we forget the State boundaries, and the developmental schemes should be such as would completely obliterate the restrictive outlook of a State here or a State there. When we draw up our Third Five Year Plan, Fourth Five Year Plan and Fifth Five Year Plan I wish we take an all-India picture and we so draw up our plans that the entire country

will be developed in the best interests of the nation and the country as such.

When I say this, I should also submit that no country when it draws up an entire plan for itself, will like to have a crest here or a trough there; it will never permit that kind of thing. The water must find its own level; there must be evenness. Otherwise, you will create trouble for the entire country. It is not as if in the interests of a particular State like the Kerala State or the Orissa State or the Jammu and Kashmir State that one speaks when one speaks about regional development, but one speaks in the interests of the entire country with an integrated picture of the entire country and of how the country has to develop.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member likely to take some more time?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can continue on the next day.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, March 16, 1963/Phalguna 25, 1884 (Saka).