

इस तरह से डाला गया तो इसके परिणाम अच्छे नहीं होंगे। आपने अवमूल्यन करना था, कर दिया, लेकिन इसका असर उन 80 लाख कर्मचारियों से पृष्ठो, जिनको एक टाइम का खाना भी नहीं मिलता है। मैं विल्ड्ज में प्रकाशित एक फोटो की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि एक मजदूर जो भूख से मर रहा है और अशोक मेहता साहब तो उन्नत टांगें फैलाकर सो रहे हैं, उनको क्या मालूम।

सरकार को मालूम होना चाहिये कि अमरीका की आय 1325 रू० है जब कि हमारी आय 325 रू० है, हम अमरीका से मुकाबला करने चले हैं। जब तक यह अमरीका का गेहूँ आना बन्द नहीं होगा, य जो दास्ता की जंजीरें हैं ये नहीं टूटेंगी, जब तक यह सरकार रूस या अमरीका या किसी भी दूसरे देश की गुलामी करना नहीं छोड़ेगी तब तक इस देश की जनता इसी तरह से कुचनी जाती रहेगी। मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार गरीब मजदूरों का, गरीब कर्मचारियों का ध्यान रखे और चूँकि अवमूल्यन हो चुका है, इस वास्ते यह कह कर उनको न टालदे कि उनके महंगाई भत्ते नहीं बढ़ सकते हैं। अगर आपने इस तरह का निर्णय लिया और उनको राहत प्रदान नहीं की तब तो यह सरकार बच नहीं सकेगी। ये तपेदिक के मरीज की तरह एक दिन मर कर रहेगी।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister will reply tomorrow.

17 hrs.

#### \*DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN RAJASTHAN

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi** (Jodhpur) : I raised this half-an-hour discussion because

I think that the answer giving to the question in the House were wholly unsatisfactory, unconvincing and devoid Both of reason and of reassurance. I raise this half-an-hour discussion also because I think it is a basic and fundamental question of priorities in the plan and in the allocations for development. It is a question of rectifying some of the inherent imbalances that have crept into our economy. It is a question which is agitating the minds of some of the most backward States in the country; it is a question whether the plan allocations are meant to make them more backward or to lift them from the morass of stagnation into which they have fallen.

The hon. Minister of Planning who replied to my questions on the 28th July 1966 was very eloquent but very confusing, If I may say so with great respect. He adopted the technique of the broad sweep, the technique of window-dressing, and if I may say so, in some of his answers, he has indeed by taking shelter under reasoning which is specious added insult to injury.

I would like particularly to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister by Members of Parliament from Rajasthan was a memorandum to which Members of Parliament from Rajasthan belonging to all the parties, were signatories. So, it is not a partisan issue at all, but it is an issue concerning the very existence and future of that State.

As is known, the Rajasthan State is one of the most backward States, but

\*Half-An-Hour Discussion.

in the field of electricity, for example, the backwardness of the State of Rajasthan is shocking and appalling. The percentage of electrified localities in Rajasthan is 3.9 per cent as against the all-India average of 9.3 per cent. As against Madras having 64.5 per. cent of electrified localities, Kerala having 48.2 per cent, Punjab having 30.7 per cent, Andhra Pradesh having 16 per cent, Rajasthan has no more than 3.9 per cent of electrified localities, and even this percentage has been achieved largely because of the effort made in the Third Five Year Plan. In spite of this, the hon. Minister while answering my questions and those from my hon. friend Shri Harish Chandra Mathur had this to say :

The Rajasthan Government has taken up simultaneously a large number of schemes of rural electrification. What is a large number. The percentage in Rajasthan is only 3.9 per cent as against 64.5 per cent in Madras. And yet the hon. Minister has the cheek to say to this House that the Rajasthan Government have taken up too many schemes and have chewed more than they can digest. He said later on- I do not have the exact words — 'We are interested in schemes which may bring immediate results.' For the information of this House and for the information of the hon. Minister I may say that Rajasthan has endeavoured to bring electricity to rural areas, not merely for giving reading light to a handful of students in the villages but for electrifying wells so as to bring agriculture out of the stagnation into which it has been embedded all these years. We find that a miserable little allocation is made and on the top of it a justification is sought to be made out on the basis that Rajasthan has taken up too many schemes in hand, and, therefore, the Government of India cannot help them very much.

Another justification is trotted out and it is said that Rajasthan should have taken up only the more quickly-yielding schemes

One cannot fail to notice travelling in Rajasthan that from village to village, from well to well which could have yielded a rich crop of grain for this country, there is no electricity and the farmer have to depend on bullocks. That is the most they have, and in spite of a clamour from all corners of Rajasthan, in spite of letters, requests and entreaties made by the State Government and by me and my colleagues, very little, if anything at all, is being done by the Government of India during this year. The allocations are extremely meagre and extremely inadequate.

I want particularly to draw the attention of the House to the promise made by the Government that one lakh villages are to be electrified by the birthday centenary of Mahatma Gandhi falling on 2, October 1969, and that a minimum of 20 per cent villages should be electrified in each State by that date. To achieve this target, at least 1,000 localities will need to be electrified in 1966-67 and 1,500 in every subsequent year of the Fourth Plan. For electrification of 1,000 villages in 1966-67, a minimum outlay of Rs. 650 lakhs will be required and for the rest, a minimum of Rs. 750 lakhs during each subsequent year. As against this, the actual provision made was only Rs. 250 lakhs, and even that is sought to be curtailed.

I should also like to mention that the memorandum submitted by MPs from Rajasthan to the Prime Minister in respect of the Desert Development Board, an idea which has fortunately been adopted by the Government of India after considerable prodding and persuasion by me, has been neglected or ignored. There were two recommendations made in the memorandum. One was that the composition of the Board should be such that it is a dynamic and effective body, and the other that sufficient funds be placed at its disposal. A miserable sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of this much publicised Desert Development Board for the current year. I happen to have been the one to initiate

this idea and thanks to the Minister of Irrigation who constituted the Kidwai Committee to go into it and scrutinise it, the idea was accepted. But as is the wont of the Government, what happens is that a good idea, a sound idea, is defeated by excessive dilution. What happened in this respect is that the Board for desert development work that has been constituted has been packed with officials, which perhaps is the Minister of Planning's idea of making it efficient and dynamic, an idea, I am afraid, nobody else in this country would share. This is nothing but an eye-wash, this is nothing but window-dressing.

Moreover, is it the idea of the Minister of Planning, who at one time, I think, made a query at a meeting at which this idea was further formulated whether Rs. 10 crores would be an adequate allocation for the period of the Fourth Plan, that Rs. 10 lakhs would be an adequate allocation in the first year for doing any worthwhile work under the Desert Development Authority? Would not a lot of the projects contemplated under the Board have to be given up and abandoned? ¶

In respect of the Rajasthan Canal, I should like very much to know the position of the Government, I recall that the Finance Minister in the Government of India had promised to undertake the financial responsibility for building the Rajasthan Canal. In the memorandum of MPs from Rajasthan we had particularly pressed that the Canal was expected to be constructed by 1977, that in consultation with technical experts a plan should be worked out to complete it within the minimum time possible and its progress should not be handicapped for want of funds.

What is happening is that the phase of the canal which was to have been commissioned now is being abandoned altogether. I do not know why people still talk of the large plan and small plan. This means no plan at all. Give up the plan, bid farewell to the plan as a whole, and then come out with the idea to give up a scheme in mid-stream. I am sorry even the hon. Chief

Minister of Rajasthan seems to have agreed to such an abandonment of the project on which not only the welfare of Rajasthan will depend but the whole concept of priorities and its working will depend.

On the one hand the Government says that they want to give priority to agriculture, on the one hand they say we want quick-yielding schemes in the agricultural sector; on the other hand schemes like the Rajasthan Canal are abandoned by saying: we have no money, we cannot complete the scheme.

On the question of rural water supply, one speaks with great anguish and pain, because every time you go to Rajasthan you find that people have to live not like human beings, but like animals, worse than animals. People have to drink water which would kill others. There is brackish water to be had. I have seen children suffering, having been given brackish water to drink. I have seen villages and villages, herds of animals and communities and villages going from one place to another in search of water. I have seen people completely desperate and in a hopeless despairing condition because there is no water to be held not only for irrigation, but even for drinking.

Even in this respect, the promise regarding the basic amenities to be provided by 2nd October, 1969 has to be fulfilled, and I do not know how it is proposed to be fulfilled, whether it is the hon. Planning Minister's idea that by curtailing these funds drastically, by giving the go-by to schemes which are under construction or which are pending at the moment, and by not allowing any new schemes to take effect, rural water supply programme would be furthered.

Under the National water and Sanitation programme, a request was made for Rs. 57.85 lakhs for completing the schemes in hand and already sanctioned; Rs. 30.55 lakhs were asked for local development, and Rs. 40 lakhs were asked for new schemes. It would seem that against all the requirements, a meagre sum of Rs. 22 lakhs only is available. What kind of planning are we having. I should like to know?

[Dr. L.M. Singhvi]

I should like particularly to emphasize in this respect that unless rural water supply schemes are completed and the tempo of development which was initiated in the third plan is maintained, in Rajasthan there would be a revolution. The minds of people will be convinced that the Government does not wish to stand by all its solemn and sacred promises. This memorandum, which, as I said, was subscribed to by persons from all parties, said this :

"The hardships of the people in the matter of getting even drinking water in the arid tracts of Rajasthan are well known. All talk of Socialism or a Welfare State is meaningless for people who suffer such hardships in respect of an elementary necessity of life like drinking water. During the last two years or so, we have been able to spend about a crore of rupees annually, owing to generous Central assistance. This year, this assistance has been ruthlessly curtailed. It is up to the Central Government to ensure that the programme of making drinking water available to the people in the driest part of Rajasthan is achieved in the minimum time possible."

I should like very much to know what the Government of India proposes to do in this respect and whether we are to expect any effort to maintain the tempo of development in this respect.

In respect of border areas, I had occasion to raise this matter on a number of occasions, and I am sorry to say that I have not had a satisfactory reply so far. As a matter of fact on one occasion, a Minister in the Government said to me in the Lobby that the programme had to be slowed down because after Tashkent they felt that it need not be carried out at the tempo which was initially planned for it.

I mentioned to the hon. Prime Minister who expressed surprise at such a statement being made by a minister in the go-

vernment. We feel that the experience of the last Indo-Pakistan conflict brings home to us compellingly and convincingly the need for a network of border roads to ensure adequate mobility for our military forces and a network of tubewells so that these areas do not remain uninhabited as at present and therefore, provide easy scope for penetration, infiltration and incursion by Pakistan.

In respect of minor irrigation a great deal has been said from time to time in this House but I am afraid that there is no master plan which is likely to be executed, at least according to the information I have at present, which would enable Rajasthan to per- take of a sizable amount of minor irrigation in that State. Unless that is done, I do not think that Rajasthan can possibly extricate itself from the tentacles of stagnation and backwardness. It is quite clear that in the field of minor irrigation, if you are able to provide the necessary input Rajasthan which is the one State where a lot of land is available and that land will yield richly, we would have deserved that amount by providing for the country that foundation for self-reliance about which minister in season and out of season talk such a great deal but do so little.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Ja-lore) :** When the hon. Minister for planning was answering this question, I thought naturally he had acquainted himself with what the Members of Parliament said to the Prime Minister and what had followed after that. But I am afraid that he was not so acquainted and therefore the great confusion. In the context of what Prime Minister Nehru said, and what Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri said on the floor of this House with great feeling and greater force in respect of the rural water supply that Rajasthan has been spending a crore of rupees every year with central assistance and in the context of the fact that the working group here at the Centre and the planning representative on it recommended a crore of rupees. What was given was Rs. 30 lakhs on Rs. 40 lakhs and now it is boiling down

only Rs. 30 lakhs out of which Rs. 7 lakhs would go to establishment while even the work in hand would need more than Rs. Rs. 80 lacs to be completed.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Only one question.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur :** I will complete in just one minute. The position with regard to rural electrification is much worse. He says we have given Rs. 2.25 crores for rural electrification. I think he has by now received also a communication from the Rajasthan Government that it is not Rs. 2.5 cores but only Rs. .95 lakhs. Is it not a fact that the initial planning itself was wrong. What you gave for power generation and what you gave for transmission was not matched and therefore, the difficulty arose. There are about 10,000 wells which can be energised today, where electricity had gone to the villages but cannot be taken to the wells. He is adding insult to injury when we were told that in 1961 there were 500 wells which had been energised and now it is about 8,000. May I tell him in this context that in Madras alone, there are 3.5 lakhs of wells which had been energised and even if we do 10,000 wells a year, it will take us 25 years to reach the stage Madras has reached and if we go at the speed at which my hon. friend suggests, then possibly it will take us 250 years to reach where Madras has reached. Are we really so bankrupt that we cannot find money even for this top priority item ?

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बरवा (कोटा) :**  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने भी प्रश्न पूछने के लिए आपके पास चिट भेजी है।

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. He must give notice much earlier.

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बरवा :** मैंने पहले ही नोटिस दिया था। मैंने अपनी स्पीच देकर आपकी चिट भेज दी थी। तब यह डिस्कशन शुरू ही गया था।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** He may ask question now; it will not be a precedent.

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बरवा :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ दिन पहले राजस्थान के अन्दर जाधानी विशेषज्ञ आये थे, और उस रेगिस्तान की भूमि का उपजाऊ भूमि बनाने के लिए उन्होंने सरकार को सुझाव दिये थे कि हम अपने विशेषज्ञ यहाँ भेज कर इस जमीन को उपजाऊ जमीन बना देंगे और कई एक सुझाव उसके साथ सरकार को भेजे हैं, तो मैं योजना मंत्री से जानना चाहूँगा कि उसमें से अब तक कोई सुझाव कार्यान्वित न करने का क्या कारण है और अगर किया है कोई तो वह कौन से सुझाव हैं ?

**The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta) :** Sir, I fully appreciate the feelings of the hon. Members from Rajasthan. I deeply sympathise with the anxiety that they have for achieving a rapid development for that State and seeking as much assistance as is possible from the Government of India. Even the other day I made it clear that in terms of needs, any claims put forward by Rajasthan are absolutely unexceptionable. The question here was that in the year 1966-67 we were called upon to draw up an emergency Plan. The resources at the disposal of the Centre are limited. Last year and this year, a considerable amount of additional resources have been raised both by the Centre and many of the States. We have been able to sustain a somewhat limited plan for this year by the special effort made at mobilising resources. Having done all that, this year's Plan had to be smaller than what we had expected and what we would have liked it to be. This smaller Plan also involved a considerable reduction in the Central assistance. I think last year the Central assistance was of the order of Rs. 650 crores or a little more. This year, the Central assistance has been of the order of Rs. 500 crores. Now, when the Central assistance is reduced by Rs. 150 crore

**An hon. Member :** A cut.

**Shri Asoka Mehta :** The cut has to fall on every State. When the cut fell on the various States, Rajasthan's plan had to be drawn up. It has its own share. As far as Rajasthan was concerned, I believe the reduction in the Central assistance was somewhat less than what it was in the case of other States. There are many other States where the Central assistance has been drastically cut down.

Within the limited resources available for the States, there are various schemes, and with increased claims and various demands, one has to go into, it is possible that hon. Members may feel that the Plan that was drawn up by the Planning Commission and the State Governments together did not reflect the priorities that they would like to have.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi :** They are the priorities which you yourself have proclaimed.

**Shri Asoka Mehta :** As the hon. Member himself said, Rs. 100 crores were being made available; in this year, when the resources are not there, the cut has fallen and Rs. 40 lakhs were made available, but even though it was found that the resources of the State fell short by Rs. 1 crore, the State Government had to make some further cuts. They reduced Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 30 lakhs. One would really like to see that larger resources are made available. One would also like to see that the tempo that has been created is carried forward. But the question ultimately is that the Centre must have the resources to back up.

You are well aware of the financial position of the Central Government just now, where we are most anxious that there should be no deficit financing, and the budget should be balanced. Every effort is being made, and many hon. Members have said and perhaps very rightly with great justice, that the drive for economy needs to be intensified. On the one side, therefore, there is the question of seeing that the Central budget is balanced. It is just not to provide additional resources

for any particular activity. It may be that for an odd activity here and there, something can be done, but one must realise that practically from every State pressing and urgent demands are coming almost every day.

Only yesterday I had a long letter from the Chief Minister of Orissa where he has raised various questions including problems affecting people in the tribal areas visited by the Prime Minister some time back and has come forward with a substantial demand for that area. The Chief Minister of Assam has been writing to us repeatedly saying he must have detailed discussions with us about the consequences of the floods there. There is hardly any part of India where we cannot pinpoint questions of importance affecting the lives of the people, which need to be looked into.

I quite understand and share Dr. Singhvi's indignation. He said, there would be a revolution if we are not able to provide water to our people in rural areas. I agree, but if this is to be done, it has been estimated that about Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 crores would be needed. The Health Minister pointed out yesterday that if we have to tackle the problem of water-supply to both rural and urban areas, the amount needed would be Rs. 1500 crores. This has to be phased over a period of time. At any particular period of time, only a certain amount of money can be made available, which has to be distributed in the different parts of the country.

A part of that money comes from central assistance and the other part comes from the States' own resources. Even the pool of central assistance is not something that one can distribute in any manner one likes. The members from Rajasthan press about the claims of Rajasthan. Tomorrow in the Rajya Sabha I will have to participate in the discussion on a resolution where the demand is that UP is very backward and more central assistance be

given to that State. I would beg of distinguished members like Dr. Singhvi and Shri Mathur to sit down with us and advise us on the criteria to be followed to distribute from the pool of central assistance. We are trying to do it according to certain criteria. The resources being limited, we being a federal country, there being hardly any part of India where one can say there are not pressing problems that need to be attended to, any final solution that is offered will always be found to be unsatisfactory. I agree with Dr. Singhvi that the Desert Development Board is an important activity. But it is just being started. In this year, only some pilot work is to be done. The general attitude with which we have been functioning this year and with which we may have to function next year also is wherever certain programmes are going on, we would like to carry them forward as fast as we can. If a new programme is to be taken up, we would like to wait, because we have not got the resources. Sometimes a very worthwhile programme may have to be held back.

So far as rural electrification is concerned I am not suggesting that Rajasthan is having an over-ambitious programme. But within the limited amount of money, would it not be worthwhile to use it for providing connections to energise wells in a certain area, so that within that area, a certain number of pumps may start working and the wells are able to provide irrigation? One can spread the same amount of money over a larger area and a smaller number of wells can be energised immediately. Here again, it is a hard choice to make. There is pressure from every side to give power connection. Instead of distributing everything over two years, we can concentrate on wells which can be energised within one year, so that some production takes place and take up the next lot next year.

Dr. Singhvi said that Government said that a hundred thousand villages

will be electrified by the time we celebrate the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. I do not know when the Government said it. Perhaps that is a suggestion made by the Minister of Irrigation and Power. He would like that to be done. Let us realise that each one of us has the desire the anxiety, the earnest hope that something that we all cherish should be done quickly in our own area where we are working. The Minister of Health would like to see that hospital facilities are widely extended. The Housing Minister was complaining the other day that nothing is being done to provide housing to the people. Each Minister has a very legitimate demand. Ultimately one has to decide how much resources we have and how we deploy them. I can assure the hon. Member that I do not think with our limited resources and with the various claims on them we can say that by 1968 we will be able to electrify 1,00,000 villages. Any calculation on that basis would not be proper.

Therefore, in Rajasthan the tempo should be maintained. If we can provide some more money.....

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi :** What about the bureaucratic set up for the Desert Development Authority ?

**Shri Asoka Mehta :** As far as the bureaucratic set up is concerned, there are, I believe, four non-officials. If you desire that the non-official element be increased, I would request you to take up the matter with the Minister of Agriculture who is in charge of it. I have not set up the Board. If you want me to take it up with him, I will do so. I have not gone into it. His Ministry is in charge of it. The Secretary of Agriculture is the Chairman of the Board.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi :** We had taken it up with the Prime Minister. It is deplorable that a representation made by Members of Parliament to the Prime Minister receives such scant and such casual attention, that it has not even reached

[Dr. L.M. Singhvi]

the Minister of Agriculture. Sir, it was his duty to reply as to what is the position in this respect...

**Shri Asoka Mehta** : There are different Ministers functioning here. If hon. Members feel that the Ministers are not worth contacting, they are welcome they can always go the Prime Minister.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** : I did write to the Minister of Agriculture. He did not have even the courtesy to acknowledge that in good time.

**Shri Asoka Mehta** Every hon. Member knows which particular Minister is in charge of what activity. If that Minister is contacted, immediate response can be given. When the Prime Minister is approached, what happens to that particular memorandum I cannot say. I cannot reply on behalf of the Prime Minister.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** : I thought you were replying on behalf of the Prime Minister. We submitted the memorandum to the Prime Minister, and we are asking about the follow-up action to that memorandum. I thought you had come fully briefed to answer that.

**Shri Asoka Mehta** : I can only answer...

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** : Then the Prime Minister should reply. What is the use of your reply.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi** : Then there will have to be another discussion and the Prime Minister should reply.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** : We do not want to know what the difficulties of planning in general are. We know all those things. We had given a memorandum to the Prime Minister. We are following it up with letters. The Prime Minister writes back to me to say that she has asked the Finance Minister to take immediate action. The Planning

Minister does not even seem to know it. What is the use of our putting questions regarding a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister? May we know what the Prime Minister feels now about it?

**Shri Asoka Mehta** : You can ask the Prime Minister.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi** : The whole question was addressed to the Prime Minister. Somehow or other it came to be answered by the Minister of Planning. At any rate, Government has to function on the basis of collective responsibility. If the Minister cannot answer for the Prime Minister, let the Prime Minister answer on some other day.

**Shri Asoka Mehta** : Everything that affects the Plan of a State otherwise no question of State—comes up here—has to be agreed to by the Planning Commission. If any additional resources have to be made available the Planning Commission has to agree and the Finance Ministry has to agree. So far no decision has been taken to that effect. If, as the hon. Members say, the Prime Minister has asked the Finance Minister to do it, the Finance Minister so far has not consulted us and we have not reached any conclusion on that part. When a conclusion is reached it will be placed before the House. At this moment I can only tell you our position. If, as the hon. Member says, they have approached the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister has already advised the Finance Minister to do it...

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** : The Prime Minister in her letter has said that she has asked the Finance Minister to give immediate consideration. What that immediate consideration is we do not know. It was in the month of May. I thought you were telling us about it.

**Shri Asoka Mehta** : As I pointed out earlier, many demands come. Even today we were discussing demands from a number of States. So many demands have come. I do not know if it is possible for

the Finance Minister to take up one particular State's claim in isolation. All these things are being gone into and I hope when the Chief Minister's come here next week, we will have a discussion with them. The hon. Member, Shri Mathur, knows very well the various financial difficulties under which the Centre itself is working just now. If the Prime Minister has asked the Finance Minister to consider it, the Finance Minister and the Planning Commission will consider it with the utmost sympathy. There is no lack of sympathy. The question is whether we can find the resources. If we can find the resources, we will be only too happy to make Rajasthan share the available resources.

**Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj** (Wardha) : I learn from Dr. Singhvi's speech that about one lakh wells were energised in South India, probably in Tamilnad. Only a few hundred wells were energised in Rajasthan. After giving due weightage to the backward areas and keeping in view also the fact that to energise wells in South India costsless because the water level is not so deep I would like to know from the Planning Minister whether there is equitable distribution of money for energising wells. If there is equitable distribution, we have no grievance.

**Shri Asoka Mehta** : It is difficult to say what we mean by equitable distribution. Different States have their plans, based upon their own resources, the additional resources that they hope to mobilise

and the Central assistance that they will get. That determines the size of the State Plan. Inside the State Plan, there are various claims for agriculture electrification, irrigation, health, education etc. The State Government and the Planning Commission sit and decide how much they would be able to provide for rural electrification. In the Fourth Plan the proposal that we have made is that Rs. 250 crores will be spent on rural electrification and 7 lakhs of wells are to be energised. But how many wells will be energised out of Rs. 250 crores, how much will be made available for a particular State is ultimately determined by the size of the State Plan and the competing priorities that are there which they want to take up. For example, something may be needed for desert development or Rajasthan Canal. A variety of claims will be there. Of course, it is true that the rate at which development takes place in some those States which are left behind is very fast. How much faster you can make it depends upon a number of considerations which have to be gone into. Further, the Plan is not finalised yet and the State Governments have to agree to it. So, it is difficult for me to say how much of these Rs. 250 crores will be available for energising wells in Rajasthan.

17.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 12, 1966/Sravana 21, 1888 (Saka).*