

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 12, 1982/Chaitra 22, 1904

(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you on the speech you made on the Juche Idea. That was an excellent speech. It has enhanced the prestige of this country. The speakers that followed your speech, have all quoted you.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will that go on record, Sir, because that is a defamatory word, he said?

MR. SPEAKER: If you want it expunged, I will get it done?

(Interruptions)

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी (हिसार) : मैं समझा नहीं क्या बात कही है इन्होंने।
दुबारा कह दो जी : मैं कान पर लगा लेता हूँ।

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : दुबारा हिन्दी में कहें ?

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी : हिन्दी में कह द ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : काम करने दो ।

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : हिन्दी राष्ट्र भाषा है । उसी में बात करेंगे ।

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : हमारी बुराई काँ थी क्या ?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Delegation of Farmers sent to Foreign Countries

*671. **SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government send delegation of farmers to other countries to acquire knowledge of agricultural development that has taken place in those countries;

(b) whether in some of the delegations persons, who only claimed to be farmers and had no real farming activity to their credit, were included during 1980;

(c) if so, the criteria for selection and whether it will be made incumbent on the selectors that only such persons who are engaged in real farming are chosen;

(d) whether delegations are sent to such countries whose agricultural practice has been fully mechanised and hence the knowledge gained does not prove to be helpful for our country; and

(e) if so, whether the guidelines for selection of countries will be so made that our visiting farmers really gain by their visit?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Delegations of farmers have so far been sent to the USA and USSR in terms

of bilateral agreements which these countries have entered into with us. It is true that the agricultural practices in the USA and the USSR are largely mechanised but the Indian farmers during their stay in these countries are able to see, observe and learn new techniques and skills of farm management. With such an exposure to farm management in developed countries also, a scientific outlook towards farming by adopting the improved agricultural practices and post harvest technology according to local conditions is developed.

(e) The selection of the host countries is made depending upon the offers received and the agreements arrived at.

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request your protection in this case. Here the question is there and the answer is simple (a) Yes, Sir; (b) No, Sir, (c) Does not arise."

Sir, I wanted to bring certain facts before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Look at the rhythmic sequence.

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: The sequence is very beautiful, but the answer is unsatisfactory.

So, my request is that in our country lot of rumours are going on regarding the selection of delegates out of farmers from this country, whom we are sending to foreign countries to study. So, I wanted to know from the Minister through my question—

"(c) whether in some of the delegations persons, who only claimed to be farmers and had no real farming activity to their credit, were included in 1980;

(d) if so, the criteria for selection and whether it will be made incumbent on the selectors that only such persons who are engaged in real farming are chosen...."

His reply is only: "(b) No, Sir, and (c) Does not arise."

I want to know, Sir, with your protection, the names of the persons who have been selected in 1980, and want the Minister to certify that these are the persons who really came from farming community, and that it is a wrong allegation to say that they are not farmers.

This is the answer which I had actually expected. So, I would ask—this is not a supplementary but arising out of this answer—the Minister to tell us categorically the names now....

MR. SPEAKER: Why repeat the names?

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: And what are the criteria for selecting such candidates?

MR. SPEAKER: Now this has become a supplementary.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I would have expected the hon. Member to point out that he had not received replies to parts (d) and (e) of the question; but he has also missed it.

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: I did not miss it. I wanted to point out something about parts (b) and (c) of the question. (*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I would now read the replies to parts (d) and (e) also, with your permission. The reply is:

"(d) Delegations of farmers have so far been sent to the USA and the USSR in terms of bilateral agreements which these countries have entered into with us. It is true that the agricultural practices in the USA and the USSR are largely mechanised but the Indian farmers during their stay in these countries are able to see, observe and learn new techniques and skills of farm management. With such an exposure to farm management in development countries also, a scientific outlook towards farming by adopting the improved agricultural practices and post-harvest technology according to local conditions is developed.

(e) The selection of the host countries is made depending upon the offers

Now, the hon. Member has asked for some supplementary information with regard to the persons sent, and the criteria for selection of the farmers who were sent to USA and USSR. In 1981, four farmers were sent to USA. The names are:

M. Raghu Mohan Reddy (Andhra Pradesh); William Gregory Celestine Vas (Karnataka); Sursing Madhavrao Khadambe Pawar (Maharashtra) and Khuraijam Indrajit Singh (Manipur).

These were the persons sent to USA. In return, some US farmers visited India, in 1980, and again in 1981. Nobody came to India—no farm boy came to India in 1981.

The criteria laid down are that the farmers sent should be practical farmers; they should be between the ages of 19 and 25; the State Governments have to certify that they fulfil the criteria that we lay down. The names are recommended by the State Governments. Then a selection committee screens the nominations from the State Governments; and the host countries' representatives are also associated with the selection of such farmers; and it is after full consideration of the recommendations of the State Governments that they are sent abroad. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: My second supplementary is: is it a fact that along with the delegation, some of the officers from our country are also selected? if so, may I know whether these officers are from the Secretariat level, that is, Clerks or Deputy Secretaries or Under Secretaries or whether these officers really represent the Agriculture Universities or officers who are directly involved with agriculture in our country?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have given the various criteria that are laid down and are being observed. According to my information, these schemes are only for farmers and not for officers. There are various other things which have to be kept in view like working language knowledge of the country which they visit, their experience in farming, their rural background and various other

things. Under these schemes, no Government employee can visit abroad.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government also authorises delegations which are invited by other countries, agriculture delegations, farmers' delegation; whether it is a fact that in 1980, there was a farmers' delegation which went under the leadership of Mr. K. L. Bhatia, MP, which included industrialists like Dalmia and so on who have nothing to do with the farming. It is impossible for any delegation to leave the country without his permission; unless, of course, they take my advice! I would like to know whether it is a fact that such a delegation went and it consisted mostly of non-farmers; whether Government has been benefitted by allowing such a delegation to go abroad.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have no knowledge of the delegation mentioned by the hon. member. But if people want to go abroad on their own...

(*Interruptions*)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: This is a Government invited delegation.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have no information about that. Government never sent any delegation like that. It might have been by a private arrangement between two organisations.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I said, Government. Under Foreign Regulations Act, nobody can leave this country, especially politicians without the prior permission of the Government.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You go there every day.

MR. SPEAKER: He will find out.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Then you ask him to collect the information.

MR. SPEAKER: He will find out.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Due to the population explosion, the unemployment

problem is stupendous especially in the rural area. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would instruct the ICAR to manufacture some implements which would not replace the rural workers but help in increasing the production.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not relevant to this question.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: This is relevant to (d) part—it has been pointed out regarding mechanised agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: No. You put another question for it.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what advantage our farmers have gained from this delegation having been sent to other countries; whether farming has improved due to these visits in our country; if not, is the Government thinking on some other approach where the larger community of the farmers can gain in our country?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have already replied what the purpose is behind these exchanges. Farmers' vision is certainly broadened by such visits. They learn a lot from other countries. Apart from agriculture itself and the various techniques followed by the different countries, they also come to know about the standard of living of farmers in other countries and their social life; and that certainly helps our country to know more about other countries, particularly advanced countries. There is no doubt that our rural people are living under conditions of poverty and they are far behind farmers in other countries.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Can education be given to them?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not able to hear you.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Can education be given to them?

MR. SPEAKER: If you see it practically, it helps. It is a good idea.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It is a matter of opinion. You may not be satisfied with me. I do not know why some hon. members have any objection to our farmers' visit abroad?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: As the question was put....

(Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That is the purpose of their visit.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: The specific question is whether they gain any knowledge.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: They are bound to gain knowledge even if they go up to the airport... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: These visits should be encouraged.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI.

Survey on underground Water Resources

*672. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey to assess underground water resources on the national level has been conducted by Government;

(b) if so, whether any consideration to give high priority to the utilisation of underground water resources particularly in low-rainfall or drought-prone region has been given; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the percentage of irrigation need presently being met by tapping such resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board has been engaged during the past about ten years in assessing the ground water potential of the country. Out of 28.7 lakh sq. kilometers total area requiring