

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, June 18, 1980/Jyaishta 28, 1902, (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Consultation with State Governments Regarding Sixth Plan

*142. SHRI A. K. BALAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schedule has been prepared for consulting the various State Governments before finalising the Sixth Plan;

(b) whether Government of West Bengal and Kerala have submitted any alternative guidelines for formulating the economic plans in India; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider them while finalising the Sixth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TIWARI): (a) Consultation with the State Governments for the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) are expected to start from September, 1980 onwards and the draft of the Plan may be ready by the end of December, 1980; so that it is submitted to the National Development Council early next year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI A. K. BALAN: I would like to know whether the statement issued by the Chief Minister of Kerala that Chief Minister-level discussions were held in evolving the Plan, has been brought to the notice of the Minister.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, I have not received any communication from the Kerala Chief Minister recently to this effect.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, we don't understand the question.

MR. SPEAKER: I think a corrigendum must be issued.

(Interruptions).

SHRI A. K. BALAN: Sir, the proposed plan outlay of the Kerala State during the year 1980-81 is Rs. 290 crores. Although analysis of the present day resources position of the Kerala State has revealed that without adequate Central assistance it will not be possible to increase the annual plan size beyond the level of Rs. 265 crores. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is in a position to assist the Kerala State in the marginal increase of the amount. Secondly, before finalising the draft Sixth Plan, I would like to know whether the Government of India is ready to stress the job-oriented education in the Sixth Five Year Plan.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, as and when we received the necessary request from the Kerala Government to review the Sixth plan for the State of Kerala, we will be very happy to review the whole situation, but till now we did not have any such communication as the hon. Member refers to.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, pending the finalisation of the draft Sixth Five

Year Plan, consultations have already been held with regard to the finalisation of the annual plan of 1980-81. Now, the complaint of the Finance Minister of West Bengal, who is also the Planning Minister of West Bengal, is that there has been gradual decline in the Central assistance to the West Bengal Plan. He mentioned that it was 34 per cent in 1978-79 which was dropped to 26 per cent in 1979-80 and it has further been dropped to 22 per cent in 1980-81. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to make up the resources gap of Rs. 26 crores to West Bengal plan, which has been framed on the basis of 26 per cent Central assistance as in the last year, for the year 1980-81?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Even though this particular question does not flow exactly out of the main question, yet I will try to answer it.

We have been in correspondence with the West Bengal Government. They have asked us that we should arrange for a plan review. They have asked for further and fresh allocations as far as Central assistance goes. They have also told us that they are going to raise additional resources as far as the State component goes. We have asked for further information from the Finance Minister of West Bengal and we have yet to receive his reply. I may assure the hon. Member that whenever we have such information, we are ready for further discussions with the Government of West Bengal.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: This question relates to West Bengal and Kerala Governments. Has it come to the notice of the Central Government that the Chief Secretary of the Kerala State has issued a communication asking the heads of various department to have contacts with their West Bengal counterparts and exchange the orders, notifications and bye-laws? If it has not come to the notice of the Govern-

ment will the Government take notice of it and take appropriate action?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Such orders of Kerala Government have not come to our notice. If the hon. Member feels that it is such an important issue that communication it deserves our attention I will request him to forward a copy of that to us. We on our part will make further enquiries, if so necessary.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The allocation of assistance or resources has been evolved on the basis of unanimity in the National Development Council. But there are allegations of disparity. For instance, when Maharashtra contributes to the Central Exchequer about Rs. 1800 crores and West Bengal about Rs. 1200 crores a year, the assistance to the State of Maharashtra is Rs. 333 crores and to West Bengal Rs. 66 crores. So, these allegations of disparity are there. Would he clarify the position and whether the Government will consider to reserve 75 per cent of the revenue of the Central Budget for division amongst the States of India particularly to the backward States of India?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: As is well known to the hon. Member, whatever Central plan assistance is made available to the States, that is done in accordance with the Gadgil Formula. The Planning Commission has not deviated from this principle of Gadgil Formula. Last year, as the Member is well aware, the National Development Council had evolved another formula for additional funds which came out of the extra block of funds allotted to the States out of the cuts on the centrally sponsored schemes. Perhaps, the hon. Member is referring to the devolutions recommended by the Finance Commission for non-plan expenditure. The hon. Member will agree that the Planning Commission is not directly concerned with the devolutions recommended by the Finance Commission. We are bound by the

decision taken by the Finance Commission.

Shortage of Technical and Managerial Man Power

*143. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) steps proposed to be taken for removing the shortage of technical and managerial manpower in all the facets of computer networks;

(b) whether any arrangements has been made for bringing Indian-born experts working in USA for short assignments of training for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) A Joint Panel of the Department of Electronics and the University Grants Commission has been constituted on Computer Manpower Development to suggest measures to overcome shortage of computer manpower, the Panel is expected to submit its report by the end of August, 1980.

(b) and (c). No formal arrangements have been made to bring Indian-born experts working in USA for short assignments of training. However, programmes of exchange of Indian-born faculty between Universities in the USA and Indian institutions, have been tried at various IITs. At UNDP-assisted National Informatics Centre of the Department of Electronics also, Indian-born faculty have been invited for short assignments.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether it is a fact that the former Indian Ambassador in the USA, Shri Palkivala, had prepared a scheme for short assignments for scientists of Indian origin in the USA and submitted it to the Government of India. In one of his speeches at a public meet-

ing in Bombay recently, he has claimed credit for such a novel scheme. Is it a fact?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): This has not been brought to my notice. In fact, this is the first time I am hearing about it, but we can look into it.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: I also want to know whether the Government of India have any scheme of incentives for these scientists to come and work in India.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There is no specific scheme. We are very anxious that those who have gone abroad should come back and that those who are being trained should remain here and not go abroad. As you know, there is considerable brain drain which is very costly to countries like ours. The best incentive is to create conditions in the country and in the offices and factories where they feel they can do their work in a peaceful atmosphere and have good working and living conditions

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: The question is this. Brain drain has been going on, and it will not be possible for a country like India to compete with the USA or West Germany. We are training our boys here. The money is paid by the poor people, but they are serving those developed countries. We will not be able to create here in the near future conditions obtaining in the advanced countries. So, should we not compel these people to work in India for our nation, should we not impose certain conditions?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is difficult to compel them, but certainly some conditions can be created. Everybody does not go out, and I am not prepared to believe that they are attracted only by the financial aspect of it. That is why I said we have to create proper conditions. So far as I know, about 400 persons are trained every year, the present demand is