

This is a disgraceful situation.

What long-range steps are we going to take in this matter? We have a woman Prime Minister now. If we do not take action involving all these organizations now, when will be able to do it?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): I share the deep concern of the hon. Member and all the others who have spoken. This is exactly the line I had taken when the Chief Ministers were here, viz. that apart from all legal steps which must be taken—strict action, severe punishment are all there—it is absolutely necessary to create a social climate where such happenings are just not possible; and this is one of the matters which young people specially can take up, because they are in a position to take a firm stand on dowry, that they themselves will not take or give dowry for their sisters and so on. As I said earlier, we can have a kind of social boycott of places where such acts take place. We have taken this up with the State Governments and also with certain women's organisations and others who have come to see me in the matter. But it is not a question just for Government; it is a question which the entire people must take up, as a national cause. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: I don't think there is anything more on this

श्रीमती प्रमिला दण्डवते 1975 में दिल्ली में 350 महिलाएं जल कर मर गईं। ऐसा भ्रतपूर्व और दिवंगत नेफिटनेट गवर्नर श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र ने कहा था और उन्होंने उस समय कहा था कि हर मृत्यु एक खून है। ऐसा ममझ कर उस की जाच की जाय तो उस के बारे में 1975 में कुछ हुआ क्या?

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि दिन बदिन महिलाओं पर भ्रत्याचार बढ़ रहे हैं, यह समाज के लिए बड़ी चिन्ता की बात है। मि० लैटिन ग्राफ मेरी स्टोप्म ट्रस्ट ने कहा है कि हमारे देश में माल में दो मिलियन महिलाओं पर बलात्कार होते हैं—यह बिल्कुल सच नहीं होगा लेकिन मैं जानना चाहती हूँ क्या हमारी प्रधान मंत्री देश में एक

नेशनल कमीशन ध्यान बीमेन बनाकर, महिलाओं पर जो भ्रत्याचार होते हैं उनको रोकने की व्यवस्था करने के लिए तैयार हैं ?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ऐसे कमीशन का हम सब को अनुभव है। यह कोई जरूरी नहीं है कि कमीशन से काम आगे बढ़े या ज्यादा अच्छी तरह से हो। जैसा मैंने कहा, जो महिलाओं के संगठन हैं या हमारे लोग हैं जो हम विषय में रुचि रखते हैं, जिनको हमके बारे में परेशानी है जैसी कि हम सब को है, हम लोग मिलकर देखें कैसे समाज में ऐसी आवाजें हवा बनायें, बाला-बरण बनायें जिसे ऐसी घटनाएँ न हों, सके। केवल कमेटी और कमीशन से मेरे खयाल से तो कुछ खास होगा नहीं।

New Schemes for Backward Districts

*763. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has drawn up a new scheme for backward districts which are mostly populated by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward sections; and

(b) if so, details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b) No Sir. There are several on-going programmes for providing financial and other assistance for setting up industries in backward areas, which are available to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also. A statement of such schemes is laid on the Table of the House.

The National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas set up by the Planning Commission would be submitting recommendations by the end of the year on appropriate strategy or strategies for effectively tackling the problems of backward areas.

Statement

On-going schemes for financial and other assistance for setting up indus-

tries in backward areas, of which advantage can be taken by Harijans and Adivasis also.

I. Area-oriented programmes

(1) Concessional finance from financial institutions available to industrially backward districts.

(2) Central investment subsidy available to qualifying industrially backward districts.

(3) Transport subsidy applicable to notified hilly and remote areas.

(4) Integrated Rural Development Programme (against the general rate of subsidy of 33-1/3 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs. 3000/- applicable to beneficiaries, the rate of subsidy for Adivasi beneficiaries is 50 per cent under this scheme).

II. Training-oriented programmes

(1) Training of rural youth for self-employment (TRYSEM) Programmes.

(2) Entrepreneurial development programmes

(i) In programme conducted by the SISI, Indian Investment Centre, SIET etc. fully funded by the Central Government preference is given to candidates from Harijans and Adivasis;

(ii) DC (SSI) runs special E.D. Programme for specific target group for weaker sections including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to promote self employment and entrepreneurial talent according to local needs;

(iii) in all managerial training courses, SC|ST trainees are admitted free;

(iv) in entrepreneurship training courses run by the SISI, 10 per cent seats are reserved for SC|ST candidates.

(3) Assistance in drawing feasibility project reports and charges levied thereof.

(4) Interest subsidy to engineer entrepreneurs trained under the Entrepreneurship Development Programme.

(5) Seed money/margin money programmes for entrepreneurs

(normally seed|margin money is available to entrepreneurs to the extent of 10 per cent of their financial needs; in the case of Harijans and Adivasis, this has been liberalised to 15 per cent, upto a maximum of Rs. 20,000 in each case).

III. Institution|Sector-oriented schemes

In addition to the Government schemes mentioned above, agencies such as the National Small Industries Corporation, Khadi & Village Industries Commission; All India Handicrafts Board; Development Commissioner (Handlooms); Sericulture and Coir agencies of the Centre and State Governments run various programmes, which are available to Harijans and Adivasis also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The hon. Minister has referred to several ongoing programmes. These ongoing programmes suffer from policy as well as administrative lacuna and infirmities. Therefore, a new approach is needed. The hon. Minister has gone on record to say publically that the Central Government has been examining the feasibility of setting up nucleus units in the backward areas. Would the hon. Minister kindly explain his ideas regarding these nucleus units and further explain in what way and manner does his ideas of nucleus units differ from the district industries centres scheme of the erstwhile government?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I have drawn the attention of the House to this aspect. I have already talked about and explained the definition of the nucleus units in the policy itself. But, for the information of the hon. member, I would again say that DIC and the nucleus units do not have any comparison at all because DIC was supposed to be the operational wing

whereas the nucleus units will be one unit which is permitted to come up to generate as many satellite units or the small units or ancillary units as it can promote. But the district industries centre is a different thing altogether and the comparison is not logical.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: A committee was set up by the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, which recommended the establishment of a National Bank for rural development. I presume that the conception of that National Bank for rural development can be an effective instrument in the matter of rural industrialisation. Would the hon. Minister kindly enlighten us as to the state at which the recommendation for the establishment of a National Bank for rural development rests now?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. member would appreciate that the setting up of this Bank would fall within the purview of the Ministry of Finance and I would not have details about this Bank.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: The hon. Minister in his reply has said that central investment subsidy is available to qualified industrially backward districts. The Government from time to time has declared 247 districts as backward, out of which 101 districts are qualified for subsidy and for central investment subsidy scheme. Is it a fact that in the State of Assam where there are 24 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Assembly seats, in a period between 1972-73 to 1979-80, Rs. 1.42 crores were spent as subsidy. In Bihar where the number of such seats is 74, Rs. 1.17 crores were spent. In Orissa where the total number of such seats is 56, Rs. 0.95 crores were spent. In U.P. where the number of such seats is 90, Rs. 1.46 crores were spent. In West Bengal where the number of such seats is 76, Rs. 1.52 crores were spent. In the State of Tamil Nadu where number of such seats is 44, Rs. 14.7 crores were

spent. In the State of Gujarat, where the number of such seats is 37, Rs. 8.3 crores were spent. In Maharashtra where the number of such seats is 34, Rs. 10.9 crores is spent.

The second part of the question is, will the Government assure us that such a policy of discrimination which condemns the backward States to eternal backwardness will change?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. Member has exhibited a very interesting study and interesting co-relation which he has tried to develop between the political constituencies and the economic districts which are industrially backward districts. I am glad for the interesting study that he has done. But the hon. Member has himself replied in his preface to his question—that he is talking of two types of areas identified for the development, for the growth of the backward areas. Firstly, he has said, I am only repeating what he said, 101 Districts which are eligible for central subsidy and concessional finance; 247 Districts which are eligible for concessional finance. The hon. Member must also study the whole report of theirs. In fact, unfortunately, the criterion which you have developed, the co-relation that you have developed between a political constituency of an Assembly or of Parliament and the Reserved Constituencies and the growth has not been the formula. That was not the basis. If at all you have an idea like this, if you have a suggestion like this, I would suggest you kindly approach the National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas who are working on this and they would like to receive your study.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware that a large number of articles have come saying that the definition of backward area is itself faulty and it ought to be reviewed. Would the Minister inform the House, what are the main points

of definition and whether this matter will be reviewed by the National Committee?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: While identifying the industrially backward areas and the other backward areas, two committees worked on them, which were appointed by the Planning Commission in the past. Now, it was felt afterwards i.e. recently that there is need for reviewing the impact of the subsidies on the development areas and that this National Committee on the development of Backward Areas was set up and this Committee is working on this and the issue raised by you is indirectly a part of the terms of reference and we are expecting the Report of this Committee by the end of this year. It would be after that that we shall be able to review the whole thing.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: In most of the backward areas, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people reside. I would like to know whether the Government and the public undertakings will undertake the responsibility for developing industries in backward areas?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Yes, Sir.

Agreement with USSR for Supply of Paper

*764. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between the U.S.S.R. and India regarding the supply of writing and printing paper in order to fulfil the requirements of educational field;

(b) if so, what are the details regarding its progress;

(c) whether the Soviet Union have been successful in meeting the demands; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the quantity and the foreign exchange involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (d). A working programme of co-operation in the field of the pulp and paper industry has been drawn up between India and the USSR. The programme, *inter-alia*, provides for possibilities of mutual exchange of pulp and paper products and other materials on mutually agreed basis. Details of such supplies are yet to be worked out by both sides, after determining requirements

SHRI K. PRADHANI: In view of the fact that USSR was the second largest supplier of paper to India during 1978-79 at a considerably cheaper rate, I welcome the idea of importing more paper from USSR. But at the same time, as it involves expenditure of foreign exchange, may I know whether the Government propose to improve the utilisation capacity of the existing paper mills depending on bamboos and secondly, as the bamboo forests are limited in India, may I know whether the Government propose to set up some new factories depending on agricultural residues like straw and bagasse?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: My reply to both the questions is 'yes'.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: There were some press reports during last month that some 50,000 tonnes of paper imported from outside were kept in Hindustan Paper Corporation godowns without being distributed to the consumers. May I know whether it is correct and if so, why this paper was lying in godowns when there was scarcity of paper in the country and the price was rising?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The question is very relevant, but the information which appeared in the newspapers is not correct, because the quantity of paper which landed at