

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, August 10, 1984 | Sravana 19, 1906
(Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : It is with great difficulty that we have quorum.

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : कोरम के लिए कभी-कभी डांट दिया कीजिए मिनिस्टर को। पार्लियामेंटरी एफेयर्स मिनिस्टर यहाँ हैं नहीं।

श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया (उज्जैन) : हम ज्यादा हैं।... (व्यवधान)...

श्री राम विलास पासवान : कभी-कभी तो डांट दिया कीजिए। यह तो आपका अधिकार है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसी आशा से काम करते हैं।

SHRI HARIKESH BHADUR : I find there is no quorum.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is busy in 'Kar Seva'. Tell him to do at least Parliament seva.

श्री मनो राम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष जी, ये तो मजाक कर रहे हैं, मैं व्यवस्था की बात कर रहा हूँ। यह कायदे की बात है कि दो में से एक

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संसदीय कार्य मंत्री को यहाँ जरूर होना चाहिए। संसदीय कार्य मंत्री यहाँ न हों यह तरीका अच्छा नहीं है।

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Allocation for Flood Control in 1984-85

*290. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount earmarked to face the flood situation in the country for the year 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : An amount of Rs. 100 crores has been provided in the Central Budget for 1984-85 for providing assistance to States on account of relief expenditure on floods/cyclones, hailstorm etc.

SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Sir, the average annual loss due to floods has been calculated at Rs. 1500 crores and every year we are spending Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 crores on relief works in the affected areas. Central Flood Control Board has been working for the preventive measures for the last twenty years but only Rs. 600 crores have been allocated to the Board. This is a very poor amount. Has any survey been made or project report prepared about the preventive measures to be taken ? If yes what is the total amount involved and duration for completion ? If not, will the hon. Minister consider more attention being given to the preventive measures ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I am afraid the question is a little misplaced. The question is for providing flood relief

and allocation made in the Central budget. So, I have replied to that. Obviously, it is an important question but my colleague the Agriculture Minister is more competent to answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER : This matter has already been discussed through Calling Attention motion and there was a separate debate also.

SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : What is the ceiling of assistance of each item due to loss on account of floods? Now, Sir, the present pattern of assistance was conceived many years ago. In the context of the current prices is it not necessary to revise this pattern of assistance? According to my information only Rs. 250/- are given for total destruction of the 'kucha' houses on account of such calamities. Sir, the poor people suffer more. Will the hon. Minister consider to revise this pattern of assistance?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, the Seventh Finance Commission looked into this matter and they prescribed certain ceilings in respect of the States and if the expenditure is within the ceiling as per the recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission, of the margin money that is provided to them, it is met from that. If the expenditure goes beyond that then 75 per cent is met by the Central Assistance and 25 per cent is met by the States. I do agree that the amount which is being fixed for, say, repairs to the houses or of providing materials is not quite adequate but the hon. Members will agree with me that it might have been a desirable situation that we can compensate 100 per cent but the constraint on resources does not allow us to do so. Eighth Finance Commission has gone into this problem in a greater detail and they have made one improvement over the recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission in the sense that they have provided Rs. 240 crores—earlier the ceiling prescribed was Rs. 100 crores, the Eighth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 240 crores and they have said that Rs. 120 crores will have to be provided by the Union Government on demand of the States. Now, what

would be the effect of this? I can give a couple of instances. For instance, for Andhra Pradesh, the Seventh Finance Commission ceiling was Rs. 8.58 crores and the Eighth Finance Commission recommended Rs. 24.50 crores. For Gujarat, it was Rs. 9.56 crores in the Seventh Finance Commission and the Eighth Finance Commission recommended Rs. 28.75 crores.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : What is the real value of these amounts?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I am not getting the revenue in terms of real value. I am getting the inflated value. My money does not have a separate value. So, as the hon. Members are aware we have accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Apart from that, as I mentioned on earlier occasions also, first the State Governments submit a Memorandum, then a team goes and visit the areas and thereafter a Committee which is known as High Level Committee looks into these aspects. Thereafter, we agree on whatever the high level Committee recommends. But, of course, there is a big difference. Normally the factual position which we find is that if they ask an amount of Rs. 200 crores, we are in a position to provide Rs. 20 crores. That is the position.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : Sir, during the recent floods in Kerala, there was a lot of damage and loss to property and life. The Kerala Government has requested for financial relief to rehabilitate the flood affected people. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the extent of financial relief asked for by the Kerala State Government and the amount sanctioned by the Central Government for flood relief programme?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : We have received a representation from the Kerala Government which is being examined by the Agriculture Ministry and thereafter it goes to the Planning Commission for further examination. I have not yet received it. But I can tell you that they have submitted the Memorandum which is being considered by the Central Government.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार का हमेशा जवाब रहता है कि फ्लड कंट्रोल हो रहा है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि फ्लड प्रिवेंशन के लिए क्या आपने कुछ राशि आवंटित की है या नहीं ?

दूसरा मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में जो बाढ़ की भयानक स्थिति है, उसके लिए आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं। क्या बिहार सरकार ने अक्सिस्टेंस के लिए लिखा है ? इस बाढ़ की विभीषिका को देखते हुए कुछ राशि का प्रावधान किया गया है या नहीं ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : It is a patent question and the reply will also be a patent one. So far as the provision for flood control is concerned, the hon. Member is fully aware of the position because we have given the Plan Document where the Central sector and the State sectors taken together, during the current plan, we have allocated about Rs. 1000 crores for prevention of floods. The other parts of the question relates to relief provided to the States due to flood havoc or damages caused by flood. So these are two different questions.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware that Orissa Government had prepared a detailed plan for the control of Mahanadi floods ? Every year, the flood in Mahanadi, beyond Hirakud Dam, has been causing a great loss and damage to the life and property in the areas. I would like to know whether any such proposal is pending before the Government so that you can work out a scheme for prevention of flood havoc in areas beyond Hirakud Dam in Mahanadi river.

MR. SPEAKER : I think he will not be able to answer this question.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I hope the hon. Minister has something to say about this Mahanadi floods. It is a big problem for us. The hon. Minister can say something about this.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : The

Mahanadi is a big problem, I know. But for that there is another Ministry to look into it.

Imposition of Additional Excise on Vanaspati

*291. SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have imposed a new additional excise impost on Vanaspati w.e.f. 11 May, 1984 ;

(b) if so, full details and background thereof ;

(c) whether there have been any protests against this levy ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d). A concessional rate of excise duty of five per cent ad valorem was leviable on vegetable product until the 11th May, 1984 in terms of notification No. 24/65-Central Excise, dated the 28th February, 1965. This notification was inadvertently rescinded on the 11th May, 1984 with the result that vegetable product attracted the tariff rate of excise duty of ten per cent ad valorem from that date. The concessional rate of five per cent ad valorem was, however restored with effect from the 1st June, 1984. Further, Government have decided not to levy central excise duty on vegetable product in excess of five per cent ad valorem during the period from the 11th May, 1984 to the 31st May, 1984, as requested by the vanaspati industry.

SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : The hon. Minister has, in the written statement, stated that the notification regarding concessional rate of excise duty of 5% instead of 10% on vegetable products was inadvertently withdrawn. May I know, (a) who is responsible for this inadvertence, (b) has any action