

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, March 12, 1982/Phalguna 21,
1903 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair].

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष जी,
आलू की कीमत इतनी कम हो गयी है कि
अब उस को गधे भी नहीं चरते। आलू इतना
सस्ता हो गया है कि आज हरेक किसान
तबाह हो रहा है। (व्यवधान) पहले
आप किसानों की बात सुनिये। (व्यवधान)

SHRI R. S. SPARROW: We also
agree that this should be discussed.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : इस पर
एडजर्नमेंट मोशन हो जाए। (व्यवधान)
उधर के लोग भी कह रहे हैं।

AN HON. MEMBER: In Uttar Pra-
desh also.. (Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बैठिये
तो सही। (व्यवधान) आप बैठिये तो
सही। (व्यवधान)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
The farmer is not getting transport
because the Railways are not provid-
ing wagons.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने आप चारों की
बात समझ ली है। उन की बात भी समझ
ली है, बागड़ी साहब की भी समझ ली है।
(व्यवधान) सब की समझ ली है।

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SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: The
farmer should be given remunerative
price.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो सब के लिए
है।

(Interruptions)

डा० सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : कपूरथला के
आस पास भी तो लोग मर रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं द्वारा डिसकशन
करवा देता हूँ।

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी : इस मामले
में सारा हाउस युनैनिमस है कि आलू की
सपोर्ट प्राइस बढ़ाई जाए। सभी तरफ से
इस की मांग हो रही है।

राम विलास पासवान : हम ने
कार्लिंग एटेंशन दिया है, एडजर्नमेंट मोशन
दिया है, 184 के तहत दिया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं मान लेता हूँ और
इस पर डिसकशन करवा देता हूँ।

I will admit a motion and get a dis-
cussion done.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Implementation of 20 point economic programme

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*268. SHRI H. N. NANJE
GOWDA:

SHRI D. M. PUTTE
GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of
India as the Apex Bank of the coun-

try has decided for itself as to how it is going to fashion its activities so that 20-point programme announced by the Prime Minister is implemented successfully and the targets are fixed realistically and implemented smoothly within a time bound programme and finance does not pose a deterrent; and

(b) if so, the details of the Scheme drawn up in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) At a meeting of the Chief Executives of public sector banks convened on 15-2-1982, it was decided that a Working Group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India will identify in detail the tasks for the banking system for effective implementation of the New 20-Point Programme and other related matters. Existing arrangements and procedures will be further streamlined on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: The hon. Prime Minister said that there should be a clear sense of purpose in implementing the 20 point programme. But I am afraid things are not up to the expectations of the Prime Minister. On the one hand, the new 20 point programme has raised the number of beneficiaries. On the other hand, the percentage plan allocations for many of these major sectors covered by the 20 point programme is less than what it was during the last year. To cite one or two examples, for Agricultural, Rural Development and Special Areas Programme last year it was 13.3%. This year it is 12.3%. For irrigation and flood control, last year it was 11.5%, this year it is 11%. For Social Services, last year it was 14.7%; this year it is 14.4%. In this background, I would like to know whether the Government have assessed the total finances required for the implementation of the new 20 point programme

and how much is covered in the plan allocations, whether the banks would undertake to mobilise the resources not covered by the plan allocations and if so, the steps Government propose to take in this direction, and what is the physical target this year they have fixed and how much they have achieved.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Before proceeding further, I may tell the hon. member that he can't expect miracles from the Government. I may draw his attention to the broadcast that was made on the night of 14th January, 1982 by our hon. Prime Minister. She has clearly stated:

"When the 20 point programme was first announced in 1975, I had cautioned you not to expect miracles. Now, there is only one magic which can remove poverty and that is hard work helped by a clear sense of purpose and discipline."

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: It is only the speech of the Prime Minister. It is no reply. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I may say that the Government is committed to give all types of assistance to the weaker sections. Our commitment is total. There is no doubt about that. So far as the plan outlay is concerned, I may bring to the hon. member's notice...

MR. SPEAKER: He is only asking you to do hard work. There is no harm in it.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: In the budget speech of the Finance Minister, he has clearly come out with higher outlays for several areas emphasised in the 20 point programme. If I may be permitted to mention some of the items that have been mentioned in the budget speech, a provision of Rs. 2133 crores as a whole has been made for irrigation and command area development in

the Central and State plans as against a provision of Rs. 1830 crores in 1981-82. The outlay for agriculture in Central and State plans has been raised to Rs. 1202 crores from Rs. 1047 crores in 1981-82 including provisions for pulses, oilseeds and dryland farming.

A provision of Rs. 190 crores has been made for the Integrated Rural Development Programme in the Central Sector compared with Rs. 145 crores in 1981-82. This would be matched by an equivalent provision by the States. Each block will receive Rs. 8 lakhs compared with Rs. 6 lakhs in 1981-82. With this provision, more than three million rural families are expected to be assisted in 1982-83.

Central assistance for the Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes has been raised to Rs. 120 crores from Rs. 110 crores in 1981-82. This will be supplemented by a central investment of Rs. 13.5 crores in the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations, with a contribution of the same order by the States. The Tribal Sub-Plan will also have a higher outlay of Rs. 95 crores in 1982-83.

MR. SPEAKER: Please lay it on the Table.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I am expecting more questions on this. Therefore, I may be allowed to read out all these provisions. It will take only two minutes.

A provision of Rs. 74 crores is being made for house sites for rural landless persons and Rs. 29 crores are being provided for environmental improvement of slums in the State Plans. It is for the information of Dr. Swamy because I expect some questions on slums from him.

An outlay of Rs. 354 crores is planned for rural electrification. About 25,000 villages will be electrified and 4.25 lakh pumpsets will be energised in 1982-83.

A provision of Rs. 5 crores has been made to facilitate setting up of 75,000 biogas plants, compared with 35,000 in 1981-82. Likewise, the Social Forestry Scheme is being expanded to cover 4 lakh hectares in 1982-83. These are the plan outlays.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Please protect me. I wanted a specific answer. I wanted to know: what were the total finances assessed for implementing the 20-Point Programme? How much of that is covered under the Plan allocations? Are the banks ready to mobilise the uncovered portion?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The hon. Member raised the question whether in terms of percentage the allocation in various sectors under the 20 Point Programme has been less. The figures which have been reeled out by my colleague, clearly indicate that in absolute terms, this year the allocations are more as compared to the last year's allocations. You cannot always have it two ways. While in the main Budget proposals, there is a substantial increase percentage-wise in the allocations in the energy sector, you cannot expect that in every sector, there will be percentage-wise increase and absolute increase. Arithmetically it is impossible.

In regard to the 20 Point Programme, many of these programmes are to be financed by the State Sector Plan though it has been indicated in the Central Sector outlay. Some of these programmes will be financed by the banking sector plan. But if the hon. Member wants to know the quantified amount i.e. how much has been allocated, it is simply not possible to indicate that.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: The Minister has said that he had a meeting with the bank executives. May I know the points discussed and the plan evolved for better evolution of the 20 Point Programme? I would

like to know whether the Finance Minister had discussions with all the Chief Ministers in the country, or he proposes to have a discussion. If he had a discussion, may I know whether there was any dissenting voice from any Chief Minister about the implementation of the 20-Point Programme? Then, he has referred to the Working Group set up by the Reserve Bank. May I know whether the Working Group has submitted an interim report? If so, what are the recommendations? Has the Reserve Bank issued any guidelines to the banks? If so, are these guidelines implemented by all the local branches of the banks?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: As far as the Chief Ministers are concerned, we are having a meeting of the National Development Council, which will be held on the 14th of this month, day after tomorrow, where the 20-Point Programme is on the agenda. Then we will know the reactions of some of the Chief Ministers. I do not think there can be any strong difference of views in regard to the implementation of this programme, though in the newspaper I read that one Chief Minister has expressed some view. But it will be clear in the meeting of the National Development Council.

In regard to the group, I mentioned that I had a meeting with the chief executives of the banks. In addition to the other subjects, I discussed with them the implementation of the Programme. The group that was to be appointed will be appointed either today or tomorrow. So, the question of getting their report and action thereon does not arise.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the reply given by the West Bengal Chief Minister to the Prime Minister's letter. In his letter, the Chief Minister of

West Bengal has pointed out that for the last few years the nationalised banks in West Bengal are not at all helping to implement the IRD Programme. Is the Minister aware of this fact? If so, what action is being taken in this respect?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member knows more than me. I have no such information.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: I am referring to the letter written by the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: He has put a specific question. Yet, the Minister does not want to reply to it. It is a public document.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: The Chief Minister has pointedly written to the Prime Minister.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You cannot expect that any type of * * you can speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is very objectionable...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: He should withdraw those words.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: When I used the word** expunged it.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said it has been expunged. Unparliamentary words are expunged.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: Sir, I am on a point of order.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. In question hour there is no point of order.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: The Minister cannot get away.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already expunged it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI: Sir, so far as the budget allocations are concerned, they invite certain short-term and long-term objectives. So far as the farmers are concerned and so far as the implementation of the 20-point programme is concerned, from the point of view of financing by the bank I would like to know whether the Finance Minister is aware of the fact that with regard to the loans to the rural sector and particularly to the farmers, the nationalised banks are so much apathetic and hardly the day-to-day requirements have been met. I appreciate that so far as the allocation in the plan is concerned, the Government of India may spend and the State Governments also may spend the allocated amounts. But with regard to the day-to-day working of the farmers and the rural sector which is also covered by the revised 20-point programme, I would like to know whether the Finance Minister had a discussion with the Chief Executives of the banks and said that loaning facilities to the farmers and other weaker sections are simplified and are easily made available to the farmers. If not, then why was it not discussed? If 'yes', then what was the result?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have already taken 20 minutes on this question.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, as I mentioned in reply to the earlier question, our objective is to see that 40 per cent of the priority sector's credit goes to agriculture by 1985 and

when I had a discussion with the Chief Executives of the nationalised banks, naturally these points were also discussed and I do appreciate... (Interruptions). It is not that the banking sector is in a position to meet the requirements of the agricultural sector to its entire satisfaction. It is not possible because the hon. Members are fully aware that out of every Rs. 100 advance from the banking sector, practically Rs. 43 are earmarked in certain specified areas, Government securities, just to finance the Plan. The hon. Members should take note of this point and they are fully aware of it that whatever advances the banks are giving, they are giving out of the balance of Rs. 54 or so. The rest is an investment in the Government securities etc. Therefore, banks' manoeuvrability is extremely limited as a result of which in respect of various sectors which are to be financed by the banking sector, the bank is not in a position to do full justice today. Therefore, this is an exercise which we are making constantly and the objective as I have mentioned, is to take the advantage to the extent of 40 per cent of the priority sector's credit to agricultural sector by 1985. I hope it will be possible to reach that. Not only that. Even in respect of 60 per cent direct advantage, I instructed them that while giving advantage to the agricultural sector, they should not take into account merely all the indirect finances; direct finances should also be taken into account.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 269. Mr. Gaekwad. He is absent.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: I want to ask one pointed question. The answer will be either 'yes' or 'no'.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Now, question No. 270. Mr. Ajit Bag.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: If you don't allow, me, I am going out of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. you are welcome to do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are 544 Members and you are going to walk out like that. I can't afford it. You get the maximum number of opportunities and still you walk out. All right.

Now, Mr. Ajit Bag. Absent. Mr. Niren Ghosh.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: As you have said,...

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question, Mr. Halder. This is taking things too far. You do not appreciate my position at all and you do not realise my difficulties also. I could appreciate your cooperation with me, not to hinder my work.

Now, Question No. 271—Shri R. L. P. Verma.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry about it and I will get for you something. I will work out. If this is a socialist society and we are trying to make one, then I think in regard to the distribution of Supplementaries I will bring you out as a monopolist.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will prove it.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I am a socialist and a Communist. I want equal distribution.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will prove it, with facts and figures.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: What did you have for breakfast today?

MR. SPEAKER: I had two glasses of milk only.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I think the conjunction of planets is having some influence. Everybody is getting angry today.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Your case may be referred to the MRTP Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Right you are: I accept that suggestion.

Food poisoning aboard A.I. Flight

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*274. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:

SHRI A. T. PATIL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50 passengers of an Air India flight for Frankfurt on 13 February, 1982 suffered from food poisoning;

(b) whether any of the passengers had to be hospitalised;

(c) what were the causes of the food poisoning; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto and what steps have been taken for strict check of food items to be served on air flights?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. About 50 passengers on flight No. AI-151 on 13th February, 1982 had symptoms of food poisoning, four hours after lunch service. One passenger and two crew members were taken to hospital. The crew after a few hours observation, were discharged but the passenger was kept on observation for four days because of his old age.

(c) It is reported that food poisoning was essentially on account of consumption of contaminated Ras-malai and Mixed Salad.

(d) Air India has carried out detailed investigations into this matter