

LOK SABHA DEBATES

I

2

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 28, 1973/
Phalguna 9, 1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Development of backward regions during Fifth Plan

+

*121 SHRI C JANARDHANAN
SHRI BHAGIRATH
BHANWAR

Will the Minister of PLANNING be
pleased to state

(a) whether the development of
backward regions had not been given
sufficient importance in the previous
five year Plans and

(b) if so, whether any special
emphasis will be laid on the develop-
ment of backward regions in the Fifth
Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI
MOHAN DHARIA) (a) The succes-
sive Five Year Plans have laid
emphasis on the development of back-
ward regions in the country. The
State Governments who have the pri-
mary responsibility for the develop-
ment of backward areas have been
asked by the Planning Commission to
identify backward areas and formulate
and implement programmes for their
accelerated development.

(b) Measures for the speedier de-
velopment of the backward areas are
proposed to be intensified during the
Fifth Five Year Plan. The thinking
of the Planning Commission in this
behalf is contained in the Approach
Paper which has already been laid
on the Table of the House. It is ex-
pected that the programme of national
minimum needs of Rs 3300 crores
will do help to a great extent in
developing the backward regions in
the country.

SHRI C JANARDHANAN It is
clearly stated in the Approach Paper
of the Planning Commission that the
primary responsibility for the develop-
ment of the backward regions lies with
the State Governments. Apart from
giving some financial aid from the
Centre has the Central Government
got some concrete proposals in build-
ing up the infra-structure and other
things to guide the State Governments
in this respect?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA In order
to create the infra-structures, the
Central Government has identified
225 districts as industrially backward
districts. Besides some more districts
are identified as industrially back-
ward districts for 10 per cent subsidy.
The Central Government is giving
grants and loans for the development
of the hilly areas. All these Central
aids are being given to create the
infra-structure in these respective
areas.

SHRI C JANARDHANAN What are
the criteria by which the Central
Government determines a region to be
backward? Would the per capita
income of a State will also be taken

into consideration when you decide these things?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: There are various criteria. Per capita income, industrial backwardness, and so far as communications are concerned, the backwardness in communications—all these criteria are applied. Naturally, per capita income is perhaps one of the important criteria.

श्री भागीरथ भंडार : माननीय मंत्री जी ने (क) भाग के उत्तर में बताया है कि पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के विकास की जवाबदारी राज्य सरकारों की है और पांचवी पंच वर्षीय योजना में कुछ धनराशि का प्रावधान किया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—क्या यह सत्य है कि पांचवी पंच वर्षीय योजना के लिये जितनी धनराशि केन्द्र सरकार से राज्य सरकारों ने मांगी थी, उतनी धनराशि राज्य सरकारों को दी गई तथा जो धनराशि दी गई थी, उस का भी ठीक से उपयोग नहीं हुआ, इसी लिये योजना की जो प्रगति होनी चाहिये थी, वह नहीं हो पाई? दूसरा प्रश्न—पांचवी पंच वर्षीय योजना के लिये जिस धनराशि का प्रावधान आप ने किया है—आप के स्टेटमेंट के मुताबिक 3300 करोड़ रुपये हैं—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि राज्यवार कितनी कितनी धनराशि का प्रावधान आपने किया है और राज्य सरकारों ने कितना धन मांगा है?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The Central assistance given to the States is given on the basis of the formula adopted by the National Development Council. It is true that various States have been demanding assistance. It is not possible for us to meet all their demands because we are to go according to some set principles. Regarding Rs. 3300 crores which I have mentioned, it is related with the basic minimum national programme and it has

to be worked out, because this is the approach to the Fifth Plan; all the details will be worked out later.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: It has been stated that stress has been laid in successive Five Year Plans; perhaps it has remained a stress with no tangible results. Has the Government any statistics to show, how many backward areas have come up to the standard of the forward areas? What has been the difference in the per capita income, in the beginning and after three Five Year Plans? We are in the Fourth Plan. What is the difference in per capita income between then and now in the backward areas?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I must confess that there is no statistics which I can give to the House today. But I can say one thing. Because of the efforts that are made backward areas are getting developed.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: The disparity between the forward and the backward areas had grown.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: In these 200 and odd districts which had been described as backward areas, are there districts which have raw material available? Are there some districts where no raw material is available for industrial development? What patterns have the Government drawn up for such areas, with raw material, without raw material and other sources?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Ultimately for the development of the backward areas, integrated area development programmes according to the natural resources existing in those areas will have to be taken up. We have requested the State Governments to identify local resources and manpower and how they could be harnessed for speedy development.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी यह एग्रीकल्चर-फाइव ईयर प्लान है इस में बैकवर्ड एरियाज के सम्बन्ध में कहा गया है—

‘The first step naturally would be to identify the backward areas on which efforts are to be concentrated.’

लेकिन अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि बैकवर्ड एरियाज को आइडेन्टिफाई किया जा चुका है—इन परस्पर विरोधी वक्तव्यों का सन्तुलन मंत्री महोदय कैसे बैठाने है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार जो दो बम्बई निर्माण करने की योजना बना रही है क्या उस से पिछड़े हुए इलाकों का विकास होगा ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA The hon Member may be aware that the National Development Council had constituted two committees to go into the aspect on the basis of the report mainly known as Wanchoo Committee report. Industrially backward areas were identified on the basis of that report. What we have suggested here is very much consistent with the reply I have given to the hon Member earlier. We have requested all State Governments to identify these areas because we are interested in district plans. After the identification of the natural resources and man power we will formulate schemes for integrated development which will help us in developing these areas. Therefore, there is no inconsistency whatsoever. Regarding the second question about Bombay, I entirely agree that wherever the cities are over-urbanised there should be no further urbanisation or industrial activity in the city because it creates several problems and social tensions.

SHRI P M SAYEED Laccadive is one of the backward regions in the country. In many of the backward regions we notice that the infra-

structure for development have not been established. Of course, the hon Minister takes interest in Laccadive and he has been instrumental in getting us a ship. I want to know whether the provision of the infrastructure for Laccadive will be taken into consideration in the Fifth Plan.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA Yes, Sir.

SHRI INDER J MALHOTRA The main occupation in the backward areas is agriculture. May I know whether any special survey has been conducted as to what other subsidiary industries can be developed in those areas in addition to agriculture?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA We have requested the State Governments to carry out special surveys. While formulating our schemes and programmes for educated unemployed, we are trying to carry out several surveys which will help us in identifying the areas.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER Bankura and Purulea are the two most backward districts of West Bengal. What concrete steps are the government going to take to develop these backward regions of West Bengal?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA As I have stated in my reply the Central Government can give some assistance or some subsidy but the primary responsibility is that of the State Government to take up several schemes. But I can assure the House that for the development of the backward areas the Central Government will not have only sympathies we are prepared to give concrete help for development.

Plans to provide jobs to unemployed persons registered with the Employment Exchanges

*122 SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be