

18.30 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Effective Implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programmes

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we shall pass on to the next item, that is, item no. 22 of today's agenda—Half-an-hour discussion. Shri Shivraj Singh.

The discussion under Rule 193 regarding the Public Distribution System can continue tomorrow.

18.31 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is a poor country and even today the Government data shows that more than 32 crore people are living below the poverty line. These are the people, who don't even get two square meals and more over their children die untimely due to malnutrition. The I.R.D.P. programme is being operated since 1980 to bring these poor families above the poverty line. Under this programme, employment is provided to these poor families thereby giving loans and subsidy to them and thus efforts are made to bring them above the poverty line. This programme is under operation since 1980. The poverty has increased and the number of poor people has also increased after 1980 whereas the number of beneficiaries under IRDP is on a constant decrease. It shows how serious the Government is about IRDP. In the meeting of the standing committee on Rural and Urban Development, the officials of the department say that by 2005 they will cover all the families living below the poverty line under this programme. But when I asked them about the details of the scheme and as to how much expenditure would be incurred thereon then I was told that they don't now how much the expenditure would be. It shows how much serious the Government is. The Minister himself has admitted the fact that the number of beneficiaries is declining constantly and he attribute this to increase in per family investment. If we look at the figures, we would find that during 1994-95, the number of beneficiaries was 22,15,451 but in 1995-96 it came down to 20,89,400 and it was worst during 1996-97 wherein only 11,99,613 persons could be brought under IRDP benefits. These figures are upto January. It may increase to one or two lakhs by March. The Minister says that this number is declining because of increase in the per family investment. The statement of the Minister is incorrect and misleading.

I am very sorry to say that at one hand we talk about the poverty alleviation but on the other hand, we fail to utilise the full amount allocated for IRDP under the Central, budget. During 1992-93, 12214 lakh rupees were allocated under IRDP. But it was not utilised. Similarly, 24673.72 lakh rupees and 37881.36 lakh rupees were allocated respectively during 1993-94 and 1994-95, which were not utilised. At one hand, we talk about poverty alleviation and on the other hand we fail to fully utilise the amount allocated under the budget. What can be worst for the poor people than this ?

The reason for decline in the number of beneficiaries is that the budget allocation has never been increased. We are observing for the last three-four years that there has been no increase in the allocation. Of course, there has been untimely increase. Had the allocation been increased, we would have been in a position to provide more benefits. Secondly, I would tell you as to what's the position of the loans. Out of the number of persons to whom loan has been provided so far since 1980, 14.8% of them have come above the poverty line. In fact, there is a wide spread corruption in the Banks. The corruptions starts at the very moment when the Gram Sewak provides the form and the poor person submits his application for loan. The form alone costs him 100 rupees and when the Gram Sabha approves and sends his form to the block, the poor person frequent the block. Then the case is first transferred to D.R.D.A. and then it is transferred to the Bank. When this case is transferred to the Bank, the poor person will be frequenting the bank throughout the year neglecting his other work. Several cases are often referred/transferred to the Bank. It is a naked truth that the beneficiary does not get the whole amount sanctioned to him. When a friend of mine received the loan amount, I told him that it is good that loan has been sanctioned and now he can start his own business. To which, he replied that the full amount has not been sanctioned and hence he can't start his own business. If ten was sanctioned, he was given only five. The Bank officials kept five with them. When I asked him if he didn't oppose it, he replied that he had opposed it but the Bank officials had asked him to be content with what he is getting. Otherwise he would be deprived of that also. So, thinking that it is better to have something than having nothing, he took the amount. In this way, the corruptions spreads. The beneficiary gets the half amount. A provision has been made that cash would not be given to them. Instead, he would be provided with the facilities to start business of his choice. The needy person will collect the quotation from the shop, then cheque is issued to him. But the Bank employees/officials insist to bring

[Shri Shivraj Singh]

Quotation of a particular shop, with which they have some understanding and the fact is that one will have to pay something to get the quotation from the shop. And then, if the Bank issues a cheque then the shop keeper asks him to deposit a certain share of Bank and himself as well with him, then loan amount would be provided. The beneficiary gets half the amount of the cheque. But the number of those is high, who do not get anything and even then the poor person neglects his own work and frequents the Bank. The poor beneficiary does not know and doesn't have much knowledge about it. There is a provision that the Bank officials would visit the Gram Sabhas and they would provide guidance as to in which district, what works can be done, in which district which market can be made available, the trades for which loan can be provided. But, mostly the provision is not complied with. There is a scheme called TRYSEM which aims at imparting training to the rural poor and youths and providing loan to them under IRDP. No efforts have been made, no work has been done at any level to connect TRYSEM and IRDP together. Those who gets training under TRYSEM do not get the benefits. Those who receive the loan under IRDP, they do not get proper guidance. I am telling you the truth. Our Mentality has become such that some think that the loan sanctioned under IRDP is not meant for any business but for revelry. They think that half of the amount has been eaten up by the other persons and hence we would spent the remaining amount. No one is starting any business with this amount. I can strongly say that these beneficiaries doesn't start any business with this amount. When I visit village to village, I ask them to genuinely tell me as to what work is being started. There, I find that not even ten percent of the beneficiaries are involved in any business. They spent their amount in revelry and sit idle. Therefore, I can say that the purpose for which the programme has been started, is not achieved. Similarly, 3.88% beneficiaries have received training under DWARCA and TRYSEM. 2.13% beneficiaries have received financial assistance under DWARCA.

But no effort has been made to link TRYSEM with DWARCA. The people who were granted loans have not come above the poverty line.

The Hon. Minister has stated that he would cover all the families, living below poverty line, under the IRDP by the year 2005. In this context, I would like to know, as to how would he cover them under IRDP ? What will be the source of funds required for the purposes ? What are his plans for this ? The amount allocated for IRDP in the budget has not been fully utilised. When

would this be utilised ? What provisions would be made for this purpose ? Would he take any action against these who are responsible for the partial utilisation of the fund? What steps does he propose to contain widespread corruption in granting of loans ? Banks take many years to grant the loan. People have to frequently visit the banks for years. Banks should grant loans in a stipulated period, and the number of loan cases referred to the banks should be in consonance with the targets fixed for the purpose. If the target is 100, They should send only 110 cases, but only 500 cases are sent and all of them start visiting banks frequently. They keep aside all their assignments and start moving from pillar to post. A time limit should be prescribed so that they may get the money from the banks within that period. What arrangements would be made for the purpose ? A proper scheme should be evolved by linking TRYSEM and DWACRA, so that the persons getting loans could be able to do their desired work and could rise above the poverty line. What action would he take for this. Monitoring of IRDP could be done by Members of Parliament. What steps will the Hon. Minister initiate for its supervision, evaluation and linking of these schemes ?

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH (Seoni) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Urban Development and my friend is also a Member of this Committee and he belongs to rural areas in true sense. Shivraj ji has stated so many things and the Standing Committee has endorsed his views. I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister this question which has been asked many a times and this is not first instance, as to whether any attempt has been made anywhere on India to link TRYSEM and DWACRA ? If any such attempt has been made, than what are the details about it ? Secondly, the Members of the Standing Committee who represent states, whether their services are being utilised for the reviewing of the implementation of all such schemes ? Whether the hon. Minister would give power of reviewing such schemes to the Members of the Standing Committee ? This is my question.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, My friend Shri Shivraj Singh has put many things very prominently. In fact, this scheme has been formulated to improve the condition of poor people living in rural areas but the number of poor people has increased to 30 crores or it may be even higher than this. In Eighth Five Year Plan, the target was 126 lacs families. The Hon. Minister has informed us that we failed in achieving this target and could reach only upto 108 lac families. This scheme has been going on for 17 years and if we take on the average 20 lac families in one year, then during the last 17 years, we might have provided relief to 346 families, This number may be less,

I do not want to go in its detail, I only want to say this that the government has accepted at every level that there are irregularities in it and it has been said many a times that District Magistrate is the Chairman of DRDA. Member of Parliament should any how be given responsibility of monitoring, in this regard. While answering the previous question the hon. Minister has said that there is no need of involvement of Members of Parliament in this regard.

I would like to draw your attention towards one or two points for solution. What procedure has been adopted to end the exploitation of loan seekers from block level to district level? Secondly, the number of families which have benefited till date? What is the output of DWACRA scheme which was launched two years back? What are the products being sold in the market in their name manufactured by the families benefited by DWACRA and TRYSEM I think it is not so. If you ask the bank that what is the output of loanees under this scheme, I have visited with many committees, I have got the information that recovery is not made from 10 to 15 percent and they suggest that it would be better, if the government terminates this scheme.

I want to ask a question from the hon. Minister very clearly that even the Parliamentary Standing Committee has suggested to implement it in different form so that farmers could derive benefit from this scheme in actual terms, because they are under the impression the loans would be waived off. They receive less amount, the amount of subsidy is usurped by other people and in fact he does not get money. Will the Minister review it again and after review such a scheme be introduced which may provide actual benefit to beneficiaries and they may rise above the poverty line. Otherwise he would be finished, so is my contention.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question is certainly related to poverty alleviation. With the objective of providing employment and improving the life standard of the people, a scheme which is known as Integrated Rural Development Scheme (IRDP) was introduced in Eight Five Year Plan, the target was to extend its benefit upto 126 lac families, as the Hon'ble Minister has informed that the target of extending benefits to 108 lac families could be achieved, the target achieved should be appreciated but the question remains that the people whom benefit should be extended and the procedure followed while providing them benefit is misleading and painful. Procedure followed in the selection of beneficiaries should be transparent and even the procedure for payment of loans from banks after selection, the actual beneficiary has to face lot of problems and he is compelled to approach personally.

It is not so that I am not aware of all those things. Measures should be evolved to make the system fair and to ensure that the benefits actually reach the beneficiary. He undergoes training under TRYSEM and DWRCAs scheme and hopes to get employment after such training. But there is difference between selection and training and getting actual benefit after it. It is due to this difference that he has to do the work which he does not expect. To whom the benefits be given is also a issue of problem. It has been mentioned that one Committee has been constituted through which we would try to impose the procedure. It has also been stated that a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman of the Reserve Bank, so that the help from the banking personnel may be sought to simplify it. But where the money matter is involved, procedure becomes cumbersome. It is becoming difficult from the actual beneficiary to get the actual amount. Therefore, I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister to make efforts to achieve the target fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan. Money is not reaching to the needy people, therefore, such a system should be evolved that money could be reached to the needy people. The Gram Panchayats and Municipalities are there for this work. A committee should be constituted for this and money should be provided to them within time bound period. The person does not get the sanctioned fund even after six months or one year until he personally approaches. Personal approach means to pay money for getting sanctioned fund. Thus corruption starts. In order to eliminate corruption such a system should be evolved that the beneficiary should get the full benefit. Sir, I would like to submit through you this point only.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Sir, his name is there in the list. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just giving the names will not serve the purpose, it should come in the ballot.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, there is a very important question. I have not given my name but if you allow me.

[English]

SHRI W. V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Sir, I beg to make only two points. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Other than those whose names have come in ballot would not be allowed to speak on this

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : The aim of the Integrated Rural Development Programme and the Centrally-sponsored major anti-poverty programmes is to provide income generating assets and self-employment opportunities to the rural poor. We are implementing the schemes through the *Zilla Parishads* and DRDAs. The programme are reviewed by the State level monitoring Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, the Central level Co-ordination Committees and the similar committees at block and district level monitoring Committees. The target group consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and artisans. Generally, we are providing a subsidy of Rs. 4,000 in all the categories in the general area. Regarding the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the physically handicapped persons, the Government of India is providing Rs. 6,000 as subsidy.

The IRDP Scheme is financed on a 50:50 cost sharing basis between the State and the Centre. This Scheme is implemented in all the blocks of the country. Regarding the pattern of subsidy I would like to submit that 25 per cent is given for small farmers, 33 and one third per cent is given to the marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans. . . (Interruptions) First, I will give the programme. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all have general idea about it. The hon'ble Minister should reply the questions we have asked. He should tell us the way to bring improvement in it.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Let me give the scenario first.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : We know it already.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Regarding IRDP, the manual provides for preparation of loan applications, etc., by the *Gram Sabhas*. The Block level officers, Government officials and bankers go to the village. They conduct *Gram Sabhas*. In the *Gram Sabha*, they decide as to who are poorest of the poor people in that village for the purpose of making them the beneficiaries of the scheme. The place the list before the *Gram Panchayat* in that village. These are the guidelines that we have issued.

It is a fact that different Parties are ruling in different

States. Mainly we are giving funds to the State Governments. Fifty per cent of the funds are given by the Central Government as subsidy and the other 50 per cent is borne by the State. The remaining portion is given as credit by the banks. An hon. Member was saying that while the Eighth Plan target was 1,26,00,000 families, we could achieve a figure of only 1,08,00,000 families. Following the implementation of the Mehta Committee recommendations, the system of physical targets has been abolished since 1995-96 with a view to improving the quality parameter such as higher per family investment through higher credit mobilisation. That is why the target fixed for the Eighth Plan, 1,26,00,000 families, could not be achieved. We have given the highest amount of family credit.

The recommendations of the Mehta Committee, the Committee headed by the previous Dy. Governor of Reserve Bank Shri Mehta, have been accepted by the government *in toto*. In the year 1992-93, the subsidy-credit ratio was 1:1.7. By 1996-97, it rose to 1:2.17. Per family investment in 1992-93 was Rs. 7,889. By the year 1996-97 it became Rs. 15,036. Per family investment is increasing year by year. That is the reason why the number of beneficiaries has reduced.

There are monitoring and vigilance Committees in the Districts. In some States the Chairman, Zilla Parishad is the Chairman of DRDA. In some States, the District Collector is the Chairman. All MPs, MLAs, Block Presidents, Zilla Parishad Chairman are members in the DRDA Governing Body. There is a Block level Bankers Committee, a District level consultative Committee, and a State level Bankers Committee. All these Committees review quarterly as to how much credit is given by the bankers, what is the action plan prepared, how much credit is being fixed. Similarly, there are many Committees in each State and throughout the country. I have already given instructions to all the District Collectors that meetings must be conducted quarterly of each and every District DRDA Governing Bodies. If there is a problem, if there is a case of corruption, if there is a delay in disbursement or if there is a delay in the grounding of the scheme, MLAs and MPs must raise it in the DRDA Governing Council meeting. That is the easiest resort available if any minor violation is committed by the District Administration.

To eradicate corruption, we have introduced the back-end subsidy. Previously we were giving subsidy to the beneficiary in the first stage, itself and that left a scope for fraud. Following the Mehta Committee recommendations, we have recently introduced the system of back-end subsidy. We are giving subsidy in the name of the beneficiary after the grounding of the scheme is

completed. After three years the subsidy will be adjusted in the account of the beneficiary. This has reduced corruption. In the *Gram Sabha* meeting, at the time of selection of beneficiaries, if injustice is done to any person it can be raised then and there. A person can contest that he belongs to the category of the poorest of the poor. The beneficiary is selected in front of many people and so there is little scope for corruption.

Regarding the fourth round of Concurrent Evaluation, recently the Government of India conducted. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : What you are saying is absolutely right but one has to go to banks again and again to get loans. The persons do not get loan in time even after sanction of loan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the major problem is that loan is not provided in time. Therefore, the Government should put pressure on banks.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, last year, I had answered regarding. . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : They ask for five per cent or ten per cent private commission, What are you doing about that ? . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : It cannot be Generalised that bankers are asking for five per cent. If there is any complaint in a particular area, bring it to our notice. We would inquire about it. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you confine to the question raised by only those who raised the questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I am answering only those who have raised the questions. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply of main question is not being given.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not completed his reply yet.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : In the meeting of the high level Committee on Credit Control for IRDP help on 30th September, 1996, it was decided that banks

will sanction loans within one month; sponsoring and disbursing the loan within two months of the sanction.

. .(Interruptions) These are the decisions and we are carrying out the same. . .(Interruptions) You are the elected representatives. You must go to the ground level. You must ask and demand. These are the decisions taken at the Central level. You must argue as to why the same is not implemented after the disbursement. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, what is happening is that the meetings are held during the Parliament Sessions. How can the MPs attend those meetings ? Instructions should go to the effect that the meetings of DRDA should not be held during the Lok Sabha Parliament Sessions.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Please tell me where it is being implemented ? Many times meeting is convened deliberately during the sessions.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is true.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : This issue was raised in the House by the hon. Members so many times. I gave a categorical instruction to POs and PDs of DRDAs in this regard. A second-round workshop of PDs of DRDA is going on from today onwards. In that workshop also, I told all Project Directors to see as to how it is possible for the hon. Members to attend the meeting if the meeting is convened during the Parliament Session. After it came to our notice, we sorted out everything.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Still meetings are held during the Session. In my district, a meeting has been convened during this Session.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : It may have happened sometime back. Recently, no PDs has convened meeting during the Parliament Session. If any PD convenes a meeting during the Parliament Session, you bring it to our notice, we will initiate action against those people. You must give evidence. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Many times it is not complied with. What one would do ?

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no meeting is convened and it has not been followed.

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after repeated complaints a single line reply is given that it is not so.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You again issue instructions to all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, today I gave a key-note address. I quote :-

"There is a persistent concern among the MPs that they are not being associated with the programmes of the DRDAs. Many of them feel that the objectives of these programmes are not being realised and that the rural poor continue to suffer the adverse effects of poverty. In April, 1997, the Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation pointed out that Members of Parliament have been writing to the Ministry that the Governing body meetings are not being held regularly and the MPs are not being informed about the sittings well in advance. It was also observed that the DRDAs are fixing meetings during the Parliament Sessions, thus, making it impossible for the MPs to attend the same. Even now, I receive the same complaints. I am naturally embarrassed when MPs show me the notices for meetings during the Parliament Session any demand as to how they can attend these meetings. I do not know why you cannot attend to this simple aspect with some care."

In my speech, I pointed out this aspect today. . .
(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : It is very right. But the instructions is not properly implemented. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Our democracy, our Constitution and everything relate to Centre and States. Whatever amount is given, they have taken . . .
(Interruptions) That is why, these Committees are there. You are elected by the people So you must demand and carry out these guidelines . . .
(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : The reference given by the Minister is very right. But, the instruction is not yet followed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Do you follow it ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : That is why, I said that all officers are under the control of the State Government. You know everything.

19.00 hrs.

So, whatever direction we have given to the States must be implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You again issue a circular.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Regarding IRDP, I would say that since its inception we made four concurrent evaluation. In the fourth round of concurrent evaluation from September 1992 to August 1993, percentagewise, the evaluation revealed that 15.96 per cent of the beneficiary families could cross the poverty line. . .
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : What's the use of giving statistics here ? You have already read it. . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Somebody asked, how much of poverty has been eradicated ?

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : After lodging complaints one line answer is received that the case has not been found fit and you read out the same in the Lok Sabha. . .
(Interruptions) Do you propose to constitute a Parli-amentary Committee on any such matter ?
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You reply to the points raised by the hon. Members during the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Do you propose to constitute any Parliamentary Committee to look into the complaints ? . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let the Minister reply to questions asked by the hon'ble Members.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, there are so many Committees. There is a Standing Committee of the Parliament, there is, a Consultative Committee and there are committees at the regional and district levels. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I have got a lot of respect for my young friend. The hon. Minister is one of the very few effective Members in this Government.

But the hon. Minister is pretending as if does not know anything.

I will give you a simple instance. A Minister from Assam, Shri S. Choudhary came and attended the Conference which the hon. Minister is talking about. After that he came to my residence. I asked him : "Why have you not formed the Committees in my district ?" He said : "There is no such instruction from the Government of India." I asked : "You have attended a meeting today, have you checked up with them ?" He said : "No. The Minister did not say anything in his speech.

Sir, then I rang up his Secretary. I did not bother about the hon. Minister. Now, we are supporting the Government from outside, but they do not bother for us. We are under compulsion to support them. So, I asked his Secretary : "Why have the committees not being formed ? I have the names of three districts."

MR. CHAIRMAN : DRDA committees ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : No, not DRDA committees.

A circular was sent to the States that there should be a committee with public representatives - Members of Parliament and Assemblies would be its Members. The idea of that circular was to implement the Employment Assurance Scheme effectively. The BDO was identified, the DC was identified. Now, we have to go and request the BDO and the Deputy Commissioner. Why should I go and ask the Deputy Commissioner ? The money is given by the Centre for specific schemes. Members of respective areas should be asked to identify the schemes and if there is anything wrong technically, let them reject it. But what is happening ? As he has very rightly said that the officials of the States Governments were not in our committees. That credit we can take.

One phone call from the Secretary to the Chief Secretary is more than enough. The circular issued by the Government of India must be implemented. Now, what will happen if we stop sanctioning the money to his Ministry ? We are not going to support the Demands of his Ministry next time unless he implements the schemes.

When I go to the Prime Minister, he says : "Ask the Minister to bring a Paper in the Cabinet." When I go to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, he says : [Translation] "everything will be done, we are meeting just now, everything will be done, but I think nothing will be done." [English] What is this happening ? We are not begging anything. I told the Prime Minister that Members are demanding to increase this amount from Rs. 1 crore

to Rs. 2 crore. I said, 'do not do it.' But regarding Employment Assurance Scheme let the Members also be involved. I do not want money for myself.

The other day the ex-Governor of Delhi, Shri Jagmohan rightly said : "When I identified the work, I give the work to be done through the MP Area Development Fund. It should be treated that I have done my duty. If the work is not done by BDO and others, my money should not be released."

Any day there can be a mid-term poll. What will happen to me ? . . . (Interruptions) So, what I am saying is that please involve the Members of Parliament in the development work. The bureaucrats will always try to guide you not to give. They are interested in the BDOs. They are interested in the Deputy Commissioner. We are not against them but we must be allowed to be involved in this.

Mr. Minister, you please do the work through any agency. We do not want to tell you that you will have to take this contractor or not to take this contractor. We want a school to be built. We want a road to be laid. We want a small project to be executed. When I go, I find that whatever that I wanted is not being done and something else is done. By spending a sum of Rs. 20,000, they make a bill for Rs. 80,000 and the money is spent. Whose money it is ? It is our money. It is people's money. So, please act on this. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, your interest is also covered in this.

I will appeal to the hon. Minister - I know that you are a very sincere Minister - to take this matter to the Cabinet and take a decision on it.

Today, you have passed all the facilities for the Members of Parliament. We are happy about it. After at this shouting, somebody told me that in the Cabinet meeting. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : What are the things they have passed ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : All that was recommended by the Salaries Committee.

Today, an MLA gets Rs. 60,000 but I get Rs. 5,900. What is my position ? You want me to be honest, compulsorily honest. . . (Interruptions) Mr. Minister nobody, disbelieves your act. I would request the hon. Minister to ensure that his Circular is implemented. If it is not implemented, do not release funds, stop funds.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : We should be allowed to identify the works also. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is not a question pertaining to the IRDP, speedy, grounding, banks and other things.

Whatever that had been recommended by the Members of the Standing Committee regarding all these schemes, I had circulated to the Cabinet, in which all the Cabinet Ministers were there.

In the Inter-State Council Meeting, so many State Chief Ministers had asked the Government to transfer all the Centrally sponsored schemes and they had also asked as to why the Centre is monitoring all these schemes because the staff is theirs and everything is theirs.

After the passing of the 73rd Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, so many powers had been given to the Gram Panchayats, intermediate Panchayats and Zila Parishads. They had asked as to why the Centre is keeping all these schemes, why the Centre is keeping all these funds and asked the Centre to give them to the Gram Panchayats. That was the demand of the Gram Panchayats. This is the position that I am telling. . .(Interruptions) After the passing of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Bill, under the 11th Schedule, we transferred 29 subjects. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : In Bihar, still we don't have the Panchayat's. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Regarding the implementation of this IRDP, speedy grounding, disbursement and everything, many Committees are there. You must attend those meetings and then you can pinpoint where the lapses are there. From my side, whatever instructions that had been given, I will ensure that they are observed completely and implemented. . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a small announcement.

As the House is sitting late today, arrangements were made to serve refreshments to the hon. Members, Press and the staff – refreshments means not exactly the dinner but other items are there.

Refreshments for the hon. Members and the Press will be served in the Central Hall counter at 8.30 p.m. and for the staff in Room No. 73.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not replied properly even a single question asked by me. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right. Please take your seat.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Sir, my questions are very important. Even not a single question has been replied properly by the hon'ble Minister. . .(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know the plight of poor and labour class. Please ask the hon'ble Minister to reply my questions. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has noted your suggestions. He will take action thereon.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : The hon'ble Minister has not replied to the main question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

19.10 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS— RAILWAYS – Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now let us take up the Demands for Supplementary Grants – Railways. Each has to speak only for five minutes please.

Shri Brahamanand Mandal.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the supplementary budget for Railways for the year 1997-98. I also thank the hon'ble Minister for Railways who has made a provision in the supplementary budget on Railways for fulfilling the demand of two crores people of Monghyr and its surrounding ten districts pending since 40 years. That bridge be constructed on river Gangas in Monghyr. I want to thank him for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to thank Shri George Fernandes and Shri Nitish Kumar ji because both these persons have participated in the movement for