

factual information, for the financial assistance given to the unemployed, etc.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: That is lying unutilised.

MR. SPEAKER: You are adding much more to that.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I just want to know about this. Large number of unutilised funds are there for unemployed programmes. Would that be utilised by the public sector and also by private agencies....

MR. SPEAKER: No please. Unfortunately it does not arise out of the main question.

**Acceptance of resignation tendered by Dr. B. S. Minhas, Member, Planning Commission**

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\*286. SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have accepted the resignation of Dr. B. S. Minhas, Member of the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, whether Government have given any weightage to his warnings on the Fifth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Draft Fifth Five Year Plan was finalized after giving a very careful consideration to the views expressed by Dr. B. S. Minhas.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: The Fifth Plan is underplaying agriculture although over 70 per cent of our country's labour force is employed in agricultural side and nearly 50 per cent of national income is from agriculture. Would not the Government consider and make higher allocation for agriculture? Dr. Minhas has used an ex-

pression which I reproduce. He blamed 'brokers of Soviet thought' for underplaying agriculture in Indian Planning. I am asking this because agriculture has got a very poor allocation and without improving agriculture we cannot feed our vast population and add income to low income people. Small allocation for agriculture is vitally affecting the rural population and the poorest sectors of our economy.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question was a simple question. You asked in general and the reply was given in general terms.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Has the Ministry or the Government taken into account the views of Dr. Minhas? One of the views was that agriculture should have higher allocation.

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI D. P. DHAR): The reference to which the hon. Member made reference, namely the alleged remarks made by Dr. Minhas does not find any place in the views which he expressed during the course of long discussions in the Planning Commission or in the note which he submitted to the Chairman of the Planning Commission along with his resignation, namely, that the policies of agricultural development in our country were being influenced by Soviet thought. As I had occasion on an earlier sitting of the House, I submitted, this is an imputation which we totally deny. As I have indicated, this is an invitation which was utilised by an economist of the stature of Dr. Minhas. As regards the second part of the question, I would submit that it is not true. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is highly objectionable that a Member of the Planning Commission should have been referred in such a manner. There is a difference of opinion (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Taking advantage of this note, he has made adverse comments. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** Dr. Minhas is not here to reply to the Minister. It is highly objectionable. (Interruptions).

**SHRI D. P. DHAR:** I would submit that as far as the second part of the question is concerned, there is no intention that the investments in the agricultural sector should, in any way, be lowered. As a matter of fact, we have provided, within the perimeters permitted by the Plan and resources, 4.8 per cent growth rate in the agricultural sector. We are considering the possibilities of increasing this growth rate in agriculture. These possibilities are still under consideration. But, we think that under the present circumstances, the growth rate of 4.7 per cent, as envisaged in the Plan, is adequate.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI:** In the agricultural sector, the people employed have got the lowest income which is known to the Planning Commission. We have pledged to serve the poorest sections of our people. Would the Minister consider the entire Plan for agricultural purposes so that the present unrest in the country due to unemployment can be put an end to by benefiting those people by making available the whole amount only for agriculture?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question related only to the reactions to Dr. Minhas' note. The supplementary is on an entirely different subject. Anyway, you are going out of Dr. Minhas' reference now.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Sir, I would like to know whether, in the opinion of the Planning Commission, the views expressed by Dr. Minhas regarding the relative priority which should be given to agriculture have any similarity to the views which have subsequently been expressed by the World Bank in a note which has become quite notorious after the publicity that it has received.

**SHRI D. P. DHAR:** Sir, in spite of what was said a little while ago by Shri Atalji and Prof. Guha, I do not

like to be drawn into a controversy of finding levities or absence of similarities between the views of the World Bank and the views of Dr. Minhas'. Those views are before the hon. Members and I would submit, that it is possible to come to a judgment on those views independently.

**श्री गेंदा सिंह :** क्या मिनहास न अपने पक्ष में इस बात का भी सकेंत दिया है कि मार्शीनल फार्मर और एग्रीकल्चरल लेबर जो है उनके वास्ते जो धन नियत किया जाता है उसको दूसरी तरफ खर्च कर दिया जाता है और इमप्लॉय वे लोग दरिद्र के दरिद्र ही रह जाते है ?

**श्री डी० पी० धर :** जी, नहीं ।

**SHRI B. V. NAIK:** As it is being told in the Press that the Fifth Plan is going to be adjourned, whether this adjournment is connected either by chance or accident with the views expressed by Mr. Minhas?

**SHRI D. P. DHAR:** The assumption that the Fifth Plan is going to be 'adjourned' is not true and, therefore, the second question in my humble opinion does not arise.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** क्या नियोजन मंत्री का यह कहना है कि जब तक कोई व्यक्ति योजना आयोग में रहता है तभी तक वह योग्य होता है और जैसे ही वह योजना आयोग में निकल जाता है वह अयोग्य हो जाता है ?

**श्री डी० पी० धर :** मैं अटल जी की खिदमत में निहायत अदब से अर्ज करूंगा जिस तरह उनका इशारा है उसके मुतालिक कि डा० मिनहास के वास्ते हमारे दिल में बहुत कड़ है, इज्जत है और हम समझते हैं कि वह एक काबिल इकोनॉमिस्ट हैं और प्लानिंग कमीशन में वह रहें या बाहर, इज्जत उनके लिए हमारे दिल में हमेशा रहेगी। लेकिन जैसे जैसे दिल में अटल जी के लिए बेइन्तहा इज्जत है तो उसके माने यह नहीं है कि मैं उनकी हर राय के साथ इतिफाक करता हूँ ।