

MR. SPEAKER : What you have to say about his suggestion that our maps should be sent there.

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : My question is whether it is feasible for the Government to send a correct copy of our national map giving the demarcation and getting their endorsement so that they do not err on it, rather than we ourselves getting on to the defensive.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : That we have done, Sir.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Some of the Governments have not carried out the correction as per the demand made by our Government. In this regard I would like to know what was the reason for not doing so? Have they expressed their point of view and what is their conscious objection to that? In short what are the reasons for which they have not made any corrections?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : Well, there are Governments, for example Pakistan and some other Governments, whose positions are known on this. I have given some examples, but as I said earlier, we have explained to all of them our position. Our position is correctly depicted so far as the map is concerned in the National Atlas. It was first published in 1957 and again it was revised and published in 1982. All this position has been explained to them and also to the publishers. In many cases they have been corrected, but in the cases where they have not been corrected, they are not allowed in this country. They are banned in this country. Some of them which have been allowed have been allowed with the notation that the maps are not correct or authentic.

Planning Group for Hill Areas

*333. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that

there is a widespread feeling especially in the hill areas and hill States about the neglect of the special needs and problems of these areas and if so, corrective steps taken/proposed to ensure that special consideration is given to the development needs of such areas;

(b) whether Government propose to set up separate Planning Groups for hill areas only; and

(c) whether Government are considering that areas in North East specially Sikkim, need special consideration and financial and other support in regard to development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

There is no basis for the conclusion that the special needs and problems of Hill Areas and Hill States are being neglected. The Hill States, namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura come in a Special Category for the purpose of Central Assistance. As regards Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, their plans are being funded almost entirely by Central Assistance. There are also 'designated hill areas' covered under two programmes known as the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) and the Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP). The HADP covers two districts in Assam, 8 districts in U.P., Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu and three sub-Divisions of Darjeeling district in West Bengal. The WGDP covers Western Ghats Hill Areas in the States of Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Goa. Special Central Assistance is provided for the development of the areas covered under both the HADP and the WGDP.

There is a proposal to set up an Advisory Committee on Hill Areas including Western Ghats.

The plan outlays of Sikkim and States/Union Territories in the North Eastern Region are met substantially out of Central Assistance, the quantum of which has been increasing considerably over successive plan periods.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Sikkim and Himachal and other hilly States in our country have got plenty of natural resources like water, minerals and good environment for different types of plantations, but the Planning Commission has never noted the presence of all these things. So, I would like know whether the Government is willing to prepare a plan especially for the development of these areas in regard to transport and exploitation of this forest wealth.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, the hon. Member knows that this falls under a special category. The hill States like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland fall under a special category. Transport and marketing of local produce are subjects which are given priority. In fact all the Committees which have been set up have laid emphasis on three main things. One is the basic needs of the people. The second is watershed management. The third is how the movement of goods can be improved, that is, how communication can be improved. All these things are there. If there is any particular suggestion, we will consider it. All these important committees have considered all these aspects.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : In Andhra Pradesh there are two hill regions—these are Badrachalam and Arakloya. Special assistance under Hill Area Development programme is not extended to these two areas. May I know whether Government is willing to extend any special assistance to these two hill areas?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : If these two hill areas fall within the definition of

'hill area' they will receive assistance. One is being co-extensive with the boundary area of the State and the other is, some portions of it being marked out as hill areas called Designated Hill areas. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, some portions of it are marked as hill areas. If it is coming within the definition of hill area, it will receive the same assistance like other hill areas.

DR. V. VENKATESH : What is the definition of hill areas?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : At present, as advised by geologists and experts, there are several criteria, such as average slope of 30% and above.

DR. V. VENKATESH : The hilly region is devoid of transportation and communication facilities. Because of these things, there are number of illiterates in the hilly regions. Unless they are educated the integrity of the country will be threatened. Therefore I want to ask the Prime Minister whether there is any proposal to set up Hill Region Universities to educate them?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : My hon. friend is not correct when he says that in all hill areas the literacy is low. In fact there are some hill areas where the literacy rate is quite high.

DR. V. VENKATESH : What about Sikkim?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as Sikkim is concerned, the position is the best as far as it stands now. *(Interruption)* Establishment of University is a different thing. But now we are speaking about the outlays and what attention is being given to these hill areas. Sir, North Eastern region is being given the highest priority. Our Prime Minister emphatically asked to look into the needs of the North Eastern region. Immediately after the meeting of the National Development Council I was called and all the Chief Ministers of the North Eastern region were present and there priorities were discussed by the hon. Prime Minister and they were directed to go and physically

see whether those things are going on. As far as per capita expenditure is concerned, the hon. Member asked about Sikkim. The figures of per capita expenditure for Sikkim are as follows :

5th Plan	Rs. 1906
6th Plan	Rs. 5809
7th Plan	Rs. 10952

The All India average is Rs. 1493

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : I hope the hon. Minister is aware that Sikkim is the youngest State in our country, and it is far, far behind compared to many other developed States of our country in all respects. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister what then Central Government is doing for this backward State and make it self-sufficient, by generating its own resources ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The hon. Member has special knowledge about Sikkim and I appreciate that. As I said, the per capita expenditure is the highest—not only in terms of All India average, but it is the highest among the hill States also. Sikkim's figure is Rs. 10952. Therefore you will appreciate that special attention is being given to it, particularly to the basic need of the people. And then, naturally within those, education comes in and other social services come in, transport communication comes in and power comes in.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Sir, I would like to add one word. The total Seventh Plan for Sikkim is Rs. 230 crores and the Central Government is giving Rs. 247.62 crores. So, we are giving 107% of the Plan.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Sir, I thank them for general Central assistance given to Sikkim. May I know from Hon'ble P.M. But what is the Centre doing to make Sikkim self-sufficient ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir we give all the assistance and we would appreciate Sikkim using it to make it self-sufficient.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Sir, we do not want to be dependent on the Centre always.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARILAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that Aravalli hills are in Rajasthan which the Hon. Prime Minister had visited a few days back ? The condition of Adivasis there is appalling and the assistance which is given for the hill areas is not being given in the case of hill areas in Rajasthan. Will you please see to it Rajasthan is also provided with this assistance ?

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as Rajasthan is concerned, that area does not come under special category. We have to decide it according to certain broad line of parameters laid down because as far as these particular areas are concerned, each hill area is being attended to with special assistance. But to get special category assistance, there are certain demarcations and on that basis, we decide the particular hill area.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : The condition of the people there is appalling.

MR. SPEAKER : I also wanted to say something about the hills, but I have forgotten, anyway.

[English]

Steps for full Ocean Exploitation

*335. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps envisaged to have an exhaustive data base and technology