

allowing Government servants to join public sector enterprises except on immediate absorption basis. I can go on with each one of the recommendations. We are implementing those recommendations. With these steps being implemented, with greater awareness of the problems of the public sector, with greater support from everybody, I have no doubt that this year the public sector will perform even better than it performed last year.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The question relates to the whole-time and part-time Chairman. We have been experimenting with the system of having a Chairman cum-Managing Director for many of our public sector undertakings for quite some time. Has it come to the notice of the Government that this system has become a ritual and the effectiveness and the functioning of the Board has been lost because of the fact that the Chairman and the Managing Director who draws the items is the same person and there is not much of a discussion in the meetings of the Board of Directors and the meetings are held only for half an hour or one hour and no discussion takes place. Has it come to the notice of the Government that the effectiveness of the Board's functioning has been lost because of combining these two functions ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With great respect to the Hon. Members, on the contrary, we are satisfied with the institution of Chairman cum-Managing Director in which the two functions are combined in one man is the most effective way of running a large public sector enterprise.

The CMD is really the chief executive. You might call him, Chairman or Chairman-cum-Managing Director. The concept is that there must be one chief executive. He has under him functional directors for various disciplines. To make the Board function effectively, we are implementing a large number of recommendations. We have told them how the Board should function and I think, given a little more time, a little greater attention and a greater will in implementing the recommendations, you will find that these Boards function far more effectively. In fact, reviewing the results of last year, I am satisfied that the Boards are functioning very well.

Wherever there are problems, we will see that the Board functions well.

Development of North Bengal

*494 **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have chalked out any plan to be completed within a specified time frame ensuring constant flow of funds to implement the various schemes mentioned in the memorandum submitted to them by the North Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Jalpaiguri, for the development of North Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Out of the six schemes mentioned in the memorandum, one is in the State sector, viz. Teesta Barrage Scheme. Funds as required by the State Government are being provided in plan and additional financial assistance is also being given from time to time. The delays are mainly on account of the slow implementation.

Four schemes relating to diversion of railway track from Teesta Birdge point, establishment of Railway Coach Factory at Jalpaiguri, setting up of two major factories in Public Sector in each district of North Bengal and provision of Vayudoot Services in Jalpaiguri have not been found feasible by the concerned Ministries of the Central Government.

As regards TV relay facilities, apart from setting up of programme generation facilities at Siliguri, microwave links will provide facility for viewing programme of Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta. These are likely to be established by the end of VIIIth Plan.

(b) Issues raised by the North Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Indus-

tries, Jalpaiguri for development of North Bengal and position thereof.

Teesta Barrage Project :

Issue raised in the Memo : This multi-purpose project may be completed as quickly as possible to safeguard the vital economic interest and development of millions of people of North Bengal.

Factual position : This is an on-going major irrigation project of West Bengal with latest estimated cost of Rs. 452.54 crores. The spill over cost in the Seventh Plan is Rs. 251.73 crores against which an outlay of Rs. 131.10 crores has been provided in the Seventh Plan of West Bengal. An expenditure of Rs. 29.23 crores was incurred on this project during 1985-86. The outlay for 1986-87 is Rs. 30 crores. In addition, an advance plan assistance of Rs. 15 crores had been provided during the current year to enable the State Government to accelerate works on this project. However, the State Government was able to utilise only Rs. 10 crores.

Diversion of Railway Track from Teesta Bridge Point :

Issue raised in the Memo : There was a proposal to divert the new Bonagaigaon New Jalpaiguri, BG Railway line from Teesta Bridge point to pass via Jalpaiguri Town station. The proposal has been abandoned. The Railway Ministry may be directed to construct this diversion of Railway track.

Factual Position : A re-connaissance survey was carried out by the Railways in February, 1985 for diversion of the BG Trunk Route beyond the Teesta Bridge to Pass via Jalpaiguri station. It was found that the cost of the diversion would be extremely high (about Rs. 12 crores at the then prices) as high banks, heavy river protection works and a major bridge over Kerala river have to be provided. In view of the severe constraint of resources and the heavy commitments already in hand it is not possible to consider this proposal.

Railway Integral Coach Factory :

Issue raised in the Memo : An Integral Coach Factory may be set up at Rani Nagar,

Jalpaiguri for economic development of North Bengal.

Factual Position : There is no proposal to construct an Integral Coach Factory at Jalpaiguri. One Coach Factory is already under construction at Kapurthala, Punjab, which will have capacity of 1000 coaches per year. This factory and two other coach factories at Madras and Bangalore will meet the requirements of the country. Additional capacity is not required at this stage.

T. V. Relay Centre :

Issue raised in the Memo : A TV Relay Centre may be installed at Jalpaiguri town for relaying the programmes of Calcutta Doordarshan.

Factual Position : The TV Transmitter of 100 W Power at Alipurduar in Jalpaiguri District is expected to be commissioned during 1987-88. On commissioning of this transmitter, TV Services in Jalpaiguri District are expected to be strengthened. Further, it is also proposed to establish the Programme Generation Facilities (PGF) at Siliguri, under the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan. On completion, programmes produced at Siliguri would be telecast from the existing high powered TV Transmitter of Kurseong.

It is also proposed to establish microwave links for telecasting programmes of Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta during the Seventh Plan.

Industries :

Issue raised in the Memo : Two major public sector industries may be established in each district of North Bengal. This will help in promoting ancillary industries in the area.

Factual Position : So far as Large and Medium Industries are concerned while deciding the location of public sector units, due consideration is given to the need for ensuring balanced growth of different regions of the country. However, techno-economic considerations play an important part and are often decisive. In order to remove regional disparities and encourage development of industrial projects, both Central and State

Governments provide a number of financial incentives for development of industries in backward areas. Since Cooch-Bihar, Malda, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling have been declared 'No Industry District' considerable incentives are available to entrepreneurs setting up industries there. In the Central Public Sector there are hardly any new projects in the Seventh Plan, the stress is on rehabilitation/modernisation / diversification / technological upgradation of the existing units.

Vayudoot Service :

Issue raised in the Memo : Jalpaiguri town may be linked with Calcutta and New Delhi through Vayudoot Service.

Factual Position : Bagdogra, which is so near Jalpaiguri, is already on the air map and well served by the Indian Airlines.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : I have gone through the answer given by the Hon. Minister. The reply is in negative terms and I am very much surprised at it. Recently, our Hon. Prime Minister and other Members of the ruling party went to that part of the country. They shed crocodile tears on the backwardness of North Bengal. I find from the reply, everything is now turned down. Then, what is the point? Teesta Barrage has been hanging fire for a pretty long time. It has not been completed. Now, it is said that some amount has been allocated. In this way, it will take another ten to twenty years. Will the Central Government propose to provide adequate funds so that the pace of development and the completion of this project is accelerated?

Apart from the diversion of railways, the railway authorities are withdrawing the trains one after another from North Bengal, instead of augmenting the flow of new additional trains in this area. Therefore, I do not know, whether the Government will restore the withdrawn trains and introduce additional trains. Nothing has been mentioned here.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : You put the question.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : It is a very long reply. What can I do? When,

lengthy replies are given, then I must have an opportunity to comment on that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is wrong. One to one, not one to ten!

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Now, I will come to industrial development, of this area. Without special Central investment and initiative, the backwardness of that area cannot be removed. For that, concrete proposals have been given, but nothing has been done.

Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government will look into that matter and expedite the pace of industrial development of that area?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is a string.

MR. SPEAKER : It is much more than that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, a memorandum was submitted by the North Bengal Chambers of Commerce to the Prime Minister on 5th of January, 1987 which contained six demands. Number (1), is in the State sector and the rest are supposed to be in the Central sector.

As far as the Central sector demands are concerned, on receipt of these demands, they were sent to the respective Ministries which examined and found that, out of five schemes, four were not feasible. I appreciate the spirit of the Hon. Member also. They had demanded that a railway coach factory should be established in North Bengal. This is not possible in view of the fact that, we have already, two railway coach factories, one in Bangalore and another in Madras and the third is being set up at Kapurthala in Punjab. The anticipated demand of the country will be met by all these three railway coach factories. Therefore, there is no necessity of setting up another factory anywhere in the country. *(Interruptions)*

There was a demand for the diversion of railway track, from the Teesta bridge point. This was also surveyed, and this project was not found feasible on account of the fact that a huge bridge has to be constructed on the Karla river, and protective works had to be provided. The cost is so prohibitive that it is not possible to take it up, in view of the financial constraints that we have... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What is the cost this year ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : The cost at the time when it was examined, was more than Rs. 12 crores, but it is much more now in view of the fact that heavy protection works have to be provided. Then there was a demand that in each of the districts, two public sector units should be set up. It was not possible, in view of the fact that in the 7th five year Plan, there is hardly any proposal to set up any new public sector industry in the country. So, the question of selling up any public sector unit in North Bengal does not arise.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why ?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : It is very unfair.

MR. SPEAKER : But that is the answer.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, don't talk to them, I have not allowed them.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing ? Mr. Acharia, please sit down. Mr. Minister, don't give him the answer.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Not allowed. No permission granted.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will go to the next question, if you don't listen.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : If you don't sit down, I think I should leave. Should I go to my chamber, then ?

Please sit down. He is answering.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : If the business of the House is to be regulated, this has to be done. He is still answering the Hon. Member's question. You are all interfering; don't you know some rules ?

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : But that is what he says. You should put another question. Mr. Acharia and Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhary, you can have a calling Attention, you can have another discussion—anything, but not like this. Why should you not allow the Hon. Minister to reply ?

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot say anything now. You have other means to do it.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Then it is all right. I have not allowed any Hon. Member to go on record. They speak without my permission.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : If you want the House to be run like this ..

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. I have given no permission. No permission; no permission; no permission.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have to say that if you are to run the House like this, I am very sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But you are taking the law into your own hands. I am very sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have a right to ask a question, but you have no right to interrupt like this. No interruptions are allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have already wasted my 10 minutes without any reason because there is nothing on the record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have not got my permission.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Feasibility studies were made earlier also. They were reviewed later on. One of the demands was regarding installation of the TV relay centre. TV transmitter of 100 KW power is being installed at Alipur Duar in Jalpaiguri District. It will be commissioned by the end of 1987-88. The Hon. Member has asked about the Teesta Project. We are quite aware about the international implications of this project. We wish that this project should be completed as soon as possible. But the problem is that when this project was conceived and the estimate was prepared, it cost was Rs 68.72 crores in 1975. This project was supposed to be completed by the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan, but, unfortunately, for the reasons unknown to us...*(Interruptions)*. Try to listen. If any fact is incorrect, you can bring it to the notice of the government *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : This is very bad.

SHRI SUKH RAM : The State Government has been revising this estimate. Now

I am told that the latest estimate is to the tune of Rs 425.50 crores. The Planning Commission has been acceding to the request of the West Bengal Government. In 1983-84, they demanded Rs. 5 crores as advance plan assistance and that was given. In 1986-87, they demanded Rs. 15 crores as advance plan assistance and that was also given...*(Interruptions)*. That is released and given.. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijayaraghavan.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not allow, what can I do? I have to work. You are not allowing me to do it

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Just see yourself. What you are doing and what I am doing?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow him if you do not interrupt him again. This is something very exceptional you are doing; and it is out of rules. You have broken all channels of justice. It is very bad.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : In view of the seriousness of the problem and the promises made by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to the area, I would like to know from the Government whether Government would consider to convene a meeting of the representatives of the Central Government, State Government, MLAs, MPs, the mass organisations like trade union and Krishak Sabhas to consider problems and to find out ways and means. Will the Government implement the outcome of that meeting also? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SUKH RAM : If the West Bengal Government makes a request to the Central Government, we will think over it. *(Interruptions)*. Let the West Bengal Government make a request, we will consider it.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all? Shri-Vijayaraghavan.

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Enough time was given. No more time for this question. Mr. Vijayaraghavan.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : It has taken twenty minutes.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will you please allow Half-an-Hour discussion ?

MR. SPEAKER : I never promise anything which I cannot do.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Are you going to allow Call Attention on this ?

MR. SPEAKER : No.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Half-an-hour discussion may be allowed.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The Prime Minister spent hours on this very issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not ask me. Do not provoke me to do something which I do not like to do.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more. I am not allowing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have a right to say, and I have a right to decide. I will not allow you now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vijayaraghavan.

Alleged corrupt practices of customs officials at airports

*495. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian workers and others working abroad often make complaints about the undesirable practices of customs staff posted at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have investigated these complaints;

(c) if so, the total number of persons found guilty during the last three years with airport-wise break-up;

(d) whether there is any mechanism to keep a watch on their income and assets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). Complaints have occasionally been received from passengers regarding uncalled-for seizure/detention, demand for illegal gratification, harassment and over-assessment of duty. Such complaints are always investigated and appropriate action taken, wherever called for.

(c) Number of cases where action has been initiated during the last three years is as below :

	1984	1985	1986
Bombay Airport	2	1	2
Delhi Airport	4
Madras Airport	—	...	2
Trivandrum Airport	2
Calcutta Airport	...	2	...