

even after three years the state government could not set up this sugar mill in Gohana. Now perhaps one year more has been extended for the purpose. I, therefore, urge the Central Government to put pressure on the Haryana government to set up a sugar mill under a time bound programme in Gohana keeping in view the interest of sugarcane growers. If the state Government is not able to set up a sugar mill due to financial constraints, the central government should permit this sugar mill to be set up in the private sector in the interest of sugarcane growers of Haryana.

(viii) Need to bring J&K State under Common Pool of entrance examination for admission in Medical Colleges

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Admission in Medical Colleges run by State Governments used to be restricted to only the students of the respective State with all kinds of reservations.

There was a lot of resentment in student community. The matter was brought before the Supreme Court in 1983. The court gave decision in 1986 directing to create a pool of 15 percent seats both under graduates and post graduates from the state run medical colleges. These seats were to be filled by a common entrance test open to candidates from all participating States without any reservation. The court asked for consent from State Governments. All States except Jammu & Kashmir agreed for participation in the scheme which became effective from January, 1986. Under the scheme, a common entrance examination is conducted by CBSE under the control of MCI and the selection is made from the merit list. A total of 1500-2000 seats are thus available for the candidates from participating States.

In J & K, there were representations by students in favour of this scheme and there was even strike by Junior Doctors twice in the past. The students and junior doctors of J & K are suffering for no fault of theirs.

If implemented, the meritorious students will compete for 1500-2000 seats at national level and will definitely get more than what we have to give in the common pool. In addition, it will be a step towards national integration as it brings the students from various regions close to each other.

I request to bring J & K State under this pool immediately.

15.05 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE : APPROACH PAPER TO NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN - Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now resume discussion on the Motion regarding Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan. The time recommended for this

discussion by the Business Advisory Committee was five hours and the time taken so far has been 2 hours 42 minutes. The balance time remaining is 2 hours 18 minutes.

The hon. Member from Latur was on his feet last and I request him to continue his speech.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really very happy that the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year plan has been presented to Parliament and is being discussed by the Members.

The Five Year Plans should also be presented to Parliament and should be discussed by the Members. After some time, I am sure, the mid-term appraisal of the Five Year Plan will be done and the report will be made to the Government. I think, that report should be presented to the House and the Members should have an opportunity to discuss that report also.

When the Approach Paper, the Five Year Plan and the Mid-term appraisal are discussed by the representatives of the people, it becomes easier for the Government to receive and to obtain the participation of the Members of Parliament and the participation of the people in implementing the Plan. A look from this angle as to what is being done by the Government is quite welcome.

The Constitution of India has a Chapter of Directive Principles of State Policy which should be followed by the Government. That is supposed to be one of the most important Chapters in the Constitution of India. It lays down the approach which should be adopted by the Government of India and the State Governments and other local governments also in making the policy and implementing the policy. Up to this time, eight Five Year Plans were made and implemented. All the Plans which were made - I think, this plan also follows - followed the directives which are given in the chapter on the Directive Principles of State Policy. The present government claims that this Approach Paper and the Ninth Five Year Plan document emanate from the Common Minimum Programme which is made by the United Front. It is not necessary to dispute this assertion by the Government. One can say that the Common Minimum Programme follows the policies which we have made for ourselves in the country, and the Five Year Plan, which we have made for ourselves, follows the directions which are given in the Chapter on the Directive Principles of State Policy of our Constitution.

Therefore, it is not necessary to dispute it and it can be very easily accepted that this is part and parcel of the Common Minimum Programme adopted by the United Front Government.

I have studied this Approach Paper very carefully and my conclusion is that the priorities and the targets fixed are in the correct direction.

They are in the directions which are in line with what is mentioned in the Constitution, what is mentioned in the

policies which we have made for ourselves for all these years, what is mentioned broadly in the last Five Year Plans also. It does not mean that the direction given in this Five Year Plan is exactly like the directions given in the previous Plans. There has to be a continuity and change and there is a thread of continuity in this Approach Paper and I think, it will be visible in the Ninth Five Year Plan also. Certainly we cannot stagnate. We have to move ahead and that kind of movement is visible in this Paper.

One of the most important things is the poverty alleviation and poverty alleviation has been given the first position in the Approach Paper. Poverty alleviation and poverty eradication or elimination was something which has been discussed in our country for the last so many years. When it was discussed in the past there were some people who objected to the idea of poverty alleviation. They said that, 'this is a vote catching slogan given by the Government to the people'. I do not think that assessment of theirs was correct and I do not think if anybody makes such an assessment of this poverty alleviation mentioned in the programme, it will be treated as correct.

In the past, the lands were taken from the hands of the land owners, landlords and distributed to the people. The banks were nationalised and were asked to give money to the tillers and to the small holders of property, business and industry. There were so many other steps which were taken to alleviate poverty. It is not necessary at this point of time to mention all of them here. When the occasion is there one can mention them.

In the Approach Paper given by the Government, two things stand out very prominently. One thing is the Employment Assurance Scheme. The Government has said that the Employment Assurance Scheme - they are not calling it Employment Guarantee Scheme, but Employment Assurance Scheme will be made applicable in all the blocks in the country. For some time, they experimented in a few blocks and now this experiment will be extended to all the blocks in the country. I think, this is going to be one of the most important achievements of this Government and this Government should be complimented for this.

There are people in the country who are saying whether this Employment Assurance Scheme could be implemented in a proper manner. I am one of those Members in the House, who have worked at the local level, at the State level and at the Central level. When the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra was made, I was a Member of that Committee. When that Employment Guarantee Scheme was made and presented to the State Legislature, there were too many doubting Thomases who asked whether the Employment Guarantee Scheme could be implemented at that time.

That Employment Guarantee Scheme has been very successfully implemented. It does not mean that there are no defects, it does not mean that people have committed

mistakes while implementing the Employment Scheme. But by and large, the Employment Guarantee Scheme has been successfully implemented and the results are there for us to see. If an officer comes to an MP or a Member of the Legislature or goes to a Minister and says that the Employment Guarantee Scheme is implemented properly, one can take that statement with a pinch of salt. But if the people in the villages come to the people's representatives and complain, why do you have this Employment Guarantee Scheme, we are not finding enough hands to work in our fields, one can certainly come to the conclusion that the Employment Guarantee Scheme has succeeded.

The Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra has succeeded and I do think that if it is implemented in a meticulous and scientific manner by collecting the information from all places where the scheme is going on, analysing it and then taking corrective steps, this scheme will be successful. This is going to be one of the finest achievements of the Five Year Plans, if it is implemented successfully.

We know that the Supreme Court, while giving a decision on right to life, has said that right to work should be given to the citizens. They have not stopped there. They have said that in right to life this right to work is involved. They have gone one step ahead and then said that right to education is also involved in right to life. Right to life includes right to work, right to education, right to medicine and right to shelter. This kind of interpretation has been given by the Supreme Court on the article which gives right to life to the citizens. As a lawyer, I may have a differing opinion on the interpretation that is put given on that article. But as a politician and as a person who is interested in the development of the society, I do think that the Supreme Court is trying to see in the correct direction and what has been stated by the Supreme Court is not too much off the mark from the things which we should do in the country.

When we consider what the judiciary is expected to do, we say that they are expected to interpret the law and by nature they are conservative. They look to the past and the present and they interpret the existing laws and this Legislature is expected to be futuristic looking into the future making the policies to meet the demands of the present and the future. Taking lessons from the past, the job of this Legislature, or the job of any Legislature for that matter, is to look into the future, try to understand what are the difficulties that are going to be faced by the citizens and try to make the policies and the laws which are needed them.

It would have been very nice, if the Legislature had come forth saying that we shall have the right to work in the Constitution itself. The question that arises is whether the Government would be able to shoulder this burden. I am of the opinion that the Government alone will not be able to shoulder this burden, but the society as a whole should certainly be able to shoulder this burden. The human

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ingenuity is not that weak as to make the society participate in this effort and to provide the employment to those people who need it.

What is right to work? We will be surprised to know that the right to work is given not only in the Communist Constitution or the Socialist Constitution, but even in the Constitutions which have adopted capitalist principle also, the market economic principle also. In the countries where this kind of right is not given, they have given a dole to those who are unemployed. In America, in Great Britain, in France, in Germany, right to work is not given, but the dole is given. A man may not work and yet he will get the dole to support himself. Japan, which is not a socialist country or a communist country, has said in one article, in one word itself, that a citizen shall have a right and duty to work. This statement is very very pregnant with ideas. The citizen shall have a right to work and the citizen shall have a duty to work. If right is given to him and duty is also imposed upon him, out of the duty which he will be performing, proceeds will be coming out which could be used to give jobs to those who are unemployed.

That kind of position is available in Japan. Why should it not be possible for a country like India to apply its mind to this problem, to evolve a principle, a policy, have it in the Constitution, make it binding on ourselves that nobody in the country who is not having the landed property or who is not having a business or who is not having an industry or who is ready to work will not be compelled to commit a theft or suicide?

Why should it not be possible for us? If we are not thinking about the future, if we are not applying our mind and if we are sticking to the static positions which we have taken, well this may not happen. But I do think that the interpretation of right to work is not the interpretation of right to work which is generally accepted by the people. The interpretation of right to work is a work which is to be given to the unemployed, who likes it or who is capable of doing that work. That is not the interpretation. The interpretation of right to work is that the unemployed should get a job which supports him to sustain himself to survive. Also a Ph. D. may be given the job of a clerk and if that is done, the right to work is implemented. If all these aspects relating to right to work are understood by us and if we apply our mind to them, it should not be beyond us to have something of this nature - I do not say exactly this is the thing but something of this nature - in our basic law or in other laws to provide the right to work to the citizens. I think that this Approach Paper is very correct in this direction and it should be complimented for it.

The second most important point which they have mentioned with respect to alleviation of poverty is about the subsidies. The issue of subsidies is being raised in this House, outside the House and also outside the country by individuals, organisations, financial institutions in our country and also international financial institutions. The

question today is, in what areas we have given the subsidies. The question which is to be faced by us is, whether those subsidies should be continued or discontinued, whether these subsidies should be reduced, whether in some areas the subsidies should be continued, or in some areas the subsidies should be reduced or removed. That is the most important question. A Paper has been put on the Table of this House and think, when the occasion arises that would be discussed by this House. But the Government, Parliament and the country should be very careful in dealing with this matter. The subsidy is given to help the poorest of the poor in the country. If it is going to the rich or to the well to do, there should be no difficulty in removing this subsidy. But if you want to reduce the subsidy which is given to the poorest in the country, then we shall have to be very careful and if we are not careful it has repercussions which we cannot imagine, it has ramifications which will weaken the policy, the economy, the society, the culture and also the sovereignty of this country. This has to be kept in mind and the Government has to be very careful in applying its mind to the problem of subsidy or to the issue of subsidy and should try to see in what areas the subsidy should be continued, in what areas it may not be continued, in what areas, to what extent it should be reduced, and then only we should do it. They should try to be on the side of helping people rather than to be on the other side. If that is done, this problem can be solved.

I will not deal with the other aspect of the poverty alleviation principle, which has been mentioned in this Paper.

The third most important point which has been mentioned in the Approach Paper is production - production from agriculture and production from industry. They have not mentioned about production from laboratories or the Universities or the areas where knowledge is generating. It would have been better if they had mentioned this also in the area of production. The agricultural production has been good. Even when the population has gone up from 350 million to 950 million, it is possible for us to feed our people, it is possible for us to clothe our people. That is because the agricultural production has gone up.

I think, we are in the vicinity of 200 billion tonnes of foodgrains....(Interruptions). It is good. But one has to be very careful in this area also. The productivity of per hectare land in India is not as good as it is in many other countries and there is a scope for improving upon it. We shall have to take steps to see that the productivity of per acre of land goes up, agriculture becomes more productive and more remunerative also. How do we make it more productive and remunerative? One of the things which has to be done is to make the credit available on the agricultural land on a massive scale. If we are not putting the money into the land, the returns that we will be getting will be very limited.

Secondly, agriculture is not modernised as the industry in India is. There is a scope for modernising agriculture.

Thirdly, the fertiliser doses which we are given are also not adequate. It is necessary for us to give the right fertiliser doses.

The fourth is about irrigation facility. The irrigation facility, to start with, was done on a massive scale and we know the results. If the Bhakra Nangal dam was not there and if the irrigation facility was not available to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana, they would not have been able to produce as much as they are producing today. But, I think, in this area, the State Governments and the Central Government have failed in meeting the targets which were fixed and because of that agriculture has suffered. But it is not enough to construct the dam across the river and obstruct the flow of water and make it available to the land. That water has to be used in a parsimonious manner. Every drop of water has to be used properly and modern means, facilities and equipments have to be made use of.

In countries like Israel, they are using computers to irrigate the land. With the induction of computers for irrigating the land - the value of a computer is not lakhs of rupees, but only some thousands of rupees - that kind of result irrigation can be achieved. So, in agriculture, this approach has to be adopted.

As far as industry is concerned, I do think that the mind which is applied by the Planning Commission to the problem of industry is very nice. They have considered many aspects and they have, by and large, come to, I think, very correct conclusions and they can implement those conclusions as far as industrial production is concerned. The industrial production in some areas is around eight per cent per annum and in some other areas it is twelve percent also. This tempo should be continued and it should be taken to the higher level, if possible. But the industrial production should not be allowed to come down. If we are strong in agriculture, we are weak in industry. We are weak in industry because India is not that industrially forward looking. The scope for industrial development in India is much more than the scope for development in agriculture, although 60 to 70 percent of the people in the country are dependent on agriculture. Unless we become industrially strong, it will not be possible for us to produce all that we need or to export to other countries. So, here also, we shall have to be very careful. In Industry also one of the weakest points is the Power and Transport.

The Approach Paper itself says about the targets which were fixed in the last Five Year Plan for which this Government may not be held responsible. We are not here to apportion the blame between the Governments, we are here to find out what is correct and what is not correct and if something is not correct, why is it not correct; how we can correct it. It is for that reason that we are here. We are not here to praise the Plan to the skies. We are not here to decry the Plan to the bottoms. That is never our intention. But the power generation appears to be one of the weakest points and it would be necessary for us to do something in this respect.

The Second weakest area in industry and in agriculture and other activities is science and technology.

The Planning Minister, fortunately, is the Minister for Science and Technology also and he is certainly bound to have the love and affection for his Ministry as any other Minister would have. When I was there, I used to say the same things. What we have done in the field of science and technology is really laudable and it is wrong to say that our laboratories have not worked, our policies have not been correct, we have not done well, etc. The Science Policy of 1958 has helped us a lot. About 300 national laboratories that we have in the country have helped us a lot and because of our science policy followed by the universities, we have enough of scientific manpower, so much so that today we do not have to get any experts from outside to man any of the most sophisticated industries or area of activity, we can depend on ourselves, and not only depend on ourselves but we can produce the things which are most sophisticated and which are at the horizon as far as the science and technology is concerned.

Having said this much, it has to be very clearly realised that what we have done is not sufficient. It will be wrong to neglect this area. Nothing is going to be as important as science and technology is going to be for the development of the country. It would be wrong to accept certain of the policies which are given to the Science Ministry or science activity by their colleagues and the Government and say that this is enough. I am not going to be satisfied when somebody gets up and says that: 'You earn one rupee and I will give you one rupee'. This is not a policy which is going to help. Let us not mislead ourselves. Investment in science and technology is going to be thousand times more important than investment in industry or agriculture or any other activity for that matter. If you are thinking that the C.S.I.R. science laboratories would be able to earn Rs. two crore or Rs. three crore; and Rs. two crore or Rs. three crore will be given to the C.S.I.R. laboratories and if you are thinking that that amount of money is going to suffice for the development of science and technology, you are wrong. Let us not praise this kind of a proposal. Let us not mislead ourselves. This is not correct. This is going to be sufficient. We need lot of more money. Unless that amount of money is given to those laboratories which are working in the horizon areas—the science which is relevant to the space, the science which is relevant to the ocean, the science which is relevant to the material, the science which is relevant to electronics, the science which is relevant to genetics and the science which is relevant to knowledge itself and communication - and unless a lot of money is produced for this purpose, our science is not going to be a competitive science.

In 1983 a Technology Policy was made and that Technology Policy is in existence. All the policies which you are trying today in order to allow import of technology or production of technology and export of technology, have been considered in the Technology Policy statement. I would request that those who are involved in making the

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policies and implementing the policies, may please look into it. All the problems are tried to be solved. If there are any areas which cannot be solved with that Policy, let us amend that Policy or let us have a new policy. But the policies are there existing and it would be necessary for us to depend on them.

The only point which I want to make with respect to the development or the production of knowledge and science and technology in the country, is that the investment which we are making for the development of science and technology and knowledge is not sufficient. We are not satisfied with that. The approach of the Government in the Ninth Five Year Plan with respect to this cannot be acceptable, at least to me - may be acceptable to some others. It is not acceptable to me. Let us not delude ourselves by saying that : "You earn one rupee and I will give you one more rupee". This is not correct. This is peanuts. This is just like giving a lollypop to a child and saying that you should be happy with this lollypop. This kind of lollypop is not going to help us. Please, let us not mislead ourselves and let us come out of these things.

Now, I come to the point of distribution. The distribution is equally important. If poverty alleviation is important, if production is important, then distribution is also important. I think yesterday Shri Anadi Charan Sahu and Shri Suresh Prabhu made that point very cogently and very forcefully that produce we may and if it is not reaching the people who need it, what is the use of having it.

We may produce wheat and jowar, we may dump them in the F.C.I. godowns. So, they will not be available to the people. Then, we bring them out after two years and sell them in the open market as something not fit for human consumption, because there is no distribution system. So, distributive justice is also necessary.

Now, I come to the social sector. I think, the Planning Commission has applied its mind very correctly and thoroughly to the area of production and poverty alleviation. But as far as the social sector is concerned, I have a feeling that the direction which is given by them is not really inspiring. I am not saying that it is useless, I am not saying that it is wanting, I am saying that it is not inspiring. It is not going to help.

As far as education, health, transport, culture, society, Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, there is something lacking in them. I think that it was realised by the Minister also, because, yesterday while making the preliminary statement, he said that this is the area which needs greater and deeper thinking and we would finetune the policies, we would go into the details of the policies and shall have the policies.

Sir, as far as education is concerned, we have a New Education Policy. It is not for me to mention it on the floor

of the House, because that was very much talked about when it was made and those who are at the helm of affairs know that this policy is there; how much of it have we implemented is the question. It is necessary to provide primary education to the children. But at the same time, it is necessary to have quality education also. It is necessary to have the strength to go into the future, look into the complicated things of life and try to understand as to what can be the solution to this problem. So, education is one of the most important things. If the numbers are the constraining factor, well, again let us apply our mind to this problem and find out as to how we can solve this problem. One of the solutions which was given in the New Education Policy, when it was made in the 1980s, was to have open universities. If we have more and more open universities, certainly we will reach the primary and secondary students and others also. But the social sector, according to me, is the sector to which the Approach Paper has not made any inspiring suggestions and this is an area in which they shall have to go into deeply and they shall have to come to certain conclusions.

Then, I come to the issue of population growth. We may produce anything and if the population continues to increase, it will just beat us over. So, population is something which has to be dealt with very firmly and with belief in the proposition that unless we control the population, it is not going to be useful. Therefore, population control is one of the most important things. This was made an issue in some elections and it was criticised so much that we are not ready to touch it even with a pair of tongs. We are all the time adopting an approach which is 'touch me not'. We do not want to touch this issue. By not touching this issue, this issue is not going to be solved. Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy can be used or we can have the law and make a dent in it or we can implement the policy in a proper manner and produce the result. One of the most important things is, we are depending on the medicines or the equipments that are used for this purpose in foreign countries where the problem of population is not there. Those countries are expected to produce it, give it to us and we are expected to use it. I do not think that this policy is going to be useful. Those countries which are suffering from this problem should go into it and they should produce proper medicines or equipments to tackle this problem.

Then, environment is something which is very necessary to be dealt with in a proper manner. I do think that the problem of environment is a wholistic problem and it has to be tackled. I would not go deep into it, because probably the time available to me is limited.

Then, empowerment of women is something which has to be done and I think there would be an occasion for us to look into it, but the direction of the Government in this respect appears to be correct.

One of the thing which struck me the most is, having read this entire Paper, I have come to the conclusion that the word 'social justice' has been used at many places and

rightly also. One cannot have objection to it. But what was difficult to understand was whether there is something like 'economic justice' also? If we are emphasising on social justice at the cost of economic justice, take it from me or you can take it from anybody that you are not going to have social justice also. Social Justice and economic justice should go together. Let us not shy away from the idea of doing social justice. I do realise that doing social justice is very difficult and yet if we are adopting an approach in which there is no place for economic justice at all, you are not going to solve the problem of social justice or political stability or strengthening the sovereignty of your country or making your country competitive with others also. If economic justice is not done, 60 per cent or 70 per cent of the people are disadvantaged and disadvantaged people would not be able to use their physical power and the mental power to produce all that should be produced to strengthen the sovereignty.

May I request that let there be a place for economic justice also, if not in the Paper, at least, in the Plan? If that is done, it would be very useful. We are going by the popular slogans and that is why sometimes we attach great importance to some phrases and we run away from some other phrases forgetting that unless we do the real justice, the real production will not be done or something very good will not be done.

I am very happy to find that in this Approach Paper they have coined a new set of words and said: "there will be cooperative federalism" as if the previous federalism was antagonistic. Anyway this approach is really good. Even if there were frictions between the Union Government and the State Governments, an attempt is being made to show that there is cooperation rather than friction or antagonism. There may be antagonism or it may not be there. But there may not be full understanding. So, if there is an attempt made for cooperative federalism, I think, it is very necessary for us to point this out.

This Approach Paper is very specific in trying to understand what can be done at the national level, what can be done at the State level, what can be done at the District level, at the *Taluk* level, at the local level, city level or the village level. It is very clear. I think it is a new concept which has been evolved. Probably it has its roots in our amended Constitution also where we have brought the District Government into the Constitution which was not present. But this approach is very good and it should be experimented with very faithfully and carefully. It will be very useful.

One of the problems which is being faced is the implementation itself. I do think that the plan which we are making are not the perfect Plans. There are no perfect laws and there are no perfect plans. The laws as well as the plans are going to suffer from deficiencies. But if you are not making the perfect plan, the results which will be produced will be more disappointing. I was watching the exchanges between the hon. Minister and the Member on

the other side on the availability of information. I have worked in some Ministries and I know that the Ministry of Commerce does not get some information for four years. I know that the Ministry of Agriculture is not having all the information which it needs. I know that the Ministry of Labour is not having all the information which it needs. I know that there are many other Ministries which do not have the information in spite of the fact that we have the finest institutions established in our country and the finest persons are manning them. They are doing their job in the finest way. They obtain the information, analyse it, collect it, store it and make it available and yet the fact remains that the information which is necessary is not available. I do not have to go to any other document to prove that the information is not available. This document - the Approach Paper and the Ninth Five Year Plan itself has said at many places that information is not available.

I need not go and read those pages - those who have read it, they know it; those who have drafted it, they certainly know it. This document says that information is not available. So, my view is that information has to be made available. The second point is that this is not the least of the things which have to be done. This is something which has the vision of development of the country in all the fields. If the information is available and if it is put on a piece of paper, and if it is....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I would request for five minutes more please. I realise that I have taken time, but I will compensate this time by not speaking on other subjects.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He is reaching a crescendo.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are a number of other speakers who want to speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I am thankful to you.

It is not only information, but also a vision has to be there. If information is not there, even the vision cannot be useful. So, the information, analytical power and the vision have to go together. Only then can it be done.

Unless we have good plans and unless they are implemented in a proper manner, the plans are not going to produce the results. In the area of implementation, there is a tremendous scope for improvement. Information collection, analysing and correcting things in a proper manner has to be done, and unless that is done, these things are not going to be useful.

I am making only two points and then I would take my seat. Yesterday, one of the hon. Members raised a question, which is often discussed at many places. That is, whether planning is relevant today in the country and the

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world. Well, planning is necessary in an individual's life; planning is necessary for a family; planning is necessary for a small industry. All the multinational corporations have their perspective plans. If planning is necessary for an individual, if it is necessary for a family, if it is necessary for an industry, if it is necessary for agricultural development and industrial development, is it not necessary for a country? Those who are saying that planning is not necessary and is not relevant in the present day world, they are misleading themselves and are accepting phrases and ideas which are propounded by some persons in their own interests. No multinational corporation is without a plan, and no developed country, be it America or Germany or Japan, is without a plan. They do have a plan. What kind of a plan is the question.

That plan may not be very dogmatic; the plan may not be a mechanical thing which would be applied in all parts of the country and in all conditions, in the same fashion as it is made. A plan may fix the priorities; a plan may fix the targets; a plan may suggest as to how the revenue will be collected or as to how the things will be done. It may not be dogmatic; it may be flexible; and it will certainly give a direction. I am sure, there will be so much of asymmetry in the country that we will not be able to help ourselves. We may produce thousands and millions of cars. But if the roads are not there or are not simultaneously built, what is the use of having cars? We are wasting our energy and money. In the same fashion, if we are going to develop our genetic industry in the country and if we are educating our students not in genetics but in chemistry or something else, it is also not going to be correct. So, planning is something which can help us to direct our energy and strength and our thinking in a proper manner, in a proper direction, so that the maximum results are produced with the minimum efforts and in the best possible manner. That is why, we must have a plan. It is wrong to think that planning is not necessary and we should not opt for the plan. If a country is less developed, planning is more essential.

In the Constitution of ours, there are so many good provisions. But this Constitution of ours is suffering from some defects also. One of the defects is that it does not mention the word 'Plan' excepting in the amendments which were introduced later on. There are two words lacking in the Constitution which are most useful in the present day polity in India — one is Planning, and the second is Party. Now, the word 'Party' and the word 'Plan' have been introduced in the Constitution through the Tenth and the Eleventh Amendments respectively. Before that, they were not there.

The Planning Commission is not a child of the Constitution. It is not a child of law. It is a child of the administrative order. It is not statutory. The Planning Commission is expected to consult the State Governments, the Chief Ministers and others in NDC which also does not have the parentage of Constitution and which is not also statutory. It is done by administrative orders and it was set

up by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. The Planning Commission and the NDC are the two bodies which are most important, which decide the fate of the country for not one year. If you have to pass the Budget, it has to be done according to the Constitution. It has to be approved by this House and the other House also. But if you are preparing a Plan for five years, you do not have to bring it to Parliament. It has no Constitutional sanctity. There is no legal backing given to it. The Planning Commission is expected to produce results. Nobody is bound by what is decided in NDC and yet the NDC and the Planning Commission are expected to produce results. I think we shall have to apply our mind to these most important points. If we do not apply our mind to matters of this nature and if we are spending our time on issues which are to be dealt with in the magistrate's court or a Police Inspector's court or by an auditor. I think we are not doing justice to ourselves. Planning should have some Constitutional basis, some statutory basis. The NDC which brings the Government of India and the State Governments together to consider the Plans and many other matters should have some basis which is backed by some law or by the Constitution and then only we will be able to do that.

Sir, you have been very indulgent to me. I thank you very much and I take my seat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASASINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a discussion is going on the approach paper submitted before the House by the government of the 9th Five Year Plan. We are fortunate that this House has got the responsibility to have a discussion on it. To discuss 9th Five Year Plan in the year of Golden Jubilee of Independence, to ponder over the successes and failures of 8th Five Year Plan, to have a glance over the situation prevailing in the country right from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Nagaland, and attempt to find an ideal situation will be futile as the entire situation is very misleading. Therefore, I do not know what to say in this regard. But something has to be said, as discussion is to take place, therefore, I want to put forth a question before hand. A meeting of the Planning Commission provided over by the then Prime Minister took place on 28th of November, 1996 and the draft was adopted in it. After this, the Cabinet meeting took place in December and the Cabinet too approved it and in the early weeks of January the honourable Chief Ministers' meeting took place and it also approved it. The meeting of National Development Council was held on 16th January and it also approved the draft. Whether the conclusions drawn from the discussion among those who are direct representative of the people having the knowledge of the problem of their constituency and in executing five year plans, mobilise people's cooperation or are involved in the decision making process there, would be incorporated in the draft and modified according or this approach paper is presented in the Parliament for the sake of formality only. It seems as if there was no important agenda in the House therefore, the

government decided to get rid of it in the last week of the session, and that is why discussion on approach paper of the 9th five year plan was allowed. I would like to apologise the Honourable Chairman as I have to explain my point in this manner. Sir, I know that the draft of the plan is not only the mere of figure but also the

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : Sir, I would like to assure honourable members and the House that whatever is being said here. I am taking notes of those and the senior officials of the Planning Commission are also doing it. The 9th five year plan is yet to be finalised. The discussion on the approach paper takes place customarily by the Parliament and legislatures after it is approved by National Development Council. We will certainly be benefitted by your important suggestion during the 9th five year plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat resumes, I would like to bring it to the notice of all the hon. Members that the Prime Minister has asked the Minister of Planning to proceed to Tokyo. He has got to catch the flight. Mr. Minister, at what time should you catch your flight?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : At 5.45 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is at 5.45 p.m. that he should catch the flight. In the mean time, he will have to make his reply. He is taking very detailed notes and making not of every point. So, he will have to make a very detailed reply. Therefore, I will have to ask the hon. Members to kindly keep this in view and be brief.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, may I have your attention? Does it mean that with the reply of the hon. Minister, the debate concludes? Naturally, it is so. I think all the Members who have given their names to you to express their views regarding the Approach to the Ninth Five Year Plan will have to be very brief and complete their views. I do not want to describe the importance, significance and the futuristic approach - as has been mentioned here-of the Ninth Five Year Plan. Therefore, one alternative is there. Let him intervene. I think the Minister should not be prevented from going abroad. Therefore, he may intervene and the debate can continue ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I have also spoken to the Speaker. Many hon. Members want to participate in the discussion. Let us allow the hon. Minister to go on his foreign trip.

15.58 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

The debate may continue in the next Session. You may go. Let others take part in the debate....(Interruptions)

Let the debate continue. At Six of the clock, as usual, we shall complete. Meanwhile, the Minister may go because he has got an important assignment outside the country. The discussion should continue in the next Session also. It is very important. I have got so many Members who want to speak. We want to participate in it. Once you come back, in the next Session, it may be taken up (Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The discussion in the House is very important to me personally and to my work. If necessary, I will forego whatever presentation I have to make. Even if we finish by 5.45 p.m. or Six of the Clock, I take my chance. I do not want to waste anybody's time.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a very large number of speakers.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is the problem if we continue it in the next Session?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : If it is going to be taken up in the next Session, that is fine. That is all right.

MR. SPEAKER : We will resume the discussion in the next Session of Parliament. You can leave at whatever time you want to leave. Somebody has to note down the points. We will continue the discussion next time.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had just started and I was saying that the draft of the plan is not merely the presentation of mark of figure but it is the directive principle of economic and social development of the whole nation, it is a policy oriented document. But the speed with which this approach paper or document was prepared and accepted by the government and also approved by the National Development Council shows the manner in which they are hurrying the matter. The Minister said today that he wanted the discussion to be completed soon, and that also proves it to be a glaring example of unreasonable planning....(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : You see, I have to work for my country. I am not going for the sake of any personal benefit....(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I am not objecting to your going abroad you must go... (Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : It is very necessary for me.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have settled this matter. Why are you raising it again?

.....(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, the fruits of planning has not reached to the common man, this shows the complete failure of the India's planning system. Our honourable Patil Saheb, the ex-Speaker was speaking very enthusiastically in favour of systematic planning. We are also in its favour but the plan meant for the purpose of eradication of poverty, removal of illiteracy, prevention of diseases and prosperity of country has not been able to give the desired results so far even after Fifty Years.

Sir, a tree is known by the fruit it bears. Today after the completion of Eighth five Year Plan the evil results which have come up before the country make us realise that the fruits of our planning has not reached to the common man thus it shows is the complete failure of our planning system.

16.02 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

Honourable Chairman, Sir, in the approach paper of the Ninth Five Year Plan the draft which has been accepted and proposal, if I say in my own words the draft plan lacks inspiration and resolution and is of routine nature. I am using this word because it is a coalition government of 13 parties and they are not unanimous in regard any of their policy. There is a popular saying in Hindi "Kahin ki Int Kahin ka Roda" and you very well know the next line of it. This country has not forgotten the debate on the joint programme of United Front of 13 parties, the explanations of economic programmes taken by it, the controversies raised by the leftist friends about the modalities to implement them and the slogans of "Garibi Hatao" of Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her predecessors concerning rural and agricultural development. What we have achieved through the poverty alleviation programme is before the country. Poverty alleviation was given the priority. It was a good thing that Special Emphasis was given on agricultural development but we feel contented by repeating the phrases used by government. We kept on repeating the same phrases in the Eighth Plan and also from 1992 to 1997 in all our plans. In fact this does not want any traveller to stay in a peaceful atmosphere it would rather wish you to achieve the ultimate target.

But we are in the year of Golden Jubilee of Independence and 45 years of planning have elapsed, Eighth five year plan has been completed i.e. 40 years have passed and 41st year is going to begin.

During these years, we kept on repeating these hollow words and after getting votes from the public tried to mislead the latter. The results of these five year plans show that we have not achieved the desired targets.

So, I am of the opinion that all this may prove merely a dillusion.

A target of 7% increase in Gross Domestic Product has been fixed. An outlay of Rs. 3,75,000 crores for public

sector has been earmarked during the 9th Five Year Plan. Through you, I would like to ask from the Hon. Minister for Planning that while he has earmarked a fund of Rs. 3,75,000 crores for the plan. But the Finance Ministry has stated that it can provide Rs. 3,00,000 crores only; how the rest amount of Rs. 75,000 crores would be managed? How will you mobilise the resources? You have advised the states to mobilise their own special resources, you are very well aware of the state of affairs prevailing so far in this respect, More or Less you have made the states dependent on the centre. For each and every matter, they depend on the centre and they look forward to the centre for assistance in each matter. You have put the states in such a condition that they are not able to generate and mobilise their own resources and make up the requirements of the Budget.

I was stating that the priorities of this 13 party Government are full of self contradictory policies and elements as is evident from the debates willed even at the earlier stages. These policies are ambiguous. The stability of the Govt. is at stake. Increasing problems and continued threatening from the Congress to the Govt. have made the situation worse. Under these circumstances this Five Year Plan is being launched and every one can imagine as to what will be the outcome of this Plan. What the people of the country can think about it. What can they imagine. I think all of you would like to take it seriously.

Poverty eradication is a very good thing. We all want to eradicate the poverty; but what is the number of poor people in our country. It has quite been discussed at length and a lot of attention has been paid on it but it could not be eradicated accordingly. If I say that no attention has been paid in this direction, it would not be an exaggeration.

Mr. Chariman Sir, the Planning Commission has given the authenticated information. According to it the number of poors is 330 million. Previously it was 160 million. These people are below the poverty line. As per Lakadawala formula, the number of poors is reaching upto the maximum level. The Govt. has in one way accepted this situation. It may be controversial if we go as per figures lesser efforts have been made to find out as to how the common people may get concrete benefits of the welfare programmes launched for the poors. However, the phrase "better late than never" seems to be appropriate in this case. It has been accepted that today one Indian is poor out of three Indians. The outcome of Eighth Five Year Plans is termed as the result of the student. He studies throughout the year and after the examinations, he secures 1st class, 2nd Class or 3rd Class as per assessment of his answer books. What is the position of the poors after eight plans, we can imagine easily.

Why we are indulging in controversies over policies, when we know the actual number of poors as well as their economic conditions and particularly when we have got the draft of the Ninth Five Year Plan. My Leftist friends will forgive me in this respect. The left Parties say that the Govt. is withdrawing from its declared policies;

Disinvestment is done in Public Sector undertakings Leftists, are opposing the handing over of sick Units to the foreign Companies. A lot of controversies have arisen in respect of clear demarcation of sectors for the entry of multi-national Companies, investments by the foreign companies in Mines and Metal sectors and agreeing to more than 50% participation of foreign companies. It is also a point of Controversy whether private parties should invest in insurance sector or not. The Leftist parties which are the parts of the Govt. today are not clear about it. The assisting Parties or those who are supporting the Govt. from outside are not too clear in their minds over it. They are in self contradiction. So far as the Congress is concerned it is better not to speak about it. I therefore, would like to ask the Govt. through you that how we can be able to attain the targets which we have fixed.

What are the results of the Five Year Plans. However, I do not want to be termed as a Pessimist by presenting a Pessimistic view of the picture; but being a representative of the people, I would like to put forward the facts before this Supreme House. Now a days a slogan is being heard "Roti Kapra Aur Makan"; Mang Raha Hai Hindustan" or I may quote a few lines from the poem of a poet :

"Shwano ko Milta Doodh.
Bhukha balak akulaate hain,
Maa ki chhati se chipak,
Thithur Thithur kar rah jate hai".

This is the real situation today; The prices are increasing day by day and are touching the sky. The value of money is decreasing rapidly. Unemployment is increasingly by leaps and bounds. Corruption is spreading in the society. A feeling of inaction and indiscipline is prevailing among the people of the country. Feelings of patriotism as well as devotion to duty have been waning. We must do our duties with a feeling of sincerity and develop a feeling of patriotism so that our nation may be placed at the top among the nations of the World. Such a type of will power and commitment should prevail among the citizens of India. Unfortunately, we are constantly lacking such type of feelings. Besides, malnutrition, lack of knowledge, several kinds of diseases, nepotism and nepotism have made their way in the society. Above all, there is a fast growing difference between our production and our population. While production is increasing in terms of Arithmetic Mean i.e. 1-2-3-4-5-6- the population is increasing in terms of Geometric Mean i.e. 2-4-6-8-16-32-64-128 with the result, the fruits of our plans and programmes which should have adequately reached to the common people have not been reaching to them. The Annual increase in our population is equal to the whole population of Australia. We have not been able to have a control on our population.

Madam Chairperson, no proper attention has been paid to the Directive Principles enshrined in our Constitution. I would like to ask the Govt. about the essential primary education which should have been imparted to

every child ageing from 6 years to 14 years. What the Govt. has done about it? What has been done in respect of the targets which we had fixed for 10 years? We could have been able to achieve only 50 to 55 percent of the targets we had fixed in 1960. The literacy percentage among the women is even lesser. Who is responsible for all that. We all talk here about planning; but when we go to villages we find that the villages have no house to live in; they have no clean water to drink; there are no road, for traffic; there are no schools for getting education for the children, there is no hospitals for getting treatment and no electricity in the night. The villages have nothing to do with the jugglery of statistics? They need only 4-5 essential things as stated above.

Madam Chairperson, India is an agricultural country. The economy of 70-80 percent people of the country depends on agriculture. I would like to congratulate the Government that it has to accept the fact during the ninth five year plan that India is an agricultural country. Though it has already been an agricultural country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH): It is for dairy and animal husbandry too.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : If the Hon'ble Minister is taking its credit, it is alright but the fact has been accepted too late. In agriculture sector production was not up to the expectation and reasonable price has not been given to the farmers for their produce. Though the production has increased. I would like to draw the attention of the government through you to the fact that poor and weaker sections, have not been benefitted specially due to the pattern of growth. By recovering these shortcomings Ninth Five Year Plan should be formulated in such a way as the poor people could be benefitted by the progress made in economy. Had the Government paid attention earlier, production would have been much better. It was repeatedly told that "mere desh ki dharti sona ugley, ugley here-moti" and we have conceived that "we have become self sufficient in regard to foodgrains" but I would like to say that we have to import 20 lakh tonnes of wheat from abroad. We don't want to give reasonable price to the farmers of the country but our importing wheat and other things by paying more price. Had more investment been made in Agricultural Sector, efforts been made particularly to create irrigation capacity; had proper attention been paid to small irrigation schemes and had the Scheduled target been achieved, I think that it would have been rightly held that in agricultural sector we have achieved real success. Foodgrain production has been declined during 1995-96 as we failed to do so. Procurement of wheat has also been far behind the target and the prices of foodgrain have increased. Hence top priority has been accorded to poverty eradication during ninth Five Year Plan and efforts have been made to accord top priority to agriculture also. It only those two points would have been kept in mind in real sense and had we really achieved the targets of rural

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

development through agriculture and its allied works which is the basis of village economy then I think that our Five Year Plans would succeed in real sense otherwise all our efforts will be proved futile. In case the fruits of our plans could not be able to reach to the common people, what we have done to improve the situation. We have not developed the feeling of commitment; we have not fixed the responsibility of anybody; in the name of decentralised economy, decentralised planning systems. We have not fixed the responsibility of State Govts. or Central Govt. or Distt. Planning Committee or D.R.D.A. or Panchayat Samiti, Municipal Councils, Gram Panchayats etc. The Govt. will have to make them accountable in this regard and the people engaged in the works, related to Planning as well as the people of the country and also the Govt. should have the strong will power so that the required targets may be achieved successfully.

You have coined a new word 'Cooperative federalism' India is a country and we agree to the unitarianism, integrity and nationality of India. But do you want to promote secessionism by terming it cooperative federation. You have the Common Minimum Programme. But how all people can be brought into the mainstream of the country if provincialism, linguistic fanaticism and so called casteist and regional forces are instigated? In case we could not be able to incorporate the ideals of 'sangachhawan' sanvadhwan, sainco manansijanatan' or "samano mantra samiti samani" in our plans how we can go ahead and how the regional imbalances may be removed, how the standard of living of our people can be improved production be raised; means of employment be increased? You have also fixed the objectives in this regard. Perhaps nobody can dispute the objectives enshrined in the Five Year Plan. These objectives are very nice, but through you I would like to ask the Government as to what resources it has got to achieve these objectives.

The first objective enshrined therein is to generate sufficient productive employment and give priority to agriculture and rural development to eradicate poverty. We all agree to it and we all want to praise the Government for it but the question is. "Kathni thothi jagat main karani uttam sar kahe kabir karni sabal, utra bharjal par"

[English]

There is a vast difference between saying and doing.

[Translation]

The Five Year Plans are being chalked out for so many years but the Government is making only high sounding but hollow commitments through these plans.

[English]

A burnt child dreads the fire.

[Translation]

It would have been better if we had given a thought to the overall development of the country by learning a lesson from our past drawbacks and taking into consideration the ground realities. The words like 'sufficient productivity' 'employment' and employment guarantee scheme' are pleasant to hear are widely appreciated and the scheme is indeed very good in spirit. But today, people are migrating from villages to the cities. Once Shri Rajiv Gandhi remarked that if we release one rupee for these schemes, only 15 paise reach the beneficiaries. the remaining 85 percent amount is grabbed by middle men. Then the Sarpanches give bribery to the officers. Though the Government in 1991 had identified the people living below poverty line to provide them with work under the programme like 'Antodya' and employment guarantee scheme and even until 1997 they are yet to be benefitted by these schemes. But the people who do not fall below poverty line, migrate from villages to cities. And the remaining people are provided with a little work only and false attendance is also marked in the registers for those who do not actually work. Besides, the quality of construction work performed by them is not upto the mark and consequently after one or two years, leakage of water starts from the roofs of the schools. Now you would say that we have nothing to do with it and it is the responsibility of the local authorities. It is right but I would like to say that after independence the greatest task has been the

[English]

man making process. Man is the major factor.

[Translation]

If we had imparted education primary or middle level of education at Schools to make a person cultured, patriotic, nationalist honest and moral and in turn to become best citizen and an ideal Indian it would have been better and desirable. Shri Lal Bahadur had given us a slogan i.e. Jai Jawan Jai Kisan". At that time, people had started growing wheat within their bungalows all over the country. He urged upon the people to cut short the expenditure and minimise the extravagance. In the past, people used to act upon the advice and call of such great persons. But when they saw that rulers are not abiding by what they say in the country they started following suit because like ruler like ruled, extravagance and other evils kept on increasing. I do not want to waste the time of the House by counting all those evils to which we are well aware of. Efforts to curb these evils would have been made only if we had cultivated best citizens, but due attention was not paid to it. After all, all of them be it officers, Ministers or MPs like us belong to the same society. They are indulged in all the social evils prevailing in the society today though their degree of indulgence may vary from less to much more and there may also be some exception to it. Thus, such is the atmosphere prevailing in our society which can well be perceived. Besides, the other objectives....(Interruptions)

Sir, I have said earlier also that you yourself encourage corruption in J.R.Y. Moreover, I would like to say that the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was a very good scheme, be it first or second. But you have fixed such type of ratio of 60-40 i.e. 40 percent comprised cement and 60 percent comprises labour charges and since it is not possible for a sarpanch to keep an account of it. He has to make adjustment in stone, slabs, lime, cement etc. by registering fake attendance so that the work may be tangible and results may also be achieved. With this the whole process starts. All these points should be taken into consideration with a practical approach while preparing the plans. I would like to point out one more thing that today, rich is becoming richer and poor is becoming poorer. Poor sections of the society are not being given the benefit of these schemes and the proverb i.e. "Might is right" aptly applies in such a situation. In other words, the more powerful the person, the more benefits he gets out of the best resources available in a economy, rural scenario elsewhere and the poor are deprived of such benefit. Hence, it should be considered with a practical approach.

You have fixed another target to speed up the growth rate alongwith stabilising prices. You have fixed the target of achieving the growth rate of 7 percent. I wish you a success in achieving this target and targets set for all other schemes. But our past experience tells us that we are still at the same point from where we had started. This is the actual position. We have before us the examples of China, Japan, Korea and Germany. You know that earlier, Germany was divided into two countries but now it is reunited and today it dominates the world economy. Japan, which was destroyed during the first and the second world war dominates the economy of the whole world by the virtue of the spirit of nationalism, self reliance and devotion to duty and it poses challenging to the country like America. On the other hand, we are being overburdened with the foreign debt. The interest of an foreign debt is mounting every year. Not only this, the interest on our internal borrowings has also increased to a great extent. If I elaborate it, the time of the House will be wasted because we all are well aware of the actual position.

We have to consider as to why we have landed in such a situation today. Had we moved in the right direction, fruitful results would have been achieved because I have made observations in this House time and again that

"Jaisi Hogi Drishti, Waisi Kareng Srishti, Jaisi Milegi Shiksha, Waisi Prapt Hogi Deeksha". As we did not move in the right direction, we are facing its consequences.

Your next target is to ensure food and nutrition for all, particularly to the weaker sections of the society, but you are well aware of the state of affairs in Anganwadi centres. The Government launched a scheme to provide three kilograms of grains to each of the students in the primary schools registering attendance of 80 percent students but I think we didn't pay attention to such things and to how much grains reached there school in time, how much was distributed to the children; how much of it was sold directly

from the shops; how much of it was diverted during the supply; how much nutrients elements it had and to what extent it increased the strength and vigour of the children. And hence no improvement whatsoever is tangible. Today, if we visit hospitals, we find no doctor there particularly at the time when many diseases like Cholera, Cancer, Malaria, T.B. and Dengue etc. are taking roots in our country. Madam, Chairperson, if I go into details, you may remark that I am wasting the time of the House.

So far as the question of safe drinking water is concerned, there are still thousands of villages in the country where the people are not getting safe drinking water; There is no fluoride in the water at some places. At some places, the level of under ground water has gone so deep that all handpumps have dried up. In such circumstances though our aim to make available safe drinking water and primary health services to the people is very good in principle but it is necessary to give a thought to the things like ensuring its implementation, mobilizing resources to achieve it, entrusting responsibility for that and as to how and when it is to be reviewed etc.

Madam Chairperson, you have rung up the bell which is a signal to be alert for us. Some time back, when some honourable Members of this House had raised the point in this regard to undertaking a review of the Eighth Five Year Plan, former Prime Minister is also present at the moment in the House, it was only after great efforts that the Government assured to lay the review report in the House. But the findings of the report regarding the drawback afflicting our plans are getting transpired in piecemeal manner. We should have made efforts to remove all those drawbacks.

Now I would like to conclude after stressing upon the last point. I think that today it is indispensable to check the growth rate of population. Whatever targets we may fix for our plans, but we should properly educate the people and approach them in a proper manner so that their mentality can be changed. Once their mentality is changed they can understand the meaning of social justice and then only they can be motivated for a social change as a result of which they would do away with the social evils like child marriage, sorcery or other superstitions and in case of any ailment, they would go to the hospital directly. Then only a social change can be brought about and they would be able to understand the problem of population growth and realize that they should have only as many of children as could be provided proper nourishment and education. We can create such an atmosphere with a proper thought and education only and this should be on our list of priorities. We should think as to how we could make efforts to check the increasing population and make it a success because on account of it all our schemes are proving a failure. Sometimes, in the name of minorities and sometimes otherwise or out of fear, our politics has turned into a politics of vote. As a result of which we fail take stringent measures even if we are willing to do so.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Rajasthan Government has taken an initiative in this regard. All the elected members of Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat have to restrict the number of their child to two or to the number they already have they will be disqualified in case the number of child increase from two or whatever they already have. During the last two years many Sarpanch and Pradhan have been disqualified on this ground. I think that this process should start from the Parliament itself. We talk about controlling population.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : This Bill was introduced during the reign of Shri Narsimha Rao and was refused to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee was unanimous on the Bill except a member from Hyderabad who in a note of dissent has mentioned that Bill would have invited the wrath of Muslims of India had it been presented in Lok Sabha who are already agitated over the incident of Babri Masjid. Because of this persons like Mani Shanker Aiyer, who was supporting the Bill earlier, changed his view. Today this bill is lying in the dust bin solely because of the Hyderabad. Shri Narsimha Rao is present here. He should tell the House what is the position of the Bill? Members of Parliament are in favour of this Bill. Members of Legislative Assembly are in favour of this Bill but the Bill is missing. My submission is that that if not possible in this session the Bill must be presented in the House in the next session. Let there have some restriction and over the Member of Parliament as general thinking is that there is no restraint over them. MLAs, do not want to follow any rule themselves. So implementation of such an important Bill, will not play any havoc. In India there are hardly 2000 or 2500 such persons. If this Bill is applied over us then it will send a message throughout India that Members of Parliament have presented a Bill for themselves that will declare them disqualified if they have a third child. I request hon'ble Minister to get the Bill implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright Hon'ble Minister is listening your speech.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Population control should be given the same priority as poverty alleviation, agriculture and rural development. In my opinion you should seriously think about what Shri Dau Dayal Joshi was talking about but before that you should pay attention towards education. If we achieve the desired target of women education in the country, then a girl can take care of two families. In fact she improve the lot of generations also but our education should be such that it could inculcate a scientific approach. It could enable them to bring a change in their thinking. It should enable to avoid old age methods.

You will have to give priority to population control. In my opinion it is right time to think as to why we did failed to achieve the stipulated target of family welfare. Rising above of the political affiliation. We will have to take a

decision in this regard without the discriminating against caste, creed, class or region considering it a necessity of the country as the future of the nation is our future. The development of any region is the development of the people. If any region remains undeveloped then there will be no upliftment of any of us. Therefore it is our collective responsibility that we pay special attention on this matter.

Sir, thus nine goals have been stipulated. You have also stipulated the goal of self reliance. You have also described the participation of Panchayati Raj, Co-operative Institutions and voluntary organisations. As an agenda of socio economic development you have talked about upliftment of women people of weaker sections SC/ST and minority etc. All these things are right theoretically. It would be better if you let us know as to how environmental projected social interaction and participation of people at every level can be made possible. But the goal that you have stipulated have four important dimensions which are qualitative improvement in the life of the people, creating productive employment, regional balance and self-dependency. Today, what is the position of Telangana in Andhra Pradesh?

We now and then come to know that there are many backward regions in Bihar. In our Rajasthan there are many places where drinking water is not available. In North-East India and in other tribal regions condition is very bad. If we want to make India self dependent then we have to remove these all regional imbalances.

These short comings should be removed in such a way that the benefit of development reaches to the poor and they realise that all these developmental schemes have been formulated for them. Other point is that concrete steps should be taken to increase agricultural and rural income and there should be special legislation for small, medium, marginal landless farmers etc. Land reform law yet has not yet been implemented in many states but in some states it has been implemented successfully. And its fruits are before us. so it should be implemented in all states strictly. Till now the benefit of subsidy has been enjoyed by the huge farmers only and small farmers were deprived of these benefits.

I want to make a special request that investment in agricultural sector should be increased. There should be special arrangement for irrigation and instead of big dams constructing they should be constructed watersheds as per their necessity. The watershed Programme has given very good results in some states but in some it has failed. The work of soil conservation needs to be properly implemented. There should be co-ordination between Water shed programme and soil conservation programme. At times many schemes run parallel due to which we are not able to know their results. On one hand there is Jawahar Rozgar Yozna first and second phase, Employment Guarantee Scheme, Wasteland Development Scheme, Animal Husbandry Scheme and on the other hand there are centre and state sponsored schemes. In all

these schemes there should be co-ordination at district level so that funds not misused. And schemes should be implemented keeping in view the requirement of the region the work necessary for the region, the result of the work and the number of the persons benefitted thereby.

The first instalment from one crore rupees for MPs local Area development scheme has been sanctioned, discussions on the scheme is still going on. MPs have their full participation in the scheme. While replying on the issue hon'ble Minister should tell us clearly as to when the second instalment will be issued....(*Interruptions*) MPs should be involved in all the centre sponsored schemes. At present all the decisions regarding Indira Awaas Yozna is taken by the District Magistrates.

Even today MPs are not member of District Planning Committee in many states. A few days back government enacted a new Act under which elected representatives of Municipality and Panchayat including Zila Pramukh have been included except Members of Parliament. If we are not included in the Planning Committee how will the Plan of the District be formulated. In this regard there should be parity and uniformity throughout the country and government should issue special directives that MPs should be included invariable in all the centrally sponsored schemes. All the meetings of District Planning Committee are called at the time when the Parliament is in Session so that MPs could not attend them and all the proposals could be passed easily, this point should also be looked in....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha): When the meeting of D.R .D.A. called it is presided by CO and MP has to sit by his side. This affects the dignity of a MP. In DRDA schemes there should be full control of MPs. You should do something in this regard....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : You have no control over S.R.Y. Administration has arbitrarily used S.R.Y. and have not followed your rules. No progress has been made neither in the field of storing water nor in the field of environmental improvement. Only primary work on roads has been done in which they use only 30% of the allotted money and 70% is unsurped. It is true that DRDA meeting is presided over by Chairman of the Zila Panchayat MLAs attending meeting very often thereafter us although 80% of the money is provided by the Central Government. So there should be clear directives that MPs will have their say in proportionate to the amount provided by the Central Government. Either we should be treated there equally or we should not be invited at all. In this way, at least we shall not get insulted there.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam, Chairman, now I would like to conclude with these words that planning of the projects should be prepared scientifically. The process of approval or sanction should be little but stringent. There should be decentralisation and participation of people should be increased. But, it should be taking of that participation should be in proper

way. Efforts should be made to check wastage and it should be reviewed periodically. With these words I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : Respected Madam Chairperson, the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan approved by the National Development Council has set forth an agenda for the nation for the coming five-year period. I congratulate the Government for this attempt wherein the objectives set forth in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government, and the priorities to be initiated and undertaken during the Five Year Plan have been incorporated. The thrust sought to be given for implementation of the Common Minimum Programme, especially, the basic minimum services, and including the seven major thrust areas, are identified in the Conference of Chief Ministers. These services are recognised as priority areas by the Central and the State Governments. These services include the provision of safe drinking water facility, provision of shelter, provision of connectivity to all the areas in the country, and also the primary health services. Apart from these services, thrust is sought to be given to the devolution of powers and functions to the local bodies, both urban and rural local bodies, the panchayati raj institutions in the rural areas under the Seventy-third amendment to the Constitution, and also the Municipalities and other urban bodies in the urban areas under the Seventy-fourth amendment to the Constitution.

At the same time, the programmes aimed at reducing unemployment, and eradication of poverty, both in urban and rural areas, also necessitate changes in the orientation that has been given all these years and especially the various programmes that have been initiated. These objectives come within the programme of plan of action of the local bodies and the panchayati raj institutions. Though a mention is made in the Approach Paper document about the devolution of powers or energising the local body network, I feel after the ushering in of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Constitutional Amendments, there is still a lot to be done in the country. It is because these activities relating to the devolution of powers and functions to the local bodies come within the ambit of the State Governments. The enactments the States will have to be there. All the States and the Union Territories have brought in this legislative change incorporating the mandatory provisions of the Constitution.

But we find that they are more in letter than in spirit of the Constitutional amendment and real devolution of power has not taken place. These local bodies have not been endowed with the requisite administrative machinery and power to discharge their functions or to implement the various programmes that are now given to these bodies under the Constitution or in the Approach document. I am sure, the Government during this Plan period will initiate steps in cooperation with the State Governments to see

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that these Panchayati Raj bodies and other urban local bodies are able to function effectively and implement these various programmes.

There is also a reference to the cooperatives. It is very important because various programmes relating to poverty alleviation, whether in the rural or urban areas, also involve active role of the cooperatives which have a large network in our country. Thousands of crores of rupees are involved in these cooperatives. But I feel, it is a common sight in almost every State to see that these institutions which are expected to function as grass-root level democratic institutions are not, in fact, functioning so. It is necessary for the Government to initiate steps to bring in a suitable Constitutional amendment on the lines of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Amendments to see that these cooperative institutions functioning at the grass-root level become vibrant institutions performing their functions to bring about development in the country, especially in the field of poverty alleviation.

The role of financial institutions including the commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and the cooperatives is paramount in implementing the various poverty alleviation schemes, various programmes initiated by the Centre and the States. Unless these bottlenecks are removed and their participation and proper role is ensured, most of these programmes cannot be implemented successfully. I know, most of the employment generation programmes relating to Development of Women and children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) and TRYSEM and similar programmes involve participation of these financial institutions. Our own experience in the country is that the requisite financial assistance is not forthcoming to the beneficiaries who are expected to come above the poverty line. I am sure, the Government will initiate steps to see that under the Plan proposals, during the ensuing Five Year Plan, this aspect is taken care of and priority is given by these financial institutions for funding the various programmes in the country. My own experience has been very painful. Even though targets are specified, when it comes to implementation, when it comes to funding, there is either under-funding of the various programmes or there is no proper mechanism to ensure utilisation of the funds released for the various programmes. The result is, as we see, the end-use is not as we desired or as we anticipated.

In the field of agriculture, we are giving a lot of thrust for improving irrigation facilities in the country. No doubt, ever since the launching of the Plan agenda in the country, from the onset of the First Five Year Plan to the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan, we have achieved a lot of progress in the field of provision of irrigation facilities in the country. Millions of hectares of land have been brought under irrigation or near irrigation.

But we tend to lost sight of the fact that our country has agricultural land of which only 30 percent could be brought under irrigation. The remaining area depends on monsoon.

Vagaries of monsoon are many in our country and unless we have a water management policy for the country - we follow the dryland cultivation techniques and thrust for development of wasteland— we cannot succeed. Though the plan document specify these areas, our experience in the past has not been very conducive to the implementation of these schemes relating to dry land development.

We see all over the country that ground water levels have been going down year after year. In my own constituency, near Bangalore, which I represent during the past seven or eight years, I have observed that we were able to strike water at a depth of 150 ft. Now at the same place two blocks have been declared as dark areas by the Department of Mines and Geology. We have to go to a depth of 450 to 500 ft. because of ground water exploitation during the last eight to ten years and also because we have not been able to harvest the surface water and the rain water in these areas leading to percolation of water. We have failed in these things and I wish the Government will give priority for rehabilitation of the existing irrigation structur, like the minor irrigation tanks. We have thousands of them in our area. The required thrust is not given to them.

As a result, I feel, investment in provision of tubewells or borewells for drinking water facility in the rural areas is going waste because every third year the Government is called upon to again go in for drilling of borewells because the ground water level is going down. When the poor farmer drills borewell for irrigation facilities, he depends upon the rain water in the dryland area where he has no assured irrigation facility. He loses on his borewell, which becomes a failed borewell after three or four years. Again he has to invest lakhs of rupees. There the financial facility is not available in the dark areas that are declared so by the Government. I am sure once the Government gives top priority to these things, it will be helping those people in a big way.

Earlier, the rehabilitation programme used to be taken up by the Government, whether it is the State Government or the Central Government, in the drought areas as a measure of providing employment to the people of that area. They used to do it manually. Once the rains came, whatever was desilting, it again got into the tank and it became useless. So there should be some mechanical and time bound programme for desilting of these tanks, for construction of surface water storage structures to enable percolation of water so that the ground water is recharged. I have made a rough estimate myself that actually we can save hundreds of crores of rupees on drilling of borewells in many villages where earlier borewells have failed.

I was working in a Panchayati Raj institution at the district level as an elected functionary. My own estimate also shows that we have been literally sinking funds into provisions of drinking water in the rural areas. In my own constituency, at that time in a village, we had to drill borewells and eight to nine borewells had failed. then, to

test their rigs and also to go to the maximum depth, we went up to a depth of 1040 feet where we were able to strike only 800 gallons of water. There are such places in our country and the Government should take it up and tackle this problem. It will not be out of place for me to say that in certain areas in my own State of Karnataka including my own constituency, the districts of Bangalore and Kolar, we will have to bring in rationing of water for drinking purposes. I am not exaggerating it, Madam Chairperson, because I have seen this for the past several years in my constituency.

The Government must take the initiative in the coming years on a war-footing to attack this problem, which is further increasing year after year.

When we come to the question of agriculture, under the provision of irrigation, as I said earlier, we are investing thousands of crores or millions of rupees on provision of irrigation facilities such as construction of dams and other facilities on a perennial basis. But we have certain areas, as I said earlier, which cannot be brought under irrigation. We do not have any perennial river water source. Then, in such areas, we must give priority for these things. I would say that while I do not question the allocation of huge resources for construction of irrigation structures or irrigation projects, for completion of projects, I would call upon the Government to set apart a fixed percentage of our national resources, Plan resources for the purpose of providing irrigation facilities, for bringing in dryland water irrigation techniques as has been successful in other countries to our country. It may be drip irrigation or sprinkler irrigation or bringing about a change in our cropping pattern in these areas. I think, an element of importance must be given. What is mentioned in the Approach Paper needs to be strengthened further. I am sure that the Government bestows its attention on this aspect.

We have the planning process. Hitherto, after the Plans were initiated in our country, our own experience has been that — I come from a village and I had worked in Panchayati Raj institutions for about ten years as an elected functionary — the people at the helm of affairs in Delhi or other State capitals tend to think that they are experienced planners and they only know what is good for a common villager, for a common man; they tend to devise Plans, formulate Plans under the presumption that the rural people do not have the knowledge or expertise to devise plans, formulate plans for their future. That is not so. The people in rural areas may have got what is called 'rustic common sense'. The people in the villages are innocent, ignorant and illiterate, but they know what is good for themselves. Now we have the Plans coming from above, flowing to the villages, to the rural areas. I feel that it has to be the other way round. Planning used to come from above. But we must provide for planning at the grassroot level.

The Seventy-third and the Seventy-fourth Constitution Amendments have provided for District Planning Committees. I compliment the State of West Bengal

especially for this. When I think of decentralisation, I think of West Bengal. Once Karnataka was also a model along with West Bengal but I am not so happy in respect of my own State unless we bring in certain changes. When we come to that, they have gone below the district level, they have the Block level planning committees functioning for the work of planning. I call upon the Government to see that the sub-State level Panchayati Raj institutions or the local bodies are given all the training, all the support and all the technical personnel and also to see that they formulate their Plans needed for them and also implement them.

Another aspect which we have to observe here is that - I again compliment the Government and especially the hon. Minister for Planning there is a reference to integration of various schemes. We have numerous schemes named after different persons and different areas with the same objective. Funds used to be spent under different headings. Now we have felt a need for it. There is a multiplicity of programmes. There is a multiplicity of agencies implementing these programmes with the same objective. There is a reference to the proposed integration of these schemes.

17.00 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Apart from the attempt to integrate these schemes, instead of earmarking the Plan funds from Delhi, from Krishi Bhawan, we should devolve the amount to the States for various Plan schemes. I am sure, the Hon. Minister for Planning, who is a very experienced person, who is an expert in this field, realises the need for having block grant allocation to the States and other sub State level institutions. The plans are formulated here without taking into consideration the diverse conditions in the field, on the ground. So, the implementing agencies who are basically the local bodies, the Panchayati Raj institutions, must have a say in the formulation of policies and also implementation of these schemes. Keeping the national priorities in view, keeping separate allocations for family welfare and other important national objectives in view, the remaining amount must go to the States and through the States to the Panchayati Raj institutions as block grants, so that these plan funds are best utilised to serve their local needs. There should be, I feel, a mechanism. There is already a mechanism for release of funds or for devolution of funds from the Centre to the States.

We follow the Gadgil formula. Now there is a need also to revamp this formula for devolution of funds from States to the local level - district and Panchayati Raj institutions. I have come across certain States where while devolving funds that are received from the Centre or from the States' own plan Budget to the various districts and to the various Panchayati Raj institutions, there is imbalance. There is discrimination followed depending on the Government that rules at the State level. When there is a different political

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combination at the district level or down below as the elected institution, there are instances of discrimination in the release or devolution of funds to these Panchayati Raj institutions. I call upon the hon. Minister who is an experienced person, as I said earlier, to devise a mechanism, to devise norms which should be followed by the States while devolving plan allocations from the States to the Sub- State level Panchayati Raj institutions or the urban local bodies so that there is no discrimination while releasing funds from one district to another or from one level to another depending on the composition of the elected functionaries there.

There is a welcome reference to the desirability of land reforms in the country. When I hear every time a discussion in the House, our friends especially from West Bengal or our friends representing the Left parties are always on their feet demanding the implementation of land reforms. I compliment again the Government of West Bengal for initiating this step, though I do not say that other States have not initiated any step in this respect. Many other States have also initiated steps to bring about land reforms. In the State of Karnataka, our own State, when the late Shri Devraj Urs was the Chief Minister, he initiated certain measures to bring about land reforms.

At that time, the policy and the philosophy was that land should be given to the tiller. That was the philosophy. Then, land tribunals manned by non-officials were formed in the State of Karnataka. Those who are tilling the land, those who are ploughing the land, those who are in possession of the land as tenants were given a dead line of date to give their applications, so that the tribunals could examine and confer on them the ownership rights in respect of the lands cultivated by them.

So, lakhs of acres of land in Karnataka cultivated by the tenants under tenancy were given to the actual cultivators. The tenants, as owners thereafter, had to pay the offset price that was normally fixed by the State Governments. It was to be paid to the Government to be compensated to the actual land owners. That was also waived subsequently by the subsequent Governments. Even without any payment, tillers became owners of the land.

I am sure there is a need for further study of the implementation of land reforms, the land reforms legislations in various States, especially in States which have been fairly successfully in our country and see that though it is easily said than done the land reforms have been done, there should be a sort of unanimity at the national level. There should be a genuine attempt to bring in a legislation on land reforms in our country. When this is taken into consideration, there are two aspects. One thing is conferring ownership right and the second thing is the one which is successfully and effectively done in the State of West Bengal through the Panchayati Raj institutions, which was popularly and commonly known as "Operation Berga".

I was there in West Bengal to know the details. I feel it needs to be replicated all over the country with improvements depending on their experience in the State. I compliment them and I wish the United Front Government could give priority to this. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you concluding?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : I will conclude by saying just one or two sentences.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Minister is not only experienced, but he is understanding it. The hon. Member has also suggested the same thing. Hon. Speaker has mentioned that this discussion will continue (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will spill over to the next session.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In such a case, the time constraint should not be there and we can be a little more liberal on that.

Shri Narayana Swamy was praising West Bengal so much!.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am very much impressed by the result of the experiment there.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please accept one intervention from me without interrupting your speech. When you talk about West Bengal experience, one thing is forgotten that it has a history of tremendous struggles by the peasants. Even before independence we were there, the Taibagha movement was there and much blood was shed. It was there in Hyderabad's Telengana areas and also in different areas. Then in 1967-1968-1969, there was a mass upsurge among the peasantry occupying the land. Without that strength, neither can Panchayat succeed nor can land reforms succeed. It cannot be imposed. This is the most important lesson learnt in West Bengal.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Even other than this. I can say that West Bengal has a heritage and in many respects they excel other parts of the country.

There is also a reference in the Approach Paper to the objective of the Government to ensure that tenancy in respect of lands would be allowed and recognised. I think that would be in a way welcome in so far as retaining the sense of ownership of land is concerned. This way the tenants are not exploited by the landlords. It is a good suggestion. I am not going to many other aspects of that issue.

I come to that objective of the Government to provide nutritional support to the people, especially people who are below the poverty line. We have the Public Distribution System. The new restructured Public Distribution System is launched by the United Front Government, which is

widely welcomed and also funds are provided to meet the subsidy burden.

Whenever a discussion on food is initiated in this august House, I always find a reference to wheat and rice. There is a clamour that the support price for wheat is not sufficient and the price of imported wheat is more and the farmers are put into inconvenience and loss. I do not grudge that because the farmers deserve a fair price for their produce and marketing of their produce is very essential. At the same time, I have mentioned in this august House earlier also that there are areas in our country where we grow foodgrains other than wheat and rice. As I know, and subject to correction, wheat is grown mainly in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Whatever benefits that the Central Government gives will go to the farmers in these States. I am sure that they must get more than what is just. I am not grudging that.

The food habits differ from State to State. In our own State the staple food in the rural areas is the foodgrain called Ragi and Jowar. Jowar is also used. I happened to be in charge of a State level organisation implementing the then Rs. 2 a kilo cheap foodgrain scheme when Shri Ramakrishna Hegde was the Chief Minister, which was subsequently continued when the former Prime Minister of India Shri H.D. Deve Gowdaji was the Chief Minister in the State of Karnataka. At that time we brought within the State the foodgrains like Ragi and Jowar also under the subsidised foodgrain distribution scheme under the Public Distribution System. As a result of this, the State Government subsidised the foodgrain for distribution under the P.D.S. It had two salutary effects. One is that the poor people got the foodgrains that they wanted at a cheaper price and secondly the farmers who were cultivating their lands growing these foodgrains were also supported with procurement by the State Government.

I feel that this time the Central Government of the United Front must look into this aspect. I have said earlier during my interventions in the course of the Question Hour, during Supplementaries that the Central Government must look into this aspect and see that the poor people get the benefit. Their food habit is not to use wheat in rural areas in our part of the State. They would forego taking wheat and wheat would be sold in the open market in the urban areas. They would still be using Ragi purchasing it from the open market.

So, I would call upon the Government to see and bring in this element. Whichever foodgrains are used in different part of the country by the poorer sections of the populations, should be provided under the Public Distribution System. Subsidy for this sector also should be provided.

Sir, there is one more point. There is a welcome reference again towards the proposal to strengthen the public sector enterprises. Again our friends and senior leaders here always refer to that and I share their views, though I am not as experienced as they are nor have I been

in that field personally. But, we have in our constituency, public sector units which were once considered jewels of the country - like the H.M.T., the I.T.I., and the B.E.M.L. The Hindustan Machine Tools has a history of its own in our industrial development. The Indian Telephone Industries has one of the best R & D facilities in South Asia itself. For want of orders and due to lack of foresight of the earlier Government in the Centre - I cannot blame the Government; but a person who was heading the Ministry of Communications and who is now in the red - they suffered losses.

Due to non-issue of orders by the Department of Telecommunications, the Indian Telephone Industries suffered losses for the first time. It was not because that it was inefficient and not because that they had no capacity to manufacture the equipment required of them. It was established as a captive unit of the Department of Telecommunications, but it suffered due to lack of orders. It was considered as a sick unit. I must again thank and compliment the United Front Government that they have extended support to the Indian Telephone Industries as per the policy enunciated in the Common Minimum Programme. The Ministry has released orders and now the I.T.I. is able to sustain itself. But equity support is needed of the Government and I am sure that the Government would provide it. When the hon. Members suggested certain public sector enterprises, the hon. Finance Minister, in the course of his recent reply, said that he would help those public sector enterprises which are 'revivable'. The interpretation of the term 'revivable' could mean different things in respect of different public sector enterprises. When the Government of India could come forward to help the Scooters (India) Limited financially, I do not know why the I.T.I. could not be helped. The I.T.I. produces basic equipments required for providing communication facilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Narayana Swamy, it is a glaring example. Once, the Government of India decided to close down the Scooters (India) Limited.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY: Sir, I welcome the revival of the Scooters (India) Limited. The I.T.I. is a core sector industry. If we do not help it, we would have to depend on multi-national corporations for whatever equipment we may require. The cost per line of the telephone exchange manufactured under the C-DOT technology in our country either by the I.T.I. or any other indigenous industry comes to around Rs. 3500/- or Rs. 4000/-. The cost per line of an M.N.C. imported equipment comes to around Rs. 8500/- in the absence of I.T.I. Now, the I.T.I. is manufacturing telephone exchanges with a capacity of 40000 lines under the C-DOT technology. We should not allow such an industry to die its unnatural death, but we should encourage and help this industry to survive and face competition. I think, it is time for the Government to see that these local industries, these indigenous industries, especially in the public sector, are allowed to have a level playing field so that they are able to compete with the multi-national corporations.

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combination at the district level or down below as the elected institution, there are instances of discrimination in the release or devolution of funds to these Panchayati Raj institutions. I call upon the hon. Minister who is an experienced person, as I said earlier, to devise a mechanism, to devise norms which should be followed by the States while devolving plan allocations from the States to the Sub-State level Panchayati Raj institutions or the urban local bodies so that there is no discrimination while releasing funds from one district to another or from one level to another depending on the composition of the elected functionaries there.

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At that time, the policy and the philosophy was that land should be given to the tiller. That was the philosophy. Then, land tribunals manned by non-officials were formed in the State of Karnataka. Those who are tilling the land, those who are ploughing the land, those who are in possession of the land as tenants were given a dead line of date of give their applications, so that the tribunals could examine and confer on them the ownership rights in respect of the lands cultivated by them.

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I am sure there is a need for further study of the implementation of land reforms, the land reforms legislations in various States, especially in States which have been fairly successfully in our country and see that though it is easily said than done the land reforms have been done, there should be a sort of unanimity at the national level. There should be a genuine attempt to bring in a legislation on land reforms in our country. When this is taken into consideration, there are two aspects. One thing is conferring ownership right and the second thing is the one which is successfully and effectively done in the State of West Bengal through the Panchayati Raj institutions, which was popularly and commonly known as "Operation Berga".

I was there in West Bengal to know the details. I feel it needs to be replicated all over the country with improvements depending on their experience in the State. I compliment them and I wish the United Front Government could give priority to this. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you concluding?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : I will conclude by saying just one or two sentences.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Minister is not only experienced, but he is understanding it. The hon. Member has also suggested the same thing. Hon. Speaker has mentioned that this discussion will continue (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will spill over to the next session.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In such a case, the time constraint should not be there and we can be a little more liberal on that.

Shri Narayana Swamy was praising West Bengal so much!

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am very much impressed by the result of the experiment there.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please accept one intervention from me without interrupting your speech. When you talk about West Bengal experience, one thing is forgotten that it has a history of tremendous struggles by the peasants. Even before Independence we were there, the Taibagha movement was there and much blood was shed. It was there in Hyderabad's Telengana areas and also in different areas. Then in 1967-1968-1969, there was a mass upsurge among the peasantry occupying the land. Without that strength, neither can Panchayat succeed nor can land reforms succeed. It cannot be imposed. This is the most important lesson learnt in West Bengal.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Even other than this. I can say that West Bengal has a heritage and in many respects they excel other parts of the country.

There is also a reference in the Approach Paper to the objective of the Government to ensure that tenancy in respect of lands would be allowed and recognised. I think that would be in a way welcome in so far as retaining the sense of ownership of land is concerned. This way the tenants are not exploited by the landlords. It is a good suggestion. I am not going to many other aspects of that issue.

I come to that objective of the Government to provide nutritional support to the people, especially people who are below the poverty line. We have the Public Distribution System. The new restructured Public Distribution System is launched by the United Front Government, which is

widely welcomed and also funds are provided to meet the subsidy burden.

Whenever a discussion on food is initiated in this august House, I always find a reference to wheat and rice. There is a clamour that the support price for wheat is not sufficient and the price of imported wheat is more and the farmers are put into inconvenience and loss. I do not grudge that because the farmers deserve a fair price for their produce and marketing of their produce is very essential. At the same time, I have mentioned in this august House earlier also that there are areas in our country where we grow foodgrains other than wheat and rice. As I know, and subject to correction, wheat is grown mainly in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Whatever benefits that the Central Government gives will go to the farmers in these States. I am sure that they must get more than what is just. I am not grudging that.

The food habits differ from State to State. In our own State the staple food in the rural areas is the foodgrain called Ragi and Jowar. Jowar is also used. I happened to be in charge of a State level organisation implementing the then Rs. 2 a kilo cheap foodgrain scheme when Shri Ramakrishna Hegde was the Chief Minister, which was subsequently continued when the former Prime Minister of India Shri H.D. Deve Gowdaji was the Chief Minister in the State of Karnataka. At that time we brought within the State the foodgrains like Ragi and Jowar also under the subsidised foodgrain distribution scheme under the Public Distribution System. As a result of this, the State Government subsidised the foodgrain for distribution under the P.D.S. It had two salutary effects. One is that the poor people got the foodgrains that they wanted at a cheaper price and secondly the farmers who were cultivating their lands growing these foodgrains were also supported with procurement by the State Government.

I feel that this time the Central Government of the United Front must look into this aspect. I have said earlier during my interventions in the course of the Question Hour, during Supplementaries that the Central Government must look into this aspect and see that the poor people get the benefit. Their food habit is not to use wheat in rural areas in our part of the State. They would forego taking wheat and wheat would be sold in the open market in the urban areas. They would still be using Ragi purchasing it from the open market.

So, I would call upon the Government to see and bring in this element. Whichever foodgrains are used in different part of the country by the poorer sections of the populations, should be provided under the Public Distribution System. Subsidy for this sector also should be provided.

Sir, there is one more point. There is a welcome reference again towards the proposal to strengthen the public sector enterprises. Again our friends and senior leaders here always refer to that and I share their views, though I am not as experienced as they are nor have I been

in that field personally. But, we have in our constituency, public sector units which were once considered jewels of the country - like the H.M.T., the I.T.I., and the B.E.M.L. The Hindustan Machine Tools has a history of its own in our industrial development. The Indian Telephone Industries has one of the best R & D facilities in South Asia itself. For want of orders and due to lack of foresight of the earlier Government in the Centre - I cannot blame the Government; but a person who was heading the Ministry of Communications and who is now in the red - they suffered losses.

Due to non-issue of orders by the Department of Telecommunications, the Indian Telephone Industries suffered losses for the first time. It was not because that it was inefficient and not because that they had no capacity to manufacture the equipment required of them. It was established as a captive unit of the Department of Telecommunications, but it suffered due to lack of orders. It was considered as a sick unit. I must again thank and compliment the United Front Government that they have extended support to the Indian Telephone Industries as per the policy enunciated in the Common Minimum Programme. The Ministry has released orders and now the I.T.I. is able to sustain itself. But equity support is needed of the Government and I am sure that the Government would provide it. When the hon. Members suggested certain public sector enterprises, the hon. Finance Minister, in the course of his recent reply, said that he would help those public sector enterprises which are 'revivable'. The interpretation of the term 'revivable' could mean different things in respect of different public sector enterprises. When the Government of India could come forward to help the Scooters (India) Limited financially, I do not know why the I.T.I. could not be helped. The I.T.I. produces basic equipments required for providing communication facilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Narayana Swamy, it is a glaring example. Once, the Government of India decided to close down the Scooters (India) Limited.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY: Sir, I welcome the revival of the Scooters (India) Limited. The I.T.I. is a core sector industry. If we do not help it, we would have to depend on multi-national corporations for whatever equipment we may require. The cost per line of the telephone exchange manufactured under the C-DOT technology in our country either by the I.T.I. or any other indigenous industry comes to around Rs. 3500/- or Rs. 4000/-. The cost per line of an M.N.C. imported equipment comes to around Rs. 8500/- in the absence of I.T.I. Now, the I.T.I. is manufacturing telephone exchanges with a capacity of 40000 lines under the C-DOT technology. We should not allow such an industry to die its unnatural death, but we should encourage and help this industry to survive and face competition. I think, it is time for the Government to see that these local industries, these indigenous industries, especially in the public sector, are allowed to have a level playing field so that they are able to compete with the multi-national corporations.

[Shri C. Narayan Swamy]

With these observations, I appreciate the thrust areas enshrined in the Approach Paper, I am sure that with our own experience in the past and the priorities set forth by the United Front Government for the Ninth Five Year Plan the things will change. I must also compliment the Planning Commission for the achievements made during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Due to the economic activities initiated at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan, by the end of that Plan there have been a lot of changes in the economy for the better, though certain changes still require to be effected. We are following in that direction only with some modifications to suit the programme set forth in the Common Programme of the United Front Government.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a very important matter, Shri U.S. Jha, who is the Ex-General Secretary of the R.P.F. Union is fasting outside the residence of Shri Janeshwar Mishra since yesterday. The reason for that is, when Shri Janeshwar Mishra was the Railway Minister, he gave a letter saying that it had been decided to grant recognition to the Association subject to the prescribed formalities. After that, several committees have met and recently also, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Chairman, Standing Committee on Railways and others have met, discussed and decided in principle that recognition should be given.

So, why is this man fasting? He is not even taking water or tea. It is something very serious. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to this. It is because the Railway Minister is saying that in principle his Ministry do not disagree but the Ministry of Home Affairs has to agree. So, I am requesting the Home Minister, through you, that tomorrow something should come in the first hour. We would request that gentleman to call off his fast, Sir, I think that you will pass on this matter to the hon. Home Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support his point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a very serious issue. This matter should be conveyed to the hon. Home Minister because his condition is serious.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, let it be settled once and for all. It is because this matter is dragging on for the last ten years. All parties have supported it on the floor of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are no two opinions on this issue. The whole House is one. I would request that this should be conveyed to the Home Minister so that a meeting can be organised.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Maqbool Dar is present here. He may give an assurance and apprise the Home Minister also (Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariagan) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Condition of the gentleman on fast is deteriorating Hence the Minister of Railways should make an announcement in the House tomorrow so that the hunger strike may be called off.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : Sir, the concern of the House would be conveyed to the hon. Prime Minister as also the Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You convey to the Home Minister that he should convene a meeting, if possible, by tomorrow morning so that this issue is resolved.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, since it is the ruling from the Chair, I will convey it to the hon. Home Minister immediately.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The ruling is, as I have understood, that by tomorrow evening the matter has to be decided and settled in his favour.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Certainly. I will convey it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When the House is unanimous and one on this issue, I think this should not be delayed.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I thank you on behalf of the working class.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, now Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev should go and see that he calls off his fast.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my ideas on the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan. One of my senior party colleagues, Prof Sudhir Giri has already dealt at length with this subject. Therefore, I will not go into the details of it, rather, I will opt to confine my speech only to the periphery that what is the need of the planned economy, particularly, in today's concept. It is because during the last five to six years some terminologies were being used by the Ministry of Finance very frequently, and we are quite at home with those terminologies. What are they? They are market forces, privatisation, and liberalisation. All these terminologies which are being used do not match at all with the concept of long term strategic planned economy. No one thinks that planned economy is required for the development of our country. Therefore, now only after the publication of the Approach Paper, I, at least, find some persons on the Governments side also who are in favour of the planned economy. What is the view of the Planning Commission on the approach of the Eighth Plan and the Approach Paper of the Ninth Plan?

What is the view of the Finance Ministry? Does it match? If we take different examples, then we can see that they do not match.

Before going into the details of the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan, I just want to review the Eighth Five Year Plan in a nutshell. Some of the targets that have been set in the Eighth Five Year Plan have been achieved. If we take growth as an example, then the GDP growth rate was over six percent whereas the target was only 5.6 percent. What is it that we actually want to do? What is growth? If we consider growth as a numerical parameter keeping aside several other aspects of the development, then it is very difficult to assess the past Five years' performance of the Eighth Five Year Plan. As I have already stated, the GDP growth rate was over six percent in the Eighth Year Plan. But if we consider development in a broader aspect, as a multi-dimensional aspect, then we will find some different picture.

Yes, growth is there. But how many people are still below the poverty line? How many are unemployed? How many are illiterate? Growth took place, but what about these other developments? What about the people who are living below the poverty line? According to the estimates of the Lakkadwala Committee, 39 percent of our population, which means 32 crores of people, is below the poverty line. If we measure our economy only in terms of growth, that too in some numerical parameters, then we cannot evaluate the whole thing.

I want to cite an example, I want to refer to the UNDP Survey on Human Development Index. Three main components—knowledge, longevity and income—were taken as the parameters. What is our nation's position in the international map? They conducted the Survey in 174 countries, and India's position is 135 in the serial order.

Growth was there, but what about development? I would urge upon the Government not to measure everything in terms of growth. The Government should try to measure everything in terms of different aspects of development. If we consider the Budgets presented in the previous five years, the Eighth Five Year Plan and this year's Budget presented by the Finance Minister, the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Ninth Five Year Plan presented by two separate Governments, we will find two separate views. There is no link at all.

You will find that in the Ninth Five Year Plan, infrastructural matters have been emphasised a lot. Our Finance Minister also mentioned these points while delivering his speech at the time of presenting the annual Budget. But what is the view of the Finance Ministry? Sometimes, we used to hear that a particular project is unviable because it is making losses. Take the example of rural banks. We have many rural banks which are not in a position to make profit. But if we close down the rural banks only on the basis of this measure, then what will happen? Should we consider the rural banks only on the aspect of

banking itself or are we to judge them from a social outlook? We have to judge them from a long-term planning outlook.

If you close down the rural banks, what will happen? The poor agriculturists have to borrow money from money lenders. There will be mismanagement. Again there will be further concentration of land. Already 70 percent of our land is owned by only 30 percent of the total population and *vice versa*. Such type of concentration of land exists.

If now we close down all these rural banks, what will happen to the agricultural sector? How can we remove this imbalance? Here I can quote from the Approach Paper of the Ninth Five Year Plan on what is stated about the outlook of the Planning Commission, I quote :

"The programme of action for land reforms in the Ninth Plan would include the following" :

- (a) Detection as well as redistribution of ceiling surplus land;
- (b) Updation of land records on a regular basis;
- (c) Tenancy reforms providing for recording the rights of tenants and share croppers;
- (d) Consolidation of holdings;
- (e) Preventing alienation of tribal lands"

And there are also some others.

What measures have been taken by the Government? All these points have been categorically emphasised in the Approach Paper of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Let us consider another aspect of social sector development. You know the performance of the social sector development, that is, education, health, family welfare and women and child development. It completely depends upon the financial assistance, the budgetary support. But what is the figure? The Ninth Five Year Plan Approach Paper categorically emphasises that the Eighth Five Year Plan could not achieve the goal so far as social sector investment is concerned.

On education, the target was Rs.13616 crore. What was the actual? It was Rs.8553 crore.

All the other sectors also have the same features.

In this year's Budget, it has been categorically stated by the Eighth Five Year Plan that 100 percent literacy should be achieved within the Eighth Five Year Plan period and to achieve this, at least 3.5 lakh non-formal educational centres were needed, but only Rs. 2.80 lakh has been sanctioned by the Government.