

Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th November, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

15.01 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : DEVELOPMENT OF HILL AREAS—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up further discussion of the Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat. The balance of time is only 26 minutes. I think, we can extend it by 2 hours. Mr. Daga will himself take much time. He is already on his legs.

I think, the House agrees on this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the purpose behind formulating the plans? A top officer has said, are we prepared to abandon those methods of formulating plans which help increase the wealth and income of affluent persons? Are we prepared to formulate such a plan which may bring all persons at par so that there may not be any poor person in the country by the end of Eighth Plan?...

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

This is the object behind a plan. What was the condition of hill areas previously? By building their bungalows and kothis the rich people have ruined all the hill stations. The question is how to develop hill areas? I have got with me an article written by Shri Vir Sen, former Minister of Environment. I do not read article of an ordinary person. I like to read the article of our former Ministers only. Please listen to what he has written. He says :

[*English*]

"Once known as 'land of honey and milk', India now presents a gloomy

picture. The rate of deforestation in our country is 2 hectares per minute due to which nearly one percent of the land surface of the country is being laid bare every year. Though it is claimed that country's 22.7 per cent land surface is covered by forests, the actual forest area is hardly more than ten per cent of the land surface."

[*Translation*]

The situation is that actual forest area is not even 10 per cent. Your target was to bring 22.7 per cent of land under forests, but actual forest area is less than 10 per cent. He has added that the greatest loss suffered due to this is that soil nutrients have been swept into the sea as a result of which farmers have been put to heavy losses.

[*English*]

"According to 1972 estimates, with 60,000 million tons of top fertile soil eroded every year, six million tons of soil nutrients are also swept into the sea causing a loss of Rs.7,000 millions. This erosion has now gone upto Rs. 10,000 million per year."

[*Translation*]

A large amount of soil is swept into the Bay of Bengal. Your forests are being denuded and you want to develop the hill areas. The greatest job is afforestation in the country. The Hon. Minister is new to this department. The Hon. Chairman has extended the time by 2 hours for discussion on this resolution. You have got the full opportunity to express your views. You should reply after considering all the aspects of the matter. A large number of schemes have been formulated in this regard. I would like to know the increase in area brought under forests, the amount spent thereon and the area under forests at present. I would like to point out that despite spending billions of rupees on the development of forests, area under forests has reduced in the Kashmir Valley, Darjeeling and hilly areas of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. In this regard he has said :—

[*English*]

"Mr. Sunder Lal Bahuguna, the architect of Chipko Movement, rightly says

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

that wealth of the Himalaya is disappearing into the Bay of Bengal.”

[*Translation*]

He has categorically stated that fertile soil is being swept into the Bay of Bengal. The most important thing is that you had made a provision in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of hill areas. A scheme was formulated for developing means of transport in hill areas and you had sanctioned the funds for this purpose, but these funds were not utilised properly. The reasons for non-development of hill areas have been given in this Appraisal Plan. I am not the author of this book. It has been written in it that neither the State Government nor the Centre is co-operating.

[*English*]

This is the Sixth Five Year Plan, 1980-85.

[*Translation*]

I am placing before you the facts given in the mid-term appraisal of the plan.

[*English*]

This is the Review of the performance of the States in both these programmes? What is that programmes. That is the Hill Area Development Programme.

[*Translation*]

The economy of hill areas of Uttar Pradesh depend on Money Order. People from hill areas have joined the army. The source of income of these areas is army Jawans. In this way the people of these areas depend on Money Orders. It has been stated in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Plan.

[*English*]

This is from page 111 of the Sixth Five Year Plan, Mid-Term Appraisal.

“None of the States seems to have worked out a five year perspective in respect of these programmes. Consequently the goals and objectives lack definitional clarity and with available information, monitoring at the state

levels as well as the level of the Planning Commission is difficult.”

[*Translation*]

Neither the Yojna Bhawan has thought of any plan nor the States have formulated any plan. You have got no plan before you so far. It has also been stated in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Sixth Five Year Plan :

[*English*]

“There is lack of effective monitoring of hill area programme at all levels, as also a general lack of coordination in the multi-level planning effort that is essentially required.”

[*Translation*]

Government is spending money, but States do not formulate any plan. At the instance of Mr. Tiwari, a unit of H.M.T. has been set up in Nainital. If some one from Almora becomes Minister, he will get something else for that area. The present Minister hails from Tamil Nadu. He will say that such and such factory may be set up there.

[*English*]

That is not the development of hill areas.

[*Translation*]

I would like to say that economy of hill areas cannot be developed in this way. For the development of hill areas you will have to maintain their scenic beauty and attract tourists there. Today hills are being denuded of forests. No afforestation is taking place in hills. Green trees are not visible there. Instead number of people has increased there. The products grown in hill areas have not been consumed by cattle but by human beings. Cattle have not eaten them. Jungles have been cut on mass scale. Pine trees have been felled down and boxes are made out of its wood for packing apples. In this way heavy damage has been done to forests. The Minister of Environment is sitting here and Shri Patil is also sitting here. Tall talks are made about environment. The environment has been polluted by human beings. It has also been mentioned in this report :

[English]

"Linkages, complementarities and infrastructural and organisational support so essential in these areas are often not perceived or provided for."

[Translation]

What will you do for hill areas now? Transport facilities do not exist in hill areas. You say that you will develop industries in hill areas and backward areas and set up projects there. But who will go there? Neither roads nor trains and other means of communications are there. When such is the situation, the question of going there does not arise. You have not so far made any assessment of the development which has taken place with the funds provided by the Government during the Sixth Five Year Plan. The Hon. Minister is requested to reply to all this while replying to the debate.

I had asked a question earlier also. I would like to ask once again. So far as the question of development of social forestry is concerned, if its development is not made on permanent basis, it will cause heavy loss. Besides, arrangements should also be made to set up pastures for our cattle. If such arrangements are not made, our cattle wealth will suffer heavily.

Sir there is a Hill Area Development Committee. Certain aspects must be kept in mind while formulating the plan. In the resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat, it has been said that we should take such measures as would help development of hill areas. Certain measures are necessary for the development of these areas.

Means of transport are very scanty in hill areas. We do not have easy means of transport there. You should undertake such measures there as would develop the tendency of learning technical jobs among the local people. Besides setting up labour oriented and job oriented projects there, you should initiate certain measures which may develop the tendency among the hill people towards technical advancement so that after learning technical work they can become good mechanics and skilled workers. At present they have no interest in this regard.

Sir, for the development of backward areas you have formulated a scheme to provide subsidy to entrepreneurs, who want to set up industries there. You may also kindly ask public undertakings of the State Governments to set up their units in hill areas. Public Undertakings are not ready to go and set up industries there. They should be asked to set up their units there.

I want to say one thing more. Permission of the Environment Minister should be obtained before formulating any project. If you do not obtain permission and start setting up industry, it will lead to chaos. It is a very important thing. No law has so far been enacted for this purpose. You have repeatedly said that you want to amend the existing law, but nothing has been done so far. Before formulating any project you should ensure that it does not affect environment adversely. Permission for setting up the project should be given only after verifying this aspect. This matter should be considered thoroughly before giving permission for setting up of the project.

Sir, a large number of people live in hill areas. One of the most important aspects of the hill areas is that our culture has been prospering there. Our temples, our religious centres are situated there. Our religious centres are situated in all the hill areas whether it is Gangotri or Kedarnath or Badrinath or Darjeeling. All areas have our pilgrimage centres. The Department of Tourism should also spend some amount for the development of these centres, because these religious centres help the development of tourism also. Janata lodges and 'Yatri Niwas' should be built up there and Tourism Department should invest money there.

I would like to say one thing more. The posting made there should not be a punishment posting. It should not be done. Persons other than sons of M.Ps. and politicians and not enjoying the patronage of Ministers should be posted in hill areas. Those persons should be posted there who have keen interest and dedication for working in hill areas. But you will post them in Bombay and the persons to be posted in cities will be posted in hill areas.

I have seen at Mount Abu Hill Station that bungalows have been constructed there and all the bungalows belong to big officers.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Brahmkumaries Ashram is also there.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You might be having Brahmkumaries in your mind, but I am having God in my mind.

I was saying that if you pay attention towards such development works, more development will take place.

[*English*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, no Cabinet Minister is present in the House. It seems all the Cabinet Ministers have gone to the hill station. Let an observation from the Chair be recorded that at least one Cabinet Minister should always be present in the House. If there is none, you elevate those who are present in the House.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : The concerned people are here.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But it is the tradition of the House that one Cabinet Minister is always present. We will abide by whatever direction is given by the Chair. You can varily say that no Cabinet Minister need be present but, I am sure, such a remark will not come from the Chair. We would like that an observation from the Chair is recorded that one Cabinet Minister should always be present.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Chairman Sir, we are discussing the motion on development of hill areas. I would request the Hon. Minister to set up separate development authority for each hill area and insist on the State Governments to do it immediately. So far as Rajasthan is concerned a development council should be set up for Aravali hill area and it should be made responsible to ensure roads, drinking water, electricity and educational facilities in that area. Every year separate allocation of funds should be made in the budget for the development of these things. It has been observed that the State Governments and the Central Government pay very little attention to the development of desert and hill areas. There are innumerable encroachments on the forest lands

and deforestation is resorted to on a massive scale. Just now Shri Daga mentioned that the total area under forests which was 22 per cent has been reduced to 10 per cent now. All the efforts on the part of the State Government as well as the Centre to check it by enacting new laws have proved futile and unsuccessful. Therefore, the entire system needs to be changed and only then the area could be developed and the forests saved. Deforestation is taking place and you are just a silent spectator. This has caused tremendous change in the cycle of seasons. Rains do not come in time and if it does, it is scanty. This is the right time when special attention should be paid for the development of forests and these areas.

Regarding forest land I would like to submit that the people should be allotted those lands which have been cleared of forests and which they are cultivating for the last 25 to 30 years. Similarly, the ravines should be declared forest area and provision should be made for afforestation in the ravines by the Government on a massive scale.

This is an issue which comes under the jurisdiction of the State Governments and the Centre. Necessary provision should be made so that only one Government has the jurisdiction over the entire hill area, particularly the forests, and its laws are enforced there. The people who own small holdings in the hill areas are not provided any facilities either by the State Government or the Central Government. They should be given subsidy in fertilisers or seeds. I have already made a submission with regard to ravines. Just now, Shri Daga had said that large portions of fertile land has been swept into the sea. Similarly, ravines are spreading at a fast speed. We have observed that for the last 10 or 20 years, the budget meant for ravines is not being properly utilised because neither Centre nor State Government is paying any attention to curb it. I would request that besides hill areas special attention should also be paid to forest land and ravines. Officers who are dedicated and sincere, should be appointed for this job.

[*English*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, I have a point of order. Today there is Half-an-Hour Discussion and the names of the

Memoers who are to participate in the discussion have not yet been published.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : You have raised this point at this time.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : If the names of the Members are not known how will those Members go to the Library and prepare the points to be made in the discussion. The names must have been mentioned on the Notice Board at least by 2 O'clock so that the Members can go to the Library and prepare their speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Shri Harish Rawat which is being discussed in the House at the moment. Shri Daga mentioned just now that our forest wealth has been reduced to 10 per cent or even less than that. This clearly indicates the way the Government are taking interest in the forests and hill areas. Government are not fulfilling their commitment to the hill areas, particularly regarding encouragement to afforestation. On these grounds, I would like to make a few submissions, through you, as I myself belong to a hill State, viz. Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to submit that Kashmir is the most beautiful place in India and a couplet in Persian aptly state :

*Agar firdaus bar-ru-e zamin ast,
Hamin asto, hamin asto, hamin ast.*

It translates as follows : If there be paradise on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here. I am very sorry to say that the beauty of our hill State is fast deteriorating. The lakes and brooks for which the State is famous throughout the world are fast drying up. The foreign tourists who flock in lakhs, enabling us to earn foreign exchange, are highly disappointed when they reach there. The lakes are drying up which has caused fast deterioration of the scenic beauty of the hills.

Dagaji has rightly pointed out that the Ganga and the Yamuna bring silt from the mountains and deposit it in the Bay of Bengal. The backwaters of Dal lake between the lake and the mountains are fast drying up due to

silting and this is causing fast deterioration of the scenic beauty for which the foreign tourists used to visit the State.

During Sheikh Abdullah's regime, our Government formulated a scheme, Dal project, to check silting, in the Dal lake and now crores of rupees are being spent and experts are coming from abroad to save the Dal lake. But it seems you are not adopting any preventive measures to check silting in that area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have drawn your attention to the devastation of lakes but I would also like to draw your attention to the reasons behind it. The forests in the mountains, which had been there since time immemorial were destroyed, causing soil erosion during the rainy season and thereby silt was deposited in the lake. The forest contractors and lessees have denuded and ravaged these forests and this has resulted in unprecedented soil erosion causing extensive damage to the lakes and the fertile land in the plains through silting. The fertile land in the Kashmir Valley is turning into barren land. I am saying this because Kashmir is the northern-most part and the most beautiful one in the country. The same is true of Himachal Pradesh, Darjeeling and the U.P. hills.

Sir, this has been my own experience that the Central Government are least bothered about these hill States. They are not discharging their responsibilities in this regard. Due to illegal deforestation, the flora and fauna are being destroyed and this is causing frequent floods which results in extensive damage to the country.

Sir, afforestation is not keeping pace with deforestation. Though many schemes, plans and projects have been formulated but practically nothing has been implemented. I would, therefore, sound a note of warning that this should not be treated as a problem of the State but as an issue of national concern. This is not a problem, because it is we who are facing the consequences and suffering on that account. I, therefore, request you to pay attention to these hill areas.

Cooking gas, kerosene etc. are distributed in the plains. These facilities are confined to these places while on the other hand forests

[Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

have been left at the mercy of the people to be burnt as fuel. Pine and Deodar wood worth crores of rupees is being used as fuel in these areas. It is injustice and crime. There can be no greater crime than the destruction of national wealth. I have myself witnessed it.

I would like to invite the Central Government to visit my State and see for themselves how the precious timber is being sold in tonnes at throw away prices. The forest industry could have been developed if this is checked. The State Government solely cannot be blamed, it is the Centre which is also responsible for it. The Centre acts miserly when it comes to provide kerosene or cooking gas to the hill areas. The people in the hill areas are not supplied cooking gas according to their requirements. Whenever a hue and cry is raised in the plains, in big cities and States, regarding it, the Centre swings into action & oblige them but the people of the hill areas are not obliged. You are paying a heavy price by depriving the people of these facilities. Extensive damage is being done to the forests. I would, therefore, request you to formulate a scheme which may enable you to check the people of these hill areas from using timber as fuel. For this, necessary provision will have to be made by launching a programme so that modern gadgets like kerosene stove and cooking gas are made available in hill, backward and remote areas. It is only then that timber and forest wealth could be saved, otherwise there will be no end to it and the destruction of forests will continue. It would remind you that the losses suffered during the last 10 years will have their impact during the next 100 years, and you will have to repent for that. For the last 38 year extensive damage has already been done to these forests I would, therefore, request you to provide kerosene oil, coal and cooking gas in adequate quantities to these areas.

You have to take further steps to protect the hill areas. It is all right to have the armed forces to protect the borders there but will they also protect our forests there ?

Protection of forests is not possible until modern means of transport are available there as only mule-tracks exist in these areas

at present. Big contractors are able to get contracts of the forests. There is no check on the number of trees felled by them and they get scot free after marauding the forests. There is a nexus between the contractors and the employees of the forest department such as rangers, guards and other petty officials in every State and timber worth crores of rupees is smuggled out of the forests. The hill areas are facing a new problem. Earlier manual labour was used to fell the trees. 20 men used to work for four or five days to cut down a big Deodar tree, but now with the help of machines trees are cut down in less than one second. The big contractors have introduced high technology and machines in this field at such a speed that it has further worsened the situation.

I would like to submit that all these issues are interlinked. Roads will have to be constructed in the hill areas so that forests could be protected and the people will have to be provided all the facilities so that the poor are not ruined and they do not resort to deforestation.

Facilities are not being provided in the hill areas. Trains do not reach these areas and they run only in the plains. So the problem of transportation has caused widespread damage in these areas.

I would like to add that the biggest source of income of the people of J & K is the fruit industry. Apple worth crores of rupees is produced every year in our State. The apple industry is the biggest industry in the State, but due to lack of means of transport, it is not possible to transport it to Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and other big cities of the country in time. There are some commission agents in Delhi who exploit the fruit-growers. The fruit-growers are not able to get maximum benefit due to this. There is need to find a way out. The poor people in the hill areas have a long association with the fruit industry. This is their only source of income. I would, therefore, like to stress once again that the poor are being ruined because of lack of means of transport in the area.

Tourism is also a major source of earning foreign exchange. It is being encouraged in South East Asia and Arab countries.

Most of our tourist resorts are in the backward and hilly areas, but there is no good arrangement of the transport facilities and hotels and tourist centre facilities. The result is that very few tourists dare to go there and there is no further improvement in the condition of the people living in these areas.

I would like to tell you something about my own Constituency Srinagar. There is a place called Sonmarg which is also known as the 'Meadow of Gold'. It is so beautiful that even Gulmarg does not stand anywhere if the two are compared, but, unfortunately, no Master Plan has been prepared so far in this regard. The State Government has not made any provision there for hotel or overnight stay. The Government does not have adequate sources for the development of the area. Crores and billions of rupees are required for its development. I would request the Central Government to help the State Government in this regard.

Similarly, Badgam and Yusmarg are very backward areas. If these areas are developed, more tourists would be attracted to them and this would enable us to earn huge amount of foreign exchange. I would request the Central Government to develop backward areas and backward pockets. Transport facilities and roads should be provided in these areas. The State Government should also be provided assistance to set up new industries there. The unemployed persons would get employment as a result of this.

I would request you to seriously look into the problems of the hill areas. The development of these areas would further accelerate the progress of the country. It would be better if a commission or a Parliamentary Committee is set up to look into the problems of the hill areas and to see how the forests could be saved, tourism encouraged and the poverty, backwardness and disease removed from this area.

In the end, I would like to say only one thing. No doctor from the city will ever agree to go to the hill areas. He will get a recommendation from a Minister or an influential person and plead that he should not be sent in exile. Doctors, Engineers and even clerks and peons are not ready to go to these areas. Take for instance, my own State where 80 per cent of the area is hilly, but even

there most of the engineers, doctors and officers want to serve in the cities and not the backward areas. Therefore, special attention needs to be paid to transport and other related facilities in the hill areas. I wholeheartedly support the Resolution for the development of hill areas which has been moved here.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the mover of this motion, though he is not present here at the moment, for drawing the attention of the entire country to the conditions prevailing in the hill areas and thereby to the progress of the hill areas of the country. I remember that Planning Commission had identified six areas as backward during Fifth Five Year Plan but unfortunately no mention has been made of them in the draft Seventh Five Year Plan. One of them was hill area and another was desert area. The Planning Commission has agreed that cent per cent funds would be provided by the Centre for desert development. Besides these areas, some other areas which were identified are drought-prone areas, tribal areas, coastal areas and cyclone-affected areas. In all there are six areas. The flood affected area is also included in this list. It was decided to give adequate funds during the seventh Five Year Plan for all these six areas, but it has not at all been mentioned in the draft Plan. I would like to draw the attention of the Planning Minister to pay special attention to the development of these areas.

So far as hill areas are concerned there are eight districts in Uttar Pradesh which are very backward and that is why our Hon. friend has moved this motion. On the one hand there are hill districts and on the other there are the people of these areas. Prior to Independence the hill areas in Uttar Pradesh extended upto Jaunsar Bawar. These people also enjoyed the same facilities as those of the hill areas. There are four blocks Dhuddhi, Bambni, Chopan etc. which are all hilly as are many parts of Maharashtra, Assam and Madhya Pradesh. But we are ignoring these hill areas gradually. As a result, practically there are only 10 per cent forests left in the country though for the balanced development of environment in the country about 33 per cent is necessary as has been pointed by some Hon. Members,

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

but it is only 20 per cent on paper. We have not formulated a scheme with which we may be able to protect and develop hill areas and forest areas. I am happy that the Hon. Prime Minister has recently inaugurated an HMT watch factory in a hill area. At the time of inauguration, he assured that in other hill areas of the country also factories requiring cold climate will be installed. I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister to implement this assurance and manage funds for the same. The States with hill areas should be given special assistance. He has stated four or five points very correctly. For example, to give an impetus to tourism, tourist centres should be established there. The ancient temples and beautiful valleys should be developed.

For transport purposes, a network of roads should have been laid in the hill areas but this has not been done so far. The reason is that the Conservation of Forest Act, 1980 is an impediment in the development of the hill areas. Neither you can construct roads nor can you install electric poles etc. The land is available but you cannot construct dams. What is needed is that you convene a meeting of all the Members of Parliament belonging to the hill areas and also the Chief Ministers of the concerned States and prepare a development programme. You sanction a scheme but when you go to the site, there is neither electricity nor any road at that place. No dam can be constructed for the development of the area nor can you undertake any irrigation project. I would also like to suggest that at the time of felling trees in the forest, this rule should be followed strictly that for each felled tree, two saplings must be planted. The land should be transferred only when the saplings have grown for two or three years. Otherwise it is possible that the saplings may wither away. The Hon. Minister should pay serious attention to this aspect.

Several Hon. Members said that the climate of the country was changing. In all, there are six seasons—autumn, spring, summer etc.—but change is coming into them also. That is why time for sowing the crops is also being changed. Meteorological Department is also giving wrong information. They are not giving correct ecological information

also. Consequently, people are not being fully warned about the floods, drought and other natural calamities. This is all due to the disturbances in the ecological balance. Therefore, I demand that for integrated development, the forests should not be disturbed and even if this is done, more trees should be planted. Nowadays we are spending more on social forestry, but forest department staff is earning a lot from that. On papers you may show whatever you like, but if you make a survey you will see that the funds provided for development are not properly utilised. These people are swallowing the public money. I would like to request to make surveys of one or two forest divisions in each State and then see whether the trees have been planted in the number they should have been and whether the trees are in proportion to the money provided by you. I can say it with challenge that you will not find a single tree there. Therefore, I would like to say that first save the natural surroundings. Erect fencing around the forests. That is more useful than fresh afforestation. There will be many difficulties in fresh afforestation because even after 39 years of independence, settlement of the land has not been finalised. Consequently, demarcation of forest and agricultural land has not been possible. That is why, right of concession for the tribals has not been decided so far.

I want to tell you about my area Mirzapur. There is forest area in Mirzapur. In spite of our best efforts, the settlement of land is not taking place. The result is that thousands of cases are being instituted against the tribals. I want that settlement should take place and they should get right of concession. But they are not getting that. We had to go to the Supreme Court to get Stay Order, only then we had some relief. But I want to know as to how long this situation will continue? Though you have given priority to this point in the 20—point programme, no State Government is implementing it. The Centre will have to take in its own hand the programmes which are of national importance. Merely issuing directions will not do. No State Government listens to you. They do the work in their own way. No one is ready to conduct a survey of the eight districts of the hill areas. It can be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and also in the States known as “Seven sister” states. In small States also the survey

can be conducted. It can be conducted in the hill areas of Assam, Eastern and Western coastal areas and in Madhya Pradesh. The Hon. Member of Andhra Pradesh are sitting here. There is one Agency area there and that too has not been surveyed so far. If you want to save the country, maintain the ecological balance and create a good environment, you shall have to fix certain priorities and one of them is that you will have to develop all the land. Not only that, for the development of the hill areas you will have to provide employment there. You should arrange for providing loan facility in those areas. You should give money for planting the saplings suitable for that area. In forest areas people can go in for animal husbandry. Goats and buffaloes can be reared there easily. If you develop the hill areas according to the climate prevailing there, these areas will definitely develop. Above all, you cannot develop the hill areas in the Seventh Five Year plan if you depend only on the States. My submission is that a survey of all the hill areas of the country should be conducted once again.

I would like to make one more submission. The candidates belonging to the hill areas of Mirzapur should get the 2 per cent reservation provided by the Uttar Pradesh Government to the hill areas. Some people demanded this reservation but they were told that they did not belong to the hill area. They went to the High Court and the High Court decided in favour of the candidates. After that they started taking those people in service, I would like to submit this also that developmental programmes are not being implemented in the hill areas and these areas have been kept untouched. Not taking your much time, I demand that the Government should accept this resolution because it is very important one. The Government should give assurance on this. It appears that there is consensus in this House on this matter. I may submit that similar proposals for the desert areas and drought-prone areas will also come before the House and on all those six types of areas which have been identified by the Planning Commission itself. In all these particular areas tribals reside, the poor reside and if you conduct a survey of these areas you will find that the people who are below the poverty line mostly live in these six types of areas. Schemes under the Seventh Five Year Plan should be formulated

in such a way that the people living in the desert areas, coastal areas, floodprone areas and such other areas may make progress. Now when we are entering the 21st century, these people should also come upto other's level and all may progress simultaneously.

I am thankful for the time given to me to speak on the subject.

SHRI JHUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : I welcome the resolution of Shri Harish Rawat regarding hill area development and would like to express my views on this subject.

I have come from an area which is considered as desert area. It is a fact that 3/4th of Rajasthan is desert but 1/4th of the State comprises forest, rivers and wild life.

16.00 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

Before merger of the former princely states, there used to be forests in 30 per cent of this part of the area. But when we talk about Rajasthan people think of it being mostly a desert area. The plans or schemes for the State are also formulated only for the desert areas, but not much significance is attached to the hill areas of the State. In Bharatpur, Kota, Alwar, Jhalawar areas there used to be dense forests and there are good forests even now. There is well developed forestry there but unfortunately full attention is not being paid to the State where there is maximum need to protect the forests. During the time of princely states, efforts were made to protect the forests. Now the Central Government as well as Government of Rajasthan should make efforts to protect the forests in Rajasthan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that along with special attention being paid towards desert areas of Rajasthan, development of its hill-areas should also be taken care of. The Hon. Members were just now talking of the Himalayas, but the Aravali mountain is the oldest which originates from Rajasthan. It is older than the Himalayas. Many battles

[Shri Jhujhar Singh]

were fought there. The famous battle of Haldi Ghati was fought there. That area is respected very much as people are emotionally attached to it. But these hill areas have not been protected these days.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister that in the 'Dag' area of Jhalawar, there used to be sandal trees, sal trees and all other types of trees, but presently these are available in very less number. This is so, because no efforts have been made to project this area. For your information I would like to add that a project has been undertaken under an officer of the rank of Chief Conservation Officer in the Chambal catchment area. Under his supervision, the forest area is being protected. Four or five Assistant Conservation Officers, ten Engineers and 22 Forest Rangers are working under him. The entire staff comprises about 450 persons. Government have posted this staff to protect the Chambal Catchment area. About 3 years back, when the Hon. Prime Minister was the General Secretary of the Congress Party, he had visited Kota. We had submitted to him a statement duly supported by photos that the Chambal forest area is being destroyed by the persons posted there to protect it. Grazers have been brought there from other parts of Rajasthan, whereas local adivasis should have been permitted to take their cattle there for grazing. But the people from other parts have been invited in the Chambal Project area and now cattle colonies have come up there. The people from other parts have been brought and given permission to graze their cattle there. Instead of grazing, they denuded the entire forest area. Trees are not visible anywhere in that area. I request the Hon. Minister to visit that area sometime and see for himself as to how the jungles have been destroyed by the persons who should have protected them.

I hold the Forest Department responsible for this who have not protected the area. It did not protect the forests in any way. The Department itself invited and is still inviting people from other areas. This department is making no efforts at all to protect the forests.

Sir, in this connection I would also like to submit before you that out of total erosion due to water in Rajasthan, 60 per cent

erosion has taken place in Kota Division only. These statistics have been prepared by the Central Government—

[English]

—that 60 per cent of the water erosion in Rajasthan is confined to Kota Division only.

[Translation]

This erosion is taking place and it is further increasing due to non-protection of forests properly. Rate of erosion has increased considerably. When I was a Minister in Rajasthan 5 or 10 years back, I had requested the Planning Department to conduct a survey of our areas to ascertain the increase in the rate of erosion. Surface erosion has increased to such an extent that where previously per bigha crop yield was 5 maunds, now it has gone down to about 2 maunds. These statistics are available in the records of the Rajasthan Government. Leave aside ravine erosion, surface erosion has increased so much that fertility of soil has gone down considerably due to which people are facing many difficulties. I would, therefore, like to submit that the question of erosion is linked with the felling of trees and erosion is taking place on a large scale. In this connection an Hon. Member had given a suggestion that afforestation programme prepared intelligently may be introduced in eroded areas in order to remedy the situation.

Sir, today more attention is being paid to "mono culture" in the forests. The same type of saplings are being planted. Only Julia Flora or Eucalyptus saplings are being planted. But previously, the jungles used to have variety of trees. Efforts should be made to rehabilitate them and this "mono culture" should be stopped. It is causing great damage. Through you, Sir, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that not much effort is required to protect the forests. You are incurring huge expenditure under the Plantation Programme. It requires plantation of each and every sapling, but you are required to observe only administrative strictness in natural forests. Roots are already available there. Nature helps in this regard. Only cooperation of the Department is needed to grow them again. If you can protect the

forests by putting fence or enclosures around them, it can prove to be much beneficial. Crores of rupees have been spent at putting fencing and enclosures around lakhs of bighas of land, but there was lack of spirit of protecting them. These trees flourished for a period of 2 to 4 years, but were got destroyed by the Forest Department itself. My submission is that it needs strict watch, dedication and the will to preserve forests. For that, plantation of new saplings is not required. Nature itself is helping in this regard. Only keen interest is required to protect them. I have myself visited the areas in Rajasthan and found that where dedicated efforts have been made to preserve forests, trees have come up within a very short period. The officials of Forest Department never visited my village—a small Panchayat, where a very good forest has been developed, because efforts have been made to preserve it. T. V. Department has produced a film about that forest and people have appreciated it. When people have a will to protect the forest, forest can be protected there without spending much money and with less labour. It can be preserved by the Forests Department with half of the money being spent at present on plantation of saplings. But no attention is being paid towards it at present. So, attention need to be paid towards this aspect.

Secondly, I would like to submit that wild-life is also linked with forests and hills. In Kota and other parts of Rajasthan there are very fine wild-life sanctuaries. Sanctuary at Sawai Madhopur can be considered as the best sanctuary in India. Dara Game Sanctuary in Kota area had the maximum number of wild animals at the time of merger of princely states. But now regular poaching is being resorted to there. Sale and purchase of wild animals is being undertaken there. Even today that sanctuary exists on paper. But no efforts are being made to protect it. Forest Department does not pay any heed towards it. In addition, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards one thing more. Forest Department and wild life Departments have been bifurcated, but Wild Life Department does not have adequate staff to protect the wild life and you had bifurcated the Forest Department and the Wild Life Department in order to provide more protection to the wild life. But this experiment has not proved to be practical

one. This experiment has caused much harm. I would like to submit that Forest Department and Wild Life Department may be merged. If one person tries to protect them, other does not cooperate. You have created dual authority. Nobody is being benefited thereby. To what extent do you think it proper that the two departments of Forest should operate separately. The Minister incharge of forests is sitting here. I would like to tell him further that double records—Revenue Record and Forest Record—are maintained in Rajasthan. A particular piece of land is recorded at both the places. Being recorded in the Revenue records the land was allotted to a landless persons or an adivasi or a Scheduled Caste person by the S. D. O. or some other Government officer 20 or 25 years back and that land is being cultivated by him since then. But the same land is also recorded under forest records. Now-a-days you have framed a rule under which forest land cannot be converted to any other types of land in any circumstances. Because of this, these people are being evicted from that land. I would like to request that they may not be evicted. This problem does not pertain to big farmers but to small adivasi farmers. In this connection, I have written to you as well as to the Rajasthan Government. I request that the cases which have arisen as a result of lapse on the part of Government may be solved keeping in view the practical aspect. If the farmers are evicted from there, you will also experience difficulty in getting their cooperation. The enclosures and fences are being put in an unpractical way in villages. People experience great difficulties while going out from their villages. Any development scheme formulated by you should cause minimum difficulties to the people living in villages so that you may get more cooperation in preserving the forests. I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I congratulate Hon. Member, Shri Harish Rawat for bringing forward this Resolution with regard to the development of the hilly areas in the country.

Sir, I feel that for the last so many years we have not given enough attention for the development of

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hilly areas in the country. If we calculate the total amount which we have spent on development and find out what percentage of it has gone to the hilly areas, we will find that a high proportion of the amount has been spent in the plains and urban areas and very little has gone for the development of the hilly areas of the country. We have got no correct perspective of the problems faced by the people in the hilly areas, The problems of the hills are something which we cannot conceive of sitting here in Delhi. For having a correct perspective and understanding of the problem, we should actually tour these areas and study the problems of the people living in the hilly regions. Their problems are entirely different from the problems which we are facing. The Developmental Schemes which are suitable for the development of plains are not suitable for the development of hilly areas. But unfortunately we have not given sufficient attention to the development of these areas. Sir, the beauty of nature is in the hills, Nature sleeps in the hill and if we want to enjoy, we should tour these areas.

We are all happy that our Prime Minister has started visiting these areas. I am very happy to say that my constituency is in hill slopes and hill ranges and our Prime Minister visited this constituency also. In these hills, as we know, mostly the tribals, the Harijans and such other backward people live and therefore their problems are very peculiar. I will cite some examples. Take the question of transport, roads and communications facilities. We plan for development of roads and allot funds, but we do not conceive that for construction of roads in hill areas the amount required is some times three or four times more than that required for plain areas. Sir, in my district which is a hill area, with the funds allotted for IRDP or NREP are for construction of roads, only a few kilometres of road can be constructed. With the same amount in plain areas we can construct a road which is three or four times longer than that constructed in the hill area. Therefore, the total development of the hill area will be much less than in other areas. Therefore, my suggestion is the Hon. Planning Minister is here—when you allot funds for the hill areas, you should have a special calculation and you should

give more funds according to the special requirements of the hill areas with regard to construction of roads especially under NREP, IRDP and other schemes.

When we come to the question of industrial development, we find that all the major industries, practically due to infrastructural problems are set up in plains and that too concentrated in urban areas. We talk much about villages and the development of rural India. India lives in the villages', Gandhiji said. Eighty per cent of our people are in the villages. But where are our industries? Whenever we plan an industry we think only of urban areas and when somebody says that this industry should be diversified and they should go to the rural areas, then come so many problems—where is electricity, where are roads and where is water etc.? That is the problem of infrastructural facilities will be raised. We never bother about creating infrastructural development in these villages. Therefore, this is a kind of vicious circle. When we ask for a new industry, when the expert team goes and studies, will say that in such and such a place (that is, a rural area) there is not sufficient power, no sufficient transportation facilities, no water, and this and that. And the poor villagers will not be able to treat these experts also. Therefore, the report will be against setting up a factory in a rural area. But when they go to the city, the report will be otherwise. Still, we do not bother to give the infrastructural facilities in villages. My suggestion is that planning should be such that whatever infrastructural facilities are available in urban areas should also be available in villages. We should reorient our plan. We should not set up the thermal plants and other plants in cities only.

In my constituency there are certain hydroelectric projects. Electricity is generated in certain villages of my constituency from hydro electric projects spending crores of rupees. You may not believe when I say this. The seat of electricity where it is generated, in that village, there is no power supply. After the last elections, I toured my constituency and saw those hill areas. Electricity is generated from Idukki but that village is not electrified. Electricity generated from Idukki is transmitted everywhere to the cities and urban areas and supplied to these

places. Nobody is bothered to give electricity to that village. What type of planning is it? I wrote to the concerned Minister and the rural electrification people. But the result is nothing. I am sure that there is something wrong in our planning. I went to that village and said to those people: "You are all very good people; otherwise you would have started agitation". We have no correct perspective for the development of hill areas. Our planning should be re-oriented. We have no perspective for the development of hill areas. Therefore, my suggestion is that the thrust should be in providing infrastructural facilities in rural areas and hill areas just as you are providing in urban areas. Then only, there will be equal development of villages.

I am happy to mention here that compared to many other States, the State of Kerala is ahead in many respects. If you travel through the State of Kerala, you will find that the infrastructural facilities are extended to villages also. In most of the villages, infrastructural facilities and electricity are there. But Kerala also, as I have said, has not achieved what it should have achieved. The other States, I am sorry to say, are far behind in these respects.

Again coming to the problems hill areas specially I have already said that the problems are entirely different. You cannot have a major industry, big industry in a hill area due to transportation problem. But those industries which can be set up in hill areas should be set up. Will the Hon. Minister conduct a survey for this? The industries which can be set up in hill areas are not set up there. I do not want to criticise anybody. In Kerala, there is the Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation. They have a number of units set up and most of them are in urban areas. Electronics industry can be set up in hill areas and the hill climate is better for the electronics industry. But there is no such industry. Electronics is one such industry which can be set up in the hill area. Therefore, the Central Government should give directives to the State Governments that those industries which can be set up in hill areas should be set up only in hill areas. Coming to the medium scale and large scale industries which require huge machinery, investments and other things, hill areas have their own drawbacks and disadvantages. But

when you come to electronics industry, watch industry and such other small scale industries, hill areas can be considered. So, I would request the Hon. Planning Minister to specially note that hereafter such industries should be set up only in hill areas.

Again, look at the beauty of nature in the hills. I am reminded of our Panditji. When he was in jail, Panditji himself has written, how he was getting inspiration from the Himalayas. I am sure you must have read it. The Himalayas were a source of great inspiration to Panditji. Actually every hill will be a source of inspiration to you, to me, to all of us, if we start observing it. Nature will be a source of inspiration if we start observing the nature. But the point is, we have no time for that. Therefore, my point is that emphasis should be given on development of tourism in the hilly areas. Here I should point out, as I did in the morning during the Question Hour, that we always go in for encouraging foreign tourism. That is not enough. We should encourage domestic tourism also; our people should visit the hilly areas and should enjoy the nature in the hills. There should be special development schemes for hilly areas for development of tourism.

In my constituency, there are two important places. One is Munnar which is very famous. It is a very beautiful place, but unfortunately that is not in the tourist map of our country. I would request the Hon. Minister to include Munnar in the tourist map of our country.

About Thekkadi, as was mentioned in the morning, there is already a wild life sanctuary there. There is also a lake; there are conveniences for boating. But the common man cannot go there. The hotel charges are very high. Government should provide hotels for the common man. Thekkadi being a very famous wild life sanctuary, foreign tourists are coming there. The Central Government should include Thekkadi in its development plan in order to attract more foreign tourists.

Coming to forests, most of the hilly areas are covered by forests and mostly tribals and Harijans are living there. You know what are their problems. So many

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tribals were coming and telling me that they live there, the Government have given them special loans for housing but they cannot cut a tree for their own house, the tree which they themselves have planted. I went to a colony. They showed me a jack tree. They said that they had planted it, was not a forest tree but because the officers were implementing the law in letter and not in spirit, they could not cut it. At the same time I have seen so many hectares of land which are under cultivation for the last 25 or more years and which are reckoned as forests under the law. According to Government officers, they are all forests. I have personally seen thousands of hectares of land which are cultivated; they do not contain any tree at all, but they are reckoned as forests. There is no demarcation between actual forest and cultivable lands. Protection of forests is only in the books. If you want protection of forests genuinely, you have to find out which are the actual forests and demarcate them; and nobody should be allowed to enter the actual forest and cut the trees. The land which has already been cultivated for 25 or 30 years should not be marked as forests. In those so called forests people are living. Therefore, the important thing is that there should be a correct demarcation between the actual forest and the land which is being cultivated. Once such a demarcation is made, the residents should be given title of the land they cultivate and forests should be protected. Nobody should be allowed to cut the trees from forests. This is very important if you want to enforce the Forest Preservation Act in letter and spirit.

One more point I would like to make with regard to development of hilly areas. It is not only forest cutting that is disturbing the ecology. Two or three years back, I had the occasion to go to Mussoorie. While moving from Dehra Dun to Mussoorie. I found that a lot of mining was taking place in those areas and those minings, I am sure, are very much detrimental to the nature and for keeping up the ecological balance.

Sir, on soil conservation we spend a lot of money. But we have not achieved

anything. We should allot more funds on soil conservation because lack of proper soil conservation is another reason for what is called the land slides.

There was land slide in my constituency. One of the reasons for that was lack of soil conservation. So, more funds should be allotted for soil conservation.

Sir, I hope these suggestions will be noted by the Minister and not only that, I hope that he will act on these suggestions also. I have to make more suggestions but the respected Chair is not allowing. Therefore, I am cutting short. However, I hope the Minister will take note of these suggestions, specially about my constituency that is Munnar to bring in the tourist map. I hope he will do that.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola) : Mr. Chairman Sir, while speaking on the resolution which has been moved by Shri Harish Rawat, there were some very interesting points raised. In fact after reading the resolution and after listening to the speeches made on the resolution, one gets a feeling that the resolution mainly concerns the forests.

Here, I would like to point out one thing that the resolution is about the hilly areas and when we talk of hilly areas, mainly we think about Himalayas and we have a natural tendency to forget about other hilly areas. There are hilly areas in the country which are not forest areas, but there are hills and mountains which are without forest. In this connection, I would like to mention some ranges like the ranges of Sahyadri on the western ghat. Many ranges in Satpura and ranges of Ajanta where you may not find forest, but three are hills. Ajanta and Satpura are called mountain in geography also. There is hardly any forest. We have got the world famous Ajanta caves and we know about that.

It has been marked that while thinking about the development of hilly areas only those areas which are covered with forests have been given attention and other hilly

areas and mountains which are having less forests or no forest is being neglected.

While speaking on this resolution, I would like to draw your attention that while chalking out a plan for hilly areas, all those mountains where there is no forest existing should also be taken into consideration because basically all other difficulties remain the same... All other problems remain the same and they should not be neglected. Here again, as the previous Hon. speaker has mentioned, one thing has to be made very clear. This House and all of us in this country are very much concerned about ecology, about environment and about having more and more area under forests. But the tendency on the part of the bureaucracy seems to be a bit different. I would like to mention here one thing. I do not know when the last survey of the forests was made. I am sure it must have been made before independence. I do not know whether after independence there was any survey of our actual forest area. Because, in my own State, I know that at least 30 irrigation projects are not being allowed on the ground that the forest area is going to be submerged but when we actually go there to the site, only bushes are there. In the revenue language, it may be called 'E' class land and it cannot be termed as a forest area. But only because a resurvey was not done and the State Government—this is a State subject—do not take the trouble of resurveying the area, they are still termed as forest area. During the last 50 years from many areas forest have disappeared because of the changes in environment and the changing pattern of rains and instead of trees, there are only bushes which are described as 'E' class land. But on the record it is shown as forest and instead of going into the field, they just refer to the revenue records and inform the Central Government that there is a forest and because a forest is going to be submerged, the irrigation project should not be allowed. So there is neither development of forests nor irrigation development and the areas remains neglected. I think it is high time that the Planning Commission and the Central Government take up these things with the State Government and ask them to resurvey the whole area so that without taking the trouble of going to the field and find out they may not just see the revenue

records and tell you that it is a forest area. This will be a very important thing.

All other points have been mentioned. I would like to draw the attention to some other factors also. While we are very keen in maintaining and increasing the area under forest, there are some difficulties I have seen. If a power transmission line has to be taken through the forest or if some poles have to be put in the forest areas to take electricity, permission is not given on the ground that it is going through the forest area and transmission line cannot be taken. Technically they prefer the shortest possible distance for taking the lines and many times that shortcut happens to go through the forests....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please try to conclude now,

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VIRALE : I think I have not taken even half the time of my previous speakers. You should be equally kind to me.

So I would like that the Government should look into this matter. For these mere technical reasons many development projects cannot be put through and the area gets neglected. Actually they should, if possible, photograph all the areas whether they are forest areas or not and it should not be an indirect encouragement of the lethargy of the officers of State Governments who want to do an easy job. Without going to the field they report back, even if some powerline or electricity line is to be taken, that it is a forest and that 'we should not allow ecology to be affected.' You know nowadays ecology and pollution have become very sensitive subjects and that sensitiveness is used for not taking trouble. I will give another example. The Central Government has given instructions to the State Governments that we should be very careful about pollution with the result that pollution boards have been established in different States. These pollution boards have directed that any industry which uses more than 5 horse power should get the clearance from the pollution control board. Now, a 5 horse power utilisation unit can be a saw mill, flour mill or a lathe and these poor fellows have to go to the State level. Sir, to get the clearance from the pollution

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control board does not take less than six to eight months and in the meanwhile the poor fellows who have taken the loans and everything go on paying interest.

Now, Sir, supposing there is a Saw mill. It does not cause any pollution. So, I suggested to them that making the rule that every unit which has more than 5 horse power must come to the State level to get the permission will only create more complications and harass the small people who want to enter in industry.

Secondly, Sir, while considering hill areas, the hills with forests only should not be considered as hill area but mountains like Satpuras where there may not be forests on the top should also be considered as hill area and sufficient care for their development should be given. There was a special plan for communication in the hill areas of Maharashtra but due to shortage of funds the State Government had to leave quite a few schemes incomplete. In that direction also some attention should be paid.

Further, in these hill areas there are some areas where by lifting the water cultivation is possible. In these hill areas special permission for lifting the water and cultivating the small stretches should be given. Another problem in hill areas is that—just as Konkan area—although we get all the rain at the mountains yet the population staying at the top of the hill areas face drinking water problem. They give drinking water to others but they do not themselves get drinking water. Therefore, drinking water facilities should be made available to them.

Sir, for encouraging development of hill areas the Maharashtra Government has come out with a scheme that if there is a registered institution it will be given 30 acres of land at a nominal lease for twenty years on the condition that they should develop fruit and other trees and create forest on that. I am sure if this pattern is followed it will be much helpful in these areas.

Lastly, there is much scope for developing small irrigation schemes, soil conservation

schemes, development of animal husbandry and bringing forth not only electronics industry but also other industries for which raw-material can be available from forest itself can be planned and I sincerely hope that all these suggestions will be considered by the Government.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Chariman, Sir, backwardness of the hill areas need not specifically be emphasised here because everyone of us is aware that for centuries these areas as also the people living in these areas have been neglected continuously. First, I must appreciate Mr. Rawat in bringing forward this Resolution before this august House for discussion. I wish the Hon. Minister should not think that the investment that is to be made by the Government of India for various developmental schemes in these areas as an infructuous expenditure. In fact, a huge treasure of economic wealth is untapped in these areas all these years. If only the decisions are not taken on political grounds to locate power and irrigation projects, these areas are most suitable because these projects can be executed and maintained at a very cheap cost. Power can also be generated and supplied for industrial purposes at a very nominal cost. If these projects are located in areas like Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas where natural and big water falls are there, not only power generation can be done at a low cost but at the same time the hill areas can also be developed. The tribal people who are far away from the civilised people, all these generations, may also be able to develop their social and mental faculties and they can be brought into the main stream of nation building.

Some of the factors which can also be considered for the development of these areas are political, economical, social and educational. Sir, backwardness of these areas can be removed in several ways, simultaneously curing many of the ailments. For example, Naxalism is spreading in a big way in these areas. Terrorists, extremists and dacoits are finding hide-outs in these areas. This is causing a great alarm. The tribals are exploited by these people. There is immense disparity between the tribals living in these areas and the civilised people who are exploiting them. This is causing a great discontent

Among the youth in the tribal community and this leads to resorting to Naxalim by bloodshed and by other means so they can bring down the disparities, instead of bringing down the disparities in a peaceful manner. All these forces should be eliminated. Instead of spending enormous amounts in resisting these Naxalites, Terrorists and extremists, if the same amount is spent for the development of these hill areas, both these problems can be solved.

Sir, the Central Government need not think that they are investing a huge amount exclusively for the hill areas by way of executing various projects because these projects are going to give a good dividend in the future. Apart from this, Forests are already under the control of the Central Government and so also the hill areas can also be brought under the control of the Central Government for which investment can be made by the Union Government.

Sir, there are other ways of developing the hill areas. Development of tourism in these areas is one way of developing these regions. So also plantations can be encouraged in these areas because people living in these areas are hard working people. Even if these lands are given to the local people who are poor and also marginal farmers who come from outside the areas, by encouraging these people, forest trees can be converted into fruit bearing trees and the lands are converted into cultivable lands. In this way, the ecology and environment of the region are preserved.

Sir, animal husbandry is another means of developing these areas in a big way, without involving much expenditure. Model schools, agricultural universities and other agricultural institution which require a loving and peaceful atmosphere can be located in these areas. This would mean less expenditure and more growth at the same time.

In case the Government were to feel constraint of resources for development of these areas, I would suggest that the Planning Minister and the Finance Minister, who has been making a lot of efforts to trace out black money, should sit together and consider whether a scheme can be worked out for allowing black money holders to invest their

money for the development of these hill areas without taking any subsidy or assistance from the Government side. By this you can dig out the black money and also utilise the same for the welfare and development of the hill areas and the hilly people. Two things can be achieved at a time.

I wish that the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and certain parts of Bihar should also be included in this scheme; they should not be left out simply because some tribal sub-plan is in existence there. The allocations are very poor in the sub-plan and they are meant for tribals who are living in the plain areas. These States must also be included in this plan.

There is an urgent need for a will on the part of the Government and the Ministers concerned for development of these areas which have been neglected for generations. These areas must be developed on priority basis. The Government should not consider it a burden or unnecessary expenditure; it is the duty of the Government to attend to it urgently.

Unless disparities are removed and these areas are improved and developed, there is a likelihood of law and order problems causing a danger to the democracy and the people, as some of the aggressive youths believe that disparities can be reduced only by resorting to harsh and other methods.

[Translation]

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I whole heartedly welcome the resolution moved in the House for the development of hill areas. Any number of concessions are inadequate for implementing the proposals meant for the welfare of human beings particularly for the people living in hill areas and the backward people.

Sir, people living in hill areas have not been benefited by the I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P. and other welfare programmes undertaken by Government to that extent to which the people living in plains have been benefited. They have got negligible benefit. The reason is that the geographical conditions of plains and hill areas are quite different and they

[Shri R. S. Khirhar]

have their own problems. I understand that the officers responsible for implementing development programmes there do not get proper residential facilities in hill areas as compared to what others get in plains. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that special coaching may be given to officers posted in hill areas to implement development programmes there so that they may be able to withstand hazards in the hills. Only then they will be able to ensure proper implementation of development programmes. In this connection I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the hill areas of Chhota Nagpur, Palamau and Santhal. Even today the problem of drinking water, which is the prime need of life, is the same which was in the past. That is why feelings of regionalism is developing there. In Bihar a demand for a separate state was made. Such a feeling of regionalism has developed there. Even today thousands of religious conversions are taking place there. What is the mystery behind it? The biggest reason is the economic and educational backwardness. The Government should pay special attention towards this. In Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana, Development Authority is already grant is given by the Central Government to the Development Authority being constituted there by the State Government for different programmes being run by them. These should, therefore, be monitored. While talking to the Hon. Member Shri Simon Tigga, I came to know that in one Development Authority, Vice Chairman has not been appointed so far. It is, therefore, not functioning. If we go on moving such resolutions, keep discussing them and go on enacting laws but if no follow-up action is taken, then we shall not be able to make any development at all.

I want that special attention should be paid to education also. Indian culture should be encouraged there in our education system. There should be amity and feeling of fraternity amongst the people. Why it is lacking? It is so because they lack in modern education. The modern education system has not reached there. There are no colleges in those places. If there is difficulty in setting up big industries, then small cottage industries should be set up. In many places, small cottage industries are run with bank grants. If these

are run in that atmosphere, then they will get a chance to develop. Therefore, this aspect should be paid attention to. The transport, drinking water and educational facilities should be made available in Chhota Nagpur, Palamau and Santhal Pargana areas. The shortcomings in the functioning of the Development Authority set up there should be removed and its functioning monitored. With these words I welcome the resolution.

[English]

SHRi MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, I rise to support wholeheartedly the Resolution moved by my Hon. friend Shri Harish Rawat for the development of hilly areas. Looking at the map of our country, one can very well understand that the most neglected parts of our country are the hilly areas. In order to develop these areas, which are socially and economically backward, effective steps must be taken by the Government immediately. In this respect, I would like to suggest the following for the immediate consideration of the Government.

Transportation facilities and a network of roads are the most urgent need for the development of the hilly areas. The Government should make provision for starting Hill Highways all over the country immediately.

Construction works in the hilly areas are lagging behind and more and more construction works must be taken up to develop these areas.

The hilly areas of our country are mostly inhabited by the people belonging to the Hill Tribes and the conditions of the people are miserable. Due to lack of education, these poor people are still in the dark. More and more schools for the children of the hill people are to be started. Out of sheer poverty, the children of the poor Adivasis and other hill tribes never find their way to school. Government must provide food, clothing and other facilities for these children.

17.00 hrs.

In order to reduce the regional imbalances and inter-district disparities, a clear provision must be made for starting new industries. Most of the hilly districts are backward and

those who come forward to start industries how are to be encouraged by giving incentives. There is ample scope for starting agro-based industries in hilly areas. So also, industries like precision instruments, electronics and watch manufacturing etc. are to be located at hilly areas. Wood industry and horticulture are also to be promoted. The Government must make it a point to start industries in the economically and socially backward districts which are located in the hilly districts of our country.

The economic of tribal India largely depends on land, animal and forest resources. All the farmers who are living in the hills are very poor and their land holding is also very small.

It is painful to note that still there are instances where the land of the *adivasis* are being alienated by landlords all over the country. Stringent actions must be taken against those who take away the land and property of the poor *adivasis*.

Tribal India cannot be taken for granted any longer. It has to be taken with urgency and understanding.

Before, I wind up, I would like to draw your attention to the State of Kerala. Sir, out of the 14 districts of Kerala, the major portion of more than 5 districts are situated in hilly areas. Without proper roads and transportation facilities, the normal life has become impossible in these areas. It is the long cherished desire of the people of Kerala to have a Hilly Highway that starts from the district of Kasaragod touching all the hill districts and reaching the Capital City of our State, Trivandrum. I recall the provision made under the Fifth Five Year Plan for development of western Ghats. But the allocation is miserably low and must necessarily be increased. The Central Government should come forward and give financial assistance for the Hill Highway Scheme that may be submitted by the Government of Kerala. The steams, rivers, peaks and hills of Kerala have always been a fascination for the tourists coming from different parts of the world. So it is my humble request, that the Central Government should make clear provisions for tapping tourist potential of the hilly areas in Kerala.

Lastly, I urge upon the Government to make special provisions for the development of the hilly districts of Wynad, Idukky, Kottayam and Pathanam Thitta.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Harish Rawat, by bringing the resolution regarding development of hilly areas has given us an opportunity to have a discussion about the development of hill areas. So far as hill areas are concerned, this has been said from time immemorial that the Himachal is the forehead of India and Kashmir presents astounding scenic beauty of India. Similarly, the other places have been eulogised. I would like to mention certain names—Kulu, Manali, Nainital, Shimla, Mussorie, Dehradun, Chamoli, Badrinath, Kedarnath and Darjeeling. Wherever these hill areas have been developed and beautified with a view to promote tourism, they have become places worth-seeing.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the chair*]

Many of our places like Badrinath and Kedarnath are places of religious faith where lakhs of pilgrims go every year to pay their respect. In the other hill areas, people come from different areas and enjoy scenic beauty.

Regarding their development, I would like to state that I had the opportunity to visit many places and I found that even today there are places which, if properly developed by the Tourism Department, will attract tourists not only from India but from the whole world and after enjoying the beauty of these hill areas, they will become more and more interested in these areas. The number of tourist centres will increase further. If the Tourism Department develops good places, constructs hotels, lakes and takes other steps for beautification, our country will earn more foreign exchange and the Central Government will also earn lot of money from the tourist resorts.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend an orientation programme in Gangtok in Sikkim. We remained there for 3 or 4 days

[Shri Manvendra Singh]

and talked to the people. Their feeling was that they were very backward. I went to several other hill areas. There also people told that their economic condition was deteriorating day by day. The problem of unemployment is also emerging there. I would request the Hon. Minister that the Government should do the maximum for their development so that unemployment among them is removed.

As has been stated in the resolution, cultivation should be encouraged there so that the economic condition of the people of those areas is improved. The Government should provide subsidies, seeds, fertilisers, loans and other facilities so that more progress is made on the agricultural front.

In addition, industries should also be promoted there. In hill stations I have visited the place of tourist interest. I found them very beautiful, but industries are negligible there. The question arises as to why industries have not been set up there? The roads are in very bad shape. I would request the Hon. Minister that for the development of those areas industries like electronic should be promoted there.

Many types of wood is available there. Pine, cedar and other types of better quality wood is available there. Small cottage industries based on these woods should be set up there.

In addition to these, it is also understood that different minerals are available there, but so far no survey has been conducted in this regard. Efforts should be made by the Government on priority basis to explore mineral deposits in those areas.

So far as horticulture is concerned, as the Hon. Member has stated, the Government earn revenue worth crores of rupees from sale of apples and other fruits produced there. We should give encouragement for plantation of good quality orchards so that the farmers get fillip and employment.

Regarding forests, which is their main problem, wherever we went, we found that

deforestation is going on constantly. As the Hon. Member from Jammu and Kashmir has said, costly wood which is of commercial value is being burnt as fuel. I would request the Hon. Minister that maximum measures should be taken to ensure that forest wealth does not dwindle. Maximum effort should be taken to ensure that forest wealth does not dwindle. Maximum effort should be made to protect the forest wealth. The work on new plantations should be speeded up.

So far as change in seasons is concerned this too depends on the forests. We have seen at many places that there has been less inflow of water in the major canals which result in loss to the crops in the plains. Because of silting, flow of water in the river is getting lesser which results in frequent floods in the plains and loss of billions of rupees. If that money is properly invested in the development of the hill areas and afforestation, the hill areas can be developed very much.

As a result of deforestation the number of wild animals is also going down. On one hand zoos are being set up in big cities and on the other hand, due to felling of trees in the forests, these animals and birds are becoming extinct day by day. I would request you to make such arrangements that the forest wealth is not destroyed.

We have seen that in hill areas the health services have also not been made available properly. Consequently, the people there suffer from many diseases. Education is also not made available properly in hill areas. When I went to Gangtok, I came to know that there is no arrangement for graduation studies there. It is necessary to open schools and colleges there to impart education.

Postal services are also not properly available in hill areas. The 'dak' remains undelivered for full month, because there is lack of roads. The electricity and drinking water supply is also not satisfactory. In the last session also, this matter was raised that there is drought in the hill areas and drinking water is not available there. Arrangement should be made for this also.

The medicinal plants and herbs are available in abundance in hill areas. Therefore, I request to set up industries connected with medicines to manufacture drugs from these medicinal plants and herbs.

With these words I express my gratitude to you and thank my colleague Shri Rawat for giving us a chance to have a discussion on the subject.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the resolution presented by Shri Rawat. I also congratulate the Hon. Minister. I have heard with attention the Hon. Member who have participated in the discussion. I would like to submit that the discussion that is taking place in this House on the development of the hill areas has been brought here for the first time since I joined this House. A resolution relating to the development of hill areas has never been brought here. There is a saying in our village that every dog has his day. So at last we are discussing today in this House the development of the hill areas which will be quite beneficial to the country. With the development of the hill areas, lakhs of unemployed educated youth of the country will be benefited.

At the same time I would like to submit that the hills are full of forest wealth. Under agricultural scheme, if you plant fruit trees (apple, orange, cashewnuts etc.) in the hill areas, people will get employment and the Government will also be benefited from it. Also, the different medicinal plants and herbs are available in the forests and if medicinal plants based industries are set up there, the Government will benefit therefrom. There is acute shortage of cement in the country and to remove this shortage, cement factories should be established in the hill areas, because stone is available in abundance in those areas.

Regarding Morena, you must have heard about the big problem of *Baghis* in that area. It looks as if the Government has opened a sanctuary or a national park there for *Baghis*. The result is waste in the Bind-Morena area about which the Government has not thought of taking any measure. I had raised this issue in the Madhya Pradesh

Vidhan Sabha many times and here also under Rule 377 I have drawn the attention of Government towards the fact that Government acquires land in plains for industries whereas lakhs of acres of land is lying unutilised there. I would like to submit that various types of industries can be set up in Chambal ravines lying unutilised. Electric poles can be installed there and pipe lines can be laid there and different industries can be set up there. I would like to suggest to the Central Government that an office at the district level may be set up for conducting a survey and to identify the various problems existing in each district and also to identify as to which of the industries could be set up there. The Government should get a report prepared in this regard and present it in this House during the next Budget Session.

With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI TILAKDHARI SINGH (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this resolution. I would not like to repeat that has already been said here by the Hon. Member. Under various schemes of I.R.D.P., 600 families of each Block in the country are to be brought above the poverty line.

In hill areas Harijans, Adivasis and other people belonging to weaker sections of society live. In order to give assistance to the people of these areas, people are selected in accordance with norms of I.R.D.P. The scheme also provides for bank loans to them. But I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that the number of banks in hill areas is quite inadequate. Under their norms they would provide loans to only those villages which are located within a radius of 10 Kilometres and not others. A Bank will take up only 30 villages. There are not sufficient branches of Commercial Banks and the people are not getting benefit of I.R.D.P. in the absence of any bank there. I, therefore, request you to get those places surveyed to identify the number of persons getting benefit there.

I would like to say one thing about Chhota Nagpur. Under the sub-plan, Central Government provides assistance. Under the norms fixed in this regard such facility is given in a block having 50 per cent of its population as tribals. People are getting

[Shri Tilakdhari Singh]

educational, medical and irrigation facilities. In this regard I would like to suggest that this limit of 50 per cent which is at block level may be reduced to Panchayat level. There are many panchayats where hundred per cent of population belongs to tribals. If you cover them under the sub-plan, many problems being faced in education and health area will automatically be solved to a great extent. You are aware that in hill areas adivasis and harijans live. If you make such arrangements, the people of those areas will be benefited.

Chhota Nagpur and Bihar have a serious problem relating to forests. We have seen that adivasis, harijans and people of weaker sections of society have been possessing agricultural land from the olden days and now the officials of the Forest Department come and say that the land, on which their people have built houses and have been living there for years together, falls within the demarcation. In this regard I would like to point out that a survey was conducted for demarcation many years ago. No, you should conduct a fresh survey and the land on which they have built their houses be exempted from demarcation. The agricultural land should also be exempted, otherwise great resentment is likely to develop among the people living there.

In addition, I would like to point out that there is lack of transport facilities in hill areas. Roads are built by the State Governments, but the roads are negligible there. I would like to say that a survey should be conducted of all the roads in the hill areas under the supervision of the Central Government. In the absence of transport facilities, these areas will remain deprived of other facilities as well.

Drinking water problem is also there. State Governments make arrangements of drinking water in hill areas, but wells cannot be dug in hills. So, the local people have to walk down a distance of about 2 kms to fetch drinking water from the springs. Central Government should provide help to the State Government to solve the drinking water problem. I would like to suggest that in the fields of education, health and irrigation, you

should formulate schemes at your own level.

I hope that you will kindly consider the points raised by me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time allotted for this Resolution is over and still one more speaker and the Minister has to intervene. So, I would like to know whether it is the pleasure of the house that one more hour should be allotted for this Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since there is no dissenting voice, one more hour is allotted for this discussion.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat.

The hon. Members who spoke prior to me have expressed their views on many points. All the hon. Members have admitted that the condition of people living in hill areas is pitiable and there are certain of things about which Government is required to pay special attention. I would not like to go into details about all of them but I would like to confine myself to 3 or 4 points.

First of all, I would like to point out that the roads in hill areas are in dilapidated condition as a result of which many accidents take place. In my view it is absolutely necessary that the roads in hill areas should be in good condition to minimise accidents and to provide more and more facilities to the passengers.

Hon. Member, Shri Manavendra Singh, who spoke before me, has made a mention about Sikkim. I had also visited that State. There is only one college in the entire State. I feel that having only one college in the entire State is a great injustice to people there in the matter of education. I would, therefore, like to say that more and more educational institutions may be set up in hill areas and these should be located at a very short distance because it takes much time for the students in the hill areas to go from

one place to another place and many students are not in a position to walk down that distance. I, therefore, suggest that for the development of hill areas more and more educational institutions may be set up there at the shortest possible distance.

In addition, I would like to point out that rail facilities are quite inadequate in hill areas. You will see that rail facilities are quite inadequate everywhere in these areas. I would, therefore, like to request you that rail facilities and other means of communication should be increased there so that maximum number of tourists could visit those areas and could appreciate the scenic beauty of hill areas. Provision of more facilities of transportation would lead to further development of those areas.

In addition to this, I would like to lay emphasis on this fact that facility of drinking water supply is very acute in hill areas. It is a fact. The Hon. Member, who spoke just before me, has rightly said that hills provide water to people living in other areas but the people living in hill areas are experiencing acute shortage of drinking water. The Government, should, therefore, pay special attention towards this problem. Water reservoir and tanks should be built in order to supply water to people in the hour of need.

Besides, I would like to point out that there is an acute lack of communication facilities in hill areas. Telephone facilities are quite inadequate there. I would like to say that telephone facilities should be provided to the people there although Government will face great difficulty in providing this facility. That shortage should be removed and the people of these areas brought at par with the mainstream of the nation. Transport and telephone facilities should be provided to them.

In addition, I would like to make a mention about the industries also. We have set up some industries in Gangtok. In this connection ..

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue your speech next time. Now we will take up Half-an-hour Discussion.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

[Translation]

Per Capita Income

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I have good fortune of raising this discussion when an able Minister like Shri Ajit Panja is there. The question is that all the Hon. Members present here are committed to the Constitution. I have subscribed oath of allegiance to the Constitution and so has Shri Panja. I want to draw your attention to Article 38 :

[English]

“38 (2) The State shall, in particular, strive to minimise the inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.”

[Translation]

If at all there is a curse in India, it is that of the economic disparity.

[English]

Economic disparity is a curse.

[Translation]

Keeping this very aspect in view, I had raised the question. My question was :

[English]

“Will the Minister of Planning be placed to state :

- (a) whether one of the aims of the plans formulated/implemented in the country was to reduce economic disparity;
- (b) the minimum and the maximum per capita average income at the end of the First Five-year Plan and at present;