

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

After all, we have Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of India. We have some fundamental problem and one problem is the solution to the population problem. Another gigantic problem is ensuring universalisation of education. We have not honoured this commitment. So far as Right to Work is concerned, although it has not been accepted as the Fundamental Right, that is what Mr. Thampan Thomas was telling when he compared our country with Libya. These are two different situations. Libya is not to be compared with India. India has so many achievements to its credit. In fact, in the third world, India has surpassed many countries and it can compare itself with the most developed countries of the world. But we have patchy development. Sometimes we have some sectors where you are feudal, where you are totally advanced. There is no comparison. But he was inviting your attention that the tiny country like Libya is committing itself and accepting Right to Work. When you go to Soviet Russia, when you compare Moscow and Leningrad with American cities, sometimes you feel because of the consumerism these are no cities. But when you start understanding the life in Soviet Russia, you will answer to your conscience that it is a better and nice country where three things are guaranteed. Right to Shelter and Right to Employment are there.

[Translation]

In our country a film titled "Roti, Kapda our Makan" was made.

[English]

That is a pathetic picture. I saw people sobbing in the cinema hall. But you can tell them that in the Soviet Russia, for millions of people *Roti*, *Kapada* and *Makan* are guaranteed.

We had committed ourselves to the establishment of a socialist pattern of society. Therefore, I make a strong plea with the Central Government that we must honour this commitment and we must give *Roti*, *Kapada* and *Makan* and we must accept the right of people to work.

17.31 hrs.

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

##### Payment of Wages to Beneficiaries of NREP

MR. CHAIRMAN : We now take up Half-An-Hour Discussion.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Chairman Sir : There was a question on NREP raised in this House. In that, no specific answer was given, although the Minister answered that question. He knows the grass root levels in India through his own experience. So many of us raised so many questions; and therefore we are here to raise questions because we wanted specific answers to specific questions. Merely saying that the State Governments have been asked and advised to take action will not solve the problem. The Government of India has a responsibility in so far as these laudable scheme are concerned and that responsibility must be properly discharged.

As the Minister knows, a substantial reduction in poverty, unemployment and underemployment has been stated as the goal of the successive Plans—starting from the First Plan upto the Seventh Plan. The Sixth Plan wanted that the population below the poverty line should come down, will come down and must come down from 50% to 30%. Apart from this commitment, these very good and laudable schemes like IRDP—which wants endowment of productive assets and NREP—aiming at the creation of additional wage employment opportunities—and another scheme which was found by the Government of India for the hard core rural landless, the RLEGP—which aimed at providing 100 days employment in a year—were launched. These three specific schemes are actively inter-related.

As far as NREP and RLEGP schemes are concerned, they aimed at providing supplementary employment opportunities to those who are presently unemployed or under-employed. But in the long run these schemes will turn out to be grants for sustenance because nobody cares whether they invite people to take employment for a long term and to the needy people for a reasonable period of time.

This aim has not been achieved. It is a specific question. The NREP had to lift 3,000 of the poorest families in every development block above the poverty line by the end of the Sixth Plan. Did this happen? Are there any reliable data? No. Compare the allegations of corruption against the agencies involved in the implementation with the fact that out of the available amount of Rs. 513.49 crores in 1983-84, only an amount of Rs. 390.06 crores was utilised. On the one hand we have corruption and on the other hand we are not utilising funds that are available for NREP. Are we sure that this amount reached the real beneficiaries? That is the question in everybody's mind.

The fact remains that the date regarding the number of category of persons or households to whom employment was provided are not available. Hence the overall impact of the programme cannot be spelled out.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : Do you want to know the employment generation in the 7th Plan period?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I was referring to NREP. Even there corruption is there. IRDP is rotting in a situation of corruption and funds that were available with you were not utilised. You have no data whether the money reached the beneficiaries and whether you have real feedback. I have Government publications here—Yojana, the Annual Report and so many documents. The fact remains that we do not have any data available which is reliable. Another aspect of the dismal situation is that there is no provision for maintaining a roster or other records of the persons whom employment is being provided. The total mandays of employment generated in a year continues to be the only criteria. They draw a programme for the year and they say these are the mandays but there is no roster to check whether you have really employed so many people. In the mean time what happens is that whatever money goes in the rural sector under NREP it creates further does of inflation because when more money is available in the rural sector and there is non-availability of essential commodities it will generate inflation.

IRDP and NREP are essentially two sides of the same coin. IRDP though conceptually a very sound programme this scheme has suffered a great deal because of corruption. There is institutionalised corruption in IRDP. The Hon. Minister may also, be knowing that there are benami transactions as noticed in the case of live-stock. You allow a loan of Rs. 1,500 for a jersey cow and a subsidy of Rs. 1,500. This subsidy goes to the pockets of the bankers, block officers and other rural agencies. The beneficiary never receives Rs. 3000.

According to a study done by Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad one of the main problems of implementation of IRDP was the attitude of the administrator who is only interested in disbursing the loans and subsidies. He does not care to see whether the beneficiary is real or not he goes with the amount and disburses the same because he has his own share.

The hon. Minister known that there are some reliable agencies like RBI, PO and NABARD. All of these three agencies have conducted surveys at the grass root level and they have come to the conclusion that it is a dismal situation at the grass root level. They are fed up with IRDP.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : This entire question is related to NREP. I am not a position give reply about IRDP.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ ; I welcome this intervention by the Minister but IRDP is connected with NREP. I will tell you how. RBI, PO and NABARD are telling you that IRDP has failed and they recommend that the emphasis should be on the rural employment and, therefore, suggest that you shift your resources from IRDP and pump them into NREP and other employment generating schemes. Therefore, they are connected. It is a tragic situation and something needs to be done on an emergency basis, I feel tempted to make some suggestions. I know that the Minister must be knowing many more than these suggestions. I would congratulate you if you would come forward to commit some-

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

thing from the Ministry that you do consider these suggestions.

One is that there is adhocism in all these schemes. It may be IRDP, NREP or TRYSEM. All these schemes have adhocism. Kindly remove this adhocism not by issuing circulars. Let the bureaucrats go and understand the situation at the grassroots level.

Second, organies coordination between these schemes. You were right in saying that this is not a discussion on IRDP. But I am telling you that all these schemes want to improve the quality of life for the rural population. Therefore, there should be some coordination. Ultimately, TRYSEM, IRDP, NREP are all connected together. So, kindly have a coordination. There is no coordination at this time.

Another suggestion would be—I would plead with you and if you give your calm thinking to this problem, it is very easy—at least two schemes, namely, NREP and RLEGP, should be merged immediately. These two schemes are similar. You can merge them and remove the confusion for all the people.

Then, further suggestion would be that minimum wage needs to be raised under NREP. Nowhere in India, except Punjab, is the wage—earner above the poverty line. This is not a guess. This is research. A paper has been published by 'Yojana' four or five months back that throughout India with the wages you pay through NREP, the wage recipients live below the poverty line. It is our duty to get them above the poverty line. So, the minimum wage has to be raised.

Then further suggestion would be, I would plead for instituting a rural employment fund to be contributed by Central and State Governments, nationalised banks, public undertakings and rich farmers. Through that fund, you can generate employment in the rural sector.

Then, I want to say with emphasis that NREP and other employment—generating schemes can hardly succeed unless we undertake wide—ranging land reforms. Already we are late in that. Now we must not waste time to have land reforms.

One figure I will quote to you that even at this moment, 22 per cent of rural house holds do not own any land. How can we improve the quality of their life? They have no land. Marginal farmers tend to become landless because of the problems of belly. So, this 22 per cent can increase further. Therefore, we must have land reforms. Land reforms hold the key to the solution of the problems.

Another suggestion would be to use regional languages also and in mother tongue to say TRYSEM, NREP, IRDP and then the other is very tricky 'RLEGP' and so many things in the regional languages. You explain in mother tongue what is 'TRYSEM'. They must understand.

There is a communication gap. Kindly use electronic media—the Radio and TV—giving a warning to the corrupt officials and all agencies that we are watching you, Parliament is watching, and arousing consciousness among the people who are the beneficiaries that this and that benefit is available under a particular scheme. Radio and Television are not being used properly for this kind of revolution that the Government of India wanted.

Then I give you a difficult task, Hon'ble Minister. Could you simplify the rules and procedures? Our officials make a mockery at the grassroots level on what we decide in the Parliament of India. The rules are so tedious, the procedures are so cumbersome that the beneficiaries do not know what to do. Nobody helps them. So, the rules and procedures have to be simplified for them.

Finally, can you do something to generate a responsive administration? I want that the Government should mean business to bring about a radical change. You could tell in clear terms to the functionaries at different levels that—I am telling you from my heart—you want to tell them that it is not a dole that you are distributing them as a charity. It is the right of the people of India. What the poor unemployed people in the rural areas need is not the money, because they are not engaged in acts of charity, but in the far more important task of encouraging the poor to organize them-

selves and to realise their strength through such programmes and one of the programme is NREP.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : Let them all speak first and then in the end I would speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in principle, no policy could be better than the NREP Policy which was implemented in the States. This was a good scheme for generating employment for the 80 per cent people living in rural areas to save them from starvation and for providing jobs to the unemployed. The hon. Minister is aware that if 10 persons are actually working under an implementing agency, the payment is drawn by him for twenty labourers just by putting fictitious thumb impressions. There is clear cut guidelines of Central Government to make payment in one week to labourers but it is not even made after two weeks. They have to make 10 trips to collect payments, thereby incurring expenditure on their journey. In total the scheme has failed to serve the purpose. The hon. Minister has said "I write to the State Governments". By saying this the responsibility of the Government is not over. If the State Governments do not follow the guidelines, let the grants be stopped. Money is not meant for draining down to the sea. Every poor person has his contribution to it. Will you take steps against the people defrauding the whole bunch of schemes and responsible for their failure.

Will you please dismiss them, howsoever big they may be. Will you create such situation... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not give a lecture put your questions.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : It is not a lecture, Sir. Everything is related directly to the NREP and other

programmes which are going on in the villages.

The hon. Minister himself is fully conversant how the payments are being drawn fictitiously by the contractors on a very large scale and how the things meant for the poor labourers are being sold out in the market. These are all specific questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your questions; do not expand your questions into a speech.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : I would like to know as to how much wheat has so far been given under this scheme. During the last three years how much money has been given to Uttar Pradesh and whether you propose to set up an independent agency for monitoring. The same agency monitors, finances and pay wages of labourers. Will some independent agency be evolved to look into these things. My third question is very important because you have stated in your reply that for monitoring the working of the programme zones have been established to look into the question of payment of wages to labourers on the basis of minimum wages fixed by the Government. For this Central Government has appointed Area Officers. I want to know the details of the zones in Uttar Pradesh, the number of officers appointed and where the physical verification had been done by them. Whether the labourers had really been employed and the minimum wages are being paid to labourers or not.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like clarification on a few points from the hon. Minister. You get the work done under NREP, such as in my constituency primary schools have been built in villages. About 150 such schools have been opened in two years, small irrigation canals have been made in small areas under New Cultivation Programme. Similarly water storage tanks have been made. The schools so built are transferred to the education department. In the same way irrigation schemes, water storage tanks or other schemes such as the irrigation canals made by the irrigation department are transferred to it, other schemes are also transferred to the concerned departments.

[Shri P. Namgyal]

Similarly link roads are transferred to PWD after completion. After that, if there is any natural calamity—as it happens in our area, such as after heavy rainfall the roofs of the school buildings get damaged. Canals and roads were also damaged due to heavy snow-fall. Then the departments to which these have been transferred stress that they don't have any maintenance grant for them. For, they have been made under NREP and transferred to parent departments. The concerned departments do not get the maintenance grant after completion of the schemes from the Central Government or the State Government. So only the roads constructed by them under PWD or created with their own budget get maintenance grant. The schemes created under NREP do not get maintenance grant. Are you thinking of giving maintenance grant to them? Either you should give extra money to these parent departments or these have been lying useless and will remain as it is.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say at the outset that this is basically a Central Government scheme and it is the responsibility of the Centre to implement it. On the contrary you want the State to implement it on its own. I was going through the reply given by you, I find that you have expressed some sort of helplessness in implementing the scheme. Now, suppose I give a hundred rupee note to a person and ask him to deliver it to some 'X' person. Now, I am not sure that this hundred rupee note will reach to the person whom I actually wanted to give. And I do not have power to take action against a person in case he does not give it to the person whom I intended to give. But that does not mean that he will be deprived of that money. So, there are ways to implement the schemes. Just writing a particular scheme on a piece of paper will not do. I think you should make the scheme statutory. If you will make a scheme statutory, then you will appoint your own Central agency in the State to see that it is properly implemented. Thus you can take action in case there is any violation of the rule. At the same time you can keep a check that the maximum amount, if not hundred per cent, reaches to

the person who is entitled to get it. On the contrary, I find that you just draw a cyclo-styled scheme, send to the State Government, give them the money and then simply relax by saying that now it is up to the State Government to implement it. This in my opinion is just a criminal act.

I would like to know from you as to how do you implement a scheme? If the State Government is not in a position to implement the scheme and it is also not being implemented by your subordinate officials or by a Contractor at local level who does not even pay wages to the labourers, in your present set up, what action can you take in such a situation? If you are taking any action in case such a scheme is not implemented by the Government officials or by the contractors, or whom does the responsibility lie and against whom do you take action?

Secondly, I would like to mention a very delicate thing. Now, Congress (I) Party is at the Centre. The Central Government prepares certain schemes which are to be implemented by the State Governments. There are States which are ruled by non-Congress parties. Certain States, just because they belong to other political parties, are specifically not interested in implementing the schemes because they know that the credit will go to the Central Government and thereby to the Congress (I) Party. In such cases, what sort of action are you contemplating? Not only are they not interested in doing the job and implementing the scheme successfully for obvious reasons, but they are also agitating and instigating people to create violence against our Ministers. The obvious reason is that if the Loan Melas become successful, the credit would go to the Congress (I) and the fate of their parties is sealed. I suggest that you should appoint central government agencies for the purpose of implementing these schemes. If a State Government for obvious political reasons does not implement a scheme, what will be the hon. Minister's reaction and what action is he contemplating against the defaulters?

Secondly, whenever you want to make an assessment with respect to the implementation of schemes such as the NREP, by the State Governments, how do you do it? Do you send your own Central team to

know how the States are implementing the scheme? Or do you ask for a report from the State Governments? You may kindly give a specific answer whether you ask the State Governments to give such assessment reports or you send your own teams. If you are following the practice of eliciting the assessment reports from the State Governments, also please let us know whether in future you will not trust the State Governments and instead, you will send your own team for this purpose.

18.00 hrs.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put only questions. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the guidelines issued for the works under NREP and RLEGP would be executed to create permanent asset? The intention of the Government of providing more employment through NREP and RLEGP would not be defeated if we restrict that these works would be considered as permanent because for creating a permanent asset more material component is required. So, both are what I feel is contradictory.

In this connection I must convey my gratitude to the hon. Minister who has taken personal interest for constituting district level Committees by taking one of the M.P. of a particular district as the Chairman.

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** We are not the Chairmen.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** hon. friend Prof. Soz, I am just enquiring from him. He has taken personal interest, for making an M.P. of a particular district as the Chairman of a District Level Committee. It would visit the places and see whether they are utilising the grains properly which are being allotted under the NREP and RLEGP schemes.

It is a very good proposal. They will also enquire into the rate at which grains are allotted to the beneficiaries.

May I know from the hon. Minister how many States and Union Territories have constituted these Committees at the District Level according to the guidelines issued by his Ministry and also what is the outcome where such Committees have been constituted? What is the reaction of the

Government on the States or Union Territories which have not yet constituted such Committees.

With these words, I thank you.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) :** Sir, whatever hon. Members from Kashmir, Mr. Soz has said is true to a great extent. But the hon. member must keep one thing in mind. It is my humble request to keep this point in view. What is the structure of present centre-State relationship? According to the existing arrangements and structure of centre-state relation and the type of administrative framework, we have no other alternative except to rely on State machinery and get the implementation done by it. We will have to get our programmes implemented through State machinery. If we establish implementation machinery of our own on State level, then all the money we spend, will be spent on creating machinery itself in every State. We cannot establish our machinery in the State due to our financial constraints. We will have to depend on the State machinery, no matter Congress or Non-Congress Government is ruling there. We will have to depend on them.

If you want us to make some corporation for the implementation of NREP and RLEGP, we will have to raise the infrastructure and appoint the engineers and overseers for the purpose.

Who will make measurement of land, who will acquire the land? When these things come across to us, they will create problem for us.

The main purpose of NREP and RLEGP is to generate employment and also to raise infra-structure in the villages so that the village life may be improved as also to provide work to the people who are under employed and are below Poverty line and otherwise able to do some work.

You have raised a point that there has been no progress. This not the case. If you want to see the progress and you have said something about NABARD. Programme

[Shri Ramanand Yadav]

Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission, R.B.I. and a reputed Economic Organisation of Southern India have reported that the work is increasing. If you want, I may tell you as to how much work has been done under NREP in the Seventh Five Year Plan as well as the Sixth Five Year Plan. I have figure of mandays generated during the seventh five year plan as also the date pertaining to the years 1980-81, 81-82, 1982-83, 83-84 and 84-85. Complete data is available with me as to how much Central allocation was made, how much amount was released, how much expenditure was incurred and how many mandays created in 1985-86, 86-87 and 87-88. It will take much time if I read it out year-wise. But all this data is with me. But so far as the progress and the organisation, as mentioned by you, is concerned, they have reported that people have been provided employment in the villages and if poor people had not been provided work, unemployment would have increased further.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I have said about I.R.D.P.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : I have not come prepared on I.R.D.P. and this question is not related to it. Of course, I should say slight R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P. are related as their work is of similar nature. If you should like to have some information on these two, we will certainly give it to you. It will not good on any part if I spoke orally on I.R.D.P. as I have not come prepared.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I.R.D.P.'s funds should be transferred to N.R.E.P.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : You have raised the point of fund transfer. We have to consider the objective of I.R.D.P. before its fund transfer as their objectives are not similar. We do not create infrastructures through it. We select the people below the poverty line. They are given an asset fund and subsidy from the government while banks provide loans. An asset is created out of time. This asset helps them in earning a livelihood, producing something daily and selling the produce in the market. In this way they make gradual progress and rise above the poverty line. If he fails in his effort we try to give him another asset.

Its objective is to tackle unemployment in villages by generating maximum employment for people over there. For people who cannot be mobile or go outside we create an infrastructure so that life in the fields of commerce and trade could be better there. More facilities like schools can be available for which funds are given under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. Funds are also given for laying roads, making ponds, raising the level of water in wells and social forestry. This means that its programmes are different from those of I.R.D.P. It is true that the beneficiaries of I.R.D.P. also live in villages.

Our hon. members are quite aware of the problems of villages and take an interest in solving them. I agree that there are shortcomings. But we have to function within them. If this programme is discontinued poor people would be affected most. There are some people who create a lot of problems. We will have to remove these problems. But we cannot do so unless we get the support of the masses. I shall go to the extent of saying that without support we cannot even remove 50% of the bottlenecks, what to talk of 100%.

[English]

Abolish private property, re-construct human beings, human material which is available in our country. But that must be constructed first to root out corruption.

[Translation]

Private property is at the root of all evils. Corruption will remain as long as there is a desire to acquire private property. If anyone has a need or desire to buy a motorcar he will adopt all means to acquire it.

We all made many programmes and held seminars also. Lot of benefits were also derived from them. Everyone welcomed the point of human resources which was brought up by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This was a good step. The basic point is to remove corruption. We will have to consider it very carefully.

The hon. member spoke about D.R.D.A. It is true that regular sittings of state-level committees are not held. The Secretary is their chairman. Projects drawn up by the D.R.D.A. to be completed in a year are

not completed within the same year. Money allocated for the project is not fully utilized. Projects made in haste leave a lot to be desired. He should, first of all, find out which facility is needed most in the village? Whether water, schools, means of irrigation or a community hall facility is needed? After we know this, work should be taken up by turn in villages. Our hon. member is also a member of this D.R.D.A. There are other M.P.s, M.L.A.s and officials also in it. Everyone meets for the sittings. I have written letters to a number of them asking them to hold meetings of the D.R.D.A. and give sufficient time for M.P.s to reach there. When parliament is in session dates for meetings should be conveniently be fixed on Saturdays and Sundays which are holidays for Parliament. If you keep them on Fridays they will not be able to attend in the meeting after attending Parliament sitting and if kept on Mondays they will not be able to attend. So they need plenty of time. We ask you to consider all these things so that they can attend. If a problem arises I go there personally and see to it.

[English]

Can I dismiss a government duly elected and established in a State?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : You can rectify the mistakes.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Do you want me that I should stop this fund?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : You can do a separate assessment at your own.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : We do that. We have made a proforma and even asked them to submit a report after every 15 days, 1 month and 3 months. We ask for the report but the report does not come. The area officers, who are high-ranking officers of the state, keep writing regularly.

On the subject of minimum wages, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta who is the M.P. from Andaman & Nicobar Islands has written in a letter that minimum wages are not given in the Andamans. Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt the M.P. from Chamoli has also written that minimum wages are not being given. There are other M.P.s also who are from trade Unions. We keep getting com-

plaints from M.P.s. We regularly write to state governments to implement it. The other day I spoke on the minimum wage issue. If you want to know I can tell you which states are not paying minimum wages. Minimum wages are fixed by the state government and when it fixes it why not give it. Equal minimum wages for equal work fixed by the state government is not being given. The rate fixed by the P.W.D. for digging of earth should also apply to N.R.E.P. But many state governments are not doing this and are giving a lesser amount. There is one rate for the N.R.E.P. and another for the P.W.D. It has not even de-notified. We regularly write that it is a Supreme Court judgement. The judgement was passed by Justice Mitra and Justice V. Bhagwati and we have sent a copy of the judgement to everyone. Our Secretary has been regularly writing letters; we have been writing. Our hon. Minister Shri Dhillon has written to the Uttar Pradesh and other state governments. Whenever as soon as we get your complaints, we immediately bring it to their notice that we have received a complaint about non-payment of minimum wages, we also point out to them that such and such defects have been pin pointed in D.R.D.A. and our M.P.s could not reach there because of non-receipt of notice by them. We are removing these defects. We are being careful about monitoring. As I said before that although our officers go for monitoring, now we too have started going. From this November-December we had to start computerised monitoring so that we could do the I.R.D.P. monitoring as soon as possible. We gained information through computerisation and it was targeted to start this November. In July next year we will install the computer and you will get whatever information you want on the progress made by N.R.E.P. Whatever information you desire such as how much of monitoring has been done, how many miles of road has been laid, in what way it has been laid, how much of the portion has been completed or not been completed, what is the quality...

SHRI SHANTRAM NAIK : Who will feed information to the computer, the state government or your officials?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : From where will we send people? After all, we will have to rely on the state government.

**DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :** Why are labourers not paid their wages? Is there a lack of funds, deliberate goondaism or a system of commission? A poor man works and is denied payment for his labours for 2 months. Have you done anything about it? Have you made an analysis or survey of the situation as to why the money is not given?

**SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :** Sir, there is no shortage of funds...

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** Shri Yadav comes from the grass-root level and not from the circle of officers. After all the money belongs to the Government of India, it belongs to the masses. If the state governments are at fault you should personally go to make a survey and see what happens at the grass-root level. You should bring about a revolution.

**SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :** Sir, whenever I go I see to myself the on going projects and the complete projects in the rural areas. I take my own decision as to which projects are to be inspected. Whole going round the various sites, I am not swayed away them. I ask them to show me separately the work being undertaken under the N.R.E.F. and R.L.E.G.P. I go through their muster roll in which names of labourers are enrolled. I inspect various work sites where labourers have been engaged. I also enquire as to whether work is not being undertaken through a contractor. We have directed not to entrust the work to a contractor. They have been asked to engage un-employed local labour.

**DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :** Will the hon. Minister form an organisation at local level which could make enquire into the complaints received by it and punish the persons found to be guilty.

[English]

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The Minister need not reply. He is not entitled to ask anything you need not reply to him. Please reply to others.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :** I was telling you that we will computerise the monitoring system which will furnish correct information to some extent. We will impart training. We are spending money on it and

adopting this system after much deliberation, because after every month or quarterly we receive a report stating therein progress made and the number of persons raised above the poverty line under the I.R.D.P. In this way the draw-backs will be removed and district level information can also be made available to you as and when you want. In the first instance we are going to introduce this in the N.R.E.P. It may be noted that the Central Government and the State Governments make matching contribution in the N.R.E.P. but the Central Government provide hundred per cent grants for the work taken up under R.L.E.G.P.

(Interruptions)

The State Governments themselves prepare the project plans for roads etc. under the N.R.E.P., but approval of the Central Government is taken for the road projects under the R.L.E.G.P. There will not be a single instance where any State Government sent any project to the Centre and its money was held up here. This year we have taken strict action. Our officers telephoned to them in April itself asking them to take their money for the work scheduled to be completed in September-October. Now we are waiting and are prepared to release the remaining 25 per cent funds if we receive a report from them that they have done 25 per cent work. You will find that it is not the Congress (I) only but all the Governments are facing the same difficulty. As regards Administration pointed out by you.

[English]

Now, we will have to differentiate between the Congress Government and the administration and also the Minister and the administration. At the moment we are passing through this age. We will have to give a serious thought over it.

[Translation]

We release all the funds and go to States and monitor the works. We reviewed the whole thing by sitting for 6 to 7 hours in the Uttar Pradesh Secretariat. We also visited Gorakhpur district and perhaps we accompanied the hon. Member. There I found at a place that the Harijan Niwas Yojana was not undertaken properly. They had inscribed my name on a stone and wanted to have it inaugurated by me. There I went round every home and found to

myself that the houses were not completed properly. The kitchens were not constructed and bricks were not laid properly. Shri Pandey was with me. I refused to their proposal. I said that I had no interest in getting my name inscribed and I came back. Adjacent to this same quarters for Harijan were under construction. I went there and told them that I would inaugurate it, if the work is found to be fit. I told that a commitment to undertake the work properly is given. I went to the house of an I.R.D.P. beneficiary who has already crossed the poverty line. He has opened a big provision store. He had received money. I asked him as to how much land he had and how many brothers he had. As I asked this question suddenly, he gave a prompt reply to my intext question that he had 10 bighas of agricultural land. I was stunned to hear it. How is it possible that a person possessing 10 bighas of land in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is living below the poverty line. This sort of things also take place and same is the case with other States also. Initially there were a lot of irregularities. But now the percentage has reduced. The representatives have become vigilant now. That is why the percentage of solution of wrong persons for giving loans and wrong roads to be constructed has reduced. We keep vigilance round the clock. The people have also become vigilant. That is why we suggest that if all the work is entrusted to the Panchayat for execution, more than 85% work will be done properly. If they will not do, the Panchayat head man (Mukhiya) and other people in the village committees will throw them out. Therefore, the work should be executed through Panchayats.

Hon. Member from Orissa, Shri Jena told about the chairman of the D.R.D.A. It has always been my effort not to entrust the work to the officialdom, because more the officialdom, less the work. If the chairman of the D.R.D.A. is chosen from among voluntary organisations and non-officials some work can be done. I have a vast experience about it. At that time I was an M.L.A. and was not holding any ministerial post. I can say it with my own experiences that the chairman of D.R.D.A. used to sit in a raised chair, commanding the show. Since we are old workers, we can serve the people sitting anywhere. But

my other M.L.A. colleagues did object D.R.D.A. chairman's occupying a high position. The work was also not being done timely. We used to write to them to take some action in this regard. An hon. Member, Shri Namgyal had desired to know and what are we doing for maintenance of the assets created. We allocated 10 per cent N.R.E.P. Fund for maintenance. We construct Kuchha roads only and not pucca roads. The local officers divert the R.L.E.G.P. funds and use it in construction of pucca roads and it is our aim to create durable assets. We have issued guidelines that villages with 1500 population in the rural areas should be connected with nearest road, no matter whether it is a kuchha road or metalled road. Villages with 1500 or more population will be connected with roads, but villages with 1500 population will be connected with pitch roads. Though that much funds are not available, yet the State Governments release funds to the P.W.D. The P.W.D. have their own maintenance funds which is more than that of ours. Till such time this amount will lie with the N.R.E.P.

Recently we have started Engineering Department under the Rural Development Department. It creates permanent structure. We have also provided 10 per cent maintenance grants with which maintenance work will be undertaken by it.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I was submitting that the Department of Education constructed schools which subsequently were transferred to them per month. But the Department of Education says that they have no maintenance grant with them. There are several such instances with us. The same is the case with roads and water tanks under irrigation. Similarly the Department of Irrigation constructed small canals. Directives are required to be issued above provision of this 10 per cent for maintenance. It is being said in my State that this has been created under the N.R.E.P. and transferred to them and there is no maintenance grant. Therefore, it may be made clear to them that 10 per cent should be given for maintenance.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Actually the thing is like this that if the scheme or road comes under N.R.E.P. under Rural Development Deptt. 10 per cent of this

[Shri Ramanand Yadav]

fund should be utilised on maintenance. The moment it is taken over by the Department of Education, it becomes their responsibility to maintain it. Till such time it is under the Department of Rural Development, the Department is responsible for 10 per cent maintenance cost.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I want you to issue instructions in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This cannot be a question and answer session. So, you must limit your questions.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : You may please issue instructions to the State Government that once it is transferred to them it is their baby. There is a need to issue this instruction so that it is reflected in the State Budget. It is not done now.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : It is all right.

[English]

It is their duty, it is their baby and they should maintain it.

[Translation]

Shri Soz raised the point of regional language. We conduct monthly review in our department. All section-heads sit together and conduct the review. We have prepared guidelines in regional languages and issued to them for the sake of awareness. We ask the State Governments to publish the guidelines of N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. in regional languages and also to publish the guidelines of I.R.D.P. As far as possible we try to print more and more copies in regional languages, but are not able to do so and find difficulty in it. The State Governments should meet the expenditure on printing in regional languages from that fund. There is no ban on it that this type of literature should not be published in regional languages. One more thing Mr. Soz has said regarding land reforms when I was the member of Bihar Assembly in 1952, abolition of Zamindari System was first introduced in our state. Discussion continued for 11 days in the assembly and I am a committed person for it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Land reforms was first introduced in Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : No, it was first introduced in our state. We passed the bill of abolition of Zamindari System.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : When did it happen ?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : In 1952-53.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Before this it was done in our area Sheikh Abdullah got the maximum credit for revolutionary land reforms. Land to the tiller without compensation to the land-lord.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Land to the tiller would have been done in your area.

[English]

But our's is the first State in India to abolish Zamindari System.

[Translation]

We first abolished the empire of the Zamindars and then the other States followed us. We know very well that we will be able to distribute the surplus land among the poor which will improve their economic condition. If we give one acre land or one *Bigha* land or ten *Katte* land to somebody, that will be very beneficial to him. Even half an acre will be quite good, for, he thinks that it is his land and he can grow vegetables on it. In our own State of Bihar land is very fertile. Farmers possessing one acre of land even keep a pair of bullocks to fill it and take three crops in a year, if it is near the city he might have constructed his own house also. Thus the land is important for him in making prosperous. Intensive small holdings better country, big holdings better cultivation.

Sir, it is our effort that it should work smoothly. In the beginning it was quite difficult to get loan. Now we have waived the requirement of producing any witness for it. We only want its benefit to reach the poor. We are talking about beneficiary organisations. We wish that there should be an organisation of the villagers and the

work should be done through them whether it is of I.R.D.P. or N.R.E.P or R.L.E.G.P. For this reason we keep on informing the State governments to organise Beneficiary organisations and Awareness Councils. But as it has not been done till now so there is some problem.

It is written in the article of our constitution that village would be the lowest unit of administration. Gandhiji gave the slogan of village independence and fought for independence to make the villages strong and self-sufficient. He wished the villages to be strong to the extent of facing the foreign powers while in constitution the village is considered to be the lowest unit.

We have already visited twice or thrice, I held a meeting of Chief Ministers at my level and told them to extend more powers to the village Panchayats. Discussion is scheduled to be held for the States where it has not been extended.

As you know very few people want to retire from the power they possess. In spite of all this, I hope we will be able to strengthen the Panchayats and get all the programmes implemented by Panchayat system. When we do this, we will succeed

80 percent at least if not 100 percent and these programmes will be better implemented. We want the administration to finish the work by doing more and more work.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the hon. Minister wants to give a more extensive reply, why can't he send a written reply to all these members ?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : OK. Thank You.

[Translation]

I will send the reply one by one. I have noted all the points.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday at 11 a.m.

18.38 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 7, 1987/ Agrahayana 16, 1909 (Saka)*