

[Shri Janak Raj Gupta]

Government have made enough arrangements which have improved the situation but as far as drinking water and Irrigation is concerned, much still remains to be done. We have seen that in some of the hill areas and plain areas, there is no water at all. It is not that there is scarcity of water ; rivers are there. What is needed is utilising the river waters through channels. It is not only true of Jammu and Kashmir but of other places also where the problem could be solved, to a large extent by constructing channels. The hon. Agriculture Minister has said that he proposes to constitute a committee which will fix the norms. I would like the farmers to be exempted from repayment of *taccavi* loans, or other loans on account of irrigation etc. also from payment of land revenue. It is often observed that whenever such a thing happens due to famine, it is temporarily suspended, but later on it is realised by charging excessive rate of interest. The farmer is shattered. It is no relief. It rather becomes a burden in the long run. There are other factors also, like loans from the co operative or other sources. I would request the hon. Minister Buta Singhji that the norms fixed by the committee should be made permanent and whenever there is a natural calamity, the farmers should automatically get the relief so that they could face it. Under the IRDP, the farmer should get work so that he could feed his children. Besides this, the most important problem in the hills is that of fodder for cattle. As the people do not have sufficient money, they cannot buy it from outside. You should also think over it so that the problem is solved. This problem is an annual feature and has become a permanent phenomenon and is not a temporary problem. Floods and drought strike every year and, therefore, thought should be given to solve the problem and provide relief to the farmers. I have full faith that Sardar Sahib would help us. Punjab is our neighbouring State and whenever we were in need they helped us. I would be grateful to the hon. Minister if he pays a visit to our area, as suggested by Prof. Soz and myself, and see for himself the drought condition there. Earlier also he has been visiting and has

been helping us but now he should visit our State and see the extensive damage suffered by the farmers due to famine and floods. The hon. Minister has assured the House that he is in favour of my Resolution. In view of this assurance, I do not press my Resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Daga, you have moved your amendment. Are you going to withdraw it ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : There is no question of withdrawing it. The hon. Member wants to withdraw his own resolution. If he is not prepared, then I am not prepared. Therefore, I won't press for my amendment. I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

*The amendment was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA : Sir, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

*The Resolution was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

RESOLUTION RE : DEVELOPMENT
OF HILL AREAS

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we shall take up the Resolution. Shri Harish Rawat may move.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :
Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House is of the opinion that in order to develop hill areas of the country, the Union Government should undertake to bear the entire expenditure for their development and —

- (a) set up hill area development cells in concerned Ministries ;
- (b) set up electronics industries in such areas only ;

- (c) enhance transport and investment subsidies for setting up of industries beyond a particular altitude ; and
- (d) give grants-in-aid/loans for cultivation of forest land and start schemes for plantation, forestry soil conservation, flood control, animal husbandry, etc. with the assistance of international organisations such as World Bank."

[*Translation*]

Prior to the Fifth Five Year Plan, the approach we had adopted in respect of development of hill areas did not lead to the desired progress in some fields and in some socio-economic groups. Hill areas are there in several States. We can divide them into two parts—(i) States with partly hill areas and (ii) where the entire state is a hill area, such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh or some of the North Eastern States. There are some States which are partly hill areas and partly plain. But all the hill areas, whether they are part of a State or a hill State, have similar problems and the people of those regions have not only similar socio-economic conditions but the socio-cultural conditions also are the same. It is unfortunate that after so many years of independence, we are paying attention to the progress of these areas quite belatedly and, in reality, the work on the progress of these areas started during the Fifth Five Year Plan. Therefore, other parts of the country were already on the path of the progress when the development of these areas started.

There are many hon. Members from Rajasthan and at other areas of the country and they have their own problems. They have desert areas, tribal areas but their problems cannot be compared with those of the hill areas. Those areas have many modes of transport and means of communications but the hill areas woefully lack these facilities even today. In the name of transport facilities, only road transport is available. Before independence, the Britishers developed train services for

their own comfort for places like Shimla and Darjeeling but in most of the hill areas in the country the train services are just nominal, which could have otherwise been a medium of our progress and socio-economic development. But they are not available even now. The situation with regard to train services in the six hill districts of Uttar Pradesh has not changed or improved since the Britishers left.

In the North Eastern Sector there has been development, especially in the laying of railway tracks. In that connection it can be said that credit goes to the Assam agitation which drew Government's attention to the development of the region. We may or may not agree with the issues of the agitation and the ways adopted to carry it on but it has definitely drawn the attention of the whole country. The problems of North-East could not be realised in other parts because of lack of contact with other parts of the country. It is not only with the country as a whole but also with the hill areas that they do not have any sense of affinity. They have all along been feeling that the desired interest has not been shown in their development. The schemes should be implemented keeping in view the ecology of hills and also their socio-cultural problems. If these problems are not kept in mind and are not studied well and are not implemented in right earnest, we may throw as much money down the drain as we like, but the expected benefit will not accrue to the hill areas. The economy of Hills will have to be interlinked with that of the plains because foodgrains are not cultivated in the hill areas and they have to depend for it on the plains. But, at the same time, the plains have to depend to a large extent on the hill areas. Most of the rivers and rivuletes have their origin in the hills. Their catchment area is also in the hills. If we are not able to properly develop and utilize the natural resources and the rivers in the hills, then I feel that the desired development of the plains would not take place, as the economy of the plains is related to the natural resources of the hill areas.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please
continue next time.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
RDHANA POOJAKY) : I beg to lay on
the Table of the House a copy of Notifi-

cation No. 247/85-Customs (Hindi and
English versions) published in Gazette
of India dated the 2nd August, 1985 to-
gether with an explanatory note seeking
to reduce the export duty on Coffee from
Rupees 415 to Rupees 300 per quintal,
under Section 159 of the Customs Act,
1962 [Placed in Library. See No LT
1252/85].

18.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August
5, 1985/Sravana 14, 1907 (saka)*
