

so. I can really understand that the Conference of District Magistrates could only have been called with the full knowledge and concurrence of the State Governments. The Hon. Minister was good enough to say about that. I have some familiarity with the administration. So, I would not say like that. As I see, it will take me more into the details of things. So, I would not like to go into all these other matter, I leave it over till the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations are finalised.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars) : Sir, many of the State Chief Ministers are not finding it easy to get appointments with the Ministers here. It is very difficult...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a question regarding Government. You are asking the clarification. It pertains to a resolution of a private Member. You are not entitled to that.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Sir, I feel that the purpose I had in mind when I had moved this Resolution, to my mind, has been served because practically every speaker brought out points in regard to Centre-State Relations which worried him and he put forward some remedies also. This was the objective. This is a matter which causes concern and therefore it should be discussed and thought over with a view to ensuring that federalism underlying our Constitution functions in a more meaningful way.

Though I would withdraw my Resolution willingly—because the Hon. Minister says that this matter is going to be discussed again in the light of the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations—but I would also request the Hon. Minister also to withdraw his recommendation that this Resolution should be opposed.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : If you withdraw your Resolution, I will also do the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shantaram Naik had moved two amendments to the Resolution on 30.3.88. But I find that he is not present in the House. So, I shall now put the amendments to the vote of the House.

*Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 were put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Patelji, are you prepared to withdraw your Resolution as promised ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Yes, Sir. I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution, namely :

“This House expresses its deep concern over the present Centre State relations and demands their early restructuring so that federalism underlying our Constitution is made more meaningful.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to withdraw the Resolution, namely;

This House expresses its deep concern over the present Centre State relations and demands their early restructuring so that federalism underlying our Constitution is made more meaningful.”

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Sir, I withdraw the Resolution.

RESOLUTION RE : IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW 20-POINT PROGRAMME

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We now go to the next item Shri Somnath Rath to move his Resolution on Implementation of New 20-Point Programme.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (*Aska*) : Sir, I beg to move :

“This House, while expressing its appreciation of the New 20-Point Programme initiated by the Government, notes that implementation of

the poverty alleviation programmes has not been fully satisfactory and urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for effective implementation thereof."

Removal of poverty and removal of unemployment are the main thrust of this Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Our Prime Minister has declared war against poverty. The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi dedicated her life to people's welfare and national unity—Bank nationalisation, abolition of Privy Purses, help to the poor. Now eradication of poverty is our topmost priority. Funds for implementation of the 20-Point Programme have been increased to Rs. 2000 crores. The 20-Point Economic Programme had been prepared under the active guidance of our Prime Minister and laid on the Table of this House by the Minister for Programme Implementation on 20th August, 1986. It is based upon the experience gained and with an extension to fight soverty, raising of production and productivity, reduction of income inequalities, removal of social and economic disparities. To improve the quality of life of the people is the aim of the new 20-Point Economic Programme. As per the last census, 73 per cent of the youth of our population, that is, more than 271 million, live in rural areas. The 20-Point Economic Programme intends to give them employment, including self-employment. Credit with subsidy is to be provided to the rural poor and also to the persons depending on agriculture. The unorganized labour in our country constitutes 90 per cent. 10 per cent are in the organised sector; they have got their trade union movement; they can bargain with the employer and achieve their demand. But the 90 per cent of the unorganized labour which constitutes the agricultural labour also living in the rural areas have no bargaining power and they do not get even the minimum wages and suffer very much. Our Prime Minister, is the first person who has given a clarion call not only in our country but before the world body, at Geneva, that the problem of the unorganized labour should be taken note of. The agricultural labour in our country gets employment only during the season, for a few months, and as such in the loan months, they should be provided work through khadi and village industries.

These are some of the methods the main problems through which poverty can be eradicated.

The Seventh Five Year Plan has fixed a target to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty line in rural areas from 39.9 per cent at the beginning of the Plan that is, about 222.2 million to 28.2 per cent in 1989-90 and five per cent by the turn of the century that is, by the year 2000. What is essential to ensure is that one or the other of the entire poverty programme should reach at least each family in rural areas and it must be implemented in the right earnest. The fact remains that 20 Point Programme has enhanced and helped many million families in our country. Their standard of living has increased. Employment has been provided both in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas. Under the programme of Income Generation, assets are inducted by supplying working capital and providing institutional credit with subsidy. The question is whether the beneficiaries are getting the credit in time and whether the banks are advancing the credit in time and whether the credit including the subsidy reaches to the people and is utilised for the purpose for which it is given. Complaints have been received, that banks do not give the credit facilities in time. Subsidies given by the Government through the district authorities and other bodies remain in the bank for years together and they invest that subsidy by way of giving loans to rich people and thus earn profit. In order to gain undue advantage out of the subsidy amount of the poor people, they do not advance the loans with subsidy in time and also do not advance loans in instalments as envisaged. Thus programmes are not implemented in its right perspective.

Take for instance, the self-employment of the urban educated and also the rural educated. Government has given enough money. It has provided credit with subsidy Rs. 25,000 for matriculates who are unemployed and about Rs. 40,000 to those who hold degrees. But which is the agency that selects the beneficiaries? At the block level, the agency is the BDO and representative of the bank. Sir, you will not be surprised to learn that when it goes to district level, it is being changed. At the district level, who are the persons of the

so-called Task Force? It is the collector of the district, the General Manager, DIC, again the bank representatives. But the peoples' representatives are not involved. They select the beneficiaries. MPs are made the President of these DICs; but they have nothing to do with Selection of beneficiaries.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) :  
Not everywhere, not in our State.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : If it is not in your State, you are happy. It is done in Orissa. When the Finance Minister Mr. Faleiro went there it was represented to him. In Orissa MPs happen to be Presidents of these DICs and the Collectors happen to be the Chairmen. The credit or the loan with subsidy given to the beneficiaries are determined by the Task Force where the people's representatives have nothing to do. Some MLAs are also Members of the DICs.

This attitude must change. They say that it is directed by the Reserve Bank that the politicians such as MPs and MLAs should not be involved. It is strange. There should be accountability of bureaucrats to the people and, to the people's representatives. Unless there is accountability of the bureaucrats to the people's representatives and legislature how can this programme be implemented in the right earnest. There must be supervising agency involving people's representatives.

I will give an instance. In Orissa in each districts a Vigilance Committee has been formed with an M.P. as Chairman to enquire and report, to take action against misutilisation of grains meant for the poverty alleviation schemes. Fortunately or unfortunately I happened to be the President of the Ganjam District Vigilance Committee. The statistics given by the Programme Implementation Ministry reveal that everything is very good and the results are satisfactory.

Under the Indira Awas Scheme, grains are allotted for construction of the houses for poor people. In the Vigilance Committee in Orissa an MP happens to be the Chairman, there is an MLA, a representative of the Chairman of the Block and the

Additional DRDO who is of the rank of an ADM as the Secretary. There are two engineers also. We went to the spot, verified one Indira Awas Scheme and we found that the grains have not been given to the beneficiaries. The scheme provides that the beneficiaries should get the grains for construction of houses meant for them. All the grains have been misappropriated. We gave a report to the Collector of Ganjam district in Orissa. The Collector did not act upon the report; but forwarded to the SDO for verification.

How can one expect that when a Committee which is formed by notification in the Gazette under the Chairmanship of an MP with the people's representatives, MLA and Panchayat Samiti Chairman as members gives a report that there is misutilisation and misappropriation of grains and no action is taken on that report, how best these programmes can be implemented?

I say this because in this the 20 Point Programme you will find that monitoring and implementation is one of the points on which the Prime Minister has laid stress. The last point of the 20 Point Programme is 'Responsive Administration'. Our Prime Minister has visited different districts. He has given stress for implementation of the 20 point programme also. He has laid stress on the District Planning. But some district authorities never understand what a district planning is. It is stated that success of any programme however well formulated and well intentioned depends on effective implementation. Monitoring systems have been developed in different States for keeping a watch on the implementation of Plan projects and schemes. Effective monitoring is a means towards identification of areas requiring corrective action to ensure successful implementation of targets assumes considerable significance with the launching of the 20-point programme, 1986. The prime responsibility of monitoring lies with the agencies entrusted with the execution of the programme.

Well, this being the intention, unless the programme it is implemented in right earnest however the Centre may try and however our Prime Minister express his anxiety it will not benefit those for whom it is meant. Grains have been given to some States for poverty alleviation scheme. Some

[Shri Somnath Rath]

States utilised it for other purpose and not for the purpose for which it was meant. It has gone to the consumer in public distribution system by way of selling rice at about Rs. 2 per kg. Implementation sometimes also fails at the grass-root level. So these are the loopholes that should be plugged in order to achieve the real purpose for which this 20-point economic programme is meant.

AN HON. MEMBER : Are you against this Rs. 2 per kg thing ?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I am against certain States diverting the grain meant for poverty alleviation programme to another channel for political gain. I do not mind if the States themselves apply their resources and supply rice at Rs. 2 per kg but let not those States divert the grains given by the Centre for poverty alleviation programme. I object to that. (*Interruptions*)

Centre gives grain and money for the implementation of the poverty alleviation programme. The same should be utilised for that purpose. Let it not be diverted for supply to the consumers in general. Now the success of a programme depends on the earnest implementation based on the co-operation of both States as well as Centre and other institutions like banks and officers at the grass-root level. Importance has been given in 20-point economic programme to irrigation and dry-land farming. Irrigation projects should be completed in time, or else on account of price escalation, the programmes cannot be implemented.

Under the grow more rice scheme, funds have been provided for water harvesting structures dry-land farming. It is a good movement. It will help for growing oilseeds also which are badly required in the country.

Is there any provision to maintain the projects, that is watershed after being constructed. Whether the States will be in a position to maintain them ? So, provision should be made to see that projects are maintained.

Importance has been given in the 20-point programme about land reforms and

land ceiling. In our country, the size of landholding of the large land-holder is about 52 times more than that of the marginal land-holder. According to the 1981 census, 256 million agricultural workers—mostly landless—are living in our country. We should take care of the landless and marginal landholders. The distribution of surplus land should be expedited. Of course, there are many obstacles. Litigation goes on for years in the courts. Unfortunately when the High Court says to maintain status-quo ante, the persons to whom the surplus lands are given, suffer. Those poor people take credit from different banks for development of the land given to them out of ceiling surplus land. They are not only put to a great loss, but also become desperate. They get money from the banks by way of credit. They made the land fit for cultivation. Generally, the landlords do not part with fertile land because there is an option available to them. Naturally, they give away such surplus lands which are not fit for cultivation or dry land. The result is that after the court order the banks proceed against the sureties of these beneficiaries besides, they being deprived of ceiling surplus land. This aspect should be looked into.

To make the implementation of IRDP, NREP and RLEGP more effective, there should be proper planning and supervision at the grassroot level. The raising of income through self-employment should be undertaken with determination. There are complaints about not giving bank credit to the unemployed poor. The banks favour the affluent persons while giving the loans because these people are associated with the block level committees. The banks should be pro-poor. We get figures that so many people are unemployed. But you must see that the persons who get loans, are really unemployed, and they are living below the poverty line and not the children of affluent persons.

Money taken by them from banks is being utilised for the trade of their parents. That should also be looked into. To gear up the administrative structure for better implementation is the prime need. The Seventh Plan aims to generate employment and to reduce the poverty ratio to 25 per cent. The Eighth Plan is going to be framed.

The thinking is to reduce the unemployment and to create more jobs.

Coming to the new education policy, huge amounts are given to the different States and to the universities to educate people and to remove illiteracy. Pardon me if I say that many universities and many Governments have not either cared to understand the policy in detail or not going to implement it. For example, take my state, Orissa. Though there is a proposal in the Education Policy that 500 colleges will be raised to the status of up as autonomous colleges in the country by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, not a single college has been recommended as yet by Orissa Government and universities and the universities in Orissa are not eager to take the advantage of the benefits and assistance given by the Government of India and the UGC...*(Interruptions)*...I am not speaking about your Government. I am speaking about the policy. We are all here for implementation. What is happening in West Bengal? I am talking about Orissa. If I am wrong, I am subject to correction. So, what is needed is that the implementation of the education policy should be supervised. We know that education is in the Concurrent List. In Orissa, about more than 80 per cent of the educational institutions are run by private organisations and about 20 per cent by the Government. There is no provision in UGC for temporary or provisional concurrence of affiliation. The Orissa Government gives either temporary or provisional concurrence to Colleges run by private bodies. The result is that the university also gives affiliations temporarily or provisionally. UGC is not able to assist these Colleges because of conditional affiliations. The same case is with Bihar also. So, in both the States, the private Colleges are given provisional or temporary concurrence and universities temporary or provisional affiliations. Thereby those private Colleges are deprived of the benefit given by the Government of India and UGC. The States are unable to give sufficient assistance to these institutions. They stand on the way of developing those Colleges, deprive them of getting the facilities offered under the scheme. The Secretary of the State in Orissa and the Education Department of Orissa Government has peculiar view of new education policy and is more royal than the King. If the man who is the Head of the policy imple-

mentation is not able to understand not prepared to discuss and extend ideas, even with people's representative, and do not treat them properly when they discuss, there can be no effective implementation.

17.00 hrs.

How can one imagine that these programmes will be implemented if there is no rapport between the peoples' representatives and the administration? In Berhampore University in Orissa, an MLA went and talked to a clerk to get some information and the Administrator punished the clerk simply because he had talked to the MLA. In spite of their privilege to get information and interact with the bureaucrats, MPs and M.L As should not be at the mercy of the bureaucrats. They do not get that much respect, that much information necessary to discharge their duties as M.Ps and M L As. It is obligatory.

Since education is in the Concurrent List, the Government of India should insist on all the State Governments to implement the new Education Policy in right earnest. It seems, officers from the U.G.C. went and had a discussion with the West Bengal Government. Unless there is a discussion, there is an understanding, these programmes cannot be implemented in their true scene.

The 10-Point programme of 1967—Garibi Hatao—, the 20-Point Programme of 1975 and the new 20-Point Programme are all running through a common thread of programmes aiming at eradication of poverty and unemployment. The programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Command Area Development (CAD), Self-Employment and Training to the Urban Poor (SETUP), Massive Programme of Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers (MPASMF) are in addition to the general programmes of development. The 20-Point Programme is a special action plan to promote social justice and economic development. The new 20-Point Programme has laid stress on taking the benefit of development straight to the weaker sections and the rural poor and under-privileged groups in urban areas. The stress is laid

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on increased production and to serve the entire population. That is the new 20-Point economic programme. With a view to achieve this, special stress has been laid on agriculture and education also. Timely completion of the projects must be given priority.

There is also a provision for action against smugglers and hoarders. In the new Education policy, there is stress on spread of education, removal of adult illiteracy etc. Our Prime Minister has visited a number of villages in the country and has talked to the common man and has discussed with them to have a first-hand information whether all these programmes are working to their benefit or not, have reached to the intended levels or not throughout the country. Perhaps he has come to the conclusion that these programmes need to be further accelerated and implemented in right earnest.

As I have already stated, this programme has helped many million families to raise their standard of living. The total Plan outlay for the year 1987-88 is Rs. 44690.43 crores and out of that the total 20 Point approved outlay is Rs. 13597.27 crores. We see the magnitude of the outlay. When this is the magnitude of the total approved outlay from the total annual Plan Outlay, are we not to give stress on the real expenditure of this 20-Point Economic Programme to see that the actual beneficiaries are benefited under this programme and not the middleman?

I would like to say a few words about what Shrimati Indira Gandhi said in connection with this programme and I quote :

"Our economy is on the move. It is in our hands to maintain the improvement, to lighten the burden of our millions. This programme is for each one of you, and for the nation which is ours to serve, to cherish and to build. I seek to your hearted cooperation in making the programme a success."

This should be our aim. I would suggest the Hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that he will enlighten us as to what specific steps are going to be taken or have already

been taken or thought of to plug the loopholes, to achieve our aims to the optimum. I don't say, it is not at all satisfactory, it is not fully satisfactory.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Resolution moved :

"This House, while expressing its appreciation of the New 20-Point Programme initiated by the Government notes that implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes has not been fully satisfactory and urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for effective implementation thereof".

Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the 20 point programme. I support the suggestion put forward by the Hon. Member just now for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. The anti-poverty programmes under the 20 point programme about which we hold discussions should benefit the poor. For example, under D.R.D.A., efforts are made to uplift those people who are living below the poverty line. But the things which are supplied to them are spurious and sub-standard. I want to submit in the form of a challenge to the Government that if you want to lift the poor people above the poverty line, you should get these things investigated. The things which are supplied to the poor people in the shape of financial assistance are sub-standard and they are also harassed because they are receiving these benefits. You provide them with cattle and other assets, I want to request that a survey should be conducted to find out whether they have actually been benefitted or not and whether they have come above the poverty line or not. If you confine yourself to sheer paper and do not take an all round or retrospective view of it and blindly accept the figures put in front of you, then you will be closing your eye to the truth. Therefore, you should get this matter investigated. It is a fact that this programme has benefitted some people, for example, some bank officers, middlemen and greedy politicians and they have of course become rich but the poor people who should be the actual beneficiaries of Government assistance have been reduced to bonded labour. I want to challenge you and I can

guarantee that whatever I have submitted is the truth. You can come to my constituency Jahanabad for getting first hand information about the prevailing situation and get an enquiry conducted into this matter. It is true that Government has extended funds for distribution and we have received it but funds have been misused and as a result terrorism is increasing there. So far, only the Hon. Ministers have visited our area, but looking at the seriousness of the situation it seems that perhaps the Hon. Prime Minister may have to go there sometime later as well.

You have mentioned the Indira Housing Scheme. Houses are undoubtedly being constructed under this scheme and I have myself seen these constructions at one or two places. Such houses have been constructed in Vrindaban village which is under Arbal block in my constituency. Some poor people showed me their houses and I saw that the quantity of cement used for construction was negligible and it was entirely done with sand. The bricks used are also of a very poor quality and these are almost mud houses. If we want to fix lintels, these houses will not be able to bear the weight, and we will have to hear that so many hundreds of harijans have died when houses constructed under the Indira Housing Scheme collapsed. This is a fact. When corruption reaches its apex, everyone is affected despite of whatever you may say. This will not let the facts come to light but truth cannot be hidden for long. Therefore, I want that you should visit the site personally and get an enquiry conducted into this matter. Let a Parliamentary Committee be constituted for this purpose which will go to the site look into all the details. I have the relevant documents to prove and the Hon. Minister of Rural Development has himself accepted that the road which was constructed under this scheme and for which Rs. 7 lakhs were spent became unfit for use within 6 months. That road connected Makadampur with Solwan. Now another estimated expenditure of Rs. 7 lakhs is to be incurred for the repair of this road. How can development take place in this way? If you call this a development, then you are deliberately closing your eyes to the truth. Similarly, the road connecting Kurtha and Sammidhama, for the construction of which Rs. 27 lakhs were spent has not become fit for use so far. Is this the sort of develop-

ment which you want? If the head is not functioning properly, how can the arms and legs function? The Collector of that area is himself a thief but our blind Government is unaware of it. If as per your figures, 50 per cent of the poor people have been lifted above the poverty line, then why is terrorism increasing at such a fast pace there? Who are the people being drawn to it? These are the unemployed people who are taking to terrorist activities because Government has not taken any steps to provide them with employment so far. As a consequence, they are taking training in handling rifles and throwing bombs. The main reason behind it is their state of unemployment. Government is silent in the matter of creating employment opportunities for them. As regards land reforms, you are not distributing that land which is under the Government but your attention is towards possession private land.

You are siding with the big land-owners and land-holders I give an example. The Government has a piece of land in Bihar measuring 57 acres which was being ploughed by a big land-holder. I have been fighting for the poor since 1969 so that it may be distributed among them and we have won the case from the High Court and Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has stated in their judgement that the Bihar Government is the owner of the land. When, once the judgement has been given by the court, then what difficulty is there for the Government to get it distributed. But Land Reforms Commissioner of Bihar writes a letter to the collector and asks him if the distribution of the land will lead to any blood-shed, now tell me how the Government shall function that way. How will the land distribution lead to blood shed? There is already blood-shed going on even without it. What is the hitch in distributing the land when a judgement has been given by the court that the land belongs to Bihar Government. It is a matter of great shame. You claim that you are implementing the 20-point programme. I am giving you the photo-stat copy of that letter. Similarly, I have already sent you photo-stat copies of several such letters, but you are paying no attention. If go through this photo-copy, you will come to know the reasons why the land has not been distributed till now,

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The fact is that there is a young I.A.S. Officer, S.D.O. Shri Vyas, who has got the land allotted to Harijans on papers but your legislators do not let the 20-point programme implemented. They are siding with big land holders. At the time of this incident. Sri Dubey was in power. This honest and good officer was removed by the Government on charges of his being a naxalite because he had got the land allotted to the Harijans. While keeping all things before you, I urge upon the Government to get an enquiry conducted in regard to all these things. I request the Government to constitute a committee of the members of this House to look into the matter and punish the guilty whether they belong to the Congress party or any other party. But the legislators belonging to that area are sabotaging the 20-point programme, they do not let the 20-point programme implemented. Please hold such legislator guilty and punish them. If any officer does not implement the programme, file a suit against him, only then the programme may be successfully implemented. You referred to education. Rajiv Gandhiji has gone from village to village and talked about the primary education, which I think, is a must for every person to make him a real man. But killings of the human being are still going on there every day. The number of such killings is generally increasing. There are some villages of the poor which have a population between 300 to 1000 and where no educational facilities have been provided. When these things are raised before the District Education Planning Committee, your legislators assert that these school will not be opened in Harijan villages. D.D.C. has also written a letter to that effect to the Bihar Government maintaining that the legislators do not cooperate in such matters. He desired to be instructed what he should do in such a situation. According to the Government policy, the schools should be opened in the villages of the poor and the backward classes but this could not be done. The Government should look to it how the 20 point programme will be implemented and when the Government will be able to provide the facility of primary education to the people ?

When the legislators of your own party oppose the 20-point programme, how will it be implemented and made successful. The Government should get the veracity of my

words examined and if all that what I have said, is not fund correct, after your investigation, I will leave the membership of this House and I will be no more. We all want that the poor people should come above the poverty line in the true sense of the term and the atmosphere of violence should be restored to normalcy. That's what I want. But the people of your party do not want it. In such a situation nothing could be said. If the Government wants to implement these things, it is should do it honestly and not to make claims or raising the Harijans and the poor above the poverty line. In my view, the Government is not thus helping the poor and the Harijans to come above the poverty line working for a handful of people to make them millionaire and billionaire.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, before taking my seat, I again insist on the investigation of all the things raised by me and I am also addressing a letter to that effect to the Hon. Minister.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) :  
Mr. Chairman, in regard to implementation of 20-point programme in the rural areas, all those things which were envisaged, have not been done. No doubt, Indiraji had achieved success in regard to her programme of 'Garibi Hataoo', but exactly 2 years hence, Rajivji has given a new 20 point programme on 20th August, 1986.

It has been quite unfortunate that our expectations from the implementation of this programme be it in respect of I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P. or R.L.E.G.P, have not been realised. I regret to say that we have reached the place from where we had started but I am the representative of the people. It is not merely for criticism sake but it is a fact. The figures supplied by the States; at least those by the Bihar Government are not correct. This, I am saying out of my experience because I live with the poor people and go from village to village for 5-6 months in a year. I know the way programme is being implemented.

In Bihar, for the last three consecutive years is in 1985, 1986 and 1987-no meeting was held in regard to the 20-point programme particularly in my district. In some other districts it was occasionally

held but in majority of the districts it was not held until we raised our voice in this House against the all claims of the Government that there had been a great progress under the 20 point programme. I assert that nothing has been done in this regard. You may conduct an inquiry in to it when Shri Sukh Ram, the then Minister, had asked me, if it was true, I said that I could give it in writing and he should convey it to the Prime Minister. Then he told the Prime Minister on whose insistance, 20-Point Programme Committees were expeditiously constituted in Bihar. In the beginning the collector used to be all and all in the 20-point committee who could sanction and execute the schemes at his discretion, and even the Bills of expenditure for the entire scheme were passed by him. I have never seen such a gross impropriety that a single individual is entrusted with the overall responsibility of a particulars scheme. It did not happen even under the Mughal rule. Most surprising thing is that he himself audits the accounts. I had already said that the collector was like a Mini Mughal emperor of the district and public representatives had no say. Even today, the situation is more or less the same.

At present a meeting of such Committees is held in 3-4 months. M. Ps and M L A's are its members but M. Ps have no say though the M.L.A have it to some extent because the officers think that he may get them transferred by order from the level of the Chief Minister or they may be posted some where else but what is the power of an M P., what can he do. I have not come here to ventilate the grievances of M.Ps but to tell you that the figures supplied to you in regard to the employment, wages, dwelling units, roads, bridges and bank loans are far away from truth. I will say only this that 5 or 7 M.P.'s who do not belong to Bihar, should be sent to Bihar and they should make a random selection of some villages areas, blocks or some Panchayats and find out if there has been any progress under the 20-point programme. If there has not been any progress, then we are responsible for it, but what can we do in this regard except raising our voice in this House.

I just want to mention if that under the administrative structure built up for the 20-point programme, the Government has

made collector an overall incharge of the programme leaving everything to his discretion but it would not do. The Executive Engineer has also been put under his control. I was stunned to learn about it. I do not know if others also know about it.

Now-a-days more stress is being laid on development of forests in Bihar. It has been decided that 25 per cent of the total funds to be spent on 20 point programme will be spent on development of forests. But in the name of forest development the Forest Officers are amassing abundant wealth. I did not see anywhere that trees have been planted on land. When I enquired from the D.F.O. about the position of actual plantation, he replied that trees had been planted but they had submerged under of flood water. The truth is that trees had not been planted at all. Then where the question of their getting sub-merged under water arise? What can be done in this regard? Unfortunately, a practice has developed under which the figures sent by the district administration are accepted by the State Government and the figures sent by the State are accepted by the Centre. It is, therefore, necessary that there must be some system of monitoring or cross checking to find out the factual position. I have visited several places and saw the things myself. I asked the people working on the roads as to how much money they were getting towards their daily wages. They were getting only Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 whereas they should have been paid Rs. 15 per day. I enquired about it from the collector. He said that he would get this thing enquired into. But no enquiry has been conducted so far. All of them are hand and glove with one another. Now-a-days very peculiar system has been in vogue particularly in Bihar.

The B.L.W., who is the lowest officer at the Blocks level and is not an officer in the real sense of the term is being advanced an amount to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs and he is being asked to take up work like construction of roads and school buildings etc. Some of these officers have fled away to Nepal with the money. These people collude with one another and decide not to take up the work at all so that the question of submitting progress report etc, will not arise at all when they get everything set right at all levels, then why should they take up the botheration of constructing the roads and

[Dr. G. S Rajhans]

school buildings. I would like to bring to your notice that a very peculiar situation has developed in Bihar. Officers at all levels are in collusion with one another. They say that a very fine road had been constructed, but it was washed away by the floods. In this connection I would say emphatically that the roads had not be constructed at all, then how were they washed away by the floods? This is not the position only in one particular state but in all the states. It is a question of tendency and there will be no improvement in the system until and unless full control is brought under the Centre. If poverty alleviation programme is taken up in its right earnest under the 20 point programme, a lot of improvement would take place. I request you to do a small thing that instead of entrusting the work of implementation to States, it may please be kept under the charge of the Central Government. The Railway as well the post offices are also functioning in Bihar and they are functioning very efficiently. Under the 20 point programme the Centre gives 50 per cent aid and in some cases it gives even hundred per cent aid. Then why should not the Central Government take over the charge of its implementation? I, therefore, tell you Sir, that now the opportune time has come when the monitoring system of all the things should be changed and the overall control should be taken over by the Central Government. You are entrusting the whole work of implementation in the hands of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate is not an incarnation of God. I have already stated on a number of occasions that a C.B.I raid was conducted on the residence of a commissioner and cash worth Rs 40 lakhs and some dollars were recovered. That I.A.S officer wandered about from one place to the other for several days and thereafter he was granted anticipatory bail. You must draw a line somewhere. You have plans to raise the people above the poverty line, but in practice it is being confined to paper work only. On the other hand there are other people who are prospering. Thus a new class of officers is coming up in the society. These people have become millionaires. Nobody has a check on the I.A.S. officers. A fresh I.A.S. becomes a District Magistrate after putting in 3 to 4 years service. Some of them get their palatial houses constructed in Patna, Ranchi or Delhi. But there is nobody to look to it whether they have submitted their income tax return or how they

manage to satisfy the Government in this regard. Somebody should exercise a check on them. This is the position in other States also. What I mean to say is that these people did not allow the dream of Indiraji to be realised. There is a saying in Bihar that the 20 point programme runs on L/4. I had said this thing earlier also. L/4 means L divided by 4. They include bureaucrats, engineers, contractors and politicians like me. You will have to stop this loot. If we are not able to stop this loot, the whole programme will remain confined to papers only. We may write anything on the paper. But unless this loot is checked, we cannot run this programme successfully.

What is responsible for the present State of affair in Bihar. It is so because on one side people have nothing to eat and on the other side, a B.D.O. accumulates wealth to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs during the course of his posting. The price of land has not gone up so high in any other part of the country as it is in Bihar. In Patna one square yard of land costs Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. Perhaps, the price of land in Delhi is also the same. It is because the officers the engineers, and the contractors have abundant wealth and they are prepared to pay any amount of money for land.

Finally, I would like to say that the 20 point programme as envisaged by Rajivji is a very good programme, but its monitoring should rest with the Central Government. I want to say this much only.

\*SHRI R. ANNANAMBI (Pollachi) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I feel extremely glad to express my views on the Resolution re : poverty alleviation programmes moved by Hon. Member Shri Somnath Rath.

Besides the 20-point programme, there are many other programmes aimed at alleviating poverty in this country. Despite these, even after 40 years of independence we feel sad that we are not able to eradicate poverty from this country. To tell precisely even after 8 five-year plan and a short-termed rolling plan under the Janata regime, we are still struggling with this poverty problem, we are still unable to lift the millions above the poverty line.

\* Translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

With a view to alleviating poverty, our Hon. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been frequently touring all the countries. His efforts has only brought money from abroad and these have added to our external debt. Every child born in this country has on its head a debt burden of Rs. 2000/-. The main reason for poverty being that our country has lagged behind in production first. We must increase our gross production in the country. We must expand our industrial development. All efforts must be taken to strengthen our economy. These are the ways of alleviating poverty in the country.

In Bombay, Madras, Delhi, Calcutta, Hyderabad and in many other cities we can see the vertical growth of sky-rise buildings. Besides, we can also see the horizontal proliferation of slums just below them. We are unable to do anything to stop the proliferation of the slums. These slums are our proud inheritance. Even the programmes like IRDP, NREP and RLEGP are not able to wipe out poverty. In this context, therefore, Sir, I must welcome this approach to expand the new 20-point economic programme aimed at alleviating poverty.

Sir, I would also like to give certain suggestions in this regard. I hope the Hon. Minister would consider my suggestions. In this country, there are many capitalists like TATA and BIRLA amassing wealth without any control. I feel we must impose a ceiling on wealth accumulation and thereby de-concentrate wealth. By this also, we can wipe out poverty. All these programmes for poverty alleviation can be implemented in the best manner only by the State Governments. I, therefore, recommend to the Hon. Minister to consider the desirability of conferring more powers on the State Governments and also increase the financial assistance provided to the State Governments.

We must also take steps to stamp out fissiparous tendencies among the various sections of the public. Differences should not arise between a Muslim and a Hindu. Differences should not arise between a high caste person and a Scheduled caste individual. We must create awareness among the public so that people correct themselves and do not give cause to communal clashes and riots. We must also weed out administrative

irregularities and check malpractices. The whole administrative structure should be reformed. We must also ensure that there is no discrimination on the basis of sex as enshrined in the constitution. We must also see that imbalances in the developmental processes of rural and urban areas do not continue.

We know, Sir, most of our children hail from poor families. The Government must issue free bus passes to all the poor children in the country. Our leader, Puratchi Thalaivi (Leader Revolutionary) Selvi Jayalalitha has promised to the people that if she is voted to power, she would arrange to issue free bus passes to all the poor children in the State. If the Central Government takes up my suggestion and accordingly issue free bus passes to the poor children all over the country, the whole nation will be grateful to the Central Government.

Sir, at present, reservation is being extended to poor people on the basis of social status. I request the Government to extend this facility to people on the basis of economic conditions also. The Government must take all efforts to set up industries in villages. Thereby the Government can generate employment opportunities which would in turn wipe out poverty. I also like the Government to impart compulsory technical education to all. The Central Government must come forward with a specific educational plan.

I would also like to urge upon the Government to entrust the education sector fully to the State Government free from all Central interference. If education is administered by the State Government without any restrictions from the Central Government, I am certain, the State Governments would be able to fulfill the regional aspirations of the respective state, language and other related clashes would never arise.

I would be failing in my duty if do not allude to the services of our Late Chief Minister Dr. M. G. R. done to the poor people for lifting them above poverty line. He made a plan to construct 30 lakhs houses for the low-income group I do not know what happens to that plan today. The whole scheme is being given twists in different angles.

[Shri R. Annanambi]

Dr. M. G. R. fed the mouths of poor children in Tamil Nadu. Out of 5 crore people in the State, more than 80 lakh children are being benefited under the Nutritious Meals scheme. He fulfilled the dream of Perarignar Anna by building an egalitarian society in Tamil Nadu. He saw god in the smile of the poor as said by Anna. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to chalk out a programme on the same lines of the Nutritious Meal Scheme of Dr. M. G. R. for covering many million poor mouths in the country.

In the same manner, Dr. M. G. R. implemented programmes for distributing free chappals and uniforms to poor children in the State. He also distributed free dhoties and sarees to the poor agricultural labourer. That was how he battled against poverty.

I once again urge upon the Central Government to grant more powers and financial assistance to the State Governments for fighting poverty in the respective States. Poverty should be fought by all concerned regardless of party considerations. With these words, I support the Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I rise to support the motion moved by our Hon. colleague, Shri Somnath Rath. After achieving independence we had taken a vow in this country that until and unless we wipe out every drop of tear from the eyes of every citizen, our mission will not be fulfilled and, till then, we will not be able to reach our goal. It was the declaration of Mahatma Gandhi, it was a vow which was repeated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 15-8-1947 which taking the oath of office on the first Prime Minister of India in both the Houses of Parliament. But that vow, that declaration remains half done till to-day. If we make an assessment of the economic freedom which we had envisaged and the outline of which we had drawn and ask the slum dwellers living in poverty and thatched houses where perinial darkness, sorrows and suffering prevail, as to what rays of freedom are falling on their slums, they will say only one thing in the words of Faiz Ahmed Faiz.

“Ye dag dag ujala, ye shab gujida  
sahar,  
Wo intjar tha jiska, ye wo sahar to  
nahin”.

In order to fulfill this pledge by achieving the economic development of the country, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had announced a 15-point programme followed by a 20-point programme. My Hon. colleague has just now mentioned about the situation in Bihar. Almost same is the case in regard to Madhya Pradesh also, but the situation in Madhya Pradesh is not so worse as that in Bihar. I would certainly like to say that the benefits of your plans for the implementation of the 20 point programme, or for the drought relief programme: do not reach those common citizens of India, who live below the poverty line. On the other hand, these benefits are reaped by the officers, bureaucrats and politicians, Social workers, political workers, members of Panchayats, Sarpanchs, Legislators and Members of Parliament also cannot free themselves from their responsibilities in this regard. But as far as the role of Members of Parliament is concerned, they are helpless. They have neither any control over the district administration nor over the State Government. They can either simply raise their issues in Parliament or write to the Minister concerned and get a reply :

[English]

“I am getting the matter looked into.”

[Translation]

Thereafter only God knows whether any action is taken or not. This is regrettable and I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister through this House to take some steps to change this practice. It was stated in this House that the main aim of the 20-point programme is to give employment. I would like to give an example in this regard. Out of five big industries in my parliamentary constituency, Satna, three cement industries and others belong to the Birlas and the remaining two belong to the Tatas. 75 per cent population of this area consists of Adivasis, Harijans and other backward classes who are victims of poverty, bleak prospects, starvation and diseases. What is regrettable is that not even 5 per

cent people of this area are employed in these industries. After getting elected, I joined this House three years ago and since then I have been raising my voice against the Tatas and the Birlas but they are so powerful that I have not been able to get anything done against them. I, therefore, simply admit my failure. In this connection, I wrote several letters and the reply which I received from the Hon. Minister of Industry, Shri Vengal Raoji and the then Minister of Labour Shri Jagdish Tytler was that 'it is regretted that we have no power to compell the Tatas and the Birlas to give employment to the local people in their factories to remove unemployment there.' When I told these things to my friends there, they said that if my Government was so impotent to compell a capitalist to provide jobs to the poor people, unemployed persons and indigent people of the area concerned and not to bring outsiders there, then I had no right to represent them in the Lok Sabha. I want to ask the Government, have we no such laws under which we can compell any capitalist? Can the Government not enact such a law under which those people whose lands have been acquired for constructing big industries, get jobs in these industries? Are there no class-III or class IV jobs in these industries for those people whose life has become difficult because of the air pollution caused by the dust of cement in the 20 mile area and who have fallen victims of different types of dreaded diseases such as T.B., Cancer etc.? Competitive tests may be held and the merit list prepared for the technical and higher posts but the class-III and class IV jobs must be provided to the local poor people. If the class-III and class-IV posts are not given to the poor people then I would like to warn the Government that the local people will not tolerate this situation any more. They will start an agitation against this state of affairs. I will lead these poor people having flag in my hands and fight against the Tatas and Birlas. None can tolerate this state of affairs in which the Central Government cannot compell industrialists like Birlas and Tatas to provide jobs to the poor people of the area concerned instead of giving jobs to outsiders at the cost of the poor local people. They should not be allowed to make money by exploiting these local people. It amounts to an unjustified and atrocious deed and this will never be tolerated.

Secondly, a reference has been made to the issue of land reforms. I had said earlier also and now I want to repeat that there is a sugar factory in my old Assembly Constituency Sihone near Bhopal. This is owned by a big industrialist who previously used to live in Bombay but now he has become Delhite. This factory was got constructed by the Nawab of Bhopal in his own time for which the precious land of the people had been acquired at the rate of rupees 5 to 10 per acre. It means that the people were given compensation at the rate of Rs. 5 to 10 per acre. About 6-7 thousand acres of land had been acquired for growing sugarcane for the factory. Thereafter, the Nawab of Bhopal sold this factory to the private people. Today, the position is this that out of 7000 acre land, sugarcane is grown in 500 acres and the rest is utilised for growing other crops such as soyabean, wheat etc. In this way, this land is being misused. We have not been able to acquire an inch of land for distribution among the landless even after 15 years of the imposition of the Land Ceiling Act because of the mutual concordance between the bureaucrats and the factory owners. Once I had said that the labourers should be made the owners of this factory by constituting a cooperative society to run this factory. But my proposal was not accepted. As a result thereof the atrocities are continuously being committed in the Sihore sugar factory and the factory owners are playing with the lives of the people. Not even this, the filthy water discharged by this factory flows into the rivers causing pollution and making the people sick after drinking that water. Mr. Chairman I want to speak further.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to conclude?

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: I will continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you conclude your speech within two or three minutes?

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: No. It will take more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you can continue your speech next time.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,  
August, 22, 1988/Sravana 31,  
1910 (Saka)*