

bills of exchange from one place to another, thereby causing loss of revenue to your Department. You have not made any provision to check the leakage so that your Department may get more revenue. I hope that the hon. Minister would give a thought to it to get the leakage plugged so that the Department may get more revenue.

There are several big villages which do not have Post Offices. Post Offices in almost all the Panchayat Headquarters have been opened but there are villages under a Panchayat which have a population of more than 2 to 3 thousand. As per your rules, you open a Post Office for a population of 2,000. There is, therefore, need to open Post Offices in big villages under a Panchayat besides the Post Office at the Headquarters. I hope you would give attention to it and provide better services to the people by regulating postal services. You should take such steps as may increase the efficiency of the postal services. To my mind, the reputation of the postal service in India has been deteriorating day by day. This is because of lack of monitoring due to which people indulge in bungling and take undue advantage of it. We should endeavour to restore the same efficiency in the postal services which was there in the past. The Postal Department is the biggest public utility organisation in the country and it should be streamlined so that it may serve the nation in a better way.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, presented by the hon. Minister of Communications.

Shri Vyas has already spoken a lot on the amending Bill. He is a good orator and there is not much left to say about it. I want to give two or three suggestions. The Postmen used to get uniforms in the past but at present they do not get any uniforms. Therefore, I suggest that the employees who deliver letters should at least be given uniforms so that one can know that they are the employees of the Post Office.

Secondly, I have seen that the Post Offices situated in the rural areas are housed in rented buildings and the owners

of those buildings try to get them vacated after one or two years. I suggest that the hon. Minister of Communications should get the Post Offices housed in their own buildings.

I also request that the letters should reach the people in time. This is my suggestion.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will go to the 'Private Members' Business. Shri Piyus Tiraky.

15.30 hrs.

#### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

##### Twenty-Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduara): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on 'Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 12th November 1986."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 12th November, 1986."

*The motion was adopted*

15.31 hrs.

#### RESOLUTION RE-GROWTH OF RURAL ECONOMY—CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further discussion of the

following Resolution moved by Shri D. N. Reddy on the 25th July, 1986 :—

“In view of the growing disparity between rural and urban incomes, resulting in overcrowding of suburbs of towns and cities, and lack of incentives and opportunities for growth of self-generating rural economy through rural industries, crafts and arts, this House urges upon the Government to allocate rupees ten thousand crores for the growth of rural economy during the Seventh Five Year Plan.”

Shri Mool Chand Daga to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Reddy has presented a very important Resolution. It is very unfortunate that members of the ruling party, affluent people and leaders of the opposition sometimes become so complacent that they fail to see the writing on the wall. That is why this Resolution has been presented.

The villages represent the true India. Mahatma Gandhi had said that India lives in the villages. He had dreamt of an India in which the poor would feel that they are enjoying the same facilities as are available to a king and one day a Harijan girl would become the President of India. This was the feeling of Mahatma Gandhi. Today what do we find in Delhi? Not only in Delhi but also in Bombay, Calcutta or in about 216 big cities which have a population of 1 lakh and above, the population has increased two fold than what it was in 1901. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you live in Bombay which has a population of 16.5 million. In Calcutta there are 17.9 million people... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : It comes to more than 1000 million..... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : If there is any mistake, I may be excused for that. I have facts with me which tell as to which are the cities whose population is increasing. The reason for this has been

mentioned as migration. If I speak anything wrong about the question raised by my friend, then it would be injustice to him. He has more experience and knowledge than I. Recently, there was an article, 'Migration and Development' published in the Financial Express dated 4 October, 1986. I read it for you.

[English]

“In India, the percentage of the urban population in the total has more than doubled between 1901 and 1981. It is currently increasing at a rate of four per cent, as a result of a national increase of population at about two per cent and migration from rural areas at two per cent.

According to World Bank projections, the proportion of urban dwellers in India would be 35.5 per cent by 2000 A.D. By that time, among the largest cities of the World, Greater Bombay with a population of about 17.1 million would rank eighth and closely followed by Calcutta with about 16.7 million as ninth.”

[Translation]

All the facts are given in this Article. The reasons too are given in it as to why the population is increasing?

Thousands of people come from the villages to Delhi and Bombay. They live on pavements in the scorching heat with insufficient clothes on their bodies. They construct their jhuggis which are demolished by the D.D.A. men. On the one hand they are living in the scorching sun with their bare bodies and on the other hand, we are living in airconditioned houses. Such is the situation. The hon. Member who has moved this Resolution has told me that some corrupt officers and political leaders are taking advantage of it and they have established their kingdoms. He has also told me the reason for people's migration from villages to the cities. According to him the laws made by us are not properly implemented. Shri Janardhana Poojary goes to the villages and comes back after saying to the officials that the work of uplifting the poor above the poverty line should be

completed. He should visit Rajasthan and see that whereas loan melas are being organised here, people are reeling under drought there. Though our Government has launched a number of programmes like I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., D.P.A. etc. but no one monitors whether the poor are getting benefit from them or not. Some corrupt bank managers, Tehsildars and B.D.O.'s do not let its benefits reach the people. But you say that you have lifted lakhs of people above the poverty line. The Hon. Minister usually makes statements to this effect but he does not go to the villages to see whether these schemes are being implemented or not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are an experienced person. It is possible that this problem is not there in Maharashtra but when this law was enacted it was stated that the land would belong to the tiller. But today one person tills the land and the other reaps its benefit. It is also not a secret who enjoys the luxuries of life sitting in palaces. We struggled hard but the poor could not get the land.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just started and have not even completed one point and you have rung the bell. Today is the 14th of November, the birthday of Shri Nehru and he always used to stress the village-oriented development. Our Minister for Planning is epitome of tolerance. True to his name he tries to provide succour to everybody. I request him to listen to me patiently.

If you try to know as to why people migrate from villages to the cities, you will find many reasons for it. They do not get full work in the villages and their economic situations is very bad. The poor in the villages do not possess land. Nobody has work; famine like situation prevails everywhere. That is why from farm labourers to the farmers, everybody is migrating to the cities. Even after coming here there is no solution to their problems. Hon. Minister of Planning, I am going to quote certain figures which have been taken from a book published by the Planning Commission and which have been provided by your Ministry. I am reading out these figures from your journal 'Yojna' dated 31st May :—

[English]

"Poor are where they were.

The study shows that the poor constitute 75 per cent of the total households of the village, with 50 per cent living below the poverty line. They are mainly agriculturists owning 1 acre or less of land and a few of them are artisans. The survey revealed that the fruits of development flow more towards the richer sections and non-agricultural sectors."

[Translation]

All these figures have been published by the Planning Commission and have been quoted from the journal 'Yojna'. These have been provided by the officers of the Planning Commission. Do not think that Shri Mool Chand Daga has quoted it on his own. Since the hon. Minister is preoccupied and extends help to all, I thought that I should also assist him. That is why I have quoted figures from the 'Yojna' published from Yojna Bhawan.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Kindly tell the hon. Minister that there is no Railway facility in Rajasthan.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Some points should be left for you to raise. I would like to say that some arrangement should be made to distribute the remaining land on the basis of poverty. Now the question arises as to how to define poverty? Poverty is of different kinds like food poverty, health poverty, educational poverty etc.

[English]

It is stated in an article on *the poverty problem*

"Dr A.M. Khusro, Member Planning Commission proposes a distinction between what he calls 'food poverty' and what he calls health poverty, educational poverty and poverty in respect of the consumption of industrial goods."

[*Translation*]

Sir, you want that there should be discipline in the House but this is lacking in everything. Health facilities are lacking. The Yojna Bhawan is ignoring villages to a great extent. People say that we live in ivory towers and democracy is a luxury. They say that in democracy intellectuals work less and talk more and talk of revolution. There are a lot of things to say. Kindly give me five minutes more. I shall be highly obliged to you. I shall not go in detail. Today is the 14th of November. It is the day when Nehruji shaped the destiny of India. Therefore, at least allow me to speak today. As I was saying, poverty is of different kinds. Poverty is not of one type only. The Reserve Bank of India has stated that the people of India have gone so much below the poverty line that they will become poorer in the days to come. It has given facts to substantiate its contention. I would like to place these facts before you. All right, if you are not giving me time to speak, I shall not place them before you. The Reserve Bank has said in its Report that there has been no development of villages in India. You are not allowing me to quote facts and figures but I apologise for saying this that the Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi had put forward a new 20-Point Programme in August 1986 in which he had said :—

[*English*]

“Eradicating poverty, first item. Raising productivity. Reducing income inequality. Then removing socio-economic disparity; improving the quality of life.

[*Translation*]

He has said all these things in the 20-Point Programme. Today is the birth anniversary of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and our Prime Minister is saying :—

[*English*]

Attack on rural poverty. Strategy for agriculture. Better use of irrigation and power.

[*Translation*]

He has said all these things. Who construct these dams? The engineers construct these dams and all the credit goes to them. Therefore, Sir, I have said all these things. In the Report it has been stated that the rural rich corner the benefit of the subsidy. Two classes have come into existence in the villages—one is rural rich and the other is the poor. The poor are gaining nothing. Only the rural rich and a handful of people of the country have concentrated all the wealth in their hands. They are given maximum coverage on T.V. and in the Press. Only they are happy. There is no use submitting figures till there is unemployment in the villages. The poverty will remain there and it will not be eradicated. The advent of Bata in the market has rendered the cobbler unemployed in the villages. The oilman is unemployed. Where is the “Gram Swaraj” of Mahatma Gandhi. Unless money flows to the villages, the Gram Swaraj of Mahatma Gandhi will not materialise. I have not been able to do justice to the Resolution because you are not giving me time to speak. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have got full facts with me but you are not giving me time to speak. That is why I am not able to do justice to the Resolution.

Sir, the facts available with me show to what extent we are lagging behind. No development of villages has taken place because we have never visited villages. If resolution takes place in the near future, it will start from the villages and only time will tell as to who will bear the consequences.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important resolution which is being discussed on a memorable day like the 14th November, the birthday of the founder and architect of modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

I pay rich tributes to the sacred memory of Panditji. As you know, his dream of India will be fulfilled when all sections of population prosper and all areas prosper.

We have, over the years, made a lot of stride in the field of development. In the field of industrial development the country which was not capable of producing even a pin at the time of achievement of independence, is now one of the front-ranking advanced countries of the world, industrially. So, we have gone that far but, at the same time, many of our areas, particularly the rural areas, have not developed to the extent we expected or to the extent desired.

Our per capita income is increasing and we are marching forward in the field of development. But, at the same time, in many areas people are living below poverty line. This is a contradiction and irony of fate. This kind of disparity is growing in our country and it is a matter of grave concern for us. Planning should be done and our development should be taken up in such a fashion that the benefits thereof reach uniformly and rationally all sections and all areas. That is what is wanted or is wanting and adequate attention should be paid to this aspect.

I need not repeat how India lives in villages. Gandhiji rightly said "India lives in villages" and it is a very popular saying. It is true that today also more than 80% of population lives in the villages. In States like Orissa, it is as high as 91%. Even after 40 years of independence, basic facilities like drinking water are not provided in quite a number of villages. The per capita income is about Rs. 1200/- in the urban areas and it is as low as Rs. 500 in the rural areas. On the health side also, there is a difference in respect of longevity. A situation has arisen when the people of the rural areas feel that they are neglected and as if they are the second class citizens of this country. This is a dangerous trend developing in the country. So, we have to take serious note of it and we have to take remedial steps and corrective measures.

About corrective measures, I would say that just setting apart Rs. 10,000 crores, as demanded in the resolution, for the purpose of rural development, is not enough. Are we not having money? It is stated in the resolution that taking note of growing disparity between the rural and urban areas in respect of development, lot of money should be spent for rural development. But is it

enough? Are we not spending much more than this amount? If you look at the Budget of different Departments and Ministries, the amount kept apart for rural areas in respect of different developmental schemes, jointly taken together, will be more than this amount in Seventh Plan. But that is not the proper thing. In fact when our leaders like Smt. Indira Gandhi felt that the benefits were not reaching the lower strata of the population, the Harijans, the Adivasis, landless labourers, then certain specific programmes under different schemes like the Poverty Alleviation Programme, were thought of. Such programmes have been introduced. Under Poverty Alleviation programme, a lot of money has been provided. This year's allotment has also recorded an increase of 65 per cent over the last year's allotment under the Poverty Alleviation Programme. What is the problem? The question is that the entire amount is not being properly spent. The middle-men and the via-media agencies are being benefited largely out of these programmes. So, proper monitoring has to be ensured. Whosoever is found accused of misappropriation or of faulty implementation, they should be taken to task very seriously and mercilessly.

Again about this, I would say that when we come to the development of rural areas, primarily agricultural sector has to be developed. Agriculture cannot develop without land-reforms. I am pained to say that since 1977 things have not changed in India and seriousness has not been attached. No importance is being given to the implementation of progressive land-reforms in this country. Without land-reforms, without the provision of irrigation, the picture in the rural areas can never change.

I would like to mention another important thing. We have to organise the landless and the agricultural labourers who are unorganised and who do not get payment and other legitimate dues from their owners, landlords. They have to be organised.

Regarding agro-based industries, with anguish, I would like to bring to your notice and to the notice of the Government through you that a lot of industries are coming in some rural areas. But what is happening? When an industry comes in a particular

area, that particular area is developed. It bears a new look with pucca roads, with buildings—sometimes multi-storey buildings. But what happens to the prosperity and the conditions of the original residents of that particular area? They are not benefited by and large in many places. So, in that way development also gets defeated. The purpose of development, is defeated in that way. When a new project comes into being in a rural areas naturally people from other areas come and they get the benefits. Even in respect of some small posts, people are coming to get such jobs. So, we have to see that the areas develops along with the prosperity of the local people on whose sacrifice such projects come up in such areas. Agro-based industries and cottage industries should be encouraged. I am sorry to state here that Sambalpuri cottage industries and Sambalpuri sarees which are famous—not only in India but abroad also are now facing danger and a serious situation has arisen because of the menace of imitations. Cottage industries is also facing such dangers from different sides. That has to be seen in the proper prospective. Whenever we develop agriculture, we should have some industries also in rural areas. There should be bazars for purchases. In several cases, people have to go to towns for purchases. It is time for reforms to be brought about in the administrative system. We have to develop rural centres with administrative offices, block-offices, etc. There should be provision for treasury, banks etc. so that people are not required to come to towns for such purposes.

16.00 hrs.

Further, in many areas, good schools are not there. Hospitals are not there. Even when the people fall sick, they have to go to towns. Of course, there is a silver-lining now. It is my gratification to see that Navodaya schools are generally located in the rural areas. They are good schools and they are now being located in rural areas. Naturally some good hospitals and some medical centres also should be located in the rural areas so that the rural people will not be required to come to the town for everything, for treatment of ailments, for good education, for marketing, for making purchases, etc. So, there should be advancement of agriculture, setting up of industries,

particularly cottage industries. in rural areas and administrative complexes in central rural areas; rural development centres will have to be developed in different places; good schools and goods hospitals and medical centres should be opened...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to conclude with one request. We do agree that Government realise this, Government are sincere about the programme of alleviation of poverty not only from the urban areas but also from the rural areas, but much remains to be done, there is a lot of scope for improvement. The schemes are not being properly implemented. Emphasis should be given on proper implementation of the schemes like the poverty alleviation schemes. Of course, the amounts that are actually required, we are not able to provide, but whatever amounts are actually provided are also mis-spent, not properly spent. Government should read the writing on the wall. The people in the rural areas are feeling that they are being neglected, they are feeling that they are being treated as second class citizens, that the Government is not taking care of their basic facilities, etc. We have to work coordinatedly and sincerely and ensure implementation of the schemes so as to remove this sort of impression that is being created in the minds of the rural people.

With these words, I congratulate the hon. Member who has brought forward this Resolution. It is a good Resolution, it is thought-provoking, and the House is also discussing with seriousness. I urge upon the Government to realise its importance. Of course, they realise the importance, but whatever is lacking in this, they should plug those loopholes and see that things improve and the people in the rural areas also get justice.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Mr. Chair-person, Sir, it is really very appropriate that we are discussing this Resolution on this auspicious day, the birthday of the architect of the Modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I wholeheartedly welcome this Resolution moved by Dr. D.N. Reddy. It is very unfortunate that Dr. Reddy could not be present

today due to some domestic inconvenience. However, I do support this Resolution which has been moved by him. Of course, what is important is not the wording of the Resolution, not the figures mentioned in the Resolution, but it is the spirit of the Resolution which is very important. As Mr. Sriballav Panigrahi has said just now, regarding Rs. 10,000 crores, I am sure Shri Janardhana Poojary, a clever Minister that he is, will certainly prove to us that he has provided much more than what has been recommended by the Resolution. So, the figure mentioned is not important. What is important is how we should build an orderly and prosperous India. It is now 40 years since we achieved independence. We got political independence, but we have not yet got the independence which Mahatma Gandhi dreamt of, that is, Ramaraj or Swaraj. Many of the hon. Members who have spoken today and also on the previous occasions have depicted the condition of our rural India. So, I am not going to repeat what all they have said. I only want to say this. Everybody knows what are the conditions in our rural parts. The conditions in our rural parts are very heart-rending. Everybody knows about it. We have had the Sixth Five-Year Plan and we have spent lakhs of crores of rupees, not thousands, but lakhs of crores of rupees. But what is the state of our villages. Even today we find that 50 per cent of the population are living below the poverty line.

Even today we find that villagers are migrating to urban areas. We should ponder over as to why they go to urban areas. It is because the economic condition of a villager cannot be improved if he remains in the village. Even the village agriculturists who own small holdings of three or four acres of land—marginal land owners—also want to go to urban areas because they find that agricultural operation is not remunerative. They know that even a *Chaprasi* in an urban area is getting Rs. 1000 per month whereas with all the sweat and toil for the whole year they do not get Rs. 1000/- That is the condition of India. What is the answer for this?

I don't say that Government have not done anything for the last 40 years. Government have done, in the First Five Year Plan they introduced the Community Develop-

ment Schemes with the idea of improving our villagers. We have a number of schemes subsequently introduced by Smt. Indira Gandhi like IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, Tribal Plan and many special schemes for SC and STs. Still the rural poverty remains what it was when we became independent. We should find out the cause for this. We know that we have spent crores of rupees; but where have all the money gone? I don't say that somebody has swallowed it. Unfortunately that has not reached the villagers to whom it was meant. So, I would suggest that merely providing some funds like Rs. 10 crores or even Rs. 20 crores will not solve the problem, the entire political system must change.

We should see that a villager who has to be benefited should be given the power. That is what Gandhiji also wanted by way of decentralisation of power. Now everything is centralised. We sit in our State capitals or in Delhi and formulate plans. We don't want the villager to have any say in the plan. He does not know anything. Actually only a villager can know what priority is required for him. Give power to the people that is Gram Swaraj.

I know that many States in our country have already introduced this, they have given powers to the Gram Panchayat, I am happy to mention here that Karnataka State also has recently enacted a law by which Mandal Panchayat and Zilla Parishad will be constituted and given not merely money, but also full powers. Unless you provide funds they cannot prosper.

I am also very happy to know that recently the Prime Minister has issued circulars to all the State Chief Ministers and Congress Committees that Panchayat elections shall be held immediately and they should be given powers. It must be left to the villagers to chalk out whatever is important for them. I earnestly hope and strongly urge that it is high time that Government of India took initiative to see that in all the States Gram Panchayats are given sufficient powers and also Zilla Parishads are constituted with powers. They should not be made to come to the State Capitals or to Delhi for everything. Villagers themselves must decide what is required for them. I am sure the Government of India will take

appropriate steps to implement the spirit of the Resolution.

As the matter stands today, everyone wants to have power for himself. If that becomes the case, our villagers can never prosper. Another point that I would like to mention in this connection is that even now we do have Panchayats. But they are there only for the name sake. But they don't have absolutely any power, nor do they have any funds. They don't have money even to pay the electricity or water charges. Such is the financial condition of our Panchayats. That should not be so. Therefore, I would suggest that the real power should be given to the Gram Panchayats. They should be provided with sufficient funds. Unless our villages prosper our country cannot prosper. I am sure Mr. Poojary will take note of it and inform the Prime Minister that in our country we should have uniform laws and Panchayats should become real instruments of activity in the villages. Sir, with these words I support the Resolution moved by Shri Reddy. I also urge that Government should accept the Resolution moved by Mr. Reddy. thank you.

**KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE**  
(Jadavpur) : Sir, I would like to support the spirit of the Resolution but I am not supporting the whole text of the Resolution because in this Resolution Shri Reddy has stated and urged upon the Government to allocate Rs. 10,000 crores for the growth of the rural economy during the seventh Five Year Plan. I think it is not proper time to bring forward this Resolution.

At the outset I would like to quote what Panditji had said :

“Unless there is growth in rural economy there cannot be growth of the Indian economy.”

It is a fact that after Independence under the leadership of Panditji, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi we are making progress day by day. There may be some lacunae, Maybe there is some communication gap or differences between implementation and monitoring ? Maybe there is some lacunae between honesty and sincerity and

some bureaucrats are also involved in corruption ? They are not interested to build up this country in such a manner as Smt. Indira Gandhi had stated that I cannot understand how anyone can be Indian and not be proud. What I would like to say is that Smt. Indira Gandhi was a tireless campaigner for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. She initiated 20-point programme in 1975 which was put into action in 1982: Manifestation of her anguish for the cause of the poor was demonstrated in the Resolution for the economic and industrial development of the third world adopted by the Seventh NAM in 1983. It was attended by 103 nations.

We know Government has already provided irrigation, fertilisers, electricity, education, IRDP, NREP, RLEGP and other self-employment programmes but what do we find in the practical field. We have seen in the Sixth Five Year Plan so many States could not utilise the whole fund which was allocated by the Centre. Even my state in the Sixth Five Year Plan returned Rs. 1200 crores because my State Government failed to use this money. We have seen that our Prime Minister whenever any State desires any money or help he is willing to give help but as I have already stated maybe there is some lacunae. Under the IRDP programme 20 projects were set-up in the Sixth Five Year Plan. The number of such projects will be increased to 100 by the end of the Seventh Plan.

What I would like to say is that in the Seventh Five Year Plan, we are having about Rs. 10,000 crores. But that itself is not enough, until and unless we consider that development of rural economy is in our own interest. We should be convinced about this and we have to implement this programme heartily and with sincerity. Then only we can achieve our target. The economic transformation of the poorer sections of our people cannot be achieved without social transformation involving structural changes, educational development, growth in awareness and change in outlook, motivation and attitudes.

In our Seventh Five Year Plan, our Government has already allocated money for several developmental programmes. For IRDP we have Rs. 3473.99 crores ; for

National Rural Employment Programme we have Rs. 2487.47 crores ; For Community Development and Panchayat Raj Institutions Rs. 416.15 crores ; for Special Employment Programmes Rs. 509.24 crores ; for RLEGP Rs. 1743.78 crores ; for Land Reforms Rs. 395.83 crores and for Integrated Rural Energy Programme we have Rs. 47.76 crores. So, our Government has already allocated this money in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

It is also a fact that our Central Government is willing to provide to so many villages in the country, facilities such as fertilizers, schools and colleges for education and centres for health and so on. IRDP, RLEGP, NREP, etc., are formulated only for this purpose. But in reality, what is happening in the field ? We are no doubt, looking forward to 21st Century and our attitude is changing accordingly. But there are so many people whose attitude is not changing at all. For example, what is happening in my State ? There are so many programmes such as IRDP, RLEGP, self-employment programmes and so on. But the really needy are not getting these benefits. Moreover, these poor people are being harassed like anything. Only those people who belong to a particular political party, get all the advantages of these scheme and the common people are not getting any benefit.

I am very thankful to Shri Janardhana Poojary because he is organising the 'Credit Camps' and 'Loan Melas' for the benefit of poor people. You will be surprised to know that in my State when Shri Janardhana Poojary came to inaugurate the Credit Camp function, our Chief Minister opposed this programme and he even said that if Shri Poojary comes there, they would beat him up. But I am really grateful to Shri Poojary for these credit camps because so many poor people are benefited because of these credit camps.

Thousands of people, nearly 65 per cent of our population, are living in rural areas. But those who are really poor are not getting the benefits of IRDP, NREP, etc. schemes. Only certain party people are cornering all the benefits. In Bengal so many poor people really benefited through the credit camps. I would, therefore, request you to

allot some more funds for these credit camps not only for Bengal but in other States also. There are many States where there are so many different parties. There are so many programmes which are being sponsored by the various State Governments. The Central Government also should sponsor some schemes directly, so that poor people can get the benefit. I say this because there are some allegations that people who belong to certain parties only get the benefit of these programmes. If the Centre sponsors directly such programmes, then there will be no scope for such allegations.

I am sorry that I was not here in the House this morning. I was busy with some rally on the occasion of Panditji's birthday celebrations. But I heard that today there was some question by Shri Hannan Mollah regarding the loans disbursed at credit camps and that he has criticised our Government like any thing. But I would like to point out here-in this august House that he is the man who organised this credit camp in his own constituency, at that time, there was no voice from the CPM side because they supported it. Whenever the Congress (I) people try to organise credit camps, then the Chief Minister the CPM people start criticising us. You will be surprised to know that I was beaten inside the Police Station mainly because of this Credit Camp which I organised in my constituency. After that instance, I thought that our Chief Minister will consider me as a lady Member and will not do anything which may harm me.

Because many Members spoke something about their own States, that was the main reason why I wanted to speak about my State.

Sir, I am a public representatives. There is no value of public representative in my State, specially from the Opposition. If you ask separately to the CPI, RSP and Forward Bloc people, they will also say that they are not happy with the State Government. They are also not getting the justice from the hands of the State Government. We are grateful to our hon. Minister because he came and inaugurated this function only for the upliftment of the weaker sections. Whatever you want to do, you have to do directly from the Central Government and

not from the State Government. The State Government totally failed to develop the economy of the West Bengal. Thousands and thousands of workers are roads because of the closure of industries. The State Government always criticise the Central Government, but they are not doing anything for the poor people. I want to say here that, at least the State Government must do something for the poor people.

You will be surprised to know that there are some rumours which are floating there that industries are going to become sick, and are going to be closed. This is how the CPM people are managing the affair of West Bengal. They are instructing them to give some lumpsum money for their Party fund and unless and until they do this, they will disturb the management to close the industries. So, I request that justice should be done to the workers of West Bengal.

I would also like to the hon. Minister that unemployed youths are increasing day by day and he should do something for them also.

We are very much concerned about this problem from this side as well as from the other side. I glad if Mr. D.N. Reddy brings his resolution to allocate more funds for the unemployed youth because the recruitment in the Central Government is now banned and they are also not getting adequate opportunities to get employment in the State.

Now, I request that ban on recruitment should be removed because as I already mentioned, unemployment amongs the youths are increasing day by day. This situation is very horrible in my State. So, the Central Government must intervene in this matter and do something to save the situation in West Bengal.

Due to very high fees for the postal order the talented and educated youth could not apply for new jobs. Generally they apply for four to five jobs simultaneously, because of this very high fee, how is it possible for them to apply for such types of job? So, the Government must first put an end to this postal order system. I think our Prime Minister only can consider all these things and if our Government is willing to do it,

I think the whole House and the unemployed youths will be very grateful to them. We are grateful to our Prime Minister, because Government has sanctioned the title deeds to our refugees. They are very happy about it. This was done by our Prime Minister only a couple of days ago (*Interruptions*) but already the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mr. Jyoti Basu has started the distribution of these title deeds. This is an achievement of our Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and it is also my achievement—not that of CPI (M) people. But in order to get votes, they are distributing these title deeds so quickly. People know this very well.

What is the condition of my State? The CPI (M) people here are shouting very much, and speaking about democracy. (*Interruptions*) We are a democratic people. We believe in elections, and that is why we are here. Otherwise, how can we be here?

Regarding unemployed youth, Government must consider the suggestions that I have given.

No doubt this discussion is related to the growth of rural economy; but I want to speak about Peerless Finance & Investment Company because it is now in danger. So many field workers and officials are now staying in rural areas. They came from rural areas. They have built themselves up in their own rural areas. Moreover, Rs. 800 crores of public money are also deposited in this company. What has happened to it now? A new management has come. It is trying to withdraw all this money. Government must intervene in this matter and protect the interests of the Peerless employees, field workers and the depositors. This matter is also related to rural economy. We are not trying to do much for the unemployed youth. But if we cannot do anything for the Peerless Finance & Investment Co. to protect workers, this company will be closed. There are 4,000 workers and 4 lakh field workers, as also Rs. 800 crores of depositors' money—all these are in danger. So, Government must intervene and lock into this matter.

I must oppose this Resolution: Rs. 10,000 is not a big amount. The main thing is implementation of the 7th Plan

schemes with honesty and sincerely, and to be above politics. Rising above politics, we must do something for the weaker sections of our society, not just to catch votes. But we should serve our country in such a manner that if our citizens go anywhere, they can take with them a new ideology and a new thought.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : With great pleasure, I rise to participate in the discussion on Mr. B. N. Reddy's Resolution. This Resolution has great relevance in the context of the economic situation in our country. So, it is an important subject. I express my gratitude to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion.

As many friends have put it, Gandhi Ji had laid great stress on the development of rural India. Since 76% of India's population lived in rural India, Gandhiji said that India lived in its villages.

So, the development of our villages is the most important aspect of the development of our country. That is why I said, Mr. Reddy's resolution has great importance in this context. The number of people living below the poverty line was estimated at 216 millions at the beginning of 1985-86. All along the rural population continues to grow at an alarming rate and large segment is pushed below the poverty line. Even by 2000 AD, over 70 per cent of the expected population will continue to live in our 3.75 lakh villages. In our village, it is the agriculture which is the main stay of our rural economy. The pressure of population is high in the rural area and is increasing. The pressure on land is very much high. So, it is quite natural that this results in migration of rural population from the rural area to the towns and cities. This migration leads to over crowding of towns and cities and thereby it will have a serious repercussion on the life in towns and cities. At the same time, in the rural area, we could not afford to utilise this man power of the rural folk for the development of our economy of the country. So, the pressure is in two ways. The development of the rural economy and the rural growth is very important in our planning process of national development.

I am happy to say that the development of industry in the rural area has been an important feature of our industrial policy of our national policy. This approach was followed in five year plans. But I would like to say that still our country is far away from our goal. So, this is the time to think how can we go forward in this direction? How can we speed up matters and how can we develop our rural economy?

Rural industry is complementary industry to our agricultural sector. Of course, our agricultural sector is now deteriorating like anything, our agricultural economy, our rural economy is deteriorating like anything. I have cited so many examples of my State. Farmers are suffering; they are not getting remunerative prices.

The wage of the workers had gone up and the prices of fertilizers and all have gone up during these years. So, the agricultural farmers are in many difficulties, to find livelihood through agriculture. So, if you could not start agriculture-based industries, the rural economy will not develop, will not prosper. The Government should come forward taking these aspects into consideration and to plan in such a manner that our agricultural economy, and agricultural farmers should be helped with agriculture-based industries.

Gandhiji said :

"The quality of life in the villages should be the same if not better than that of urban habitation. The village people should not only be self-sufficient and self-reliant, but also participate in matters of their own development."

So, it is high time that the Government considers formulating policies and programmes for the development of our villages.

Many Members have here talked about our poverty alleviation programmes. I do not agree with Shri Mool Chand Daga, who said that by these programmes nobody gets anything, that no poor man had gained by this programme. I do not agree.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a fact.

SHRI T. BASHEER: It is not a fact. You are shutting your eyes. You are closing your eyes. Actually these programmes have made an impact on our rural economy and our rural people. But the people who gained by those programmes are there. No doubt about it and of course, Kumari Mamata Banerjee said about Loan Melas. It is true. I know, in my State also, Shri Poojari came. There some loan melas were held. It attracted crowds. And it was successful. In fact, many people who deserved these loans have got them and for many areas it was only due to these loan melas that they got the IRDP loans. Of course they had advantage of NREP and RLEGP schemes also.

We should not say that nothing has happened. In our villages the infrastructure was created, and actually it made a lot of achievement, in generation of mandays, and developing the infrastructure in the villages. But it is also true that some middlemen took advantage of it. The money which was intended for the upliftment of the poor people has not gone directly to the people. That is true. That difficulty should be removed. No doubt about it. But is it not correct to say that they are all useless programmes. When we talk about rural industries, Government must keep in mind that these rural industries will definitely provide employment opportunities, more production in the country and also improve the economic conditions of our people in rural areas. We should not take up big mechanised industries. Our industries should be labour intensive as in big mechanised industries the employment scope is very limited. We know that in our country the greatest problem is of unemployment. And day by day it is increasing in an alarming manner. So when we plan our developmental activities, specially industries, we should keep in mind that we should plan for those industries which are employment oriented. And that is the importance of rural industries as these industries will always be more employment oriented. So, setting up of rural industries is the best thing is tackling unemployment problem. Of course, we cannot put an end to the unemployment problem immediately. But these rural industries can contribute a lot in mitigating this problem.

I would urge upon the Government to take some steps in this regard.

Mr. Reddy's Resolution urges the Government to allocate Rs. 10,000 crores for the growth of rural economy during the Seventh Five Year Plan. As many colleagues here correctly put it, we should not bother about the quantum of the amount. But what I would like to say is that considering the terrible unemployment situation in the country, Government must take steps to start at least one small scale industry in each block. That will help in easing the unemployment situation in the country. For that purpose, I would like to say that our country is full of resources. Government must find out and exploit those resources for starting such industries in rural areas. So, Government should take steps for utilisation of local resources by establishing industries in villages. I know that this is not an easy thing to do. For this purpose, Government must strengthen their data base and monitoring arrangements. If it is done, then only this is possible.

So far as rural economy is concerned, our traditional industries are of great importance. We talk about starting more and more employment oriented industries in rural areas. But at the same time, the pity of it is that our traditional industries are facing acute crisis. In Kerala, as you know, thousands of people are engaged in the traditional industries, like coir industry, brick-making industry, bidi industry, etc. I know about the coir industry. Thousands of people find their livelihood only by working in this industry, especially the women in the rural areas...

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Coconut also.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Yes coconut husk also. So, Sir, the Government must formulate schemes for revamping the traditional industries. This will provide employment to thousands of people. This is actually a field where thousands of people are working. If these industries will perish, then thousands of people are going to suffer. So, the Government must formulate schemes for revamping this industry. The State

Government of Kerala has actually submitted schemes for revamping the traditional industries like coir and all that and these schemes are lying with the Central Government. I hope, the Central Government will take steps to allot enough money for this industry.

Another very disappointing feature is that these traditional industries like cashew industry and coir industry are migrating from Kerala to the nearby States because of the low wages existing there. The wages existing in other States are very low. So, these traditional industries are migrating to other States. We have actually been demanding for a regional minimum wage for this industry. A national minimum wage is not possible, so there should be a regional minimum wage to save these industries.

I will not take much time. What I would like to say is that the Government must take steps to develop our rural economy and to establish more and more rural-based industries to provide employment and to get more production. With these words I appreciate the spirit of the resolution moved by Shri D.N. Reddy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Resolution. I would like to tell for the information of the hon. Member who was talking of the development of the rural areas that after the independence the Government had adopted capitalist system of development. Therefore, all the evils of capitalism are present in it. Unless socialistic system of development is adopted there cannot be all round development of the country. Similar views were expressed by our Prime Minister in the meeting on the Chairman of Public Account Committees on 10th of September. He had said that we are spending large sums of money on the 20 Point Programme but its benefit is not percolating to the poor. He had also said that the persons responsible for implementing the 20 Point Programme have not been successful in finding out two things. What are those two things? The first thing is that the benefit of what we are spending under this programme, is not reaching the

poor. Why is it so? Surely, there must be some loopholes which we are unable to identify. I am not saying this just to criticise the Government. There is no need to feel offended. This is what the Hon. Prime Minister himself had stated. So I would like to ask the hon. Planning Minister that when you are spending so much money, why are the poor not being benefitted from it? You will have to explain it. Ours is a poor country and we are short of resources. People who represent India in the World Bank or other International Development Organisations struggle hard to get maximum loans from them for the development of the country. But it is unfortunate that out of the loans sanctioned, six hundred crores dollars were drawn but were not utilised, resulting in interest at the rate of 0.75 per cent on it. In this way you will have to pay 41 crore dollars as interest. You are going to pay interest on it.

Ours is a poor country which is being run by big politicians who say that only they can manage the affairs of the country. Who is responsible then to save the country from such a situations? Had we invested this money in the country, it would have been possible to lift the people above the poverty line but you did not do this resulting in such a situation.

Secondly, you are giving much attention towards the beautification of the urban areas and you have spent considerable sums thereon. As a result thereof, people are migrating to urban areas and the rural areas are getting deserted. If you belong to a rural area you will have to tell honestly as to what is the condition of villages at present? The people from villages are migrating to Punjab and Haryana and even the killings in Punjab are not preventing them for going there. On being asked, their answer is that they have nothing to fear. They are migrating to Haryana, Madras, Delhi etc. They have to support themselves in Delhi, with a meagre amount of Rs 300 to Rs. 400. Will they have any faith in this country? This is causing maximum harm to the internal situation in the country. When there is danger to the country from within, it provides ample chances to the enemies outside. The reason behind all these internal problems is that the country has not made all round progress. There has been lopsided development. We

do not have much cultivable land. The poor in the rural areas possess only one bigha or two bighas of land. You have not even made arrangements for irrigation because of which they can neither go in for advanced farming nor can make both ends meet.

The farmers do not derive benefit commensurate with the expenditure incurred by them. You might have seen what has happened in Bihar this year. Money has been lavishly spent on 'Wiscoman' It arranges for fertilizers. The managers of 'Wiscoman' distributed the entire quantity of fertilizers to the small shopkeepers who were the licence holders, from the shops of 'Wiscoman'. As a result, the farmers had to purchase the fertilizers for Rs. 125 to Rs. 130 instead of Rs. 95. Just think when he gets a return less than what he has invested, what for then should he make any investment? Of course, he will not be interested. You will have to think about it. A number of leaders have discussed a lot in this regard but there is no improvement to be seen. Only after improving his situation can we talk of saving the country. You always say for your own benefit that the nation is facing a danger from outside but in fact the danger is from within. Grant is given in the name of imparting education to the Harijan children but ask any of the State Government to tell you honestly whether the grant is given to them in time? Had they got this grant in time they would have shown very good results in education. In fact, the money is received after two years and then it is spent on household requirements. You do not provide this grant in time for the intended purpose, with the result that it does not benefit them. In my constituency a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was granted for the poor Harijan; scheduled caste and scheduled tribe children but it was spent on the maintenance of law and order. They have not received this money so far. You claim to be the only supporters of the poor and are engaged in the welfare of the Harijans. But actually you have misguided them and they are realising this thing gradually. It is beyond doubt that you will have to face its consequences.

You must be reading daily in the newspapers about Jahanabad. You will have to find out as to why Jahanabad has become so sensitive an area. One of the reasons is

that developmental work has not been done there to the desired extent. The developmental work has been totally missing in the villages situated in the backward areas. Even the drinking water has not been arranged so far in these villages. I often tour villages. I saw in a village—it is no use mentioning its name—that the people drink river water by using a piece cut from the cool-tar tin as sieve. In many villages, the people have been drinking water from the ditches and here we and our children enjoy all the facilities of life. Looking at this disparity they must have developed a feeling of desperation. Therefore, we shall have to do something for them also. Mere discussions will not deliver the goods. You should get the developmental works done for the country. Things should be done as has been said by the Hon. Prime Minister. You should go to villages and find out how the funds have been utilised. It has rightly been said that the entire money is being misappropriated by some corrupt politicians, bank managers and Block Development Officers.

17.00 hrs.

It is a fact that people are running after petty jobs. At present, a peon does not get much pay but he is able to earn sufficient income through unfair means, which provides him the comfort which cannot be enjoyed even by a farmer having 10 bighas of land. That is why people try to secure a job even by paying bribe. Now there will not be good and able engineers and overseers. The college drop outs manage to get admission for the overseers examination by paying Rs. 30,000. They are given an assurance, which is fulfilled. How then such overseers would plan for this country? You are out to destroy this country. If the country is destroyed then you and I also cannot survive because we are not above the country. Therefore, if you really want to save this country then you should make a confidential enquiry into how people are becoming millionaires. It is only because of such things that killings are taking place in the villages. Jahanabad was made a District on 1st August but between that date and October, the number of persons that were killed reached 88. When it was in Gaya District, 100 persons were killed between 1st January and 31st July but with its formation as a district, 44 persons are being

killed every month. When it was not a district then only 14 persons used to be killed in a month but with its formation as a new district, number of incidents of killings has increased manifold. You are enacting new laws to suppress the workers. There has been a project which will help in getting rid of famine and drought in this area and which will cover seven Blocks. This project is called Punpun Dardha Irrigation Project. It is laying pending for the last six years with C.W.C. I would request that this scheme be cleared and also allocations be made for it separately. Vocational education should be imported to bring the misguided youth on the right path.

With these words, I conclude.

\*DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contain) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are today discussing a special subject on a special day. We surely cannot say that there has been no development in our country or that our country has not progressed. In our country in 1947 not even a needle was produced. But today we are producing all the sophisticated goods produced anywhere else in the world. But side by side I will also say that the wealth produced in our country is not being equally distributed. Today the amount of development that is taking place in the cities, the better and better standard of life that the people in the cities are enjoying is not percolating to the rural areas. The rural folk are not getting anything in comparison. We have to admit with regret that even today there are many such villages in our country where there are no road, where no cycles or bullock carts can ply. People have to travel only on foot and that too over the embankments. Not only that Sir, I will say with sorrow and shame that even now there are many such villages where even drinking water is not available. That is why this discussion today is of great importance. For want of water, cultivation cannot be done at many places. What to speak of two crops even one crop cannot be raised. The village people exist on agriculture and agriculture is their only means of livelihood. But since they do not get water or fertilizer as required, they cannot produce good crops. As they cannot produce good

crops, far from selling their produce to earn money; they cannot get enough for their own consumption throughout the year. In many villages, the schools exist in name only. If you look at the houses where these schools are located, tears will roll down your eyes. They are all delapidated structures—there is hardly any space where students can sit. After the primary level, there is no facility for the rural students to pursue their studies. The situation is particularly difficult for the girls for whom we have no facility for vocational education. We must all confess that still today we do not want to send our girls to unknown places and as a result the girls do not get any vocational educations and they have nothing but a bleak future. As a result of these difficulties, we find that hundreds of people are migrating from villages to the towns. Some of them get employment while others do not get any. Even those, who get employment lead a miserable life. For years they remain separated from their family. They have no social life. We have to consider the mental state of such person because in such circumstances many problems—social and otherwise—crop up and it is now time that we should consider them. Any delay to grapple with the situation will lead us all to a very difficult situation. We talk of delinquent children we talk of other social evils but if we go at the root of the problem then we will find that we can not eradicate these evils unless we are able to improve the economic condition of our villages. Not only this. We generally find that the people of the villages have many good qualities, but because of the total lack of facilities for cultural development all these qualities gradually get smothered and they eventually die a natural death. In villages we have different crafts but we have no facility for their marketing. Thus, much of the handicrafts made in villages are not sold. All these we have to ponder seriously and find a way out. We have no hospitals in villages. When a child falls seriously ill or when an expectant mother needs medical aid they have to be taken to far off places and in many cases the patients die on their way to the hospital. We cannot any longer keep ignoring such vital issues. Sir, the resolution mentions about the allocation of funds but I would like to say that mere allocation of funds will not take us anywhere. It is not enough that we should

\*The speech was Originally delivered in Bengali.

allocate more funds but we must also ensure that the funds allocated are really used for the purpose for which they have been allocated. The Planning Commission has already made allocations for the economic programmes for the villages. I will demand that the Commission should make more allocations for this purpose but along with this I will urge upon the Planning Commission to ensure that moneys allocated are being properly utilised. Sir, with great regret I would like to draw the attention of the House to one news item. On 1.11.1986, to a newspaper called "*Chetana*" which is published from Contai, which is the worst affected area of the recent floods in our State has stated that a sum of Re. 1 crore has been disbursed by Midnapore Zila Parishad for irrigation and other work. Certificates have been obtained from the Gram Panchayats that work worth Re. 1 crores has been done when the work really done is not of that worth as says the press report. It has also been stated that out of the allocation of Rs. one crore a sum of Rs. 10 lakh has been given to the CPM party fund by contractors. This as I said is what has appeared in the press and I would request that a full inquiry should be made in this regard.

I would conclude by stressing the allocations of funds should be made to achieve an all round development of the village and not for a particular aspect of the village economy. We no doubt need more money because we should have more and better roads for the villages; we should have more hospitals, more schools particularly vocational schools for village boys and girls. We have to create a situation in the villages where a villager can earn his own living being in the village and he has not to migrate to towns as such migrations give birth to many social evils. With a sense of regret I would stress once again that the Planning Commission will have to keep a strict vigil to ensure that the funds allocated are used properly and for the purpose for which they have sanctioned in a much better way than what is being done now. With this I end my speech.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj); Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I wish to thank my colleague Shri D.N. Reddy for drawing the attention of the House and of the country, through this

House towards an important issue. The urban population is on the increase. The reason being the elimination of the self generating economy of our rural areas. Therefore, the migration of the people from rural areas to the urban areas is quite natural.

But I could not understand the objective behind the demand of Rs. 10,000 crores for the rural economy because adequate funds have been provided under our Seventh Five Year Plan for improving the rural economy, which are much more than Rs. 10,000 crores.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should also see the advancement made by other countries as compared to in our country field of agriculture. The speed with which our country has made the progress in agriculture is unparalleled. No other country has achieved self-reliance the way we have achieved. Today we have a buffer stock of 15 crore tonnes of sugar-cane. This is in spite of all the floods and drought. Even after these calamities, our agricultural production is not going to be affected. We have maintained this level and are going to achieve a higher production.

Not only this. In the field of Science, ours is the sixth place in the world today. Our country has achieved 10th place in the world in the field of Industrial production. It is all as a result of the development work done by the Government ruled by the Congress Party. If you look at the achievements of the Government, these are not less. But if we look at these achievements from the point of view of development of villages, the, of course, we find that the Government's objectives have not been fulfilled. Our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi have always been stressing that the benefit of the development should reach the distant villages also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently, I visited a tribal district of Bihar where poverty eradication programmes are being run. In my constituency also, these programmes are being run for the tribals. Sir, these programmes are not being implemented according to the instructions of the Planning Commission and the Government. The

reason behind it is that these programmes have been confined only to the villages which are close to the cities or which are already developed or which have bank facilities. As Shri Daga has stated, some officers, big wigs of the society and social organisations are also not letting these programmes be implemented. Some corrupt leaders are also responsible for it. You have got the poverty eradication programme evaluated. You will have to find out as to how Mirzapur District has been adjudged first in implementing the 20 Point Programme. There are a lot of distant villages in that district which have not been developed. You have decided to uplift 600 families in one Block each above the poverty line. You should provide financial aid to the six hundred families of a conglomeration of villages so that all the villages can be developed. But the poor are not getting the help as it is not reaching the villages. Therefore, mere evaluation by the Planning Commission will not be sufficient. You will have to care for the quality as well and will have to follow the hon. Prime Minister's directions on development programmes. Only then development of villages can be done. Therefore, I suggest that the programme should be strictly implemented as only one year of the Seventh Five Year Plan so far has elapsed.

*(Interruptions)*

Besides, the Planning Commission has recognised backward districts as the basis for establishing industries in villages. There has been discussion for the last 7 to 8 years to recognise Block as the basis for backwardness. Shivaraman Committee and some other committees were appointed but the Note for the Cabinet has not so far been prepared. I demand that instead of taking district as a unit, you should think of developing the tribal Blocks, Harijan Blocks i.e. 6 types of areas, like hill areas, desert areas, cyclone hit areas, tribal areas, flood hit areas and drought hit areas which have been recognised by the Planning Commission as the basis of backwardness and for this Block should be taken as a unit. It has been clearly indicated in the 20 Point Programme also that special efforts will be made to increase the production in the areas where cultivation depends on rains. But you have not paid any attention to the

programmes for the backward areas. The Planning Commission has identified the areas but their programmes have not been implemented. They required attention. I suggest that for the future implementation of programmes, Block should be taken as a unit for determining backwardness. Then only the things will move.

So far as our Planning is concerned we have formulated many plans. Today we should resolve to derive full results from the projects we have completed. If we increase the capacity utilisation of electricity by 5 per cent, we can certainly save crores of rupees and can provide more electricity. There will be a gap of 10 thousand MW by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. We should ensure maximum utilisation of our capacity through the Lignite Corporation, N.T.P.C. etc. When the electricity generation in the private power houses can go upto 103 to 105 per cent, why the output of our Electricity Boards cannot be increased? There also the level factor can be upto 60 to 75 per cent but we are not paying attention to improve the situation. There are 90 thousand sick mills in the country today. Why? Labour trouble is not the cause. In 52 per cent cases, mills have been closed down due to mismanagement. Today we should think of recommissioning them and modernising them. It is quite surprising that two factories of a capitalist are running in profit while his two other factories are incurring losses. This is because he has transferred the capital of the loss-incurring factories to the profit earning factories. The Planning Commission needs to take some strong steps today. There is no dearth of developmental programmes. What is lacking is the proper implementation. It should be done with honesty and dedication. We should have less faith in paper work and the Planning Minister should make it a point to keep these things in mind.

The evaluation work is going on and we have received the report. We have noticed that private agencies have been involved in this work. If some district or Block stands first it is not necessary that the benefits of development have percolated to the levels of village panchayats and 'gram-sabhas' also. The results will have to be measured keeping in view the work done at this level. If the State Governments do not perform this work

then we should appoint some agency on behalf of the Planning Commission to oversee the utilization of money because we are providing it.

17.20 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

You want me to resume my seat. I am a disciplined soldier. I conclude by requesting Shri Reddy to withdraw his Resolution and urge the Government to pay attention to my suggestions. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the House will extend the time for this Resolution by one hour.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I am assuming that we will close today by 6 O'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will sit upto 6 O'clock today. The time for this Resolution has been extended by one more hour. Now Mr. Sultanpuri will speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Government took a commendable step by formulating the Plans and through them, developing the country. Panditji became the first Prime Minister and resolved to take the country forward. All these programmes could be possible only because of Panditji was the Prime Minister. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri assumed the leadership of the country to take these plans further. He tried to take the country ahead. After him, Prime Minister, Shri-mati Indira Gandhi made efforts to carry this nation forward. Our country has remained in lead in the field of industry, rural and urban development. Shri Reddy has brought a very good Resolution. I think certain shortcomings remained in our National Planning and Rural Planning. All the Planning was done while sitting away from the field of action, just as the planning for Punjab was done in Simla. No one

visited the villages and same is the position in regard to planning regarding hill areas. I think all the elected representatives of this august. House come from villages. When we legislate we try to provide benefit to that section which exploits us the most. I hail from Himachal Pradesh. In our area the farmers grow apples, potatoes, tomatoes and some other crops. We have to spend lakhs of rupees to transport the produce to the market. Then, we have to depend on commission agents who charge a big commission to market them and even then they do not arrange the sale properly. In this way our economic condition can never improve. A greater part of the money given to the States should be used for rural development. Formulation of policies should not be done in the rooms. Today the condition of schools is miserable. Many things are said about the education system. The sons of the villagers, labourers and farmers cannot compete. The children of big Zamindars and rich persons become I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers. The ordinary children from the villages pass in second or third division. Merit holders and first divisioners are given preference in jobs. It is said that a merit list will be prepared and you know as to who is covered in merit list. This gap between the villages and cities is increasing because we do not plan properly and later on blame them. Plans are not properly implemented in villages. If some teachers are to be transferred, the politicians start sending D.O. letters to prevent the transfers to rural areas on the plea that it will be difficult for them to go there and as such he should not be transferred to the rural areas. The standard of education of our children in villages is so low that they always fail in the examinations with the result that they cannot get the job. Who gets the jobs? Most of them are\*\*. Children of Zamindars are also among them. The way Rajputs and Brahmins quarrel among themselves, they can never go ahead and same is the position of the Harijans. We find that people from rural areas do not get employment and our Plans are to be blamed for this. We have formulated a new education policy and the Hon. Prime Minister wants to take the country forward with its help. In the public school they do not admit boys from villages. Moreover, they do not have money

\*\*Not recorded.

to pay to them so that they may become doctors or engineers. They have only one feeling that we have to take the country forward.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sultanpuri you have made reference to a caste and a community. That will not form part of the record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : I suggest that majority of the new school should be opened in villages so that the villagers may make progress. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, when our Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi was alive, she had presented 20 Point Programme to uplift the poor. They were given ownership rights of land. But what is happening today ? People in cities like Shimla, Bombay and Delhi are owning palatial buildings and there is no law to stop them to own so much wealth. If we want to eradicate poverty, a law should be enacted to nationalise the properties of the rich people so that the cultivators who are becoming landless may get land. The backward people living in rented houses for many years should be made the owners of those properties by nationalising the properties. Similarly, some facilities should also be provided to the workers. Everyday we hear about the rampant corruption in D.D.A. Shri Gouri Shankar, who is present here, has also said that the previous Minister had to go because of this. Our Government has been trying to apprehend and put corrupt people behind bars. But they engage big lawyers who get them released on bail. Now-a-days, efficient persons are those who can argue successfully. Those people come here who, instead of putting fourth people's grievance, talk about themselves. But if we want to take the country towards progress, we shall have to think about the upliftment of the rural backward whether they are Harijans or belong to any other community. So long as we do not improve the condition of our villages nothing good can be achieved. The metalled roads are not there in the villages. There is lack of roads in the hill areas. I had an opportunity to visit the constituency of the hon. Minister from Lahaul-Spiti to Khurd which took me two

days to reach there. It is a border area but there is no provision of metalled roads. From Simla, we may go to Delhi or Bombay we shall find metalled roads and railway lines but in villages, there are no roads. As a result of this, we are not in a position to bring our produce to the markets and that is why we do not make any progress. Kalka-Simla road was constructed during the British regime and since then no new road has been constructed there. The areas of Kinnaur and Rampur also do not have roads. I would request the Planning Minister who belongs to Himachal Pradesh and is sitting in the House, to increase the funds for electricity from Rs. 1400 crores to Rs. 2800 crores so that we may make progress. If you formulate the Plans sitting in Delhi, then the development of the people living in hill regions is not possible. They cannot make progress. The reason is that in plains bricks, cement, sand and other raw material are easily available. As compared to the plains the construction work costs many times more in hill areas whether they are of Garhwal, Mizoram, Arunachal, Gangtok, Kashmir or Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, I want that you should chalk out a programme in a planned manner and make provision of more funds for the development of hill areas in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Our hill area is a border area. We have common border with Punjab State and on the upper side we have China's border. The incidents taking place in adjoining areas affect Himachal Pradesh also and that is why we could not make much progress. The people of Kashmir are wise people. The National Conference joined hands with the Congress Party. If they adopt the same policy in future also, the State will definitely progress and all the people will be benefited. I want that you should make special provision for the hill areas of Himachal Pradesh because large scale soil erosion is going on there and as a result there of, entire soil is flowing down. The problem is the same whether it is in Uttar Pradesh or in Himachal Pradesh. Recently, the Kangra Valley experienced an earthquake and we demanded aid from the Central Government. The Hon. Prime Minister, first of all told me that earthquake has caused heavy loss in Kangra Valley and an aid of Rs. 4 crores was sanctioned to us therefor. In addition to it, Rs. 13 crores were spent by the State Government also. I want that you should release the rest of

the amount at the earliest. Similarly, in West Bengal also heavy rains caused great loss but the people of urban areas did not come forward to the help of the rural areas. The rich people do not come forward to help in such eventualities. It is our Congress Government and Congress Party workers who work tirelessly day and night in the calamity stricken areas. At the time of any calamity, they work with dedication and determination. Our Prime Minister himself went there and only then the villagers could get any help. Several M.Ps from Bengal also accompanied the Prime Minister on the tour. Sometime back Andhra Pradesh also suffered a heavy loss and our Hon. Prime Minister gave full help to it also. Our Government gives full help to all the calamity stricken areas. If we want to improve the economic condition of our villages, then first of all we shall have to make permanent arrangements for transporting their produce to the markets. When they get reasonable prices of their produce only then they will be benefited. But at present if you look at the Agricultural Board or Banking Board, you will find people there who have no knowledge of the concerned field. In the Agriculture Board such Members have been included who have never handled a plough or a tractor. In the Banking Board also, such people have been included who have never lived in the hill areas. They want that someone should complain against them so that they may be transferred to some city. Just now I was talking of the third division and second division. By that I meant to say that you should make a provision in the recruitment rules that these people who are well acquainted with the problems of the hill areas, will be posted there. And if you have to nominate any person to any Board you should nominate such persons only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will speak for another five minutes. I am thankful to you. You are a very liberal person. In all the Boards, including Banking Recruitment Board in hill areas, adequate representation should be given to the local people. If you appoint a person belonging to the plains in Kashmir, how will he understand the problems of that area and take a right decision? If you post someone from Delhi to Himachal Pradesh, he cannot work in Lahaul-Spiti. If you appoint a person belonging to Bengal

in Uttar Pradesh, how will he work there? You have adopted a policy under which new petrol pumps are allotted to a person who is already having 100 Petrol pumps. New Gas agencies are being given to those who are already having agencies and those people who are already having transport agencies are being given new agencies. On the other hand, rural people are not getting anythings. You are paying your entire attention towards urban areas. It is Shri Reddy who has advocated the cause of the rural people. I, therefore, congratulate him and he has taken a right step by presenting this Resolution with these words I support the Resolution.

SHRI ANANDI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Resolution has pointed out the disparities between the urban areas and the rural areas. I would like to throw light as to why these disparities have increased? Shri Reddy has demanded a sum of Rs. 10,000 crores but as per the present allocation, Rs. 18 lakh is spent on each Block. There are 5000 'Gram Panchayats' in our country. Thus you can calculate as to how much money is being circulated there on various schemes. In this way if you calculate, you will find that Rs. 10,000 crores is not too much. I do not think this disparity can be removed by this amount because as has been discussed here the actual thing is that the Plans are not properly implemented. Therefore, so long as this system is not changed and exploitation of the rural people is not stopped, the benefits of our schemes and programmes will not reach the poor. Mostly the agricultural labourers work in the villages. Our Prime Minister has given very good programmes and schemes to the country. The RELGP is one such scheme under which every rural landless family is to be provided at least hundred days work in a year. I would like to ask in this House whether a single landless family can be pointed out in this country which has been provided 50 days work in a year? The same contract system is going on everywhere.

The schemes like NREP and RLEGP are going on but under these schemes income tax is still deducted. I have asked the Offissa Government also but it did not pay any attention towards it. We all want to have a society free from exploitation but

how will it be possible because you are encouraging capitalistic economy. How all will get equal rights then? If you go on encouraging capitalism, then the backward classes, Adivasis, Harijans and farmers will not get any benefits from these Plans. Therefore, I would request you to eliminate exploitation. The black money is increasing constantly but no-body is bothering about it. If more and more money gets accumulated in few hands, then the condition of villagers will definitely deteriorate.

Who comes to the cities? The educated people of the villages come to the cities. They become BDOs, Engineers and officers and settle in cities. They do not live in villages. They construct their houses in the cities, and let them out on rent. They also earn from their agricultural land in villages and in this way they earn money from both sides and become capitalists. But those who live in villages, do not get even minimum wages of Rs. 7 or 10 or 20 as fixed by you. You should pay attention toward this also.

Our Government has provided various facilities in every Block. The facilities of cinema, schools and hospitals have been provided there but even then people are migrating to the cities. Why? What are the reasons of their migration from rural areas to urban areas? A villager comes here for stealing because here nobody checks him and nobody knows him. That is why he comes to the city. He is totally a stranger there and that is why stealing is more easy. Therefore I would say that even if you spend 100 times more than Rs. 10,000 crores nothing is going to be achieved. It is possible only when we change the present system of our country and check the exploitation. For this we shall have to fix a ceiling on the property of the individuals and the capital of companies. We do not want to become a socialist country like China and U.S.S.R., India is a big country with large population and if you continue with the present policy for a long period that will not do any good and will create troubles in future.

Therefore, you should follow the path of socialism and for this purpose, you will have to adopt the same policies as had been adopted by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Otherwise the disparity will go on increasing.

I would like to make one suggestion. Majority of the population in villages consists of the farmers. So long as agricultural reforms are not made, irrigation facilities are not provided and more employment opportunities are not provided to the villagers, they cannot improve their production and they will not get their due and till then nothing useful can be done for them.

With these words, I would like to say that our Government has done much more than what has been asked for in the Resolution. The Resolution is not adequate to improve the condition of our rural areas. The Resolution should, therefore, be withdrawn.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem is very serious. I have to say only this much that you have provided T.V. network throughout the country but electricity does not remain available and people watch television with the help of battery. It is a very serious matter. Whenever I go to the villages I hear the people's talk. They say that earlier they used to hear fairy tales but now they watch fairies on television. People wonder as to whether such things really happen in this country? The types of houses, motors, bungalows etc. that are shown on the television make the villagers dumb-founded.

You will definitely enter the 21st century but the exploited will also be with you who will be a hindrance, because he is now aware how he is being exploited? Whatever economic progress we may make, only urban areas are reaping the benefits and the rural areas are being left behind.

Does it look nice that even after 39 or 40 years of Independence, we have not been able to provide drinking water to the people. I would like to ask as to where the allocated funds for tubwells and hand pumps have gone? The roads appear to be of 10th century. Where that money has gone which was to be spent on these roads? Nobody dares to ask these questions. How can you exonerate yourself of your responsibility by saying that it is responsibility of the State Government and not yours? No State Government can refuse to answer as to where the money provided has been misused? A

large scale plundering is going on and all the resourceful people are involved in it. As has been pointed out by one of the hon. Member, a person is appointed B.D.O. and within three years he earns Rs. 10 lakhs and constructs a house in the city. If anyone becomes a civil Engineer, he amasses, Rs. 50 lakh in four years. He need not to deposit his money in the Banks of Switzerland; he can deposit his money in our neighbouring country, Nepal. Thus it is a very serious matter.

Much is claimed about electricity. The poles are erected but power is not supplied for years together. I have suggested umpteen times that something should be done to check the flow of the rivers originating from Nepal. We can get so much electricity from them that requirement of the entire northern India can be met from them but it is a matter of regret that nobody pays any attention towards it.

You go to any village. You will see that there is only one pond there in which cattle and men bathe together, ease themselves and also drink the same water. This is what is happening in the villages. On the other hand, a well furnished bathroom with beautiful tiles is shown on the television. For how long shall we tolerate these things? You should think over it. Are you not even prepared to see the condition of the rural areas? The situation has become very precarious. You should not release the entire allocation at once. Get the schemes implemented strictly. The funds allocated for the rural development should actually be spent for that purpose. You simply discuss here that so much funds have been allocated but in actual practice it is no use.

Now-a-days, who are the people to whom the Bank loans are granted? Only the middlemen and the resourceful people are getting loans. You should seriously think over it.

[English]

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): It is a very good subject; that is why I congratulate Mr. D. N. Reddy for bringing this subject. It is a very good subject because it concerns millions and millions of those villagers who are living in

villages but they do not even have a morsel of food to fill their stomach; who are half-starved and half-clothed.

In the pre-independence days, there was a moving motion picture by the name "A Farmer's Son". In that picture, the plight of the villagers was depicted; the very misery of a village was depicted; how the labour in a village had been robbed and exploited. That is somewhere in 1935-36. There was a song in that picture depicting the situation in a village. The meaning of the song is like this that there is not even a road in a village. Even if we wanted to take our produce to a market place, we did not have a road; no bullock-cart went there. The ryots were suffering. Our villages were not even worth a single pie. Our agriculturists were suffering, our labourers were suffering because they were not able to get even a regular type of price for their produce. This is the song. Even though it was in the pre-independence days, even now it holds good. I think you are from the village; that is why you are able to understand it.

Even now, thousands and thousands of villages are there, but the agriculturists do not have even roads or at least *kucha* roads to take their produce to the market places. I do not know how long it will take to connect those villages with rail to market places. It may take even a century to enable the government to provide railway linkage for the villages so that they may make their produce to the market places.

Even after 40 years of independence, if we are not in a position to provide even roads for the villages, how can we talk of rural economy? Our rural economy is completely in a shambles; it is completely ruined.

Let us take the agricultural product price. Who is the man who fixes up the prices for these products? An agriculturist has no hand in it at all. This price is fixed up by those people who are sitting in Delhi far away from the meddler crowd. They do not know the travails and tribulations, and the travails of the villagers. They do not know how they work in scorching Sun and they do not know the effects of rain. They do not know how the villagers live in mud houses, not protected from sun, rain

and cold. These people who stay here in air-conditioned rooms in the third, tenth, or twentieth floors, these bureaucrats do not know anything about rural economy, they do not know how the villagers are living and they fix up the prices of the agricultural commodities. I do not know what is the justification. In this House 80 per cent of Members are from rural areas. Why not some Members of Parliament be associated with the Agricultural Prices Commission so that they can give the agriculturists a good price?

I will bring it to your notice how an agriculturist is being exploited. This year, day-before yesterday only the price of sugar-cane has been raised from Rs. 17 to Rs. 18 per quintal. Only one rupee is the increase. Last year itself the Andhra Pradesh Government seeing that the price of sugar-cane is very very low, they have raised it by Rs. 6/-. Now here, these bureaucrats they do not want to help the ryots. Even if the Party whether it is Congress, Telugu Desam or Communist whatever may be the Party that is in power, if those politicians want to help they have almost become prisoners in the hands of the bureaucrats. That is why the bureaucrats are ruling. Even if the Party people they want to help a little the farmer these bureaucrats do not allow. If the price of sugar is raised by half a rupee per kg., you can give Rs. 50/- per quintal to the agriculturist. But these bureaucrats, they will not allow it, because their interests will suffer. If you are able to increase the price of sugar by 50 paise per one kilogramme, the agriculturist will get Rs. 50 to 60 per quintal. Why do you not do it?

I know that there are many people who are sympathetic towards the farmer, and even at present in the Cabinet also there are people who want to help the agriculturists. But because of these people of the organised sector, people who have got vested interests with big moneyed people, they do not allow it to happen.

The prices of the essential commodities are maintained at the cost of the agriculturist who is after all the person who finds it difficult to make both ends meet in the villages. I will tell you how the villagers are exploited.

Sericulture is very much there in villages. The villagers are only exploited in this respect. The agriculturist gets the yield through sericulture. They produce silk from them. But, alas, there, are no spinning mills to either spin the thread or mill the thread. They go to the towns. From the towns the yarn is again brought to the villages. Why should their this sort of thing happen? Why should their cocoons be sent elsewhere for spinning? Can you not start a big factory to avoid those people sending their cocoons to the towns?

Again take ground nut oil. If you go and see the small towns you will see the agriculturists producing the ground nut. Poor people depend on it. If you do not give good price for it, the poor people, the agriculturists will suffer. But the short-sighted policy of the bureaucrats does not allow the agriculturists to be helped. Ground nut oil is used by a number of people, poor people and rich people. But for crushing the ground nuts there is no crushing mill. The crushing mill is some two hundred miles away from the villages. Therefore, the ground nut is taken there by the villagers. Why this anomaly, I am not able to understand. In the villages the crushing mill should be there so that right from there they can produce oil.

In this way the economy of the villages has been completely and deliberately stifled. The man there has been ruined. He has been subjected to exploitation. There are poverty alleviation programmes. Government is spending crores of rupees. But the plight of villagers has not improved much. Only one thing is true that the Government is certainly spending crores of rupees. But the plight of the villagers has not made much progress. Recently I had an occasion to go to some of the north-eastern States like Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. While we were touring those areas, I wanted to see how a villager live there. I requested some of my people to go to the house of a villager to find out as to how he is living there. In Arunachal Pradesh and Assam we went and saw a village. I discussed with the people there. I asked them about IRDP, NREP programmes. They said that they had not even heard of them at all. They are still living in primitive houses, made of

bamboos with no walls. They told us that these people were not giving any school, any house site to them. The agriculturist said that they were not given any fertiliser pesticide, seed, etc. This is the way in which, these programmes are being implemented. We see lot of statistics. There is a poem in Telugu which says : "*Anke Landunde Abhi Vriddhi Charka Podugu*";. It means that the improvement in the life of the villager is shown in statistic upto the arm pit. The statistics are an ass. They do not give the true picture. They say that so much money has been spent. But I challenge this Government let us go to the house of a villager without notice. Let us see what food he takes. That food has no nourishment. It has no taste. He takes that food to keep himself alive. I think, we may even refuse to touch that food. The poor villager is exploited in every way.

Mr.D.N.Reddy has asked for Rs. 10,000 crores. This is not a big sum considering our Budget of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 crores and considering that 70 per cent of our population is from rural India. Please take into consideration the plight of the villages as to how a person is living there. I request you to go to the village, see the plight of the villagers, talk to them. discuss with them and then come forward with some schemes so that these *Daridra Narayans* are helped to lead a better life.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, November 17, 1986 Kartika 26, 1908 (Saka)*