

drawing your attention Rule 48 (3) I would like to submit that....

MR. SPEAKER: I think that this point of not taking up the question, when the Member, in whose name the question stands is not present was raised earlier also. It is possible that there may be a demand not to us that power.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prof. Ranga and myself had raised this matter in the House and you may verify it from your office. If the Member in whose name the question stands is not present and if you think that the question is an important one, you have the power to permit another Member to put that question. I myself had raised this matter and the ruling was given in my favour.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE: We are ready to ask the question.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please sit down. After hearing the submission of Prof. Madhu Dandavate I would straight away ask the Minister to give reply to the question as provided in the rule and then I would allow the Members to ask supplementaries. Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I am on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? I have taken it up on your request. There is no point of order.

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: So far the Chair has not been allowing this. But since this has been allowed, you also must allow us the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Entire House. It will also be done in your case whenever you

want. You are also an hon. Member of this House. For the benefit of the hon. Members I may read out the relevant clause: Rule 48(3) says:

"If on a question being called it is not asked as the member in whose name it stands is absent, the Speaker may, at the request of any member, direct that the answer to it be given."

So the answer is being given by Shri Madhu Dandavate.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, for your information I would like to say that I had raised a point of order in the previous Lok Sabha and Shri Jakhar had given the ruling in my favour. He had given the same ruling which you have given today. I welcome it.

[*English*]

Funds for Development

*887. @SHRI L.K. ADVANI:
@SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a suggestion that Rs. 815 crores be provided for the 543 Parliamentary constituencies, wherein money be spent by the concerned Government agencies but the projects would be as per the suggestion of the local M.P., in the fields of agriculture, rural sanitation, seed processing and storage facilities, control of desertification, dry land farming, afforestation, slum improvement, drinking water supply, health clinics etc.;

(b) If so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the outline of the follow up action?

@The hon. Members were not present in House, but under Rule 48(3) hon. Speaker acceded to the request of some other hon. Members and permitted the question to be answered.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) A suggestion has been received from some Members of Parliament that Rs. 2 crores may be allocated for each Parliamentary Constituency for undertaking development works on the suggestions of the concerned Members.

(b) and (c). As decentralised planning, particularly the area development concept catches on, comprehensive attention to the requirements in each Panchayat/Mandal Panchayat/Zila Parishad will become an integral part of planning.

The present Planning Commission is working towards this goal. It is not considered either desirable or feasible to make budget provision on a Constituency basis separately.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: In our democracy, after the development works have been taken up at the grass-roots level, electorate do not understand the difference between the MLAs and MPs. They expect even MPs to get involved in the development works at the grass-roots level. Unfortunately, all State Governments in their policy have overlooked MPs and when we go to the electorate, they always ask what is our performance. In Parliament, the Ministers and the Central Government always take a stand that the MPs function is to participate in the policy framing and implement it at the grass-roots level. But, the situation has changed. Now, you may not be in a position to give allocations of Rs. 2 crores per MP. But, when you decentralise powers and involve the machinery at the grass-roots level for identification of the project, can you not in any way involve Members from the Lok Sabha in the funds that go from the Centre and the states in this? We should also have a say in the identification. We may be involved in certain works that is good.... (*Interruptions*) I will request Prof. Madhu Dandavate to kindly analyse these points and examine them and then come to a decision, without saying blankly that it is not possible. I think the whole House will agree to my request.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I can very well realise, understand and appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Member and I know these sentiments are shared by many hon. Members here.... (*Interruptions*) That is why I said many Members.... (*Interruptions*) Sir, they ask the question but they do not want any reply. Already my friend Shri Sathe was pleased to take note of the fact that I should not reply as a Minister but, I should consider myself as a Member. If I consider myself as a Member, then I would have not replied to the question. But, any way, I have stated this very clearly that I appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Member and no doubt we will examine the entire issue. But, I must try to tell you that the old government has gone. I tried to understand what was the policy of the former Government in not accepting this particular policy. The background was (*Interruptions*) that Shri Somnath Chatterjee, while intervening, rightly pointed out that even today, under the present provision, there is All-India planning there is State Planning, there is District Planning Board and on the District Planning Board, MPs and MLAs are part and parcel. (*Interruptions*) Since they are the members of the District planning Board also... (*Interruptions*). Mr. Sathe, are we going to carry on the continued dialogue? Let me complete. This is not the way the question Hour is conducted. Let me complete and then you ask the question and I will reply to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't look at him. You address the Chair.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You are more charming, Sir. I will look to you. Mr. Speaker, Sir, since M.Ps. and M.L.As., according to the existing provisions, are supposed to be the members of the District Planning Board, they are supposed to have a say in every aspect of expenditure. But, unfortunately, as Mr. Sathe has rightly pointed out, that particular provision is not being implemented effectively in all the cases. That is one aspect. And that is the reason the Planning Commission, right for the last several years, has said that if you give these

discretionary powers to the M.Ps. and the M.L.As., then the priorities which are fixed at the All India level, the State level and the District Board level, are likely to be distorted by the individual discretionary powers. But, in spite of that, responding to what our friend Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev has said, I would definitely assure that we will fully re-examine the issue and try to take the view of the entire House into account and arrive at a final decision.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are states like Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat and some other States where different amounts are allotted to M.L.As to spend in their respective constituencies, so I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would ask the Chief Minister of those States to include the names of MPs in this list?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the question of implementing the suggestion, will arise only after taking a decision on it by the Central Government. At the very outset I have stated that members belonging to different political parties are here and do not take it for granted that the House has unanimous views on it. Different political parties may be having different views on it so we shall have consultation with them and if there is concensus and a decision is taken, we shall definitely contact the Chief Ministers and examine whether facilities provided to the MLAs can also be provided to the M.Ps or not.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, apart from the fact that we and our party do not principally agree with this suggestion, the other reason for which I object to this is that we have enormous problems in our Constituency and if we are given these discretionary powers, then our chance to come back will be doomed... (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, we

will make full arrangement to see that people like you are back to the Lok Sabha.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, through you, I wish to inform the Minister that we do not have any provision for the M.Ps. in Tamil Nadu to sit on the District Planning Board. On the contrary, they have an Advisory Committee called the District Development Council. Even there we are not by right members who can demand that a particular development activity must take place in a particular area. We can only ask questions like here and get answers like we get here. This is a matter of information. I would like to know from the Minister specifically whether such a situation is within the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission. If not, would he take steps to ensure that the Members of Parliament's views at least, specially of Lok Sabha, are taken into consideration for development activities? In my constituency, it is the B.D.O. who is the most powerful man.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, sometimes provisions one thing and its implementation is another thing. As far as guidelines and the note given by the Planning Commission are concerned, it is explicitly clear that there is a role for MPs and MLAs in the District Planning Board. It is altogether a different matter whether this is implemented or not, but without linking this question which he has asked, I will assure this House that we will re-examine the entire issue *de novo* and try to take a final decision.

SHRI LOKNATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, this problem arises because the MPs are not associate with the District Development Board or Panchayat or Panchayat Samiti functioning in the implementation of the centrally approved programmes. The idea of allting money to MPs will be harmful and will be against the democratic principles of planning and implementation. Therefore, the Government should consider that whatever money that goes for the various programmes, it must be at different levels to be spent at the discretion of the elected Committee at different places. Unless that is done, it will be

another harmful thing. Of course, in my State, now there are no Panchayats and no Chairmen. But the Government has entrusted the implementation of schemes only to the MLAs, not the MPs. So, I feel that only by democratisation and implementation of the programmes by the people at the lower level, at the district level, the various schemes can be executed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If at all, the suggestion is endorsed, after consultations with various parties, we will keep the warning in mind and ensure that the provision is not misused.

[*Translation*]

SHRILALITVIJAYSINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a new Member and through you I would like to tell my experience to the hon. Finance Minister. Within four months of my election as an M.P. I came to know that the people in my constituency want me to work here as a member of the Municipal Committee, as a B.D.O or as S.H.O to solve their problems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the benefits of all the development programmes which are being implemented by the Government officers, are not reaching the beneficiaries the desired extent. Therefore, this my suggestion that Lok Sabha Members should also have a say in the matter of development. Even though we may not be given power to spend money we should be consulted and our concurrence should be taken while a final touch is given for a development plan for our region or the work of identification and formulation of all the developmental schemes for the constituency is under taken.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a suggestion for taking action.

[*English*]

Barter Trade with Foreign Countries

*888. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with any foreign Government for barter trade during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to the commodities to be bartered between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ANBARASU ERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Anbarasu to put supplementaries.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, I have no supplementaries to put.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question—No. 889—Shri Radha Mohan Singh. Not present. Next question No. 890—Shri Amarroy Pradhan—He is also not present. Then, Q. No. 891—Shri Harikewal Prasad.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Bank Branches in Deoria District of Uttar Pradesh

*891 SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open more branches of the State Bank of India and the Central Bank of India in the rural areas of Deoria district in Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.