

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that it is planned to provide an electronic exchange when the demand builds up. My question is not that. By which time the plan will be implemented? Will the exchange be started this year or will it take five ten years complete? Aonla is an important place. IFFCO has set up a big factory there and several new industries are also being set up there. If proper communication facilities are not provided there, the industries being set up there will not be in a position to make any progress. Therefore, electronic telephone exchange should be set up there immediately. I would like to know whether the electronic exchange would be set up there in this financial year or not?

[*English*]

SHRIK.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: I am aware of what the hon. Member has said just now. But as I said earlier, at the moment it does not justify that. Anyhow, since the hon. Member has said that it is a very important place and Tehsil headquarter of U.P. Government, we shall certainly try to see that a 524 ILT electronic exchange could be allotted for 1990-91 itself.

**WELCOME TO SPEAKER OF SRI
LANKAN PARLIAMENT**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Before I ask hon. Members to put further supplementaries, on behalf of this House and on my own behalf. I have great pleasure in welcoming Hon'ble Mr. M.H. Mohammed, Speaker of Parliament of Sri Lanka, who is currently on a visit to our country. He arrived here on Tuesday, 27th March, 1990.

Hon'ble Speaker is seated in the Special Box.

We wish him a fruitful stay and very happy sojourn in our country. We would like to convey through him our best wishes to the President of Sri Lanka, the Parliament and the people of Sri Lanka.

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—
CONTD.**

[*English*]

**Implementation of Integrated Rural
Development Programme**

*252. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government appointed Committee has revealed that anti-poverty measures like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) suffered from various deficiencies like leakage in the administration of subsidy funds;

(b) if so, the details of the deficiencies pointed out by this Committee; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to remove these deficiencies and make the scheme more effective and useful?

[*Translation*]

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI
LAL):** (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government is implementing a number of programmes which together constitute the total set up its anti-poverty strategy. These include the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

2. The programmes of the Government, including IRDP, are monitored regularly and

evaluated periodically. IRDP has also under-gone scrutiny through a number of evaluation studies during the recent years. Such evaluation studies have generally found merit in the programme which is aimed at providing productive assets to the poorest of the poor. The greatest strength of the programme lies in the fact that over the years it has been able to mobilise a massive element of credit from financial institutions for the poor families.

3. Some studies have also pointed out some weaknesses and deficiencies in the programme. These include an element of wrong identification, leakages of funds to some extent, non-availability of assets in some cases etc. Since the programme is administered through the State Governments, the deficiencies are brought to their notice and they take the necessary corrective measures at the district and lower levels.

4. The central Government has taken several steps to improve the implementation of IRDP, including the following:—

1. A higher investment per family including package of assistance to enable them to have proper return on investment for new beneficiaries.
2. Supplemental dose of assistance to those families assisted during the Sixth Plan who have not been able to cross the poverty line for no fault of their own.
3. For increasing the coverage of women beneficiaries a target of 30% has been set.
4. Limit for security free loans under IRDP is agriculture and allied activities has been raised from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000. For industries, service and business sectors it is Rs. 25,000.
5. A uniform application-cum-appraisal form for IRDP loans has

been introduced with effect from 1.4.1987.

6. Diversification of activities under IRDP, Coordination with other schemes like Operation Flood and Integrated Child Development Services have also been emphasised.
7. For facilitating greater coverage of women under IRDP the Government, from 1.1.1990, has extended a group approach to all districts under which groups of women forming thrift and credit societies would be provided matching grant for a revolving fund equal to the amount of savings generated by the groups. The matching grant would be subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15,000 per group.
8. It has been decided recently that from 1990-1991, 3% of IRDP benefits should be earmarked for physically handicapped persons under IRDP.

Management of a programme like IRDP is a dynamic process. This calls for a continuous response to the emerging situations. The IRD programme undergoes constant review at the district/State and national levels. There is also a process of Concurrent Evaluation through research and academic institutions to provide feedback on programme performance. Based on these inputs the programme design undergoes regular review and, if the need arises, necessary changes.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister what had been the impact of the poverty alleviation programmes in terms of rise in per capita income among the poor households during the Sixth and Seventh Five-Year Plans. Also, I would like to know how many millions of families were

assisted during these plan periods.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: A statement has been attached with the Question No. 252. It is a written statement.

SHRI DEVI LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Khusro Committee has been considered. I may say something in that respect. Various schemes to assist the poor were placed before the Khusro Committee. Two-third and one-third of the total provision of these schemes is given as subsidy and the interest is charged at the rate of ten per cent only. Various other measures have also been proposed to assist the poor. Subsidies are provided to the people for purchase of cows and poultry farms. It is a very successful scheme. This scheme has been implemented in 12 villages of Ludhiana district. One cow and fifty hens have been given to each of the beneficiary and one can lead a respectable life with that much.

[*English*]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Sir, I want to know how many million families were assisted during these plan periods.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVILAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard, I would like to say that if the hon. Member wants to know the number of beneficiaries, he has to give a separate notice for that. At present, I can tell him that assistance has been provided to about 333 lakh people under this scheme. If the hon. Member wants to know as to what sort of assistance was given, he has to give separate notice for that to enable me to collect and furnish all relevant details.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that under the RLEGP and the NREP, the tribal areas used to get much

more assistance, but now under the JRY, the tribal areas are getting much less assistance. Would the hon. Minister consider giving them more assistance and correcting this imbalance?

[*Translation*]

SHRIDEVILAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the programme assistance is given specially to Harijans and tribals. As I have mentioned earlier that if the landless people intend to start a poultry farm etc. the Government provides subsidy for that also. Besides, assistance is also provided specially to the women.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Sir, I need your protection. The Minister is not answering my question. My question is that under the RLEGP and the NREP, the tribal areas used to get much more assistance but now under the JRY, they are getting much less assistance. I want an answer from the hon. Minister whether he will consider giving them more assistance.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking whether the assistance already being given in tribal areas, has been reduced now.

SHRI DEVI LAL: We propose to give them more assistance. Under this scheme, we give priority, particularly, to Harijan and tribals and women are placed at par with them.... (*Interruptions*)....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You should be proud of the reply given by the Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: I am mentioning here women particularly because it is said that I am against women. Earlier, coverage to women beneficiaries was 30 per cent which

has now been raised to 40 per cent under this programme.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the basic question is regarding the evaluation of the I.R.D.P. May I know from the hon. Minister, taking the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans, during which period the total assistance had been given through the IRDP, whether the Government has any proposal to evaluate the assistance given during the past or whether any evaluation has been done during the past and whether the Government is proposing to continue this programme in the 8th Plan? If they are going to continue this programme, I want to know whether any evaluation is going to be done and if any evaluation has been conducted, please state the result of the evaluation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: As I have said earlier, I am repeating it again that so far as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are concerned..... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member want's to know if you are reviewing it.

SHRI DEVI LAL: What I am stating is that we do review but is to see to how can we assist them.

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government certainly gives assistance to the rural poor, farmers and workers but that does not reach them. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government whether it has started any special drive to ensure that assistance sanctioned for the poor reaches them? In the Congress regime, 15 paise out of rupee one reached the poor, so I would like to know whether the Government would start a drive to ensure that the entire amount sanctioned for them reaches them.

SHRI DEVI LAL: In 1980-81, assistance of Rs. 250 crores was given as loan

which has now risen to Rs. 1250 crores in 1989-90.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

[*English*]

**U.S. State Department Spokesman
Statement on Kashmir**

*253. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. State Department Spokesman has reportedly made a statement asking the Indian Government to restrain its security forces from using deadly force against unarmed people in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has conveyed to the US Ambassador in New Delhi its concern about this obviously inaccurate statement.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this Government has taken charge, of course due to mismanagement, they could convince nobody of their actions in Kashmir. The people in Kashmir whether they are Hindus or Muslims or even civil servants, are not convinced of their actions. Sir, nobody is convinced of their actions in Kashmir, not even the Minister-in-Charge of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri George Fernandes. I think the only person who is convinced is Mr. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, our Home Minister. That is about Kashmir. But internationally in world capitals we were told that a high profile diplomatic initiative is being taken, our Ambassadors were sent to various Capitals and this Government is saying that our diplomatic initiative was a success. But what is the position? Look at the statement of the U.S. State Department spokesman. That Statement shows that the well-trained, high