

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 6, 1987 | Chaitra 16,
1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Report of National Commission on
Urbanisation

+

*552. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Urbanisation has submitted its report to Union Government recently;

(b) if so, the main suggestions made in the Report; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The Commission submitted its first interim report in January, 1987.

(b) The report, besides giving an overview of urbanisation, deals with some of the legal constraints on urban development, such as the ceiling on urban land holdings and rent control acts and proposes accelerated

2

development and growth of nerve centres, besides reiterating possibilities of strengthening and revitalising the national cities.

(c) The report of the Commission is being processed. Copies thereof have been sent to all States/Union Territories and Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and comments from them are awaited.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, the National Commission on Urbanisation has since submitted this report in January, 1987. They have come out with some very good recommendation, to be adopted in the field of urban development. I would like to know, through you, from the Hon. Minister what are the legal constrains as pointed out by this Commission that stand in the field of Urban development and what are the recommendations of the commission to overcome them and the reaction of the Government thereto ? Besides, another recommendation is that the Commission has expressed its grave concern at the present status of health of our four metropolitan cities, that is, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Bombay. They have evolved a new concept of national status for these four metropolitan cities. They have also termed them as nerve centres of our urban system. So, what action is the Government of India going to take in this direction to save these four metropolitan cities about whose health the Commission has expressed grave concern and asked for immediate intervention by the Government ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the commission's report, there are 538 such cities which have a population upto 5 lakhs and 17 cities have more than 5 lakh of population. The growth rate of our urban population is 19 per cent whereas our national average of the rate of

growth in population is 24 to 25 per cent. So it is an important question which the Hon. Member has asked. There are 19 groups working in the commission and the first interim report has been submitted. We hope that the second report is likely to be received by April, 1988, in which comparatively, we will look into all the aspects. As regards our four metropolitan cities, that is, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras, all the facts have been taken into consideration, especially in respect of these four cities and in the Charles Correa Commission, special importance has been given to 2 or 3 points.

[English]

Overview of urbanisation, legal constraints, nerve centres and so on.

[Translation]

So these are important points for which we are waiting for the report and unless the interim report is received, we cannot do much. But if the Hon. Members desire, we can provide the first interim report to them.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : My question was not fully answered, in the sense that I pointed out that the Commission in its interim report has asked for immediate intervention of the Centre to save the four metropolitan cities. Pending the submission of final report, Government is supposed to take some action in the light of suggestions made by the Commission. Secondly, the Minister has indicated that the report is being processed and States, Union territories and different Ministries/Departments have been asked to give their comments on the interim report. How long will this process with regard to the Report take in the Ministry and what has been the progress in this direction? Has the Governments received any comments from different State Governments, Union Territories and different Ministries/Departments; if so, what is it going to do about it?

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these matters have been sent to the respective State Governments for comments.

These matters have been sent to the Central Ministries also. We are making efforts to receive the comments as early as possible. All concerned have been requested to submit their comments early, but we did not receive the comments even by 31st March. We are requesting the State Governments that they should send their comments at the earliest so that we can take further action.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether any steps so far have been taken to see that the migration from rural areas to metropolitan cities directly which has been going apace for the last few decades is decelerated; if so, what is the result? What does the Government propose to do with regard to that aspect of rural migration into metropolitan cities? So long as this cannot be checked and the population of metropolitan cities goes on growing, what does the Government propose to do to reduce the pollution level in all aspects of these metropolitan cities.

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member has asked as to why the people from the rural areas migrate to cities. The Central Government is constantly vigilant that the rural people do not migrate to metropolitan cities. The first report of the Commission has been received now. You will see all these things have been mentioned in it. Similarly, under the I.D.S.M.T. programme, the cities with upto one lakh of population should be provided with all the amenities so that the people do not migrate to metropolitan cities. It is a grave situation for the country when the people are migrating to urban areas. The Government is alert to control this problem. We have plans in this regard and we are also trying to implement them.

[English]

SHRI T. BASHEER : There is a strong feeling among the people about the necessity of urban land ceiling because of the accumulation of urban lands in some people's hands. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Government proposes to have the law for the urban ceiling or advise the State Governments to have such a law.

MR. SPEAKER : The same question is coming.

National Gene Bank

+

*553. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi;

(b) whether a national symposium on plant genetic resources organised by the NBPGR was held on March 3, 1987;

(c) if so, the major recommendations made therein and whether Government have considered them; and

(d) if so, the action taken to implement the recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The symposium made some major recommendations which include strengthening of germplasm collection of priority crops and areas, quarantine facilities, documentation and retrieval systems, establishment of tissue bank and cryopreservation of germplasm. Establishment of duplicate repository to hold genetic resources has also been suggested to avoid risk of loss of germplasm due to unforeseen circumstances.

(d) Follow up action is being initiated.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Sir, I would like to know when actually was this gene bank established and how many explorations were undertaken either by the gene bank or by the Bureau of plant Genetic Resources and how many accessions of agriculture and horticulture crops have hitherto been collected. The genetic wealth in different parts of the country is having its

own rarity in major part of our country. So, I would also like to know whether to preserve that native genetic wealth, the Government is proposing to establish gene sanctuaries and if so, at how many centres and what are the places proposed.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, this was established only because of preserving the original germplasm in the country and it was established in 1944. So far 106 explorations have been undertaken and 48,326 samples have been collected.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Sir, my second point has not been answered, that is, whether the Government is proposing to establish gene sanctuaries.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Yes, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Sir, there have been small centres in the beginning but a bigger one was established by ICAR in 1976.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Sir, of late, may be because of import of foodgrains for some years, we are now seeing various diseases and pests which were not prevalent in our country. It is going to prove to be a very dangerous thing for the agricultural economy of our country. So, I would like to know whether Government have analysed the reasons for these new diseases and pests which were not prevalent and whether Government have contemplated taking effective action and also whether Government is negotiating for a project on Plant Genetic Resources under the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Agriculture, and if so, whether the negotiations have been completed and when is the project going to be implemented.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the research for the number of diseases and pests which are there in the country is being done by the scientists and they evolve new varieties which are disease free. So far as the steps taken to prevent it are concerned, there is a quarantine system and every seed which is received from outside is being quarantined.