

17.32. hrs.

# HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION RE. TIME BOUND SCHEMES FOR IMPROVE- MENT OF CALCUTTA SLUMS

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, if the Prime Minister were here today in this House I would have asked : Do you really believe in socialism, and is the suffering of the underdogs of the country deep in your heart ; If so, the welfare of 35 lakhs of the slum-dwellers of Calcutta is the acid test of your pledge to socialism.

Mr. Kipling, a former poet-laureate of the British Empire once described Calcutta, the jewel city of the British Empire, as the cholera capital of the world. 80 lakhs of people of Greater Calcutta have 1,40,000 service privies. You will be startled by the figure of such service privies in this area, 12 per cent slum dwellers have no lavatories at all ; there are four per cent premises which share about one lavatory for 100 persons, and another one per cent where there is one lavatory for 60 persons. There are 1,26,000 kutchia privies in the slum area of Greater Calcutta. Is it necessary for me to analyse that these service privies in the slum area provide a breeding ground for the germs of cholera, typhoid, tuberculosis and all kinds of endemic and epidemic diseases ?

Sir, recently a British and American Urban Expert Team visited Greater Calcutta slum areas and observed :

"We have not seen human degradation on a comparable scale in any other city in the world."

The World Health Organization remarked :

"Greater Calcutta is an international health hazard."

Calcutta is not only the cholera capital of the world but, if you will allow me to say so, it is a giant metropolis of the slums of the world.

Normally, Greater Calcutta had 3,000 busties or slums, but after partition about 500 new busties, which are euphemistically known

as squatters' colonies, have been added to it. Before partition, the number of slum dwellers was 15 lakhs ; after partition, due to the addition of refugees in these slums and new squatters' colonies their total number will be nearly 35 lakhs.

I want to draw the attention of Government to the fact that 45 lakh refugees have entered into West Bengal alone, and 55 per cent of the total population of Greater Calcutta constitutes the refugees. Who are these refugees ? They belong to upper class, middle class and lower middle class intelligentsia of East Bengal who have migrated to India after partition. Perhaps I need not remind you that East Bengal had the highest concentration of middle class people in pre-partition India. This refugee intelligentsia, nearly 20 lakhs of them, have taken shelter in the busties. The total slum population of Greater Calcutta now is, as I have already said, 35 lakhs.

For the last 20 years the Government of India did not try to analyse the socio-economic effects of such abnormal concentration of very sensitive intelligentsia in the slums or so-called squatters' colonies. These refugees who are now slum dwellers have the richest heritage of patriotism, suffering, sacrifice and martyrdom for the emancipation of the country on the one hand, and very delicate, aesthetic and cultural taste and idealism of the highest order on the other. Now such type of fine human beings are living in slums as huddled animals. 50 per cent of the slum dwellers intelligentsia live in one room with four persons on the average living in each room. Can you imagine that in such a condition of living as huddled animals they can remain *homo sapiens* of finer taste and sensitive culture ?

If you have the mind to understand the depth and volume of the problems of the slum dwellers in Greater Calcutta and make a scientific analysis of the socio-economic causes and conflicts inside the slums, then you will understand how it is impossible for fine, sensitive, delicate human beings to live in this sub-human condition in the slums. It is this conflict and hopes and aspirations of the finer human being on the one hand and intolerable condition on the other that have generated the breeding ground of politics of violence, chaos, terrorism and insurrection in

[Shri Samar Guha]

Calcutta. Calcutta has started quaking. It will turn into a cataclysmic earthquake sweeping the whole of India one day and bring about structural collapse of the democracy in India unless you understand the psychosis of cynicism and frustration that have developed into the mind of this finer set of intelligentsia who are now living inside the slums as nothing but sub-human specimens.

50,000 slum dwellers have no home. 18,000 beggars live there and about 50,000 vendors and hawkers use the slums only for night shelter. 70 per cent of the busties or slums are made of kutchra houses and huts and 30 per cent of them have meagre supply of electricity. These huts have no ventilation. They are damp and smoky. 70 per cent of the slums remain waterlogged during the rainy season.

The average size of the rooms in the slums is 110 square feet in which five persons live using it also for cooking and other purposes. 50 per cent of the total population of Calcutta live in one-room houses with four persons on the average in each room. Water supply to the slums is one tap for 50 persons and in many slums where there is no drainage only one tap for 150 persons is there. Water supply dwindled from 52.3 gallons of filtered water per head in 1931 to 28 gallons in 1963. These slums have no sanitary arrangements, no sanitary latrines, practically no filtered drinking water, no adequate drainage system, no passage or roads inside the slums, no lighting arrangement as required. These slums are nothing but dungeons of the modern civilised life. All these figures that I have quoted are from the CMPO Survey and from the survey conducted by the Calcutta University.

What are the problems? The problems of improvement of 35 lakhs slum dwellers are (1) socio-physical, (2) socio-cultural and (3) economic rehabilitation. But the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority are dealing with only one problem. That is, not even clearance of kutchra houses, kutchra huts, and building of pucca hutments for slum dwellers but only to provide sanitary latrines

in place of kutchra latrines, minimum quantum of water supply and sewerage and just passage for movement inside the slums and lighting arrangements only. Unless the Socio-cultural problems are also tackled with, these slums will remain as the breeding ground of not only physical diseases but also mental diseases.

According to the Calcutta University Study Group Survey,

"These slums in Calcutta are on the one hand breeding grounds of crimes, delinquencies, gambling, alcoholism and prostitution and, on the other, politics of violence, chaos and insurrection."

Then, 60 per cent of the children of the age group between 6 and 11 have no primary school in Calcutta slum areas, 85 per cent have no secondary school. There are no parks, no recreation clubs or any other avenues for cultural expressions of these people. Lakhs and lakhs of middle-class people, very sensitive and with fine aesthetic sense, have taken shelter in these slums.

These slums require 430 primary schools for 86,000 children. But there is no provisions of any such thing in the present Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority scheme. In the slum areas, only 0.2 acre of recreational ground per thousand people is provided which is less than half of Bombay and Madras and one-seventh of Bangalore and the least as compared to anywhere in the world. 80 per cent of the slums are not covered by the sewerage system. Just ten minutes rainfall is sufficient to flood the slums in Calcutta.

Can you imagine what the youngmen, school and college students, the factory workers, the daily wage earners, the employees in the private and public officers will do after returning home? They have no place to sit and, naturally, their brains are bound to turn into the workshops of the devils the outcome of which we are witnessing today in Calcutta.

There is another problem. By mere improvement of slums, even by providing socio-economic benefits, you cannot do anything unless you provide for economic

rehabilitation. If you want to restore the mental health of 35 lakhs of slum dwellers most of whom belong to lower middle-class intelligentsia, you have to provide them with parks and sufficient recreational facilities as also with employment.

I would give you startling figures of the unemployment position. These are the figures CMO. This is the unemployment problem. These people are talking about Calcutta, that Calcutta has turned violent and all that. In the slums where the finest type of intelligentsia from middle-class are taking shelter, 6.6 per cent earn Rs. 50/- per month. 50% earn Rs. 51 to Rs. 100 per month. 18% earn Rs. 101-150 per month and 16% above Rs. 150, and all of them have to maintain a family of 5 to 10 members in each house in the slums.

Now, the backlog of educated unemployed alone is 5 lakhs, and in West Bengal as a whole, after the Third Plan, it is about 15 lakhs. This is not my figure, this is the Planning Commission's figure. After the Fourth Plan it will be 30 lakhs and out of which in slum areas alone it will be 10 lakhs.

Now, the question of finance comes. Rs. 150 crores have been sanctioned in the Fourth Plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you will put your question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I am coming. This year, what have they given ? Rs. 6.5 crores out of the State Plan, Rs. 5 crores from the Centre as loan, Rs. 7 crores from the bank finance, Rs. 3 crores from the Central octroi and only Rs. 3 crores is central grant, and for the next year it will require at least Rs. 40 crores. But no certain commitment has been made yet. I want to know why the Government is not utilising both the national and international sources. There are many people who have said that West Bengal, particularly Calcutta, which is the industrial capital of India is a special national problem. The Prime Minister had been to Calcutta recently and she should know the conditions of Calcutta. Why not the Planning Com-

mission and the Finance Commission adopt a special formula for the special development of Calcutta and solution of its problems ? The same formula is applied by them. Why not other international sources be tapped for help to solve the problems of Calcutta ? Even the World Bank President McNamara himself has made a mention about the problem of Calcutta. From PL480 funds assistance has been given for slum clearance in Bombay and not to Calcutta. Israel and many other countries have come forward with help. UNESCO gave crores of rupees for the rehabilitation of war refugees. Why not this Government ask for help from that organization. I want to know. Why don't they ask for help from UNESCO ? If you can give compensation to West Pakistan refugees, why not give compensation to East Pakistan refugees ? Build up a consolidated fund and with that fund develop small scale, medium scale and agro-industries schemes for the rehabilitation of refugees.

Sir, I want to sound a note of warning. Greater Calcutta constitute the most vital industrial complex of our country, producing the biggest quantum of coal ; steel, iron, light and heavy engineering goods, railway wagons, jute products, textiles, chemicals, paper, machine tools and arms and ammunitions for the whole nation. It is the most important trade, business and industrial centre of the whole of modern India. Calcutta port deals with 45% of Indian exports and 25% of imports by tonnage. 30% of India's total banking clearance is made in Calcutta and 37% of foreign banking deposits are also accounted in the banks of Calcutta. Calcutta controls 9100 joint stock companies with a paid-up capital of Rs. 634.2 crores ; according to 1258-59 figure it amounts to 43% of the total of companies in India. Calcutta generates Rs. 641 crores of national wealth, provides one-fifth of the total central taxes, one-third of the foreign exchange of the country, collects Rs. 96 crores on exports and import duties, Rs. 45 crores of central excise taxes and Greater Calcutta provides Rs. 332 crores of mineral wealth.

Sir, do I require to remind you that if Calcutta is lost due to its slum problems, eastern India will be lost and in no time a nemesis will overtake the fate of rest of India ? I want to remind the Prime

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Minister through the Minister and I appeal to the Central Government to understand the socio-economic problems of Calcutta and its slum dwellers, the problems of the delicate and sensitive intelligentsia and create their problems as national problems before from the epicentre in the slums, dynamic forces, explosive forces of cynicism and frustration are generated. As I said, and I repeat, unless these are tackled expeditiously, it will shake the foundation of the democratic structure of India, and bring about a structural collapse. I warn the Government to take up on a war footing the problems of 35 lakhs slum dwellers of which 75% are middle-class intelligentsia refugees from East Pakistan.

Thank you, Sir.

**श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) :** हम लोगों ने कई दफा कहा है कि कलकत्ता बंगाल सिटी नहीं है बल्कि आल इंडिया सिटी है। उसकी समस्या आल इंडिया समस्या है। लेकिन सरकार ने कभी उस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया। उसका सबूत यह है कि वहां जो स्लम्स हैं, कलकत्ते में मोटे तौर पर आधे लोग स्लम्स में रहते हैं या फुट पाथ पर रहते हैं। इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए अर्थ-शास्त्रियों ने हिसाब लगाया कि दस करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत है। लेकिन चौथी पंच वर्षीय योजना में स्लम को हटाने के लिए सरकार ने शायद एक करोड़ रुपये की रकम रखी है, क्या यह बात सही है कि नहीं? यदि यह बात सही है तो ऐसा क्यों है?

दूसरा सवाल है—कलकत्ता में आवास की और खाने की यह दो बड़ी समस्याएँ हैं। आप वहां कामन हाउसेज बना सकते हैं क्यों कि बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं कि जिनके परिवार नहीं हैं। तो आप कामन हाउसेज बना दीजिए और यदि वह नहीं कर सकते हैं तो वहां बड़े-बड़े मकान हैं जिनके मालिक सलाही के रूप में लम्बी रकम लेकर जनता को तंग करते हैं,

क्या ऐसे मकानों पर आप कब्जा करके इनको देंगे ताकि उनकी आवास की समस्या हल हो सके? इसी तरह से पब्लिक बाथ और लैंड्रिन की समस्या भी हल हो सकती है। तो क्या ऐसा आप करेंगे?

तीसरा साल है—स्वायर मील का। बम्बई में स्वायर मील का इन्तजाम है कोआपरेटिव की तरफ से। सस्ता खाना वहां जगह-जगह मिलता है। अभी की मैं नहीं कह सकता लेकिन पीछे का मेरा तर्जुमा है तो स्वायर मील की व्यवस्था वहां मौहल्ले मौहल्ले में, कोने-कोने में आप करेंगे ताकि इस तरह आवास और खाने की समस्या का हल हो सके और चीप और क्लीन खाना आप वहां दे सकें? क्या इन दो समस्याओं को आप हल करेंगे?

चौथा सवाल है कि जैसा कि कहा गया पी० एल० 480 में अमेरिका की सरकार ने वादा किया है कुछ देने का, कहां तक देगी या वर्ल्ड बैंक से कहां तक मिलता है, इन दो संस्थाओं से कहां तक मिलता है और कहां तक आप मदद करते हैं कलकत्ते की समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए, इसके बारे में आप बताएं?

**श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) :** कलकत्ता हमारे देश का सबसे गन्दा शहर है और सबसे बड़ा शहर भी है। गन्दा से मतलब वहाँ पर कोई सिविक एमेनिटीज नहीं हैं और इसके लिए जिम्मेदार अगर इसके ऊपर एक्वायरी कमिशन बिठाया जाय तो मैं यह कहूंगा कि इसकी जिम्मेदारी जो कांग्रेस ने वहाँ पर 20 साल तक राज किया उसके ऊपर है और उसी तरह से यूनाइटेड फ्रंट गवर्नमेंट जो बाद में बनी वह भी उसके लिए उत्तनी ही दोषी है...

**श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु (डायमंड हाबर) :** कितने दिन के लिए?

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : वह जितने रोज के लिए भी बनी। वास्तविकता यह है कि जो भी सरकार बेस्ट बंगाल में बनी किसी ने कलकत्ता शहर की तरफ जरा सा भी ध्यान नहीं दिया एण्ड दैट वाज शियर क्रिमिनल नेग्लिजेंस। मेरी रुचि कलकत्ता में दो तरह से है। एक तो कलकत्ता हमारे देश का हिस्सा है और दूसरे भारतीय जनसंघ के संस्थापक डा० श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी भी कलकत्ते में रहते थे। इसलिए सेंटीमेंटल अप्रोच भी हमारी कलकत्ते के साथ में है। मैंने मारा जब आए तो उन्होंने कहा कि यह बहुत ही गन्दा हो रहा है...(Interruptions).

मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि अगर इसी तरह से इस सरकार ने भी कुछ नहीं किया तो अगले दस साल के बाद कलकत्ता विल बी दि लाजेंस्ट विलेज इन दिस बल्डें। कलकत्ता एक बड़ा शहर न रहकर एक गांव बन जाएगा और दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा गांव होगा। गांव में इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि जैसे गांव में कोई सिविक एमेनिटीज नहीं होती हैं वही हाल कलकत्ता में हो जाएगा और यह शहर न रहकर एक गांव बन जाएगा।

तो मैं अब दो तीन सवाल पूछना चाहूंगा। पहला तो यह कि क्या मंत्री महोदय एक फेज्ड प्रोग्राम बनाएंगे कि जितने लोग स्लम में रहते हैं वह पांच साल के अन्दर बसा दिए जाएं ? हर साल इतने स्लम डेवलपमेंट को, इतने झुग्गी वालों को आप ले जाकर बसाएंगे इसके लिए एक पांच साल का फेज्ड प्रोग्राम बना कर के सदन के सामने रखेंगे कि पांच साल में कलकत्ते के ये स्लम खत्म हो जाएंगे ?

दूसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या यह सही है कि सरकार ने कुछ और फंड्स दिए हैं और उन फंड्स के मुताबिक जिस प्रगति से कलकत्ते के स्लम बढ़ रहे हैं वह कम नहीं होगे बल्कि

और ज्यादा बढ़ेंगे क्या यह सही है ? क्या इस फंड के हिसाब से स्लम्स कम होने की सम्भावना है या और बढ़ने की सम्भावना है ? इसलिए क्या सरकार और ज्यादा फंड्स कलकत्ता सिटी के डेवलपमेंट के लिए और सफाई इत्यादि के लिए देगी ?

तीसरा सवाल मेरा यह है कि जो स्लम्स में रहते हैं उनकी सोशियो एकोनामिक प्राबलम्स भी हैं। अगर आप उनको उठाकर बाहर फैंकेंगे या झुग्गी वालों को निकाल कर बाहर फैंकेंगे तो उनकी आर्थिक अवस्था बिगड़ जाएगी, तो क्या सरकार यह विश्वास दिलाएगी कि जो स्लम्स में रहते हैं उनकी हालत में इम्प्रूवमेंट करेगी और उनको बेसिक अमेनिटीज वहीं प्रोवाइड करेगी ? उन झुग्गी वालों को दूर न डाला जाय, नजदीक से नजदीक उन्हें बसाया जाय जैसे कि दिल्ली में हमने किया है कि झुग्गी वालों को और स्लम्स में रहने वालों को भी आप जाकर देखें जितनी बेसिक अमेनिटीज हैं वह दी हैं। यहां पांच लाख आदमी स्लम्स में रहते हैं और प्राइवेट कटरों में रहते हैं। वहां पर हमने उनको सब बेसिक अमेनिटीज दी हैं। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय जो कलकत्ते में प्राइवेट कटरों में रहते हैं और जहां कोई अमेनिटीज नहीं वहां मकान मालिक तो इसलिए कोई फॅसिलिटी नहीं देता कि वह किराया कमाता है और रहने वाले गरीब हैं तो उन प्राइवेट कटरों के लिए सरकार क्या करेगी, यह मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे ?

श्री वेणी शंकर शर्मा : मेरे मित्र श्री समर गुह ने बस्तियों के सुधारों के सम्बन्ध में जो सुझाव दिए हैं उनका समर्थन करते हुए मैं दो एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री महोदय जानते हैं कि वेस्ट बंगाल कंसल्टेटिव कमिटी की जो मीटिंग 13 तारीख को हो रही है उसमें वे एक स्लम ब्लीअरेंस बिल पेश कर रहे हैं। मेरी धारणा है कि ऐसे बिल पेश करने से इन बस्तियों की समस्या हल नहीं हो

[श्री वेणी शंकर शर्मा]

सकती। उसमें कुछ सैनिटेशन की, रोशनी की, पानी की व्यवस्था में सुधार की बात हो सकती है लेकिन जो आधारभूत मूल समस्या है उसका हम निराकरण नहीं कर सकते।

गत सत्र में मेरे एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में मंत्री महोदय ने कहा था कि हम इन बस्तियों के सुधार के लिए एक रिवाल्विंग फंड कायम कर रहे हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उस रिवाल्विंग फंड की क्या स्थिति है और उसके अन्तर्गत जो एक हाउसिंग ऐंड अबन डेवलपमेंट फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन के नाम से संस्था का निर्माण करने की बात थी और जिसका रजिस्ट्रेशन 25-4-70 को किया गया है, उसमें क्या प्रगति हो रही है? क्या उसके होल टाइम डायरेक्टर, पार्ट टाइम डायरेक्टर और चीफ एक्जीक्यूटिव गैरह निर्वाचित हो गए हैं या नहीं हुए हैं तो उसमें क्या देर है? आज ही मेरे एक लिखित प्रश्न के उत्तर में मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है :

"The Housing & Urban Finance Corporation has by now received 116 proposals from the States involving a capital outlay of about Rs. 1 crore."

तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कलकत्ते से भी कोई प्रोजेक्ट प्रोजेक्ट्स मिले हैं? और यदि हां, तो उसमें कितने रुपये की मांग की गई है।

सभापति महोदय मेरा तीसरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय जानते हैं कि कलकत्ते के व्यापारिक समुदाय ने और चैम्बर आफ कामर्स ने मिल कर जिस समय यूनाइटेड फंड गवर्नमेंट थी एक स्कीम कलकत्ते की इन बस्तियों की हालत सुधारने के लिए दी थी लेकिन राजनैतिक कारणों से पश्चिम बंगाल की तत्कालीन सरकार ने उसको मंजूर नहीं किया, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय उस पर फिर से विचार करेंगे?

अन्त में मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वे जानते हैं कि कलकत्ते में जिन जमीनों पर बस्तियां हैं उनके प्राइवेट मालिक हैं और बहुत सी बस्तियां तो कलकत्ते के बीच में हैं जहां जमीनों के काफी ऊंचे दाम हैं। उसमें मेरा एक सुझाव है, उन बस्तियों की जमीन एक्वायर करके आधी जमीन आक्शन से लोगों को बेच दी जाय और आधी जमीन में मल्टी-स्टोरीड फ्लैट्स बनाये जाय, जिनमें बस्ती के लोगों को रहने की जगह दी जाय। इससे सरकार को कुछ आमदनी भी हो जायगी और कलकत्ते की इस समस्या का सुधार भी हो सकेगा। क्या वे इस सुझाव पर भी विचार करेंगे।

18 hrs.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I am not entitled to ask a question, but with the permission of the Chair I would like to have a clarification as to how many times the Mayor of Calcutta has come to the Prime Minister with concrete proposals for funds and what the outcome of it is.

श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : चेयरमैन महोदय, इस बात से कतई इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता कि कलकत्ता दुनिया के बड़े शहरों में से एक है और उस के मसायल भी बड़े परेशानकुन हैं, जो जल्द हल होने चाहिए, खास तौर से इस वजह से कि मशरकी पाकिस्तान से जो 40-45 लाख भाई आये, उनमें से आधे यानी 20 लाख के करीब लोग वहीं कलकत्ता में बस गये।

दूसरी बात वहां पर नक्सलाइट एक्टिविटीज चल रही हैं, उस में अनएम्पलायेड तब का इन्वाल्ड है। जैसा अभी मेरे भाई ने कहा कि यह सोशियो-इकानामिक मामला है और उसका दखल कलकत्ते की झुग्गी-झोंपड़ियों में बहुत ज्यादा है। इसलिए इस बात से कोई इन्कार नहीं कर सकता कि जहां यह समस्या देश के दूसरे भागों में भी हल होनी चाहिए, वहां कलकत्ता को प्रिफरेंशल ट्रीटमेंट मिलना

चाहिए, कलकत्ता को तरजीह दी जानी चाहिए।

मैं आपकी मारफत सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ—जैसा कार्ल-माक्स ने लिख दिया है कि अगर हिन्दुस्तान में इन्क्लाब आयेगा तो कलकत्ते से आयेगा, इस बात से डरते हुए नहीं, बल्कि वहाँ की हालत को मद्देनजर रखते हुए क्या आप कोई स्कीम बना रहे हैं—जैसा मेरे भाई प्रो० गुहा ने कहा—यूनेस्को की मारफत या वर्ल्ड बैंक की मारफत या मोनिटरी फण्ड से—इन्टरनेशनल रिसोर्सिज हासिल करने के लिए क्या आपके पास कोई स्कीम है, जिससे हम इस काम में कलकत्ते से शुरुआत कर सकें? अगर नहीं है तो क्या कोई दूसरी तजवीज आप के जेरे-गौर है, जिससे हम इस समस्या को हल कर सकें।

दूसरा सवाल—क्या आपने कलकत्ते में कोई स्लम क्लियरेंस कारपोरेशन की स्कीम जारी की है, अगर की है तो उसकी प्रोग्रेस क्या है, अगर नहीं है तो क्या इसके बारे में आप सोच रहे हैं?

तीसरा सवाल—ओन-योर-हाउसिंग-स्कीम के तहत एल० आइ० सी० कर्ज देती है, क्या इस के तहत आपने कोई कर्ज वहाँ दिये हैं लोग वहाँ इस स्कीम से कर्ज लेते हैं? एल० आइ० सी० का काम, मैं समझता हूँ, कलकत्ता में सबसे ज्यादा होगा, इसलिए क्या एल० आइ० सी० का फण्ड वहाँ इस काम में इस्तेमाल होता है?

आपने बैंकों का नेशनलाइजेशन किया है, इससे गरीब तबके का फायदा होना चाहिए। क्या इन बैंकों ने वहाँ के स्लम डवैलर्स या झुग्गी-झोपड़ी वालों की इन्डिविजुअल लान्ड की शक्ल में मदद की है। अगर की है तो क्या आप उस मदद को और ज्यादा बढ़ा रहे हैं। क्या आप कलकत्ते के लिए किसी

स्पेशल लोन की स्कीम को फ्लोट कर रहे हैं—स्लम क्लियरेंस स्कीम के तहत, जिससे कि इस मसले के हल होने में मदद मिल सके।

क्या आपके पास इसके लिए कोई टाइम-बाउण्ड प्रोग्राम है? जैसा मेरे भाई ने कहा—5 साल में तो कुछ नहीं होगा, लेकिन 7-10 या 15 साल का कोई प्रोग्राम है, जिससे यह दिक्कत हल हो जाय और देश का जो कलंक है, वह हट सके। शुरू वहाँ से हो जाय और फिर धीरे-धीरे देश के दूसरे हिस्सों में आये।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH): The scope of this half-an-hour discussion, as far as I could make out, was regarding the problems of slum clearance and the time-bound program, if any, which the Government of West Bengal has adopted, but in his speech Mr. Samar Guha has elaborated the scope of this discussion, though I agree with the points raised by Mr. Guha in general, there is no dispute about that, as I come from Calcutta. The subject-matter of our discussion is slum clearance, the provision made for the purpose, whether there is any timebound programme, whether any foreign agency had agreed to give us help or what the Government of India had done so far. I shall confine my answer to this aspect. This matter had been discussed here before. This is one of the many problems that we are facing today and the Government have already taken up a programme for slum improvement along with other development programme particularly for Calcutta. Our rough estimate is that in Calcutta-Howrah there are 3,000 slums covering a population of about a million..... (Interruptions) Besides that we have about half a million people living on both sides of River Hooghly, mostly industrial labourers who live in more or less slum conditions. Our estimate is that we shall be requiring Rs. 10-15 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the total population?

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** About 1.5 million living in 3,000 slums and in industrial areas along the Hoobly.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** He is giving a wrong figure, which prevailed before partition. Will the Minister include the lower middle class refugees who have taken shelter in the slums ? Then the figure will be around 3500.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Let us hear him first.

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** I shall elaborate that point later. After the imposition of President's rule, the Government of India and the State Government had come to the conclusion that it would not be possible for the State Government to raise the resources needed to solve the problem. An elaborate programme of Rs. 150 crores had been drawn up for different improvements and slum clearance is one of the items. Besides the plan allocation, the Government of India have allocated a sum of Rs. 8 crores for 1970-71 and 1971-72.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** As loan.

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** As hundred per cent grant ; this sum is also outside the plan ceiling. Rs. 3 crores out of this amount had been earmarked for 1970-71 and Rs. 5 crores for 1971-72. The State Government had allocated from their resources Rs. 2 crores.

A pertinent point was raised by hon. friends—how far is it going to improve slums in Calcutta ? Our emphasis is on the environmental improvement of the slum, not slum clearance as such. Because slum clearance would be costly and more time-consuming. Besides it will dislocate the slum dwellers themselves. For the time being we are making environmental improvements ; details of that have already been given by my hon. friend Shri Guha. This is not going to solve the problem of Calcutta. That is a fact which Shri Samar Guha has emphasised ; I also agree. But the point is if sufficient fund is not available to tackle the slum-dwellers' problem, *in toto*, whether we should leave it or we should make environmental improvement. That is why we

thought that at least the conditions in the slums which, as stated by Shri Samar Guha, are sub-human—it is true—could be improved by making environmental improvements at least, and that is why the primary investment on these slums and the money that has been allotted will be mainly for the environmental improvement of the slum-dwellers.

Then, Shri Samar Guha asked whether some of the refugee colonies will also be included in the slum clearance programme. There are quite a number of refugee colonies in the Kidderpore and Tollygunge areas, and those colonies have also been included for the environmental improvement in this scheme.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Not all ; only in Jadavpore and Kidderpore.

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** For the time being, we have taken up only 1,200 bastis, for the time-bound programme, to be completed within a period of two years, and in that programme, we have also included a number of refugee colonies in the Tollygunge area which is occupied mostly by the refugee people. So, that part is also taken care of.

Another point that has been made is, why we have not approached the foreign agencies or why we have not tried to utilise the PL 480 money. Mention has been made of the name of Mr. MacNamara. Mr. MacNamara has been to Calcutta, and has met the authorities of the CMPO. He has also made a statement and I have also seen that. But no specific or concrete proposal has come from any quarter up till now from the foreign agencies. (*Interruption*) Some of them have of course shown some willingness, that they may be in a position to help the Government of West Bengal provided certain specific programmes are being made. On the basis of that, we have also started collecting certain data to meet their requirements. How far it will be available, and how long it will take, I do not know.

Regarding the PL-480 funds, Shri Samar Guha has mentioned that the fund has been made available for the slums improvement

[Shri Parimal Ghosh]

in Bombay. As far as I know, from the PL-480 funds, no amount has been allotted for Bombay. I can assure him that even if a single pie is allotted from the PL-480 funds in Bombay, certainly it would be available for Calcutta.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Why don't you explore the possibilities ?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : We are exploring all possibilities. You have mentioned that these funds were allotted in Bombay.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It appeared in the press.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Shri T.T.K. had made an open statement that Rs. 200 crores was being allotted to Calcutta, Rs. 120 crores to Bombay and Rs. 80 crores to Madras. But the whole thing was shelved

by interested people here. And Shri T.T.K. had later confirmed it. (*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. It is an old story.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Also, Mr. Guha wanted to know whether all these programmes will be implemented within a prescribed time or not. I have already assured him that it will be taken up ; these 1,200 bastis are to be completed within a period of two years. These are all meant for the environmental scheme. We have also planned that, if necessary, the clearance of the slums could also be considered. That has not been completely ruled out.

18.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 8, 1970/Agrahayana 17, 1892 (Saka).*