

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SĀBHA

Monday, July 21, 1980/Asadha 30, 1902
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Phuntsog Namgyal (Ladakh)

ORBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri V. Shanker Giri, who was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971—77 from Damoh constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

A Mechanical Engineer, Shri Shanker Giri specialised in audio-visual publicity. He was specially interested in direction of feature and documentary films.

A widely travelled person, he had visited many countries.

An active Parliamentarian, he took keen interest in Parliamentary activities.

He was President of the Labour Party of India, founded by his father late Shri V. V. Giri.

He passed away at Madras on 19 July, 1980 at the age of 50.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Slum Clearance in Delhi

*613. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn any plan for clearance of slums in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMAD USMAN ARIF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Slum clearance work is being done in accordance with the provisions of the Slum Areas (Clearance & Improvement) Act, 1956. Under this Act, an area of 2,168 Hectares had been notified as slum area for improvement and redevelopment. Upto March 1980, about 18,000 tenements have been or are being constructed for the rehabilitation of slum dwellers.

In addition, environmental improvement work in the existing slum areas like paving of lanes, provision of community latrines, conversion of dry latrines into flush system, street lights, drinking water, etc. is also being done.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The Minister is making a very sincere effort to clear the slums in our capital city. Now, the answer says that in 1956 the area notified was 2,168 hectares. I want to know whether the slum area has decreased or has remained standstill.

If possible, the Minister may also tell me if he has got the year-wise break-up of the 18000 tenements said to have been constructed. If he has not got it, he can give it later on, but I would like to say that 18000 tenements can accommodate hardly 90,000 people. I want to know what is being done about the remaining people. How many people are actually living in clumps?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): It was not 2168 hectares in 1956, but 2168 hectares have been declared as slum area under the Act of 1956. This is according to the last census taken in 1971. I have asked the DDA authorities and the concerned authorities to make a fresh census about the slum areas because, by now, they have increased much more.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: By what time will the Minister be in a position to clear the entire slums in the cities? Because, it is a blot on our country. Also there are so many slums developing in politics. How is he going to clear them?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I am not dealing with political slums. As far as the slums are concerned, originally it was thought that, if we took up the construction work of houses....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Regarding clearance of political slums, leave that work to the Opposition.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have no objection; they can do it.

As far as housing of all the people living in the slum areas is concerned, it is a 20-years programme on the basis of what is existing. But if you do only improvement of the slums, then we want to do it by 1985, because, keeping in view the paucity of funds, it will be difficult to rehabilitate them in new houses. But improvement of slums, which costs Rs. 150 per head, is being taken up now on a very large scale. The thrust is towards slums improvement rather than rehabilitation.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Slum are on the increase in the metropolises. In view of the complexity of the problem and huge financial resources needed, and since the problem stems essentially from spiralling high prices of land and continuing migration of people to cities in search of employment, I would like to ask the hon. Minister (a) whether the Government feel that the war on slums should also concentrate on providing the counter-attraction of employment and healthy living in satellite towns developed around metropolises; (b) whether the Government feel that the slum clearance scheme transferred to the States in the year 1969 should again be the responsibility of the Central Government as the hon. Minister said somewhere; and (c) whether any plan of action has been formulated and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as the transfer of the subject of slum clearance from the States is concerned, I have said in this House in reply to one of the question which was asked—I think it was during Call-Attention—that we are examining that issue, whether it should be taken back by the Central Government, because, I do not think that we can monitor it better if they are being done by the State Governments because they are getting block allotment and block loans for the minimum needs programme, and the minimum needs programme is a very wide area where six or seven items are concerned. Our thrust now is to do the entire slum improvement by 1985 throughout the country. The population throughout the country living in slums is estimated by the Department at 2.5 crores, but according to my own estimate, it is not less than three crores today, and will go up to 3.5 crores by 1985.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would like to know from the Minister whether he makes a distinction between clearance and rehabilitation, and if he does, for Delhi, whether he has a cut-off date and those slums which are

being set up after that will be demolished and those set up before that will be rehabilitated.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Fortunately or unfortunately, this cut-off date was provided by the Janata Government to which the hon. Member belongs. This was February, 1977 for the marketing areas and June, 1977 for the residential areas. But, unfortunately, during their regime from 1977 to 1979, the last Government allowed many new slums to come up. Therefore, they themselves did not adhere to the cut-off date. Now we will have to ponder and think whether we will revise this date and up date it.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: The Central Government has done a commendable job so far as the slum improvement, clearance and resettlement in Delhi is concerned. But there are other Union Territories apart from Delhi which also have this slum problem. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he will advise the other Union Territories also to follow in the footsteps of Delhi.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As a matter of fact, I have addressed to all the Chief Ministers or the Governors, as the case may be, a letter requesting them to form a development authority for the whole State under whose umbrella various programmes can be undertaken. One is slum improvement or slum clearance. Another could be supply of drinking water and yet another can be uplift of the colonies which are considered backward and undeveloped. All these suggestions have been given to the State Governments and now it is upto them. As far as clearance of slums is concerned, it is taken up on a priority as far as we are concerned and we would try to persuade the State Governments to take it up on the priority list.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I asked about the Union Territories.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: They are all covered.

F.C.I. Godowns in Kutch and Saurashtra

*614. **SHRI RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are shortages of big godowns owned by Food Corporation of India in Saurashtra region of Gujarat for the storage of large quantity of foodgrains etc;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) how many such Godowns have been owned and constructed by F.C.I. from 1st April, 1977 to 31st March, 1980 and expenses incurred on such construction in various parts of Kutch and Saurashtra regions of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The Food Corporation of India does not have owned godowns in Saurashtra. The Corporation has, however, hired capacity from various agencies which is sufficient to store the foodgrains required in the region. As the hired capacity is sufficient and the requirements of public distribution limited, the FCI does not face any shortage of godown space in Saurashtra.

(c) The Corporation has not constructed any godown from 1-4-1977 to 31-3-1980 in Kutch and Saurashtra Regions and, therefore, no expenditure has been incurred thereon.

श्री रामजी भाई मावजि : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—
पश्ची तक सौराष्ट्र में एक० सी० आई० के गोडाउन्स नहीं बने हैं, क्या एक० सी० आई० वहाँ गोडाउन्स बनाना चाहती है ?

शुवि तथा प्राचीन कुलनिर्माण मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव) : जी हाँ, बनाना चाहती है। एक० सी० आई० का कुछ गोडाउन्स बनाने का इयान है, लेकिन पश्ची इस पर काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है।

श्री रामजी भाई मावजि : एक० सी० आई० ने जो गोडाउन्स रेंट पर लिए हैं, वे कितने हैं और इन पर रेंट के रूप में कितना खर्चा खर्च हुआ है ?

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : मैंने कहा है कि एक० सी० आई० के गोडाउन्स नहीं हैं, इस लिए खर्च करने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता।