

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS**

[English]

**Sixth Report**

**SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM** (Arakonam) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

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12.04 hrs.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT)** : With Your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 1st December, 1986, will consist of :

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha :
  - (a) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Bill, 1986.
  - (b) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Bill, 1986.
  - (c) The Infant Milk Food and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1986.
  - (d) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 1986.
  - (e) The Mental Health Bill, 1986.
- (3) Discussion on :

(a) Economic situation in the country.

(b) Environmental movement.

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT** (Almora) : I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda :—

The functioning of the Banks against the well defined norms has become a common feature and almost all banks are stinking in deep morass and Central Bank is one of them wherethere is no rule of law. Despite thousands of complaints there is no improvement in the situation. An attitude of neglect persists in the matter of implementation of socio-economic programme.

In the context of this situation there should be a detailed discussion in the House regarding functioning of the Banking Industry.

One lakh fifty thousand civilian employees of G.R.E.F. under Border Roads Organisation are working in the difficult terrains since 1960. They are being subjected to Army rules for the purpose of discipline and punishment. But they are denied the minimum facilities given to our armed forces This is done despite the Supreme Court's direction.

This is also a very important subject which needs detailed discussion in the House.

[Translation]

**MR. SPEAKER** : Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma.

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA** (Vuidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have paper with me.

**MR. SPEAKER** : You wait for one minute.

[English]

The matter is *sub judice*.

[Translation]

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA** :

Then, chance should be provided. This is the last chance.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. G.S. Rajhans.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week agenda :—

Initially planned to be completed by June, 1987, the Western Kosi Canal is miles away from it even after 15 years of its beginning. Approved by the Planning Commission way back in 1961 at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.49 crores, the actual work began in 1972 after an agreement with the Government of Nepal. In the meantime, the cost of the project has shot up to Rs. 400 crores.

Designed to irrigate a gross area of about 9.28 lakh acres in the Darbhanga and Madhubani districts of Bihar and 0.63 lakh acres in Sepatari district of Nepal, the main canal taking off from Bhimnagar (Nepal) is about 56.5 kms. long in India and about 35.13 kms. long in Nepal. Although the project has been completed in Nepal portion in June, 1985, there is very little progress in the Indian portion. In the mean time, there is colossal waste of material worth crores of rupees at the project site. It is urged that the Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and Bihar Government should get this project completed at an early date.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to include the following item in the business for the next week. If we seriously think over the Bodhghat scheme Bastar district and examine it from all view points, it becomes clear that the Bodhghat scheme is completely in national interest and it will benefit specially the residents of Madhya Pradesh and Bastar. The implementation of this scheme covers only 5704 hectares of forest area which is less than even 0.25 per cent of the total forest area of Bastar. According to the National Forest Policy, 33 per cent of the geographical

area of a region should be covered by forests of balanced ecology of that region. 60 to 65 per cent area in Bastar is covered by forests and afforestation work on an area equivalent to the affected area is being undertaken in 23 blocks.

It has been the misfortune of Bastar that whenever some development project for this area is formulated it is shifted to some other place due to one reason or the other. Some people are trying to thwart the Bodhghat scheme also by furnishing false data about its effect on ecology and tribal culture. Today, the adivasis of Bastar want progress and they have prepared themselves psychologically to be with the mainstream of development in the country. Industrialisation of Bastar will raise economic and social standard of the adivasis and they will contribute to the progress of the country.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to grant Permission immediately to restart the construction of the Indira Sarovar Hydel Project to safeguard interests and progress of the tribal community of Bastar.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week agenda :—

The threatened closure of A.B.L. at Durgapur will very seriously affect various on-going power generation projects in the country. As one of the major manufacturers of boilers and other equipment and accessories in the country, it has already been entrusted with the manufacture and erection of boilers of various power generation projects, especially Kolaghat project of West Bengal State Electricity Board. If, during the fabrication and erection of the boilers and other equipment, the Company is finally closed down, irreparable public prejudice will be caused. As such, all efforts should be made by the Government to see that the company resumes its activities at the earliest.

The problem of arrears in supreme Court and different High Courts in a matter of serious concern. Chief Justice of the

Supreme Court has again stated that under the weight of arrears, the judicial system in the country was on the verge of collapse. According to him, delay in the appointment of judges is one of the main reasons why arrears are mounting. It is essential that this problem is fully discussed in the House as the Chief Justice of India has strongly criticised the entire system now being followed in the matter of appointment.

**SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY** (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, the TV viewers of Visakhapatnam are greatly shocked to find that 50% of the TVs in their possession have suddenly ceased to function and failed to receive any image ever since the commissioning of the High Power Transmitting Station a few months back. The HPT was installed in a valley in Simhachalam Hills with the result that several parts of Visakhapatnam city have come under a shadow zone with little or no prospect of the innumerable TVs/properly functioning as the reception has been miserably poor. The authorities had conducted a trial run of the HPT when this position was noticed. Instead of rectifying the defects, the authorities have chosen to leave the people to their fate and commission the HPT quietly without any fanfare of publicity.

At a time when the country is poised for a leap towards the 21st Century, it is a sad commentary on the functioning of the Department that the HPT which has come in the place of LPT in Visakhapatnam has failed to serve even 50% of the TV viewers who were earlier served by LPT. It is still more pitiable that the Government should fail to rectify the defect even after six months of public uproar and constant agitation, even though we take the third place in the world as far as the large pool of scientists and technologists are concerned.

I urge on the Government to institute a probe into this state of affairs and also take immediate measures to rectify the defects and restore the former facilities to the TV viewers of Visakhapatnam before they resort to large-scale agitation.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA** (Balasore) : Sir, we are all fully aware that 39 varieties of mushrooms are grown in our country of which more than 20 varieties are fit for human consumption. These mushrooms,

either edible or not, generally grow of their own, in some states like Himachal Pradesh. These mushrooms have markets in foreign countries and are thus great earner of foreign exchange. The farmers can earn as much as Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1,000/- by investing less than Rs. 200/- As the farmers are not properly educated, they are not coming forward to take up this cultivation in a big way even though some of the varieties of such edible mushrooms can be grown inside the dwelling houses easily.

Due to unsatisfactory functioning of telecommunication network in the state of Orissa, a meeting was held with the then Union Minister of Communications where some decisions were taken viz., the comparative accumulated backlog over the years be speedily cleared by providing necessary equipments such as transmission systems, high grade long distance media on priority basis and in larger quantities. Similarly, a decision was taken to put special thrust on the modernisation and development of telecommunication system in the state. But even after a lapse of more than 3 years, no progress is noticed in the field of telecommunication system in the State. Many major project which have been agreed to by the Communication Ministry for their execution like Cuttack-Sambalpur microwave system, Kourkela-Sambalpur microwave system, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack link, STD service to the district headquarters from the State capital, Crossbar Exchange at Bhubaneswar by providing electronic switching equipments etc., have not been implemented yet due to inordinate delay in supplying equipments and other materials etc. resulting in very tardy progress and causing hardship and difficulties to the users including the State Government.

These very important subjects may be included in the next week business.

[Translation]

**SHRI AZIZ QURESHI** (Satna) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I request you to include the following item in the Business for the next week.

The entire area of Satna (Madhya Pradesh) Lok Sabha constituency is facing severe shortage of water for irrigation purposes. The people are suffering on account

of this shortage. The people of the area are not receiving full benefits of the schemes implemented there by the Department of Irrigation. The Suhaval and other schemes have been left unfinished and the projects which have been completed are without any canals. No construction work is going on in the area likely to be submerged due to the Sagar Dam Project. It is not certain how much time may be taken for the completion of the project and it may take as much as 10 or 20 years for its completion. Despite this the department of irrigation has stopped development works for roads, drinking water etc. The administration is complacent about paying compensation to the farmers for their land which has been acquired and thus, the farmers are feeling harassed. The work on the canal from the Bargi dam for the areas of Mayyar and Nagod is also lying unfinished. Farmers in Kemore, Badwara and Vijayraghu Garh are being prevented from using Chhoti Mahanadi for irrigation and they are not being provided electricity connections also, because that area also comes under the area due likely to be submerged the Sagar Dam Project.

The Central Government should pay special attention to these problems and make efforts for immediate solution of these problems by granting special financial assistance to the Madhya Pradesh Government. Particularly, efforts should be made on a war footing to pay compensation to the farmers and rehabilitate the farmers of the area likely to be submerged due to Sagar Dam Project. Similarly all incomplete irrigation projects including construction and repair work of canals be completed immediately by granting special funds for the purpose.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEWAR (Chimur) : I would like to submit that the industry and the farmers are waiting for the long-term sugar and sugar-cane price policy for a minimum period of five years. With the advent of new technology this is imperative. Government has already committed a number of times in the House that they would make announcement in this regard but nothing has

been done as yet. While announcing the new long-term Sugar Policy, the interest of backward and undeveloped region must be given priorities in setting up Co-operative Sugar Factories.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Brevity is the soul of wit.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Sir, we have listened to the submissions made by the hon. Members. We will give them all due considerations.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to make a statement...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Sir, he must not make this statement. We are opposed to it....

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) ; Sir, I am on a Point of Order. My Point of Order is that in this House, on a number of occasions when such statements are being made by the hon. Minister, whether the Minister of Railways or the Minister of Communications, various Speakers including yourself, have always given the ruling that coming before the House with statement like that, actually not leaving the matter to the budgetary process is really an impropriety. You have, in the case of Railways, given such ruling. The previous Speaker M. Dhillon had given such a ruling. There were a number of rulings at that time. Therefore, you should try to pull up the Minister, no doubt he is a young man....

(Interruptions)

Please pull up the Minister, Sir, and ask him to give up this practice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bol.)