

13.46.5 hrs.

ARMY (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Army Act, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Army Act, 1950".

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

13.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) **Need to Start Construction of Kharia Gutti and Navtha Irrigation Projects on River Tapi**

SHRI VIJAYA NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): There are two important irrigation projects - planned on Tapi river. These are Kharia Gutti and Navtha. These projects were planned about 30 years ago. Its estimated cost was Rs. 80- crores. But the work on these projects has not started even after work several decades. At least one of these projects should be started immediately so that the farmers of Khandwa District of Madhya Pradesh and Amaravati, Jalgaon and Dhule District of Maharashtra get water for irrigation. Even the Hathnour Wire constructed about 8 years ago is dependent on water that is stored in Kharia Gutti on Navtha. As this is

an inter-state Irrigation project; intervention and support of the Ministry of Water Resources of Government of India is very necessary.

If these projects are further delayed, the farmers, dependent on the water from Hathnour Wier will suffer tremendously. Moreover 10,000 electric water pumps operating on both the banks of Tapi river will become unoperational or will operate only partly resulting in serious loss to farmers. There are about 70 cooperative lift irrigation schemes undertaken on this river. The area contemplated to be irrigated by these lift irrigation schemes will also become unoperational if continues water flow is not there in Tapi river, especially during summer months.

I therefore, urge upon the Central Government to look into the matter and take steps for starting at least one of these irrigation projects without further delay.

(ii) **Need for setting up a National University at Kuppam, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh for the Development of Dravidian Culture.**

SHRI M.G. REDDY (Chittoor): South of the Vidhyas has a distinct culture. Its way of life; thinking, architectures, music, dance, folk-culture, technology, medicine and agriculture have had a different growth and development than in the north of the Vidhyas. The South Zonal Council formed recently by the Government of India is based on this distinctness and for quick development of the performing arts.

The tribals, speaking one or the other Dravidian languages, are found in the Southern States in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal.

The early emigrants from south of the Vidhyas to the Far-East and Africa and to the Pacific Ocean number about two crores. A study of their problems is imperative to remove the imbalances and dissatisfaction.