

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

established to conserve and preserve the endangered species of crocodiles in 1976 by the Government of India in cooperation with F. A. O. (Food & Agricultural Organisation) of the United Nations and the Rajasthan Forest Department. The Government has invested Rs. 3.25 lakhs till 1979, but since then there has been a complete neglect of this Project Crocodile.

It is very sadly noted that the attention of the Government has not been still drawn to the death of 156 crocodiles between 1976 and 1979 out of the 222 crocodiles housed in this Sanctuary, while the remaining are already ill and suffering. The Central Government has disowned this Sanctuary, making it a point of dispute with the State Government on its maintenance. Instead of this Project Crocodile becoming an ideal environmental cell to breed this endangered species, it has now turned into a Crocodile death trap.

I call upon the Central Government to act with speed and prevail upon the Rajasthan Government and the Forest Department to immediately get expert Zoologist and Veterinary aid to save the remaining ill crocodiles, as well as to make long term arrangement for the maintenance of this prestigious wild life and Tourism Project. The Government should not make this a point of prestige with the State Government as the reputation of the country will be tarnished with the F.A.O. of the United Nations. I hope the Government would tell the House through a statement the action taken on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have shed the crocodile tears for the crocodiles.

(X) EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF VELRANAM DRINKING WATER SCHEME FOR SOLVING DRINKING WATER PROBLEM IN TAMIL NADU.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul) : The drinking water is supplied

in my constituency, namely, Dindigul, once in a week. In Madurai town also the drinking water is supplied once in a 7 days. At Madras the said drinking water is supplied once in three days in same parts and in other parts once in a week. The drinking water supplied at Madurai, Madras and Dindigul is not pure. It is brought to my notice that same unknown disease is spreading because of the impure water. In some places at Madurai, especially in the Madurai West the drainage water is mixed with drinking water. My Dindigul constituency people have postponed their habit of taking bath. Due to the non-availability of pure drinking water various kinds of serious diseases are cropping into the said towns and cities mentioned herein. The farmers of my constituency are having neither water to drink nor to save their cattle nor to raise any crops. The State Government of Tamil Nadu have not taken any steps on a war footing to provide drinking water and to prevent the people from the disease.

The emergent demands of the people of Tamil Nadu were not placed before the Chief Ministers' Conference to find out some solution for the water, power and food. The Tamil Nadu Government failed to plead before the Central Government to get more financial assistance and aid for Drought Relief Works.

In the above said serious circumstances, I request that the Central Government should direct all the Railway Wagons and Military lorries to send drinking water to Dindigul, Madurai, Madras and other parts of Tamil Nadu. Moreover, the Central Government is called upon to direct the Tamil Nadu Government to implement Veeranam Drinking Water Scheme in order to provide drinking water in a short period to the people of the city of Madras and various other parts of Tamil Nadu and thus protect the people of Tamil Nadu.