

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

The long pending major irrigation and power projects from Madhya Pradesh State are awaiting clearance from the Central Government. The Bansagar multi-purpose project in Madhya Pradesh which envisages power generation of 244 MW and an irrigation potential of 2.46 lakh hectares costing about Rs. 322 crores is awaiting clearance for a long time. Similarly, two other projects, namely, Narmadasagar and Onkareshwari, are involved and delayed due to inter-State Narmada water dispute. The fourth project, the Sindh river project-Mohini Sagar Phase II is long pending and under examination by the Central Water and Power Commission and the Central Electricity Authority. For a balanced development of the backward regions of Madhya Pradesh, the above four major projects have to be treated on war footing and cleared at the earliest possible opportunity to enable the State to undertake various other schemes for development depending on the above. Government should therefore without delay clear the above projects and make way for full-fledged development in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) REPORTED DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL TO CURB POLITICAL DEFECTION

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, may I request you, Sir, to permit me under rule 377 to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance. Over a year ago, during the June-August 1977 budget session, of this Lok Sabha Government promised to introduce a Bill to curb political defections. I am sorry to say that the long awaited Bill is still not in sight. It is needless for me to stress the political importance and moral significance of such a measure for the health and strength of our parliamentary democratic polity. I would therefore request the government to take the House into confidence and give a firm assurance that the Bill will be definitely introduced in the current session.

(iv) REPORTED FLIGHT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES STUDENT IN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): I want to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377: the plight of SC and ST students in IIT, New Delhi.

Though the IIT, New Delhi was founded some 20 years ago the reservation in admission to SC/ST students was introduced only in 1973. Till 1977, nearly 180 SC/ST students were admitted to the Institute. It is a sad story that out of the total 180 SC/ST students as many as 90 (fifty per cent) were removed from the rolls of the Institute.

There are many reasons for such largescale reduction of the SC/ST students in the rolls of the Institute. The SC/ST students admitted with relaxation of rules regarding eligibility of admission naturally had a lower standard than the other students. Such students would require extra-coaching to enable them to catch up with other students. But no such arrangements were made at the Institute after their admission.

According to the new rules governing academic performance the students should get a minimum of 4.75 points cumulative grade point average (CGPA). It is on the basis of this "new specific standards that the names of 90 SCST students were struck down from the rolls. The IIT Bombay is following simple grade point average (SGPA). Moreover extra-watching for SC/ST students is also arranged in Bombay. Whereas IIT Kanpur pays annual book fund of Rs. 600/- to STSC students, their counterparts in New Delhi are given only Rs. 300/-.

From the Semester year 1977 onwards, IIT New Delhi has introduced the system of linking scholarship with academic performance of the students.

Those who fail to get 5 point average of the two semester examinations are deprived of their scholarship till they improve in the next examination. This system has a disastrous effect on the performance of the SCST students. Till the next examination they have to work in an extremely frustrating conditions, their parents not being able to meet their hostel expenses. In the next examination all those who do not reach the 'specific standards' are thrown out of the Institute. This year 12 students, out of whom 10 are SCST have been asked to vacate the Institute and the Hostel. I would request the government not to throw out any student from the Institute and provide the weak students special coaching and encouragement to enable them to improve their performance. I would also urge upon the government to order an enquiry into the working of the Institute to find out how as much as fifty per cent of the SCST students have been thrown out of the Institute in the last four years and why no extra-coaching arrangements were made for students belonging to the weaker sections.

(v) REPORTED INSECURITY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY OF NON-TRIBALS IN MEGHALAYA

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack-pore): I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance in the House:

A very tense situation is prevailing in the state of Meghalaya ever since the new Government has come to power, where the life and property of non-tribals are insecure. In the town of Shillong there have been several attacks on non-tribals in the past two months. An Editor of a local Newspaper Mr. Kapil Chatterjee was mercilessly beaten up for writing against these attacks. A new organisation called the Meghalaya Tribal Youth Organisation has been set up which in a meeting recently has asked non-tribals to get out of Meghalaya.

It also submitted a memorandum to Union Minister of State for Education recently asking the Central Government to take out its office from Meghalaya since their presence caused the influx of non-tribal people into their state. The President has recently assented to a state law which bans any sale of land to non-tribals, leading National dailies including Times of India (June 19, 1978) have written editorials about the prevailing situation.

During my recent visit to Shillong, a large number of people including people's representatives and members of the local bar represented to me asking me to alert the Central Government about the situation where people of Bengali, Nepali, Punjabi and other origins were feeling totally insecure in the state. In this context, it may be mentioned that the hands of foreign missionaries who are very active in the state cannot be ruled out.

14.17 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (FORTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

The results of the last Lok Sabha elections reveal if the people gave any mandate to the Government, the mandate was that the rights of the people will be given to them and it shall be ensured that the rights of the people will not be interfered with. Their freedoms, their liberties and their right to decide their own future will be ensured for them and all that was necessary was to ensure that those rights of the people and their democratic rights to establish