

We can not succeed in it by constituting an official agency, we need the cooperation of our voluntary organisations and so on which may motivate the people about their rights. I feel that a more progressive law than this has not yet been enacted in this country during the post-independence era.

[English]

Environmental Clearance to Irrigation Projects for Andhra Pradesh

*747. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of large and small irrigation projects sent by Government of Andhra Pradesh for environmental clearance upto 31 March, 1989 and out of them which are pending clearance;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance; and

(c) the time by which all the projects are expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). Only major irrigation projects require environmental clearance. A list of irrigation projects received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh upto 31st March, 1989 is given in the statement below. No project is pending clearance at present.

STATEMENT

I. Approved Projects

1. Singur Irrigation Project.
2. Telegu Ganga Project.

II. Rejected Projects

1. Vamas Dhara Stage-II.
2. Srisailam Right Branch Canal.

3. Sriram Sagar Revised (Stage-I) Project.

4. Yeleru Irrigation Project.

5. Polavaram Irrigation Project.

6. Jurala Irrigation Project.

7. Inchampalli Irrigation Project.

III. Projects Pending

Nil

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a very beautiful reply... (*Interruptions*)... The hon. Minister has stated that the seven projects i.e., Vamas Dhara State II, Srisailam Right Branch Canal, Ariran Sagar Revised (stage) Project, Yeleru Irrigation Project, Polavaram Irrigation Project, Jurala Irrigation Project and Inchampalli Irrigation Project have been rejected by him. Now he says that nothing is pending approval at present. What kind of a miracle is this and I do not know how he did it? Is there any politics behind this, I do not understand. You as well as your Government do not like that the farmers and the poor there should prosper. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Anjiah was the Chief Minister there, he had laid foundation stone of Polavaram Irrigation Project. Does it have no significance now, and if Shri Anjiah expired should this project also meet the same fate? I am unable to understand this. Similarly Yeleru Irrigation Project is a project to supply water for the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant. That alone provides water, and if water is not supplied how would the steel plant function? If you bring politics into it, how will the farmers survive and how will our country develop? Please have patience and a satisfactory reply to this in the House.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by me is complete in itself. Seven of the irrigation projects are such which have been rejected by the Government. Out of these six projects are such in

which despite the repeated reminders, we did not receive the requisite information which was to be furnished by the State Government or the Project Authority. Only one project Polavaram Irrigation Project is such which has been rejected on the basis of merits from forestry angle. Regarding the rest of the six projects rejected, we did not receive the required information which was to be furnished by the project authority. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our problem is that if we keep the projects pending for want of information we are charged of keeping the projects pending. We, therefore, have adopted the policy of observing a particular time limit... (*Interruptions*)... We have now fixed a time limit with in which if no information is received we have no alternative but to reject the project. 'For non furnishing of information' we may re-open the case as and when the requisite information is made available to us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Environmental Repercussions of Developmental Projects in Sunderbans

*739 DR. DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been evolved to establish agro-industries and other developmental infrastructure in the Sunderbans region of West Bengal, if so, the investment involved therein;

(b) whether the repercussions of such projects on environment of the area have been taken note of;

(c) the extent to which the Sunderbans National Park would be affected by the projects; and

(d) whether any study has been made to ascertain if setting up of such projects would cause human misery during the floods and hurricanes, if so, the outcome of the study?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) An international Fund for Agriculture Development aided Sunderban Development Project is being implemented by the Sunderban Development Board. Phase I of the Project is due to be completed by 30th June, 1989. An amount of Rs. 3287 lakhs has been spent on the project till June, 1988. Phase II of the Project with an anticipated outlay of Rs. 6150 lakhs is under consideration of the Government. It is also ascertained that the State Government are putting up a joint sector alcohol project based on sugar beet at a cost of Rs. one crore at Nimpith in the Sunderbans Region.

(b) While detailed impact assessment appraisal of such projects is not required to be made by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the likely effects are generally taken into account by the appropriate agencies while giving clearance for such projects.

(c) The projects referred to in part (a) are being implemented outside the Sundarban National Park area and the likely effects on the Park have not yet been studied.

(d) No, Sir.

Accommodation to Handicapped Welfare Federation

*740. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARD-
WAJ:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received