

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1981, and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

(iv) COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 1981."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 1981."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1981, and do communicate to this House the

names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1981, and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Re Kali Hydro Electric Project and Bedthi Project in Karnataka.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Bangalore South): Mysore Power Corporation of Karnataka has taken a new Hydro Electric Project, namely, Bedthi Project at an estimated cost of about Rs. 150 crores.

This is an additional project in North Canara District of Karnataka. The other project, the Kali project, started about four years back, and is being worked at slow progress. It is a matter of regret that a new project nearby is taken up without studying the technical and economic drawbacks of the Kali Hydro Electric Project. Even a layman can understand that the working of the Kali Project is not as rosy as we presented when Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, laid the foundation stone of the project. There is a strong case for fully examining the work of this project.

The proposed Bedthi Project is to be constructed by putting up a 111 metre dam at Magod across the Bedthi river. From the dam at about 2 K.M. there is the Magod falls. It is designed to send water through an underground conductor system to the power house at Azabail. Two generators of 105 M.W. each installed at the power house to supply 1000 million units of electricity every year, it is estimated.

It is true that the country needs badly extra power for the economic development of the country.

units of electricity every year, it is estimated.

It is true that the country needs badly extra power for the economic development of the country. But it is a matter of regret that our engineers have not examined all aspects of the case before venturing to take the Bedthi Project.

In the first instance the people of the area have strongly objected to the taking up of this Project on several valid grounds.

Specialists after careful study have given reports that it is not desirable to take up the project on the following grounds:

Bedthi is as important to Karnataka as silent valley is for Kerala;

It is an irreparable loss if 25,000 acres of rich forest area is destroyed in addition to large area of agricultural land on account of this project;

Rich mineral deposits of limestone, copper, etc., will be merged in water;

Large cattle grazing areas and valuable medicinal herbs will be lost;

The destruction of forests will affect at the rain fall in ghat and plain areas;

22 villages will be drowned; and

The water storage in two reservoirs (nearby) may cause big earth tremor.

To put it briefly the direct and indirect loss on account of the project will be very much more than the benefit of extra power.

On account of the strong protest of the people of the area, temporary stay is given by the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

I strongly urge upon the Central Government to order the State Government to immediately drop the Bedthi Project. After completing Kali

River Project and after careful study and examination, the Project may be taken up after convincing the people of the area.

#### (ii) Welfare Fund for Fishermen

SHRI B. K. NAIR (Quilon): With Your permission, Sir, I wish to raise the following important matter under Rule 377.

It was gratifying to be told in answer to my Unstarred Question No. 4043 on the 14th instant that the feasibility of starting a fishermen's welfare fund is being examined by the Ministry of Agriculture. This is a matter which deserves the most earnest and urgent attention of the Government. It relates to a community which has always rendered very valuable service to the nation not only in making up to some extent out shortfall in a vital sector like proteins but also in augmenting our foreign exchange resources. Our income from export of fish and fish preparations has been increasing steadily from year to year—from just Rs. 54.5 crores in 1972-73 to over Rs. 228 crores in 1978-79. On the other hand, the lakhs of families for whom fishing is the sole means of livelihood have remained most neglected and backward. Even their bare minimum human needs like housing and drinking water have not been met adequately. In matters like health services, sanitary arrangements, education and transport facilities, their areas remain far below the average standards. Their income is meagre, much of the value of the fruits of their labours are being snatched away by unscrupulous middlemen, the trade and the owners of boats and trawlers.

I submit, therefore, that the welfare fund now under consideration should have comprehensive coverage providing insurance against contingencies like unemployment, under-employment, loss of property like dwelling houses and equipment due to natural calamities like floods, tidal waves and storms and also personal injuries and loss of life resulting from accidents occurring at sea besides pensions for old age.