

have been shown as Scheduled Tribes. The State Government have also filed similar complaints. The Central Government have considered it in detail and we propose to lay a comprehensive list before the Parliament soon.

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH : From Karnataka some tribes have been recommended for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, and that is a community which has some historical background. They were wandering in forests. This community is called the Nayak community. They are also called beda, the hunting community, and also Valmiki. There is only discrepancy in the nomenclature, but they are almost equal in all respects. The Government of Karnataka has already sent this proposal, for approval, to the Government of India. But, so far, the Government of India has not taken any interest in this. Due to this there is a lot of trouble for those people who are actually in the forests. They want to come up in life, to have education and to be in the mainstream of India. But, so far, the Government of India has not taken any interest in this. I want to know why the Government is indulging in these delaying tactics. This is an important and vital matter. Why have the Government not taken it seriously ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : We are quite serious and we are taking all possible care to bring forward a comprehensive list before Parliament.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The people who are working in the Assam tea garden areas are considered as Scheduled Castes in other parts of the country, but in Assam they are not being so treated. The Government of Assam and the Assam Pradesh Congress(I) have requested the Central Government to treat them as SC ; but there is no reaction. May I know what is the view of the Central Government about it ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The Government of Assam has made them as OBC i. e., Other Backward classes and

they are treated in the State as OBC and facilities are given to them from the State. When we bring comprehensive list before the Parliament, we will see all aspects of it.

Delay in Completion of Central Projects

*249. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of central projects that have slipped by two years or more, the number of projects that have been delayed by less than two years and the names of projects that have slipped by 11 years, according to the monitoring of 183 Central projects under implementation undertaken by the Ministry ;

(b) the total amount of escalation in investment and costs of these projects as a consequence of this delay ; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite their execution as per schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Of the projects being monitored by this Ministry 49 projects have been delayed by less than 2 years, 56 projects between 2—11 years and 3 projects namely Bokaro Steel Plant, Moonidih Coal project and Calcutta Underground (Dum Dum—Tollyganj) projects by 11 years or more from the original dates.

(b) The total costs of the 108 delayed projects as now anticipated comes to Rs. 43,154 crores as against an original amount of Rs. 24,803 crores. This increase is due to numerous reasons including delay in execution.

(c) The following steps are being taken to expedite the implementation of these projects,

- (i) Preparation of realistic project implementation plans.
- (ii) Effective monitoring through Monthly Flash Report and Quarterly Status Report Monitoring System.
- (iii) Constant pressure on project authorities for expeditions completion.
- (iv) Inter-Ministerial coordination and inter-action.
- (v) Close follow-up by concerned Ministries and project authorities with State Governments, equipment suppliers, Consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Speaker Sir : The Minister has given the reply stating that out of 183 projects which are in progress, 108 projects are getting delayed from two to eleven years. Because of this inordinate delay in the execution of these projects, the cost escalation from the original estimate has almost doubled, i. e., the estimated amount was Rs. 24,803 crores and now, as on date, the escalation cost has been estimated at Rs. 43,154 crores. One of the main reasons for the loss of the public sector undertaking is the delay in the execution. If you calculate the burden on the investment, the accumulation of interest and the production loss, it is nothing but criminal waste from the point of view of the nation's economy. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister—apart from the 108—whether he will assure the House that the remaining 75 projects would be completed as per the schedule.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : There has been delay. Of the 108 projects, some of them are less than two years delay, some of them are from two to eleven years delay and some of them are eleven years and more delay. The reasons are that there has been slippages, there has been delay in the acquisition of land.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, he is only asking whether you will take steps so that there will be no further delay.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : We have already taken steps. Thanks to the Prime Minister's wisdom that he has created a Department, called the Project Implementation Department. *(Interruptions)*—That Department has brought greater consciousness among the Ministers and the Project Authorities ; number two, pressure for achieving cost and time schedule ; number three, action and help for solving problems and removing bottlenecks by the concerned authorities and Number four, follow-up through discussions with Ministers and the Project Authorities.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Speaker Sir, my second supplementary is that whatever the Minister has stated in his reply about keeping in touch constantly with the monitoring and implementation authorities and other internal ministerial meetings, whether the Government has identified the area where actually this delay is occurring. Unless you pinpoint the areas where it is lagging behind.

MR. SPEAKER : That is there in the reply.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Unless you identify the area where the delay of two to eleven years and more is occurring, the things will not improve. I am unable to understand how to call it. I would like to know whether the Government has identified the areas where actually the delay is occurring.

MR. SPEAKER : It is in the answer itself.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker Sir, certain projects are monitored by us. We send the monitoring report to the project people, concerned Ministry or Department, etc. There are certain projects where monthly monitoring is there. We also send flash report to the Prime Minister and in that flash report there are indications of problematic areas and also the milestones that we have crossed and the milestones still to be crossed.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Since this is a special Ministry with a special task I would like to know in case a project is not implemented as per the schedule what action are you going to take against your colleagues ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : I have already said that the flash report goes to no less a person than the Prime Minister every month. The Prime Minister is there on our neck to take effective action and we take effective action.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASS MUNSI : Sir, there are certain projects which are definitely being monitored by the Government of India in respect of States and for their successful implementation Government needs total participation and cooperation of the respective State governments. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take personal and effective steps to see that the Tube Railway Project, circular Railway Project and the second Hooghly Bridge project of Calcutta which are taking long time for completion because of the non-performance and totally hostile attitude of the State Government get completed ? Will the Minister examine the matter and take steps accordingly ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : The hon. Member knows the reason of the delay of Calcutta Underground Railway. The main reasons of the delay are : problems of land acquisition ; learning process because it is a first project of its kind and inadequate construction performance. (*Interruptions*) Only the other day I had a meeting with the Chief Minister of West Bengal to remove certain bottlenecks. Well I would not say—now they will all be getting up and shouting—that we are not getting any cooperation from the State Government but I will say that we are not getting cooperation to that extent. (*Interruptions*) Our people who want to work are not allowed to work.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, many projects are pending from Andhra Pradesh. We are marching towards the 21st century. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is going to clear those

projects during this century ? The projects are—Ichimpalli, Pollanaram, Telugu Ganga and Vizag steel plant. I want a categorical answer as to when you are going to clear these projects.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Sir, the clearance part is not on me. It is for the Planning Commission. The hon. Member should ask the Planning Commission.

[*Translation*]

Clearance to Bhensatori Irrigation scheme in District Guna, Madhya Pradesh

*250 **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhensatori Irrigation Scheme in District Guna (Madhya Pradesh) has been pending clearance of the Union Government (Ministry of Environment and Forests) for about nine year ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) when the requisite clearance would be given to the scheme ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The proposal for diversion of 295.146 hectares of forest land for the Bhensatori Tank Project which was received in the Department on 11.1.1984, was rejected on 24.6.1985.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : According to the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, forest coverage in Madhya Pradesh has gone down by 17 per cent and the forest area has come down from 10.86 million hectares to 9.02 million hectares,