

There is a huge population of the order of 50 lakhs residing below the Idukki project spread around five districts of Kerala. A cascading failure of Mullaperiyar Dam will result in a catastrophe, which will be beyond human imagination. In addition to this, more than 30,000 people living in this area between Mullaperiyar and Idukki dams will be also be washed away.

In short, 114 year-old Mullaperiyar Dam is a high risk structure, which needs urgent replacement. A new dam designed and constructed as per modern standards is the only permanent solution to the eternal threat looming large over the people of Kerala.

The Government of Kerala has reiterated and assured continued supply of water to Tamil Nadu. So, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this issue and act as an arbitrator between the two States. Thank you.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we disassociated with this Special Mention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): There is only a provision for association in the Rules. There is no provision for disassociation.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, when the controversial issues are raised, we have a right to oppose them, because they are very sensitive issues. And, at the same time, the Government of Kerala is always denying the rightful share of water to Tamil Nadu.

Demand for taking over of H.C.L. by the railways

SHRI R.C. SINGH (West Bengal): HCL was a premier PSU in the manufacture of cables that earned profits till 1993-94. But, unfortunately, since 1995, it has been incurring losses. It has more than 3,000 workers in three units. Nation's rapid growth in communications and IT area has brought sea changes in the telecom scenario. Earlier, there was an agreement that the BSNL would give orders to the HCL to the extent of 30 per cent, with 50 per cent advance. But, after 2003, the BSNL refused to place orders in spite of repeated pleas and requests from various trade unions and others. As a result, losses mounted up. Later on, there were many reports prepared by the IIT, Kharagpur, the TCS, and the BRPSE for its revival. But nothing concrete has been done. The Government is trying to close this precious unit. The cost of its revival would be only to the extent of Rs. 250 crores, while its closure would cost Rs. 1,800 crores. Now, there are two options before the Government – to revive it or close it. It would not be prudent to close this company.

The Railway Minister, in her Budget Speech, said that she was, going to start a project to introduce internet in trains. For this purpose, thousands and thousands of optic cables have to be laid. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister to ask the Railways to take over the HCL, as has been done in the case of Burn & Standard, so that twin objectives could be achieved one, the HCL would be revived; second, the Railways would not have to buy cables from outside at a higher cost.

Demand for steady tax regime to attract foreign investors in the country

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Recently a large quantity of oil and gas has been discovered and is produced from both, offshore and onshore, areas on the East Coast. However, certain fiscal

benefits to the producers, like, the ONGC and others, are first announced with much fanfare and, then, are not honoured by the Government. The Government has, in this Budget, announced a tax holiday on natural gas. But does it even know that this benefit has been existing for the last several years, in fact, ever since the NELP was announced? How will the investor be attracted to a country which is so uncertain and unsure about the tax regime, it has in place, where tax benefits are introduced one year and then withdrawn, in some cases, retrospectively? I urge upon the Finance Minister to take steps to ensure investors that the tax holiday, promised this year, will not be withdrawn next year when the companies have already made investments and are ready to actually avail the promised benefits. Pronouncements and commitments, made by the Government, need to be followed in letter and spirit, and, also, before the Government makes them, it should have a clear intent of following them.

Demand to take steps to resolve problems of naxalism in the country

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हिन्दुस्तान में 60 जिले हैं, उनमें 152 नक्सली समस्या से प्रभावित हैं। अब यह आंकड़ा 180 हो गया है। अभी हाल ही में जो रिपोर्ट छपी है, उसमें 2006 में 1509, 2007 में 1591 और 2009 में अब तक 1128 नक्सली घटनाएं घटी हैं। नक्सली अमीर नहीं होते, वे दलित और आदिवासी लोग ही होते हैं और उनकी आवाज नहीं सुनी जाती है। वे बंदूक उठा लेते हैं और सोचते हैं कि यही एक रास्ता है।

इसका कोई उपाय निकलना चाहिए। ये लोग कोई विदेशी दुश्मन नहीं है। ये हमारे लोग हैं, भारतीय हैं। इनके मन में आतंक की बात जानी चाहिए। आदिवासी लोग अभी भी आदिवासी हैं और दलित अभी भी दलित हैं। उनके पास न पैसे हैं, न अन्य सुविधाएं हैं और वे समाज से कटे हुए हैं। आप उनको जितना दबाएंगे, वे उतना ही आगे बढ़ेंगे। उनके मन में सिर्फ मरने की तमन्ना है, यही वे सोचकर इस अभियान में आते हैं। जिस गांव में नक्सली हमलाह होता है, उस गांव में जाकर देखें कि वहां क्या फटेहाल जिंदगी है। उनके गांव और इलाके में केवल पुलिस और अर्द्धसैनिक बल के लोग ही पहुंचते हैं। जीने के लिए उनके पास कुछ है ही नहीं। उनका लक्ष्य आम लोग नहीं होते वे केवल पुलिस और अर्द्धसुरक्षा बल पर ही अटक करते हैं। वे सामने से लड़ नहीं सकते, अतः गुरिल्ला युद्ध करते हैं।

मैं सरकार से आग्रह करता हूँ कि इस समस्या का समाधान निकालने के लिए ठोस पहल करें।

श्री समन पाठक (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Demand to take steps to protect the world heritage site of Hampi from vandalism

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, Hampi in Karnataka State was the capital of Vijayanagar empire, which flourished for a little more than two centuries during 1336 A.D. to 1565 A.D. It is recorded in Advance History of India at pages 366-367 that Hampi was the best and the largest city recorded in history. Notwithstanding the ending of the Vijayanagar empire, Hampi continues to be a place of great historical and archaeological treasure. It has been recognised as World heritage site by the UNESCO. It is one of the most important tourist centres in Karnataka State. At the same time, it has also become a place for exploitation by miscreants who indulge in unauthorisedly excavating this archaeological site for committing theft of articles embedded in the earth. Despite warnings issued by the UNESCO against vandalising in this place, it is going on unabated according to a report published in English daily from Bangalore in its issue dated 10 July, 2009. This Special Mention is