

sub-plan; special assistance under article 275(1) of the constitution of India on irrigation projects CENTRAL ASSISTANCE UNDER SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT MINISTRY: Pre and post-matric scholarships for OBC students; Implementation of PCR acts 1955 and POA Act 1989, I urge the Centre, and the concerned Ministries to expedite sanction and release of funds to the State during 2006-07.

Concern over the dismal situation of Farakka barrage project

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, Farakka Barrage Project is an important project of the Government of India in West Bengal. Since long, this project has been facing shortage of staff. Out of 13 Nos. of ex. engineers, there is only one on *ad-hoc* basis, There is no regular ex-engineer. The project authority proposes to fill-up the post, but the Ministry did not respond.

At present, there is only one graduate (BE) officer in the Farakka Projects - except him, all are diploma holders. The UPSC has recently elected 5 nos. of BE officers in Asst. Engineer grade, but the appointment orders have not been issued.

In FBP school, there is shortage of teachers. The teachers who have retired, are posted. This causes sufferings not only to the students, but also to the common people of the entire locality. There is a 50-bedded hospital. FBP is not in a position to maintain the hospital. The hospital may be handed over to CGHS, if they agree, in order to give relief to the common people and workers of FBP to alleviate their sufferings.

In this perspective, the GOI handed over the anti erosion programme to the FBP. Sir, I firmly believe that, the huge work of anti-erosion will not be properly performed, if the infrastructure is not developed.

So, I urge upon the Government to give proper attention to the FBP to take steps to improve the dismal situation prevailing in a project of national importance.

Demand to enact public library legislation in every State in the country

DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, for an integrated public library and information services, public library legislation is essential. In the present backdrop of explosion of knowledge and information throughout the world, common men can not keep pace with multi-facted needs of every-day life without the aid of public libraries. In fact, public

library stands as poor man's university. It serves our needs for knowledge, information and pleasure. In other words, public libraries help us to strengthen our democratic foundation.

But, unfortunately, we have not been able to develop our library-consciousness upto the desired level. Even we lack political will to develop this social institution, as a result of which library legislation has been enacted only in a few States of our country. Out of 28 States and 7 U.T.s, the Public Library Act has been implemented only in 13 States so far. Beginning from the Madras Public Libraries Act 1948, the last Public Library Act has been implemented in Uttaranchal in 2005. Still, 15 of our States, including Delhi, U.P. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and others are yet to enact a library legislation of urgent public importance. Although Library legislation is a State subject, the Government of India and the Ministry of Culture have a major role to play for inspiring and assisting the States in this matter. I urge upon the Government to come forward to ensure enactment of the Public Library legislation in all the States at an early date, and thus, to strengthen the public library movement of our country.

Request to direct Government of Andhra Pradesh to pass on 2% rebate given by Government of India to farmers

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Government of AP says that it is giving the highest priority to agriculture. But, what is happening on the ground is contrary to what it says. In pursuance of the decision taken by the Gol to extend 2% rebate to farmers, NABARD issued a Memorandum NO. N.B.PLD/1000/A1(GEN)(RP/2005-06 to APCOB. According to this, farmers who have taken loan in last Kharif and repaid their loan by 31-05-2006, are eligible to get 2% rebate. But, the AP Government has subsumed 2% rebate into the rebate that it is giving to farmers. Thereby, farmers are deprived to get the benefit of 2% rebate given by the Gol. And, farmers are now asked to pay last kharif loan @5% instead of 3% and due to this, farmers of AP have to pay Rs. 60 crores more, which otherwise has to be passed on to them by the State Government

The other problem that AP farmers are facing is three-tier rate of interest. Due to this, the final interest paid by farmers comes to 11% which is more than what the nationalised banks are charging. For example, NABARD is giving loan @5.75% to APCOB, APCOB giving to DCCB by adding 0.5% additional interest as its commission, then, DCCBs are adding 2% more and giving to Primary Agricultural Societies and PASC are adding a