

should take this House and the people into confidence and make a detailed statement.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I think, the whole House would associate on this issue. Government should apprise the House on this issue.

SHRI RAJU PARMAR (Cujarat): Sir, I associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Special Mentions. Shri V. Narayanasamy.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Cost over-run in implementation of Power Sector Projects

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, the Power Grid Corporation is executing Bina-Nagda Transmission system which is running two years behind the schedule. Further, 400 KV project expected to distribute electricity generated from Orissa Hirma Project and Sipat Project in Chhattisgarh was originally planned to be completed in December 2005. The deadline for Rs.266.93 crore project was shifted further to January 2008, but it is likely to be completed by March 2008.

Dulhasti Hydroelectric Power Project set up by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation in Jammu and Kashmir was expected to be completed in December 2005, which has now been extended to March 2006. Power plant has the capacity of 390 MW. The cost was Rs.4183.45 crores, but now, it is estimated to be Rs.4819.16 crores.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

The Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Project has been completed, but not without cost overrun. The original cost was estimated as Rs.601.98 and the actual cost was Rs.1508.31 crores. In addition, there are 14 new infrastructure projects of which seven are power related. The project have been included are Kahalgaon-II Phase-II transmission line system costing over Rs.464 crores. February 2007 is expected to be the date of completion.

Other projects are Sipal Stage-II transmission lines costing around Rs.602 crores; Neyveli transmission system costing nearly Rs.690 crores;

Kaiga transmission III & IV costing over Rs.596 crores; third phase in Southern region costing nearly Rs.285 crores; Kahalgaon-II Phase-I transmission system of Rs.1772 crores. These projects are to be executed by the Power Grid Corporation of India. By the delay in execution of these projects, the cost overrun of Rs.5400 crores is estimated.

Therefore, Sir, the Power Ministry may review the execution of these projects to minimise the time taken to execute the project, so that the losses incurred by the power sector can be minimised.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy. He is not here.

Need for setting up of Agri-Export Zone for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my Special Mention is regarding the need for setting up of an Agri-Export Zone for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh. Our country is the world's second largest tobacco producer after China and eighth largest exporter of tobacco and tobacco-related products in the world tobacco sales. Our share in the world's area under tobacco crop has risen from 9 per cent to 11 per cent, and its share in the production now stands at 9 per cent. The export of tobacco from the country has also crossed an all-time high last year, i.e. 2004-05, by exporting 163 tonnes, which is valued at Rs. 1,362 crores. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of tobacco and is also known as the tobacco capital of the country. The tobacco industry also provides employment to 25 million people. The tobacco industry contributes 10 per cent towards the total excise collected in the country. I am requesting for setting up an Agri-Export Zone because instead of utilising tobacco in our country, we can export more tobacco since the global situation in the global tobacco market is transforming into our country's favourable market environment for tobacco exports due to several reasons. Then, the newly opened East European and other markets are not in a position to absorb high cost tobaccos made with high conversion cost. Under the circumstances, we can become a major player if we harness the emerging opportunities and enhance our exports to major import markets. For this, there is a need for an exclusive Agri-Export Zone in Andhra Pradesh, since Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of tobacco, so as to boost our exports. Hence, I request the Commerce Minister to immediately set up Agri-Export Zone in Andhra Pradesh.