

or Scheduled Tribe still remains a distant dream. For example, there are nearly about 71 Divisional Railways and they are headed by DRM. The Government has fixed a criterion of 52 years as on 1st April of the empanelment year. This age criterion fixed by the Government, without any rationale, prevents a person belonging to SC/ST to become DRM.

Sir, I request the Government to take suitable action to appoint SC/ST people in higher administrative posts of railways to ensure equal opportunity and inclusive governance.

Demand to depute a central team of Medical Experts in Cuttack to check the menace of kidney ailments

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha): Sir, kidney failure disease in Cuttack district of Odisha State is spreading fast, especially in the Narsingpur block of this region. It has taken in its fold more than two hundred lives, both young and others, where the families, one-after-the-other, are losing their bread earners. It has taken an epidemic form. Most of the victims belong to below poverty line.

The chronic dreadful disease has now assumed an alarming/unabated proportion in the rural areas of this region. The feeling in villages is that the cause of this menace is contamination of water and surrounding environment.

The State Government, with its meager resources, has been making all out efforts to control this disease, but they have so far not succeeded in their mission.

Hence, I request the Central Government to depute their medical experts to assess this abnormal situation for taking/evolving suitable measures/appropriate action to control this menace at the earliest.

Request for clearing Subsidy Bills of Solar Power companies

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Telangana): Sir, I welcome the thrust given by Finance Minister on solar energy, the proposal to take up Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects on the lines of UMPP and allocation of ₹ 500 crores and ₹ 400 crores for agriculture pump sets driven by solar power.

Finance Minister correctly identified the existing duty structures are incentivising imports instead of domestic players and reduced the basic customs duty and excise duty on PV cells, machine and equipment, etc.

The point is, Government is collecting ₹ 14,000 crores in the form of Cess on coal for solar power every year. In the Budget proposals, Finance Minister allocated ₹ 1,000 crores for taking up new projects by new players, but what about the projects

that have been already under execution and the bills of various companies pending before Government? Subsidy bills to the tune of ₹ 3,210 crores of solar power companies are pending with the Government for the last four years. Without clearing pending bills, Government is giving incentives, etc., for new players. There is nothing wrong to invite new players. But, at the same time, Government should clear the dues of Solar companies pending for the last 4 years. Secondly, the agencies should be advised not to create problems for solar producing companies.

So, I request that subsidy bills pending with the Ministry be immediately cleared in the coming 1-2 months, only then we can expect the private solar power generators will be able to achieve the target of 10,000 MW.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member.

Request to Declare Pranahita-Chevella the status of a national project

SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, as a part of Jala Yagnam with an objective to create 1.07 crore acres of additional ayacut, which is nearly half of the ₹ 2.5 crore acres contemplated under Bharat Nirman, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated an ambitious Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project on River Godavari, with an estimated cost of ₹ 38,500 crores. The objective of the project is to provide immediate irrigation benefits to ₹ 12.20 lakh acres of under-developed land in the State of Telangana, to provide drinking water to about 1,000 villages in Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy districts and also to prevent river water flowing into the sea. The project started long back, but due to paucity of funds and meagre allocations, the project is going on at a snail's pace. Tenders have been called for and the work is in progress, but not at the pace with which it ought to progress. So far, the Government has spent just ₹ 1,600 crores.

It is the policy of the Government of India to give one National Project to every State. Telangana State has recently been carved out from Andhra Pradesh. Polavaram in Andhra Pradesh has been given the national project status. On the same lines, Pranahita-Chevella also be given the National Project status for the benefit of farmers and people of Telangana.

Demand to bring a legislation to govern the Scope of Central schemes

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, it appears that the present Government is going all out to change the names of the existing schemes. If the Government applies its mind to improve upon the existing schemes with additional funds or to simplify the procedures involved in getting benefits, one could understand, but, the logic behind changing of names of the schemes is irrational.