

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.

Similarly, many State Governments do not inform the people about the true nature of the Central schemes and also about the funding that is provided by the Central Government. Many State Governments change the names of the Central Schemes and misrepresent to the people that they are State Government Schemes.

Whichever government may rule a State, there must be a clear distinction maintained with respect to the two Schemes and the distinction must be explained to the people in every village, tehsil or town.

In fact, I may go to the extent of suggesting that those who misrepresent to the people regarding funding of Central Schemes and also further indulging in the acts of changing names should be hauled for committing offences of cheating, fraud and misrepresentation, and, if need be, a special legislation should be enacted for the purpose.

Further, today schemes are prepared under executive powers of the Government and, therefore, their legal status is in grey area. It is, therefore, essential that a legislation should be enacted to govern the scope of Central schemes and misrepresentation with respect to the same should be treated as punishable offence.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Y.S. Chowdary, not present. Shri Santiuse Kujur.

Demand to increase the daily wages of tea-garden labourers of Assam

SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR (Assam): The tea industry of Assam is the biggest industry in the country. It is famous worldwide. Assam is the largest producer of tea and contributes more than half of country's tea production. The tea gardens of Assam contribute nearly 65 per cent of the Assam's economy and growth, annually.

There are about 800 tea gardens managed by big companies and multi-national companies in Assam. These companies have, over the years, been obtaining huge profits from these tea gardens. About 40-45 lakh workers from *adivasi* (tea garden) communities are fully engaged in nurturing, maintenance and development of these tea gardens throughout the year. The high margin profits enjoyed by the tea companies are not shared with the workers who have been exploited for more than 150 years.

The daily wages given to a tea garden labour is just ₹ 95.00 in Assam. They do not get a paid weekly off. Whereas in tea gardens in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the wages are ₹ 216.53 and 209.27 per day respectively. This meager wage indicates forced labour in tea gardens, which is the violation of the Indian Constitution (Article-23) and laws, such as, the Plantation Labour Act 1951 and the Minimum Wage Act 1948. The Minimum Wage Act lays down the minimum wage at ₹ 169, per day.