

Hence, I draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister, through you, Sir, to intervene in this matter and do the needful for early disposal of thousands of pending cases in the Foreigners Tribunal and for maintaining justice by giving free and fair judgement without any bias.

**Demand for extending the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
(Prevention of Atrocities) Act to Nomadic Tribes**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, with an objective to bringing about an egalitarian society, the framers of our Constitution have inserted some articles providing opportunities to marginalized sections and to protect them from abuse. Taking a cue from this, the SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted. The innate objective of this Act is to protect the deprived, disadvantaged and oppressed sections of society from any form of atrocity or abuse. This Act covers all listed SCs & STs. But, unfortunately, there are certain sections and Adivasi groups that are not covered under this Act.

Sir, the nomadic tribes, denotified nomadic tribes and semi-nomadic tribes constitute very deprived classes in the society. We also call them *sanchara jaatulu* in Telugu. They are very vulnerable and are subjected to a lot of exploitation. Their condition is worse than the SCs and STs to whom the Atrocities Act was extended. An immediate affirmative action to protect them from abuse would enable them to lead a respectable life in the society.

With this, I request the Government to include nomadic tribes, denotified nomadic tribes and semi-nomadic tribes under the SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Subbarami Reddy. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not a speech. You have to read the text.

**Demand to provide sufficient budgetary allocation for the
Polavaram project without involving Bank**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Polavaram Irrigation Project is being executed as per the AP Reorganization Act. Therefore, the Central Government should provide specific budgetary allocation for the project and pay the money directly to execute the project. But as on today, the Finance Ministry is asking NABARD to give the money.

[Dr. T. Subbaramin Reddy]

NABARD being a bank, it cannot give money out of its own funds; it has to borrow from the market. In 2018, ₹ 9,000 crore was allocated by the State Government and the Central Government approved ₹ 1,400 crore. But it did not release it and asked NABARD to raise funds through extra budgetary resources. It is not fair and justified to give money outside the budgetary resources which is taking abnormal delay and the project is ultimately delayed, leading to cost escalation. The Polavaram project, if completed, would supply irrigated water for 7.2 lakh acres and generate 960 MW hydropower and lift 80 TMC of water to Prakasam Barrage. It also aims to supply 23 TMC of drinking water to Vizag. It will also solve the drinking water problems in 540 villages along the Polavaram project. Now, the work at the site has been started and they hope to complete the project in another two years. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India, especially the hon. Minister of Finance to provide in the Budget, sufficient funds, for the expeditious completion of Polavaram project and transfer directly to the project, without involving the Bank, since it is a national project.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Telangana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

**Demand to provide funds to West Bengal to tackle the devastation
caused by the cyclone “Bulbul”**

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, West Bengal has incurred a loss of ₹ 23,811 crore in the devastation caused by cyclone ‘Bulbul’ that has affected around 35 lakh people in 3 districts. A total number of 5,17,535 houses were damaged. Altogether, 14,98,924 hectare of agricultural land have been damaged. Power department has incurred a loss of ₹ 597 crore. A team of Central Government visited the affected areas. Hon. Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, requested the Government of India for support to handle this disaster. Though the total damage might be to the tune of nearly ₹ 50,000 crore and hon. Chief Minister has been extending all possible cooperations but the Government of India has not extended any support till date. So, the Government of India must take serious measures to accelerate the helping process of State Government of West Bengal as hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister already twitted before assuring support.

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA (West Bengal) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.