

1. Janjhvati Project:

This project envisages to utilize 4 TMC of water of river Janjhvati to provide irrigation in 24,636 acres of land in Vizianagaram district. The project was formulated on the basis of an inter-State agreement signed between the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in 1978 to utilize waters of Janjhvati river.

2. Velingonda Project:

Velingonda project envisages to draw 40 TMC of flood water of the river Krishna from Srisaillam reservoir through the Nallamala hills to provide irrigation in 4.38 lakh acres of land in the drought prone area of Prakasam district. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has given its clearance.

3. Hyderabad Water supply and sanitation project:

To provide adequate drinking water to a population of 50 lakhs in Hyderabad, the State Government formulated a scheme of lifting 16.5 TMC of water from the foreshore of Nagarjunasagar reservoir on the inter-State river Krishna. This scheme will be funded by the World Bank and requires a clearance from CWC. The water for this scheme is proposed by AP for utilization from out of its allocation under KWDT award.

As all these projects are important and are pending with the Government of India for long, hence require early clearance, so that these projects are implemented for the benefit of people of Andhra Pradesh. Thank you.

DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF TEN PER CENT EXCISE DUTY ON POWERLOOM FABRICS

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): The powerloom industry in Tamil Nadu is in a very bad state of affairs. The latest blow has come due to the imposition of 10 per cent excise duty on powerloom fabric which was recently announced in the current Budget.

The powerloom owners in the State were already undergoing an ordeal, in view of the recessionary trend and a sluggish demand for their products. In the present trend to boost the powerloom sector industries and to improve the means of livelihood of millions of people, the Centre should seriously consider the withdrawal of new excise levy. The powerloom industries should be permitted to adopt the optional excise duty which is in vogue now. If it is not possible due to the prevailing economic

scenario, at least, those whose turnover is less than Rs.1 crore should be exempted from the new levy.

In view of the prevailing circumstances and the difficulties faced by the powerloom sector, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister to reconsider the new excise levy at the earliest.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to withdraw the excise duty of 10 per cent on powerloom fabrics, at the earliest, so as to revive the powerloom sector and render justice. Thank you.

SHRI N. JYOTI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what Shri P.G. Narayanan has stated.

NEED FOR INCLUDING ANDHRA PRADESH IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE WORLD BANK TECHNICAL EDUCATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Special Mention pertains to the request for inclusion of Andhra Pradesh in the First Round of the World Bank Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the most advanced techno-savvy States in India. It is also having the highest number of engineering and technical colleges in the country and it is the technological hub of the country. But, to our utter dismay, Andhra Pradesh was not included in the First Round of Rs.1,500-crores World Bank Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme. The basic objective of this Programme is to improve the quality of the existing technical education in Government and private technical institutes in the country. This grant is an additional amount to the States. This will, definitely, help the States which are giving impetus to technical education. The National Selection Board has chosen six States for inclusion in the first round, on the basis of their merit. The reason, which the Ministry has given, is that Andhra Pradesh responded late. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written several letters to the Government of India requesting to include it in the First Round itself, but was in vain.

I understand that 5-8 States can be accommodated in the First Round, but the Government of India has, so far, included only 6 States. I, therefore, request the Minister of Human Resource Development to include Andhra Pradesh in the First Round of the Technical Education Quality