

Need to expedite recognition to B.Ed. Colleges in Andhra Pradesh

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, the Government of Andhra Pradesh after a detailed manpower planning had granted "No Objection Certificate" to 207 B.Ed colleges in December, 2001. Teams from National Council for Teachers' Education visited the proposed institutions during May-July 2002, but the process was not completed because of a legal hurdle. The State Government has ensured that they adhere to the norms and standards set by the NCTE. The institutions seeking permission to start the B.Ed courses were properly scrutinized in a transparent manner. The State Government has a computerized database of all faculty members and infrastructural facilities of the colleges.

In spite of the proactive and cooperative stance of the State Government, the NCTE has delayed the decision affecting the educational prospects of over 20,000 students who are waiting for admission to the B.Ed courses. On the oral directions of the Chairperson of the NCTE on 29.01.2003, the issue was postponed to the first week of February, in spite of a written clearance given by him. This is putting a damper on the State's efforts to expand the education facilities for the teachers, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to accord approval to all pending applications from Andhra Pradesh and granting recognition to the B.Ed colleges that meet the norms and standards set by the NCTE as early as possible to complete the ongoing counselling process.

Grave threat to Hirakud Dam in Orissa

DR. M. N. DAS (Orissa): Madam, after Independence, the construction of the multi-purpose Hirakud dam, in Orissa, on the River Mananadi, which has a catchment area of 83,000 sq. kms. of the reservoir, was taken up as new India's one of the largest developmental projects. It took ten years to complete. While inaugurating it in 1957, the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru had described it as a Temple of Modern India'. The main objectives of the Hirakud dam were irrigation of hundreds of thousands of hectares of land, generation of 900 million units of power annually and control of floods. Madam, the Hirakud dam's life span had been calculated to be more than hundred years. But, within forty years, the

continuous sedimentation has reduced its water-storage capacity by 27 per cent. The average annual silt deposition is 26 million acre feet, which is faster than the usual silting that takes place. The main cause of fast sedimentation, according to experts, is rapid deforestation in the catchment area. Beginning from its origin in the Amarkantak Hills to the reservoir at Hirakud, the Mahanadi Valley is ruthlessly subjected to mining activities, smuggling of timber and a continuous increase in the area of cultivation, which led to uprooting of lakhs of trees. There are no afforestation programmes to compensate the loss of forest wealth, nor are steps taken to stop the smuggling of timber. Added to these, mining wastes are dumped into the reservoir. The Remote Sensing Survey shows that the total silt deposited by now in gross-storage comes to much more than 2,000 million cubic metres and the dam authorities admit that de-siltation of the reservoir is just impossible, because it may cost more than Rs.12,000 crores. It is time the Government of India woke up to face this challenge in order to save the dam before it is late.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR (Orissa): Madam, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI SURENDRA LATH (Orissa): I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, Madam.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member from Orissa has mentioned.

उपसभापति: रमेन्द्र कुमार यादव "रवि" ।

Need to develop Balmiki Nagar in Bihar as a tourist spot

डा. रमेन्द्र कुमार यादव "रवि" (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदया, मैं विशेष उल्लेख द्वारा बिहार के बाल्मीकि नगर को पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में विकसित करने के संबंध में सरकार का विशेष ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। केंद्र सरकार का विशेष ध्यान आकृष्ट करते हुए आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि झारखण्ड के अलग हो जाने के फलस्वरूप शेष बिहार में राजगीर, नालन्दा, पावापुरी, गया से भी अधिक संभावनाओं से युक्त बाल्मीकिनगर को इस देश का अत्यन्त ही रमणीक स्थल बनाया जा सकता है। न सिर्फ प्राकृतिक, प्रचुरता के कारण बल्कि सांस्कृतिक, धार्मिक और ऐतिहासिक दृष्टि से भी।