

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, please allow me to raise an important matter...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will call all of you one by one.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important matter in the House. The Tailpul Dam Project a 40 M.W. Power Project in Maithan region of Dhanbad was started in 1978 and was to be completed within two or three years at an initial cost of Rs. 5.7 crore, but the project could not be completed till today because of the delay caused due to negligence and inactiveness of and the prevalent corruption in the management of D.V.C.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, one part of the project is in my constituency.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let her complete first.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Now the cost of the project has escalated to Rs. 40 crore out of which Rs. 11.5 crore has already been spent. Day before yesterday, the Chairman of the D.V.C. had announced in that area that "the people of the area were not helping in completion of the project and therefore he would stop the work on the project". Ever since he made this announcement the people are highly agitated in that area. I would like to say that the entire delay has been caused due to the corruption in the D.V.C. They have not given jobs to the actually displaced persons. The jobs have actually been given to the wrong people after taking bribe. We filed public interest litigation and we won the case. Now since employment and compensation is to be given to the actually displaced persons, out of fear the authorities are scared and they are saying that the work of this project would be stopped. Such type of injustice is going on. I need your protection and I request you to please issue direction to the hon'ble Minister that he should make a statement in the House and to take some concrete measures in order to pacify the resentment and assuage the hurt feelings of the people. In any case, the work on this project should not be stopped and the Government should make a statement to this effect and assure that justice will be done to the people.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, one part of the project is in my constituency in West Bengal, in Purulia area. I was there a day before...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one more thing. I agree that in West Bengal better rehabilitation work has been done. What can we do, when our State Government is involved in Animal husbandry scam. It does not get time for rehabilitation of the displaced people. I would demand, through you, from the Ministers of Bihar Government that they should help in rehabilitation of the people. I want that some concrete step should be taken in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, one part of the project is in my constituency. I was there on Sunday to attend a convention organised by the Samyukta Sangharsh Morcha. They are demanding that the works of the Talepool Dam - which is very important for the survival of the Panchet dam and for the Damodar Valley Corporation - be taken up. When this project was conceived in 1978 this was the only one project with that technology and this type of technology was nowhere in our country. That is why it was delayed by the management of the Damodar Valley Corporation. When we approached, land was acquired and an amount of Rs. 11 crore was spent. Now the project cost has been increased from Rs. 5.75 crore to Rs. 41 crore. Now they are deciding to abandon this project and they are throwing the responsibility on the State Government. The State Government is not responsible. We are trying to find out a solution. The have acquired the land. They have not given employment. There was an agreement with the Government of West Bengal to have land reclamation to provide lift irrigation, to construct primary school buildings and also the roads in the villages to be affected by the construction of Talepool Dam, but they have not undertaken those works. Now, they are deciding to abandon this project. If that project is abandoned after the acquisition of land, this will not be in the interest of the Damodar Valley Corporation as well as the interest of the people both in the districts of Dhanbad and Purulia. I urge upon the Minister, who is present here, to take up the matter with Damodar Valley Corporation so that they should re-start the project immediately. They should not abandon and should undertake the works which are to be undertaken as per the agreement with the State Government. The Minister is here and I would like to request him that he should take up the matter with Damodar Valley Corporation....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : No, Sir.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District) (Assam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very