

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

important issue of Bihar. I do not know, with my weak eloquence and lack of forcefulness, whether I will be able to draw the attention of the Government. In fact, I waited for five or six days in the hope that some of the senior Members and some of the major political formations of this country will raise this issue.

This incident occurred on eleventh of this month in the village of Bathanitola of Bhojpur district of Bihar and - the entire nation should be shameful of the particular day - 21 persons belonging to *dalit* and Muslim community were killed. They were not only killed but butchered inhumanly by an outlawed organisation called Ranvir Sena of landlords. It is unfortunate that such an incident, such a heinous crime, could not draw the attention of the Government, where many of the political parties which constitute it declare their pious intention of social justice. But in their own State this incident of butchering of *dalits* and religious minority community has taken place. It has also failed to draw attention of major Opposition parties.

I draw the attention of the Government and hope that the Opposition parties will also condemn the incident and demand an explanation from the Government. There are three aspects of the incident. This incident occurred not during night or midnight but in day time, in the evening at 4 o' clock. The banned organisation Ranvir sena of landlords attacked the village inhabited by *dalits* and Muslims and killed 21 persons. I can understand it if there had been a fight, or there had been a war, or there had been a battle. But these people were butchered with choppers and only one person was killed by bullet.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be brief.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : It is a very important matter. Out of 21 persons, 15 were women, 5 were children and only one adult male member was there. Even the fingers and ears were chopped off.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Sir, I do not take much time usually I am finishing now. This was known to the administration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already taken so much time. Please conclude now.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : The District Magistrate was informed on 3rd July and 8th July, because similar attacks were planned on those two days in the same village. I request you to instruct the Government, the Home Minister, to give a statement on this incident and take immediate action against the DM and the SP of Bhojpur District of Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk, Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I shall not deliver a long speech and I will speak only for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall give chance to everyone. Please sit down.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : It is the senior Member who get chance to speak most of the time. Please give a chance to us also.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, a multi-national company named Congentrix has been invited to set up a 1000 MW capacity power-house at South Canara Post but the decision has led to a big controversy. People of ten villages are worried. They have approached the High Court. Their writ is pending. No global tender was floated for this power house. Clearance neither from the Pollution Control Board nor from the Ministry of Environment has been obtained.

[English]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, it is not an urgent matter.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : It is an urgent matter. Those people are worried. They are going from pillar to post on this issue.

[Translation]

Those people are worried. Many villages engaged in fishing are affected. Many people will be affected if the project comes up there. The fisheries will be destroyed. A very old rain forest is located there. If that project materialises there, that rain forest will be destroyed. The habitation there will also be affected. The ecological balance will change there. They have not taken permission from any authority. Neither they have obtained permission from the Ministry of Environment nor from the State Government. In such a situation the project is coming up there. Attention should be paid to these aspects. The name of the hon'ble Prime Minister is being involved in it. I wish that his untainted image should not be spoiled.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I want to raise a very serious issue related to human beings. Thousands and thousands of people are apprehensive that they may be rendered homeless any time. Perhaps, Okhla or the whole of Batala House colony in Delhi will come in the grip of the demolition activity of the D.D.A. Thousands of people are living there. Anytime before 30th of the month the sword of D.D.A. demolition is hanging on their heads. These are not huts or jhuggis. These are pucca houses... (Interruptions) I went there... (Interruptions)

I went there and saw the situation. The people are asking whether the poor do not have a right to live or to have a shelter. The Delhi Government had prepared a list of 1071 unauthorised colonies and recommended that these colonies should be regularised. But till today