

several other rivers flow from east to west just like silver lines passing through the abdomen of the mother earth. Periyar wild sanctuary, Ponmudi and Munnar are the very famous hill resorts. Kovalam is an unforgettable beach. The back-waters of Cochin and Eranganor can be made into a tourist paradise. Boating through the ever-flowing rivers of Kerala will be a new experience. Kathakali, Mohaniyattam, Ottanthullal, Parizhamithukali and Kolkali, and a number of other forms of arts are the cultural heritage of Kerala. I request the Government to make use of these attractions in Kerala for the development of tourism.

[Translation]

- (v) Need to Give Sanction to the Kurjar Kuttu-Karapara Multi-purpose Project in Kerala.

****SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN** (Palghat) : Sir, it is a long since the Kurjar Kuttu-Karapara multi-purpose project has been formulated. As preliminary steps, offices of the engineering department and depots were set up at the project site. It was after this that sanction for this project was refused in the face of opposition from the Central Electricity Authority, etc. An amount of Rs. 4 crores has been spent already. Now, the offices of the engineering departments are slowly being shifted from this place.

This project was formulated for power generation as well as irrigation and is very essential for the survival of Malabar region, particularly the Palghat district. Every one knows about the severe shortage of power being felt in Kerala in general and the Malabar region in particular. When the Silent Valley Project was given up, the Central Government had assured Kerala that an alternative project would be given to it. That has not happened so far. In Palghat district, particularly in Kozhinja-para and Kollengode, Chittoor taluq of this district, there is a serious shortage of drinking water. Water shortage has caused serious damage to the standing crops. This project was formulated with a view to finding a durable solution to the perennial shortage of water in this area. Since this

project has not come up, power shortage and shortage of water are being felt continuously.

Therefore, in order to save Palghat district from severe shortages of power and water, the Central Government should give sanction to this project as quickly as possible.

[English]

- (vi) Need to Encourage Sugarcane cultivators by Giving Subsidy to Increase Sugarcane Cultivation to Save the Sugar Mills in Kerala.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : The two sugar factories in Mahavelikara constituency namely Pandalum sugar mills and Trancore sugar mills are at the verge of closure on account of non-availability of sugarcane.

The subsidiary product spirit also could not be manufactured as molasses are not available from Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Now sugarcane is being brought from Rajapalayam Tamil Nadu.

Sugar cane cultivators should be given subsidy and should be encouraged for bringing new area into cultivation.

Relaxation should be given for bringing molasses from Karnataka and Maharashtra for these mills.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

- (vii) Need to Implement Recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission in Respect of Women Employees and reject Some Others.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : The Fourth Pay Commission has made several recommendations regarding women employees in Central Government in Chapter 25 and also in Chapter 26.

The recommendation for relaxation of age limit (Para 25 4) for widows, divorcees

****The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.**