

In the given circumstances, I do urge upon the Government through this Parliament to positively respond to the above and other urgent demands of the people of the Mithila region of North Bihar repeatedly raised in this House.

(viii) Utilisation of Waters of West flowing rivers and Pachaiyar Reservoir Scheme

SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur):
Sir, the Irrigation Commission had declared the entire Ramanathapuram district and a major part of Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu as chronically drought-affected areas. The Irrigation Commission had also recommended the utilisation of West flowing river waters or preventing these areas from becoming arid zone. The Central Planning Commission appointed a Technical Team to study the issue of utilising the waters of West-flowing rivers originating in Tamilnadu and flowing through Kerala into the Arabian Sea. The State of Kerala does not need the waters of these West-flowing rivers. The Irrigation Ministry also appointed another Committee comprising of Members from Kerala and Tamilnadu Governments. Both these teams have submitted their reports. No action has so far been taken to implement the reported recommendations for diverting the waters of West flowing rivers into Tamilnadu so that nearly 10 lakh acres of land will get irrigation facilities. The people of this area will thus be saved from extinction.

Similarly, some seven years ago, the foundationstone for Pachaiyar Reservoir scheme in Nanguneri Taluk, Tamilnadu was laid by the former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. It had been implemented, the entire taluk of Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district would have by now become fertile. On the ground of danger to a rare species of monkey, lion tailed monkey living in this area, the scheme was not taken up for implementation. Now it has been ascertained that this monkey is living 4,000 ft above the reservoir site and there would not be any effect if this scheme is implemented. The State Government of Tamilnadu has sought exemption from the Department of Environment for implementing this scheme.

Steps should be taken to implement the Scheme for utilising the waters of West-flowing rivers and also the Pachaiyar Reservoir Scheme.

(ix) Need to constitute a high level Committee to assess the performance of Indian Team at Los Angeles

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam):
Sir, We feel sad at the poor performance of Indian team to the Los Angeles Olympics. Out of 700 million people, India could not produce a medalist in the 1984 Olympics. This responsibility falls squarely on the Ministry of Sports, India Olympics Association, Sports Council and other Central and States Associations and Organisations. India spends substantial amount in this field. It appears as if nobody is responsible for this debacle. A sad Chapter indeed in the Indian Sports Annual.

However, we must congratulate the Golden Girls of Kerala namely P.T. Usha, M.D. Valsamma, Shiny Abraham and their excellent and dedicated coaches namely, Mr. Nambiar and Mr. Kutty. It is a pity that they were not given a befitting welcome or congratulation for their superb performance considering the odds against them for training and other facilities. It is also noteworthy that no other athlete or sportsman could excel their national records except these three girls. This demands a probe by the Centre in the selection, performance and the difficulties of our team since Centre and State Governments are spending substantial amount in the this field especially after Asiad 1983.

I urge upon the Centre to constitute a high level Committee to examine this shameful record of Indian Olympic Association, accord national recognition and assistance to the Golden Girls of Kerala and their coaches and finally to take steps to wipe out inefficient officials from the sports field.