

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

The long pending major irrigation and power projects from Madhya Pradesh State are awaiting clearance from the Central Government. The Bansagar multi-purpose project in Madhya Pradesh which envisages power generation of 244 MW and an irrigation potential of 2.46 lakh hectares costing about Rs. 322 crores is awaiting clearance for a long time. Similarly, two other projects, namely, Narmadasagar and Onkareshwari, are involved and delayed due to inter-State Narmada water dispute. The fourth project, the Sindh river project-Mohini Sagar Phase II is long pending and under examination by the Central Water and Power Commission and the Central Electricity Authority. For a balanced development of the backward regions of Madhya Pradesh, the above four major projects have to be treated on warfooting and cleared at the earliest possible opportunity to enable the State to undertake various other schemes for development depending on the above. Government should therefore without delay clear the above projects and make way for full-fledged development in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) REPORTED DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL TO CURB POLITICAL DEFECTION

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, may I request you, Sir, to permit me under rule 377 to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance. Over a year ago, during the June-August 1977 budget session, of this Lok Sabha Government promised to introduce a Bill to curb political defections. I am sorry to say that the long awaited Bill is still not in sight. It is needless for me to stress the political importance and moral significance of such a measure for the health and strength of our parliamentary democratic polity. I would therefore request the government to take the House into confidence and give a firm assurance that the Bill will be definitely introduced in the current session.

(iv) REPORTED FLIGHT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES STUDENT IN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): I want to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377: the plight of SC and ST students in IIT, New Delhi.

Though the IIT, New Delhi was founded some 20 years ago the reservation in admission to SC/ST students was introduced only in 1973. Till 1977, nearly 180 SC/ST students were admitted to the Institute. It is a sad story that out of the total 180 SC/ST students as many as 90 (fifty per cent) were removed from the rolls of the Institute.

There are many reasons for such largescale reduction of the SC/ST students in the rolls of the Institute. The SC/ST students admitted with relaxation of rules regarding eligibility of admission naturally had a lower standard than the other students. Such students would require extra-coaching to enable them to catch up with other students. But no such arrangements were made at the Institute after their admission.

According to the new rules governing academic performance the students should get a minimum of 4.75 points cumulative grade point average (CGPA). It is on the basis of this "new specific standards that the names of 90 SCST students were struck down from the rolls. The IIT Bombay is following simple grade point average (SGPA). Moreover extra-watching for SC/ST students is also arranged in Bombay. Whereas IIT Kanpur pays annual book fund of Rs. 600/- to STSC students, their counterparts in New Delhi are given only Rs. 300/-.

From the Semester year 1977 onwards, IIT New Delhi has introduced the system of linking scholarship with academic performance of the students.