

Hitch in accord hits schemes

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Hyderabad, Oct. 6: The delay in the execution of Lendi. Lower Penuganga and Inchampalli irrigation projects on river Godavari is because an agreement could not be reached with the neighbouring states on water utilisation, Panchayat Raj Minister R Chenga Reddy told the Assembly on Saturday.

Deputising for the Chief Minister during question hour, he said report of the Lendi project was sent to the Central Water Commission and its decision was awaited. A joint meeting of the chief engineers of Maharashtra and AP was being convened to finalise the project report of Lower Penuganga project.

Environmental clearance was not given to the third inter-State Inchampalli irrigation project. However the Ministry of Environment and Forests had agreed to hear the views of the State Government. A task force consisting of chief engineers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh was being constituted for preparation of the project report, and to obtain clearance of the Central Water Commission, the minister told the House.

Maintenance cases: The State Government will examine the possibility of implementing the provisions of Cr PC for awarding maintenance to women in tribal areas. Tribal Welfare Minister K. Bhim Rao told the BJP floor leader, Mr

Ch Vidyasagar Rao.

Replying to a question on pending maintenance cases filed by tribal women in Rampachodavaram agency area, the minister said so far 48 cases had been filed [of which 22 by tribal women] in Rampachodavaram division.

Answering supplementaries, the minister said nine mobile courts had been sanctioned by the government in a bid to render instant justice to tribal women. Mr Vidyasagar Rao pointed out that the provisions of the Cr PC were not applicable to the agency areas. He wanted to know whether the government would bring a bill to make it applicable.

Sharing the concern of the members Deputy Speaker A Dharma Rao, who was in the Chair said it was a genuine issue, following which the minister agreed to consider it.

Power tariff: The government is examining the proposals of the AP State Electricity Board to hike power tariff. However no final decision has been taken, Finance Minister K. Rosaiah told the House in reply to a question tabled by Mr V Ramboopal Chowdary.

Disagreeing with the argument of TDP member Gali Muddu Krishnama Naidu that the Cabinet had already decided to enhance the power tariff from 15 to 20 per cent. Mr Rosaiah reiterated that the proposal was still under consideration the APSEB was taking steps to

commission new generation and transmission projects for ensuring continuous power supply, he added.

Minister for Roads and Buildings and Ports J C Diwakar Reddy said steps were being taken to undertake a techno-economic feasibility study to link all minor ports on the coastline with fishing harbours and to develop them as integrated ports.

RTC damages: The AP State Road Transport Corporation [APSRTC] has incurred a loss of Rs.1.94 crore this year in various agitations, Transport Minister K. Rosaiah said.

The minister said the RTC vehicles were exempted from payment of insurance, since the corporation would end up paying about Rs.7 crore per annum towards insurance if not exempted.

Self employment schemes: The core group appointed for working out modalities of implementing self-employment schemes has submitted its report to the government.

Replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, the Information Minister, Mr Ch Harirama Jogaiah, told Ms G Aruna [Cong] that the Setwin in Hyderabad and Stepup organisations had been entrusted with implementing the recommendations, since they had the necessary infrastructure and personnel.

The report envisages provision of employment to those who have less than Rs.12000 annual income.