

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES

(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Friday, February 11, 2022 / Magha 22, 1943 (Saka)

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, you might have heard it first time. Till now we knew about the Prime Minister Relief Fund only. In fact, Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare can also grant an assistance upto Rs. 20 lakh to a cancer patient belonging to BPL category for treatment in government hospital in exercise of his discretionary power.

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI RAVI KISHAN** laid a statement regarding need to set up a Solar plant in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
 - (2) **SHRI GAURAV GOGOI** laid a statement regarding increase in Budgetary allocation for MGNREGA Scheme.
 - (3) **DR. SHASHI THAROOR** laid a statement regarding release of salaries and pensions to staff of Kazhakootam Sainik School, Kerala.
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HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Beneficiaries Under PMAY-G

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB *raising the discussion said:* I would like to say that the housing plus survey limit has been increased four times to identify additional abandoned families after the initial deadline of March 31, 2018. I am saying this with

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

regard to Odisha. After that, it is said that the time has been extended four times vide orders dated 30th June, 2018, 30th September, 2018, 30th November, 2018 and 7th March, 2019. The four dates that he has mentioned, I am not arguing on those four dates. I want to put my point about Odisha before the House. Identification of eligible but left-out families could not be completed because of preoccupation of field functionaries in the General Election 2019 work for both Parliament and State Assembly elections. He has mentioned four dates of June, September, November and March. The total election process starts six months before that time and the panchayat employees and district officials are engaged in preparing the voter list and other related work. Therefore, there was a slight delay and the identification of eligible beneficiaries could not be completed. Even today, there is a problem of network connectivity in Odisha. There are now 30 districts. In the year 2017-18, seventeen districts were affected by Left Wing Extremism. Cyclone Fani took place in the year 2019. Due to cyclone Fani, all the houses constructed under Indira Awas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana were destroyed. The people of that area have become poor and they need a pucca house, so please approve something more. One lakh eighty four thousand houses have been sanctioned by the Central Government but so far, we have not been allotted these houses in Odisha. After the cyclone Fani, the Awas Plus window was opened during September and October, 2019 for a period of one month only. Odisha has requested the Ministry of Rural Development time and again for opening of Awas Plus window for a period of one month more to cover the other eligible households. Since Awas Plus window was not opened, the State identified the eligible households on its own which could not be enlisted in the Awas Plus List, through the State developed rural housing portal. The details of 6.65 lakh eligible households are entered in the rural housing portal. The Ministry of Rural Development allotted a target of 8,17,000 houses to Odisha in the year 2021-22 and for this, the hon. Chief Minister has written a letter and expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister in the month of December last year. But our Western Districts, tribal districts, have not been allotted accommodation yet. So, today, what I say is that after the 10th, if you open the window for 15 days or for a month, then the list that Odisha government has kept ready, will be sent to you. We have been trying to convey the Central Government about the problems that Odisha is facing for the last three years. It is requested to allow migration of 6.65 lakh eligible households identified through the rural housing portal to Awas Plus List and sanction 1.84 lakh PMAY-Grameen special houses for the Fani cyclone affected families] and also open the Awas Plus window for one month to cover the eligible households which might have been missed from Awas Plus List and rural housing portal.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: In the year 2009, the budget for housing scheme was Rs.35000crores and today, the Prime Minister has increased this budget to Rs. 1,25000crore. The most needy people of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are those who do not have land. That's why, I would like to request the hon. minister to evolve a mechanism with the State Government for this scheme in which either the State Government will acquire the land or the Union Government should give money to acquire that land. The process of geo-tagging becomes so lengthy that its purpose is defeated. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that he should definitely think about it. I come from an aspirational district. We should make separate arrangements for aspirational districts. My area is struck by fire every year. If the beneficiary does not belong to the BPL category or is not eligible for this scheme, then his entire household is perished due to fire. You should also make separate arrangements for a house that catches fire. Similarly, there is also the situation of rain or flood. You should also make arrangements for them.

SHRI S. C. UDASI: So far as the housing scheme is concerned, there are two types of persons - one is the homeless where he does not have land; and the other is where one is having land. For landless persons, you should give directions to the State Governments. At many places, local panchyats do not have government land and they have to acquire it from private party. Now, the land cost they have gone up. So, to acquire land, if the Government land is there, the District Administration will acquire it through the Government. Thereafter, they will allot sites to the site-less. But when there is no government land available, the State Government has to acquire it from a private party. It would be better if the Government of India makes a provision for cost-sharing mechanism.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: The flood problem exists in different states of the country. Here in Assam, people of the tribal community build their houses on pillars, so that they do not have to leave their house when the water enters during the flood. Their houses are built on a little height, but such houses are very weak. They are also not climate-resilient. During the floods, such houses get damaged a lot. Therefore, the government should include houses of different designs to face the floods under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. because when the houses of these people are destroyed due to floods, these people have to live as refugees. If it is from a particular section of the society, their homes are first bulldozed. Because of this, it has become a social problem. Many houses have been damaged today due to floods, erosion in my area besides unseasonal rain in Chennai and landslides in Meghalaya, Assam. Therefore, we can bring some amendments to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in relation to the houses affected by natural disasters, so that it can become a better and more comprehensive scheme.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI: Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), a target of 1 crore 14 lakh houses had been made, but only 52 lakh houses could be built. Thus, this achievement was less by 50 per cent. People have been waiting in queue for the last 3 years. People's applications are not getting uploaded. We have thousands of people in Kulgam, Shopian, Anantnag and Pulwama waiting for their applications to be uploaded on the portal. Therefore, the portal should be opened atleast once for a limited time. Also, the provisions regarding ineligibility have to be rationalized.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH) replying said: Our Honorable Prime Minister has said many times that this development has been happening in the past also. However, earlier there was a provision of only Rs. 75 thousand under the Indira Awas Yojana. When this Government felt that a house could not be built with 75 thousand rupees, then in the year 2016, this Government announced housing for all. After that, based on the socio-economic census of the year 2011, we put a target of 4.03 crore houses in front of the states. Although 2.95 crore houses were passed by the Cabinet. But due to the modification of the socio-economic census by the States in their own way, instead of 2.95 crore houses, the target of 2.15 crore houses could be set and the Housing Plus scheme was brought for the remaining 80 lakh houses. The States were given four chances to release 80 lakh houses of Awas Plus on their respective housing portals. It was a mistake on the part of the States that they could not release it. We have treated all the States equally across the country. Karnataka and Odisha stay connected with our portal from start to finish. Karnataka also completed the work of the Housing Plus survey using its portal. But they could not link their data with the National Housing Portal. That's why we didn't make provisions for housing. The States which were not given even a single house, given an opportunity to upload their data. We gave Odisha four chances. I must say that we are treating all the states equally across the country. This Government has also got completed 74 lakh dwelling units under the Indira Awas. Also, we did the work of constructing getting 2 crores 46 lakh houses constructed during seven years and have doubled the amount for that. Apart from this, housing and electricity have also been provided in hilly areas as well. Thus, 2.62 lakh houses have been constructed per month and 3,073 houses per day by this Government. Also, we are in constant touch with the states to provide housing to the landless. In addition, this scheme is being executed in the aspirational districts on a priority basis. I would like to assure you all that the Government of India will never discriminate against Odisha.

The discussion was concluded.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Re: Welfare Measures for Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers-Contd.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL *resuming said:* Anganwadi workers have a big role to play. Be it a matter of nutrition, child care or the matter of newborn babies, these all have been taken care of through the medium of Anganwadi. They play their part within the routine health services. They have performed their responsibilities with great promptness even in times of emergency crisis like the Covid global pandemic. The Government has now increased their honorarium from Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,500. This will give them some financial help. Today an insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh is available for them. Anganwadi workers have been upgraded in this budget also. This proposal comes under the jurisdiction of both the Union as well as the State Government. Therefore, Union Government and the State Government or the departments related to child development, should plan in such a way that these Anganwadi workers can get stability. This is certainly an important issue.

SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA: Aanganwadi workers should get regular employment. They must be ensured salary instead of honorarium. Their services should be made permanent. Aanganwadi workers work in harsh conditions. Aanganwadi centers in remote tribal areas are in a dilapidated condition. There are problems all over the country regarding nutrition. Many tasks are imposed on them. I request that attention should be given to this.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Aanganwadi centers in which ASHA workers work and without them the country cannot run so, today their interests should be protected in the country which has a population of 1.25 billion. Our sisters do many types of work through Aanganwadi centres. Since the birth of a child and till the age of six years when the child starts going to school, he should be educated, he should be well nourished and he should be provided a balanced diet. If the health of the child is good, he will become a good citizen of the country and will work to take the country forward. Nutritious diet is provided to the pregnant women through Anganwadis and the Ministry of Social Welfare. Anganwadi workers are local so beneficiary women easily understand their language. They can openly share their problems with them. They educate the women about family planning and sanitation. According to NITI Ayog data, they counsel approximately 7 crore women and families. Anganwadi workers have become integral part of the society. They contributed significantly in the work of vaccination during Covid period. They need to be educated and trained. They served the society by working in the *Pulse Polio* drive. They should be given dress too. This Government is

dedicated to the poor hence the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers should be enhanced.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I support this Resolution dealing with the welfare measures for Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers. The ICDS programme was started in 1975 for providing nutritious food to the under-nourished children in order to honour a commitment of the United Nations where India was a signatory. Anganwadi workers and helpers are a part of that. Anganwadi services is a Centrally-sponsored scheme implemented through State Governments and Anganwadi workers are recruited by the concerned State Governments. Nowadays, Anganwadi Centres look very beautiful. But it is not so everywhere. It was not so ten or even 20 years ago. It used to be a dilapidated place. The Anganwadi Centre is a rented place in most of the villages. Land should be provided where a building can be constructed for these centres. There is a large number of Anganwadi Centres not having their own building. The Union Government is providing the funds. The State Government is to construct the building and the onus lies with the concerned district administration. Greater stress should be made on the construction of these buildings. The Anganwadi Kendra should be nearer to the lower primary school so that the child going to the Anganwadi Kendra develops the mentality that he or she has to go to the primary school in near future. The Anganwadi workers and helpers did great work during the COVID-19 period. But vacancies are still there. Vacancies are to be filled up by the State. There have been very good developments like providing funds for drinking water facilities, purchasing water filter, furniture, equipment, smart phones to Anganwadi workers for efficient service delivery etc. during the last four to five years. I would like to mention that Anganwadi workers are honorary workers who are not covered under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. They need to be provided with a certain amount of minimum wages. During the current COVID period, a number of packages have been announced by the Government for Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers. The Standing Committee on Labour recommended that the benefit of social security should also be extended to Anganwadi Workers who are not covered by the existing laws relating to social security either in the organised or in the unorganised sector. The prescribed low wage ceiling of Rs. 15,000 per month for EPF and Rs. 21,000 per month for ESIC would exclude many informal workers from the ambit of EPF and ESIC benefits. It was a great thing that the Central Government is providing some support to the Anganwadi workers. They should get a reasonable amount of money so that they can sustain themselves. Anganwadis workers leave the job after marriage or for other reasons. Then, the post remain vacant for a long time. I request the Hon. Minister to please find out and tell us which are the States which do not have

adequate CDPOs or in full strength in their State. It is because they are in-charge of looking after the functioning of the Anganwadi workers and helpers.

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL: Whenever, we as people's representative meet the Anganwadi workers, they always plead that we should do something for them. When this scheme was launched way back in the year 1975, the Anganwadi worker was paid Rs. 225 as honorarium. Thereafter, about 50 years have elapsed. But, the Anganwadi workers still get low rate honorarium. A story of Anganwadi workers of Maharashtra was reported which shocked everyone. Today, if vaccination has been done at a large scale in our countryside, then this credit also goes to them. The Government understands their grievances well. Maharashtra Government had also given mobile phones to them but they did not function. They kept waiting that they will get something or other in the Budget and they will have good times. I therefore, request the Union Government to take some decisions for overall welfare of Anganwadi Workers.

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UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

** Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

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SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
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ER. GUMAN SINGH DAMOR: Anganwadis are centres of hope and development. Our Anganwadis perform all kinds of functions for the development of children belonging to poor families. On the call of our Prime Minister, there is a race to adopt Anganwadis in a number of districts of Madhya Pradesh. The status of our Anganwadi workers and sisters assisting them should be at par with that of teachers. The Government of India has undertaken all kinds of works with a view to strengthen these Anganwadis. The biggest problem in our poor districts is malnutrition. These Anganwadis have also been given the responsibility of eradicating malnutrition. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had declared our Anganwadi workers and helpers as Corona warriors during the Corona crisis and these Anganwadi workers, helpers and ASHA workers, all of them together have made a huge contribution to the safety of the people during the said crisis. My request is that we should think seriously about the well-being of these sisters. Anganwadi workers have been given mobile phones and with their help, good work is being done in our State and now the nutrition of each child is being monitored through nutrition trackers App installed in these phones. The Prime

** Speeches made by other hon. Members have already been included in the Synopsis (Main).

Minister has taken all kinds of steps to strengthen these Anganwadis. All I want to say is that our Anganwadis should have good buildings, they should have ample clean space for sitting, there should be proper arrangement of drinking water, there should be clean toilets and they should have boundary walls for safety of the Anganwadi centres. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is doing a very good job in this regard. New Anganwadi buildings are being constructed there and the dress code has also been implemented. I support this Bill and hope that our Anganwadi workers and helpers get regular salaries so that their families are also safe.

The discussion was not concluded.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Review of Central Scheme under Disha

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH) responding to the issue raised by an hon. Member, said: Today I am saying with a heavy heart that out of the total number of meetings that should be held of “DISHA” across the country, one-fourth of the meetings are being held right now. If there is any direction from the Chair, then the subcommittee, DOPT, Secretary of RD, etc. together can find some way out.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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