

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP).

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): After the implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) and Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) for pension in the State, it has created havoc in many places in Rayagada and Koraput Districts causing inconvenience to thousands of pensioners and vulnerable people, especially, the elderly in rural areas.

Sir, 4,376 gram panchayats (GPS) in Odisha have no banking facilities. Even existing banks are unable to bear the burden of a large number of pensioners due to an acute staff shortage. Odisha has been disbursing pensions in cash on the 15th of every month at the GPS and urban local body headquarters.

Previously, beneficiaries in rural areas could opt out and receive their payments in cash until adequate banking infrastructure is set up in proximity to their Gram Panchayats. The situation on the ground has not changed much, but the Odisha Government has now implemented DBT for pension. Recent visits to Borigi, Kumari, Langalbeda, Narayanapatna, Borigumma, and Neelabadi reconfirmed the miseries by listening to the grievances of the people.

I would request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly look into the matter and allow disbursing pension in cash to mitigate the sufferings of the people till banking facilities are made available in remote areas.