

Regarding Budgetary Grants to National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad

SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY (BHONGIR): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I am here to talk on the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Its Headquarters is in Hyderabad. For the last 65 years, NIRDPR has played a vital role in shaping rural development policies and also strengthening the democratic decentralisation through Panchayati Raj Institutions. The decision has shocked and disheartened the NIRDPR, and cast it into uncertainty in the Union Budget of 2025-26. The decision has also shocked and disheartened 222 employees and their families, who now face an uncertain future. What makes this situation more distressing is that the disengagement decision was made without consulting the employees. The sprawling 200-acre campus, once a hub of learning and collaboration for PRI functionaries, bankers, NGOs, and journalists, now faces neglect as its logistical maintenance cost of over Rs. 70 crore is left unaddressed. The academic staff, a crucial stakeholder in this crisis, are actively urging the Ministry to reconsider its decision and restore funding to ensure the continued contribution of NIRDPR to rural development.

This unexpected move raises critical concerns about the Government's commitment to rural development and decentralization. As uncertainty looms over NIRDPR, employees, stakeholders, and rural communities across India await a response from the Ministry.

Thank you very much.