

**NINETEENTH REPORT  
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS**

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**(Presented to Lok Sabha on .....)**



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## **CONTENTS**

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>Composition of the Committee on Petitions: .....</b>	<b>(iii)</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>(v)</b>

## **REPORT**

Action Taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Committee on Petitions made in Tenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the representation received from Shri Bishnu Charan Swain regarding provision of special package to small and marginal farmers of Jagatsinghpur, Odisha for construction of cyclone and fire proof houses.

## **ANNEXURE**

Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> sitting of the Committee held on 4.8.2016

(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS  
(2015-2016)**

Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari -Chairperson

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Suresh C. Angadi
3. Shri Om Birla
4. Shri Jitendra Chaudhury
5. Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary
6. Shri Rajen Gohain\*
7. Dr. K. Gopal
8. Shri Chhedi Paswan
9. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
10. Smt. Krishna Raj\*\*
11. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
12. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
13. Shri Dinesh Trivedi
14. Shri Rajan Vichare
15. Shri Dharmendra Yadav

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                               |   |                         |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri K. Vijaykrishnan      | - | Additional Secretary    |
| 2. Shri Shiv Kumar            | - | Joint Secretary         |
| 3. Shri Raju Srivastava       | - | Additional Director     |
| 4. Shri Jyoti Prakash Krishna | - | Sr. Executive Assistant |

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\*Shri Rajen Gohain ceased to be Member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 on his appointment as Minister of State, Government of India.

\*\*Smt. Krishna Raj ceased to be Member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 on her appointment as Minister of State, Government of India.

(iii)

# **NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS**

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Petitions, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Nineteenth Action Taken Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee to the House on the Action Taken on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions made in Tenth Report on the representation received from Shri Bishnu Charan Swain regarding provision of special package to small and marginal farmers of Jagatsinghpur, Odisha for construction of cyclone and fire proof houses.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Nineteenth Action Taken Report at their sitting held on 4 August, 2016.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

**NEW DELHI;**

**BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Committee on Petitions**

**August, 2016**  
**Shravana, 1938 (Saka)**

(v)

## REPORT

### **ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS MADE IN TENTH REPORT (16<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION RECEIVED FROM SHRI BISHNU CHARAN SWAIN REGARDING PROVISION OF SPECIAL PACKAGE TO SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS OF JAGATSINGHPUR, ODISHA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CYCLONE AND FIRE PROOF HOUSES.**

The Committee on Petitions, in their Tenth Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) presented to the Lok Sabha on 11 December, 2015, had dealt with a representation received from Shri Bishnu Charan Swain regarding provision of special package to small and marginal farmers of Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, for the construction of cyclone and fire proof houses.

2. The Committee on Petitions had deliberated upon the issue and made certain observations/ recommendations in their Report on the subject. The Ministry of Rural Development were asked to furnish action taken notes thereon for the consideration of the Committee.
3. The Ministry of Rural Development had furnished the updated Action Taken Replies in respect of the observations/recommendations of the Committee on Petitions contained in the Tenth Report.
4. Action Taken Notes have been received from the Ministry of Rural Development in respect of all the recommendations contained in the Report. The recommendations made by the Committee and the replies furnished thereto by the Ministry of Rural Development have been dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.
5. In para 19, 20 and 21 of the Report, the Committee had observed/ recommended as follows:-

*“The Petitioner, in his representation under examination, has submitted that small and marginal farmers living in coastal areas across the country and particularly in Jagatsinghpur, Odisha face serious housing problem in the wake of frequent cyclone occurring in the area. Apathy on the part of the Government for providing cyclone and fire-proof houses to these farmers, living in cyclone prone coastal areas, have compounded their problem and left them at the mercy of the natural furore. The large*

*scale devastation caused by natural calamities to the people, animal and property, in general, aggravate the problems. The Petitioner has requested for intervention of the Committee for granting special package to the small and marginal farmers of the area for construction of cyclone and fire-proof houses on the pattern of the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) meant for the Below Poverty Line(BPL) households of the rural areas of our Country.”*

*“Pursuant to this, the Ministry of Rural Development informed the Committee that as per the eligibility criteria prescribed in the scheme, a beneficiary should belong to a BPL household in rural area. While there is no separate allocation for persons based on occupation like, ‘small and marginal farmers’, those fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed under the scheme are entitled for assistance under the scheme. The State Government have also been advised to formulate options in consultation with experts, for construction of houses with appropriate, disaster-resistant technology, with locally available building material.”*

*“The Committee were further informed that since there is no separate allocation for a particular group or persons based on their occupation, no separate facilities are made available to Above Poverty Line (APY) small and marginal farmers under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for getting access to housing loan. In pursuance of the announcement of the Government to provide ‘Housing to All by 2022’, it has been decided to revamp the IAY and implement the scheme in a mission mode. The details of the scheme are being worked out.”*

6. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Rural Development have stated:-

*“The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), a flagship scheme throughout the country except Delhi and Chandigarh under which financial assistance of Rs.70,000/- in plain areas and Rs. 75,000/- in hilly/difficult areas including IAP districts, is provided to the rural BPL households for construction of a dwelling unit.*

*In addition, according to para 3.2.4 of the programme guidelines, five percent of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) allocation is retained at the Centre as reserve funds for Special Project proposals posed by the States/UTs for the purpose of rehabilitation*

*of families affected by natural calamities etc. As and when such proposals are received from the State Governments, the Ministry considers them for sanction as per the extant provisions and availability of fund."*

*"In pursuance to the announcement of the Government to achieve the goal of "pucca houses for all" by 2022, the Ministry has drawn up a proposal, for restructuring of Indira Awaas Yojana. The focus of the proposal is not only on construction of houses but also on providing basic amenities through convergence and promoting an environment friendly and livable habitat based on the geographical requirements of the State. In areas prone to natural calamities, disaster resilient feature should be in built in the design of houses. The proposal envisages covering all the houseless and households living in dilapidated houses in rural areas."*

*"In this regard, after conclusion of EFC meeting, the Ministry has prepared and submitted a Cabinet Note for consideration of the Government, outlining the proposed changes in IAY."*

7. In para 22 of the Report, the Committee had observed/ recommended as follows:-

*"The Committee are constrained to note the apathy of the Government towards the small and marginal farmers who are residing in cyclone prone coastal areas for not formulating any comprehensive policy for giving special package to them for construction of cyclone and fire proof houses. The Committee strongly recommend that the small and marginal farmers residing in disaster prone coastal areas and whose dwelling units are destroyed due to recurrence of natural calamities should be given special package in terms of financial assistance for construction of houses so as to mitigate their problems/sufferings."*

8. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Rural Development have stated:-

*"As per the programme guidelines, the State may pose special projects for the houses damaged due to natural calamities (like cyclone in coastal areas). The same are considered in the Ministry after approval of Empowered Committee constituted for the purpose. The small and marginal farmers are covered automatically, if found eligible, under deprivation criteria as per SECC data 2011."*



9. In paras 23 and 24 of the Report, the Committee had observed/ recommended as follows:-

*“During the course of the deliberation held on the matter with the representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development, the Committee were informed that the Government has been working upon a new scheme of housing called ‘Housing for All’ based on the deprivation of the households in the country as obtained in the recently concluded Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) (2011).”*

“The Committee note that the Ministry is in the process of revamping IAY based on the stated objectives of the Government to provide ‘Housing for All by 2022’. The proposal envisages covering all the houseless and households living in dilapidated houses in rural areas. This would also include all small and marginal farmers of rural areas not related to a particular group of persons based on occupation, etc. Since the provisional data from the SECC, 2011 for rural India which also contained detailed deprivation data has been released by the Government in July, 2015, the Committee, desire that the Ministry should make sincere efforts to revamp IAY in a time bound manner with specific target dates set and their strict adherence for ameliorating the difficulties being faced by small and marginalized farmers living in cyclone prone coastal areas.”

10. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Rural Development have stated:-

*“Since SECC data (2011) is available for preparing the list of eligible beneficiaries under IAY scheme, the States may cover the beneficiaries on the basis of described deprivation criteria. The small and marginal farmers covered under the deprivation criteria of SECC will automatically be eligible for housing benefits under ‘Housing for all by 2022.”*

*“As per the recommendations of the Petition Committee, Government has already submitted a proposal for revamping IAY, which is awaiting Cabinet’s approval.”*

## Observations/ Recommendations

11. In response to recommendation of the Committee on the need for granting a special package to the small and marginal farmers living in the coastal areas across the country and particularly in Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, for construction of cyclone and fire-proof houses on the pattern of the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) [*now the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)*] meant for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, the Ministry of Rural Development have stated that five percent of IAY allocation is retained at the Centre as reserve funds for Special Project proposals initiated by the States/ UTs for the purpose of rehabilitation of families affected by natural calamities, etc. In this connection, the Ministry have also stated that as and when such proposals are received from the State Governments, the Ministry consider them for sanction as per the extant provisions and availability of funds. The Committee find that retention of five percent of IAY allocation as reserve funds for the purpose of rehabilitation of families affected by natural calamities, etc., has not been scripted down to the last detail as no statistical data of total funds allocated to the States/ UTs for implementing the Special Project proposals, especially for people living in the coastal areas, has been provided. The Committee, therefore, reiterate expeditious formulation of proposal by the Ministry for granting special package to the small and marginal farmers living in coastal areas of the country for construction of cyclone-and fire-proof houses. The Committee further emphasise that the Ministry should work for an early solution in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the concerned States like Odisha so that the families affected by natural calamities, etc., are rehabilitated within a period of six months from the occurrence of such natural disasters.

12. In their action taken reply, the Ministry have stated that the Indira Awaas Yojana, a flagship scheme of the Union Government, is being implemented throughout the country except in Delhi and Chandigarh under which a financial assistance of Rs. 70,000/- in plain areas and Rs. 75,000/- in hilly/ difficult areas, including Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts, is provided to rural BPL households for the construction of dwelling units. The Committee are dismayed to note that the IAY, which was started in 1985 as part of the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) - subsumed in Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in 1989 - thereafter, operating as an independent scheme since 1996 - has still not been extended to various other categories of rural areas of the country. This is alarming particularly in

the context that BPL details have now been included in the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) to facilitate the State Governments to again prepare a list of families living below the poverty line. Though the Ministry is now in the process of making changes in the IAY, yet the Committee are apprehensive about expeditious formulation of the modified IAY scheme. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the need for a more action oriented approach as well as regular monitoring and co-ordination with the States/ UTs for early accomplishing of the intended objective of revamping the IAY.

13. The Committee noted that the Government had been working upon a new scheme of housing called 'Housing for all by 2022' based on deprivation of the households in the country as obtained in the recently concluded Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011. In view of the above, the Committee had strongly recommended to the Government to envisage covering all the houseless and households, including marginal farmers of rural areas not related to a particular group of persons based on occupation, etc. with a view to ameliorating the difficulties being faced by them in cyclone prone coastal areas. The Ministry, in their action taken reply, has stated that the small and marginal farmers covered under the deprivation criteria of SECC will automatically be eligible for housing benefits under 'Housing for all by 2022'. The Committee are satisfied to know that SECC data (2011) is available for preparing the list of eligible beneficiaries for facilitating the States to cover them on the basis of the described deprivation criteria. Since the 'Housing for all by 2022' scheme of the Government is to be implemented by the States/ UTs after preparing the list of eligible beneficiaries based on deprivation criteria of SECC data, the Committee desire that the Ministry should liaise with all the States/ UTs to implement the said scheme at the earliest so that the small and marginal farmers living in coastal areas across the country and particularly in Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, are also benefited. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

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