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Title: Need to assist poors financially suffering from terminal diseases.

SHRI HARI RAMA JOGAIAH (NARSAPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as a maiden attempt, I wish to place before the hon. Prime Minister, through you, Sir, a vital issue concerning thousands of citizens in distress.

Hitherto, financial assistance to those deserving poor suffering from terminal diseases like cancer, heart and brain, whoever knocks the door for help either directly or through respective Members of Parliament, is being provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund generously on humanitarian consideration and this kind gesture of the Prime Minister is quite laudable.

Sir, unfortunately, the decision of putting a ceiling for such sanctions as ten or twelve per Member per year has been a great blow to the hopes of thousands of sufferers who are waiting anxiously for their turn.

Sir, according to the latest statistics, the percentage of people being affected by chronic and terminal diseases have increased considerably throughout the country, more so from downtrodden communities, perhaps due to malnutrition and deplorable living conditions. As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the number of deserving cases referred annually is on an average 200 and above per Member. A large number of requests now pending consideration with the Prime Minister's Relief Fund is an indication of the gravity of the situation. Therefore, I earnestly appeal, through you, Sir, to the Prime Minister to allow relief to all the deserving cases by increasing the grant sufficiently.

Sir, with the permission of the Chair, I wish to put an alternative suggestion for the consideration of the Government. The hon. Members, in general, are of the view that MPLADS grant of Rs. Two crore per year per Member now being allocated for attending to the minimum felt needs of the people is found inadequate and need to be revised. In this context, I appeal to the Government, as an alternative, it may be considered to increase the grant by another Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. One crore and this increased amount can be utilized exclusively for giving relief to the needy by Members themselves at the district level so that the sufferer will get the desired help more quickly and timely, simultaneously reducing the work load at the Centre.

Sir, I wish to pass on a memorandum conveying the deep sentiments of all my colleagues from Andhra Pradesh to the hon. Prime Minister, through you, sir, with an appeal to consider the matter. [\[R102\]](#)

*"We, the Members of Parliament wish to place on record the humanitarian and generous gesture of Hon'ble Prime Minister in extending financial assistance from the P.M. 's Relief Fund to all the deserving poor who are suffering from terminal diseases like Cardiac, Cancer, etc. that are being referred by Hon'ble Members from time to time.

We understand, a decision was taken by the administrative body of P.M. Relief Fund to curtail the figure of such beneficiaries and accordingly put a ceiling of ten cases per year per member.

The Hon'ble P.M. is kindly aware, according to the latest statistics the percentage of people suffering from terminal diseases has increased significantly throughout country, more so from down trodden communities, perhaps due to malnutrition and deplorable living conditions. As far as A.P. is concerned, the number of such cases being recommended by the Hon'ble Members is around 200-250 every year. We are sorry to state that the decision taken imposing the ceiling depriving relief to 90% sufferers has become an indirect death blow to the deserving poor because everyone of them approach for relief is basically a daily wagger earner who cannot afford to spend a substantial amount to save his life.

We, therefore earnestly request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to reconsider the decision and allow relief to all deserving cases by increasing the grant sufficiently to meet the growing demand. Alternately, in order to extent relief to the deserved quickly, it may be examined and considered to increase the MPLADSgrant by half crore to one crore exclusively for this cause so that the MPs concerned will recommend to the implementing authority, of course, with a ceiling on grant not exceeding Rs. 25,000 to 50,000 per case and subject to other guidelines of the scheme communicated from time to time. This alternative, we are sure, if implemented will

*.. * This part of the speech was laid on the Table

mitigate the hardship of all needy poor, as they will be able to get the relief quickly on time at the district level itself. We request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to get the above proposals examined and considered for the case of the underprivileged section of the people. [\[MSOffice103\]](#)