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Title: Need to raise the unit cost under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and allocate sufficient funds for repair/ maintenance of the dwelling units under the IAY.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development about the need to increase the fund allocation for construction of houses under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in the country.

The cabinet, in February, 2013 has approved enhancement of the unit assistance under IAY from Rs. 45,000/- to Rs. 70,000/- in plain areas and from Rs. 48,000/- to Rs. 75,000/- in hilly/difficult/IAP areas w.e.f. 1st April 2013. The funding of IAY is shared between the Government of India and the States Governments in the ratio of 75:25. However, in the case of North-Eastern States and Sikkim, it is in the ratio of 90:10. In the case of Union Territories, the entire funds under this Scheme are provided by the Government of India. Even though I appreciate the Government of India's decision to increase the unit assistance to Rs. 70,000/- and Rs. 75,000/-. It is very difficult to construct a quality house with this meagre amount. This increase is not in line with the increasing inflation in the country. There is an urgent need to increase the unit assistance under this IAY Scheme to Rs. 1,50,000/- for plain areas and Rs. 1,75,000/- for hilly/difficult/IAP areas as the construction cost of the unit has increased drastically during the last five years due to high inflation rate in the country.

At present, no financial assistance is being provided for repair/maintenance of the existing houses constructed under the IAY. After some period of the construction, these houses need regular repair/maintenance and the allottees are facing great difficulties in repairing these houses due to their poor financial health. The Government of India should allocate sufficient funds for repair/maintenance of the house/unit already constructed under this Scheme.

Keeping in view the above, I urge upon the Union Government to consider the above two most important proposals at the earliest for the welfare of the poor people in the country.

