

Reg. Enhancement of HRA of Govt. Employee of Kurnool region and need for resuming pending census and subsequently upgradation of Kurnool from Z category to Y category.

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI (KURNOOL): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, for giving me this opportunity to raise this matter of urgent public importance in this august House.

Sir, this is regarding reclassification of Kurnool city of Andhra Pradesh as a ?Y? category city for the purpose of calculating HRA to the Central Government employees.(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI: There are thousands of Central Government employees in and around the city of Kurnool, who are serving the nation with dedication. They are the employees of the Ministry of Railways, Department of BSNL and Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications, Income Tax Department under the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Central Excise Department and Customs Department under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Central Bureau of Investigation, Ministry of Personnel, Pension and Public Grievances, Archaeological Survey of India under the Ministry of Culture, Indian Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan under the Ministry of Education.

Sir, there is a long pending demand for enhancement of HRA from 8 per cent to 16 per cent. This is a legitimate desire and the right of the people for which natural justice should be provided. That means that the Government should fulfil their reasonable demands. These are legitimate demands because Kurnool city has a population of 5.7 lakh and it has surpassed five lakh mark five years back. Decision has been kept pending for want of population census which was due in 2021.

Census could not be conducted due to various reasons, one of which was COVID crisis.

Sir, we know that all Government schemes are designed as per the projected population figures. Likewise, enhancing HRA based on projected population figures

is very much reasonable and justifiable. As per the 7th Central Pay Commission Report, the CCA classification of Indian cities was abolished in 2008 and new classification of X, Y and Z categories came into force. We have eight X category cities wherein population is more than 50 lakhs. In 2011, two cities were upgraded from Y to X category. We have 97 Y category cities wherein population is more than five lakhs. In 2014, 21 cities were upgraded from Z category to Y category.

Sir, Kurnool city has a population of 5.7 lakhs as certified by local municipal authorities and revenue authorities. So, Kurnool deserves to be upgraded from Z category to Y category. The Central Government employees working in and around Kurnool city will be benefitted. Their HRA will be enhanced from the present eight per cent to 16 per cent. This justifiable demand of Central Government employees may be honoured on humanitarian ground.

I request the Government of India to consider enhancement of HRA of Government employees of Kurnool region from eight per cent to 16 per cent, pending actual census and re-classification of cities of India.

Thank you.