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Title : Pending cases for grants from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

***SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to your notice an important problem that is being faced by both the public and the public representatives. We the Members of Parliament, the representatives of the people, used to forward to the Prime Minister's Office the petitions from the public especially the poor and the under privileged section of the society who would like to have some monetary assistance for medical treatments especially open heart surgery which is beyond the reach of many. Till recently we the Members of Parliament were forwarding such requests from the public with our recommendation to the office of the PM so that some funds are released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. But nothing is moving now and people are left in the lurch to fend for themselves as no such funds are forthcoming from PM's National Relief Fund.

Poor people who are going in for critical surgeries like open heart surgery used to apply for some financial relief from PM's Office. It used to be forwarded through MPs with their recommendations. This year none of the 29 cases recommended by me have been acceded to and no funds have been released so far. Similarly the District Collector of Madurai District has also forwarded some such cases which have not been responded to so far. In the case of Virudhunagar District Collector he had forwarded the case of 64 children, all students and young boys who had undergone surgical treatment for heart ailments. But even those young children have been denied any financial relief by the PMO from PMNRF.

I earnestly took it to the notice of the PMO writing to them and I even went to PMO in person if only to understand from them that they could not give relief fund to the needy for want of funds. This is a human help which needs to be attended to. But unfortunately no step is being taken to replenish the fund which would really be reaching the real needy.

*Original in Tamil.

Hence I urge upon the authorities concerned in the Union Government to ensure adequate funds are there in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund so that the needy poor can get the benefit. So many of my colleagues in Parliament may be recommending cases like this and may not be getting the necessary help. Till last year within 15-20 days there used to be a response from PMO and there will be information about the extending of financial assistance which will be subsequently followed by release of funds. But this year none of our requests has been considered or conceded to.

Hence, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister to ensure the continuance of this yeoman help forthcoming from the PMO so that open heart surgery patients from the poor sections of the society are greatly benefitted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan, please sit down. During 'Zero Hour', you have to make your point in two minutes time and not more than that. Now, I give the floor to Shri Radhakrishnan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I have to raise a very important matter before the House.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan, you are aware that you cannot read your statement during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)
