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Title : Problems being faced by NGOs working for the welfare of disabled persons.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding grievances of NGOs working for the welfare of the disabled persons in my State of Andhra Pradesh.

About 81 NGOs working for the welfare of the disabled persons are facing financial crunch due to non-release of funds. I have been informed that the Ministry has allocated Rs. 10 crore to the State of Andhra Pradesh whereas the 81 NGOs require about Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 crore. In fact, the requirement of Andhra Pradesh State is about Rs. 23 crore. Due to lack of grants to 81 NGOs, about 10,000 children will be adversely affected. These NGOs are supplementing the efforts of the Government. The Government alone cannot perform these duties. Already two national institutions are functioning in Andhra Pradesh for the welfare of the disabled persons. They are imparting training to the teachers. As a result of this, there is awareness among the disabled persons about the help being rendered by the Government of India. If there is a cut in the grant-in-aid to these NGOs, I am afraid; the continuity of the good work being done by them will come to a naught.

Therefore, I urge the Ministry, through you, Sir, to enhance the grant-in-aid to Andhra Pradesh State to the tune of Rs. 23 crore immediately so that these NGOs can continue with their work without any break.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): Sir, I may be permitted to associate with this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you can associate. There is no problem.