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Title: Need to extend National Family Benefit Scheme.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of public importance in the 'Zero Hour'.

Sir, some financial assistance is extended to the families living Below Poverty Line whose bread-winner passes away, under the National Family Benefit Scheme. There is an urgent need to continue this scheme. I thank the Government for starting this scheme in 1995. Now, this scheme has ended on 28.04.2011. This has created a sense of insecurity among the BPL families in the country. However, this scheme has received some boost in the financial year 2011-12. Though four months have elapsed in this financial year, no allocation has been made. As a result of this, nearly two lakh families, who have lost their bread-winners, in the country are anxiously looking forward to the financial assistance.

BPL families, whose bread-winner passes away between the age of 18 and 64, are given a financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000 are given to the BPL families whose bread-winner gets seriously injured. Since the beginning of the scheme, nearly 1.69 crore families have been benefited and an amount of Rs. 5,300 crore has been disbursed.

The financial assistance extended to the BPL families in Andhra Pradesh is disbursed as per norms. Sir, you know very well that Vizianagaram district is one of the most backward districts in Andhra Pradesh. For example, in my district alone, 660 BPL families are anxiously waiting for this assistance.

Sir, through you, I would humbly request the Government to enhance this amount to Rs. 15,000 in the case of seriously injured bread-winner and Rs. 30,000 in the case of death of the bread-winner of a BPL family.

There is a need to allocate funds to the National Family Benefit Scheme to extend financial assistance to BPL families under emergency.

On continuation of this scheme, the Central Government should not have second opinion, rather it should strengthen it. This is my humble request.