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Title: Need to provide adequate wages and service benefits to the Grameen Dak Sevaks in the country.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): I would like to draw the attention of the august House regarding the long-pending unsettled issues of the Grameen Dak Sevaks (GDS). GDS are suffering with heavy load of work which is increasing day-by-day, due to adding of new schemes. Thus, they are facing much inconvenience as well as difficulty in rendering justice to their duties effectively.

Though Grameena Dak Sevaks are playing a key role and are being paid on hourly basis (TRCA). They are the main pillars of the Postal Services and continue to render their service, with a meager remuneration and without minimum amenities. Unfortunately, they are not considered for Pay Scales and are ineligible for Pension in the absence of attached Pay Scales. Extension of medical aid, issue of Health Cards to GDS as in the case of other Government Employees, be considered on humanitarian grounds. Unfortunately, the GDSs have not been given extended PF provisions. Payment of gratuity i.e., Rs.1500/- for one year of service is very meager and needs revision on par with other departmental categories.

The restriction of 10% in providing employment on compassionate grounds defeats the motto and such appointments to the families of deceased employees who die in harness. The scope of providing employment to the GDSs has been shortened and the Government, with a human consideration have to revise the scheme accordingly. Though there are several schemes in force, such as Service Discharge Benefit Scheme; Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme; MGNREGA and Indiramma Housing Scheme (HIS) etc., but these schemes are not reaching GDSs in toto. Further, the calculation of the working hours of GDS, in arriving the amount for payment, needs immediate revision.

In view of above factual position, I request the concerned Hon'ble Minister to kindly look into the issues of Grameen Dak Sevaks.

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