

an>

Title: Regarding proposed change in the funding norm under National Rural Livelihood Mission.

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak during 'Zero Hour'. The matter relates to the rural youth of my State.

It has come to our notice that there is a plan to change the funding norm under National Rural Livelihood Mission from the current ratio of 75:25 to be shared by the Centre and the State respectively to a ratio of 50:50. States like Odisha are deeply concerned about such a change, especially with reference to skill component of NRLM, which has immense potential to open up sustainable economic opportunities for the rural youth of the State.

The hon. Minister of Rural Development may be aware that NRLM also encompasses the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana with its sub-component 'Roshini', both of which uniquely address the ambitions of rural youth from the vulnerable sections of society. 'Roshini' provides productive growth opportunities for young people in the Maoist-affected districts.

Both NRLM and DDU-GKY are uniquely and unambiguously focussed on the rural poor. The design, the delivery structure and the programme norms are so designed to ensure that skill training meets the aspirational desires of the youth. Therefore, in the interest of a State like Odisha, where we have a lot of skills, it can be utilized for this type of development. So, our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has written to the Union Rural Development Minister to focus on skill development for the rural youth. Therefore, the funds allocated to the State should not be decreased. Instead, I would urge upon the Union Government to increase the funds.