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Title: Regarding adoption of villages by Members of Parliament.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam Speaker, our hon. Prime Minister has declared a scheme – Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana – and requested the Members of Parliament to adopt a village in their constituencies. Subsequently, media also put forth a question to each and every Member as to which village he has adopted. I adopted a village in my constituency, out of the seven Assembly segments and 52 Gram Panchayats, having a total population of more than 1.5 million. There are three municipal corporations and 52 Gram Panchayats in my constituency.

I adopted a village called Anchuthengu which is also called Anjengo, which is the first earliest settlement of the Britishers in the whole nation. In the year 1721, the first revolt of the people against the British colonies happened in Anjengo and also Attingal. That Gram Panchayat is having very limited resources. It has a total population of 25,000 and total area of nearly 3.26 square kilometres.

With the help of the District Collector, I invited all the Central Government officers, heads of the Government Agencies and also the State Government Departments and agencies. We had a meeting at the village itself.

Madam Speaker, I request for your help. I have adopted a village like other hon. Members. Just like adopting the children, what will happen to the children we adopt, if they go orphan? We do not get the help and coordination from the government agencies and Government Departments, especially the Departments of the Government of India, the public sector banks and the Central Government agencies. This is my experience.

Madam, you are smiling at me and I hope that your heart is also smiling at me because this matter concerns you also. Madam, this has no politics at all. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am always trying to hear all of you while keeping a smiling face.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. A. SAMPATH: Madam Speaker, you understand the pity of the MPs. We have already adopted a village; we do not have the funds; MPLAD Fund has not been increased; there is no separate fund for SAGY; and the people are coming to us. They have dreams. What can we do if their dreams are shattered? It will be a casualty just like an earthquake. I do not know what will happen to the MPs also if they are not able to fulfil the promise as the Prime Minister has already declared it.

So, my humble submission is that on the part of the Government officials it is a humiliation to the whole House, and it is disrespect to the hon. Prime Minister also. So, I beg this from you on behalf of all the MPs that there should be adequate funds provided for the SAGY Scheme. There is lack of coordination. There should be more coordinated efforts between the Government agencies, Departments and the PSUs. We are not begging for CSR, but it is to fulfil the promises that we have made to the people. We are bound by that because the hon. Prime Minister has declared that scheme. So, I hope that you may be pleased to give directions to the concerned Government officials through the Ministers that this will be taken care of. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri C.N. Jayadevan, Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. A. Sampath.

11.41 hrs

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS