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Title: Need to formulate a welfare fund to provide financial assistance to the old aged artists in the country.

SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY (MALKAJGIRI): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue of sanctioning Artists' Pension Scheme and to formulate a welfare fund for them.

In my State, Telangana, there are many poor old aged artists who are languishing in poverty and not getting any financial assistance. A majority of artists are uneducated and are approaching the All India Cultural Council and State Theatre Artists Association for financial help. The Expert Committee meeting is supposed to be held every year to prepare the list of beneficiaries but the Expert Committee did not hold a single meeting to finalise the same in the last three years. Consequently, old-aged poor artists are suffering for want of financial aid in the twilight of their life.

Therefore, I request the NDA Government to provide financial help to the old aged artists in the form of a pension scheme, and a welfare fund for those who are eligible legally, so that they are brought above the poverty line.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ch. Malla Reddy.