

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding financial assistance to mentally and disabled persons.

***SHRIMATI P.K.SREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR)** : Thank you Madam Speaker, during the past five years, I had an opportunity to present many a social issues in this House. The most important issues, were concerning women, children, and the differently abled persons. I am happy that I could bring such issues to the notice of the House. Today, I am presenting once again the plight of five crores of our youngsters, children, adults, and the aged, who are differently abled. Our respected Prime Minister, had said that this section of the society should not be called *vikalang* (Physically handicapped) but they should be called *divang* (differently abled). But I speak with great anguish, that during the last five years, no enhancement of financial aid, nor other facilities have been extended to the differently abled sections in this country. I want to tell you Madam, this section, is the most marginalized, and neglected in our society. They include physically and mentally challenged, and those who have these challenges from birth onwards and those who are affected by cerebral palsy and autism. It is my desire and request to you, that the Government should take steps to redress their suffering. Therefore, on this eve, when the tenure of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha is getting over, this section of our society who suffer the most physically and mentally, and who constitutes about five crores of our population, deserves special care and protection. I urge upon the Government that for their day to day needs these brothers and sisters be provided an allowance of three thousand rupees per month. I request the Government to immediately take steps in this regard. I am thankful to you Madam Speaker, for allowing me to raise this issue on the floor of the House. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shankar Prasad Datta, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Dr. Mamta Sanghamita, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Shrimati V.

Sathyabama, Shri P.K. Biju, Dr. A. Sampath, Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.