

(viii) *Need to increase the amount of house building loan for the houseless poor*

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) : Sir, food, shelter and clothing are the basic necessities of man. Majority of the people in this country live below the poverty line. From time to time, many programmes have been taken up by the successive Governments to improve the conditions of the poor.

Provision of shelter under different schemes has also been taken up under various programmes. At present HUDCO is extending a loan of Rs. 3,000/- for constructing a house to the houseless poor. The State Government contributes another Rs. 3,000/-. Out of the total amount thus available, the beneficiaries, i.e., the houseless poor, have to make contribution of Rs. 311/- towards beneficiary deposit. Thus a poor man will be left with a paltry sum of Rs. 5,689 only. This amount is inadequate to build a hut, leave alone building a house. The cost of cement, steel, bricks and labour, etc., has gone up steeply. The amount of Rs. 3,000/- which is being extended as loan by HUDCO was fixed a long time back. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is not in a position to enhance their contribution.

Hence, I request the Government of India to direct the HUDCO to enhance the amount which it is lending now from Rs. 3,000/- to at least Rs. 6,000/-, so that the houseless poor can really stand benefited by the scheme.

(ix) *Need to retain the former limit of financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 which was being given to the poor Harijans for improving their health and social and economic conditions.*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD (Bansgaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under rule 377.

I want to draw the attention of the Central Government and the Government of U. P. Through you, to the assistance being given hitherto by the Government to

the Harijans for the marriages of their daughters and for medical treatment. The Government had been providing a financial assistance of Rs. 5,000/- for marriages of the daughters and in the event of illness also an assistance of Rs. 5,000/- was being given for medical treatment, but I am very sorry to say that this financial assistance has now been reduced to Rs. 1,000/- only whereas, keeping in view the present time, this amount should have been enhanced.

Therefore, I request Government that for the betterment of the social, economic and health conditions of lakhs of these poor Harijans, if it is not possible to increase the above financial assistance, it should at least be allowed to continue at Rs. 5,000/- as at present, so that the 20-Point Programme could be implement in letter and spirit.

12.21 hrs.

[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1985-86—Contd.

(i) Ministry of Irrigation and Power—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up item 11- Further Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power,

I will request the Minister to reply.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : First of all, I must thank all the hon. Members from this side and from that side who took keen interest in the matter pertaining to power and irrigation in the country and participated in the debate and given us certain good suggestions. I am happy that I could not find anywhere anything critical about the policy of the Government except that there were grievances and complaints voiced by the Members with regard to certain alleged delays in the implementation of projects both in irrigation and in power.

I must also say to the credit of the House that the Members and indeed the