

**Denial of 100 days work guaranteed under MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Development Employment Guarantee Act enacted in 2005. About 13 crore rural households depend on MGNREGA. It is the largest work guarantee programme in the world enacted in 2005 with a primary objective of guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment to rural households. Sir, the Act aims at addressing causes of chronic poverty through the works that are undertaken and thus ensuring sustainable development.

When the Act mandates for providing not less than 100 days of unskilled manual work as guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas, as per their demand, there have been large-scale complaints from NREGA workers that 100 days employment is not given to them. And, even for the work done by them, their wages are not paid on time.

Sir, to our party President, hon. Leader of Opposition in Tamil Nadu, Mr. M.K. Stalin, when he was touring in Vellore for election campaign, a lot of workers complained that they were not being given 100 days of wage employment and even wages were not being paid properly.

Sir, the core objective of the Act is not only to create productive assets of prescribed quality and durability but also strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor. The workers have the legal right and the Act mandates for providing employment for adult members of the rural households. At least, one-third beneficiaries are women. Therefore, through this august House, I request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to find out the reasons as to why this Act, which guarantees hundred days employment, is not being implemented in true letter and spirit. And, also find out as to why there are complaints from the workers that they are not being paid wages as per the Act. I also urge upon the hon. Minister to call for report from the national level monitors, in this regard, from Tamil Nadu.

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

**Need to establish a major port in Ramayapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this intervention, I would like to draw the attention of both, the Central as well as the State Governments, towards the implementation of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act. All the educational institutions, under Thirteenth Schedule, have been granted to the State. But, under Thirteenth Schedule, some infrastructure projects were to be taken up. One of them is regarding construction of a major port at Duggirajapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. But the Central Government had already informed, about three years ago, that this is not feasible and the State should suggest an alternative location. And, to the best of my knowledge, this has not been done till date. As a result, this major investment infrastructure proposal from the Central Government is still waiting because of lack of nod from the State Government. I would urge upon the Central Government to take initiative and consider selection of Ramayapatnam for setting up a major port in Prakasam district. This port would not only be viable in Prakasam district, but this will also benefit the backward regions of Andhra Pradesh, including the Prakasam and Nellore districts because the location of the port would be somewhere between these two districts. So, I urge upon the Central government to take a *suo motu* initiative and ask the State Government to facilitate construction of a major port in Ramayapatnam.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to speak in Telugu.

\* Mr. Chairman, Sir, construction of port in Ramayapatnam, Andhra Pradesh is feasible as there is a provision in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act. Though it is mentioned in the Act that the port has to be constructed in Duggirajapatnam, Andhra Pradesh the Central Government has already informed, about three years ago, that this is not feasible and the State should suggest an alternative location. I would urge upon the Central Government to take initiative and consider selection of Ramayapatnam for setting up a major port in Prakasam district. This would benefit the people of both Prakasam and Nellore Districts. Investments of rupees 50,000 crores is expected by construction of this port. So, I urge upon the Central government to

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\*English version of original speech delivered in Telugu.