

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Mamata Mohanta: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

### **Demand for homes to the poor of Odisha under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, the Centre launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana with the very laudable objective of 'housing for all' to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to the homeless or those living in dilapidated kuchcha structures. Under this Yojana, the Odisha Government proposed housing assistance to be covered under the PMAY for 15 lakh houses. This included houses to be provided to a large population of the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes and also to the people who were affected by Fani Cyclone.

In December, 2021, the hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister seeking more houses for Fani cyclone-hit families and also the poor in the tribal and backward districts of the State. But, unfortunately, after three-and-a-half years, despite persuasion by all the Members of Parliament of Biju Janata Dal in both the Houses and also submitting a memorandum to the concerned Minister, only 8 lakh houses have been sanctioned and still 7 lakh houses have been left behind. The result is that there is a large chunk of people in these tribal areas who have not been able to get houses even now.

In order to support those deprived of their right to shelter, the Government of Odisha, under the leadership of the hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has come out with *Mo Ghara* Scheme, that is, My House Scheme, in 2023. It is a credit-linked subsidy scheme. This was done because there was a large chunk of people who could not be covered under the Central scheme. Under this scheme, loans up to Rs.3 lakhs are being provided, and the more significant thing is that persons with disabilities are being covered, who were not being covered under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The financial implication of this Mo Ghara Scheme is that in two years, Rs.2,150 crores are proposed to be met from the State Budget.

Now, Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that remaining 7 lakh houses, which have not been provided by the Central Government, could be provided to those people in Odisha who have been deprived of this. This would actually ensure that the people, who are actually in the lower strata of society in

rural parts of Odisha, get this benefit and the objective of 'Housing for All' actually gets achieved. In a State like Odisha which is having a large population living in the rural areas, this would actually help them to come up to a stage in life where their basic capabilities would also improve because of this facility. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Amar Patnaik: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

### **Need to address the issues for the development and welfare of tribals in Odisha**

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): \* "Thank you, hon'ble Dy. Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to speak in my mother tongue Odia.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has always given priority to the development and welfare of the tribal brothers and sisters of Odisha. In this regard, many programs have been taken up in the State of Odisha, and due to paucity of time, I am not delving deeper into the details. Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards three vital issues relating to our tribal brothers and sisters. The first issue is regarding the inclusion of five languages, Ho, Mundari, Saora, Kui and Bhumij that are spoken by the tribals of Odisha, in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. In this regard, our hon'ble Chief Minister has been continuously endeavouring, and has written several letters to the Government of India. Moreover, the Odisha Cabinet has also passed resolutions for the Kui and Saoralanguages, and the same has the approval of the State Government also. The second issue is regarding the inclusion of 169 communities in the Scheduled Tribes list. These communities had requested through the Government that their communities be included in the ST List of Odisha, and the Government of Odisha had also duly forwarded the same to the Central Government, but the same is still pending. The matter should be taken into consideration on priority so that the hopes and aspirations of these tribals are realized.

The third issue is regarding the withdrawal of 18 per cent GST on Kendu leaves. About 10 Lakh women, our tribal sisters, depend on Kendu leaf collection for their livelihood but due to the imposition of 18 per cent GST on Kendu leaves, their

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\* English translation of the original speech delivered in Odia.