

(14 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

I urge upon the Railway Minister to start the construction and go ahead by allotting the necessary amount for the construction of the Division, and fulfil the promise of the Government, in the interest of the people there.

**Request for Financial Assistance to Janmabhoomi Programme in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI" RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Mahatma Gandhi once said that true democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the Centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village.

The mass mobilisation of people is the need of the hour, as many welfare schemes introduced to improve the living conditions of the people have not benefited the poor. There is a wide gap between the aspirations of the people and the achievements made so far. Hence, the Andhra Pradesh Government had introduced the Janmabhoomi Programme, which is a people's movement for reconstruction and revitalisation of the society. Involvement of people in the planning for development of their resources has helped in finding improved solutions in several sectors like managing our forests, optimal utilisation of irrigation facilities and self-employment projects. Participatory planning has enabled the poor in highlighting their particular concerns. Through collective efforts, the landless poor in the villages have been able to obtain allotment of Government land as well as funds for developing them. The Janmabhoomi Programme has enabled the State in performing better in population control, reducing child mortality rate, literacy programme, removing social evils like untouchability, etc. and in forming women's thrift and credit groups, youth groups, Vana Samrakshana Samithis, water-users associations, watershed development committees and village education committees, etc.

As the said programme involves specialised training, demonstrations, exhibitions and orientation programmes at the village level, visits of Government functionaries to villages often involve substantial expenditure. I, therefore, request the Union Government to extend financial assistance to the performing States, as they are incurring heavy expenditure for implementing the welfare programmes, etc.

An early action will be highly appreciated.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.