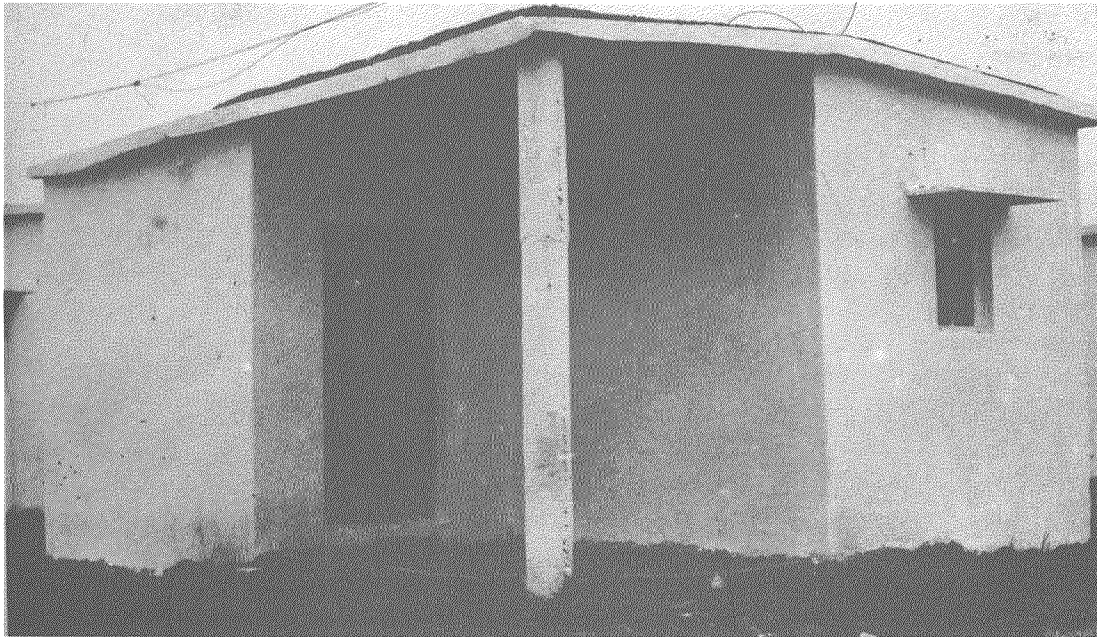


Total Cost of House	<u>Rs 15500</u>
Land 5 cents-Govt. contribution	
CASA Grant	Rs 6000
Chief Minister's Fund	Rs 5000
Beneficiary Contribution	Rs 1000
Bank and other financial institutions	<u>Rs 3500</u>
	Rs 15500

The entire labour is put in by the beneficiaries.



CASA has taken care to see that there has been no compromise on the quality of materials. This has become also very important because the salinity of the soil and air are highly corrosive agents.

The same holds true about the cyclone shelter which as the photograph shows is nearing completion. While the shelter constructed by Government agencies post 1977 is unsafe, the cost of the present shelter under construction is Rs.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in which the Government contribution is only Rs.2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. CASA has now arrived at a figure of Rs.225/- per sq.ft. as construction cost. The shelter which is meant also to be used as a community centre has toilets and drinking water storage system which will be pumped up by means of hydraulic pumps. This has been so designed so that the water is pumped up and stored. Venkatadurgapuram will now be able to provide drinking water for 2 days to people even if electricity fails during cyclones.

Venkatadurgapuram, like all other CASA adopted villages, has a 'Cyclone Task Force' which remains alert through news bulletins and by seeing traditional warning signals for any change in the weather conditions. Providing food, fuel, water and moving the old and young into the shelter is then of utmost priority.

THE SEED IS SOWN

Once relief and other related activities were under the grip of CASA, they started working simultaneously on a prawn cultivation project which was taken up. In this project, one hectare of land is given on lease for 6 years to one woman from each household. The total cash input required in each prawn tank is about Rs.35,000. The cost have been met in the following manner.

Loan from Government	Rs.15,000
Subsidy from District Rural Development Agency	Rs. 3,000
Govt. Grant from Backward Class	Rs. 5,000
Corporation Bank Loan	Rs. 7,000
Prawn feed (Beneficiary contribution)	Rs. 5,500
	<u>Rs 35,500</u>

The cost which remains to be met is the cost of pumpsets which ranges from Rs.10,000 to Rs.15,000 and which has been met by CASA. Each pumpset caters to about 8 to 12 prawn tanks.

Additionally, CASA, has contributed Rs.2,80,000 for electricity in the village while DRDA has contributed Rs.1,60,000.

THE HARVEST BEGINS

On this investment, every prawn tank gives two crops per year. Prawns, depending on the size, are sold without the heads to merchants who provide transport and ice at the site for about Rs.180 per Kg. Each crop means an earning of about Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000. The annual income ranges between Rs.40,000 to 50,000.

This is naturally a far more stable and secure income especially since every prawn tank is insured at an annual premium of Rs.11,000.

WE ARE FEARLESS?

At a one time premium of Rs.100 only which is a constant balance to be maintained, all the women of Venkatadurgapuram are fearless or 'Abay'. This is a unique scheme or life insurance known as Abhaya Bank Women's Small Savings, which also has the male equivalent.

However, while the shelter has been built, the house constructed, the task force organised, prawn cultivation in full swing and all seem happy and fearless - questions loom large in fearful minds - what if the prawn export market has a slump - or some bacterial virus detected? What if the pumping in of saline water for prawn cultivation makes it environmentally dangerous as in Taiwan which compelled discontinuation? - Only time and deeper research will tell but tell it will sooner or later.