

Chairman - Is there anything else ? If not I wish to determine the date and place of the next session. Am I right in understanding that the next session is to be called in Chiba ?

Chiba-Ken - OK.

(No objection)

Chairman - Then I announce the close of this meeting.

Min-Ho-Hatsu No.2314

25 November 1949

Chairman, Kanto Area Disaster Relief Measures Council

TO: Director, Central Disaster Relief Measures Council
Bureau.

Concerning Submission of Written Request for the Revision of the Disaster Relief Law.

I herewith present a written request as attached for the revision of the Disaster Relief Law in accordance with the resolution made by this council meeting held at Mizukami, Gumma Prefecture on 12 inst and wish you will kindly forward the same to the Welfare Minister and the Finance Minister.

Written Request for the Revision of the Disaster Relief Law. Based on our experience on the disaster relief work executed in Kanto Area after the enactment of the Disaster Relief Law, we hereby request you to revise the Disaster Relief Law now in force as follows in accordance with the resolution passed by the Kanto Area Disaster Relief Measures Council.

1. To raise the limit of disaster relief expenses to correspond to the actual feature. Having in view the experience of disaster relief work subsequent to the enactment of the Disaster Relief Law and taking into consideration of the experience of the recent Kanto typhoon, the major part of it was found failing to meet the actual feature and is incapable of effecting the minimum relief of the sufferers so that the boost there of in the following manner at the earliest opportunity is highly desirable.

(1) Expenses for erecting refuges.

Since it is absolutely impossible with the current poor limit not even reaching the gratification for a building to set up refuges and to maintain and supervise them. We want to have this item increased to ¥6.00 thereabouts per occupant per day.

(2) Supply of food stuff other than boiled rice

The current limit is even insufficient for the cost of staple food and is of course incapable of defraying condiment and side

dish expenses. So it is altogether illogical to treat the sufferers below the level of the protected under the Livelihood Protection Law, certain improvement of the above limit is required on the basis of food supply expense for the protected.

(3) Supply of clothing, beddings and other daily life necessaries.

With the present limit, supply of beddings only deprives all other items such as dresses and other clothings in respect of the amount while the beddings themselves remain insufficient. Such is similiary the case with the daily life necessaries which must be contented with supply of mere one or two articles. Under such situation as above, we are desirous to have the amount raised to some twice as much of its present limit.

Further, regarding the manner of deciding the articles and attendant expenses of supplies, we believe it is most advisable not to lay any rigid and uniform standard over the state but to leave certain district difference by taking into consideration locality, climate and state of living and at the same time to leave some margin of selection by the prefectural governor in deciding the articles of supplies at his discretion so as to adapt the actual state of affairs.

(4) Expenses for medical treatment and birth aid.
We wish this items will be dealt with in the same way as the case of national health insurance.

(5) Supply of school accessories.
Under the current limit, it is entirely impossible to satisfy the minimum requests. We want raising of limit at least to 3 times as much of the present rule.

(6) Supply or renting of occupational fund, tools or materials.
We wish to have them dealt with in the same manner as the occupational aid in the Livelihood Protection Law.

(7) Burial expense
Wish to have it dealt with in the same way as the aid to funeral service in the Livelihood Protection Law.

2. The following addition of items of expenditure is desired.

(1) Expenses request for repairs and replacement of damaged houses.

In view of the actual feature which cannot be overlooked that from the experience of cases of disaster in the past most be the sufferers are unable to recover themselves to the previous normal state of living and that the damaged houses being left un repaired for a long period, we are desirous to be provided with some measures to enable us to pay urgent repairs expense.

(2) Expenses requisite for erecting urgent housing facilities (Sheds) as a measure for urgent accommodation of sufferers. The distress of sufferers who had then houses burnt down, washed away, or collapse as the results of fire or flood are worthy of

very sympathy. They are usually accommodated in schools and other public institutions for protection and relief but on account of the current state of housing affairs rendering it exceedingly difficult to seek their new abodes they are compelled to stay there for a long time bringing about various troubles between school authorities, etc. in many occasions. Under the circumstances it is of prime importance to contrive to remove the anxiety of their life by providing urgent housing facilities and we are very desirous to have such measures taken. In addition, apart from the foregoing problem, we are in need of erecting temporary accommodation such as shed, etc., so that we are able to receive sufferers who are unable to return to and live in time, about which we wish to have your proper disposition.

3. Total defrayment of disaster relief expenses to be made by the national treasury. As regards the expenses incurred in relief work is borne by the national treasury in a fixed amount for the sum exceeding 5% of aggregate of land tax, house tax and enterprise tax of the previous year calculated on the standard rate of levy by virtue of the provision of Art. 36 of the Disaster Relief Law. However, the actual result shows that the expenses are of necessity to be considerably big amount in order to exceed 5% mentioned above and the disasters that are below the prescribed level are anticipated to take place almost every year, the result is solely to fall upon the shoulders of prefectures rendering a serious consequence to the finance of local bodies. From the above reason, we earnestly that the state will make clear of its responsibility provided for in Art 1 of the Law by taking necessary measures for total defrayment by the national treasury of such expenses from the original purport of this Law. Also, in view of the application of this Law is not interded for the case of ordinary state but for the case of emergency, there are prominent possibility that casual and unexpected disbursements to be incurred in the course of its operation and the national subsidy on such incidental expenses in also desired by us.

25 November 1949.

Director, Kanto Area Disaster Relief Measures Council.

To the
Minister of Welfare
Minister of Finance