

They still wait for tsunami aid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Kancheepuram, July 26: The fishing hamlet of Chinandikuppam, near Enchappakkam on the ECR, seems to have recovered from the tsunami, at least on the surface. Unfortunately, many residents complain they haven't received welfare aid even two and a half years after the tsunami struck.

This came to fore when Kancheepuram Collector Pradeep Yadav listened to the woes of those who were left out on Wednesday. There were no casualties reported in the Kuppam when the giant waves struck, but many had lost their houses completely.

They alleged that both government and NGO officials had never done anything concretely to help the victims.

However, two and a half years after the tsunami, the community as a whole seems to be well off. It boasts a modern community hall, a creche, a computer centre for children and an adult education wing.

On Wednesday, the Col-



The tsunami fisherfolks of Chinandikuppam narrating their grievances to Kancheepuram Collector Pradeep Yadav on Wednesday — Express Photo by K Sivaraman

lector inaugurated a dispensary, a cold storage at an outlay of Rs 19 lakh of which Rs 14 lakh was funded by the government and an insulated van costing Rs 9 lakh to transport fish afresh to the market.

The Collector assured the people the government would construct houses for those who were left out.

LACK OF LAND: According to Desikan of Catalyst, there is no land for construction within the coastal regulation norms.

A proposal for constructing a 25-bed hospital had to be put on hold as the land given by the district administration was encroached upon by some one. The proposed houses for fishermen are to be built on previously held lands which are within the 500 metre norm.

"We had to prioritise the order of allotting houses to those who were most affected. Besides some residents have solid houses which they have rented out," he said.