

## *A solar shed helped Mangala restart her canteen business*

**G SUBHASH CHANDRA** @Chitradurga

THE Covid-induced lockdown may have devastated the life of Mangala, who ran a small shop and canteen at Nanjayanakottige on Huliya road of Hiriya taluk, but the support shown by SELCO foundation has helped her revive her business.

By running a grocery shop,

canteen and a solar-powered photocopier, Mangala now has a regular turnover of Rs 5,000 to 5,500 per day and a respectable income of Rs 800 to 1,000 per day, thus rebuilding her life and supporting her children's education.

SELCO Foundation came forward and funded Rs 1.50 lakh for building a Soura kuteera

(solar shed) for her. Mangala told the Express, "My life was on a crossroad during the lockdown. I suffered from severe loss. I also have the responsibility of supporting the education of my children, who are studying in Vedavathi First Grade College, Hiriya."

She said that the solar shed has been built in a state-of-the-

art manner and has increased her income a lot.

"The entire family depends on me for money. I have been running the shop after I lost my husband 19 years ago. My family is thankful to SELCO for their support," she added.

She further said that she had to contribute only Rs 73,000.

SELCO head at Chitradurga,

Manjunath Bhagwath said that the total cost of the project stood at Rs 2.63 lakh, out of which SELCO Foundation funded Rs 1.50 lakh.

"This solar shed is based on the concept of rebuilding lives of those people who have lost their livelihood during the lockdown, using sustainable energy," he explained.