

Sixteenth Loksabha

an>

Title: Need to allocate sufficient grants to Tamil Nadu for implementing welfare schemes for the people.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during 'Zero Hour' regarding reduction in Grants-in-Aid to Tamil Nadu.

As you know, Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the benefit of the poor and the downtrodden. These Schemes have been a huge success in our State. I may also point out here that many schemes of Tamil Nadu have been replicated in several other States. Last week, we saw some Union Ministers admitting in this House that some schemes of the Tamil Nadu Government have been taken up by the Centre for implementation.

But of late, there has been a continuous and harsh reduction in the Grants-in-Aid received by Tamil Nadu from the Union Government, due to which not only the schemes fail, but also the poor suffer; and the net result is that the State Government of Tamil Nadu is finding it very difficult to cope up these schemes with its own scarce resources. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had been continuously writing letters to the hon. Prime Minister of India, but to no avail.

To sustain such good schemes, Tamil Nadu Government need more resources. When Tamil Nadu got reduced Grants this year, Uttar Pradesh Government received an increased grant of Rs. 71,161 crore this year, as against Rs. 32,537 crore last year, which is a rise of about 119 per cent. Similarly, Rajasthan received an increased grant of Rs.29,188 crore in 2017-18, as against Rs. 19,482 crore in 2016-17, which is a rise of about 50 per cent. Maharashtra also received an increased grant of Rs. 33,752 crore in 2017-18 as against Rs. 21,652 crore in 2016-17, which is a rise of about 56 per cent. So, this year, Tamil Nadu received a reduced Grant of Rs.19,264 crore as against Rs.19,838 crore last year, which is a 3 per cent reduction or a shortfall of Rs.574 crore for the current year. The Centre is continuously punishing a 'Better Performing State', thus putting a huge question mark on the 'Federal Character of our country'.

In view of this, I would request the Central Government to allocate sufficient Grants, as demanded by the Government of Tamil Nadu, for implementing welfare schemes for the people of our

State.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. P. Venugopal.