

Regarding alleged diversion of funds meant for Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU (NARSAPURAM): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir.

This is regarding Gram Swaraj, which was initiated by Mahatma Gandhi and was followed by Governments later on. During the Government of Narendra Modi ji, a lot of priority has been given to all the Gram Panchayats and a lot of funds are also being released. In this case, last year, Rs. 569 crore got released to Gram Panchayats of Andhra Pradesh but not even a single penny has been credited to the accounts of the Gram Panchayats which was given under the 15th Finance Commission. In the 14th Finance Commission starting during 2019 to 2023, around Rs. 8,629 crore got released but nothing has been credited to the accounts. We all have met the Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches? Association where all Party Members are there predominantly dominated by my present Party. We all have met hon. Minister, Giriraj Singh ji and gave a representation. He was kind enough to give a note to the State Government to give back the money within ten days but in the last three months nothing has happened. Now, with all this going on, the villagers are greatly suffering and the dream of the hon. Government of India led by Narendra Modi ji is not getting honoured.

So, through you, hon. Chairman, Sir, I once again request the hon. Minister, Giriraj Singh ji, who is here till now and had already briefed this morning also, to take it up immediately on priority.

There has been a new system known as volunteer system, which has totally replaced the Sarpanches and the Ward Member system wherein the village system has got totally dysfunctional. I request the hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj as far as the village development is concerned, it should be left with only the Panchayat Sarpanch and the Ward Members, not with the volunteers. Thank you, Sir.