

Regarding need to release pending dues of central share of financial assistance to Kerala-laid

ADV. A. M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): The Union Government is withholding financial assistance eligible for the State of Kerala. Central shares of financial assistance of about Rs. 57,400 crore is pending to the State of Kerala which includes assistance towards paddy procurement, social security pensions, implementation of 7th Pay Commission, Pay & Pension Revision for UGC-scale teachers and Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The Union Government, which is relentlessly borrowing from open market is imposing unreasonable restrictions on Kerala's open market borrowings by not permitting even 3 percent of its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). In addition to this, the Union Government is insisting on display of the logo of PMAY on houses constructed under LIFE Mission in Kerala, as a condition for release of Central grants to Kerala which not acceptable on two grounds. First, decent housing being a basic right, displaying the logo is against human rights principles and secondly, while the Center's assistance is a meagre Rs. 72,000 per dwelling, the State Government is spending the remaining amount out of Rs. 4,00,000. Hence the Union Government should immediately release the pending eligible dues of Rs. 57,400 crore.

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13.02 hrs