

Regarding utilization of funds under various Departments of M/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare-laid

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): I wish to bring attention towards the issue of huge underutilization of funds under various Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoAFW). Although 47% of the country's population depends on agriculture for livelihood, it is disheartening to witness an unfortunate trend of decreasing budget allocations and poor fund utilizations for the Ministry. It is reported that over the past 5 years, more than Rs 1 lakh crore remained unutilized by the Central Government. Also, in FY 23, an alarming unspent amount of Rs. 21,005 crores has been reported ? which is 4 times higher than FY 22. Consequently, operations of various farmers' welfare schemes, agricultural research, and irrigation projects, seem overlooked by the Government.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to judiciously utilize and timely disburse the funds to ensure optimal utilization of funds ? so that farmers of the country are truly benefitted.