

## **Regarding release of central funds for Kerala-laid**

**ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA):** Union Government is not providing Kerala its due share of entitlements in a timely manner on the one hand and imposing unreasonable restrictions on the State's borrowing limit on the other hand. While the State was expecting a borrowing limit of Rs. 7437.61 for the last quarter of 2023-24, it has been limited to a mere Rs. 1,838 crore, seriously affecting the implementation of several social welfare programmes including the timely distribution of welfare pensions to over 60 lakh beneficiaries at the rate of Rs. 1,600 per month. Setting the borrowing limit by considering the public funds in the state treasury as well as borrowings by KIIFB as state borrowings sans any logic is not acceptable. The cut in borrowing limit is hampering the development activities of the State Government. The Union Government's insistence on branding as a precondition for release of Central share of assistance is against federal principles. Hence, the Union Government is requested to provide Kerala its due share of entitlement.