

**Title:** Demanded clarification regarding statement made by Shri Dhananjaya Kumar Venur that Centrally sponsored funds will be directed to the Panchayats over and above the State Governments.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I am raising a point which is of vital importance so far as the Centre-State relations are concerned. There is a recent move by the Central Government. If I remember correct, the hon. Minister, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar had made a statement to the effect that hereafter the Centrally-sponsored funds will be directed to the Panchayats, over and above the State Governments. This will adversely affect the Centre-State relations. We have introduced three-tier system in the Panchayati Raj, by amending the Constitution. When we are doing a very good work in that direction, it is quite improper and abnormal on the part of the Government to send the Central funds direct to the Panchayats.

This is questioning or challenging the integrity, sincerity and even the honesty of the State Government. I hope that all the State Governments will be opposed to the principle. All funds, whether Central or State, should be directed through the State Government to the Panchayats. I would like to bring this matter to the attention of the Government and they may clarify their position as to whether the statement of the hon. Minister Shri Dhananjaya Kumar is correct and if so it has to be rectified. All the funds should be directed through the State Government.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): There are no two opinions about it. ...(Interruptions)