

Title: Need to release withheld portion of Non-Plan Gap Grant to the Government of Tripura.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to a serious financial problem being faced by the Government of Tripura due to non-release of withheld portion of Non-Plan gap grant by Rs. 74.36 crore. The State Government and the Ministry of Finance had exchanged a 'Letter of Agreement' on 26th March, 2003 under which targets were fixed for the year 2002-2003 for revenue collection by the State Government, provision of funds by the Central Government on account of Central share of taxes and other Central transfers and revenue expenditure by the State. The State Government had not only fulfilled but also exceeded the targets fixed under MoU. It may also be mentioned that Mizoram and Nagaland had been sanctioned Central assistance in lieu of gap grant although they could not fulfil the target. In case of Tripura despite the case being genuine the withheld gap grant has not been released. I would strongly urge the Government to release the gap grant or consider an equivalent amount at the earliest.