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Title : Regarding alleged misappropriation and non-utilisation of Central funds by Kerala Government for development for SCs.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (ADOOR): Thank you Sir. I want to bring to the notice of the House some very astonishing facts of misappropriation and non-utilisation of Central funds released to Kerala during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. As we know, the Central Government runs a number of schemes for the welfare of SC and ST community and also releases funds for the same.

18.29 hrs. (Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*)

During the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, the Central Government released an amount of Rs. 20 crore to help the SC and ST students in providing coaching for IAS exams; starting para-medical courses for them; and giving them education in information technology, etc. This fund was completely at the disposal of the Kerala Government. The Ministry of Social Justice was the nodal agency for implementing and promoting these activities. But, the Annual Report of Accountant General shows that in the year 2002-2003 only Rs. 6.98 crore and in the year 2003-2004 only Rs. 6.85 crore were utilised. This is a matter of grave concern that the Government of Kerala has not utilised Central funds completely whereas lakhs of people of SC community are living below the poverty line and striving hard to lead a respectful life. Not only this, the Accountant General has also expressed his grave concerns regarding misappropriation of public funds[c69].

The [r70]report says that the Government had allotted Rs.1.75 crore on IAS coaching for SC/ST students, but coaching did not start at all. The AG Report has raised serious doubts whether this money is being utilised at all. Further a fund of Rs.2.70 crore was released to medical colleges of Alleppey, Kottayam and Calicut for starting para-medical courses. But these countries have not been started in these colleges so far. People of Kerala want to know who have pocketed this money. We would like to know whether this money has been diverted to some other purposes or it is lying with the management. The Government should give an explanation in this regard.

Sir, in the light of the above facts, it is felt that a monitoring committee should be constituted to keep a strict vigil on the utilisation, non-utilisation and misutilisation of the public funds. I also suggest that this monitoring committee should be headed and adequately represented by the elected representatives of the State so that the scheme implementing agencies can be made more responsible.