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Title: Need to ensure proper utilization of funds meant for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

PROF. A.S.R. NAIK (MAHABUBABAD): As the Government is aware that many development schemes and programmes exist for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes development by the successive Governments. Since the normal allocation of budget by the State Governments for development of SCs and STs are insufficient, the Central Government has introduced S.C., S.T. Sub-Plan funds. But unfortunately, the State Governments are not utilizing the Sub-Plan funds for the purpose and there are instances of diversion of these funds for various other purposes such as construction of flyovers etc. In view of such diversion of funds, the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed an Act in 2013 to prevent the Government from diverting funds meant for SCs and STs to other programmes, which was a result of many struggles by concerned communities and it is an historical achievement.

I wish to know as to how many States are implementing the schemes properly and also as to whether other States have enacted law for the purpose. In the absence of such an Act, I request the Union Government to enact law for proper implementation and utilization of these funds in place of the existing schemes.