

## STATEMENT

The suggestion of the Hon'ble Member that while making his reference to the misuse of funds, the Deputy Minister had specifically in mind the present Government of Kerala is not correct. The normal meaning of the words "your own government of Kerala" is "the government of your own state of Kerala". The reference, therefore, was to Kerala as the state to which the Hon'ble Member belonged, and not to the fact that the Government of Kerala was a United Front Government.

The Hon'ble Member has tacitly accepted the fact that there has been misuse of funds allotted for the welfare of Backward Classes in Kerala. His only objection is that this misuse has not occurred during the time his party was in power in the State but as already explained there was no intention of calling to question the acts of any particular party.

But while these irregularities may have begun under previous regime succeeding Government have also the duty to rectify the defects. For example, the deposits in favour of beneficiaries of housing and Co-operative schemes were *bona fide* at the time they were made, and could be assumed to be so for a reasonable period thereafter. As many of the beneficiaries originally listed are no longer traceable and the fact that the societies in whose favour these deposits have been made have ceased to be active for many years, it is the responsibility of the present government to see that the deposits are not retained and the share of the Central Government in these deposits refunded or applied for a better purpose in consultation with the Central Government.

The following specific information has also reached the Government of India:—

(a) Out of 330 Harijan cooperatives financially assisted and registered by the State Government, as many as 188 are completely dormant for many years.

(b) As on 30. 6. 1968 a sum of Rs. 4,54,000 was lying idle with district co-operative banks towards un-utilised working

capital grants of as many as 146 Harijan cooperative societies.

Again, assets including 19 vehicles, several buildings and items of equipment which were financed through the Central Social Welfare Board of the Government of India have been unilaterally taken over by the Government of Kerala with effect from 1. 8. 1968. These assets are not being utilised for welfare activities for which they were created and grants released.

From what I have said it is clear that there has been misuse of funds. There has been no intention to malign any particular government or party in power and the Hon'ble Member's apprehension with a particular reference to the present United Front Government in Kerala was intended is unfounded. In the circumstances, there is no reason to withdraw the statement made.

12. 58 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THIRTY SECOND REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND  
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH):  
Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th March, 1969."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th March, 1969."

*The motion was adopted.*

RE: CALLING ATTENTION  
NOTICES ETC.

MR. SPEAKER : Before I go to the next item—Appropriation (Railways) Bill