

party, he belongs. My only concern is that he took oath as a Member of this House. Therefore, he has the right to speak. The Chairman has permitted him. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATISH AGAWAL: No way. When a Member takes the oath, he has to specify the party. So, The Rajya Sabha Secreariat or the Chairman are very much concerned with it because, otherwise he is disqualified. So it cannot be said that you are not concerned with that...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not the question before us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: What is the position here ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you feel that he should be disqualified, you are free to file an application, but you cannot stop him from speaking. Yes, Mr. Alphonse.

#### **RE. ALLEGED MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ALLOCATIONS**

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to bring certain things before the House, which need the immediate attention of the Government of India.

Every year the Government of India allots crores of rupees to various State Governments, meant for various developmental schemes like rural employment, urban employment and helping the weaker sections. For the information of this House, the Government of India has got a duty to see that the money given to the State Governments is properly used. I have got certain information which will go to show that crores of rupees given by the Government of India have been misused, looted and, also, gross financial indiscipline has come to light. The Government of India's duty does not stop with the allotment of funds alone. It has got a moral obligation to see that the money given to the State Governments is properly used.

The Government of India collects taxes from the people, and when it collects taxes it should assure the citizens that the collected tax

money is put to better usage and for the uplift of the poor.

I have got one token case. The Government of India had provided crores of rupees for the construction of burial ground shelters...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. AUSTIN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, how can he.....*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The Chairman has given him permission to speak. I am not allowing you. Please don't behave this way. This is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will be recorded. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not going on record. I am not allowing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have not asked for the facts. Please sit down. The Chairman has given him permission in his own wisdom and he is in his full right to make his submission. If you have any objection, you can ask for a Special Mention or a clarification or whatever it is, tomorrow. But, just now, do not interrupt the Member's submission. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, I won't permit.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: \*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: \*

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: \*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that you are in the House. Your presence has been felt yesterday and today also. That is enough ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I have just mentioned what is going on. There is a writ petition and the High Court has ordered a CBI investigation. Grave revelations are there that funds meant for the down trodden sections, the weakest sections of the society-funds provided by the Government of India for constructing burial-ground shelters...*(Interruptions)*... They cannot have any objection to that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me get a clarification. Is the matter pending before a court or an inquiry commission? ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me hear it, please. I want to ask the person who is speaking. So he

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\* Not recorded.

takes the responsibility for what he is speaking. I do not want you to tell me because it is not you who is speaking. It is he who is speaking. He should be responsible for every word that he is speaking on the floor of the House because it goes on record. So let him say what he is saying. What are you saying?

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I take the responsibility. My submission is that there was a misuse of funds, which were meant for the Dalits. They made a representation. It was neither owned by State Government nor claimed by the Central Government. They had addressed it to the High Court saying that funds worth crores of rupees meant for the Dalit sections were misused. Madam, they cannot have objection to the CAG report, which clearly says that crores of rupees allotted to the State Government of Tamil Nadu was misused and there was no account of Rs. 13 crores. I can show many such instances where for the past five years Rs. 2,000 crores, which had been allotted by the Central Government, were misused. The other day an hon. Member raised a question about non-implementation of the J.R.Y. Scheme. The hon. Minister for Rural Development said the implementing agency was the State Government. Therefore, he could not say anything on that. There was an escapist reply. When the Central Government has the authority to allot funds, it should also have the authority to supervise as to how the funds are utilised. I do not say that the State Governments should not be given any power. They may be given more power. But, when you allot funds, you should also see that the money is properly utilised. The other day a former Minister of the State was arrested for misappropriation of Rs. 14 crores. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (TAMIL NADU): Madam, only Jayalalita has not been arrested. All the former Ministers have been jailed. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I do not want to go into the merits of the case. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: All their Ministers are in jail. *(Interruptions)* All of them are in jail now. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, a former Minister was arrested for misappropriation of Rs. 14 crores. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Madam, when that is pending in the court, how has the Chairman allowed him to speak on it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you questioning the wisdom of the Chairman in allowing him? *(Interruptions)* I am not allowing you. You, please, sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, Central funds are not meant for misuse by them. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let me put it in a proper perspective. We are Council of States. Many times matters of the States which are related to the Central Government, have been raised in this House. Now, what the Member is trying to say is that the funds went from the Central Government as an aid for development of the poorest of the poor. They have been misused. As the funds were from the Central Government and they were misused by the State Government, some monitoring should have been there. That is what I understood him. *(Interruptions)* Wait a minute. Sit down, please. You have no patience to hear the Chair. How can I understand all your patience anywhere else. I am only trying to explain that he said this much. Now, if a matter is pending before a court of law, he is not saying anything on that. He is not referring to the actual case. He is only saying that this has happened and that there should be a monitoring agency to see that the funds, which went from the Central Government to the State Government for development, must be having some kind of monitoring on their utilisation. Now, do you have objection to it? Don't you want monitoring? If you do not have objection, then the Chairman has rightly permitted him to speak on that. And, if you don't want that he should speak under certain law,....

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: It is not within the frame of the law.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is within the frame of the law.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I do not want to make any allegation, Madam, I just wanted to show an example of it. They cannot object to it. A former Minister was arrested for misappropriation of funds amounting to Rs. 14/- crores for a scheme for the development

of the poorest of the poor. So, all this points to show that there was a grand scale of financial indiscipline, looting of public funds in broad day light. I request the Government to appoint a Committee of Members of Parliament to study what has gone wrong in Tamil Nadu for the past five years and where the Central Government fund of Rs. 2,000 crores has gone. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He can make his demand.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: There is a direction from the High Court to go into that matter. Then, where is the necessity for appointment of a Committee of Members of Parliament?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may object to it, but he has also a right to ask for it. What is the difficulty about it?

#### **RE: GOVERNMENT'S DECISION FOR DISINVESTMENT OF SHARES IN PSUs**

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I seek your kind permission to raise an important issue involving a recent decision of the present Government. I rise to oppose the decision of the Government which is in the making of disinvestment of public sector undertaking shares.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Decision is in the making or the Government is in the making? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt like this. It is not proper. Let the Member speak.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I never said that the Government is in the making. I only said that the decision is in the making. The decision is with regard to disinvestment of shares of public sector undertakings.

Madam, at the beginning I must say that this decision is most unethical because the sale proceeds which are estimated to be around Rs. 5,000 crores are sought to be spent for the current expenditure of the Government. We are selling out our assets to meet the bare consump-

tion. It is extremely unethical. It is a violation of all canons of propriety.

Madam, in our country we have 246 public sector undertakings. Out of which 120 public sector undertakings are making profit. A majority of them are making profit. One hundred and seventeen public sector undertakings are making losses. Most of them are marginal loss making.

Madam, may I submit to you and through you to the entire country that the performance of the public sector undertakings over the last few years has improved. If the return of capital of the public sector undertakings is taken as a whole, both loss making and profit-making, it comes to 3.3 per cent which by any logical economic yardstick is quite profitable and quite rewarding. Earlier it was 2.7 per cent. Now, it is 3.3 per cent. The total investment in the country—not from the Government—on public sector undertakings since independence is of the order of Rs. 1,64,332 crores. This represents a colossal national saving. This represents the sacrifice of the nation. The projection for the next year is around Rs. 2,00,000 crores.

Madam, the country has sacrificed to build up the public sector. I must pay my homage to the first Prime Minister of the country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and to his colleagues for taking this laudable step. Madam, may I ask: Has the Government any moral right to dismantle this strategic public sector system of the country because it does not suit the political philosophy of many of us? I don't blame the present people who are in power. This was started when some other people were there. Madam, the question is the nation's sacrifice to build the public sector. The question is, the nation has sacrificed. We have done away with our current consumption to save and to build up the public sector system. This cannot be dismantled in the way it is sought to be done.

Madam, three important questions arise. My first question is: Can we do any social justice by dismantling the public sector undertakings and by relying only on profit making, profit-thirsty private sector? Can we do it? Can this nation discharge its social obligation if the whole economy is dependent on the private sector?