

### **Demand to declare Rath Yatra of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath as a National Holiday**

**श्री शुभाशीष खुंटिया** (ओडिशा): जय जगन्नाथ! Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government with a demand to declare Rath Yatra of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath as a National Holiday.

Sir, Lord Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath is the Lord of the Universe. Every year, people from across the world -- irrespective of caste, colour, religion, and faith -- flock to Odisha on the occasion of Car Festival to have a *darshan* of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath, Sri Balabhadra, Maa Subhadra, and Sri Sudarshan on the open chariot. The festival attracts millions of devotees and is renowned for its vibrant rituals and cultural significance, marking the largest chariot festival in the world. It has got recognition as one of the oldest Hindu festival worldwide. Even people are observing the car festival in different places of the world. Given the festival's widespread appeal and its role in promoting cultural awareness and national unity, I firmly believe that declaring the Car Festival as a National Holiday would be a fitting tribute to our shared heritage. Such a declaration would allow citizens from all walks of life to participate in the celebrations, deepening their connection to our cultural roots and strengthening the sense of national pride. Furthermore, recognizing the Car Festival as a national holiday would underscore the Government's commitment to preserving and promoting our cultural heritage.

In view of the above, on behalf of the people of Odisha, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Culture to consider this request and take necessary steps to declare the Car Festival as a National Holiday. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated by millions of devotees and cultural ethos across the nation. Thank you, Sir. वन्दे उत्कल जननी!

**श्री उपसभापति:** धन्यवाद, माननीय शुभाशीष खुंटिया जी। जो लोग एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं, वे अपने नाम यहाँ लिखित रूप में भेज दें। माननीय श्री ईरण कडाडी, 'Demand for Inquiry into Financial Irregularities by Karnataka Government'.

**श्री जयराम रमेश**(कर्नाटक): सर, यह विषय नहीं लिया जा सकता।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** प्लीज़।

**श्री जयराम रमेश:** सर, यह विषय नहीं लिया जा सकता।...(व्यवधान)...यह रूल्स के खिलाफ है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is listed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Chairman has listed it here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री जयराम रमेश:** \*

**श्री उपसभापति:** यह विषय लिस्टेड है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसको माननीय चेयरमैन ने लिस्ट किया है, यह रिकॉर्ड पर जाएगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Now, Shri Iranna Kadadi.

### **Demand for inquiry into the financial irregularities by the Karnataka Government**

**श्री ईरण कडाडी (कर्नाटक):** उपसभापति महोदय, आज मैं अपनी बात कन्नड़ में कहना चाहता हूँ। † "Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government and this House towards the 187 crore rupees scam, which occurred in the State of Karnataka in regard to the funds of Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation. The funds earmarked for the welfare activities of the downtrodden people, were misappropriated.

For the last one-year, members are not being appointed to this organization. The basic facilities are not being provided. The Dalit students residing in the Corporation's Hostels are not being provided with the basic facilities. Tube wells are not being installed on the lands belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. The Scheduled Tribes people engaged in small businesses are not being given any financial assistance. The funds allotted for the development of the Scheduled Tribes have been systematically looted. Such a serious scam came to light only after a suicide note, left by an officer of this Valmiki Corporation, was found. The Secretary of the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department has already resigned as he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (E.D). The ED officials have raided 20 different locations in Karnataka. The SIT has arrested 15 people in this case. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, the misappropriated funds have been transferred to 270 Benami Accounts in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and a sum of rupees 40 crores has already been confiscated. A well-planned mechanism is being used to spread the rumors that the Central Government is against the Minorities, Dalits and the Backward Castes." ...*(Interruptions)*...

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\* Not recorded.

† English translation of the original speech delivered in Kannada.