

erosion of democratic norms in India. In its 2024 report, V-Dem went so far as to call India one of the worst autocratizers in the world.

Sir, our Constitution envisions a federal structure where the Centre and the States work as equal partners. Yet, under this Government's rule, federalism has been systematically undermined. A large portion of financial resources has been transferred outside the ambit of Finance Commission giving the Centre undue control and leaving the State at its mercy. Sir, the centralization of financial powers undermines the spirit of cooperative federalism enshrined in India's Constitution and, moreover, violates the spirit of Article 275, which mandates financial aid to States to ensure balanced development.

Sir, a democracy without a free Press is like a body without a soul. Yet, under this Government, the Press has been systematically cowed into submission.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Constitution is not just a document. It is a promise, a promise to protect the weak, to empower the marginalized and to uphold justice for all. The Government, through its policies and actions, has broken this promise. It has failed the Constitution and, by extension, the people of this great nation. To the ruling party, I say this -- the people of India have spoken. It is time to listen, to reflect and to change course. Thank you, Sir.

**MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA
Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Message from Lok Sabha; Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, with your kind permission, I rise to report that the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on 17th December, 2024 passed the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024.

The Speaker has certified that the Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution.

Sir, I lay a copy of the said Bill on the Table.

**DISCUSSION ON THE "GLORIOUS JOURNEY OF 75 YEARS OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA "- *Contd.***

श्री उपसभापति: प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी।