

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The whole House associates what Shrimati Shabana Azmi has said.

Need to amend the basis of transfer of grants from Centre to States

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Madam, I would like to mention a very important matter. The transfer of grants from the Centre to the States is based on the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, which gives weightage to various factors. These are: population -- 60%; per capita income -- 25%; Performance -- 7.5% [(a) Tax efforts -- 2.5%; (b) fiscal management -- 2 %; (c) population control -- 1%; (d) female literacy -- 1 %; (e) completion of on-going externally aided projects -- 0.5%; (f) land reforms -- 0.5%]; special problems 7.5%.

In addition to the above, due importance should be given to the following factors as well. These are: 1. Area: Since the cost of delivery of service is more due to larger area and low population density, weightage for larger area is justified; 2. Desert: Similar weightage should be given to a desert-State, as is given to hilly-States. For example, Rajasthan has 60% of desert area; 3. Index of infrastructure development; 4. Percentage of SC/ST population; 5. Per capita income and per capita outlay of plan, compared to national average; 6. lower credit-deposit ratio, compared to the national coverage; 7. Investment in the State Enterprise of the Central Government, situated in the State.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to give due importance to the above-mentioned factors while transferring grants to States, and also, at the same time, amend the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, accordingly.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairperson, India is a multi-lingual, multi-religious and a multi-cultural State. Therefore, the forefathers of our Constitution had given us certain rights under article 15 and article 25 of the Constitution. Here, I would like to quote only two lines from article 15. It says, "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them." Madam, the rights given by this article

should not be taken away by any Acts or rules framed either by a State Government or by the Central Government. Madam, my colleague, Shri P.G. Narayanan, in his Special Mention, has supported the ban on conversion. I feel that it is an unwarranted one. It is an anti-people act. We want to register our protest. ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, I did not intervene, when he was speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is unwarranted. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a poison. ...*(Interruptions)*... The ban on conversion is a poison that has been injected into the Indian polity.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA (Tamil Nadu): Madam, when the hon. Chairman had allowed, what right has he got to....? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, this is not fair. I seek your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Madam, the hon. Chairman had allowed the Special Mention. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, you should not allow him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Only one minute, Madam. *(Interruptions)* The ban on conversion is a poison that has been injected into the Indian polity. *(Interruptions)* It is against the rights of the minorities. *(Interruptions)* Therefore, I strongly oppose it. *(Interruptions)* I strongly oppose the Act. *(Interruptions)* It should not be passed in any State. *(Interruptions)* We stand by secularism. *(Interruptions)* I hope the entire House would accept that the ban on conversion is against humanity, against the ethos of democracy. *(Interruptions)* Therefore, I strongly oppose it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I strongly protest against it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the House is adjourned for lunch. After lunch, we will take up the Short Duration Discussion.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at two minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) in the Chair.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the end of the Special Mentions, some problem was created in the morning. I would like to explain that to you...*(Interruptions)*... We want that matter to be settled...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my Special mention was not contrary to article 15 of the Constitution. Mr. Virumbi has misled the House....*(Interruptions)*... He is misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*.. It should be expunged...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, are you going into the merits and demerits of the morning session?...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : See, I am not a super human being. If all of you speak simultaneously, I will not be able to know what you are saying...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, please allow me to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): All right...*(Interruptions)*... Let him speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is clear...*(Interruptions)*... I can't give a ruling...*(Interruptions)*... Please, speak one by one.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, he is going to talk about what happened in the morning session.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: When the Chair has allowed him to speak, who is he to object?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): We will go as per the Legislative Business, but what is your point? Please make your point in two minutes.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in the morning, Shri P.G. Narayanan had made a Special Mention in this House. It was duly approved by the hon. Chairman. So, unless there is something unparliamentary....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : Who told you that there was something unparliamentary in that Special Mention?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: There should not be any counter Special Mention here....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Who has done so?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Virumbi has done it....*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Now, your point is over....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have just made an observation on the Special Mention made by him. I have not made any counter Special Mention...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You have made your point...*(Interruptions)*...Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*... You have made your point. Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, he has misled the House....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, I strongly oppose this. I have not misled the House. I just made an observation on the Special Mention made by him....*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, it should not go on record...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... He has misled the House...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari was also speaking....*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: That was a different thing...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: We want that matter to be sorted out. No such precedent should be set in this House...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: It should be expunged...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN : There cannot be two counter Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You have been given an opportunity. You have been heard. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are a senior Member. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Let me listen to him. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is still feeling agitated. Let me hear what he wants to say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Have you not completed your point?

DR. V. MAITREYAN: No, Sir, I have not completed. That is what I am saying now. All cannot have similar views on any issue. Earlier, when another hon. Member made a special mention, the viewpoints of the other side were not allowed to go on record. The same yardstick should apply to us also. If DMK does not accept our views, it is a different issue. If you want a debate on the Anti-Conversion Bill, let this House have it. After we finished the special mention, at the fag end of the morning session, allowing another Member to express his own views on behalf of his Party, is not fair. That is what we are raising. Is it going to be the beginning of a new chapter? That is what we want to know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Now, will you please listen to me? ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you please listen to me? I listened to you. You see, the Special Mention has been made, and that is over. Why are you apprehending any problem now? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are unnecessarily ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Their views have been reported and it has gone on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : Please sit down. Something that had already happened before one o'clock, before I occupied the Chair, I cannot remove. You can write to the Chairman. It will be considered by him. I have not heard that. How can I remove something that I have not heard?

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, hon. Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, also mentioned his own ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, Sir, through you, ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : I am protecting you. Why are you bothered? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I request the Chair to get the views of other Members also as to what is fair and what is not fair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): All right. Now, we will take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2002. Shri Nitish Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2002-03

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2002-03. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, we are walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, they are walking out against the ruling of the hon. Chair.