

Regarding disbursal of post-matric scholarship for SC/ST students in Kerala

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you, Madam, for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of very urgent public importance as far as Kerala is concerned.

Madam, Kerala does not have a Scheduled Caste Minister in the State Cabinet. This is an alarming and unprecedented exclusion of community that constitutes 12 per cent of the State population, comprising over 90 sub-groups with unique social and economic challenges.

The absence of an SC Minister is a clear deviation from the Constitutional assurance of fair representation in governance. This decision silenced the voice of SC communities and weakened their access to policy-making welfare programmes and affirmative action initiatives. The SC community in Kerala has historically faced discrimination and marginalization, yet the State has always ensured representation for them in governance.

The Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF Government is denying their rights in the Cabinet. The Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF Government is not ready to correct the mistake of the SC misrepresentation.

So, adding to this concern, I must also highlight another major injustice being faced by SC and ST students in Kerala. There is a severe backlog in post-matric scholarship. These scholarships are a critical support system for students pursuing higher education, yet thousands of students are unable to receive their rightful financial assistance due to a massive funding cut.

The State Government has already slashed Rs. 500 crore from various scholarship funds, leaving thousands of SC/ ST students struggling to pay their tuition fees, buy books, and continue their education. Many of these students come from economically weaker backgrounds, and for them, this scholarship is the only hope for a better future. The delay and denial of these scholarships violate the fundamental right to education and threaten the social mobility of marginalized communities.

Therefore, I urge both the State Government of Kerala and the Central Government to take immediate action to clear this backlog, and ensure uninterrupted financial support to SC/ ST students.

Madam, social justice is not a privilege, it is a Constitutional guarantee. Denying representation of SC communities, and failing to provide educational support to SC/ ST students is a serious violation of this principle.

The Left-Wing Government of Kerala is totally an anti-dalit Government. The Pinarayi Vijayan-led Government is totally neglecting the Constitutional rights of the SC community, and also denying ministerial birth to the SC community. This is disrespect to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who is the Father of the Indian Constitution. Thank you, Madam.