

Regarding release of pending funds under various centrally sponsored development schemes in West Bengal-Laid

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (BARDHAMAN-DURGAPUR): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the alarming deterioration of fiscal federalism, particularly the financial neglect of West Bengal. Over the past four years, the Central share in centrally sponsored schemes for the State has declined by 58%, the highest reduction among all states. This unjustified financial scarcity is severely affecting the lives of millions. Despite the state fulfilling all procedural requirements, including the submission of utilization certificates, the Central Government has arbitrarily withheld funds under PMAY and MGNREGS, stalling crucial welfare programs and depriving people of their rightful benefits. Even more shockingly, funds under PMFBY and RWBCIS, meant to protect farmers from crop loss, have not been disbursed since 2019, pushing thousands into distress. Furthermore, a staggering Rs 1.7 lakh crore remains due to West Bengal under various heads, worsening the state's financial burden and obstructing essential public services. By denying states their rightful dues, it is punishing ordinary citizens. I urge the Government to immediately release the pending funds and ensure that financial allocations are made fairly, without political bias.