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Title: Regarding alleged misappropriation and diversion of funds in Indian Telephone Industries (ITIs).

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of this Government and the House to a very grave matter of financial misappropriation in a Central Public Sector Unit in our country. Indian Telephone Industries is a major CPSU. ITI is a member of a consortium which is meant for the implementation of the two major projects of the Government of India – the National Population Register by the Home Ministry and the Socio-Economic and Caste Census by the Ministry of Rural Development. So, ITI is one of the members of the consortium entrusted with the task of implementing these projects.

Between 2010 and 2015, the Government of India had sanctioned and released an amount of Rs.1,160 crore for the purpose of implementing these two projects. Out of this Rs.1,160 crore, Rs.539.83 crore was diverted for other purposes than utilizing for these two projects. This is an important issue. This has adversely affected and stalled the implementation of these two projects – NPR and Socio-Economic and Caste Census. The ITI Unit of Palakkad in my constituency is entrusted with the task of these two projects. Hence the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, Home Ministry and even the UP Government have all issued notices to the ITI Unit, Palakkad. They are seeking explanation from the ITI, Palakkad. The Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) has already initiated an inquiry into this diversion and misappropriation of funds. What is more shocking is that people who are responsible, including the CMD, for this misappropriation and diversion of funds are continuing in their office despite CVO investigation and despite other serious allegations against them including helping out of turn the private vendors.

Madam, I have got documentary evidence to show how they have helped some private vendors and how money has been released to them in violation of all rules. It is surprising that the Government is allowing them to continue in office despite completion of their tenure, and they are getting extension month after month. This Government is talking about good governance. Is this the example of good governance, giving extension to corrupt officers, corrupt CMD of Indian Telephone Industries?

Madam, I demand immediate removal of the CMD and a comprehensive investigation, comprehensive inquiry into this whole affair of Indian Telephone Industries.

HON. SPEAKER:

Dr. A. Sampath,

Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan and

Shri P.K. Biju are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M.B. Rajesh.