

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding monitoring of Central Grants to Jammu and Kashmir and repealing of Article 370.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUUVAN (VELLORE): The framers of the Constitution, due to various reasons, granted special status to some States upon their accession to the Indian Union. The State of J&K enjoys special status vide the provisions of Article 370 as a Temporary and Transitory arrangement. While in respect of other States, the special-status provisions have been repealed, in respect of J&K,

Article 370 still remains, The Government of India has been bankrolling the State of Jammu and Kashmir with the money of taxpayers from the rest of India. The mere 1% of Indian population in J&K gets 10% of the grants from the Centre. Over the years, the Government of India (GOI) has been pumping thousands of crores into J&K for developmental works- power projects, railway lines, better roads, prestigious industries and academies of excellence, which resulted in improvement of life of the common man in Kashmir. In comparison, their counterpart in PoK, is poverty-stricken, disease-ridden and unemployed. Between 2000 and 2016, the GOI sanctioned for J&K nearly Rs. 1.25 lakh crore. The NDA under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in its outreach to the people of J&K allocated more funds. Each person in J&K received Rs. 91,300 per person over the last 16 years in contrast to Rs. 40001/- per person in the rest of India. The Central grants account for 54% of the State's revenue and 44% of the State's expenditure. The worst part is, the State fails to submit proper audited returns; and ignored several CAG queries.

The Special Status coupled with the infusion of huge Central Grants into Jammu and Kashmir is only counter-productive. Terrorism sponsored by Pakistan and China has taken a toll on the health of the State. Brave sons of India are falling prey to the bullets of violent faceless cowards. The schools and colleges remain closed. The attempts of the Government of India to bring them into the national mainstream have failed. Therefore, I urge the Home Ministry to move an amendment to the Constitution to repeal the temporary provision of Article 370 thereby allowing amalgamation of J&K with the rest of India by permitting the citizens from rest of India to settle in J&K and exercise more vigilance in monitoring the outlay of Central Grants.

