

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, only that will go.

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Yes, Sir, correct. You can follow it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You continue with last para, 'Kerala has been demanding modern Doppler Radars since 2013.'

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Kerala has been demanding modern Doppler Radars since 2013 and Modern Doppler Radars should be allowed for the Northern, Southern, and Central regions of Kerala. I also urge the Government that an X-band Mini Doppler Radar should be allotted to the Idukki region which is a highly ecologically fragile area.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri A.A. Rahim: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).

Now, Shri A.D. Singh; Concern over lack of funds for research in higher educational institutions in Bihar.

Lack of funds for research in Higher Educational Institutions in Bihar

SHRI A.D. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, the funds allocated for research in Higher Educational Institutions in Bihar are much lower than the national average. The research projects submitted by the institutions to the national funding agencies are not receiving funds. As a result, Bihar's research and development activities are lagging behind even though the best talent is available in the State. Recently, the Department of Science and Technology invited proposals for Research and Development Infrastructure Allocation Fund, IIT, Patna-led Consortium comprising of the Central University of South Bihar, Gaya; Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari and Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna submitted a proposal for funding support on sharing basis. The proposal was rejected stating reasons that the proposal is not focussed and the research outcome is not impressive. I want to apprise the House that IIT, Patna, alone has contributed more than 2,000 research papers and 35 patents in the duration specified for consideration of the proposal. The overall contribution by the Consortium to the field of research is much more and commendable. I, therefore, request the Ministry that the recommendation denying the infrastructure funds to the Consortium for the growth of R&D culture in Bihar may be reviewed so that an

appropriate nurturing and support system can be developed for start-ups and MSMEs in the State. Further, more funds may be allocated for research infrastructure in Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri A.D. Singh: Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), and Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu).

Shri Sandosh Kumar P; demand for new nursing colleges in Kerala.

Demand for new nursing colleges in Kerala

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Sir, I request the Central Government to open more nursing colleges in Kerala considering the huge demand for nursing education in the State. As you are aware, nurses from Kerala were pioneers in opening up a new avenue of employment for migrants in Europe, the U.S. and the GCC countries since the 1960s. The nursing profession has a predominant role in the State's economic development, contributing a significant share of the remittance inflow. Besides, Kerala is known for offering the finest professional training to nurses. Therefore, globally, there is an unparalleled demand for Malayali nurses. However, the number of nursing colleges in the State is relatively less. The total number of nursing seats in the State is around 7,300 which is far below the demand from prospective students. Due to the lack of sufficient seats, many aspiring students currently depend on Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to pursue nursing education, spending more money. This can be avoided if there are more nursing seats in accordance with the rising demand. Another rationale for the need for new nursing colleges is the acute shortage of nurses in hospitals. Although Kerala has 90 per cent of India's registered nurses—18 lakh out of 20 lakh, their large-scale migration has caused a crisis in the State's hospitals, most of which have 50 per cent vacancies for graduate and trained staff nurses. Hence, there is a huge domestic demand for nursing professionals. In this context, we strongly feel that Kerala needs more nursing colleges to meet the huge demand. I urge the Government to look into it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Sandosh Kumar P: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).