

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).

Shri P. Wilson; demand for mandatory functioning of virtual courts along with physical courts across country.

Demand for mandatory functioning of Virtual courts along with Physical Courts across country

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the advent of COVID had forced us to conduct court proceedings virtually. Virtual courts had enabled participation from remote areas irrespective of geographical or economic constraints, eliminating the need for individuals to bear significant financial burdens in physical court sessions.

However, just as the COVID times are behind us, the virtual courts are slowly becoming a thing of the past in some tribunals such as CERC, TDSAT, NCLAT, APTEL, etc. The hon. CJI has appealed to High Courts and Tribunals for utilizing the virtual court infrastructure for which the Government had invested a huge amount of public money.

Denying a virtual hearing to a litigant would not just increase litigation cost, but also convert the court proceedings from accessible and convenient to complex and time-consuming ones. A litigant would have to bear the cost of travel, lodging and extra fees of the lawyer since most of the Tribunals are situated at Delhi.

The concept of access to justice has been etched in our Constitution. Through virtual courts, the legal process could be streamlined by reducing paperwork and automating administrative tasks. This can lead to faster case resolution and reduce backlog of cases.

Therefore, I demand from the Government to bring a comprehensive legislation mandating virtual court hearings along with physical courts in all High Courts, District judiciary and all tribunals across country which includes a code of conduct for Judges, lawyers, litigants and other stakeholders along with penal provisions for any misconduct. Thank you, Sir.

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

Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham; need to regulate digital education apps. Not present. Shri M. Shanmugam; need to extend the salary ceiling limit beyond Rs.21,000 for ESI coverage.