

Demand for sanction of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, as this House knows, Kerala is a model State with respect to advancement it has made in the field of health. The State has consistently ranked number one as per the NITI Aayog index. The index, related to health and well-being in the Kerala model, is being often cited globally. It was in this context that Kerala had proposed a Life Science Park ushering in research, development and production in connection with all the verticals attached to this sector. Underlying the importance of cooperative federalism, which the hon. Prime Minister always harp, the Government of Kerala proposed a joint-venture between Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology and KSIDC to set up a medical devices park at the Life Science Park in Thonnakkal. The purpose was to develop state-of-the-art facilities for medical devices including medical implants and extracorporeal devices. It used to be noted that Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences holds significant expertise, experience and synergy with KSIDC would have paid there for establishment of state-of-the-art facilities that would have helped the whole nation. Just to briefly elaborate, the objective of the park was to offer comprehensive infrastructure for the designing, prototyping, testing and validation of medical devices. It also intended to encourage dissemination of knowledge and setting up of modular manufacturing units. The project would have created 1,200 direct jobs and more than 5,000 additional jobs. The unfortunate part, Sir, is that despite the cooperative federalism dictum and mantra being told out, this project has been pending with the Government of India for the last several years, and the Sree Chitra Institute which comes under the Prime Minister had sent this proposal with a favourable noting that this may be assented to. I, hereby, crave the indulgence of the hon. Prime Minister that this institute which would go a long way in having innovation, research and development in the field of health, should be approved by the Government of India. It is to be noted that, Kerala which is a model State in the arena of health, has been denied an All India Institute of Medical Sciences for the last several years despite granting one or two All India Institute of Medical Sciences in various States. I strongly protest the discrimination shown to Kerala by the Government of India and would request earnestly, the Government of India to sanction this joint-venture. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas: Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha).

Now, Shri Iranna Kadadi on 'Need for reforms for Food Processing Industries under PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme'.

Need for reforms for Food Processing Industries under PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

SHRI IRANNA KADADI (Karnataka): * "Sir, with the noble intent of doubling the farmer's income, our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has brought Pradhanmantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme and Agricultural Interest Fund (AIF) Scheme. Under the PMFME scheme, the farmers can increase the value of their crop by processing the food grains in the processing centers. This scheme with an objective of increasing the farmer's income, allows them to store the food grains in the godowns/warehouses until the farmers get a good price of their produce in the market.

Sir, the objectives of this scheme also include construction of these godowns, sorting and classification of food grains and providing technical support to the farmers for related agricultural activities. Such schemes have been started to provide various facilities to the farmers and to double their income.

However, the banks, while financing these Micro Processing units and the related basic infrastructure, consider these units as Micro Industries. Sir, the banks insist on the conversion of these lands from agricultural category to non agricultural category as the precondition for sanctioning the loans. The farmers convert their land into the non agricultural category only to fulfill the requirements of the bank, to get this loan. In such a situation, conversion is carried out in the local Panchayat records.

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Kannada.