

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding the starting of Government of India Press, Koratty immediately in Chalakudy.

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Thank you, Speaker, Sir. The Directorate of Printing under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India has been operating 17 printing presses all over India since decades.

As a sudden move, the Central Cabinet has decided to close down 12 of them in the name of rationalization or merger and retain only 5 presses.

The presses located at South India have been totally neglected.

Sir, all the three units of South India are well-established and are having immense infrastructure capabilities, and they used to give almost cent per cent production ever since the presses were established, and got Best Press Award for highest production on several occasions.

I would like to inform this august House that one of the units from South India is situated in my Lok Sabha Constituency, which is the Government of India Press, Koratty. This press has bagged the 'Best Press Award' on four occasions, and a number of employees have been selected in different trades for 'Best Operative Awards' in various years. Even in 2016, the Press was awarded the 'Best Runner-up' for overall performance among the 17 Government of India presses.

The Government of India Press, Koratty has got 75 acres of land which is situated close to NH-66 in between Angamaly and Chalakuddy Municipality. Besides the land, the press has got three-storeyed

administrative building, factory buildings, godown building, electric sub-stations, a dispensary, and a water treatment plant on the banks of Chalakuddy River.

Considering the importance of the Koratty Press, I would, therefore, request the Government to start this press immediately.

Also, if this matter, in any circumstances, cannot be controlled, I would suggest the Central Government to convert this land of 75 acres of GIP, Koratty for establishment of sports and culture university.

Thank you.