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Title: Need to increase the amount of financial assistance for the development of Kerala Kalamandalam, a centre of Arts and Culture in Kerala.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Kerala Kalamandalam was established in 1930 by Vallathol Narayana Menon, the renowned Malayalam poet in Cheruthuruthy village of Thrissur District. This temple of arts has preserved and propagated Kathakali – the classical dance – drama of Kerala – for the past 78 years. Many of the internationally renowned artistes of Kerala and other parts of the country have been trained here. Over the years, apart from Kathakali, this unique premiere public institution has imparted training for Mohiniyattom, Kootiyattom, Panchavadyam and Thullal. The faculties here are of high quality and with wide international experience. Recently Kalamandalam has achieved the status of a deemed university.

Kerala Kalamandalam has been functioning as a grant-in-aid institution under the Cultural Affairs Department, Government of Kerala. For special Projects, the Department of Culture, Government of India and the Sangeet Natak Akademy, New Delhi have been extending financial support. For the preservation and promotion of Koodiyattom, UNESCO has sanctioned substantial financial assistance to Kalamandalam in 2004. The South Zone Cultural Centre Thanjavur, has for years, been extending financial assistance to Kalamandalam for conducting dance & music festival in this campus.

To show its full potential, the institution needs enhanced financial assistance from the Central Government. I urge upon the Government to accept the projects and provide financial assistance to convert Kalamandalam into a world renowned University for art and culture.