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Title: Need to establish an Indian Institute of Information Technology at Nagpur, Maharashtra.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): The Central Government took initiative to establish 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the different States that don't have this facility. For the establishment of IIITs, 50% of the cost is to be met by the Central Government, 35% by the State Governments and 15% by the private partners of that place. The land is to be provided by the respective State Governments. Government of Maharashtra was given the task to develop two IIITs at different places. The State Governments including the State Government of Maharashtra were requested to identify the land (50 to 100 acres) and industry partners who could be associated with the project. In response, the Government of Maharashtra informed the Central Government that in Pune 59.26 hectares of land only has been identified for the purpose and the State Government was in the process of finalizing the industry partners. However, no further development has taken place despite reminders to the State Government of Maharashtra over a period of one year. The State Government tentatively had selected Pune and Aurangabad for setting up of such institutes. A lot of time has elapsed but no concrete proposal has so far been sent by the State Government. In view of such a situation, the Central Government should have finalized this proposal for a comparatively better deserving city i.e. Nagpur which merits the setting up of an HIT. It is felt that the Government should give serious consideration for the establishment of an IIIT in a backward region rather than the already developed cities.

The backward regions have eminently been demanding for the establishment of IIITs for the benefit of the students and the upcoming industry. Therefore, the policy needs to be reviewed in the light of the balanced development of backward regions. Pune is already a highly developed city with many information technology institutes. Therefore, keeping in view the Government's decision to establish two IIITs in Maharashtra, one such institute need to be established in Nagpur.

Nagpur has been the main claimant for the establishment of an IIIT for quite some time past. It has plenty of land available and over 100 local industry partners have offered to collaborate in the establishment of an IIIT at Nagpur. Having all the required facilities, Nagpur has the potential for development to the international standard. The students coming out of the educational institutions in Nagpur have to look for admissions in Information Technology institutes in other States.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to agree to the genuine demand of establishing an IIIT at Nagpur which would be very practicable and useful for the entire backward region of Vidarbha.