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Title: Need to make Kozhikode a UPSC Centre for its examinations.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHICODE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to my constituency Kozhikode during 'Zero Hour' in the august House today.

Sir, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is conducting about 20 examinations including the prestigious Civil Services Examination with over 20 lakh candidates taking the examination every year. The students from Kerala also participate in these exams. Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam are the two centres for examinations conducted by the UPSC in Kerala. This is affecting the convenience of the candidates belonging to the northern part of Kerala, popularly known as the Malabar Region consisting of six districts, namely Kasargode, Kannur, Wynad, Kozhikode, Malappuram and Palakkad, out of 14 districts in the State. While Thiruvananthapuram is in the southern part, Ernakulam is in the central part of the State.

In order to mitigate the problem being faced by the candidates appearing for the UPSC exams from the Malabar Region, there has been a constant demand to declare Kozhikode a UPSC Centre. In fact Kozhikode is home to institutions like IIM, NIT, Calicut University, Government Medical College, Feroke College, Government Arts & Science College, Guruvayurappan College among others. Apart from this, the Kannur University in Kannur, the Central University, Kasargode and a large number of other educational institutions exist in the entire region of Malabar. It is time that UPSC has reviewed its requirement. They should reach out to more Tier II and Tier III cities. A UPSC Centre at Kozhikode will help the students to take the various examinations of UPSC conveniently. There is no dearth for institutions in Kozhikode to conduct the examination which has 2 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the city itself.

I raised the same issue several times in this august House. I would again like to take this opportunity to request the Government that they should intervene in this matter and make Kozhikode a UPSC Centre for its examinations. It would be of great help for the entire Malabar Region which has a population of more than one crore people.