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Title: Need to take steps for setting up of Footwear Design and Development Institute at Kozhikode in Kerala.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Kozhikode is a major centre for manufacture of footwear with an approximate turnover of Rs.700 Crore per annum and employing more than 10,000 workers.

The Footwear Design and Development Institute is the premier institute for footwear design and the Government of Kerala has suggested for the opening of one of the proposed four institutes at Kozhikode which the FDDI has agreed in principle. The Govt. of Kerala has also allotted the mandatory 20 acres of land for the purpose in February, 2013. A team is required to inspect the site for setting up the institute. I request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly ensure an early visit by the team.

Since the establishment of the institute is of urgent importance to the State as well as the footwear industry to upgrade themselves with the latest technology and availability of qualified technical persons, the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry, is requested to kindly allot the required fund of Rs.100 crore during the financial year of 2013-14 itself so that the construction work can begin immediately. It is requested that the institute may start functioning immediately in a temporary building till the permanent infrastructure for the institute is completed.