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Title: Need to review the decision to shift the headquarters of Central Institute of Plastics Engineering from Chennai.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Recently, the Director General - Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) has been requested by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to take action to shift the headquarters of CIPET from Chennai to Delhi NCR. This has come as a shock to the State and to the plastic industry. CIPET is a premier research organization first established in Chennai in 1968 which has grown and spread all over India over the years. Tamil Nadu is one of the most industrialised states in the country, with need for varied applications for plastics in major industries like automobiles, heavy engineering, medical instrumentation, electronics and communication, electrical engineering, etc. The industries and the CIPET have both mutually benefited from the economic progress of the State. The geographical location of the headquarters of CIPET at Chennai is cited as the reason for the shifting. In this regard, given the modern day communication facilities and transportation available, shifting the headquarters of a national institute to Delhi NCR may easily be avoided by opting for various technological options available. It would in fact be depriving the entire southern States the advantage of having the institute in Chennai; not to mention the costs, logistics and hardship involved in the shifting of the headquarters from Chennai. Hence the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers must reconsider its decision to shift the headquarters of CIPET from Chennai.