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Title: Regarding proposed move to scrap Self Help Groups.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, my submission is regarding the Government's move to scrap Women Self-Help Groups in India.

Recently, the hon. Minister for Women and Child Development has made a statement in public that it is bad idea to lend to women in groups. Instead, we will skill women and lend directly. Also, the Minister for Women and Child Development, Madam Maneka Sanjay Gandhi said: "When a man wants loan for a business, he goes alone, and not with a group. The idea of women having to take loan with 10 or more women to seek a loan is degrading. Why should we do that to women?" That means, the Government is going to scrap the Self-Help Group as far as the woman is concerned.

I would like to cite one example which is being practised in our State, that is, Kudumbashree Scheme. When the Self-Help Groups have been financed by the banks and the Government, it is really empowerment of women. It is not degrading them. Also, already the Government of India has abandoned one scheme. The Scheme of Mahila Rashtria Kosh has already been stopped. If this concept is accepted by the Government, because it is a statement of the Minister, and if the Government continues to stop this scheme, definitely, it will adversely affect the Kudumbashree Scheme as well as so many NRLM projects. The Self-Help Groups will also be adversely affected.

So, my request, through you, Sir, to the Government is to desist from the move to scrap the Women Self-Help Groups in our country because this scheme is a very good scheme and it is a successful scheme in the country.