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Title : Need to set up the proposed AIIMS like Institute at Kozhikode in Kerala.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance today.

The hon. Health Minister has taken a very judicious and realistic decision to establish AIIMS like institutions in all States and announced it in this House last week. I am thankful to the hon. Health Minister for including Kerala as one of them. However, during the Budget presentation, the hon. Finance Minister did not give any indication of setting up this in Kerala while he had mentioned about other States and so it is contrary to the statement of the hon. Health Minister. I hope there will not be a disadvantageous decision from the Centre for Kerala.

Within Kerala, the northern part of Kerala, generally known as the Malabar Region, with its headquarters at Kozhikode, is immensely backward while compared to the other two regions of Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi and lacks advanced and specialised healthcare facilities. The healthcare facility in the Malabar Region is very inadequate and for any specialized treatment the patients are required to visit Thiruvananthapuram. So, the proposed AIIMS for Kerala should be established at Kozhikode, which is the erstwhile Capital of the Malabar Region. The city adequately meets all the primary necessities like airport, rail and road connectivity, uninterrupted water and electricity supply, apart from the required land which is readily available in the possession of the State Government.

Therefore, efforts should be made to establish this proposed AIIMS like institute at Kozhikode.