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Title: Need to review the divestment plan for Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. at Kottayam in Kerala.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): In a desperate gambit to mobilise funds to bridge the huge deficit gap the Centre has chosen to divest its stakes in a string of public sector undertakings at the behest of NITI Aayog, which seems to have faltered its assessment of Hindustan News print Ltd., Kottayam (Kerala) as a PSU fit for divestment.

The plea of HNL workers, numbering more than thousands and their families, now under the threat of despair and distress, have been pleading towards hiving this consistently performing mini-ratna PSU from its parent body HPC to prove its mettle to attempt a recovery. Yet the Centre chose to be passive and insensitive on infusion of a tranche of funds for the long overdue modernisation package for HNL. While finalising the list of PSUs for divestment, the NITI Aayog has ignored or lost sight of treating of HNL as an independent entity hived off from its parent HPC.

HNL has been performing consistently well both on productivity and profitability. Even under the present adverse conditions, HNL has managed to post a positive bottom-line figure, though modest and nominal. I urge the Centre to abandon the divestment plan for HNL and an attempt towards its revival.