

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding upgradation of National Institute of Speech and Hearing.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): The Central Government in the Union Budget 2015-2016 had promised to upgrade the existing National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH) as the National University of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (NURDS). The Government of Kerala agreed to allocate 50 acres of land at Vithura for this purpose and has provided all the other necessary clearances. A Bill to establish the NURDS in Thiruvananthapuram had been prepared by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in 2016 after consulting NISH, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of HRD and the DoPT. Unfortunately, the Bill has not been introduced in the Parliament, as the cabinet is yet to clear it.

Instead of focusing its efforts to build the NURDS, the Centre has suddenly decided to renege on its promise. I urge the Government to revise its stand and to implement the promise it made to this Parliament in 2015.