

**Made On:** 22/07/2024

**Session No:** 265

**Subject:** Demand for setting up AIIMS in Kozhikode, Kerala

**Dr. John Brittas:** In an effort to address regional disparities in the accessibility and affordability of advanced tertiary healthcare services across the nation, the Government has been establishing new AIIMSs in various States under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) initiative. A total of 22 AIIMS have been announced so far under PMSSY in various States, except Kerala. Kerala is perhaps the only major State in the Country that does not have an AIIMS. The demand to set up an AIIMS in Kerala dates back over a decade. Though the State of Kerala has remarkable feats in the healthcare sector, the absence of a Union Government funded Institution of National Importance for tertiary healthcare and research remains a significant gap. Recognizing this, Government of Kerala has already identified and proposed Kinalur in Kozhikode district as a suitable location, equipped with all necessary facilities to cater the requirements for the establishment of AIIMS. However, despite repeated appeals from the State, a definitive decision from the Union Government is awaited. In an answer to a written question raised by me in Rajya Sabha on July 25, 2023, Government revealed that the proposal for AIIMS in Kerala hasn't been approved in the current phase of PMSSY. Therefore, I fervently urge upon the Government to review its stance and expeditiously grant approval for the establishment of AIIMS at Kinalur in Kozhikode district in Kerala.

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