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Title: Need to set up a regional centre of the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) at Kasaragod., Kerala.

**SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the august House through you regarding the Regional Centre of the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities at Kasargod.

Today, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, is observed as the World Day for the Persons with Disabilities for promoting the inclusion of the persons with disabilities in the development process. On this solemn occasion, I would like to raise a serious issue of the persons with disabilities in my constituency of Kasargod.

The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (formerly known as National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped) established in the year 1984 at Manovikas Nagar, Secunderabad, is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. NIEPID is dedicated to provide quality services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (Divyangjan) in the national interest. NIEPID has three regional centres located at Noida, New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. The Institute endeavours to excel in building capacities to empower Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (Divyangjan)

In my constituency, Kasargod, there is a large number of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, mainly due to the negative impact of Endosulfan pesticide. As per a survey conducted by the Akkara Foundation, an NGO, in five local self-government institutional areas in Kasargod, namely, Periya, Kuttikol, Mogra Puthur and Chengala Gram Panchayats and Kasargod Municipality, there are 197 people suffering from Mental Retardation, 27 persons are suffering from Cerebral Palsy and 4 persons are suffering from Autism.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please conclude.

**SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:** Sir, I would request the Government to take steps to set up a regional centre of the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) at Kasaragod. It would be a great solace for those people in my constituency who are suffering from intellectual disabilities.