

Regarding setting up of an AIIMS in Kerala-laid

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare towards the delay in setting up of an All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Kerala, despite repeated iterations of the issue. The announcement to set up an AIIMS in Kerala was made by the Central Government in 2015. Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, the Government plans to establish an AIIMS in every state. 22 AIIMS have been sanctioned under PMSSY but Kerala does not feature in the list. After repeated requests over the years, including several interventions I made personally, the Union Ministry of Health in April 2022 had given in-principle approval for setting up of an AIIMS in Kerala. In January 2023, the State Government had also urged the Centre to give approval for the project. Yet, there is no allocation for the proposed AIIMS in the Union Budget. The doctors in the state's Medical College Hospitals are overburdened, and tertiary healthcare is inadequate. An AIIMS with its premier medical facilities will evenly distribute the state's worrying patient load while ensuring state-of-the-art treatment for patients. Given the enabling conditions in the state, I therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to expedite this process so that the patients of the state can avail of the medical facilities of our premier medical institute without delay.