

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
SETTING UP OF NEW KALAVARAS
Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government has received request from the State Government of Kerala for the upgradation and setting up of new Kalavaras (Building Material Fair Price Shops) in the State ;and

(b) If so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) & (b): Government of India had received a request from the State Government of Kerala for financial assistance of Rs. 14.18 crores for launching 18 new Kalavara units and upgrading the facilities of existing three Kalavara units. Kalavara Building Material Fair Price Shops was started by Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra in 2008 with the primary objective of making available cost-effective house building materials to the poor at affordable rates. At present, ten Kalavaras are stated to be operating in the State to sell steel , sand and cement etc. at lesser than market rates for Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries. Government of Kerala has been informed that at present, there is no scheme for funding such fair price shops in building materials under this Ministry.