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Title : Need to set up a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Today, in the State Capital of Kerala, there is observance of *hartal* because the Central Government has not issued a notification under the provisions of the States Reorganization Act towards the restoration of a Bench which was functioning there long before. The Kerala High Court has been consulted.[\[RP17\]](#)

Now, in the Act, there is no provision for consent. It is only for consultation. The Governor as well as the Chief Justice has been consulted. The State Government has given sufficient land and building for opening the Bench at Thiruvananthapuram. All things have been completed. It is only for the State Government to issue a Notification.

There are two responsible Cabinet Ministers from Kerala in the Union Cabinet. Now, in this respect, I would request them, Shri Vayalar Ravi, our Parliamentary Affairs Minister and Shri A. K. Antony, the Defence Minister, to take the initiative and see that this demand of all the Parties is sanctioned.

Now, in the meanwhile, I will inform the House that this is a matter which was unanimously decided by the Kerala Assembly two times. Once when A.K. Antony was the Chief Minister, the Kerala Assembly passed a Resolution towards the establishment of a Bench at Trivandrum. The other one was passed when the Kerala State was formed. Then, the late E.M.S. Namboodiripad was the Chief Minister. Then also, a unanimous Resolution was passed by the Kerala Assembly towards the establishment of a Bench at Trivandrum.

The simple reason is that the Kerala High Court is not in favour of it. Favour or no favour is not the question. It is the States Reorganisation Act which has the power. The President has the power. It is not consent. It is only a consultation, consultation in the sense that the arrangements will have to be made by the Chief Justice for starting a Bench at Trivandrum. Consultation with the Governor means that the other administrative matters will have to be looked after by him. This was the intention of this Parliament when the States Reorganisation Act was passed. So, it is only just and fair that the Central Government issues a Notification. The President need not get the consent. When the President will be having such power, the President has been given the power with discretion. No consent is required from any other source. So, it is high time, and before the elections it shall be done. Shri Vayalar Ravi and Shri A.K. Antony will have to face the electorates. If they want to face the electorates in Trivandrum and other places, it is only high time for them to take immediate action, failing which, very serious consequences will have to be met by all the people in the South.

So, this is a long standing demand. The agitation has been going on for the last 365 days continuously. Continuously, there is *hartal*. There is fast. This is the 365th day, and on this day, all the political Parties have declared *hartal* in Trivandrum, in the State Capital.

So, you are going to meet the electorates and I would request the UPA Government, without losing much of their time, issue a Notification to this effect because all of them are duty bound. So, I once again request the UPA Government to declare and issue a Notification before the declaration of elections, failing which, you will have to face a very serious consequence.

With these words, I conclude.