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Title: Need to appoint a Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural University in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Gandhigram Rural University is located in the most backward region of my Dindigul Parliamentary constituency in Tamil Nadu. This institute was started during the year 1957 for the rural development of the area. The institute was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. In recognition of the services rendered by the institute it was given the status of rural university. In the year 1976 the university was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi. This university is fully funded by the University Grants Commission.

Since its inception, the Vice-President of India is the Chancellor of the University. After the retirement of the last Vice Chancellor of the University in July 2007, no new Vice Chancellor has been appointed, though the Search Committee has recommended a panel of three names to be considered for the post. As there is no Vice Chancellor of the University even today, convocation could not be arranged and no degrees were conferred to the successful students. As a result the successful students are not able to go abroad for further studies and also for other opportunities.

I urge upon Hon. Minister for Human Resource Development to take urgent steps to appoint the Vice Chancellor of this Rural University.