

Title: Need to forestall the move to abolish Calicut Unit of Directorate of Field Publicity in Kerala.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): Sir, it is learnt from reliable sources that there is a move to abolish the Calicut unit of the Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP), Government of India.

The DFP and its present activities are to be sustained while considering the backwardness of the district of Calicut, which remains far behind in literacy and health standards in the Kerala State. It is also important to note that the DFP, Calicut is the only such Centre situated in the tribal belt including Calicut and Wayanad districts, where education and health programmes are highly reckoning. The recent outburst of communal violence, and the consequent communal tension in the district also seeks much intervention from the DFP through intense and dynamic awareness generation programmes. The district also stands first in the number of reported AIDS cases, and the social stigma attached to the disease also remains to be tackled with DFP's support.

Considering the above facts, the reported move to abolish the Calicut unit of DFP is to be halted urgently, and it is requested that all needed measures to strengthen the unit may be taken, at the earliest, under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.