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Title: Need to set up an Inland Container Terminal at Kannur in Kerala with a view to boost export of handloom products.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE): Sir, notwithstanding the Centre's recent decision to reduce the threshold export limit for securing recognition as 'Town of Export Excellence', Kannur in Kerala has slowly and steadily built up an infrastructure in handloom production and export and is now one of the 24 textile centres in the country. Now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year of handloom exports, Kannur has ambitious plans to reach an export turnover of Rs. 1,000 crore by 2010.

As a catalyst for employment generation in rural areas, Kannur handloom textile industry is ably served by the weavers' operative sector providing household employment in the area. One of the immediate requirements is an inland container terminal to enable the exporters to monitor their cargo despatch to ensure quality of produce. Other demands include Special Economic Zone status for Kannur and development of proposed Kannur airport and Azhikkal seaport.