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Title: Need to review the decision to suspend the Community College Scheme of Indira Gandhi National Open University.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): I would like to raise an important issue concerning the future of over 150000 students across our country who had enrolled themselves in the Community College Scheme (CCS) launched by Indira Gandhi National Open University. The Community College Scheme was introduced by IGNOU in the year 2009, by doing tie-ups with colleges and institutions all over the country. Its main aim was to offer Associate Degree on a range of job-oriented industry- trained academic programmes, at affordable costs to all segments of the disadvantaged class. Taking advantage of this Scheme, thousands of students, had enrolled themselves in different community colleges, in various levels of programmes. Most of them belong to poor/middle class families and hail from rural and urban slum areas. They have paid all fees and other applicable dues as per norms of CCS which collectively amount to crores of rupees. But as a setback to their career, the Board of Management of IGNOU in its meeting held on May 31, 2012, had decided to suspend the community college scheme, without assigning any reason. This decision has put the future of thousands of students at stake, and has caused protest by owners and students alongwith the teaching community of these community colleges. Students who have completed the course, are not able to take examinations, and those who have taken the examinations, have been waiting for their certificates for the last 2 to 3 years. The future of above 150000, is getting ruined, by this decision of IGNOU. In view of its serious nature concerning the right to education, I urge the government to take immediate steps to ensure that the present problems of the Community College Scheme of IGNOU, be resolved immediately.