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Title: Need to extend financial assistance to Anna University in Tamil Nadu with a view to promote technical education in the State-Laid.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Technical education with continued efforts to improve quality is spreading in tune with the technological era. Upholding this spirit the Government of Tamil Nadu has been carrying out Technical Education Quality Improvement Project with the financial assistance of the World Bank. Under this programme, infrastructure facilities in the existing Government engineering colleges and poly techniques are improved. Anna University in Tamil Nadu was established as a technological university and as a model point of technical education in Tamil Nadu. This conscious effort has resulted in the opening of numerous private engineering colleges all over Tamil Nadu. In order to monitor and ensure quality in technical education, Anna universities were set up in Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Tirunelvel, apart from existing Anna University in Chennai. This apart, Anna University has also started several government engineering colleges in the backward regions of Tamil Nadu. Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed in this year's Budget that Anna University will establish five more Government engineering colleges in Tiruvannamalai, Thamjavur, Dindigul, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari. I urge upon the Union Government to provide special funds to Anna University this year as we celebrate the centenary year of our former Chief Minister late leader 'Anna' (C.N. Annadurai).