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Title: Need to review the decision to reduce allocation of funds on social sector.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Madam, thank you very much for having given me this opportunity. I wish to draw the kind attention of this House to a very important matter relating to social-sector expenditure.

It has been widely reported that the Government of India has decided to cut expenditure in social-sector drastically in the coming financial year. The Government is proposing to cut expenditure on education by Rs. 11,000 crore, and the budget for rural development, panchayati raj and also sanitation by about 25 per cent.

Leading economists, social activists and people at large are deeply agitated over such a decision as it will hamper overall development and growth of this country. In fact, healthcare is also badly affected by such a decision. Reduction in social-sector spending will lead to social unrest. Hence, this issue has to be addressed in a serious manner. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to revisit and reconsider the issue without any loss of time.

HON. SPEAKER :

Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher,

Shri P. Karuanakaran,

Adv. Joice George,

Shri Jose K. Mani,

Shrimati Ranjit Ranjan,

Dr. Dharamvira Gandhi ,

Shri P. K. Biju and

Shri M. B. Rajesh are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullappally Ramchandran.