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Title: Need to expedite the process to set up National Institute for Research and Development in Kerala.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHICODE): Hon. Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue of granting Cabinet approval for setting up a National Institute for Research and Development, NIRDESH, under the Defence Ministry in my constituency, Kozhikode.

NIRDESH, the National Institute for Research and Development, an approximately Rs.520 Cr project, was set up as a Centre of Excellence to achieve complete self-reliance in warship and submarine construction under the Ministry of Defence, in November 2010. The Kerala Government allotted 40.52 acres of land at Chaliyam, Kozhikode, which is my parliamentary constituency at free of cost and the Kerala Cabinet has recently decided to hand over possession of the land to NIRDESH.

NIRDESH, the first of its kind in India, seeks to facilitate enhanced self-reliance in India's defence production capabilities by focusing on areas like detail designing and integration of systems through a multi-pronged approach that includes development of skills, the involvement of defence industry and the strategy of knowledge mining. NIRDESH aims to develop an inventory of almost 15,000 inputs needed in the construction of warships including around 3,750 key and strategic products.

With the establishment of NIRDESH, India becomes one of only a handful of countries that have the capacity to develop state-of-the-art warships and submarines. NIRDESH aims to provide technological support, develop indigenous capabilities and promote the participation of ancillary industries in India's defence shipbuilding sector thus enabling them to meet future demands for platforms by India's naval forces. Ultimately, NIRDESH is to become the nodal centre for the defence shipbuilding industry in India. Once completed, it could also generate financial and commercial centre.

The Master Plan to set up infrastructure was approved by the Board of Governors in January 2014. The first phase is expected to cost Rs. 200 crore with Central Government funding of Rs. 100 crore and the rest is to be funded by defence shipyards. The progress is held up as the Government funding is yet to be received which will be released only on approval by the Cabinet.

It is understood that a Cabinet Note is under preparation for the same. I wish to request the hon. Defence Minister to expedite its early approval so that NIRDESH can be set up immediately.