

15 -ാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

2 -ാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നം ഇല്ലാത്ത ചോദ്യം നം. 4731

11-08-2021 - ൽ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുമായി നടത്തിയ കൂടിക്കാഴ്ച

| ചോദ്യം | | ഉത്തരം | |
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| ശ്രീ. യു.എ. ലത്തീഫ് | | Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan (മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി) | |
| (എ) | ഈ സർക്കാർ ചുമതലയേറ്റതിനു ശേഷം മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുമായി എത്ര തവണ കൂടിക്കാഴ്ച നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി; | (എ) | ഒരു തവണ |
| (ബി) | ഈ സന്ദർശനത്തിൽ സംസ്ഥാന വികസനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ഏതെല്ലാം വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ചർച്ച നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി; | (ബി) | സെമി ഹൈസ്പീഡ് റെയിൽവേ ലൈൻ (സിൽവർ ലൈൻ), തിരുവനന്തപുരം, കോഴിക്കോട് ലൈറ്റ് മെട്രോ, അങ്കമാലി-ശബരി റെയിൽപ്പാത, തലശ്ശേരി -മൈസൂർ റെയിൽപ്പാത, കൊച്ചി മെട്രോ രണ്ടാം ഘട്ടം, തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഔട്ടർ റിംഗ് റോഡ് പ്രോജക്ട്, എയർപോർട്ട് വികസനം, കരിപ്പൂർ എയർപോർട്ട്, കോഴിക്കോട് എയർപോർട്ട്, ശബരിമല എയർപോർട്ട്, കോവിഡ്- 19 വാക്സിനേഷൻ, കോവിഡ് 19-നോട് അനുബന്ധിച്ച് പ്രവാസി മലയാളികൾ നേരിടുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ, 15-ാം ധനകാര്യകമ്മീഷന്റെ സെക്ടറൽ സ്പെസിഫിക്, സ്റ്റേറ്റ് സ്പെസിഫിക് ഗ്രാന്റുകൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച ശുപാർശകൾ, 2021-22 ലേയ്ക്കുള്ള വായ്പാ പരിധി സംബന്ധിച്ച നിബന്ധനകൾ നീക്കം ചെയ്യുക, ജി.എസ്.ടി നഷ്ടപരിഹാരം സമയബന്ധിതമായി ലഭ്യമാക്കുക, മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയുടെ ദുരിതാശ്വാസ നിധിയിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള സംഭാവനകൾ സി.എസ്.ആറിന്റെ ഭാഗമാക്കുക, വായ്പാ തിരിച്ചടവിന് 2021 ഡിസംബർ 31 വരെ മൊറട്ടോറിയം അനുവദിക്കുക, തീരശോഷണം പ്രകൃതിദുരന്തമായി പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കുക, സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന് എയിംസ് അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അനുമതി ലഭ്യമാക്കുക, പാലക്കാട് ഇൻസുലേഷൻ ലിമിറ്റഡിന്റെ ഭൂമിയ്ക്ക് സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ വില നൽകണമെന്ന ആവശ്യം പുന:പരിശോധിക്കുക, ബി.പി.സി.എൽ സ്വകാര്യവൽക്കരണത്തിനുള്ള നടപടിയിൽ നിന്നും പിന്മാറ്റം, കൊച്ചിയിലെ പെട്രോകെമിക്കൽ കോംപ്ലക്സ് പ്രവർത്തനക്ഷമമാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കുക, ലക്ഷദ്വീപ് ഭരണകൂടം കൊച്ചിയിൽ |

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| | | <p>നിന്നും വിവിധ ഓഫീസുകൾ മാറ്റുന്ന നടപടിയിൽ നിന്നും പിന്നോട്ട് പോകുക തുടങ്ങിയ വിഷയങ്ങളിലാണ് സംസ്ഥാന വികസനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി ബഹു.പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുമായി ചർച്ച നടത്തിയത്.</p> |
| (സി) | <p>കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചയിൽ സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ ഗതാഗത-കാർഷിക-ടൂറിസം രംഗങ്ങളിലെ വികസന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായോ; വിശദാംശം നൽകാമോ;</p> | <p>(സി) സെമി ഹൈസ്പീഡ് റെയിൽവേ ലൈൻ (സിൽവർ ലൈൻ), തിരുവനന്തപുരം, കോഴിക്കോട് ലൈറ്റ് മെട്രോ, അങ്കമാലി-ശബരി റെയിൽപ്പാത, തലശ്ശേരി-മൈസൂർ റെയിൽപ്പാത, കൊച്ചി മെട്രോ രണ്ടാം ഘട്ടം, തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഔട്ടർ റിംഗ് റോഡ് പ്രോജക്ട്, എയർപോർട്ട് വികസനം, കരിപ്പൂർ എയർപോർട്ട്, കോഴിക്കോട് എയർപോർട്ട്, ശബരിമല എയർപോർട്ട്, കോവിഡ്- 19 വാക്സിനേഷൻ, കോവിഡ് 19-നോട് അനുബന്ധിച്ച് പ്രവാസി മലയാളികൾ നേരിടുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ, 15-ാം ധനകാര്യകമ്മീഷന്റെ സെക്രട്ടറിയറ്റ് സ്പെസിഫിക്, സ്റ്റേറ്റ് സ്പെസിഫിക് ഗ്രാന്റുകൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച ശുപാർശകൾ, 2021-22 ലേയ്ക്കുള്ള വായ്പാ പരിധി സംബന്ധിച്ച നിബന്ധനകൾ നീക്കം ചെയ്യുക, ജി.എസ്.ടി നഷ്ടപരിഹാരം സമയബന്ധിതമായി ലഭ്യമാക്കുക, മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയുടെ ദുരിതാശ്വാസ നിധിയിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള സംഭാവനകൾ സി.എസ്.ആറിന്റെ ഭാഗമാക്കുക, വായ്പാ തിരിച്ചടവിന് 2021 ഡിസംബർ 31 വരെ മൊറട്ടോറിയം അനുവദിക്കുക, തീരശോഷണം പ്രകൃതിദുരന്തമായി പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കുക, സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന് എയിംസ് അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അനുമതി ലഭ്യമാക്കുക, പാലക്കാട് ഇൻസുലേഷൻ ലിമിറ്റഡിന്റെ ഭൂമിയ്ക്ക് സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ വില നൽകണമെന്ന ആവശ്യം പുന:പരിശോധിക്കുക, ബി.പി.സി.എൽ സ്വകാര്യവൽക്കരണത്തിനുള്ള നടപടിയിൽ നിന്നും പിന്മാറ്റം, കൊച്ചിയിലെ പെട്രോകെമിക്കൽ കോംപ്ലക്സ് പ്രവർത്തനക്ഷമമാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കുക, ലക്ഷദ്വീപ് ഭരണകൂടം കൊച്ചിയിൽ നിന്നും വിവിധ ഓഫീസുകൾ മാറ്റുന്ന നടപടിയിൽ നിന്നും പിന്നോട്ട് പോകുക തുടങ്ങിയ വിഷയങ്ങളിലാണ് സംസ്ഥാന വികസനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി ബഹു.പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുമായി ചർച്ച നടത്തിയത്.</p> |
| (ഡി) | <p>സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ സമഗ്ര വികസനം ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കി പ്രധാനമന്ത്രി മുന്നോട്ടു വച്ച പ്രധാന നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ എന്തെല്ലാമാണ്; വിശദമാക്കുമോ;</p> | <p>(ഡി) കേരളത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുടെ മുന്നിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയാണുണ്ടായത്. ഇതിനോട് പൊതുവിൽ അനുകൂലമായാണ് പ്രധാനമന്ത്രി പ്രതികരിച്ചത്.</p> |

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| (ഇ) | സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക-സാമൂഹിക രംഗത്തെ വികസനത്തിനായി മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി സമർപ്പിച്ച നിവേദനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ? | (ഇ) | നിവേദനം അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർക്കുന്നു. |
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സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ



Memorandum

submitted to

Hon'ble Prime Minister

By

Chief Minister of Kerala

on

13th July 2021

The Government of Kerala wishes to present before the Hon'ble Prime Minister, certain important needs of the State for favourable consideration from Government of India. Kerala has been facing the severe adverse impact of Covid -19 pandemic. The non-residents have been returning in large numbers and many of them are not able to go back to their places of work. The economy of the State is facing extreme stress as growth has decelerated to -3.42 per cent in 2020-21. Consequently, there is decline in revenues of the State and rise in the expenditure obligations. In this context, there is need to provide more flexible fiscal space to the State so that big initiatives can be taken for economic rejuvenation and providing productive jobs. Despite the fiscal strain, the State Government has taken steps to improve agricultural production and productivity, improve investment climate through measure to facilitate Ease of doing Business and to provide social and food security to the people. The State needs help of the Government of India in its efforts to make a leap in infrastructural facilities. In this background, we request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly intervene so that the following important requests of the Government of Kerala are acceded to on a priority basis.

1. Development of Railways

1.1 *Semi High Speed Rail Line (Silver Line)*

Kerala's North-South stretch from its capital Thiruvananthapuram to the northern most district Kasaragod is more than 500 kilometres. Presently, it takes at least 12-13 hours to commute by rail from one end of the State to another. Considering the need for fast travel across the State and the boost it can give to its business, tourism and other sectors, a semi high speed rail line (Silver Line) project has been conceived. Besides saving time, this is an energy efficient transport and will decongest the roads and reduce accidents.

Upon commissioning, this will enable people to travel from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod in 4 hours. The project is expected to cost around Rs 63,941 crore. External financing to the tune of Rs 33,700 crore from JICA,ADB,AIIB and KfW is under processing in Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. JICA has included this in their rolling plan. The balance financing is expected from equity by Railways, Government of Kerala and Public amounting to Rs 3,125, Rs 3,253 and Rs 4,252 crore respectively. Land cost of Rs 13,362 crore will be met by HUDCO, KIIFB and the State Government.

The State Government has already received a letter from the Union Finance Ministry, advising to proceed with the land acquisition process. This has been initiated. The project intends to cause least displacement of people and minimum filling of green fields. It has two stretches- from Thiruvananthapuram to Tirur and Tirur to Kasaragod. The latter one is envisaged as parallel to the existing rail line. We request approval for the project from the Railway Board and the Union Cabinet at the earliest so that the gestation lag can be minimised.

1.2 Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode Light Metro

The Detailed project Report (DPR) for Thiruvananthapuram Light Metro was submitted to Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India in 2015. The revised DPR was submitted on February 18,2021. Reply to clarifications sought has also been furnished on June 21,2021. The total estimated cost is Rs 4673 crore.

Likewise, the DPR for Kozhikode Light Metro has also been revised and submitted. The estimated cost is Rs. 2773 crore. It is requested that the approval for Thriuvananthapuram and Kozhikode Light Metro projects may be granted at the earliest.

1.3 Other Rail Projects

- a) **Angamali-Sabari Rail-** This is a vital project for Kerala and needs to be implemented on a fast track. The Government of Kerala has already agreed to bear 50 per cent of the project cost. A letter has already been sent to Union Railway Minister on June 7, 2021 requesting to speed up the procedures.
- b) **Thalassery-Mysore Rail** - Government of Kerala has requested the Union Railway Minister and the Chief Minister of Karnataka for initiating the survey for this project. Kind intervention is requested for making this project a reality within the shortest possible time.
- c) **Kochi Metro 2nd Stage** - The Government of India has already granted in principle approval for this project on February 26, 2019. It is requested that the Union Cabinet may grant an early approval for this.

2. Road & Airport Developments

2.1 Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road Project

This project envisages road with a width of 70 metres from Paripally to Vizhinjam in the capital city Trivandrum. It is requested that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) may be directed to fund 50 per cent of the project cost as planned earlier. This would help the fast development of the capital city.

2.2. Airport Development

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has excluded Airports in Kerala from Cargo service by non-scheduled foreign aircrafts through an order on September 17, 2020. This issue has been taken up with the Government of India. Steps may kindly be taken for including Airports in Kerala also in this schedule. Airport specific issues are narrated below:

2.2.1 Kannur Airport

The Kannur Airport which is the most recent on in Kerala has not yet be declared as a point of call for foreign airlines to operate. The Airport has not also been extended the ASEAN Open Sky Policy. These have been brought to the attention of Government of India on December 19, 2019 and July 1, 2019 respectively. An early positive action is requested in these two matters so that the Kannur International Airport built by the State Government as a PPP project along with Central and State PSUs and institutions and individuals can be run in a viable manner.

2.2.2 Kozhikode Airport

It is imperative that large aircrafts start operating from Kozhikode Airport. Before the unfortunate accident that took place on August 7, 2020 Air India and Saudi airlines were operating 12 wide-body aircraft every week to Kozhikode Airport, with a cumulative capacity of more than 3,500 seats per week. This needs to be restored. As regards

Airport development speedy action needs to be taken. The State Government has already taken initial steps for acquisition of 152 acres of land for this purpose.

2.2.3 Sabarimala Airport

Starting of Airport at Sabarimala will go a long way in promoting the facilities for visiting the sacred place by the devotees. The Government of Kerala is taking active steps for acquiring land for this purpose and we have appointed a Special Officer for this. At the official level, letter seeking in principle approval has been sent to the Civil Aviation Ministry. Kind intervention is sought for early issue of in principle approval.

3. Covid-19 Vaccination

States including Kerala have consistently demanded that Covid-19 vaccination should be procured and provided to all free of cost by the Government of India. We are happy to note that Government of India has agreed to this. Kerala is facing the impact of Covid-19 very severely. The State has already administered first dose of vaccine to 44 per cent of persons above 18 years of age and the second dose of vaccine to 16 per cent of those above 18 years. The State Government aims to achieve the target of vaccination to all. We request the Government of India to provide adequate stock of vaccines to Kerala to help us achieve this aim. The fact that Kerala has effectively used vaccine doses without wastage needs to be a guiding factor for allotting vaccines on priority to the States.

4. Difficulties faced by Non-Resident Keralities

Kerala with its large diaspora living outside India has suffered heavily due to the pandemic. Close to 900 people have lost their lives in GCC countries alone. Their dependents are suffering huge financial setback. As on 3rd July 2021, about 1.5 million NRIs have returned to Kerala since the beginning of COVID pandemic in March 2020. All these individuals are highly skilled and have job experience acquired abroad. It is our bounden duty to rehabilitate them by providing necessary relief. It is requested that, financial assistance in the form of a grant of Rs. 1000 crore be extended to Kerala to rehabilitate the returnees by the Union Government. Our Government has devised several plans to reintegrate them into the State economy.

The problems faced by large number of NRIs stranded in India, unable to return to their workplaces due to travel restrictions imposed by several countries may kindly be taken note of. All the GCC countries except Qatar and Bahrain have banned entry of Indians into their countries due to the prevailing pandemic.

Pravasis who have taken both the doses of Covaxin inoculations are facing difficulties. As Covaxin is not approved by WHO, the GCC countries are also not recognising Covaxin as an acceptable vaccine against COVID. Another group of *Pravasis* are the ones who have taken the first dose of Sinopharm (Chinese vaccine) or Pfizer-BioNTech (US vaccine). vaccination in their place of work. Since neither of these vaccines is available in India, they are not able to take their second dose and they become ineligible to return to their workplace. Steps may kindly be taken to mitigate the problems of *Pravasis*.

5. Matters Pertaining to State Finances

5.1 Recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission – State & Sector Specific grants

The 15th Finance Commission in its second report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has recommended sector specific and State specific grants for States. The Action Taken Report tabled on Parliament by the Union Finance Minister has not accepted the recommendation of the Finance Commission in this regard. It is requested that a State like Kerala, whose tax devolution share has come down from 2.50 per cent to 1.92 per cent, these grants would be of much help in this period of fiscal stress. As per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission, Kerala should get Rs. 2,412 crore as sector specific grant and Rs. 1,100 crore as State specific grants. Kind intervention is requested for positive action from the Union Finance Ministry in this regard.

5.2 Borrowing Limit for 2021-22: Removing Conditionalities

In the pandemic induced crisis, the States had requested the Centre to raise the annual borrowing limit from 3 per cent to 5 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2020-21. Out of this increase of 2 per cent, only 0.5 per cent was unconditional. For 2021-22, the annual borrowing limit is fixed at 4 per cent of GSDP. This is 1 per cent higher than the normal 3 per cent limit. But for 2021-22 also, only 0.5 per cent is untied. The balance 0.5 per cent is tied to achievement of capital expenditure to a certain level. An additional 0.5 per cent is allowed subject to achievement of certain targets in the power sector reforms. With the State facing the high incidence of second wave of Covid-19 and likely to face the third wave, the government finances will face severe stress. Considering this, it is requested that 5 per cent limit may be fixed for annual borrowings in 2021-22, without any conditionalities.

5.3 Disbursement of GST Compensation

When GST was implemented with effect from July 1, 2017, the States were assured of compensation which will ensure 14 per cent annual compounded growth rate with regard to taxes subsumed in GST. There has been delay in giving this compensation to States. Upto 2020-21 Kerala is yet to get the 4,014.45 crore as GST compensation which is over due. Given the pandemic induced fiscal stress States need to get an extended period of GST compensation. The Union Finance Ministry may be advised to take a favourable view in this matter.

6. Donations to CMDRF and Moratorium on Loans

6.1 Eligibility of Donations to CMDRF under CSR

Presently, the donations to Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund are not eligible to be treated as expenditure under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as per the schedule VII to Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. But the donations to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and the PM Cares Fund are eligible as expenditure under CSR. It is requested that donations to CMDRF should also be made eligible as expenditure under CSR.

6.2. Moratorium on Loans

The economy of the State is facing further set back due to the second wave of Covid-19. The burden of repayment of loans availed of by persons, especially, those in small and medium segments like MSMEs is quite heavy and they need relief in the form of moratorium on the same. The Reserve Bank of India may be requested to consider granting moratorium on repayment of loans till December 31, 2021. It also needs to be ensured that interest and penal interest does not accrue in the moratorium period. A letter requesting this has already been sent to Union Finance Minister on May 21, 2021.

7. Declaring Coastal Erosion as a Notified Disaster

Kerala has 590 Kilometre long coast with 9 of its 14 districts having coastal area. Coastal erosion is a major challenge faced by the State during rains and natural disasters. It is requested that this may be notified as a disaster so that NDRF and SDRF funds can be provided as assistance for losses consequent to coastal erosion. A letter has been written to Hon'ble Prime Minister on May 26, 2021 inviting kind attention to this.

8. Other Pending issues

- a) ***Sanctioning of AIIMS*** -This has been a long standing demand of the State which has excelled in health care and in achieving sustainable development goals. An AIIMS may kindly be sanctioned to Kerala.
- b) ***Palakkad Instrumentation Limited Land*** - It is requested that the land provided free of cost by the State Government to Palakkad Instrumentation Limited may be given back free when the State Government is taking over the company. The Centre may kindly reconsider its decision to pay for the land provided free earlier by the State Government.
- c) ***Privatisation of BPCL*** – We reiterate our request that the Government of India should reconsider its decision to disinvest 52.98 per cent of shares in BPCL and decide to retain the company in public sector. Retaining BPCL in public sector will help the development of ancillary industries in Petro-chemical complex.
- d) ***Petro-chemical Complex, Kochi*** - It may kindly be recalled that the Hon'ble Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone for the Petro-chemical Complex in Kochi on January 27, 2019. Steps may kindly be initiated for making this plant operational at the earliest.

9. Shifting of Offices by Laskhadweep Administration

The Lakshadweep Administration has shifted offices of Education, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry etc. from Wellington Island, Kochi. This will put people especially students from the island to great hardship. Students from the island studying outside depend on the Education office for scholarship and other allowances. Kind intervention is sought to reverse this action of Lakshadweep Administration.