

STATE GOVT PROMISES BAILOUT OF 'CARE KERALAM'



Giving relief to 'CARE KERALAM', which is on the verge of closure, K Shailaja, Health Minister, has promised to protect the health resource centre under the Ayush Department and turn it into a valuable asset of the health sector in Kerala. The Minister made the announcement during a meeting at the institution in Koratty recently. A final decision on this, including the taking over of liabilities, would be decided after discussing the matter with Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister, officials said.

Minister also examined the scientific and technological activities at CARE KERALAM during the visit. The institution, which was started in association with the Central Ayush Department, is currently facing severe financial crisis. There have been persistent demands from several quarters to convert it into one of the biggest research and manufacturing centres in the State.

CARE KERALAM earned fame

by manufacturing Ayurvedic tablets and capsules with the cooperation of Ayurveda majors in the State. Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) has shares in the company, which is currently working out of KINFRA Park in Koratty.

Reportedly, the company has a debt of Rs. 12 crore. Although institutions like World Ayurveda Foundation had come forward to take over CARE KERALAM, the State Government is planning to bring the company under its full control.

B D Devassy MLA; Wing Commander K A Santhosh Kumar (Rtd.), MD, KINFRA; K V Uthaman, Managing Director, Oushadi;

Dr. K Anil Kumar, Vice Chairman, CARE KERALAM; K N Srikumar, Senior Media Advisor, KINFRA; Dr. T Unnikrishnan, General Manager (Projects), KINFRA; G Sunil, General Manager (Planning and Business Development), KINFRA; Dr Muraleedharan, Manager, KINFRA; Ambili T B, Manager, KINFRA; A K Geesha, Project Manager, KINFRA Industrial Park Koratty; Dr. Joy T Verghese, Additional Director, CARE KERALAM; K R Sumesh, Member, Thrissur District Panchayath; C V Damodharan, Member, Koratty Pan-chayath; Sindhu Jayaraj, Member, Koratty Panchayath and other senior officials of the company were present at the meeting.



KINFRA SPICES PARK GETS CENTRE'S NOD

Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) has obtained in-principle approval from the Central Government for setting up a spices processing cluster at Thodupuzha in Idukki district. KINFRA proposes to establish the 'Spices Park' for the processing and value addition of spices and spice products, offering facilities on par with international standards.

The estimated project cost of the Spices Park, which will come up in an area of 15 acres, is Rs. 12.50 crore, excluding the cost of the land. Twenty developed plots, covering an area of about 10.5 acres, will be allotted to SME spice/food processing units. Common facilities like telecommunication/cyber/documentation centre, raw material storage facility, marketing outlets, cafeteria and conference room will be available at the Park. Well-laid internal roads, power supply, water supply, sewage treatment and common effluent disposal facilities are the other features.

The project is funded using a grant of Rs. 6 crore availed under the Micro and Small Enterprises – Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) Infrastructure Development Scheme of the Government



of India and a similar allocation by KINFRA/Government of Kerala. The detailed project report (DPR) of the proposed Spices Park will be sent to the Central Government for obtaining its final approval.

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices in the world. The country produces more than 65 different spices out of the 109 spices listed by ISO. Kerala, the leading producer and exporter of spices in the country, produces the largest volume of pepper, cardamom and ginger. Pepper export from Kerala through Kochi port finds its way to nearly 50 markets around the world. Other exports from the State include turmeric, curry powder, nutmeg, va-

nila, maize, oleoresins and spice oils.

KINFRA plans to develop infrastructure for the spices industry as envisaged under the modified MSE-CDP of the Government of India. It includes creating a cluster for spice processing sector, identifying and supporting entrepreneurs, providing infrastructure facilities such as developed industrial plots having dedicated power supply, water supply, communication system, security measures and marketing infrastructure, developing industry-specific infrastructure and providing common infrastructure facilities for both post-harvest and processing operations with international standards.



MDF LAMINATION FACTORY OPENED AT KINFRA PARK

Kadakkampally Surendran, Minister for Tourism & Co-operation, inaugurated Alfas Laminations, an MDF (Medium-density fibreboard) Lamination Factory at KINFRA International Apparel Park in Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram. Alfas Laminations is the new venture of Alfas Group of Companies. Kodikunnil Suresh MP, V Joy MLA and Aboobacker Shibu, Managing Director, Alfas Group of Companies were also present at the function.

KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A Statutory Body of Govt. of Kerala)

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