

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1505
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 01.08.2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF GRAPHENE-AURORA PROGRAM IN KERALA

1505. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the budget allocation for 'Graphene-Aurora Program' and funds disbursed to Kerala so far;
- (b) whether Government of Kerala has submitted the utilisation certificate, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken note of financial malpractices in implementing the program in Kerala, if so, the actions that have been initiated;
- (d) whether Government will release a white paper on outcomes of the program, if so, the timeline and scope, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether any inquiry or audit has been conducted specifically regarding fund misuse in Kerala under this program, if so, the findings thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (e): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and Government of Kerala have funded the project “Graphene Aurora” with industry contribution. The project is being implemented by the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University of Kerala (DUK)).

The primary objective of “Graphene-Aurora” Project is to nurture the emerging Graphene Technology and Innovation Ecosystem that can support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups to commercialise the Graphene technologies developed under the project and also to scale up the technologies developed by them.

The total outlay of the project is Rs. 94.85 Crore and the duration is 5 years. A total amount of Rs. 5.945 Crore has been released under the project so far. The project is currently in the 2nd year of implementation. Releases under the project are linked to milestones and utilisation of funds. The Utilisation Certificate (UC), duly audited by Chartered Accountant, has been received against the release of Rs. 73.5 lakhs made in the 1st year of the project.

As per the information received from the Government of Kerala, the State Government has submitted a request to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India to undertake the audit of the accounts of Digital University of Kerala for a period of five years commencing from FY 2023-24.
