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Call to improve rural infrastructure

Special Correspondent

Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution K.V. Thomas, has called for measures to ensure improved infrastructure in rural areas. Massive investment was required to upgrade rural infrastructure, he said.

He was inaugurating a seminar on 'Incentive to invest and the 12th Five Year Plan', organised jointly by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), here on Friday.

Rajat Kathuria, Director, ICRIER, said there was a strong need to revive manufacturing in order to bring in more investments. Arunish Chawla, Secretary to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, said consumption, savings and investment were related. "It is therefore a question of sentiments, emotions, all the more complex too. It is fiscal investment what we should aim for," he said.

"Kerala has not done too much in the area of investment. Develop human resources; send them abroad and bring in money is the peculiar Kerala Model. But, this economic model has done well. In Kerala most of the investments happen from people in Gulf countries," said P.H. Kurien, Managing Director, KSID.

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