

The New Indian Express 04.08.2010

Mattanchery staring at another collapse

KOCHI: Mattanchery division, a traditional stronghold of Muslim League, is reserved for women this time. The division was in the news recently for the Asraj building collapse. A thickly populated area with many slums and decrepit buildings, housing and improvement of basic amenities are likely to feature in the election promises that the contestants are likely to put forward.

“Slum development is definitely the priority here. Various funds including the division fund, KSUDP and People’s Planning programme have been used to improve the basic amenities including providing drinking water and sanitation,” says Mattanchery councillor T K Ashraf. He says that the general fund from the Corporation has been utilised to build a community hall, cultural centre and computer centre. Funds from the People’s Planning programme was also utilised for the development of roads. “Potable water shortage was solved to some extent, thanks to the Koovappadam drinking water project,” he said. Ashraf is confident that the introduction of two new boats this week will improve the water transport facilities to the area. Despite all these, residents say that Mattanchery is still a division that is desperately in need of development.

“Though the spice godowns in the area contribute significant revenue to the state exchequer, development of even basic

facilities eludes the area. With tourism hotspots like the Jew Town being part of the division, work should be carried out to improve the conditions of the roads, transportation and sanitation facilities,” say residents. Water shortage is another problem faced by the residents. The thickly populated multi-storey slums in the area seek urgent attention. The old buildings need to be renovated or rebuilt.

Introduction of more boats to the area will help Mattanchery in improving its transportation facilities and will offer better connectivity with the city.