

## NEERA COS TO GET GOVT FUNDS SOON

**Kochi:** Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said on Thursday that the government will soon sanction the ₹15 crore earmarked in the last budget to the coconut producer companies making neera and other value-added products.

Speaking after inaugurating the first commercial neera processing plant in the country, set up by the Kaippuzha Coconut Producers Company in Kollam district, the chief minister said a decision on this will be taken after the meeting convened on Wednesday. He also denied reports that the government had frozen the licences issued to coconut producer federations. "All such reports are false," he said.

Coconut Development Board chairman T K Jose said neera and neera-based products are getting wide acceptance in India and abroad. "The demand for it cannot be met even if all the federations get licence to tap neera," he said.