

Regarding need to have an Indian Medical Service similar to Forest Service or Foreign Service

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that there are several All-India Services like the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Railways Service, and Indian Police Service. We have 20 such services in this country. There has been a long pending demand from the medical fraternity. Though healthcare is one of the biggest subjects in this country, less than two per cent of GDP is allocated towards healthcare whereas the recommendation was six per cent. So, Rs. 3 lakh crore should have been the budget allocation for healthcare.

If you look at the services, the people who are joining these services do not have any medical background. Similar to Forest Services or Foreign Services, we wish to have an Indian Medical Service where preferably somebody from the medical background, either MBBS doctors or BDS doctors can be selected so that the healthcare delivery can be much better because when you have an administrative person working in a hospital or a healthcare department, it is difficult for him or her to understand the problems which are being faced. Especially, if you look at all the statistics we have, be it about anemia or Vitamin-D deficiency, we are considering only western standards. We do not have any research which is India specific. If somebody from the medical fraternity is there, it would be very helpful.