

Regrding need to provide adequate infrastructure, facilities and staff at AIIMS, Madurai in Tamil Nadu-Laid

SHRI S. VENKATESAN (MADURAI): The Madurai AIIMS project has been derailed by poor implementation. The idea of establishing several AIIMS across India aims to address the doctor- patient ratio issue and bridge the healthcare gap. The PMSSY Yojana was announced in 2003 with this goal, and by 2006, 6 AIIMS-like institutions were created. Currently, there are 20 functional AIIMS institutions, with few more under development. These institutions have increased opportunities for students and expanded healthcare education beyond major cities. However, execution often falls short of intentions. In Madurai, the AIIMS project has strained Centre-State relations, with ongoing complaints about inadequate infrastructure, facilities, and staffing. PM laid the foundation stone in January 2019, but construction is still incomplete. Despite the lack of basic infrastructure, the administration began admitting students in 2021. 3 batches of students are currently accommodated at the Government Medical College and Hospital in Ramanathapuram district. Recently, these students protested the stark difference between their expectations of an AIIMS education and their actual experience.

Assurances have been made that the project will be completed soon, but more than 150 students have already been affected by the slow progress, The original goal of improving the doctor-population ratio remains unmet, with the ratio at 1:834 nationwide.