

**Title:** Need to expedite setting up of a National Institute of Siddha at Chennai, Tamil Nadu - Laid.

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (GOBICHETTIPALAYAM) : While there are National Institutes for many systems of Medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy, there are no National Institute for one of the most ancient Indian system of medicine, namely Siddha.

Siddha has been practiced in Tamil Nadu since ancient times. The Rishis of ancient Tamil Nadu had experimented and perfected this marvelous system of medicine known as Siddha. Those Rishis were known as Siddhas. This system of medicine uses only herbs and natural extracts and provide remedy for ailments incurable by other systems including allopathy.

On the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Central Government agreed to set up a National Institute of Siddha at Chennai. Though the foundation stone was laid and Rs. 22 lakhs was sanctioned by the Centre for constructing the compound wall, no further work was undertaken.

I request the Government to sanction the project and also release the amount immediately, so that the National Siddha Institute is set up at Chennai soon in the larger interest of the people.