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Title : Need to set up a full- fledged E.S.I. hospital in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): There are 20 ESI Dispensaries in the southern districts, viz., Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin of Tamil Nadu. These dispensaries are functioning with limited working hours, say 7 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. These dispensaries with such a meagre working hours are not sufficient enough to cater the medical requirements of the number of workers covered under ESI scheme, in the districts. More so, these are meant for providing out-patient treatment and first aid treatment. The serious cases are referred to Government Hospitals where only very few beds are earmarked for them. This situation often leaves the sick workers in lurch, leaving them with no alternative but to take treatment from private nursing homes at exorbitant costs. Thus the insecured workers are deprived of their lawful rights under ESI scheme.

The number of workers covered under the scheme are comparatively higher in Kanyakumari district and it will be facilitating for the workers of the southern three districts, particularly to the workers of Kanyakumari district to have the ESI if a full-fledged ESI Hospital is set up in Kanyakumari district, particularly at Nagercoil where the infrastructure required for it is easily available at the Government Head Quarters Hospital at Kottar which is remaining vacant as the Hospital was shifted to Government Medical College premises at a nearby place, Asaripattinam.

I request Central Government to take up the matter with the Government of Tamil Nadu.