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Title : Need to provide timely medical aid and drugs to the victims of snake bite in the country.

DR. K. DHANARAJU (TINDIVANAM): Majority of population of India lives in villages and mostly in remote areas which are not well connected with roads and no fast transportation system is available there.

Every year 15 to 20 thousands of people die by Snake bite as there is no sufficient and timely medical aid and anti snake bite drugs available to them. In the absence of fast transportation system, the victims can't be brought to cities for treatment. There seems to be a shortage of Anti-Snake Venom Serum in the country. Most victims are reported from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Rajasthan. It has been given to understand that Indian Council of Medical Research, V.M. Scientific Research Foundation, Bangalore have successfully developed anti-snake venom in chicken egg immunizing Leghorn birds with sub lethal dose of each type of snake venom. Anti snake venom extracted from eggs has been tested for its purity, efficacy and safety. According to my information it is under clinical trial. I congratulate the Scientists of the country for this and when it would be put to production and then in treatment. In the absence of sufficient Primary Health Centres and Sub Centres, there should be an alternative arrangement so that the Anti Venom injections are given through Panchayat Raj Institutions and administered by calling Physicians from nearby hospitals.

This is a very important issue. I request the Government through you Sir, that as anti-venom, when lyophilized does not need refrigeration and can be kept for five years. We should open more sub-centres rather in every village under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and stock anti-venom there so that the valuable life of a victim of snake bite could be saved. I hope that Union Government will take suitable action in this regards and will save thousands of victims of snake bite.