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Title: Need to take steps to check the spread of encephalitis in the eastern parts of the country.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (NOMINATED): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the spread of encephalitis in the eastern part of India, particularly in the Gorakhpur division and the adjoining regions of Bihar.

Hundreds of deaths have been reported in the Press and there are reports that the people including children are not getting adequate medical care in the absence of doctors, nurses and medicines in the region.

The medical facilities at the hospitals are extremely poor and the common people have to go to private clinics for treatment having to sell their land and meager possessions. This situation has been continuing over the past six months and there is no relief for the affected people. The Minister for Health is requested to have this matter examined by a team of medical experts and suitable remedies be provided to the affected people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri L. Rajagopal – not present.