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Title: Need to maintain status quo in respect of Louis Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor.

*SHRI P.MOHAN (MADURAI) : The Century year old Louis Pasteur Institute in coonoor, Tamil Nadu is the pioneering institution of its kind in India that has been manufacturing life-saving vaccines like Anti-rabies, triple antigen, tetanus to prevent Diptheria, Polio and Epilepsy alongwith Small-Pox. This is the first

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

among the four such public sector units in India to have obtained ISO standardisation certificate. This institute can meet 60% of the total need of such vaccines in our country. The vaccines manufactured here are very very economical when compared to such products available from the private sector. Anti Rabieses vaccine costs Rs. 150/- at this institute whereas it costs Rs.370/- to Rs.1200/- in the private market. Triple antigen costs Rs.1.10 at this institute whereas it costs Rs.10 to Rs.18 at the hands of private players. The anti-epilepsy vaccine costs a mere 60 paise per moil while it costs Rs.2 to Rs.3 in the private sector. WHO has recently suggested to this institute to do away with the bothlenecks that come in the way of obtaining Good Manufacturing Practice-GMP certificate. Instead of taking right steps to help strengthen this Pasteur Institute, the Executive Director is trying to convert this institute to a mere hospital thereby leaving the needy Indian Public to fend for themselves at the hands of exhorbitant private markets. Production of certain invaluable life saving vaccines have been stopped and some more production will also be stopped soon. Carefully bred 544 guinea pigs needed for quality tests have been wiped out thoughtlessly and there is an urgent need to rear them up once again following the cherished tradition of this institution.

Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister to intervene and impress upon the Health Ministry to go slow on this winding up operations and preserve this institute with a long term perspective and shelve the proposal to convert this great institute to a mere hospital.