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Title: Need to provide concessions in rail-fare to the Sickle Cell patients travelling for treatment to big cities.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (YAVATMAL): In our country already there are large number of patients of Sickle-Cell disease and the numbers *are* increasing day by day. This is a genetic disease. Sickle-Cell disease or Sickle-Cell anemia is a blood disorder characterized by red blood cells that assume an abnormal, rigid, sickle shape. Sickling decreases the cells' flexibility and results in their restricted movement through blood vessels, depriving the downstream tissues of oxygen. Due to less blood supply in heart and kidney, the patients of sickle cell disease are prone to heart attack and kidney failure which can lead to death and severe complications such as swelling in joints, legs and hands with pain. The disease is chronic and lifelong, individuals are most often look well from outside, but their lives are punctuated by periodic painful attacks and a risk of various other complications. Life expectancy of patient of this disease is shortened. The sickle-shaped red blood cells that obstruct capillaries and restrict blood flow to an organ, resulting in insomnia, pain and organ damage. The patient of Sickle-Cell disease have to take various treatments which is not available in small villages/towns. They have to go to far off cities in big hospitals for having their blood transfusion and taking other treatment. Since most of the people who suffer from Sickle-Cell disease belong to poor and backward lower class such as SC/STs[^]. they can not afford to go to big cities for treatment. As a result of which most of the patients attacked by this disease succumb to death without treatment. Railways give fare concessions to the patients of Thalassemia, AIDS, Cancer and Heart diseases. As the poor patients of Sickle Cell disease are to go to the hospitals in large cities from their villages regularly for blood transfusion and other treatments, it is utmost necessary to give Railways fare concession to the patients of Sickle Cell Disease for going to the big cities from their village for treatment like Thalassemia, AIDS and cancer patients.