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Title: Need to provide adequate health care facilities in ESI hospital at Mukkudal, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI):At Mukkudal in my Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, an ESI Hospital is functioning. It serves to a large number of villages Viz., Mukkudal, Alangulam, Kadayam, Pappakkudi Unions, etc. comprising of more than 60 villages. The poor people in this region are mostly engaged in the beedi industries and used to avail medical facilities from this hospital only.

However, this hospital is lacking certain basic facilities such as doctors, nurses, technicians, supporting staff, essential medicines, etc. It is having only 4 doctors out of the sanctioned strength of 14. Adequate number of specialists are also not available. About 400 patients are daily coming for treatment in the OPD. There are reports that even available doctors are not taking proper care of the patients. Though infrastructure is adequately available, because of scarcity of trained professionals, existing facilities are not being utilized properly. Salary given to the medical professionals is also consolidated *i.e.* very less. It is one of the biggest hospitals in this region. As a result, the poor workers are facing a lot of difficulties and they are also not able to afford huge cost of medicines and treatment from outside.

I shall, therefore, humbly urge upon the Union Government to improve the facilities and appoint adequate number of doctors, nurses and other allied medical staff at the ESI hospital, Mukkudal, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu without delay which will benefit a large number of poor beedi workers in this region.