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Title: Need to set up Community Mental Health Centres for mentally-ill people in Chennai, Tamil Nadu-Laid.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): In India there are almost one crore people suffering from severe mental illness. They are considered as burden by their own kith and kin. Because of the stigma, superstition and socio-economic constraint they are abandoned by their own relatives.

Most of the homeless wandering mentally ill people who are from various part of our country are in Tamil Nadu, especially in Rameswaram, Kanyakumari and Vedaranyam. In the Institute of Mental Health at Chennai there are about 400 to 500 patients occupying the beds. Due to the language problem and financial constraints they suffer a lot and their condition is very pathetic. In the 37 states mental hospitals run by Government there are only around 25000 beds are available. I request the Government to set up Community Mental Health Centres by the Social Justice Department to work with the Health department to manage the large number of long staying mentally ill patients in hospitals.