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Title: Need to set up dialysis centres in every district headquarters of Karnataka and to provide financial assistance under Prime Minister Relief Fund for treatment of chronic kidney disease.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (BELGAUM): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to lack of proper treatment facilities for kidney disease patients in the country.

Madam, in our country millions of people are suffering from chronic kidney disease. Lakhs of people die for want of proper dialysis care. The available data suggests that dialysis machines presently available are enough to cater to only 20 per cent of the suffering population. It is reported that around 8 lakh Indians are found to be in dire need of dialysis care at any point of time. But, unfortunately, about 20,000 of them are only lucky enough to have access to dialysis care. Thus, it is needless to say that our country is facing acute shortage of dialysis machines and private hospitals provide this treatment at very exorbitant costs which poor and middle class patients cannot afford. This results in considerable increase in the mortality rate of the suffering patients.

Hence, I urge upon the Health Ministry to urgently formulate plans for setting up at least one Dialysis Care Centre in each of the District Headquarters of all the States. I would also request to include my Parliamentary Constituency, Belgaum which is a district headquarters in Karnataka for providing this facility with appointment of trained doctors to be available there round-the-clock so as to provide this service free of cost or at a minimal cost to the poor and the needy patients.

Meanwhile, I would also urge the hon. Prime Minister also to include the provision of providing financial assistance to the treatment of chronic kidney disease too under the purview of Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) besides cancer and heart ailments for which the financial assistance is now provided.

SHRI RAMESH VISHWANATH KATTI (CHIKKODI): Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Suresh Angadi.