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Title: Need to provide medical and financial assistance to the southern districts, especially Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu to prevent spreading of Dengue.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Dengue and Chikungunya have taken massive toll in India in the last few years particularly in southern Tamil Nadu. Tirunelveli in the State is worst affected by it.

Dengue is becoming one of the major public health problems in the tropical and sub-tropical countries. So much so that over 40% of the world's population (2.5 billion) mostly kids is at risk from dengue. It reduces their platelets count. Majority of them do not even exhibit symptoms. Mortality is quite high in the case of dengue haemorrhagic fever. In 2012, Tamil Nadu recorded deaths of about 55 people due to Dengue.

Chikungunya is also prevalent in my district. Old aged people are the major victims of this disease. They suffer from after effects even after recovery.

The facilities available in the district for treatment of the patients affected by the diseases are not adequate. Sufficient medicines, injections, doctors, medical attendants should be made available in the primary health care centres and Government hospitals. Municipalities should be provided with adequate insecticides for spraying. Besides, a Central Team should be dispatched immediately to Tirunelveli District to assess the problem and also to ensure adequate medical assistance to the affected victims. Sufficient funds should also be made available to the State Government to fight this menace.

As this is a serious issue, steps should be taken on war-footing to control the spread of this disease. Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to render all necessary medical and financial assistance to tackle Dengue in southern districts of Tamil Nadu.