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Title: Regarding setting up of AIIMS at Deoghar, Jharkhand.

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Deoghar is one of the centre points of Santhal Pargana region and as you are aware the entire Santhal Pargana region is backward, poor and deprived. This area does not have any medical facilities at all and needless to say the reduction on public health spending and the growing inequalities in health and health care are taking its toll on the marginalized and socially disadvantaged population of Santhal Pargana. This area is prone to malnutrition, with an estimated 75 per cent of children and mothers being anemic.

A recent report says that "a child in the low standard of living" economic group is almost four times more likely to die in childhood than a child in the 'High standard of living' group. Children born in the tribal belt are one and half times more likely to die before the fifth birthday than children of other groups. Children below 3 years of age in scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are twice as likely to be malnourished than children in other groups. A tribal mother is over 12 times less likely to be delivered by a medically trained person. A tribal woman is one and a half times more likely to suffer the consequences of chronic malnutrition as compared to women from other social categories.

The State Government of Jharkhand has worked towards the AIIMS plan by allotting land including the availability of 200 acres of land available at Deogarh, which is a district in the state and home to the famous Dwadash Jyotirling and Shaktipeeth, where 5 crore pilgrims visit every year, as well as the site for an upcoming international airport.

My insistence for setting up the AIIMS at Deogarh is mainly on account of its geographically central location and ease of communication on Kolkata - Patna main rail route and also connected with three National Highways.

Accordingly, I would like to once again request that given the availability of earmarked land, the central location, transportation infrastructure and the needs of the people of Jharkhand- it is eminently desirable that the AIIMS be located at Deoghar, Jharkhand and a decision to this effect be taken at the earliest.