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Title: Need to start construction of ESI Medical college at Mavelikkara and start the operation of Paramedical institute at Ezhukone in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Employees State Insurance Corporation was started in the country immediately after Independence to provide health insurance and treatment facilities to the employees. Since the inception the scheme is working for the benefit of the employees and now more than 35 million employees had joined the scheme. During 2007 UPA government had decided to strengthen the infrastructure of ESIC to provide more services to the insured persons. As such the ESIC Act was amended and it has entered into the medical education sector. Now under ESIC four medical colleges started functioning. As many as construction of six medical colleges is almost complete and waiting for the courses to be started. ESIC has also started postgraduate medical institutions, dental colleges, paramedical institutions, nursing colleges, etc. in various parts of the country. More than Rs. 10,000 crore has already been invested in the construction and other infrastructure for medical institution. Now the central government is thinking in terms of winding up the medical education programmes of the ESIC for reasons known to them only. Instead of ascertaining the problems, that ESIC is facing to run the medical institutions and to find out solutions, they are planning to stop the scheme itself. I may state that the proposal of the government to stop the medical education institutions run by ESIC is unilateral and it does not have the concurrence of the trade unions and insured persons. The Medical College sanctioned at Mavelikkara may be taken up immediately and construction should be started. The Paramedical Institute which was functioning at ESIC Hospital, Ezhukone was stopped even without the knowledge of the local MP. This is gross misuse of power by ESIC management. I request the Hon. Minister to take immediate steps to start the paramedical institute at Ezhukone immediately and to start the construction of Medical College in Mavelikkara.