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title: Need to augment health facilities for Beedi workers in Central Hospital, Mukkudal.

SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Speaker, thank you. Mukkudal in my Tirunelveli Lok Sabha constituency, Tamil Nadu is famous for beedi industry. About two lakh workers are engaged in beedi industries in and around my constituency. Since this occupation is hazardous to health, Mukkudal has got a big hospital, which started functioning from 2004-05 with adequate facilities for Out-Patient and In-Patient Departments with a capacity of thirty beds and other diagnostic equipment like x-ray, scan, ECG, Operation Theatre and also ambulance facilities.

But this Beedi Workers Central Hospital does not have adequate number of doctors and other para-medical staff. The x-ray, scan and ECG machines are not functioning. Ambulance service is also not there. As a result, the poor beedi workers and their family members are facing a lot of difficulties and they are also not able to afford huge cost of medicines and treatment from outside.

I shall, therefore, humbly urge upon the Union Ministry of Labour, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to augment the health facilities in this Hospital by appointing adequate number of doctors, nurses and medical attendants besides providing adequate medicines, etc. to the Beedi Workers Central Hospital, Mukkudal, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, which will benefit a large number of poor beedi workers in this region. Thank you very much.