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Title: Need to set up a Multi-Speciality Hospital at Ooty.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Ooty, popularly known as Udhagamandalam, is a resort town in the Western Ghats and is the headquarters of Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*) Situated at an altitude of 2240 metres, Ooty is the most popular hill station in the South and Nilgiri, India's first biosphere, has been declared as one of the 14 'hotspots' of the world because of its unique bio-diversity. Nilgiri presents a truly breath taking kaleidoscope of visual treats and soul stirring experience. ...(*Interruptions*) Ooty has a population of over 8 lakh and attracts domestic and foreign tourists in thousands every day and the tourists' inflow increases sharply during summer. The Centre provides various assistance to such special areas in the country. ...(*Interruptions*) People of this region cannot afford expensive speciality treatment from private hospitals. It is also difficult to reach Coimbatore for emergency treatment which is about 85 kms away. ...(*Interruptions*) Government of Tamilnadu has launched several social welfare and health schemes for the benefit of people of this hilly terrain. Setting up of a Central Government Hospital will be a great solace to the people of Ooty and also boost tourism. ...(*Interruptions*) Tourists, particularly elders and children would find such a hospital very useful in times of need. I would appeal to the Government to set up a multi-speciality hospital at Ooty for better health care of the people of this hill station and also for the tourists. ...(*Interruptions*)