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Title: Need to set up a new central cancer hospital at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your notice a matter of urgent public importance concerning my constituency, Tirunelveli. There is an alarming increase in the number of cancer incidences among the people in and around my constituency. Most of these patients belong to socially and economically backward communities who cannot afford treatment in the private hospitals.

The Regional Cancer Institute in Thiruvananthapuram is getting annually more than 16,000 new cancer cases, more than 50,000 follow-up visits of older cancer cases and more than 80,000 non-cancer patients for investigation reports at the centre.

During the last five years, there was 50 per cent increase in the registration of both cancer and non-cancer cases. The patients have to wait for a long period of time to get the medical treatment because of the increased workload at the hospital.

Moreover, the patients from southern Tamil Nadu, particularly from Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Tenkasi districts, are facing a lot of socio-economic problems while getting cancer treatment at the Regional Cancer Institute.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Union Health Minister to set up a new Central Cancer Hospital at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu to benefit the cancer patients of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Tenkasi and also of other parts of our country. Thank you, Madam.