

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding development of heritage sites in Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Ooty, the 'Queen of Hills', is an ideal destination for tourists. Over 30 lakh people visit the hill station every year and the Nilgiris hills has a population of 7.11 lakh as per the 2011 Census. Despite this, the hill district lacks a speciality hospital, especially one providing cardiac care. The District Headquarters Government hospital is the only major hospital in the district. With its origin dating back to 1829, the Ooty Government hospital now has 421 beds, including 116 maternity wing. In 2016, the then Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, considering the Nilgiris as a special case, announced upgradation of the hospital at par with medical college hospitals under Rule 110 in the State Assembly. Ooty Mountain rail is also a world heritage. Rail Bus service should also be started for international and domestic tourists. Tea plantation site was developed in fraction. I urge upon the Government to develop the overall area for Nilgiri Hills for the benefit of domestic and international tourists.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri C. Gopalakrishnan.