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Title: Request to procure gloriosa superba herb and set up a Siddha Medical Research Centre in Palani and allocated additional funds for implementation of rope car facility between Palani and Kodaikkanal and new railway line Dindigul to Kottayam via Nilakkottai.

***SHRI P. VELUSAMY (DINDIGUL)** : Hon. Speaker Sir, *Vanakkam*. Thank you for this opportunity. In my Dindigul parliamentary constituency, a herb called Gloriosa Superba is cultivated in an area of 20 lakh acres in and around the areas of Ottanchatram and Palani in Tamil Nadu. Even though the farmers are cultivating this herb, the middlemen procure them at a low cost and get them exported to foreign countries. As a result the farmers do not get remunerative prices for this herb. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to procure this herb at a reasonable and remunerative price so that the interests of the farmers growing this Gloriosa Superba herb will be protected. In south India, next to Tirupati, Palani is one of the famous pilgrim centre which attracts thousands of pilgrims every day. Crores of pilgrim visit this place every year. Historical evidences claim that Siddhars or the Saints lived in this place. Statue of Lord Murugan made of Navapasanam (nine poisonous substances) by Saint Agathiyar is the example for this ancient importance. A Siddha medical research centre should be set up in Palani. This is the demand of all the devotees of Lord Muruga and all the people in my constituency. I therefore urge the Union Government to set up a Siddha medical Research Centre in Palani on behalf the people of my constituency. Kodaikkanal is a big tourism centre. Every day thousands of tourists, both domestic and international tourists, visit this place.

Rope car facility should be started between Palani and Kodaikkanal for the benefit of tourists visiting this place. So that the number of tourists visiting these places will increase thereby leading to income generation and economic development. I urge that additional funds should be allocated this year itself for implementation of this rope car facility between Palani and Kodaikkanal. Lakhs of pilgrims visit Sabarimala every year. A new railway line should be laid from Dindigul to Kottayam via Nilakkottai, Batlagundu, Periyakulam, Theni, Kambam and Koodalur. The roads in this area are very narrow and as a result so many accidents take place. The new railway line will therefore help to minimize the road accidents, help the pilgrims to visit the pilgrim centres and generate revenue as well. I therefore urge that Union Government to allocate adequate funds in the current financial year itself for implementing this new railway line. Thank you.