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Title: Need to ease the criterion of land area required to set up a 100 bedded ESI hospital in the premises of medical college in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

**SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI):** I would like to thank Hon'ble Minister for sanctioning the setting up of a 100 bedded ESI Hospital in Kaniyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. This was a long pending demand of the people of my constituency.

But the concerned department is saying that they require 5 acres of land for setting up of a 100 bedded ESI Hospital. After a detailed survey, the State Government was able to get only 2.50 acres of land within the premises of medical college. Since my constituency is not having sufficient land, my request is to set up the ESI hospital on 2.50 acres land only. In Tirunelveli constituency, the ESI hospital has been set up on 2.20 acres only.

Due to non-availability of ESI hospital, about 3 to 5 lakh families working in small scale industries like cashew nut industries, fishnet companies, tapping etc., are not getting the ESI benefits. Private hospitals are taking undue advantage of this. As a result people are facing a lot of problems.

Hence, in public interest, I urge upon the Government to expedite the setting up of ESI hospital.