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Title : Need to remove the problems of ESI card holders and provide adequate medical facilities in the ESI dispensaries/ hospitals in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Ministry of Labour regarding functioning and condition of ESI dispensaries/hospitals in Kerala.

The Central government purchases land, construct building of ESI dispensaries/hospitals and staff quarter. The doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff are appointed by the State Government and these hospitals are run by State Governments under State Employees Insurance Corporation. Majority of ESI dispensaries/hospitals are not functioning properly. There is shortage of doctors and other staff. The ESI card holders are facing lot of difficulties in such a situation.

The majority of the people of the entire Kollam district, parts of the Alappuzha, Pattanamthitta and Trivandrum Districts are working as workers in Cashew Factories. There are about 300 cashew Factories and 2 Lakh cashew workers are working there. They are all ESI card holders dependent on these ESI hospitals there for their medical needs. But they are facing problems due to inadequate number of doctors, staff and medicines.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to set up a high level committee to look into the functioning of ESI hospitals in Kerala. I also urge upon the Government to set up dispensary/hospital-wise advisory committees, involving elected local representatives to monitor the day-to-day functioning of these hospitals in the interest of workers.