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Title: Need to set up one additional Ex Servicemen Contributory Health Services clinic and military canteen for ex-servicemen at Ottapalam in Palakkad district, Kerala.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Palakkad is one of the largest districts in the State of Kerala and, therefore, the population of ex-servicemen is also comparatively high. Many districts in Kerala have more than one Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) clinics. Palakkad is having only one ECHS clinic at the district headquarters. Due to this, ex-servicemen and their families undergo a lot of hardship to get the necessary treatment. Their problem is compounded as they are referred to an empanelled hospital located at Perinthalmanna, Malappuram district for specialized treatment/admissions. This has caused huge financial burden to service pensioners. Likewise, presently ex-servicemen/widows and dependents use the facilities of Military Canteen located at Palakkad. This also causes lot of hardships to ex-servicemen from other parts of this large district. The facilities of existing canteen is grossly inadequate to cater to the needs of entire ex-servicemen. In view of this, I urge upon the Government of India and Ministry of Defence to set up one additional ECHS clinic and military canteen at Ottapalam in Palakkad district, Kerala.