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Title: Need to set up a hospital near Sabarimala Sri Dharmasastha Temple in Kerala and declare the temple as a National Pilgrimage Centre.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Pride of the Sahyadri ranges nestled in the Gods' own country Kerala, the Sabarimala Sri Dharmasastha Temple is the most thronged pilgrimage site perched at a great elevation. By allowing the people of all religions, the temple has set a perfect example of harmony in today's world where terror has spread in the name of religion. Sabarimala believes that each human is a devotee of the ultimate Lord who is the soul within, rather than of the Hinduism, Islam, or Christianity. The temple is open to males of all age groups and to women who have either passed their fertility age and those before reaching the stage of puberty. Lakhs and lakhs of people visit Sabarimala every year during the month from November to January.

This year also large number of devotees came to see Makara Vilakku from all parts of India. Due to the heavy rush, more than hundred devotees died in a stampede last year. The causality became severe due to lack of any medical facility in the nearby vicinity. Therefore, the Government may consider setting up of a hospital nearby with all the modern facilities, and start more pilgrim centres.

Considering the increasing number of devotees every year, I request the Government to release some forest land for development of this temple region. I also humbly plead that Sabarimala pilgrimage centre may be declared as a National Pilgrimage Centre considering its national importance.

In view of these, I also request the Government to sanction a special package for Sabarimala to ensure the all round development of the area.