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Title: Need to constitute a panel of experts with an equal representation from nursing community to address the grievances of nursing community.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): Mr. Chairman, thank very much for giving me an opportunity.

Sir, through you, I wish to present to this Government an issue of national importance, that is, the plight of the nursing community, which has so much aggravated and it has come to the sharp focus of even the hon. Supreme Court of India. The hon. Supreme Court of India has taken a stern view on this issue. The nurses, after studying for more than four-and-a-half years, get a degree and they are treated as bonded labourers in various hospitals. Private hospitals have become a great source of commercial profit making industry. There the least paid are the nursing community. They are paid Rs.3,000 or Rs.4,000 or Rs.5,000, and above all, all their certificates from 10th standard onwards are captured by the management. They are not given free. When they want to leave the hospitals, they are treated just like slaves and their certificates are not being given. The hon. Supreme Court has taken a stern view of this matter also.

Mr. Chairman, if I pass a degree, if I pass my 10th standard, all the certificates of my educational qualification are my privileged right. So, no hospital authorities have got any right to confiscate their certificates. It amounts to theft. Now, in these circumstances, when the nursing community is doing a great service in the field of health, the Government should take a stern step, formulate an expert panel to study the plight and problems of these nurses all over India and chalk out a programme to redress their grievances. In all the metros, they are facing problem. With these words, I conclude. Thank you so much.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Sir, I am also associating with the matter raised by him.
