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Title: Need to extend financial assistance to Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre at Silchar, Assam.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (SILCHAR): The Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Center (CCHRC) established in 1996 and administered by the Cachar Cancer Hospital Society, a non-profit NGO registered under the Societies Registration Act, is located in the outskirts of Silchar town in the Barak Valley of Assam in India. The Society consisting of about 70 socially conscious citizens of the valley from different walks of life came into existence in 1992 as a result of a desperately felt need for a cancer hospital since the only cancer hospital in the entire north east was in far away Guwahati. The society has three principal objectives, (i) to make people aware (ii) to establish a full- fledged cancer hospital to provide meaningful services to all suffering people and (iii) to set up a cancer research center.

Public philanthropy (from rickshaw pullers who contributed a day's earnings to leading citizens) helped the Society establish the Cachar Cancer Hospital & Research Center at Meherpur village, near Silchar town, on a plot of land (11 bigha) allotted so kindly by the Government of Assam thus truly symbolizing a people's project.

The hospital serves an extremely underserved and economically impoverished community of patients from the Barak Valley Districts of Assam state and from the states of Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram.

The hospital is sustained mainly through voluntary efforts and public charity. It is, therefore, extremely hard to raise resources to upgrade infrastructure and purchase equipment essential for standard cancer care. I urge upon the Government to come forward to extend financial assistance of Rs. 50.50 crore as prayed by the Society for rendering proper services to the patients of this very economically backward zone of the country.