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Title: Increase in the number of cancer patients in Kuttanad Taluk, Allepy district, Kerala.

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SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance relating to my constituency.

Sir, in my constituency there is a serious problem which has been reported in the Media. According to the Radiological Department of the Allepy Medical College there has been an alarming rise in cancer patients in the hospital from the Kuttanad *taluka* which falls in my constituency. The number of cancer patients in the year 2007 was 300; in the year 2008 it rose to 355 and till June this year, the number is 455 which is a rise of 66 per cent over the previous year. Most of the patients are suffering from liver, throat and bone cancer. As a Member of Parliament from that area I have received hundreds of representations from these patients for funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Under the circumstances I would like to request the Central Government to send a high level medical team to visit the Kuttanad *taluka* to assess the reasons for the rise in the cancer patients. I would also like to request for a special health package for the people of that area and also request for setting up of a super speciality hospital for the people of Kuttanad.