

>

Title: Need to modernize the Government Hospital, Sivakasi to a super speciality hospital.

**SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** Sivakasi is a town and a municipality of Virudhunagar District in Tamil Nadu. It is the capital of India's firecracker industry with about 9,000 factories, big and small, producing 90 percent of the total fireworks output.

There are almost 400 manufacturers based in the city. Beside fireworks factories, there are many printing presses with in-house studios and artists, which produce a variety of colourful posters and calendar art. Sivakasi enjoys huge revenue by producing fire crackers, matches, calendars, posters and other printing works.

Sivakasi supplies firecrackers and sparklers all over India for Deepavali festival. This industry has a huge turnover of around 1,00 crore rupees (around 200 million dollars) per year. Besides, Sivakasi supplies firecrackers for various events like Sports Events, Film Festivals both in India and abroad. This city supplies matches for 70% of India and has a large number of match industries around.

Sivakasi has become the printing hub of Tamil Nadu and has enormous job openings of DTP operators for creating printing designs using computer. This makes Sivakasi one of the major computer users' towns in Tamil Nadu. The city also has a lot computer hardware servicing companies in Sivakasi. Graphic designers make use of the opportunities to design for Printing companies and Fireworks cartoons and establish themselves well.

However, in spite of all these aspects, Sivakasi does not have a modern hospital with advanced equipments and specialized services. In view of the hazardous nature of activities being undertaken in the firecrackers and match industries, quite often major accidents break out notwithstanding the stringent safety precautions. In such eventualities, the accident victims have to be taken to the Government Hospital at Virudhunagar and or Madurai or else resort to the private hospitals.

The only major Government Hospital located in Sivakasi, is not suitably equipped to treat burn victims. The Hospital has only a 6 bedded ward to treat the burns victims, with only one air-conditioned room. The next larger hospital is situated only at Virudhunagar, which also does not have adequate facilities to treat burns victims, leaving with the only option for the victims to go to Madurai, which is about 60 kms away, for treatment. Therefore, the Government Hospital at Sivakasi needs to be appropriately modernized to function as a super specialty hospital with particular reference to treat burns victims, under the NHM Scheme.