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Title: Regarding increasing number of dengue cases in India.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

India has recorded over 37,000 dengue cases, which is a water borne disease, including 227 dengue deaths in 2012, the highest number in a year so far.

An epidemic of dengue fever in India is fostering a growing sense of alarm and experts say that it is threatening the lives of several lakhs of people in India. India has become the focal point for a mosquito-borne plague that is sweeping the globe. The dengue problem is far worse than most people know, and it keeps getting worse.

During this year, Tamil Nadu has the most number of cases, at nearly 8,500, according to the provisional data of the National Vector Borne Disease Control. Tamil Nadu has recorded the most number of deaths in 2012 – 60 – for want of proper medical care.

There is an urgent need to prevent the growing number of dengue cases, year after year, in India.

I am very sorry to say that our country is being referred to as a 'dengue nation' in some corners. Some foreign countries are preventing their citizens from visiting our country stating that the country is inflicted with dengue. Therefore, there is an urgent need to put an end to it.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to moot an action plan to control the menace of dengue and malaria in the country. We should initiate the action on a war-footing basis before it turns into an epidemic in the country.