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Title: Regarding establishment of Railway Medical college in Thiruvananthapuram.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Madam Speaker, it has already been pointed out during the Question Hour that there have been a lot of Railway announcements made solemnly on the floor of this House, which the new Government cannot simply ignore.

In 2009, the then Railway Minister announced the establishment of five Railway Medical Colleges across India, and one of them was earmarked in my constituency, Thiruvananthapuram, in Kerala. The land for this college is already in the possession of the Railways identified at Parassala Railway Station, but no steps have been taken for the establishment of the college. We cannot get a straight answer out of the Government. There are not sufficient hospitals for treating the Railway employees, and the private hospitals often avoid them because of the inordinate delays by the Railway management in settling the bills. So, they do not even receive private medical care.

A Railway Medical College can benefit railway employees; it can benefit the local population in this particular area. It is a rural area which can certainly benefit from this.

I would urge the Government to fulfil this long-standing promise. If funding is an issue, once the Railways gives the land and approves the project, I am sure we can find Public-Private Partnership ready to build the College. But this need must be fulfilled.