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Title: Need to provide financial assistance for setting up of 5 medical colleges in Odisha.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on the matter relating to establishment of new medical colleges in existing five districts and referral hospitals in Odisha.

Madam, a proposal was made by the Government of Odisha in 2014 to establish five medical colleges in five districts and referral hospitals at a cost of around Rs. 2500 crore having the share of 75:25 between the State and the Centre. In this regard, the Government of India has released only Rs. 55 crore in three phases till date. However, the construction of the college buildings and other infrastructure is yet to be completed due to financial crunch. The Government of Odisha, as per the plan, has decided to start the academic session in 2017-18. Hence, all the arrangements in this regard are supposed to be completed by the end of 2016. So, I request the Government of India to expeditiously sanction the balance share of fund at the earliest for completion of construction of the said college buildings along with installation of other infrastructure so that the academic session in these medical colleges could be started in 2017-18.