

Regarding need to expedite operationalization of AIIMS Satellite Centre at Balasore in Odisha-Laid

SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI (BALASORE): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance concerning healthcare delivery in Northern Odisha and adjoining districts of West Bengal and Jharkhand. Despite various efforts and repeated assurances from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and the corresponding State Health & Family Welfare, Department of Odisha, the much touted AIIMS Satellite Centre at Balasore remains non-operational in its full capacity for several years. This delay has deeply affected the expectations of lakhs of people who depend on an affordable, accessible, tertiary-care institution in this region. Balasore exposed frequent cyclones floods and climate-linked health risks. Yet, due to the lack of fully functional emergency, super-specialty and inpatient services, patients are compelled to travel long distances to Bhubaneswar or Kolkata for advanced treatment, often at unbearable cost and delay. To fully realise the purpose of this institution, the remaining components such as specialist services inpatient wards, diagnostics, emergency and trauma care, need to be made operational at the earliest. I therefore urge the Government to take a holistic time-bound approach and direct the concerned Central and State ministries to immediately complete all remaining formalities, deploy sanctioned staff, and operationalise AIIMS Balasore in full strength. A firm date for its inauguration must be fixed without further delay. With strong broadband and telecommunication networks already in place, this centre is well-positioned to act as a medical hub for tele-consultation and digital health services across PHCs and district hospitals in Northern Odisha.