***Regarding need for enhanced investment and policy measures to develop Geriatric care services in the country-Laid**

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): India is undergoing a critical demographic shift. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has dropped to 1.9, below the replacement level of 2.1, signalling a rapidly ageing population. By 2050, over 20% of Indians will be aged 60 and above?double the current share. Meanwhile, the working-age population is expected to plateau, leading to long-term economic and social consequences. This transition will place significant strain on healthcare systems, social security, and family structures. The demand for age-related services?such as home healthcare, assisted living, and elderly care?is projected to rise, while child-focused services will see a decline. As India nears the end of its demographic dividend, strategic investments in health, education, skill development, and livelihood creation are essential. Current projections show India may surpass China in working-age population by 2050, but with a reduced share of 65%. Without timely intervention, this opportunity could become a liability. I urge the Union Government to recognize this demographic urgency and develop a comprehensive national strategy. Prioritizing geriatric care, strengthening social protection, and promoting age-inclusive employment must become key policy focus areas. Proactive action now will safeguard the nation?s economic resilience and social well-being in the decades to come.