

***Regarding need to set up a Government Medical College and Hospital in Rayagada district of Odisha-Laid**

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Rayagada district of Odisha, located in the tribal-dominated southern region of the state, has grown into an important industrial and commercial centre, with a large workforce employed in industries like Utkal Alumina, JK Paper Mills, IMFA, Hindaico, and other sectors. This has increased the population and healthcare demand in the district, which already serves as a hub for surrounding backward and tribal areas. Despite this, the district lacks a government medical college. The only medical college in the region at Koraput is overburdened and unable to meet the increasing demand for tertiary care and medical education. Rayagada's own health system is severely strained - almost 50% of sanctioned posts for doctors and specialists remain unfilled, leaving hospitals and health centres inadequately staffed and forcing patients to travel long distances for advanced care. Importantly, the district now has suitable government land available, as the land earlier held by the erstwhile JSCo (Jeypore Sugar Company) has been transferred to the Government. This can be readily utilized for establishing a modern medical college and teaching hospital.

I, therefore, urge the Government to approve and establish a Government medical college and hospital at Rayagada, utilizing the available land fill vacant positions urgently to ensure adequate healthcare services until the new college becomes operational. Plan the college as a tertiary care and teaching institution under centrally sponsored schemes to serve the needs of the district and neighbouring areas. A medical college at Rayagada will not only improve healthcare access and save lives but also generate medical education and employment opportunities for local youth This is a long-pending and justified demand of the people of the region.