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Title: Need to set up a special task force to study the 'Rural-Urban Divide' in health sector.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I come from a Parliamentary Constituency, which has got 86 per cent reserved population. We all know Gandhiji's famous quote that : "India lives in villages".

Sir, while 70 per cent population in our country lives in villages, about 80 per cent doctors; 75 per cent dispensaries; and 65 per cent hospitals are in urban India. Added to this, about 82-83 per cent specialist posts are lying vacant in rural India and the result is obvious. Hundreds and thousands and crores of people are suffering day-in and day-out and many of them are losing their lives.

This is a huge rural-urban divide, which exists in our country and which is defeating the very purpose of democratic setup in our country. In view of this, I would urge upon the Union Government to setup a special task force to address the issue of huge urban-rural divide with a special focus to address the health sector and create health infrastructure, which is adequate to address this issue in rural India and more specifically in my Parliamentary Constituency of Balasore, Odisha. Thank you, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and *m03 Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.