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Title: Regarding outsourcing of lab services in Government hospitals to reputed diagnostic labs.

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important issue in the 'Zero Hour'. We do not have specific standards for diagnostics in the country. Values change from lab to lab. Almost every hospital in India has its own lab. Doctors want the patients to get the tests done in their labs only. There is a big question mark over the standards of those labs. The poor people are losing their money and, sometimes, their valuable lives due to inconsistent reports being delivered by those standard-less labs. Diagnostic services have become a big business not only to the corporate hospitals, but also to the small private practitioners.

It is high time that we frame rules of ethics for doctors and clinical laboratories in the form of an Act to be administered by respective State Governments under the overall control of MCI and CVC.

Standards of labs in Government hospitals are also not up to the mark. We are investing huge money for purchasing diagnostic machinery, but we are neglecting their maintenance in Government hospitals. Let us outsource lab services in Government hospitals to the best and reputed diagnostic labs. The standards should be prescribed at the country level. The cost of such services should be controlled and made available at lowest possible prices under the corporate social responsibility. This will help our poor people to protect their lives as well as their hard earned money. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Nishikant Dubey is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Thota Narasimham.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Hon. Members, there are 25 extra speakers. If each one of them speaks for only one minute, then we will allow all of them to speak.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Sir, the House will have to be adjourned by eight o'clock because we have other programmes to attend to. Keeping that in mind, the Chair may decide whatever it wants to decide.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We will close it by eight o'clock.