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Title: Need to regulate the functioning of Diagnostic Laboratories.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Mr. Chairperson, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a subject which has serious implications on hundreds and thousands of people living in our country.

The diagnostic and research industry in our country is passing through one of its best times in the history. This industry is expected to touch a revenue of around 300 billion this year which is growing at a compounded annual growth of 17 per cent. While this is good news for those who are working in this industry, there is a story which is on the other side of it.

There are about 50000 diagnostic laboratories in the country and only one per cent of that is having accreditation from National Accreditation Board. It is one per cent for a country like India, the corresponding figure for other emerging economies like Brazil is about 85 to 90 per cent. Since this sector is not getting regulated, it is having a cascading effect on our people. There are no laws in the country which is governing this sector. Even though the Government passed the Clinical Establishment Act five years back, in 2011, the provisions of that Act are still to be implemented on the ground.

What is the result of it? I will just give an example of what happened in my parliamentary constituency in Balasore. Just last week, one particular individual who was suffering from high fever, the doctor said that he could be suffering from Dengue. He did three tests simultaneously. One lab report showed the platelet count as 46000; another lab showed the platelet count as 1,25,000 and third lab showed the platelet count as 2,40,000. At one go these were the three different reports that came. What was the result of it? The result of it is that the doctor who will prescribe the medicine can go absolutely wrong. So, the lives of humans are severely at stake. My point is, how can the Government keep quiet in this kind of scenario and allow this sector to remain completely unregulated. So, under the circumstances I would like to urge upon the Central Government and the Ministry of Health to take cognizance of this serious menace. It is completely an unregulated sector and 70 per cent of the medicines are prescribed based on pathological tests. The Act must be implemented and this sector must be brought under control and inspection.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.