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Title: Need to establish a regulatory body to bridge the gap between demand and supply of blood across the country.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, the gap between demand and supply of blood has been increasing across the world and India is not an exception of it. A study conducted recently has revealed that India has the world's largest shortage of blood with all States together battling a huge shortfall of 41 million units and the demand is outstripping supply by over 400 per cent.

It is a fact that India relies heavily on transfusion due to a higher prevalence of blood-borne diseases and complications during pregnancy, trauma induced surgery and cancer related procedures. There is an urgent need to educate people about blood donation and more investment be made to expand national transfusion services, blood management systems and find an alternative to blood transfusion.

The Biju Janata Dal, being a political party, organises a special programme every year which is called 'Jeevan Bindu'. That is a programme that, I think, no other political is doing in our country today. I would say that it has set an example for all other political parties.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : If it is successful, other political parties will also follow.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I urge upon the Government to support it financially and structurally through establishment of a regulatory oversight to bridge the gap between demand and supply of blood across the country.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.