

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Regarding access of advanced Medical Technology for patients suffering from Heart valve disease-Laid.

DR. LORHO PFOZE (OUTER MANIPUR): A large population in India suffers from valvular heart disease. While degenerative heart valve diseases mainly affect older people, developing Countries witness the prevalence of rheumatic heart valve disease, affecting the younger population.

Medical technologies to deliver better/safer patient outcomes are some developments over the past six decades. Pioneering work in heart valve replacement started in the early 1950s. Mechanical valves were introduced to replace the natural valves in the human heart and treat valvular heart disease. However, one of the inherent limitations of this technology included requiring patients to be on life-long blood thinners.

A better solution was proposed in the 1970s with the development of biological tissue valves using either porcine (pig) or bovine (ox) pericardium, allowing patients to lead a better quality of life. However, tissue valves presented degeneration limitation and required repeat surgery. The newer tissue valves exhibit evidence of upto 30 years of longevity among patients over 60 years.

The most recent revolution is the advent of transcatheter valve replacement as an alternative to surgical intervention in severe aortic stenosis patients. Transcatheter aortic valve implantation does not require open-heart surgery.

I urge upon the Government to create an enabling environment to access advanced medical technology for all patients.
