

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding need for bringing in Medical Advancement in Cardiovascular Diseases.

DR. LORHO PFOZE (OUTER MANIPUR): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Sir, I wish to talk about the need for bringing in medical advancement in cardiovascular diseases in India. A large population in India suffers from valvular heart diseases. While degenerative heart valve diseases mainly affect older people, developing countries witness higher prevalence of rheumatic heart valve diseases, affecting younger population.

Medical technologies to deliver better and safer patient outcomes are some important 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 include 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 up to 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. Therefore, I urge the Government to create an enabling environment to access advanced medical technology for all patients.

