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Title: Need to set up a lot of health sub-centres in rural areas.

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA): Madam, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the need to strengthen our public health system....(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप लोग बैठ जाइए। धर्मवीर गांधी जी, आपने अपनी बात बोल दी है, आप बैठ जाइए।

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI: The National Health Mission (NHM) of the Government of India runs many focussed programmes for the improvement of health indicators, especially related to maternal and child health as women and children living in rural areas bear the brunt of the burden of poor health services. Implementation challenges prevent the execution of policies and programmes in its entirety. Assessing gaps to bridge them and using evidence-based solution in building a roadmap to a substantial health system is the most important process of strengthening our health system.

We are all really blessed people to be living in metro cities with all kinds of facilities available like world-class hospitals and where hospitals with 5-Star facilities are also coming up. What about the poor people who are living in villages, in rural areas? Women, children and elders are suffering because of lack of medical help.

As an MP from Mathura, I have experienced the suffering of all these people in my area, especially in the villages because there is not even a single health sub-centre available there. I see that most of the young mothers carrying their small babies are undernourished. Also, there is not even a single pregnancy monitoring system available for the pregnant women. If any kind of problem arises in pregnant women, they cannot even reach the hospitals because the roads are so horrible. If there is any heart patient, it is impossible for them to reach the hospital. This is the condition in rural areas.

As per estimates, 40 infants die per 1,000 live births in India while the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target for infant mortality rate is 26. Similarly, the maternal mortality ratio in India is 167 while the MDH target is 109. As per UNICEF, India has more maternal deaths than any other country in the world.

In my adopted village, Raval, I have organized a medical camp for carrying out medical check up of women. My request is that the Government of India should concentrate on setting up a lot of health sub-centres in rural areas. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri C.R. Chaudhary, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Hemamalini.

Shri N.K. Premachandran, where were you when I called your name?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, I just walked out and I did not boycott. There is a difference between 'walk-out' and 'boycott'.

HON. SPEAKER: I am not saying anything about that. You were not there in your seat when your name was called.