

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR ON THE OCCASION OF 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST OPEN HEART SURGERY IN MANIPUR, SKY HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE AT HOTEL CLASSIC GRANDE, CHINGMEIRONG, IMPHAL ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2016.

Dr. Kh. Ratankumar Singh ji,

Hon'ble Minister, Transport & Education, Govt. of Manipur,

Shri P.K. Singh, Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare,

Dr. Ajay Kaul, Chairman & HoD, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery,

BLK Multi Speciality Hospital, Delhi,

Dr. L. Shyamkishore Singh, Chairman & Chief Cardiologist, Sky Group of Hospitals,

Friends from Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here at this commemoration function of the 1st Anniversary of First Open Heart Surgery in Manipur. Let me first congratulate everyone involved with the 1st heart surgery at Sky Hospital, Manipur on the 18th of November, 2015. It is, indeed, a great achievement of Sky Hospital under the dynamic leadership of Dr. L. Shyamkishore Singh. My best wishes to all of you.

I cannot claim to have a good medical knowledge though a few of my family members are medical practitioners. As a matter of fact, I was also inclined to join the medical profession soon after finishing school. However, destiny decided otherwise as I was found underaged and too young to take up the MBBS course. I continued my education of Life Sciences on the advice of my grandfather Maulana Azad who was the 1st Minister of Education of free India. After my post graduate in Zoology, I joined research on development of heart of birds specially the conducting tissues of the avian heart. I submitted my dissertation and was granted Ph.D. Degree when I was 22 years. My research on heart, specially on conducting tissues and their

development and function and origination of wave of excitation and conduction through nodes and bundle of His gave me enough knowledge about the functioning of Avian Heart. This made me understand the functions of human heart also. I would certainly like to share my perception about open heart surgery based on my long experience and association with Doctors in my family as well as my own knowledge. But my eldest daughter is a doctor, Paediatric Endocrinologist and my two son-in-laws are also doctors, one is in Pathology and other a Neurologist. They all are in US and have achieved desired success in their respective fields.

Open-heart surgery is sometimes called traditional heart surgery. Today, many new heart procedures can be performed with only small incisions and not through wide openings, called minimum invasive surgery. Therefore, the term “open-heart surgery” can be misleading when medical science is so advanced. I understand that open-heart surgery is done in cases to repair or replace heart valves, repair damaged or abnormal areas of the heart, implant medical devices that help the heart beat properly, replace a damaged heart with a donated heart or heart transplantation and so on. The risks for open-heart surgery include heart attack or stroke, irregular heart beating or kidney failure, chest pain, memory loss or “fuzziness”, blood clot, blood loss, breathing difficulty and pneumonia. It is unfortunate that nowadays more and more people are suffering from heart ailments. It may be attributed to the changing food habits and life style of the people. Therefore, people should keep good food habits and life style for a healthy heart.

The work that our Doctors and other medical personnel have done for health in the State is substantial and we appreciate it. Our health services today are stretched to the limits and the Private Hospitals supplement the Government Hospitals significantly in providing health services to the people. Our target is to provide health care to all. I think it is a feasible target. We have done a great deal of work towards this end but a lot more thinking has to go into how we can achieve this in the next ten years. Even though our Doctors are amongst the ablest anywhere and so also our Nurses, we are still not able to provide health service to a large section of the people. We do have acute shortage of Doctors or Nurses but what is saddening is many of them are not willing to go to rural and hill areas. We have to change this trend.

We have to expand our health services so that it is brought within easy reach of people in general and the rural population in particular. Recently,

when I was in Delhi, I met the honourable Prime Minister and suggested the concept of Flying Doctors for our far flung areas in the hill region. Also, I met the Union Minister for Health and discussed issues pertaining to health problems of the state and suggested to introduce the concept of Flying Doctors in the state. The Minister assured me to extend all possible assistance to take up the scheme. Once this scheme is materialised, the hardships faced by the people who are living in the far-flung remote areas will be greatly ameliorated. They will get the medical facilities whenever they are in need. Timely medical attention would be possible to save lives.

I am happy to learn that the Sky Hospital has been providing health services not only to the people of Manipur but also to the people of the neighbouring states in the North East. World class equipments have been installed and the Hospital has also made possible International standard Healthcare at low cost. It is commendable that the hospital has conducted 33 heart surgeries since the 1st open heart surgery in 2015 and it is also heartening that the hospital is tying up with the Government under various schemes for extending health care services at low cost to the poor. I congratulate the teams of Sky Hospital for organizing health camps at different places of the state for enhancing health awareness and to popularise these activities and I am confident that the camps will leave a deep imprint on the minds of the people.

I wish the Sky Hospital further success in its endeavour to serve the people of this state in the coming years and once again, I thank the organisers for inviting me to this important function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.