

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST OPEN HEART SURGERY IN MANIPUR ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017 AT HOTEL CLASSIC GRANDE, IMPHAL.

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare,

Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister of Forest & Environment,

Dr. Ajay Kaul, Chairman, BLK Multi Speciality Hospital, Delhi,

Dr. L. Shyamkishore Singh, Chairman, Sky Group of Hospitals,

Friends from Electronic and Print Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be with you all at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Open Heart Surgery of Sky Hospital. At the outset, let me congratulate all those who were involved with the first open heart surgery of the Hospital in the year, 2015. We are here to observe the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the same. It is, indeed, a milestone achievement of Sky Hospital under the dynamic leadership of Dr. L. Shyamkishore Singh.

It is heartening to learn that the Sky Hospital has so far performed 50 open heart operations since the first one and before, patients had to go outside the state for such operation. To the credit of the Hospital, it must also be said that Sky Hospital is providing free open heart surgery to the children below 18 years of age and so far 40 (forty) children have been benefitted from this intervention. Apart from this, Sky Hospital also provides free heart OPD to children below 18 years of age since September, 2015 and so far 838 children have availed of this facility. Similarly, Sky Hospital has also been providing free Echocardiography which is Ultrasound Scan of Heart for children below 18 years of age again since September, 2015. So far, 545 children have been provided free Echocardiography. It is indeed a praiseworthy service to the society.

I have got a scientific background having done Ph.D. in Zoology and I belong to a family of medical practitioners. My eldest daughter is Pediatric Endocrinologist. My one son-in-law is Cytogenetic and Pathologist and the other a Neurologist. I did my Ph.D. on Cardiac Anatomy of avian hearts from development stage to full grown heart. So, I know the heart problems of Arrhythmia, the failure of Sinoatrial node and the hole in the atrial septum or ventricular septum which causes the mixing of aerated and non-aerated blood or defect in the valve which causes regurgitation of blood. Open-heart surgery is sometimes called traditional heart surgery. Today, many new heart procedures can be performed with only small incisions, not wide openings, also termed as minimum invasive surgery. The term “open-heart surgery”, therefore, can be misleading. Open-heart surgery is done to repair or replace heart valves, which allow blood to travel through the heart, 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 also called heart transplantation. Open heart surgery has its own risks such as heart attack or stroke, irregular heart beating or kidney failure, chest pain and low fever, memory loss or “fuzziness”, blood clot, blood loss, breathing difficulty, pneumonia. According to the University of Chicago Medicine, the heart-lung bypass machine is associated with increased risks. These risks include stroke and memory problems.

The work that our Doctors and other medical personnel do for health in the State is substantial and we appreciate it. Our health services today are stretched to their limits and the Government Hospitals are providing health care to the people, specially those who cannot afford the more expensive private Hospitals. Our target is to provide health care to all by the turn of the century. 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 years to come. Even though our Doctors are amongst the ablest anywhere and our Nurses are also rendering good service, health services are not percolating down to the grass root level adequately. One major constraint is that we do not have many Doctors or Nurses and again many of them are

not willing to go to rural and hill areas. Our equipment for emergency and intensive care units also need improvement.

We have to expand health services so that it is brought within easy reach of people in general and the rural population in particular. It is with this aim in mind that I have been pursuing the concept of 'Flying Doctor'. Soon after I took over my gubernatorial charge, I realized the lack of proper medical facilities in the interior hilly terrain and the remote rural areas. Poor connectivity has been a major bottleneck. I took up the issue of 'Flying Doctor' with the PM, Civil Aviation Ministry, Health Ministry and the DoNER Ministry in particular for reaching out medical facilities to the hill districts and remote rural areas through helicopter. I am happy to say that the Central Government is shortly extending the much needed medical facility through Flying Dispensaries.

Medical Science is not new to this country. More than three thousand years ago, Sushruta, the great medical practitioner of ancient India in his magnificent book surpasses every known classical text in the encyclopaedic coverage of topics, descriptions of several hundred diseases and their management and above all the masterly treatment of surgery. India was quite advanced that way. I am happy that the Sky Hospital, though a private hospital, is taking up various activities for enhancing health awareness among the people. I congratulate the team of Sky Hospital also for organizing health camps at different places of the State to popularize the activities of this Hospital and I am confident that the camps will leave a deep imprint on the minds of the people of the State.

I wish the Sky Hospital further success in its endeavours to serve the people of this State in the coming years and once again, I thank the organizers for inviting me to this health related mega function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.