

Doc crunch ails Erasama CHC

ONLY THREE ASSISTANT SURGEONS MANAGE THE SHOW IN THE HOSPITAL

POST NEW NETWORK

Erasama, Feb 29: Erasama community health centre (CHC) at this block headquarters in Jagatsinghpur district is plagued by doctors' shortage.

Because of the efforts of then MP Loknath Choudhury, the hospital was established years ago to provide healthcare facilities to people in 25 panchayats under Erasama block. At that time, people used to suffer a lot for lack of health facilities. In 2020, the hospital has become a community health centre (CHC) with 30 beds.

Slippers are not allowed into the wards. Every day the floor is being cleaned with phenyl. There are flower pots on the hospital premises. There are security guards to keep



a watch on the hospital round the clock. The hospital has enough space for vehicle parking as well.

But five out of eight sanctioned doctor posts in the hospital are lying vacant. The government is yet to fill up posts of a pediatric specialist, a gynecologist, an orthopedist, a medicine specialist and a superintendent. Only three assistant surgeons are managing the

scene. "Poor people in nearby panchayats are the worst sufferers. They are forced to visit Balikuda government hospital, Jagatsinghpur district headquarters hospital or in worst case SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack," some villagers rued.

"There are 30 sub health centres under Erasama CHC. And most of these health centres are run without health workers. If those centres had health workers, it would have helped the people to a great extent," they alleged.

Bhitar Andhari, Barabatia, Bhirang, Paida and Japa are among the sub-health centres lacking health workers. Contacted, officer-in-charge Dr Amiya Swain admitted that the CHC needs some specialists to deliver quality health facilities.