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भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

परमाणु ऊर्जा नियामक परिषद ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD

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## PRESS RELEASE

AERB shuts down operation of some of the medical diagnostic X-Ray facilities at different cities in Orissa owing to non-compliances

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) carried out surprise inspections during 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and has suspended the operation of some of the medical diagnostic facilities at Bhubaneswar and Cuttack which were not complying with the specified regulatory and radiation safety requirements.

In the two cities, AERB has sealed 24 diagnostic X-ray equipment and has issued warnings against operation of 23 equipment to comply with the specified regulatory and safety requirements within thirty days.

The 24 equipment sealed were found to be operating without complying with the mandatory requirement of obtaining the requisite License and Registration from AERB, as per the provisions of the Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004.

The Rules prohibit setting up and operating any CT/ Interventional Radiology equipment without obtaining the requisite 'License', whereas a Registration is mandatory for other diagnostic X-ray facilities. Though the X-ray equipment are of low radiation hazard potential, it is important that they are installed and operated in accordance with the radiological safety requirements specified by AERB. This is to ensure the radiation safety for the persons operating these equipment as well as the patients who make use of them.

It is seen that though the country has a number of medical diagnostic X-ray facilities, quite a few have not been Licensed/ Registered with AERB.

To address this, AERB has in place outreach programmes for the medical diagnostic X-ray facilities regarding the importance of operating safely and obtaining the requisite Licence and Registration, which include advertisements in the media.

Further, AERB, has in place a web based e-licensing system (e-LORA), through which the process of obtaining Licence/ Registration is

simplified significantly. AERB also does not charge any fees for obtaining the requisite Licence/ Registration.

The surprise inspections and closure of the non-compliant facilities / equipment is coming on the back of such efforts from AERB. AERB has over the past two years carried out similar action in other places in the country as well.

All medical diagnostic X-ray facilities are thus advised to immediately obtain valid Licence / Registration from AERB by filing an application through AERB's web based e-licensing system (e-LORA).

AERB also advises the public not to patronize the X-ray facilities which are not having valid Licence / Registration issued by AERB.

(A. U. Sonawane)