



Title: Developing Instructure for Cancer Treatment in Tier-2 and Tier 3 Cities.

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): Thank you Chairman, Sir.

As technologies emerge that revolutionise cancer care, India still faces the problem of making it inexpensive and accessible to its huge population

Cancer cases and deaths have steadily increased in India with an ICMR study stating that one in nine Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime. The infrastructure for cancer care is inadequate, which is evident in how we only have 700 radiotherapy machines for our 1.4 billion population as opposed to 1300 machines required, according to WHO standards, along with lack of sufficient cancer care facilities.

A further problem is the concentration of treatment facilities in major cities. Access to cancer care goes down as soon as you go out of Tier 1 cities. In Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and villages, even basic services and technology like radiology equipment are difficult to locate.

It results in tertiary cancer care centres in cities being overwhelmed with over 45,000 new patients being registered in these centres every year out of which, nearly 60 per cent come from various parts of India after travelling far distances for their treatments.

Therefore, I request the Government to extend affordable cancer care outside the big cities, especially district hospitals, to ensure accessible screening, detection and treatment facilities for everyone.

Thank you very much.