

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2261

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007

FREE TREATMENT TO POOR

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Chakraborty Shri Swadesh;Jha Shri Raghunath;Singh Shri Prabhunath;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the Delhi High Court's decision regarding imparting free medical treatment to the poor in private hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details of all such hospitals who are not providing free treatment to poor patients;
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against all such defaulting hospitals;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to enact any law for imparting free medical treatment to poor by the private hospitals in view of the direction by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (f): Yes, Sir. As per direction of the Delhi High Court, Government of NCT of Delhi have framed guidelines for provision of free treatment facilities to patients of Economically Weaker Section category. These guidelines have been sent to 36 hospitals for compliance. Any of these private hospital found to be not complying with these guidelines is to be proceeded against as per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court and such hospital will also be liable for contempt of the Court. However, Mool Chand Khairati Ram Hospital, St. Stephen Hospital and Rajeev Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre have refused to provide free treatment to poor patients stating that they are not covered under the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court. Rajeev Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre have filed an application before the Delhi High Court against the implementation of the judgement. The matter is subjudice.

At present, there is no proposal to enact a law for providing for free treatment to the poor people by private hospitals.