

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5843

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010

SEGREGATED DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether all hospitals except All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), have a segregated disaster management or decontamination area;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether these hospitals conduct regular drills to keep the disaster management team job ready to immediately spot, segregate and treat patients coming in with exposure to chemical, biological, radiology or nuclear substances;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether this is in violation of the guidelines set by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to deal with such disasters; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (d): There are segregated disaster management areas in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & its associated hospitals. Decontamination area is required to decontaminate victims exposed to Chemical, biological, Radiological and Nuclear disasters. None of the Central Government Hospitals have this facility. Make shift arrangements were made in the past at Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital in response to specific threats.

A chemical decontamination area exists near casualty of Dr. R.M.L. Hospital. Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and A.I.I.M.S. are also involved in regular mock exercises prior to Republic day and Independence day. Delhi Government/Central Government Hospitals are involved in mock exercises by Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in the context of conventional disasters. However, though mock drills have been conducted by NDMA/DDMA for chemical disasters, the capacity of Central/Delhi Government hospitals are limited for managing patients of Chemical, Biological, Radiology or Nuclear disasters.

(e) & (f): In accordance with National Disaster Management Guidelines (available on NDMA's website <http://ndma.gov.in>) on Medical Preparedness and Mass Casualty Management and para 4.3.6 of Chemical Industrial Disaster Management Guidelines, certain earmarked hospitals are required to develop facilities for the treatment of CBRN casualties including the facilities for contamination. In addition to decontamination facilities, these hospitals are also required to upgrade certain specialized facilities for the management of such cases. These facilities include Radiation injury treatment centre, Advanced Blood Bank facility, Advanced Laboratory facilities, Burn Centre and Bone Marrow transplantation facilities.

However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in collaboration with Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) is working on the concepts of developing a Centre for managing health aspects of Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear Disasters.