

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6975
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
CANCER CENTRES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments regarding financial assistance for the purchase of modern equipment for the treatment of cancer patients and upgradation of cancer centres including Malabar Cancer Centre at Kannur in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;
- (d) whether there is shortage of radioactive isotope in the cancer centres/hospitals which leads to delays and increased cost for the heart and cancer patients;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (c): The details of grant-in-aid released to the Govt. Medical Colleges and Hospitals /Regional Cancer Centres recommended by State Governments for purchase of modern equipment/upgradation of cancer centres under the National Cancer Control Programme during the last three years is at Annexe.

An amount of Rs. 5.00 crore each has been released to five selected Regional Cancer Centres recognized under the National Cancer Control Programme namely Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad; Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore; Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad; Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati for strengthening of infrastructure under the scheme "Centre of Excellence". State Government of Kerala had forwarded a proposal for sanctioning of Rs.30.00 crore to Malabar Cancer Centre during July, 2009 for purchase of medical equipments. However, at present there is no scheme under which grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 30.00 crore can be released to this institute.

As per the existing guidelines, total grant-in-aid amount of Rs. 3.00 crore can be released to the institute under the scheme 'Development of Oncology Wing' of the National Cancer Control Programme. An amount of Rs. 1.50 crore has been released in 2004-05 to the Malabar Cancer Centre under the scheme.(d) to (e): As per the information furnished by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), High specific activity Molybdenum-99 and Cobalt-60 are not made in India's reactors and both the radioactive isotopes are imported. Due to problems in foreign reactors, a shortage has been felt worldwide. (f): DAE has already initiated action for alternative route for production of Molybdenum-99 and for increasing specific activity of Cobalt-60.