

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1100

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2010

SPREAD OF CANCER

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Ramshankar Dr. ;Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) whether due to incessant use of pesticides in agriculture and presence of heavy metals in drinking water, the number of cancer patients have increased considerably;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide affordable medical treatment to the masses suffering from Cancer;
- (d) whether the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum has conducted a detailed study on the spread of various types of Cancers in the State; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a) to (c) Heavy metals such as Arsenic are known to cause cancer. The increase in the number of cancer patients due to incessant use of pesticides in agriculture and presence of heavy metals in drinking water is not maintained.

The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular and Stroke (NPCDCS) has been initiated for health promotion, capacity building including human resources, early diagnosis, management and integration with the primary health care system through Non Communicable Disease clinics at different levels.

This Ministry has already recognized 27 Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs for providing cost effective treatment to the poor and needy cancer patients. In addition, free or subsidized treatment is provided to the poor cancer patients in Government institutions in the health care delivery system.

(d) & (e) Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum has not conducted any State-wide programme to study the spread of various types of cancer.