

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
TREATMENT OF FATAL DISEASES
Sivasami Shri C.

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

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to improve the infrastructure, human resources and also make drugs and consumables available for ensuring timely medical treatment to patients suffering from fatal diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 262 FOR 22ND JULY, 2009

Yes. The Government has taken several concrete and effective measures to improve the infrastructure, human resources and also make drugs and consumables available for ensuring timely treatment to patients suffering from fatal diseases.

The steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard are as follows:

1. With respect to infrastructure, the Government is setting up AIIMS like institutions, and also upgrading existing Government medical colleges and setting up new nursing and para-medical institutions. Under NRHM, augmentation and upgradation of sub-centres, PHCs, CHCs, Sub-district and district hospitals is being done for providing quality health services.

2. With respect to human resources, the gap is being met through several short term and long term measures. In short term, Specialists, doctors and nurses have been appointed/engaged on contractual basis to meet the shortages; in the medium and long term more doctors and para-medics would be made available by strengthening the medical education system.

3. Drugs and consumables are available in the Indian market. So far as Central Government and State Governments' are concerned, under several National Programmes like TB, Vector Borne Diseases, HIV/AIDS etc. drugs and diagnostics are being provided to patients suffering from fatal diseases.

4. Government of India is also taking preventive measures for controlling fatal diseases such as implementation of Immunization Programme which aims at preventing diseases like Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Measles. Government of India has also initiated two new vaccines in selected areas for Japanese Encephalitis and Hepatitis B.

5. National Cancer Control Programme is proposed to be modified to meet the gap in available Cancer care facilities and trained manpower in the country. The Government has set up the Health Minister's Cancer Fund to provide financial assistance to Below Poverty Line Cancer patients.

6. The Government has also launched a Pilot Project for management and control of Diabetes, Cardio Vascular Diseases and Stroke.

7. Government of India has made adequate arrangements to give timely medical treatment to patients suffering from any kind of epidemic such as H1N1, etc.

8. The Government also provides direct financial assistance to patients who are living below the poverty line and are suffering from major life threatening diseases. Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, this assistance helps the patients receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty hospitals/institutions or other government hospitals.

9. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through its various programmes is providing primary public health infrastructure while augmenting the secondary and tertiary sector health facilities by setting up of more AIIMS like institutions and upgrading existing medical colleges across the country. On the whole, it is providing both preventive, curative and emergency facilities for all health related problems.