

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3984

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011

FREE/AFFORDABLE TREATMENT OF CANCER PATIENTS

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

- (a) whether a large number of people are suffering from cancer in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such patients died of the disease during each of the last three years and current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide free/affordable diagnostic services and medical treatment to the poor cancer patients at district level across the country; and
- (d) if so, the action plan drawn alongwith the operational guidelines and the financial modalities worked out for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b): As per the Report of National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the estimated number of Cancer Cases in the country is around 28 lakh. The number of cancer patients died in India, State/ UT-wise is not centrally maintained.

(c) & (d): The Government of India has launched a comprehensive National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS) last year. The new programme envisages implementation in 100 districts across 21 States during 2010-12. Under the programme, 65 Government Medical Colleges including erstwhile Regional Cancer Centres would be extended financial assistance of Rs. 6.00 crore (Rs. 4.80 crore from Central Government and Rs.1.20 crore from State Government) for strengthening cancer care facilities. Government has also proposed to strengthen the district hospitals to provide diagnostic services, basic surgery, chemotherapy and palliative care. The chemotherapy drugs required for cancer patients would be provided at the district hospitals in these districts to treat 100 cancer cases from the BPL category @ Rs.1.00 lakh per patient. The Government has set up the "Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (CPF) to provide financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) cancer patients. Besides this, in the Government health care delivery system, the modalities of treatment are either free or subsidized for the poor cancer patients.

The detailed operational guidelines have also been posted on the website of the Ministry i.e., www.mohfw.nic.in.