

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:902
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
TREATMENT OF POOR PATIENTS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of private hospitals in the country particularly in Delhi who have got lands at concessional rates from the Government, are not offering free treatment for poor patients even after the Apex Court's Order;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has issued any instructions to the State Governments to take stringent action against such erring hospitals; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the State Governments thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its judgment dated 22.3.2007 in the matter of Social jurist V/s GNCTD & others in WPC No.2866/2002 directed all the hospitals which had got land at concessional rates from various land allotting agencies to provide 10% IPD and 25% OPD free of cost to eligible category of economically weaker section patients. Later, 10 identified private hospitals filed SLP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and got an interim relief regarding operations, investigations like X-ray, Ultrasound, CT Scan etc.

The GNCTD of Delhi, diligently fought the case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and consequently on 1.9.2011, the SLP filed by the 10 identified Hospitals was dismissed and the hospitals were directed to provide 10% IPD and 25% OPD completely free of cost to eligible category of EWS patients.

The GNCT of Delhi issued guidelines regarding free treatment of eligible category of EWS patients in the identified private hospitals in the year 2007 as well as in October, 2011, wherein both the identified private as well as Govt. hospitals were directed to establish Special Referral Centers and appoint nodal officers to facilitate referral of EWS patients.

The Govt. Of NCT of Delhi created a web page which displays the real time availability fo free beds (critical as well as non critical) to facilitate referral of patients. The information is available on the following web address: www/.health.delhigovt.nic.in/mis/firmlogin.aspx.

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has constituted a monitoring committee comprising of Director Health Services, GNCTD, Medical Officer In-charge Nursing Home Cell, PIL petitioner Medical Superintendent of St. Stephen's Hospital and Medical Superintendent of the concerned hospitals which inspects four to five hospital each month.

Public notices were issued in newspapers (English & vernacular) regarding availability of free treatment to eligible category of EWS patients alongwith their eligibility criteria and list of Identified private hospitals with the number of free beds and specialty available. The message regarding free treatment was also broadcast in the electronic media.

The eligibility criteria and availability of free beds is also displayed in the boards affixed at conspicuous places in both identified private hospitals and Govt. hospitals, in both Hindi as well as English. Notices have also been issued from time to time to the defaulter private hospitals which are not treating adequate number of EWS patients free of cost.

Govt. Hospitals are being encouraged to increase the number of referrals of EWS patients to identified private hospitals.

In a number of instances, the concerned private hospitals which have charged money for treatment of EWS patients have been directed to refund the same.