

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3808  
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012  
TREATMENT OF CANCER PATIENTS  
Bali Ram Dr.

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

- (a) whether Chemotherapy and the Brachytherapy services for the treatment of cancer are not functional in various hospitals of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the availability of services and doctors in various hospitals of Delhi for the treatment of cancer patients; and
- (c) the details of the services being provided or proposed to be provided by the Government in various hospitals for the treatment of cancer patients in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (c): In so far as three Central Government hospitals in Delhi namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LMHC & its associated Hospitals are concerned, Chemotherapy services for treatment of cancer patients are functional in all these hospitals. However, Brachytherapy services are not available in Dr. RML Hospital and LMHC & its associated Hospitals. The Brachytherapy services available in Department of Radiotherapy, Safdarjung Hospital is withheld temporarily as per directions of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) since the Department of Radiotherapy does not have requisite number of Physicists as per their norms. At present, Radiology Department, Safdarjung Hospital has five specialists, three medical officer and two physicists. The creation of new facilities and upgradation of existing facilities are a continuous process and is undertaken in accordance with the availability of funds and requirement.

As far as State Government are concerned, Health being a state subject, it is their responsibility to provide adequate health facilities including facilities required for treatment of cancer patients and the Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance to Government Medical College Hospitals and erstwhile Regional Cancer Centres. The Government of India had launched a comprehensive National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) in 2010. This programme envisaged implementation in 100 districts across 21 States during 2010-2012 of the 11th Five Year Plan. Under Cancer component of NPCDCS, the district hospitals are strengthened for early diagnosis of Cancer, chemotherapy facilities and palliative care to cancer patients.

The programme also envisaged strengthening Government Medical College Hospitals and erstwhile Regional Cancer Centres across the country as Tertiary Cancer Centre (TCC) for providing comprehensive Cancer care services. These institutions are eligible for financial assistance upto Rs. 6.00 crore (Rs. 4.80 crore from Central Government and Rs. 1.20 crore from State Government).