

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6091
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN HOSPITALS
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether all the hospitals particularly in metros are well equipped to handle disasters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether regular drills are conducted in these hospitals to keep the disaster management team ready to immediately spot, segregate and treat patients with exposure to chemical, biological, radiology or nuclear substances;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (e): Health being a state subject, it is responsibility of the State Government to ensure that the Hospitals under their jurisdiction are prepared to handle the disaster. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has informed that most of the hospitals in the Metros do not have the Hospital Disaster Management Plans to deal with the management of mass casualties arising due to disasters.

NDMA has taken initiatives of conducting Emergency Management Exercise (EMEx) in various cities with the objective of:

- (i) Preparation of hospital Plans for management of Mass Casualty and Hospital safety.
- (ii) Hands-on training of pre-hospital care, triage, Mass Casualty Management for hospital.
- (iii) Table-top simulation: provide an opportunity for all of the stake holders to work together in a coordinated response to a city disaster.
- (iv) Filed Drills: Real-time simulation of a mass casualty event involving multi-agency coordination and response in hospitals.
- (v) Emergency Management Exercise (EMEx) conducted in Chennai, Guwahati, Delhi and Jorhat.

In so far as three Central Govt. Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College and its Hospital are concerned, these hospitals are well equipped to handle disasters. These hospitals are tertiary care hospitals having all the specialties to handle the disaster situations. There is a designated disaster wing in each of these hospitals. Emergency OTs, ICU, Blood Bank facilities are also available in these hospitals. Also adequate trained Medical, Nursing and paramedical manpower is available in these hospitals to handle disaster situations.

In the above three central Government hospitals, regular drills are conducted in co-operation with (i) Deputy Commissioner (Delhi), (ii) Delhi Police, (iii) SPG (Special Protection Group), (iv) National Disaster Management Authority, (v) Fire Department (Delhi) and (vi) Department of Health, Government of NCT of Delhi.