

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4458
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
PALLIATIVE CARE
Basheer Shri E. T. Mohammed

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

- (a) whether the Government has estimated the number of patients requiring palliative care in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT wise;
- (c) the action plan drawn by the Government to provide palliative care services to the needy patients in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure easy availability and procurement of Morphine in the country to meet the requirement of terminally-ill patients suffering from pain?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (c): No data is maintained centrally regarding the number of persons requiring palliative care or having access to palliative care. The exact number of Palliative care centres in the country is also not available. Efforts of State Governments are supplemented by programmes of the Government of India such as the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke. There are provisions for manpower, drugs and home based care etc. for various activities including Palliative Care. In 12th Five Year Plan, the Palliative Care activities are being implemented through National Health Mission (NHM) as part of NCD Flexi pool. A model PIP for carrying out Palliative Care activities by the States/UTs has already been formulated and circulated to the State/UT Governments to propose and incorporate Palliative Care proposals/activities in their respective PIPs or send their proposals for Palliative Care activities in their States.

An amount of Rs. 341.66 lakh has been released to States for establishment of State Palliative Care Cell and carrying out Palliative Care activities during the financial year 2013-14 for Palliative Care.

(d): Certain amendments to the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985 have been notified on 10th March, 2014 which are aimed at removing the regulatory barriers that are perceived to act as hindrance to adequate availability of opioids like morphine for medical purposes like that of pain relief and palliative care. By these amendments regulatory powers in respect of a new category of drugs called 'Essential Narcotic Drugs' (ENDs), which the Central Government will have power to notify and which have been carved out from the existing category of 'manufactured drugs', has been transferred from the State Governments to the Central Governments. This will enable a uniform regulatory regime throughout the country in respect of such drugs which are also used in respect of patients suffering with pain.