

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:802
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
FREE TREATMENT TO BPL PEOPLE
Patil Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued/ proposes to issue any directions to the private hospitals including those run by Non-Governmental Organisations/Trusts across the country, which have been allotted land on concessional rates to comply with the condition of providing of free treatment to the patients belonging to EWS category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain private hospitals recently have been found not complying with the said directions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether beds in many hospitals remain vacant in the absence of proper awareness amongst weaker sections for availing this facility and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Health is a State Subject. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to issues directions/ guidelines in respect of Hospitals under their respective jurisdiction. Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has informed that the GNCTD had issued guidelines in this regard on 04/04/2007 and 26.09.2011 to various identified private hospitals that had been allotted land at concessional rates by various land-owning agencies, inter alia, stipulating to provide certain percentage of their indoor beds and certain percentage of their OPD services free of cost to eligible patients of economically weaker section (EWS) category.

Presently, 49 private hospitals have been identified for this purpose. Out of these hospitals, 43 hospitals are providing free treatment. 4 private hospitals namely (i) Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital, (ii) St. Stephen's Hospital, (iii) Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research and (iv) Rockland Hospital (Qutab Institutional Area) have been exempted by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi from providing free treatment vide its order passed on 28.04.2014 in WP (C) Numbers 1478/2012, 3737/2012, 3792/2013 and 7183/2013. The GNCTD has filed SLP No. 2725-26/2015 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the order of Hon'ble High Court passed on 28.04.2014. Land and Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development has also decided to file SLP against Hon'ble High Court's order exempting St. Stephens Hospital and Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital for providing free treatment.

The DHS, GNCTD has informed that one private Hospital i.e. Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre, allotted land by DDA, never provided free treatment to eligible EWS patients and the Directorate of Health Services, Government of NCT of Delhi has recommended cancellation of its lease-deed to the DDA, the land owning agency.

The DHS, GNCTD has informed that another Hospital namely Dr. B.L.Kapoor Memorial Hospital has stopped providing free treatment to eligible patients of EWS category since last week of May, 2014. The DHS, GNCTD has issued a legal notice to the hospital authority. DDA, the land owning agency, has also been asked to clarify the condition of free treatment to eligible patients by the Hospital, as per allotment conditions.

(e): The DHS, GNCTD has informed that out of 638 beds available in the 43 identified private hospitals, approximately 31% free beds remained vacant as on date despite the fact that these free services have been duly advertised in newspapers and electronic media from time to time for information of general public.

The GNCTD has taken following steps to improve utilization of free beds in identified private hospitals:

(i) Help Desks and Special Referral Centres have been established in Government and private hospitals respectively and Nodal Officers have been designated.

(ii) Monitoring Committee has been constituted with following composition:

- (a) Director Health Services - Chairman GNCTD
- (b) Medical Superintendent - Member Nursing Home, GNCTD
- (c) Shri Ashok Aggarwal, - Member PIL Petitioner
- (d) Medical Superintendent - Member St. Stephens' Hospital
- (e) Medical Superintendent - Member of the identified Hospital concerned

(iii) Webpage has been created which provides details of admitted poor patients in the respective hospitals.

(iv) Nodal Officer have been nominated for verifying economic status of patients admitted by the private hospitals and monitoring the treatment being provided to them.

(v) Patients' Welfare Officers have been nominated in Government Hospitals for facilitating referral of EWS patients for free treatment from Delhi Government Hos- pitals to the identified private hospitals and follow them up.

(vi) Facility of online booking of free beds by Nodal Officers posted in Government Hospitals has been star- ted on 07/06/2014.

(vii) Workshops and review meeting are regularly held with stakeholders in government and private hospitals.

(viii) Protocols for referring and transferring OPD and IPD patients to identified private hospitals have been revised.