

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3416
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
CANCER CARE FACILITIES
Antony Shri Anto ;Charitra Shri Ram

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

- (a) whether imbalance in the distribution of cancer care facilities and shortage of oncologists are big impediment in providing effective treatment to cancer patients in the country and if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cancer care centres and oncologists in the country, State/UTwise;
- (b) the present status of the creation of the National Cancer Grid (NATCANGRID) along with the objectives thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal from Maharashtra and some other States/UTs to establish a Comprehensive Cancer Institute under the National Cancer Grid;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to develop cancer treatment protocol for timely detection and treatment of cancer patients and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has received any representation/request in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): The data of dedicated Cancer Care Centres and Oncologists in the country is not maintained centrally. The cancer diagnosis and treatment is being offered not only by dedicated Cancer Care Centres but also through the health care delivery institutions with requisite facilities, both in public and private sector. However, to enhance the Tertiary Care Cancer facilities in the country, recently, Government of India approved a scheme to assist the establishing / strengthening 20 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 50 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) in different parts of the country during the 12th Five Year Plan.

(b): Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai, has informed that the National Cancer Grid (NCG) was initiated in August 2012 and now includes 52 major cancer centres in the country. The major objectives and the mandate of NCG are as follows:

- i. Creating uniform standards of patient care across the country, bringing high quality cancer care to the doorsteps of patients.
- ii. Augmenting human resource capabilities in cancer management in the country.
- iii. Promoting collaborative research in cancer.

(c) & (d): As informed by TMC, Mumbai, proposals have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Assam for which the Department of Atomic Energy has initiated steps to create or develop comprehensive cancer centres.

(e) & (f): Government of India had launched a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) in 2010 covering 100 districts in 21 States with focus on 3 sites namely breast, cervical and oral cancer. Guidelines for screening of Cancer have been provided to States under NPCDCS. From 2013-14 onwards, interventions under NPCDCS for prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, which can be taken up upto District level, have been brought under the umbrella of National Health Mission.

Different protocols of treatment of cancer are being followed by Oncologists. Treatment is expected to be based on scientific evidence. Treatment regimen and protocol may change due to new drugs and technological advancements. ICMR has printed the consensus document for management of Buccal Mucosa Cancer which is also available on ICMR website.

TMC, Mumbai has also informed that National Cancer Grid has created specific treatment guidelines for the management of common cancers.